



San Diego County Orchid Society

Volume 147
April 2011

NOVICE MEETING

April 5, 6:30 PM—Casa Del Prado—Room 101

Dividing an orchid will be the topic of this month's class. Jim Wright will demonstrate how to divide a mature sympodial orchid, in this case a *Cattleya*.

While an orchid can be left to mature into a large specimen plant it can also become so monstrous in size that it is not easily moved. Making divisions of your favorite orchid will allow you to share it with friends or expand your collection with additional plants.

During the demonstration, Jim will discuss characteristics that make a particular orchid a good candidate for division. These include the size of the original plant, the number of new growths, selecting the portions of a plant with the minimum number of good "eyes" and under-

lying root structure so your separated plants will continue to thrive and how to determine which portions of a plant can be discarded, such as old back bulbs with no dormant eyes. Jim will also demonstrate proper re-potting of the divisions made during class.

Jim has a special talent with nurturing plants. His interest originally started with palms and later expanded to bromeliads and orchids, which over the years have developed into a beautifully landscaped and enviable personal botany collection.

This is sure to be a very informative presentation that you will not want to miss.

GENERAL MEETING

April 5, 7:30 PM—Casa Del Prado—Room 101

By Bruce Berg, 1st Vice President

Thank you Neal Biggart for your presentation on the genetics of Orchids, Peas, and People. It helps us to understand some of the background and terminology used in the development of orchid hybrids.

Our April speaker will be Ron Kaufmann, chair of the SDCOS Conservation Committee. Ron has travelled extensively to view orchids in the wild in South America. His talk titled "Searching for Orchids in Colombia" will cover his trip to find orchids in Colombia in preparation for an upcoming tour he is organizing to benefit the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Colombia is one of the most orchid-rich countries in the world, with over 3,000 described species. Ron's talk will show orchids in the wild, in reserves and at sev-

eral nurseries that are cultivating native Colombian orchids.

Ron is a marine biologist by training, and his scientific work includes studies of Antarctic and deep-sea ecosystems as well as marine communities in coastal Southern California.



He has been growing orchids for more than 15

Continued on page 7...

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](#)
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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.

Advertisers

Please contact Carol Berg at winklerca@yahoo.com.

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

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Contact:

membership@sdorchids.com

Orchid Dates to Remember

March 25-27

Orchid Magic
SDCOS Spring Show
Scottish Rite Center
Friday, 4 AM– 8 PM
Saturday, 9 AM– 6 PM
Sunday 10 AM– 4 PM
www.sdorchids.com

April 2

SDCOS Species Group Meeting
First Saturday of the month
Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

April 5, 6:30 p.m

SDCOS Novice Meeting
First Tuesday of the month
Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

April 5, 7:30 p.m

SDCOS General Meeting
First Tuesday of the month
Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

April 6

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 7, 7:00 PM

SDCOS Board Meeting
Thursday following the General Meeting
Balboa Park, Rm. 104

April 15

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 20

Cymbidium Society Meeting
Regular meeting, third Wednesday of month
Culture class at 6:30, Meeting at 7:00 PM
San Diego Cty. Botanic Gardens– Ecker Bldg
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024
orchldy2@mac.com or (760) 732-0055

April 23

Exotic Plant Invitational Plant Sale
Palm and Cycad Exchange
9 AM– 3 PM
3562 Olive Hill Rd., Fallbrook, 92028
www.palmandcycadexchange.com

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

Spring Show Update

By Bruce Berg and Dave Hoffmaster

Final preparations are in full swing for the Show on March 25, 26, and 27. The show committee members are looking forward to seeing all our friends in the society who have volunteered to help out and the other members who will be bringing in plants or coming to the show to enjoy the displays and check out what the vendors have to offer.

Keep checking our website www.sdorchids.com/shows.htm for updates and the latest information about the show.

Vendors

We now have a full room of vendors! Come ready to find some great deals on some great plants.

Plant Registration

Information on the Section/Class descriptions can be found at our website for members wishing to get ready to bring in plants. Registration will begin on Thursday from 4 pm until 8 pm and again on Friday morning from 7 am until 9 am. After that time, the judges will be getting ready to start judging and you won't be able to bring in plants.

SDCOS Display Booth

Your society will have a display booth at the show. We need plants to put in the display! If you have any that you wish to display in the society display, please contact Helen Pfister, Carol Berg, or Bruce Berg. If you'd like to help us with putting the display together, let one of the members above know because we'd really like your help!

Tickets

Please send in your money for the show tickets to Carol Berg. The tickets can also be paid for at the show, or at the next General Meeting. We need your help to make this show a success.

Volunteers

Thank you to all who have offered to help out with the show. We still have some jobs for volunteers. This year, we will be offering canvas tote bags to all volunteers. In addition, we will be asking vendors to donate some plants for the volunteers.

Thank you for your support! Your Show Committee members :Dave Hoffmaster, Bruce Berg, Carol Berg, Pam Peters, Genie Hammond, Esther Sivila, and Tom and Barbara Smith.



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(800) 553-3387 sboe@sborchid.com

Monthly Report on AOS Judging at Quail Gardens

Text and photos by Dr. Phyllis S. Prestia

There were eight orchids awarded at the Encinitas Judging Center on March 7. Here are some of the plants that were presented.



C. intermedia var. *amethystina* 'Kristin' AM/AOS. Exhibited by Tom Osborne, 80 points.



Masd. ignea 'Patti's Flame' CCM/AOS. Exhibited by Dave and Patti Hoffmaster, 80 points.



Den. tetragonum 'Wildflower' HCC/AOS. Exhibited by Betty Kelepecz, 76 points.

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



Paph. Fanaticum 'SVO's Chunky Monkey' AM/AOS. Exhibited by Fred Clarke, 82 points.

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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

membership@sdorchids.com

Genetic Terms from Neal's talk (March 2011 General Meeting) on Mendelian Genetics

gene: segment of DNA coding for a protein that carries out a chemical reaction to produce something, e.g. purple pigment. This segment is located at a specific place on a specific chromosome.

allele: a version of a gene, eg. a purple allele (P) and a white allele (p).

homozygous: both alleles are identical, eg. purple and purple (PP).

heterozygous: the alleles are different, eg. purple and white (Pp).

dominant: when present, this allele is expressed, eg. Pp is purple.

recessive: this allele's expression is masked by a dominant allele, and so is only seen when there are two recessive alleles (pp).

diploid: two copies of each kind of chromosome, and thus of each gene in a cell. (2N)

haploid: one copy of each kind of chromosome in an egg or sperm cell. (N)

tetraploid: four copies of each kind of chromosome (4N).

sexual reproduction: alleles from 2N cell are distributed to eggs and sperm (N) and then recombined at random, one from each parent to restore the diploid state in the new organism.

hybrid cross: heterozygous parents (Pp) yield a 3:1 ratio of purple to white.

phenotype: the appearance of (flower) or whatever.

genotype: the alleles contributing and determining the phenotype.

Continued from page 1....

years, starting with a reed stem *Epidendrum* and progressing to a diverse collection that contains mostly species orchids as well as some select hybrids (sorry, Andy!).

Ron has a strong interest in conservation and has been a member of the SDCOS Conservation Committee for more than 10 years and Chair since 2004. Since 1991, the Conservation Committee has awarded over \$150,000 to support projects in 20 different countries. Ron also helped to found the Orchid Conservation Alliance and serves on the boards of the OCA, EcoMinga Foundation (a conservation foundation based in Ecuador) and Orchid Digest Corporation. Ron has been a regular contributor to the Orchid Digest since 2003, when he began writing the Webwatch column that appears in each issue. If members are interested in joining Ron for dinner at the Prado before the meeting, please RSVP Bruce Berg firstvp@sdorchids.com by April 4.

The plant opportunity table will be provided by Dave Reid of Reid's Orchids. This will be a great opportunity for members to try and get one of his big Catts! In addition to his Catts, Dave plans to bring in some other types of orchids, including species plants. Support your society by buying tickets for this great opportunity!

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San Diego County Orchid Society Board Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2011

Attendees: David Brown, Carol Berg, Bruce Berg, Bob Clark, Genie Hammond, Dave Hoffmaster, Scott LaBouff and Jack Schaefer.

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

Officers Reports

Minutes for the February meeting were approved prior to this meeting and were published in the March Newsletter.

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

Carol talked with John Giokaris, our broker at Wells Fargo regarding the education funds we received from Belle Garner. The funds are currently invested in a savings account at Wells Fargo that is paying a low interest rate. John suggested that we may want to look at other types of investments that pay a higher return. David Brown requested that the Board members give consideration to the type of investment that would best fit the Society's needs and bring their thoughts to an upcoming Board meeting.

Committee Reports

Spring show. The show committee held a meeting prior to the Board meeting. The major items that came out of that meeting included:

We have a total of 22 vendors that have committed to the show.

We have a total of 24 floor displays committed and 10 table top displays.

We have posted our show on Sign On San Diego and San Diego Directory.com.

Presale tickets were printed and distributed to the membership.

The list of speakers and activities was published on our web page. Activities includes corsage making classes on Saturday and Sunday.

We have contracted with Ranch Catering to provide lunches all three days for the volunteers.

We will offer tours of the show area every hour to those attending the show. Tours will be guided by members of the board to give information regarding orchids and orchid growing.

Shows in the Park

We are looking for someone to chair the Shows in the Park. The chair would be responsible for volunteers to set up the room and man the necessary positions during the show. The shows for the balance of the year are:

Summer show, July 23 & 24

Fall show, October 22 & 23

Web Committee

The home page was modified to make the upcoming spring show the main feature. The show poster appears on the first page and a link is provided for additional information and a discount coupon. Included is a map to Scottish Rite to help anyone interested in the show.

A member's only section has been added to the web site. A feature of this section is a message section that will permit Board members to send messages to select groups. The groups can include all SDCOS members or anyone interested in our activities.

Old Business

The motion to move the novice class into Room 101 was presented to the membership at the March general meeting. The motion passed. This opens up Room 104 for AOS judging to take place concurrent with our general meetings. David Brown will notify the local AOS judging center of our decision.

New Business

The speaker for the novice class will be Jim Wright talking about re-potting of Cattleyas.

The subject for the general meeting will be Orchids of Colombia presented by Ron Kaufmann. The plant table will be provided by Dave Reid of Reid’s Orchids.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.



Masdevallia polysticta ssp. *spathulifolia*, grown outdoors year-round in North Park and Normal Heights, likes good water and blooms at the end of winter/beginning of spring. This Ecuadorean Cordillera species prefers deionized or reverse osmosis water.

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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Letter From the Editor

Dear SDCOS,

I hope everyone is enjoying these first blustery days of spring. This is a time of year to start paying attention to new growth on your plants and increase the amount you water if you typically let your plants have a “winter rest,” as a great many orchids appreciate. Dormant plants that go completely without water all winter will start “telling” you when it’s time to put the hose on them again; once you see the tiniest sign of a new leaf, their break is typically over.

Now is also the time to look for blooms on the Chinese spring orchid, *Bletilla striata*. These you can grow in the ground with your daffodils and treat like virtually any other bulb, and their flowers only last a week or two, so pay attention this week if you have established plants or you’ll miss their nodding magenta, *Cattleya*-like blooms. Walter Andersen’s usually carries these this time of year and can get them if you ask .

Contact Information:

Christopher Croom

(619) 583-3804

batescroom@cox.net

Our BIG SHOW is this weekend, and hopefully you all got your newsletters before Saturday. Don’t forget to call Bruce Berg or Dave Hoffmaster if you want to volunteer; jobs are always available and we need your help to pull this off. Also, get there early on Friday so you can have the pick of the plants at the Conservation Committee booth (volunteering will facilitate you being in the building before anyone else, and therefore having the best access to awesome deals). Let your addiction drive your contributions to our Society.

In any case, I hope all your plants made it through the winter, and don’t forget your important appointment at the Scottish Rite Center this weekend!

Happy Growing,
Christopher