



San Diego County Orchid Society

Volume 135

April 2010

www.sdorchids.com

NOVICE MEETING

April 6, 6:30 PM—Casa Del Prado—Room 104

By: Bruce Berg, 2nd Vice President

Thanks to Nancy Boler and Carol Gray for demonstrating how to arrange our plants in baskets. We learned some neat tricks at their presentation. We learned how to visualize the plants in vertical as well as horizontal space. The use of “found” materials in the display adds a natural look while helping to provide some vertical and textural interest in the display. The one thing I liked the best was the impact that putting a dark colored cardboard background had in bringing together all the visual elements.

At the April meeting, Dave Hoffmaster and Bruce Berg will talk about water and water quality. The plan is to answer questions about what kind of water our plants need. They will do a

second presentation in May on how to water the plants including fertilizing orchids.

Dave Hoffmaster is a retired Chemical Engineer who has been interested in orchids since 1997. He became involved with the society in 2002 and became interested in the Conservation and Species groups. He brings in the technical background to help us with questions on the chemistry of water and fertilizers. Bruce Berg is a retired Civil Engineer who became interested in orchids in 2004 when he and his wife honeymooned in Hawaii and they stopped by an orchid nursery. Bruce and Dave are two of the co-chairmen for the Spring Show as well as being SDCOS board members.

GENERAL MEETING

April 6, 7:30 PM—Casa Del Prado—Room 101

By Steve Mallory, 1st Vice President

April's speaker will be the intrepid and talented Loren Batchman, you know, the guy who advertises in this Newsletter faithfully every month and is almost never visited by our members except for when he has a big sale (it's on May 15th—see his ad on pg. 3).

Loren's talk will be about orchid pests, which are something we all need to know more about. You'll get to find out what the white, fuzzy stuff is that hangs out between new and old leaves, what the hard bumps are you find underneath the leaves, the vast array of aphid colors, and how to murder all these evil little vermin that have no concern for how much money you spent on your collection.

Loren is a real asset to our Society: not only is he

an orchid judge, not only does he actually *make a living* off of orchids (I'll pause for a bit here to let you really think about how cool that is), but Loren is at the top of his game, being one of only 5-10 *Cymbidium* hybridizers on *Earth* who knows as much as he does.

You've seen him at our big show doing brisk business with his family near the stage, and you've seen him at our meetings talking about what goes into *Cymbidium* hybridization or talking about what judges like when they see an orchid on display. His talks are always enlightening, engaging, and highly informative.

So, if you're struggling with pesky pets, come to our meeting on the 6th to learn how to exact revenge! What could be better than learning from someone with unparalleled knowledge who doesn't eat if the bugs win?

San Diego County Orchid Society

Purpose: To promote interest in orchids and their cultivation, to educate by exchanging information and experiences related to successful orchid culture, and to support the conservation of orchids in the wild.

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Meetings

San Diego Orchid Society meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park.

Novice Class: 6:30 PM, Room 104

General Meeting: 7:30 PM, Room 101

Newsletter Entries

If you have monthly meetings, classifieds, submissions of interest, photos, or announcements related to orchids, please contact Christopher Croom at (619) 583-3804 or batescroom@cox.net.

Advertisers

Please contact Lynn Ford at (619) 283-4172 or lynnford10@earthlink.net.

Information for the May newsletter must be submitted by April 15.



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Orchid Dates to Remember

April 3, 9 AM– 5 PM

Exotic Plant Invitational Plant Sale

3562 Olive Hill Road, Fallbrook, CA

palmandcycadexchange.com

April 3

SDCOS Species Group Meeting

First Saturday of the month

Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

April 6, 6:30 p.m

SDCOS Novice Meeting

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 104

April 6, 7:30 p.m

SDCOS General Meeting

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

April 7

Palomar Orchid Society Meeting

Culture class at 6:30; meeting at 7:30

First Wednesday of the month

The Carlsbad Woman's Club

3320 Monroe Street, Carlsbad

Melana Walding (760) 295-7228

April 8, 7:00 PM

SDCOS Board Meeting

Normally, the Thursday following the General Meeting (usually the first Thursday of the month; second Friday of the month in rare cases)

Balboa Park, Rm. 104

April 16

San Diego Zoo's Orchid Odyssey

Third Friday of the month

10 AM-2 PM (orchid greenhouse is open)

Janette Gerrity (619) 231-1515 ext. 4306

April 21

Cymbidium Society Meeting

Regular meeting, third Wednesday of month

Culture class at 6:30, Meeting at 7:00 PM

The Carlsbad Woman's Club

3320 Monroe Street, Carlsbad (858) 748-8355

If you have any announcements that you would like to include contact batescroom@cox.net.

It's that time again!

Casa de las Orquideas is having their **Annual Seedling Sale Saturday, May 15.**

Selected crosses in both 3" and 6" pots will be available at half-off or more! This may be your last chance to get some of our fine cymbidiums and quantities may be limited, so be sure to come by to get the best selection! We will not take any mail or internet orders at these prices, so visit us May 15 between 9 AM-4 PM!

Casa de las Orquideas is located at 170 S. Nardo Ave., Solana Beach, CA 92075

For further details, see our website at www.orquideas.com or call 858-755-7572. Parking is limited, please consider carpooling.

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- ~ Free Zoo Skyfari
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Or call toll free 877.3 MEMBER

Visit our website: www.sandiegozoo.org

Your membership supports our plant and animal collections and includes a monthly visit to our Orchid Odyssey on the third Friday of each month from 10am until 2pm.

San Diego County Orchid Society Membership



We invite you to join the San Diego County Orchid Society! Receive this newsletter and many other benefits, including a holiday party and a free orchid at the end of the year!

To join, please send your check for \$20 for an individual membership or \$25 for a dual membership, payable to SDCOS, to:

San Diego County Orchid Society
P.O. Box 161020
San Diego, CA 92176

For further details, contact
membership@sdorchids.com

Help Hotline

The SDCOS offers this service to members who seek cultural information about their orchids. Here are some friendly hobbyists with a great deal of experience about certain types of orchids, and they have kindly volunteered to answer your questions.

Cattleyas, Oncidium/Odonts, Vandaceous

Greenhouse grown, West SD County
Helmut Rohrl (858)452-0976

Species, all types

Indoor and outdoor
Ann & Paul Tuskes (858) 274-5829

Paphiopedilums

Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas, Dendrobiums

Bob Swanson (619) 465-2297

Vandas, Ascocendas

Edith and Leno Galvan (619) 441-7503

Encyclias, Epidendrums, Laelias

[Christopher Croom](#) (619) 583-3804

Pleurothallids

[Christopher Croom](#) (619) 583-3804

Cymbidiums

Loren Batchman— casa@orquideas.com

Northeast County, all types

Dave Reid (760) 728-7996

San Diego Central

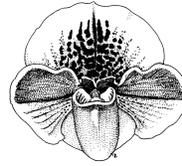
Outdoor, all types
Jim Wright (619) 276-5295
Fred Tomaschke (619) 276-3235

San Diego East County, all types

Bud Close (619) 444-8839

South County, all types

Genie Hammond (619) 422-2235



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2010 Show Committee Agenda

The March 4, 2010 meeting was held in Room 104 at Balboa Park. The meeting was brought to order at 6 pm. Those in attendance were Steve Mallory, Dave Hoffmaster, Pam Peters, Loren Batchman, Genie Hammond, Tom and Barbara Smith, David Brown, Bob Clark, and Bruce Berg.

Pam Peters reported on the Judging activities to date. The judging guidelines have been reviewed and some minor changes made. One of the changes is that there will only be one blue, red, and white ribbon for each Class within a Section. Each person either judging or clerking will be able to cast an individual vote for the Best of Show from the plants judged Best of Section. The trophy cash awards will be cash payments made to exhibitors at the conclusion of the judging on Friday. The website has been updated. Refer to <http://www.sdorchids.com/www/shows.htm>.

Dave Hoffmaster reported that he has recruited the following speakers: Paul Tuskes, Charlie Fouquette, Jim Wright, Tom Biggert, Chris Croom, and Dave Brown. He is still working on rounding out the speakers list with one more speaker.

Dave also reported on the Advertizing and Marketing efforts to date. He has contacted several assisted living facility activities directors and will be meeting with them to sell tickets in advance. We are seeing articles in newsletters as well as our show being listed in event calendars. We are up on *Sign on San Diego*. Dave Brown asked that we see if we can get our event added to the banner page.

Genie reported on the food and beverage status. We have a nice lunch for the judging day. Cost will be \$13 per person. Saturday and Sunday will be at \$10 per person. Vendors can join us by paying our cost for lunch. There is a \$219 charge for a coffee service on Thursday. We will have coffee service Friday thru Sunday included as part of the price we're paying for the lunches those days. (Good job Genie!) Scottish Rite has a no tipping policy for Scottish Rite employees and the servers working for Ranch. We will honor that policy for this show so that we do not put either Scottish Rite, Ranch, or us in a conflict situation.

Bruce Berg handed out the financial summary reports that Carol had produced. Carol thanks everyone for keeping her informed on the purchases. With the cost cutting efforts of the Committee, it looks like we will be significantly below our budget for the show this year. As of March 3, the presales ticket income is \$2918 which is slightly higher than it was at this time last show.

Steve Mallory reported that he has vendors for all of the spaces except for one. Almost all of them have made full payments for their spaces. The new tabletop displays will be allocated space 29 and 30 as well as one other space in the exhibit area. Palomar Orchid Society will not be able to display this year, so their two spaces will be configured for tabletop displays also.

Steve was asked to bring in boxes for the Plant Hotel. He also reported that he will be renting plants from Walter Anderson's for \$400. Bruce volunteered to assemble the Vendor and Exhibitor envelopes.

The weekend pass procedure was discussed and agreed upon. Bruce will print up a separate ticket that will be marked "Weekend Pass" with a serial number and space for the purchaser to write their name. The cost for the weekend pass will be \$3 more than the purchase price of the ticket. The sales personnel will ask the purchaser to write their name on the weekend pass and then they will record the name on a master list that they will use when the purchaser brings in the ticket on another day. When the purchaser buys the ticket, they will be instructed to bring that ticket back to the ticket sales table each day they return so that the ticket sales personnel can verify ID information for the pass holder and then issue them a regular ticket just as if they had purchased a ticket at the table. The purchaser will then take this ticket and present it to the ticket takers, just like all the other tickets. The purchaser will keep the weekend pass ticket for the duration of the show.

Bruce made the volunteer report that we are very close to having enough volunteers to man the show. We will need a few more who will hopefully volunteer at the door. Tom and Barbara Smith are reviewing the layout map to verify security locations. Since we will not have the Square and Com-pass room (old Conservation area) they will move

security back behind the restroom area so we won't need to turn people back who need to use facilities before entering the show. We will have corsage and arrangement sales. Dave will pick up \$100 in blooms from Belle Gardner for the corsage sales.

The committee discussed pricing for Merchandise and decided to sell items as follows:

Golden Books \$10

Aprons \$10

Tee Shirts \$1

Posters \$1 current, old ones \$0.25

Next meeting: The Committee concurred that a follow up meeting after the show would be a good idea. Bruce and Carol offered to host a barbeque at their house. It will be a pot luck. Details will be sent out after the show.

Show Details *(please note that depending on your newsletter delivery method, this information may be outdated by the time you are reading this)*

The Show Committee reports that all preparations for the Spring Show are now in full swing and we are ready for a GREAT show! As a reminder, the setup date for the show is Thursday, March 25. We will begin laying out the display spaces at 7:30 in the morning. Anyone wishing to help will find a rewarding job!

We encourage you to enter your plants in the show. The more plants entered, the more spectacular the show. Registration is Thursday, March 25 from 4:00 PM–8:00 PM and Friday morning from 7:00 AM–9:00 AM. Plants will not be accepted after 9:00 AM Friday morning. If you have several plants to bring in on Friday morning, please bring them in early and have the registration tags filled out.

New this year will be Section 16, Tabletop Displays. We have several booths that will be filled with these mini-displays by our members. Come in and enjoy this new way to show off our orchids. Pam Peters, Helen Pfister, and Bruce Berg have designed our SDCOS society display booth and invite you to come and enjoy your society display. If, when you bring in plants for registration, you would be willing to display them in our booth,

please let Pam Peters know. We are looking for smaller and medium sized "rainbow" plants. We are also in need of some cymbidiums in bright colors. Don't blink if you see a leprechaun!

Thank you so much to the many members who have helped us with selling tickets for the show. Let all your friends, family, and other acquaintances know about the show! General tickets will be on sale at the door for \$7. If someone has some of the discount flyers that we have been handing out, they can get in for \$6 when they show the flyer. Flyers can also be printed from our society website. New for this year will be a Weekend Pass. It will cost \$3 more than the general daily ticket cost and will be available to purchase at the ticket sales desk at the show. For example, if you purchased a ticket for \$6, you would pay \$3 more at the ticket sales desk and then be able to go all three days to the show for \$9.

We would not be able to have a show without the support of all the volunteers who have offered to help out with the many tasks involved with putting on a show. Thank you in advance for your support. Please bring your name badges so the public will know who we are! We will help attract new members if the public can see how much fun and enjoyment we get from our orchid hobbies.

Look for some good buys at the vendor booths. Our vendors are going to be happy to help you find that one orchid you don't have in your collection! Also visit our Conservation booth and help support our conservation work.

We will have some interesting speakers, including:

Saturday

- | | | |
|-------|-------------|--|
| 10:00 | Tom Biggert | <i>Potting Cattleyas</i> |
| 11:30 | Paul Tuskes | <i>The Care and feeding of Paphiopedilums</i> |
| 1:30 | Jim Wright | <i>Epidendrums— so easy to grow in San Diego</i> |
| 3:00 | Dave Brown | <i>Why doesn't my orchid bloom</i> |

Sunday

- | | | |
|-------|-------------------|--|
| 10:00 | Charley Fouquette | <i>Australian Dendrobiums: perfect for San Diego</i> |
| 11:30 | Christopher Croom | <i>How to grow orchids on a stick</i> |
| 1:30 | TBD | |

Why I Love *Epidendrum porpax*

and Other Random Errata Most People Don't Care

About

By Christopher Croom

According to Jay Pfal, *Epidendrum porpax* (syn. *Epi. peperomia*) is a “dwarf, epiphytic, warm to cool growing, reedstem herb which forms large mats of clustered leafy stems carrying coriaceous-fleshy, distichous, oblong, obtuse or emarginate leaves that can bloom at any time with large, one to a few flowers on a terminal inflorescence emerging from between the apical leaves and subtended by bracts.” In regular person speak, this means it’s small, has leathery leaves that may be notched on the edges, stems resembling reeds, has flowers appearing on the end of the growths at any time of year, and each spike can have between one and “a few” flowers.

That description seems to place tons of emphasis on the growth habit, and if you’re reading this, you’re probably about to die of boredom right now. But before you call the paramedics to resuscitate you with drama and entertainment like they do on T.V., let’s consider the possibility that some orchids are downright cool because of their growth habits and not necessarily their flowers. There. I said it. *Sometimes it’s not actually about the flowers.*

I know this is practically blasphemy and I’m about to be excommunicated, but consider an exquisitely grown specimen *Pleurothallis grobyi* or *Dendrobium jenkinsii*. These are both plants that look good by themselves: flowers are just an extremely pleasant bonus (and only somewhat pleasant for the *P. grobyi*). Their near-geometrically arranged growths just look good; a Liliputian could

imagine them to be forest– or jungle-like, as if surrounded by a stand of aspen: all growths of the same organism. Sometimes I like to do a thought experiment when I look at compact specimens like these that have carpeted an entire mount and wonder what it would be like to shrink myself down to a flea-sized creature that could hunt in these orchids as if they were tangled and wild woods, blasting aphids one by one with my tiny shotgun and roasting them for dinner over an open fire made of a match head. (Take note, psychologists: I hate aphids this much, and if I were flea-sized I wouldn’t know whether they were yummy unless I tried this technique.)

Hallucinatory fantasies aside, *E. porpax* is the kind of plant that you can get lost in if you stare at it long enough and the kind of orchid that can easily grow into a specimen despite your best efforts to neglect it.

Ron Kaufmann gave me my first division of *E. porpax*, and it happened to be from the famous and awarded ‘Porpax Mountain’. While my *porpax* is by no means a mountain yet, it’s working on it, even though I’ve practically been looking the other way since taking it off Ron’s hands at a Conservation Committee table at a show several years ago. If I fertilized it, I would have twice as much of a Porpax Mountain, but nitrifying plants that use nitrogen very conservatively has not been high on my list of priorities ever since I was tasked with ranching 8th graders 3 1/2 years ago. (They’re free-range, but definitely not hormone-free.)

I remember first seeing an *E. porpax* in *Taylor’s Guide to Orchids* back in 1998 and thinking, “Green, bug-like, small flowers—are you kidding me? Who in their right mind would

give two cents to have to take care of *that?*” Of course, this was back when I was young and foolish, and now I have become younger and wiser. I experienced the same reaction often when Andy would tell me a certain plant was “awesome” before working long enough with him to know better. (“Awesome *how?*”, I’d think.)

But my Porpax grew on me the same way it grew on the cork: slowly, subtly, and then one day it just metastasized. After it did that, it started to bloom and stayed in bloom for four months at a time. Even if the green flowers barely stood out from the plant, they seemed to stick around forever. So what if they are green—what better reminder for the fact that species orchids are not made for you by another person? They’re made for insects, which due to their ability to perceive ultraviolet wavelengths probably see something markedly different when they see a Porpax.

Life with my Porpax is rewarding. It’s fun to show it to someone in full bloom, saying something like “Check out these cool flowers,” only to have them reply “That plant doesn’t have any flowers.” Then you coyly say “Really?” and give them about 30 seconds to figure it out.

Showing my Porpax to someone brand new to orchids elicits even greater confusion:

“Check out this cool orchid.”

“*That’s not an orchid.*”

“Yes, it is.”

“*But it doesn’t look like the ones I’ve seen at Trader Joe’s. How can it be an orchid?*”

“The ones you’ve seen at Trader Joe’s look al-

most never look the way wild orchids do.”

“*How come?*”

“Orchids are the largest family of flowering plants. Wouldn’t it make sense that they might have the greatest structural and flower diversity, too?”

My Porpax has taught me that beauty in nature is often diminutive. But sometimes the most subtle charms of a species orchid sneak up on you and slowly change the structure of your brain. You begin to realize that on a different level of scale, perhaps in a different dimension, even a greenish, bug-like flower could be worn to prom by some tiny, brave, and iconoclastic creature. You also begin to appreciate that showy and beautiful are often different things.

Epidendrum porpax is just one orchid out of ten thousand or more that will eventually teach you this lesson. It is a true unsung hero of the orchid world, producing for its master regardless of nonfreezing conditions. There are entire genera with small and somewhat drab flowers that sneak up on you the way *E. porpax* does. The genus *Stelis* is like this, with about 1,000 plants all sharing triangular (all sepals) shape and fur on the flowers. *Eria* also comes to mind, with around 1,000 plants that look like Dendrobium’s ugly sister but are still pretty in their own light.

No matter how big it eventually gets, I will always have space in my collection for *E. porpax*. If worse comes to worst, I can always break it up into a hundred little pieces and let my friends experience their own epic Porpax sagas.

San Diego County Orchid Society December Board Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2010

Attendees: Dave Brown, Loran Batchman, Bruce Berg, Bob Clark, Genie Hammond, Dave Hoffmaster, Steve Mallory and Jim Wright

President Dave Brown called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM.

Show Committee Report

The show committee met just prior to the board meeting. Most of the items needed for the show are in place with only a few action items yet to be completed. The main items discussed included:

Pam reports that we have enough volunteers for judging on Friday. We still need to obtain the ribbons from the garage and assemble the judging packets but these will be done within the next week.

Genie had worked out the menu with Ranch Catering for lunch on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. A coffee bar will be provided all four days. Vendors will be offered lunch on Saturday and Sunday at cost (\$10).

We will not directly tip the Ranch Catering employees serving lunch the three days of our show. This is in accordance with Scottish Rite policy.

Vendors—We are still short one vendor to fill the sales area and Steve is working the issue.

Speakers—We have four confirmed speakers and Dave H is working to find three more.

Facilities—We have received the Fire Permit and Steve has faxed it to Scottish Rite. We still need to advise Scottish Rite as to the number of power drops and microphones needed.

Security needs a few more volunteers for full coverage.

Committee and Officers Reports

Dave Brown brought in two old trophies from storage as possible items for our shows in the park. They are worn and in need of repair. After viewing the trophies, we agreed to authorize Jim Wright to: 1) Get a cost estimate to repair the trophies and 2) get a quote for two new trophies.

Old Business

New tablecloths—We moved at the last Board Meeting to approve the purchase of new tablecloths for our shows in Balboa Park. It turns out that we need 400 feet of material that will cost \$1330. An expenditure of that size needs membership approval and Dave Brown will bring it up for a vote at the next general meeting.

PayPal—The system is working. PayPal now notifies our treasurer giving the person's name, email address and the amount paid.

Accounting format—Bruce presented a new format to capture the income and expenses items for mini shows. The Board will review the format and vote on it at the next Board meeting.

Home and Garden Show—We decided not to participate in this year's show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds due to the outdoor placement of the booths. Genie Hammond will look into the cost of a 10ft x 10ft cover so we can attend such events in the future.

News Media—Dave Brown is looking into the possibility donating some orchids to local TV stations just prior to our spring show in an effort to get on the air coverage of the event.

New Business

We are still working on a speaker for next months general meeting and Bruce Berg will discuss water and water quality issues at the next novice meeting.

We have shifted our philosophy regarding orchids for the plant table. Steve is now purchasing fewer plants but of higher quality in an effort to stimulate more ticket sales.

By a consensus of opinion, the Board decided to replace the May "Awards Banquet" with a "Volunteers Appreciation" potluck dinner to be held in June.

Tom Biggart has resigned as chairperson for our shows in Balboa Park. We would like to thank Tom for his past efforts and wish him well in his future pursuits. Dave Brown will announce the change at the next general meeting and ask for a volunteer to fill the slot.

We ask that all requests for changes to our web site be funneled through Ron Kaufmann. Owen Smith, our Webmaster, has received requests from numerous members requesting changes that are often conflicting. It is our best interest to coordinate these changes through one person.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Concerning Plants for Judging Sessions

By: Helmut Rohrl

The Pacific South Judging Center conducts each month three judging sessions in the Los Angeles and San Diego area. They are:

Encinitas (Quail Gardens) on the 1st Monday at 7 pm

San Marino (Huntington Botanical Gardens) on the 2nd Saturday at 10 am

Long Beach (Whaley Park) on the 4th Saturday at 7 pm

Visitors—with or without plants—are welcome anytime. If a member of the SDCOS wishes to have flowering plants judged at one of these sessions but is unable to take the plants to the judging facility, please contact one of the following AOS judges:

Loren Batchman, Solana Beach, 858-755-7572

Helmut Rohrl, La Jolla, 858-452-0976

Ann & Paul Tuskes, Clairemont, 858-274-5829

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Letter From the Editor

Dear SDCOS,

With the clamor of the show winding down and gone by the time most of you read this, April is a great month to be mellow. The folks who work the show committee certainly will need it, as orchestrating our big show at the Scottish Rite takes a lot out of everyone charged with pulling it off. Even though the big show is not likely to bring in a ton of money, it's a sacrifice we make for our members and a highly necessary event to keep our Society on the map.

If you run into someone on the Show Committee (and especially Steve and Bruce but there are many others who have a hand in this), make sure to tell them how much you appreciated them taking on (in some cases) a second full-time (albeit unpaid) job for a year. If you don't, we run the risk of letting another big show chew up and spit out valuable Society leadership, and I've been around in this club long enough to have seen it happen: some of our kindest and gentlest folks have made themselves scarce because of negative fallout after putting their entire hearts into the job for a year. So, give thanks for such a hardworking crew of people that put this show and many other Society events together *even if* you wish they'd done this or that sundry thing to make the sun shine brighter for you personally that weekend.

Contact Information:

Christopher Croom

(619) 583-3804

batescroom@cox.net

That said, the sign-up sheets will undoubtedly be posted soon for next year's show chairs (unless the people we got this year are crazy enough to do it again). We also for sure need someone to replace Tom Biggart as Balboa Park mini-show chair, and I'll help any willing takers with the writing piece he was doing if you deem it necessary. Never forget that we're both a team and a community; therefore we are responsible to each other and need to be responsive to each other.

In Love & Orchids,
Christopher