



*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 160

June 2012

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

## CULTURE MEETING– June 5, 6:30 PM **Peter Tobias—Orchid Conservation**

By Scott LaBouff, 2nd Vice President

Since 1991 SDCOS has made many donations to support orchid conservation. Peter Tobias will highlight some of the successes that these donations have had, focusing on dona-

tions to OrquidaRio, the Orchid Society of Rio de Janeiro, and to EcoMinga and El Pahuma, Ecuadoran orchid conservation projects.

## GENERAL MEETING– June 5, 7:30 PM **Karen Muir—Maxillarias**

By Paul Tuskes 1st Vice President

Our speaker for June will be Karen Muir and her topic will be *Maxillaria*. The Maxillarias are among the most widespread and diverse orchid genera of tropical America. They contain spectacular large flowered species and charming miniatures. The genus contains over 650 species with many still to be described. Karen will share with us examples of these spectacular species and discuss their culture. Many Maxillarias are good outdoor growers in San Diego.

Karen is originally from Michigan where she began raising orchids around 1975. Karen became an accredited American Orchid Society Judge in 1997. In 1998, she was transferred by her Company, Lincoln Mercury, to Irvine, California and retired in January 2002. She has served 5 years as the American Orchid Society Chair of the Pacific South Judging

Region and has traveled to Canada, Guatemala, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, South Africa, England and Japan to attend and judge orchid shows. Karen resides in Laguna Niguel, CA.

Don't forget, ASO judging starts at 6 pm in room 104. Please don't be late.

### ***Dinner with the Speaker***

Jim Wright will be taking our June speaker Karen Muir to dinner at the Prado. If you would like to join them please call 619 208-7272 no later than Monday, June 4 before 11 AM. If no answer please leave a message. Dinner reservations are for 5:30 PM on the 5th.

# San Diego County Orchid Society

## Board of Directors

President: [Bruce Berg](#)  
 First VP: [Paul Tuskes](#)  
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 Treasurer: [Carol Berg](#)  
 Secretary: [Helen Pfister](#)  
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 Lila Wagar  
 Jim Wright  
 Past President: [David Brown](#)

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

## Advertisers

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

Information for the July newsletter must be submitted by June 15.

## WORLD-FAMOUS

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

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Email: [casa@orquideas.com](mailto:casa@orquideas.com)

## The 32nd Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair

Friday July 13 & Saturday July 14,  
2012, 9 AM to 5 PM

Sunday July 15, 10 AM to 4 PM

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

## Orchid Dates to Remember

June 2

### **SDCOS Species Group Meeting**

First Saturday of the month  
Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

June 5

### **SDCOS Culture Meeting**

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

June 5, 7:30 p.m

### **SDCOS General Meeting**

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

June 6

### **Palomar Orchid Society Meeting**

Culture class at 6:30; program at 7:00  
First Wednesday of the month  
The Carlsbad Woman's Club  
3320 Monroe Street, Carlsbad  
Melana Walding (760) 295-7228

June 7, 7:00 PM

### **SDCOS Board Meeting**

Normally, the Thursday following the General Meeting, Balboa Park, Rm. 104

June 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

June 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– Ecke Bldg.  
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024  
orchldy2@mac.com or (760) 732-0055

*If you have any announcements that you would like included in the "Dates to Remember" section of the newsletter, please e-mail [bates-room@cox.net](mailto:bates-room@cox.net).*



**San Diego County  
Orchid Society**

*Show in the Park*

**July 21 and 22**

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101



THE PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY  
PRESENTS



**2012 Orchid  
Auction**

**Saturday, August 18, 2012**  
**Preview at 11:00 am**  
**Auction starts 12 Noon**

The Pavillion at Lake San Marcos  
1105 Bonita Drive  
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Are your Cymbidiums busting their pots?!?  
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some help. She can be reached at [619-339-6888](tel:619-339-6888).  
Don't put this off as now is prime repotting time. Your  
orchids will thank you immensely!

For recommendations call Bud Close,  
Jim Wright, or Tom Biggart

[www.granitehillsochids.com](http://www.granitehillsochids.com)  
[tombiggart@mac.com](mailto:tombiggart@mac.com) 619-886-8121

**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 fol-  
lowing 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 Judging Center (Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park)

May 2012

There were 11 orchids presented for judging. Six were awarded.

*Galeopetalum* Ink Spot AM/AOS

Exhibited by Renate Schmidt

Awarded AM/AOS 81 points



*Dtps.* Lioulin 'Goldfinch' HCC/AOS

Exhibited by Helmut Rohr

Awarded HCC/AOS 78 points



*Phrag.* Haroldeen Quintal HCC/AOS

Exhibited by Helmut Rohr

Awarded HCC/AOS 77 points



*L. sincorana*

'Harald'

HCC/AOS

Exhibited by Kay Klausung

Awarded HCC/AOS 77 points



*Paph. philippinense* v.

*compactum*

'Tyroné'

HCC/AOS

Exhibited by Charlie Fouquette

Awarded HCC/AOS 77 points



*Rdc.* Lovely Lady

HCC/AOS

Exhibited by Helmut Rohr

Awarded HCC/AOS 78 points

## Updates from your President

By: Bruce Berg

June is almost here. Hopefully you have completed all the repotting work you'd planned for the spring. This is a good time to start examining your plants for ones which will be in bloom for the July Show in the Park. The show will be the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of July. Setup will be on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup>. We can use volunteers with setup, takedown, helping with sales, and security. David Brown is the Chairman and further questions can be directed to him.

June is also the month where we elect our society officers for the next year. More details later in the newsletter.

Come and help elect our candidates! Anyone else who wishes to be considered for a position needs to contact Ron Kaufmann. Nominations can also be brought up at the General Meeting. Special thanks go to Paul Tuskes who will be stepping down as First VP.

Jack Schaefer and the web committee have been tweaking the website. Check it out and see all the new stuff! In particular, check out the great photos in the Gallery section! [www.Sdorchids.com](http://www.Sdorchids.com)

Your Society made a donation to the American Cancer Society in memory of Loren Batchman. If you know of anyone in need of a kind word while ill or injured, please let Genie Hammond or me know so that we can send a get well card. It's the little things we can do for each other that strengthen us as a Society.

At the General Meeting last month, the membership voted to go ahead with the 2013 Spring Show contract with Scottish Rite Convention Center. The contract has been signed with a refundable \$1000 deposit payment. The dates for the 2013 Spring Show are March 21<sup>st</sup> to March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The membership also

approved the negotiation of the 2014 contract. Dave Hoffmaster was able to negotiate the contract with a 4% increase over the 2013 contract. This contract was also signed with a refundable \$1000 deposit. The dates for the 2014 Spring Show will be March 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.

## General Meeting Minutes May 1, 2012

Ron Kaufmann presented the slate of officers for the 2012-2013 year for the San Diego County Orchid Society.

Bruce Berg, President  
Scott LaBouff, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Ben Machado, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Helen Pfister, Secretary  
Carol Berg, Treasurer

Continuing:

David Brown Immediate Past President  
Kay Klausung, Director-At-Large 2012-2015  
Director-At-Large, Bob Clark 2010-2013  
Jim Wright, 2011-2014.

This will be announced again at the June General Meeting and then opened up for other nominations from the floor, followed by a vote of the membership. At the July meeting the installation of New Officers for the 2012-2013 year will take place.

Bruce Berg and Dave Hoffmaster presented the following:

Do we want to continue the Spring Show?

Volunteers were difficult to find this past year.

Dates being held by Scottish Rite Center are March 21-24.

Deposit of \$1000.00 needed to secure dates.

Helen Pfister moved that we continue the Spring Show at the Scottish Rite Center for the March dates. The motion was seconded and discussions were held. President Bruce Berg called for a vote—the motion passed.

Candy Kalman moved that we enter into a contract with Scottish Rite for March 21-24, 2013 and to authorize a \$1000.00 deposit to hold those dates for the four rooms at a cost of \$15,330.52. The motion was seconded and again lively discussion were held by the membership. President Bruce Berg called for a vote—the motion passed.

Ann Tuskes moved to give the Show Committee the discretion to enter into contracts with Scottish Rite for 2014 and 2015 and put down the \$1000.00 deposits for each year, should they feel it is in the best interest of the Society. The motion was seconded and discussions were held. President Bruce Berg called for a vote—the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen R. Pfister, Secretary

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*Laelia flava* is the brightest yellow of the rupicolous Laelias from Brazil. Grow this in exactly the same mix that Tom Biggart spoke about in his talk the other year layered with pebbles and sand.



*Euchile* (syn. *Encyclia*) *citrina* likes good quality water but isn’t bothered by our lowest non-freezing winter temperatures. I have one of these blooms steeping in vinegar right now for a condiment.



## What's in a Name? Why Orchid Names are Important

By Christopher Croom

This is a subject that I haven't gone over in a couple of years, and considering that our job as a Society is to promote orchid education, I have been remiss in my recent responsibilities in this particular (alliterative) area.

In *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare, Juliet asks:

“What's in a name? That which we call a rose  
by any other name would smell as sweet,”

And then she says a bunch of romantic crap about Romeo, suggesting it doesn't matter that he's a Montague. Of course, we all know where this story ends; Juliet may have asked what was in a name, but without the bitter feud between two families bearing two different names there would have been no tragedy and therefore nothing to make a play out of. It turns out that orchid names can likewise make all the difference between a generic relationship and something *really* worth writing home about.

Did you ever go to an orchid show and you noticed that one vendor was selling *Oncidium Sharry Baby* for \$20, but another vendor was selling *Oncidium Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'* AM/AOS for \$40 and you asked yourself “Why would I buy the same plant for twice as much?” so you went with the cheaper plant? Then, when it finally bloomed, the flowers might not have been as big or have smelled as chocolatey as you remembered.

This is because there's a crucial difference between *Oncidium Sharry Baby* and *Oncidium*

*Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'* AM/AOS. *Oncidium Sharry Baby* is *any* orchid that has *Onc. Jamie Sutton* and *Onc. Honolulu* as its two parents, while *Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'* is a particular *cultivar* of *Onc. Sharry Baby*, and the AM/AOS part means that it earned an Award of Merit from the American Orchid Society. Every correctly or ethically labeled *Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'* should be a division of the original plant awarded by the AOS, and will therefore have identical genes and be capable of producing flowers that are identical in quality and fragrance to those originally awarded by the AOS judges.

So, when you buy a plant called *Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'*, you know *exactly* what you're getting into. You know how big the blooms should be, how many of them there should be, what color they should be, and how they should smell, because everything is supposed to be identical to that original awarded plant. Conversely, when you buy something called *Onc. Sharry Baby*, the flowers could be large or small, brown or red, with white or pink (or lavender) lips, it might flower once or twice a year, and it might smell like vanilla or chocolate or bad chardonnay. This is because the genes of *Onc. Sharry Baby* can be wildly different from each other, as *any* offspring of the cross between *Onc. Honolulu* and *Onc. Jamie Sutton* will have that name.

Ergo, the \$40 *Sharry Baby* costs twice as much because the award means the plant will be a reliable performer, and you don't exactly know what you're going to get in the \$20 plant.

If any readers happen to grow fruit trees, you



may have wondered why you don't just plant the pit of that awesome avocado you bought the other day from Vons and made into guacamole, or the seeds of that tasty Valencia orange you made into juice for your breakfast. This is because the seed that turns into a tree has been pollinated by another parent, and reproduction can cause a staggering amount of genetic variation, very likely making the offspring of that delicious fruit you ate very different. So you end up with three orange trees 20 years and thousands of gallons of water later with fruit so sour it's bitter and that isn't even good for making into marmalade, like I have in my backyard.

So when you buy an orchid hybrid like Sharry Baby (and you can tell the plant is a hybrid when it has been properly named, because the second and following words will be capitalized to tell you that, as in *Oncidium* **Sharry Baby**), paying more for a particular cultivar (the name that appears in the single quotes after the hybrid name, as in *Oncidium* Sharry Baby **'Sweet Fragrance'**), particularly if it has been awarded by the AOS or Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) or like organization, is often completely worth the money.

Species orchids, the ones not crossed by people and that occur in the wild (or did at one time) can likewise be denoted with proper naming habits. When you read the tag of an orchid and want to know if it is a species, the second word after the genus should be lowercase, as in *Oncidium* *cheiroporum*. If the tag has been printed by machine, you'll also see a species name in italics, as I did above; on a handwritten tag the only way someone unfamiliar with the plant will know it's a species is if the person who wrote the tag took the care

to make sure the species name was lowercase.

Following correct naming conventions is further important because primary hybrids—crosses made from two species—often have the names of people, making them sound like species, which are *always* named for people, places, or color and structure. I remember passing on purchasing a *Schomburgkia Thompsoniana* at a show once because someone whom I thought was smarter than me told me that the capital "T" meant it was a hybrid. This was true, but the vendor selling the orchid mistakenly put an uppercase "T" where a lowercase "t" should have been on the tag, deterring this particular species collector from a sale. Similarly, I have seen plants like *Cymbidium Pumilow* (a hybrid) spelled with a lowercase "p" and exhibited in the species section at shows alongside plants with much smaller flowers that were selected by insects, not men. Talk about unfair.

So what's in a name? For Romeo and Juliet, it was a play-worthy double suicide over icky unrequited teen love. For those who care to pay attention because they want to maximize the pleasure they get from their orchid collections, names tell us whether a plant is a species or a hybrid, whether it has particularly awesome flowers for its type, whether the plant might be more likely to win an award at a show, whether we'll pay more for the plant, whether the plant will have resale value or will one day get the Conservation Committee a healthy donation, whether we should buy it at all because that's what we like to collect, and when we Google the correctly spelled name of the plant replete with proper conventions adhered to—*exactly* how to grow it.

# San Diego County Orchid Society Board Meeting Minutes May 3, 2012

Attendees: Bruce Berg, Carol Berg, Helen Pfister, David Brown, Bob Clark, Paul Tuskes, Kay Klausung, Jim Wright and visitor Jack Schaefer

President Bruce Berg called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

## Officer Reports:

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

Carol Berg presented the Treasurer's report for April. David Brown moved to file the report for audit—the motion passed.

## Committee Reports:

Jack Schaefer, our Webmaster, reported that our site had 1296 total hits for the month of April. Pictures of our Awards Party are now available online. Photos of our hikes with Nico and Bruce and the Santa Barbara Orchid Show will be online soon. The Web Committee will be meeting to start working on a members only page.

Bob Clark, our Membership co-ordinator, stated that there was no change in membership.

David Brown, our Finance Committee chair, stated the committee will meet before the next Board Meeting. David will also meet with Bruce and Carol Berg to make the transfer of funds before the end of the month.

## Old Business:

Carol Berg, our Treasurer, reported that most if not all of the bills from the Spring Show have been received. She also stated money is still coming in from ticket sales. She should have a final Show statement before too long.

Bruce Berg, our President and Co-Chair for the 2013 Spring Show, stated that he and Dave Hoffmaster will meet with the Scottish Rite Center this next week to sign the contract for 2013 approved by the membership on May 1, 2012.

Loren Batchman's memorial is May 8, 2012. Again, the Board discussed several ways to honor Loren. Jim Wright moved that we make a donation in Loren's name to the American Cancer Society in the amount of \$250.00—the motion passed.

Paul Tuskes volunteered to write an article for the AOS magazine about Loren Batchman and his contributions to orchid culture. He will first check with the AOS judging chairperson for this region to see if anyone else might be writing an article. Other items discussed were trophies and awards in his name. Bruce Berg and Jack Schaefer will write a letter for our website regarding Loren.

## New Business:

Speakers for June:

Culture class speaker: Peter Tobias will do a presentation on completed projects.

General meeting speaker: Karen Muir will have a presentation on Maxillarias.

Jim Wright will host the dinner for our speaker. Charlie Fouquette will provide the plants for the opportunity table.

Helen Pfister moved that a new coffee urn be purchased at a cost of no more than \$75.00—the motion passed.

While discussing storage of the new coffee urn it was decided some of our lockers in room 104 need to be cleaned and purged to make room for more useful items.

David Brown will chair the July Show in the Park. Volunteer sign up sheets will be available at the next two meetings. Bruce Berg will contract Susan Lewitt and Joyce Schoof to advertise the July Show in the Park.

Paul Tuskes volunteered to write press release regarding the Show in the Park for the local weekly papers.

Jack Schaefer presented ideas about fund raising which the Board will look into at future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Helen R. Pfister, Secretary

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## 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**

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Ann & Paul Tuskes (858) 274-5829

### **Paphiopedilums**

Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

### **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**

Karl 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,

May and June don't seem to be too gray and gloomy, respectively, but I'm sure as soon as I write this and it gets printed that will change. But the same factors that are making this a high pollen count year and a great year for biting insects seem to be in play right now, with mild and clear weather bringing our plants' growth rates into full swing. I swear my bananas grew 6" over Memorial Day weekend just because the soil finally warmed up.

Now if pollen counts are high this year, that also probably means that you'll have to be more vigilant about weeds invading your orchid pots than you were last summer. Make sure to remove dandelions before they go to seed or you'll have a hard time eradicating them from your growing area. When you remove a dandelion, also make sure to remove the entire taproot, as it contains enough starches to grow the rest of the plant right back if you leave it in the pot and just shear off the rest of the plant at mix level.

### Contact Information:

Christopher Croom

(619) 583-3804

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

Anything you have growing in your pots that looks like what it colloquially called "clover" is probably *Oxalis* and also needs to be removed because it will fix no nitrogen for the benefit of the orchid. Good companion plants for orchids are things like *Nepenthes*, *Pinguicula*, sundews, and *Tillandsia*, not random nightshades, cheeseweed, grasses, and *Chenopodiums* from God-knows-where.

So when weeds rear up heir ugly heads, be proactive and get them early, before their root systems become entangled in your orchids. The smaller they are, the easier they are to remove, and the less water and nitrogen they'll take away from your plants.

Happy Growing,  
Christopher