



*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.*

Volume 151

September 2011

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

## CULTURE MEETING

By Scott LaBouff, 2nd Vice President

One of our long time members, Ben Machado, is talking about *Schomburgkia* culture at this month's culture meeting.

Schomburgkias do well for Ben in his east county location, but he found that detailed culture information for Schomburgkias is seriously lacking. Through his personal experience and research he has a number of growing techniques that he is prepared to pass on to our members. At least a couple of the *Schomburgkia* species are somewhat readily available in the Southern California region; *tibicinis* and *brysiana*. Most of the other species are difficult to find and usually command a high price. That's why, when you get one you want to give it every cultural benefit for magnificent growth and blooming.

Ben has been growing orchids for 19 years and has evolved into his specialty interest, Schomburgkias. He has been a past board member of SDCOS and was Show Director of the Spring Show for a number of years. Ben is also the Show Director for the San Diego International Orchid Fair to be held at the San Diego Botanic Garden, formerly known as Quail Botanical Gardens. He also owns and operates a sideline business, Calavo Gardens, from his home, specializing in supplies for the orchid enthusiast.

The mission of this meeting is to provide orchid culture information to all orchid enthusiasts whether you are new to growing orchids or a more experienced grower. As such, this meeting will be referred to as Culture Meeting. I welcome your suggestions for future topics.

## GENERAL MEETING

By Paul Tuskes 1st Vice President

The speaker for September will be Paul Tuskes our 1<sup>st</sup> VP. I will be talking about Encyclias and their relatives, and review their culture and those species that are ideal for growing outdoors in southern California. If you have Encyclia in bloom, please bring them to the meeting. The plant table will be provided by LICO Orchids.

Two reminders:

(1) AOS judging starts at 6 PM in room

104. If possible, please bring your plants in by 5:40 PM. Last month Tom Biggart received an HCC for Encyclia Brownie Points 'GHO', Charley Fouquette received two HCCs, one for *Phal bellina* and the other for *Hoffmannseggella* (Laelia) Kleberi 'Oro Belle'.

(2) The fall show in the park is in October... and we will have sign-up sheets for those wishing to help... start grooming your plants now for the show!

## San Diego County Orchid Society

### Board of Directors

President: [Bruce Berg](#)  
 First VP: [Paul Tuskes](#)  
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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.

Culture Class: 6:30 PM, Room 101

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 [bates-croom@cox.net](mailto:bates-croom@cox.net).

### Advertisers

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

Information for the October newsletter must be submitted by September 15.

## Receive your SDCOS Newsletter by E-Mail!

Contact:

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

## Casa de las Orquideas

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## Fascination of Orchids Show and Sale

September 24 & 25, 2011 10 am to 5 pm  
 South Coast Plaza Village  
 1631 West Sunflower  
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## Orchid Dates to Remember

September 3

### **SDCOS Species Group Meeting**

First Saturday of the month

Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

September 6, 6:30 p.m

### **SDCOS Culture Meeting**

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

September 6, 7:30 p.m

### **SDCOS General Meeting**

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

September 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

September 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

September 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

September 21

### **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 or (760) 732-0055

### **Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale**

September 25-26 10 AM-5 PM

South Coast Plaza Village

NE Corner of Bear and Sunflower

Free parking and admission

[www.ocorchidshow.com](http://www.ocorchidshow.com) or (949) 735-2930

October 1

### **San Diego International Orchid Fair**

#### **17th Annual Orchid Show**

#### **and Orchid Sale**

San Diego Botanic Garden

[www.sdbgarden.org/orchid](http://www.sdbgarden.org/orchid)

October 22-23

### **SDCOS Fall show**

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

**San Diego International Orchid Fair  
17th Annual Orchid Show and Orchid Sale  
October 1, 9 AM - 5 PM  
October 2, 9 AM - 4 PM**

Come join us for the splendidly colorful San Diego International Orchid Fair where countless varieties of orchids grace the grounds, some in exhibits and some for sale from 15 well known vendors. Learn from the experts how to care for your newly purchased orchids at "Orchids 101," our ongoing lectures on culture and care.

Have your orchid judged- the show is an official American Orchid Society judging event and there will be ribbon judging as well. To register your plants for judging bring them to the Ecke Building on Thursday, September 29, 4 - 7 pm and Friday September 30, 9 am - 1:30 pm. Please make sure they are pest-free, flowers are staked, and plants are clean. Judging begins at 2 pm sharp.

Admission on Saturday: FREE in celebration of Encinitas 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Admission on Sunday: \$12 for adults, \$8 for seniors, students and active military and \$6 for children ages 3-12. Children ages 2 and under are free. Admission is free for San Diego Botanic Garden members and AOS Members. Discounts are available at the [San Diego Botanic Garden web site](http://San Diego Botanic Garden web site), parking: FREE both days.

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**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:

**San Diego**

Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104  
1st Tuesday of the month at 6 pm

**San Marino**

Huntington Botanical Gardens  
2nd Saturday of the month at 10 am

**Long Beach**

Whaley Park  
4th Saturday of the month 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:

Rohrl, Helmut (La Jolla)  
858-452-0976

Tuskes, Ann and Paul (Clairemont)  
858-274-5829

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# Judging at the San Diego Botanic Garden, August 2011

There were 3 orchids awarded of the 7 presented for judging in San Diego in August.



*Cattleya harrisoniana*  
Exhibited by Bruce Berg



*Phalenopsis bellina* 'Eye Candy' HCC/AOS  
Exhibited by: Charlie Fouquette  
Awarded: 77 points, HCC/AOS



*Angraecum magdalene*  
Exhibited by Joy Cisco



*Hoffmannseggella kleberi* 'Oro-Belle' HCC/AOS  
(formerly Laelia)  
Exhibited by Charlie Fouquette  
Awarded 78 points, HCC/AOS



*Epidendrum pfavii*  
Exhibited by Joy Cisco

## July SDCOS Balboa Park Show Winners (a few)

*Photography By Helen Pfister*



Debby Halliday's other entry that won first Place and Best of Section (8A) was this unknown Phalaenopsis hybrid, an intermediate to warm grower with large, flat flowers.



This unknown Miltoniopsis hybrid, exhibited by Debby Halliday, had little yellow butterflies surrounding the pollinia and shocking red sepals and petals. These will not withstand outdoor growth in winter in San Diego and appreciate good water.



Edith and Leno Galvan's Epicattleya El Matillo 'Pinta' took 1st Place and Best of Section 10 F. This is a hybrid that requires high light conditions and could easily be grown outdoors.



Edith and Leno Galvan's Cymbidium Little Black Sambo 'Black Magic' once again took a 1st Place and Best of Section 3F. This plant grows well sheltered and out doors but may do even better in an intermediate house.

## WORLD-FAMOUS

San Diego Zoo

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

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

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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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## Spring Show Committee

The next meeting date for the Spring Show will be held on Thursday, September 1 at 6 PM in room 104, Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. The meeting is open to everyone and we encourage your participation. You do not need an invitation to attend. Just show up and share your ideas with the committee.

One item on the agenda is selection of the show theme. We have received a number of very good ideas and the show committee has narrowed the list but would like your input in making the final selection. This will be our 66<sup>th</sup> annual spring show and we should all be proud of the long history the Society has with this event. We will ask the membership to vote at the September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting to determine which of the following will be the theme for our 2012 Spring Show. If you are unable to attend the September meeting, you can vote by email. Just send your selection to Dave Hoffmaster ([davehoff5@yahoo.com](mailto:davehoff5@yahoo.com)) and we will include your vote in the total. Please keep in mind that the theme does impact the show as we will need to work it into everything from the show poster to the orchid exhibits. The options for the 2012 Spring Show theme are the following. We ask that you vote for one entry so pick your favorite and let us know.

- 66 Years of Orchids
- A Garden of Orchids
- Caution, Orchid Jungle Ahead
- Galaxy of Orchids
- Orchid Carousel
- Orchid Fantasy
- Orchidmania
- Orchids in Paradise
- Route Your Trip Thru Orchids 66

Tom Biggart has graciously volunteered to draw the poster for this year's show. Once the theme is decided, he can begin work on the poster and we are all waiting to see the result of his effort.

**San Diego County  
Orchid Society  
Board Meeting Minutes  
August 4, 2011**

Attendees: Board members Bruce Berg, Carol Berg, David Brown, Bob Clark, Scott LaBouff, Helen Pfister, Paul Tuskes, Lila Wagar, Jim Wright, and visitor, Jack Schaefer. Dave Hoffmaster was present via Skype.

President Bruce Berg called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**Officers Reports:**

Minutes for the July meeting were approved via email prior to this meeting and were published in the August newsletter.

Carol Berg presented the treasurer's report for July. David Brown moved to file the report for audit and the motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

Spring Show names submitted by members will be narrowed down by the show committee to 6 to 8 names and the members will vote for their favorite at the September meeting.

Sites for our Spring show other than the Scottish Rite Center were discussed and will be further discussed at a later date.

Dave Hoffmaster reported on the available dates for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 with the Scottish Rite Center. With a down payment of \$1,000.00 per year, we can secure the dates for these years and with 60 day notice prior to the show date we may cancel and receive a full refund.

Jim Wright moved that we pay the down payments to secure the dates for 2013, 2014 and 2015 and the motion carried.

Dave Hoffmaster via Skype left the meeting at

this point.

Announcements will be sent out a week before the novice and general meeting, via e-mail for those persons who have requested the information, but are not members.

Updated flyers for 2012 will be made available at our meetings and also at all shows.

Loren and Nancy Batchman of Casa de las Orquideas have donated their cash register to the San Diego County Orchid Society. Thank you, Loren and Nancy.

Webmaster, Jack Schaefer reported that the web site is up and running with minor problems. The design committee will meet in August for further discussion. Information regarding our speakers for the novice and general meetings will also be posted on the web site by Jack Schaefer.

Expansion of the web page and a hit counter was discussed and will be looked into by our web master.

Bob Clark gave an updated report on membership and it has stayed about the same as last month.

**Old Business:**

A student membership proposal was submitted by Genie Hammond and Bruce Berg. The board was asked to review material for the next board meeting.

Investment strategies such as goals, risks and other issues were discussed by the board and will have further discussion in the future.

Paul Tuskes will assist with the logo resolution.

The board had previously voted to purchase the DVD *The Judge, the Hunter, the Thief and*



*the Black Orchid*; Paul Tuskes has a copy that he will lend to the Society.

The following topics were discussed as possibilities for advertizing our activities: video of Park shows, Facebook, the SDCOS web site, city and county TV and Sign on San Diego, and the possibility of purchasing an image to catch the eye.

The purchase of a 10x10 canopy for local garden events was discussed and Lila Wagar has a canopy that she will donate to the society. Thank you Lila.

Facebook maintenance will be taken care of by Kevin Rynearson.

Bruce Berg proposed the following for Committee Chairperson positions:

Orchid Digest Representative  
Lynn Ford

Floral Association Representative  
Lynn Ford

Helen Pfister moved that the Society appoint Lynn as proposed and the motion carried.

### **New Business:**

Paul Tuskes our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President will be our speaker at our General Meeting on Encyclias. He is also donating his speaker fees.

Ben Machado will be our speaker for the Nov-ice class. His subject will be Schomburgkias, his favorite orchid.

Paul Tuskes needs certification of liability insurance for the AOS Judging in room 104.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.

## **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

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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](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,

The heat has finally descended, and this is the time of year that your Pleurothallids (*Masdevallia*, *Stella*, *Dracula*, *Pleurothallis*, *Platystele*, *Lepanthes*, *Specklinia*, *Restrepia*, *Dressleria*, etc.) will like to die unless you keep them shaded and wet with good-quality water. “Good quality” water means your Pur filter off the faucet or much better for most species, including deionized water for the semi-hardy species and reverse-osmosis treated water for the most sensitive. Many serious growers make the leap to provide these kinds of purified water for their collection (especially if they want to do well with Pleurothallids) in order to experience deeper levels of orchid growing success, and it can cost as little as filling a pressure sprayer with the Glacier ‘penguin’ water at the grocery store vending machine to installing a R/O system with a 1,000-gallon storage tank for a much larger collection and budget.

Many of you have plants that will die in this weather unless you water them every day, and all of your mounted orchids will benefit from extra watering when the mercury rises. You cannot overwater a properly mounted orchid (except for maybe that blasted *O. liminghei* that hates water), so anything on a stick or a plank or a bark strip should be hit relentlessly by your overnurturing and hawkish watery care. Orchids growing in pots or deep shade won’t need quite as much, but the more the merrier this time of year (the Governor even lifted the drought declaration, officially condoning your conduct).

**Contact Information:**

Christopher Croom

(619) 583-3804

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

A swamp cooler is necessary for many collections in this kind of weather; all it is is a giant humidifier that you use lots of money and water for unless you have a small collection. Make sure any humidifier water is pure, and make sure that when it comes to mounted orchids “spritzing” with a spray bottle does not constitute watering.

Happy Growing,  
Christopher