



# San Diego County Orchid Society

Volume 144  
January 2011

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## NOVICE MEETING

January 4, 6:30 PM—Casa Del Prado—Room 101

January's Novice Meeting speaker will be Renate Schmidt, author of something like 300 books and manuscripts on orchids and their care. While a few (or many) of these are unpublished, her 40+ years in the hobby and intimate association with the SDCOS have lead her to being one of the most knowledgeable authorities on growing orchids in Southern California. No acts of man, God, or nature are capable of toppling her towering intellect; if they tried, she'd merely have to open the door to her overstuffed trophy and ribbon case/storage unit and drown them in an avalanche of awards, both local and national. If that fails, she

could always beat them with several specimen plants that are named for her.

Seriously though, Renate is a treasure to the SDCOS and has always brought us to the next level as a Society. Picking her brain about anything related to winning ribbons or immaculate orchid culture will produce you some insanely desirable results. Learning from her about how to prepare your plants for displaying them is like going to a sensei after weeks of fasting and imposed silence. Come with your brain empty and ready to be filled. (Write down your address beforehand on a scrap of paper so you can find your way home after.)

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## GENERAL MEETING

January 4, 7:30 PM—Casa Del Prado—Room 101

By Bruce Berg, 1st Vice President

Our January speaker will be Dr. Robert (Bob) Lauri. His topic will be "Growing Terrestrial Orchids and an Update on *Piperia*." Bob received his Ph.D. in Botany from Claremont Graduate University in 2010. His studies included morphology and phylogenetics of a California native terrestrial orchid genus known as *Piperia*. He received his Master's of Science degree in Floristics and Evolutionary Biology from San Diego State University in 2004. He is an adjunct faculty member of both the University of San Diego, and San Diego State University. Bob also has experience with landscape architecture and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Architecture from the California Polytechnic University, Pomona in 1988.

At his last talk to us in July of 2007, Bob gave a very interesting presentation on *Piperia* orchids here in San Diego County. I'm looking forward to his talk to learn more about these cute little natives here. The plant opportunity table will be furnished by Andy's Orchids. There may be some terrestrial orchids offered, in addition to the interesting other species plants that Andy's is known for. Please help support our society by purchasing tickets for some of these great plants.

If any of the members would be interested in joining us for a dinner before the meeting, please RSVP me at [b2berg@yahoo.com](mailto:b2berg@yahoo.com). We have openings for 3 more people.

## 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.

### Board of Directors

President: [David Brown](#)  
 First VP: [Bruce Berg](#)  
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 Secretary: [Dave Hoffmaster](#)  
 Directors: [Bob Clark](#)  
[Christopher Croom](#)  
[Kevin Rynearson](#)

Past President: [Genie Hammond](#)

### 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](mailto:batescroom@cox.net).

### Advertisers

Please contact Carol Berg at [winklerca@yahoo.com](mailto:winklerca@yahoo.com).

Information for the February newsletter must be submitted by January 15.

## Annual Orchid Auction

Saturday, February 5, 2011

### All Types of Orchids!

Preview at 11 AM; Auction at 12 Noon

San Diego Botanic Garden  
 Ecke Building  
 230 Quail Gardens Drive  
 Encinitas, CA 92024

Auction Chairperson:  
[orchldy2@mac.com](mailto:orchldy2@mac.com) or 760-732-0055

*Sponsored by the  
 San Diego County Cymbidium Society*

## ORCHIDS IN THE PARK

January 15

12 PM - 5 PM

January 16

10 AM - 4 PM



Balboa Park

Casa Del Prado—Room 101

San Diego County Orchid Society  
[www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com)

## Orchid Dates to Remember

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January 1

### **SDCOS Species Group Meeting**

First Saturday of the month

Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

January 4, 6:30 p.m

### **SDCOS Novice Meeting**

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room **101**

January 4, 7:30 p.m

### **SDCOS General Meeting**

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

January 5

### **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

January 6, 7:00 PM

### **SDCOS Board Meeting**

Thursday following the General Meeting

Balboa Park, Rm. 104

January 15-16

### **SDCOS Winter Show in the Park**

Saturday 12 PM– 5 PM; Sunday 10 PM–4 PM

Balboa Park

***Read more details on page 9***

January 19

### **Cymbidium Society Meeting**

Regular meeting, third Wednesday of month

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

San Diego Cty. Botanic Gardens– Ecke Bldg

230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024

[orchldy2@mac.com](mailto:orchldy2@mac.com) or (760) 732-0055

January 21

### **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

September 18-19, 2010

January 28-30

### **Orchid Extravaganza**

Newport Harbor Orchid Society

Westminster Mall

[www.nhos.org](http://www.nhos.org)

February 5, 11 AM

### **Annual Orchid Auction**

San Diego County Cymbidium Society

March 25-27

### **Orchid Magic**

### **SDCOS Spring Show**

Scottish Rite Center

July 23-24

### **SDCOS Summer Show in the Park**

Saturday 12 PM– 5 PM; Sunday 10 PM–4 PM

Balboa Park

November 5-6

### **SDCOS Fall Show in the Park**

Saturday 12 PM– 5 PM; Sunday 10 PM–4 PM

Balboa Park

*If you have any announcements that you would like to include contact [batescroom@cox.net](mailto:batescroom@cox.net).*

# Monthly Report on AOS Judging at Quail Gardens

By: Helmut Rohrl

Photos by Phyllis Prestia

Judging at the Encinitas site (Quail Gardens, Administration (Ecke) Building) begins at 7:00 pm on the first Monday of each month. The facility opens at 6:30 pm. Anyone interested in orchids is encouraged and welcome at the sessions. Visitors may join the judging teams at their tables, but cannot participate in the judging process. Anyone who wants to exhibit plants for judging but is unable to bring the plants to Quail Gardens, please contact one of the local judges or have others bring the plants to the facility.

At the December 6, 2010 Encinitas session six cultivars were shown.

Gin Gan presented



*Ascocentrops pusilla* var. *albescence* with numerous flowers and buds on

four inflorescences. The natural spread of the flowers is 0.4 cm. All segments are white, distally changing to light purple.

*Epidendrum madsenii* with two flowers on two inflorescences. The natural spread of the flowers is 1.4 cm. All segments are white.

Bruce Berg presented

*Sophrrolaeliocattleya* Tangerine Jewel x



*Laeliocattleya Sacramento Rose* with four flowers and one bud on three inflorescences.

The natural spread of the flowers is 6.3 cm. Sepals and petals are light pink, the lip is yellow with rose-red margins.

Renate Schmidt presented



*Sophrrolaeliocattleya Mem. Trudi Marsh* (Tangerine Jewel x Cosmic Delite) with two flowers on

two inflorescences. The natural spread of the flowers is 5.6 cm. All segments are bright red. HCC/AOS.



*Potinara Cosmo-Zelle* (Blc. Goldenzelle x Sc. Beaufort)

with four flowers on two inflorescences. The natural spread of the flowers is 7.2 cm. All segments are yellow the throat is streaked orange. AM/AOS.

Helmut Rohrl presented

*Oncidium Sugar Truffles* (Sweet Sugar x Raspberry Truffles) with twenty-six flowers and ten



buds on one inflorescence. The natural spread of the flowers is 4.9 cm. Sepals and petals are yellow marked brown, the lip is bright yellow.

### 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 SDCOS member 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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## Holiday Party was a lot of fun!

By Bruce Berg

The 2010 year-end Holiday Party was a lot of fun for the members who came down to the Balboa Park for a great potluck dinner. Our members have another great talent, in addition to growing orchids; some of them are pretty good cooks and chefs! Of course, the party was mostly about having the chance to visit with friends and to have fun with the plant exchange gifts. Everyone went home with a new orchid that will hopefully remind them of the fun they had at the party.

Thanks to the people who worked so hard to make the party a success. David Brown organized the table set-up so that we could all see and visit. He also did a great job of "MCing" the gift exchange and plant gifting until the mike went dead. Behind the scenes, Lynn Ford helped with getting all those last minute items needed for making the party a success. Steve and Teresa Mallory again did an excellent job with setting up our refreshment center. Rose Alesi and her sister set up the soda and coffee station for those who appreciated a good cup of coffee or tea while visiting. Helen Pfister brought her camera and captured some great photos. Shirley Hall was our greeter and census taker. Many others came in early and helped with setting out the tablecloths and decorations. Thanks to all—we couldn't have done it without your help!

The orchid gifts that your Society provided at the party were supplied by the following vendors: Andy Phillips at Andy's orchids, Jim and Lauris Rose at Cal Orchid, Loren and Nancy Batchman of Casa de las Orquideas, and Fred Clarke at Sunset Valley Orchids. These vendors provided us with some great plants at a great deal for the Society. If you are looking for that special orchid, you couldn't do better than to visit one of these great nurseries to find an awesome gift.

### WORLD-FAMOUS

San Diego Zoo

#### SENIOR PASS (over 60 years of age):

Yearly rate—\$50 single and \$65 dual  
Renewal rates—\$35 single and \$50 dual

#### DUAL MEMBERSHIP (under 59 years of age):

Yearly rate—\$99.  
Renewal Rate—\$84.

- ~ For two adults in the same household.
- ~ A year of FREE UNLIMITED ADMISSION to both the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park.
- ~ 6 discount guest coupons good toward admission.
- ~ A One Year Subscription to ZOONOOZ.
- ~ Free Zoo Skyfari
- ~ 4 two-for-one coupons for Zoo Bus Tour.

#### SINGLE MEMBERSHIP

Yearly rate—\$79.  
Renewal rate—\$67.

For one adult.

All of the benefits described above under dual membership.

*Prices & benefits subject to change.*

For more information, call 619.231.0251

Or call toll free 877.3 MEMBER

Visit our website: [www.sandiegozoo.org](http://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.

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**Andy Phillips**

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[speciesnut@AndysOrchids.com](mailto:speciesnut@AndysOrchids.com)

[www.AndysOrchids.com](http://www.AndysOrchids.com)

# Orchid Expo at Westminster Mall

By: Dave Hoffmaster

The Newport Harbor Orchid Society presents "Orchid Extravaganza" at the Westminster Mall on January 28-30. Just a short drive up the freeway to Orange County, the Expo will be held indoors within the mall. It will feature numerous exhibits by professional growers and orchid societies from all over Southern California. In addition to displays, there will be select growers offering orchids for sale as well as speakers offering growing tips. It is well worth the drive as there will be something for everyone.

The San Diego County Orchid Society will have an exhibit at the Expo and we need blooming orchids to fill the display. Anyone wishing to display their orchids should contact Dave Hoffmaster ([davehoff5@yahoo.com](mailto:davehoff5@yahoo.com)) or Bruce Berg ([b2berg@yahoo.com](mailto:b2berg@yahoo.com)) to make arrangements for transporting plants to and from the show. Plants in the exhibit will be eligible for AOS or Newport Harbor ribbon judging.



SDCOS Display at the 2010 Newport Harbor Orchid Show

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## Granite Hills Orchids

*Many Dendrobium speciosum clones are still available.*

*Inquire at the greenhouse by phone.*

I'll be importing Brazilian species from Eco-orquideas in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Watch for my sales booth at the Westminster Mall Show put on by the Newport Harbor Orchid Society the weekend of January 28. I will also be at the San Diego Society show in March.

[www.granitehillsorchids.com](http://www.granitehillsorchids.com)

[tombiggart@mac.com](mailto:tombiggart@mac.com)

(619)886-8121

## Get a full color SDCOS Newsletter by e-mail!

Contact

[membership@sdorchids.com](mailto:membership@sdorchids.com)

## Spring Show Updates

By Bruce Berg and Dave Hoffmaster

It's time to mark those new 2011 calendars for the **65<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Show and Plant Sale!** The theme for this year's show is **Orchid Magic**. The show will be held Friday, March 26, thru Sunday, March 28 at the Scottish Rite Center. There's a lot of fun to be had in participating in the show. It's a great time to bring in those blooming beauties to show and maybe to win a ribbon or even a trophy. There will be some new vendors in the sales area as well as some of the regular vendors we've come to look forward to seeing for that orchid (or more) to add to our collections. This year, we're putting more information on our website about the show. You can soon find an updated list of the vendors who will be there as well as information on the categories in which you may enter your plants for judging.

### Volunteers Needed for Spring Show

**The Show needs You!** We can't put on the show without the support of our members. We need help setting up the show and in the many tasks associated with hosting the show. We will also need some plants to use in the SDCOS display. At last year's show, your society display won a trophy for Best Amateur Exhibit Illustrating Show Theme. At the close of the show, we'll need some people who can help us take down the partitions and materials.

We will have sign-up sheets available at the January meeting, or you can email or phone Bruce at [b2berg@yahoo.com](mailto:b2berg@yahoo.com), 619.258.1963. As we did last year, at the end of the show, we will ask vendors to donate plants to us and we will have a raffle for these plants at the April General Meeting. There should be a plant for each volunteer.

### Judging and Awards

The Show Committee is polishing up the Show Schedule with instructions on how to enter your plants and displays. When the changes have been finalized, they will be published on our website. One change this year is that we have a new trophy to be added in memory of one of our members. The Alesi Trophy will be awarded to the best Open entry for a Tabletop Display.

We will continue to have the Tabletop Display category, separated into Amateur and Open Sections. The displays will all be in one area of the display hall. Members wishing to enter this new and fun category will need to sign up for a space. It will be first come, first served for the available tables, so members must sign up before the show. You can contact Dave Hoffmaster [davehoff5@yahoo.com](mailto:davehoff5@yahoo.com) or Bruce Berg [b2berg@yahoo.com](mailto:b2berg@yahoo.com). This year we have a new trophy in memory of Joe Alesi. The Alesi Trophy will be awarded to the best Open entry for Small Tabletop Display (new category).

### Tickets

Ticket envelopes will be available for pickup at the January meeting. By picking up your ticket envelopes at the meeting, you save the Society the expense of mailing them out to you later. Your support by paying for the tickets is a big help in us having a successful show.

The price of tickets this year will be the same as last year; however, we will be putting 6 tickets in each envelope this year. The price of the ticket packet will be \$30. Tickets are marked for sale at \$7 which is the price they will be sold at the door. As in the past, the pre-sale of these tickets by members was determined to include a \$1 discount for early sale and giving one additional ticket in the packet.

In addition to the packet of tickets to be sold by members, this year we are going to retry an old idea that was used in the past of having a

contest to see who can sell the most tickets. Members wishing to sell more tickets can pick up additional packets (with 6 tickets) at the meeting. The person selling the most tickets will be given a prize of a subscription to Orchid Digest magazine.

We will also have discount coupons for people who do not buy one of the presale tickets from you. These discount coupons will be honored at the door for a \$1 discount. This will make the price of a ticket with a coupon the same as selling the tickets in your packet with a presale discount of \$1. Please do not apply a coupon discount on top of the presale discount price. You should sell the tickets for either the face value or for \$6 which would include all discounts.

We will also offer a weekend pass for persons wishing to upgrade their regular ticket price by paying an additional \$3 at the door for unlimited access all weekend.

Please give either your money or unused tickets to Carol Berg or Bruce Berg, 9228 Maranda Drive, Santee, 92071.

The next meeting of the Show Committee will be on January 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. Members are welcome. Your Show Committee members are: Dave Hoffmaster, Bruce Berg, Carol Berg, Pam Peters, Genie Hammond, Esther Sivila, Tom and Barbara Smith.

## Winter Show in Balboa Park

By David Brown

I would like to wish everyone a very safe and pleasant holiday season. The time for our Winter Show is fast approaching. The shows are a scheme to raise funds for our society in order to keep our dues low, so if you have any plants to donation to the society, they are always welcome. The donations do not neces-

sarily have to be orchids.

Like always, I am going to need your help to make this a success. If you have any orchids in bloom, please share their beauty with us and the public. Additionally, if you have a few hours to spend volunteering, that will be much appreciated. We always seem to need people Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. There will be sign-up sheets at our next meeting, so please sign-up.

I will begin to set up the room starting at 2:00p.m. on Friday January 14<sup>th</sup>. So if you are free, I can use the help. The Winter Show will be open to the public Saturday January 15<sup>th</sup> from noon until 5:00 p.m. and Sunday January 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00p.m. I also will need a few bodies to tear down the show starting about 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

We will have the show set up by 5:00 pm and Friday so you can bring you plants for registration from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. on Friday and from 8:00 a.m. until about 9:30 on Saturday. Pam Peters has done a great job refreshing the plant registration sheets for us. If you are so inclined, you can go on our website to find out what class and section they belong in advance. We begin judging at 10:00 a.m. and open to the public when we are finished judging.

**ON SUNDAY WE CLOSE THE DOORS TO THE PUBLIC AT 4:00 P.M. AT 4:30 P.M. IF THERE ARE ANY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC STILL THERE, I INFORM THEM THE SHOW IS OVER AND IT IS TIME TO LEAVE. AT THAT TIME WE WILL BEGIN REMOVING PLANTS AND BEGIN TEARING DOWN THE SHOW. NO PLANTS WILL LEAVE PRIOR TO 4:30!**

I look forward to see all of you at our show.

## San Diego County Orchid Society August Board Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2010

Attendees: David Brown, Carol Berg, Bruce Berg, Bob Clark, Christopher Croom, Genie Hammond, Patti Hoffmaster, Dave Hoffmaster, Scott LeBouff, Kevin Rynearson and Jack Schaefer.

President David Brown called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

### Officers Reports

Minutes for the November meeting were approved prior to this meeting and were published in the December newsletter.

Carol Berg presented the treasurer's report for November. Bruce Berg moved to file the reports for audit and the motion carried.

### Committee Reports

#### Winter Show in the Park

The next Show in the park will be January 15 and 16. We are looking for someone to chair the effort and David Brown will put an announcement in the January Newsletter to that effect.

Set-up will start at 2:00 Friday afternoon (January 14<sup>th</sup>) and volunteers are needed.

#### Spring show

Work continues on the spring show at Scottish Rite. Presale tickets will be available for distribution at the January meeting. The individual ticket price will be \$7 but they will be distributed in packets of 6 for \$30 to the membership.. We will hold a contest to see who can sell the most tickets and offer a subscription to Orchid Digest to the winner.

The committee approved a new award called the Alesi Award for the best table top display in the open category. This is to honor Joe Alesi for all

he contributed to the Society.

Pam Peters submitted a number of changes for judging that were approved by the show committee. They will be published on our web site for all to see.

Bruce Berg will have sign-up sheets available at the January meeting for volunteers.

#### Web Committee

The web committee has reviewed the current web site to list all the issues with it. At the same time Jack Schaefer set up a test site to initiate changes and fix whatever issues were found in the current site. The test site has been flipped so the changes are now viewed by anyone opening the web page.

Jack added a Google map of Balboa Park showing where our meetings are held.

### Old Business

The proposal to move AOS judging from the San Diego Botanic Garden to Balboa Park is still under review. The move will require holding the novice class in room 101 so the judges can use room 104. The first novice class held in room 101 went fairly well with only a few problems reported from noise. We will hold two more novice classes in room 101 before making a final decision. David Brown will contact Paul Tuskes regarding the AOS moving schedule and how much advance notice they need before moving.

Kevin Rynearson completed a Facebook page for the Society and it is available for anyone to view. Members with Facebook accounts can add SDCOS to their list of locations and activities they like.

David Brown would like feedback from those that have seen Ai Dang's video from the last show in the park relative to how the Society can best use the footage.

### New Business

The speaker for the Novice meeting will be

Renate Schmidt talking about how to prepare your plants for display.

The speaker for the General Meeting will be Dr. Robert Lauri speaking on terrestrial orchids of Southern California. This will include the genera *Epipactus* and *Piperia*.

Bruce Berg suggested we offer a free one year membership to college students and a means to encourage new members. After some discussion, it was agreed to table the discussion. This will permit everyone a chance to come up with other ways to increase membership as part of an overall plan.

Dave Hoffmaster would like to purchase the Corel Draw Home and Student software for use in laying out floor plans for shows either at Scottish Rite or Balboa Park. Bob Clark moved to approve an expenditure of up to \$125 for the software. The motion carried. The software will be installed on the SDCOS computer and others as needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Christopher.Croom@sdorchids.com) (619) 583-3804

### **Pleurothallids**

[Christopher Croom](mailto:Christopher.Croom@sdorchids.com) (619) 583-3804

### **Cymbidiums**

Loren Batchman— [casa@orquideas.com](mailto: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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## Letter From the Editor

Dear SDCOS,

I hope everyone attended (and enjoyed) the Holiday Pot-Luck. Everyone there appeared to be having an excellent time, and there were wonderful selections that our members brought in for the holiday plant exchange. Not only was the food very good, the companionship was truly excellent.

2011 begins with a few events, namely our winter show in Balboa Park and the impending doom of the Big Giant Spring Show at Scottish Rite, but the Newport Harbor Orchid Society (chock full of folks who have nearly infinite time and resources to grow their plants perfectly) should also be putting on a pretty decent show at the end of the month, and is the easiest to drive to of the L.A.-area orchid clubs.

If Santa did any orchid shopping for you on EBay, make sure to file a claim right away if the order isn't perfect. EBay loses any and all concern about you as a customer once their arbitrary 30-day window for reporting claims closes, and your money is as good as lost at that point. I'll write an article on this issue for the next Newsletter. I also plan on providing pointers on setting up an indoor light garden.

**Contact Information:**

Christopher Croom

(619) 583-3804

[batescroom@cox.net](mailto:batescroom@cox.net)

At press time, I still had not received an article about Renate Schmidt, so I hope she doesn't mind all the flattering things I made up about her on page 1.

I hope everyone had the finest holiday season imaginable and that you all ended up on the right "list," enabling Santa to give you your orchids *before* they got cycled into the Earth's crust for a few dozen million years (and became coal). I also hope that the holiday spirits of donkeys, virgins, sugarplums, mangers, swaddling clothes, and wise men visited you peacefully in your dreams, but perhaps not in that order...

Christmas is the Funniest Holiday Ever (and no disrespect to the LORD),  
Christopher