



# San Diego County Orchid Society

## Newsletter

Volume 24

Newsletter Distribution 528 Members

December 2000

### Holiday Party

December 5, 2000, 6:00PM, CASA DEL PRADO, ROOM 101

If you can come at 5:30 pm to help set up, please do. From what I hear, the dinner line opens around 6 pm. And read on, you ol' timers will be glad to read from one of the best ol' timers around. Nicole and I will be celebrating our eleventh month anniversary with this absolutely fantactic society.

Michael Orser

### An Introduction

Dear Fellow Orchidists, my name is Marjorie Kuhlmann and I am the third party in the "editors in progress". I am a recent transplant to the San Diego area via Pennsylvania, Florida and Michigan. Hopefully this is my final move. I was Editor of my high school newspaper and also did a newsletter for several years for a group that I belonged to. In high school we used the cut and paste method and a old printing press. Technologies have changed, thank heavens!

About 16 years ago I bought my first orchid to celebrate a home we bought in Florida. That was the beginning! In Florida you stuck your orchids outside and they thrived. I lost about half of them in the move to Pennsylvania and found it was very different trying to grow orchids in the snow. I bought a 3 tier growing tray with lights and humidifies and when I went to the Philadelphia Flower Show got my socks knocked off with all the different types of orchids. Prior to this I only thought orchids were Cattleya's. When I moved to California I gave all my beautiful orchids to my friends and have started all over. Again a very different climate and I am happy that I found the SDCOS. This month's Orchid Digest features a gentleman by the name of Yoneo Sagawa on the back of it's cover. His philosophy is "A little knowledge may be a dangerous thing. Dig deeper." I am coming to the conclusion that this really applies to me and little by little I'm beginning to learn about orchids (but I must admit I really have a difficult time with the names). I find being active in the orchid society is a great way to make friends and pick up knowledge. Since I was away during the Del Mar Orchid Show I decided to be active for the Mini Show. During the receiving of orchids Friday night I realized I had two orchids in bloom that no one else had brought in. In mentioning this to Gary P. he said "bring them in". I did and what a THRILL....I took first place for my *Ond. biconiense* and third place for my *Den. bigabum*. If I had not been working at the show, I would never have entered my orchids! It shows that many of you, like myself, have orchids that are worthy

of competition. You don't have to be a grower or have a hundred years of knowledge under your belt. I encourage each of you to participate as it was such a rewarding experience. Please share your orchids and experiences with us as we will all benefit. My job with the newsletter is to take care of the advertising and the folding, labeling and mailing of the newsletter. If there is anyone else out there that would like to help please give me a call at 858-675-0885. Also let me apologize for the late arrival of the last newsletter. David and Mike did a beautiful job of getting the newsletter together and to the printers. I picked the newsletters up from the printers, did my job in readying, labeling and sorting, and got them to the main Post Office in Carmel Mountain on October 31st. The bottom line is that non-profit mailing gets shoved behind political mailings. Therefore, many members did not receive their newsletter until after election day when the political mailings stopped. It was a hard lesson, but we now know that local mail doesn't necessarily get delivered in one to two days. It is dependent on what else is going on at the time. I will try my best not to let this happen again. Please e-mail me at: kuhlmann@utm.net or call me at the above number if you have problems in getting your newsletter. Also, the newsletter is a great way to reach the 600 plus members and is a good way to advertise your orchid plants, supplies and services. We have a single issue rate of \$17 to \$28 depending upon the size of the ad and give a 20% discount for those who wish to place a monthly ad (\$14 to \$23).

Happy Holidays, see you at the Christmas Party!

Marjorie Kuhlmann



### Members and Advertisers

If you have monthly meetings, classifieds, or announcements related to orchids, make sure the information gets to the Editor by the **Second Tuesday** of each month for publishing in the next issue of this newsletter. To contribute articles or to advertise your orchid-related business, please contact Michael Orser, Editor, 4744 A Street, San Diego, CA 92102, Phone: 619.527.0286 or E-mail: [mikiniki@netzero.net](mailto:mikiniki@netzero.net). You may also contact David Graham at [dgraham@san.rr.com](mailto:dgraham@san.rr.com)

## CSA Awards Trophy for Best Paphiopedilum of the Year

The Cymbidium Society of America has awarded the Sawyer Trophy for Best Paphiopedilum of the year to Paphiopedilum rothschildianum 'Rajah Kumis', grown and exhibited by Cindy Hill. This lady's slipper received a CSA Silver Medal with 80.2 points at the Palomar Orchid Show in February. The Sawyer Trophy is awarded to the highest-scoring Paphiopedilum, hybrid or species, exhibited at CSA-sanctioned shows in California, New Zealand and Japan. Cindy's plant received a First Class Certificate (FCC) of 91 points from the American Orchid Society earlier this year. Let's hope it will bloom again this spring, so we can see it at our general meeting!

Let's give our congratulations to Cynthia Hill!

A photograph of this beautiful orchid is below in order to satiate our addictions to the wonderful genera!



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## CLASSIC OOHs AND AAHs



### Phalaenopsis

**P. GIGANTEA**

*rare, greenish yellow with brown spots*

**P. VIOLACEA 'BORNEO'**

*violet with green, yellow accents*

**P. EQUESTRIIS 'ALBA' X 'AUREA'**

*white with a hint of rose, branching*

**P. GOLDEN EMPOROR 'SWEET' FCC/AOS**

*large, yellow, no spots*

**DTPS KENNETH SCHUBERT 'BLUE ANGEL'**

*blue flowers, blooms for months*

**DTPS. QUEEN BEER**

*fluorescent fuchsia, blooms for months*

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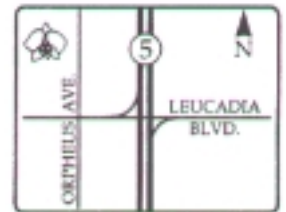
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## BEAUTIES OF THE NEW WORLD - THE LAELIAS

Marilyn H.S. Light

The word Laelia flows from the lips, conjuring up an image of beauty, elegance, color and class. This is a well named genus. Beautifully flowered species of what is popularly known as Laelia may be found from Mexico in the north to Brazil in the south. The genus Laelia is under taxonomic revision with Mexican and Central American species currently remaining as members of the genus Laelia and South American species as Sophronitis and possibly Cattleya. These showy orchids are in demand by hobbyists and locals for their decorative value and are therefore at risk to inappropriate harvesting. Some species have been collected almost to extinction. While some of these species are lithophytes, growing on inhospitable sites not at risk to agricultural exploitation, most species are epiphytic. The host trees and hence the orchids are threatened because of commercial logging and clearing for agriculture. Both Laelia jongheana and L. lobata are listed under Appendix I of CITES but other species such as L. tenebrosa are also threatened with extirpation. Thankfully because of their beauty, many species and rare color forms exist in collections. Keeping these plants healthy is a priority and propagating them a necessity.

Laelia species can be divided into two groups according to their geographical origin. The Mexican Laelias are mostly mid- to higher elevation epiphytes requiring a dry cool rest period and generally cool to intermediate growing conditions although most can quite happily manage hot summer days. Laelia albida, the northernmost species, is highly variable given its broad distribution along Mexico's Pacific mountain range. Fragrant white flowers occasionally have dark pink lips and are lightly fragrant.

Some clones are susceptible to high humidity during the blooming season when their pollen will germinate in situ causing the flowers to prematurely collapse. One of the most famous hybrids of L. albida is Dialaelia Snowflake (x Diacrium bicornutum) which is very easy to cultivate and bloom. Although some advise that L. albida is not too demanding of a long dry rest, there can be considerable variation between individuals. Care must

be taken to ensure that specimens do not decline because of inappropriate cultural technique. *Laelia anceps* is a larger-flowered, variably colored, autumn-blooming species whose populations persist in the Sierras. It is used in breeding cold- and drought-tolerant *Laeliocattleyas* for climates such as that of coastal California. *Laelia rubescens* is a delightful intermediate grower with relatively short-lived cream or pink blooms borne in loose clusters at the end of elongate stems. A contrasting dark throat blotch sets a flower off to perfection.

The Brazilian *Laelias* are divided into four sections according to plant habit and floral structure. The larger unifoliate species including *L. crispa*, *L. lobata*, *L. perrinii*, *L. purpurata*, *L. tenebrosa* and *L. xanthina* are grouped into the *Cattleyodes* Section. These species are found growing mostly along the coastal parts of Brazil where temperatures vary little throughout the year and where the humidity is high year round. *Laelia purpurata* is the largest of the group. It is a majestic species and impressive even out of flower with its two to three-foot long pseudobulbs and leaves. The five inch-wide flowers are equally stunning and variable from rich purple through rose pink, white with a colored lip and blue. This is the ancestral parent of most of today's famous *Laeliocattleyas*. *Lc. Canhamania* (*L. purpurata* x *C. mossiae*) still garners awards for its clusters of striking 5-6 inch wide fragrant blooms but plants must be well established and sufficiently mature to perform well. *Laelia purpurata* can still be found in the wild which is not the case for the equally large flowered but differently colored *Laelia tenebrosa* which exists today mostly from seed-propagated stock. This *laelia* has bronze to maroon, twisted sepals and petals and a dark rose, trumpet-shaped lip. It seems never to have been common in nature and now may be now be close to extinction.

*Laelia pumila* is a species from both the coastal and interior regions of Brazil where it is found growing as an epiphyte in protected ravines, gullies and stream valleys where high humidity is maintained year round even through the drier summer months. It also may be found growing as an epiphyte on moss-covered trunks in wetland areas. As the specific epithet implies, *L. pumila* is a smallish plant measuring about 6 to 8 inches in height excluding the inflorescence. The one or two

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velvety rose pink flowers measure up to 5 inches in diameter which is truly a stunning sight.

All the Laelias, like their Cattleya and Sophronitis relatives, perform best when raised in bright light and in a buoyant atmosphere. The potting mix should be somewhat coarse to facilitate quick drainage and drying between waterings. Bark chips, fired clay pellets and broken clay tile shards can all be used to advantage. Smaller kinds may be mounted while larger plants can be grown in baskets and clay pots. Care must be taken to respect cycles of particular species so that when a growth has matured, fertilizer application is withheld and watering is reduced until new growths appear. Aim for a 10 degree differential between day and night temperature. Plants content with the treatment provided will respond with vigor and lovely blooms.

by Ed Wright

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by Harry Tolen

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## November / December Orchid Checklist

**Cattleya:** Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter. The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening — hardening — in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases). Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

**Cool-Growing Orchids:** One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from Masdevallias to Odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

**Cymbidium:** Finally we begin in earnest the main Cymbidium season. *Cymbidium Ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection.

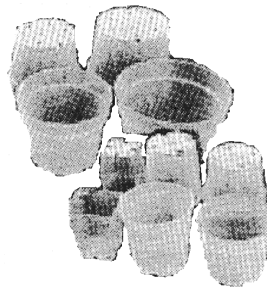


Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Oncidium Crispum Complex: This is the season for plants in Oncidium section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

Paphiopedilum: The flowering season for the “toads” or “bulldog” paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath’s rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike. While Paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or *erwinia* problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With Paphiopedilums, especially, “cleanliness is next to godliness” and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Phalaenopsis: Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in Phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s,



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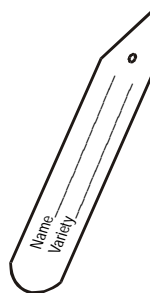
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depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our Phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest. A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

Vandaceous Genera: Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

Prepared by Ned Nash and James Rose.  
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SDCOS meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of each month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Admission is free—anyone is welcome. We invite you to join the Society to receive the monthly newsletter and many other benefits.

Beginners Class: 6:30 p.m., Room 104  
General Meeting: 7:30 p.m., Room 101

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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 who have kindly volunteered to answer your questions.

Cattleyas, Oncidium/Odonts, Vandaceous, Greenhouse grown, West SD County

**Forrest Robinson – (619) 270-6105**

Species, all types, Indoor and Outdoor

**Ann & Paul Tuskes – (858) 274-5829**

Paphiopedilums

**Ann Tuskes – (858) 274-5829**

**Bob Hodges – (619) 461-4915,**

Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas and Dendrobiums

**Alma Marosz – (619) 583-0334**

Vandas, Ascocendas

**Edith and Leno Galvan – (619) 441-7503**

Encyclias, Epidendrums, Laelias

**Tom Osborn – (760) 787-0282**

Pleurothallids

**Don van Kekerix – (619) 224-4938**

Cymbidiums

**Loren Batchman – casa@orquideas.com**

**Sam DeMaria – (619) 295-2951**

Northeast County, all types

**Dave Reid – (760) 728-7996**

San Diego West County, all types

**Jean Beck – (619) 435-8211**

San Diego Central, Outdoor, all types

**Jim Wright – (619) 276-5295**

**Fred Tomaschke – (619) 276-3225**

San Diego East County, all types

**James Masst – (619) 443-2800**

**Bud Close – (619) 444-8839**


South County all types–

**Genie Hammond -- (619) 426-6831**

**Ed Marty – (619) 470-7175**

## DATES TO REMEMBER...

December 2000



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  |
| 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  |
| 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |     |     |

**December 2, 9:00 am**

SDCOS Species Group Meeting

First Saturday each month

Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

**December 5, 5:30 pm**

Holiday Party

Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

Gary Pierwola (619) 426-9108

**November 8, 7:30 pm**

Palomar Orchid Society Meeting

Second Friday each month

Vista Community Center

Greg Luetticke (760) 724-4711

**November 12, 7:00 pm**

SDCOS Board Meeting

Second Tuesday each month

Balboa Park

Siv Garrod (619) 483-8787

**November 15**

Zoo Orchid Greenhouses Open House

Third Friday each month

Janette Gerrity (619) 231-1515 ext. 4306

**November 20**

Cymbidium Society Meeting

Third Wednesday each month

Carlsbad Women's Club

Larry Phillips (619) 746-5518



## Another Holiday Season

Again this year we will continue with the ever popular gift swap. Everyone who wants to participate has to bring a gift plant to enter. Here's the way it works. Bring a nice plant, in flower is best, wrapped as you see fit, but just a ribbon is best!

**THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU NEED TO DO IS PUT A TAG ON THE PLANT WITH YOUR NAME ON IT!!!** With orchids sometimes they don't even need a ribbon, but the tag with your name is **VERY** important. You should do the present so everyone can see the plant and the flowers and the name tag because, this is your entry into the gift swap. There will be a place at the December meeting to assemble all these plants and they are kept separate from everything else. Check in with Alma Marosz or Jackie and Dick Bechtel when you get to the meeting and they will assist you with where to put your gift.

At some time in the evening a person who has been of big help to the society during the year will be honored by being allowed to select the first plant off of the table, any plant they want. It is **VERY** important to have brought an attractive plant, because the name tag on the first plant selected is the name of the person who selects the second plant from the table. And the name on the second plant selected is the person who will select third, and so forth until all the plants are gone.

I hope you can see if you bring some little squirt of a seedling you will probably be left to take your own plant home! Who's gonna select an unhealthy or dumpy plant from the table, no one, so you had better bring the most attractive thing you can if you want to select early in the drawing. The quality of the plant you bring will definitely determine when you get to select your gift from the tables. From watching, I would say plants in bloom are best. Even if you bring a nice unflowering division of a very nice clone of some orchid, most persons have gone for the blooming plants first in the past. And yes, I remember persons having to take their own plant home because no one wanted what they brought, so, if you enter this Gift Drawing, better make it a good one.

In the past we put a dollar estimate on these gifts, but

I'm not going to do that this year. I have seen plants in this drawing I would easily value at \$100, and our recommendation was for something worth in the \$10 range. So this year, let your orchid gift be as nice as you want to make it, I'm sure you will get a chance to pick something of equal value when it comes to be your turn to choose.

### Table Arrangement Contest

Also at this meeting we will have a Table Arrangement Contest. The categories are:

1. **Gaudiest** - Chance to use up all the Christmas glitter you have left over!
2. **Strangest** - Might be unearthly!
3. **Most Feminine** - Dainty and delightful!
4. **Most Manly** - No dirty socks please!
5. **Best Orchid Corsage Worn For The Evening!** - Should be one you made yourself from orchids you grew yourself!
6. **Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious! Judges Award For Creativeness** - This category will **NOT** be one you enter. It will be an arrangement thought by the judges to win special attention, selected from all the arrangements entered in all the categories.

You may enter your table arrangement any time you want before the drawing. Just whip up something you like and bring it for your own table! It should be orchids you grew yourself, with whatever decorations you like, purchased, found etc.. All the arrangements entered will go home with you, nothing will be left. When you come to the party, select a place to sit, put your arrangement there on the table, corsages of course will be worn. Then look up Peggy Swanson to enter your arrangement in the category you want to compete in for judging. During the evening Peggy will have a group of 4 or 5 judges to check out each arrangement and select the winners. The winner in each category will win an orchid plant in spike or flower.

by Harry Tolen

In Germany they say "newcomers better to welcome", and here in Arizona we say "to welcome newcomers better".

*Peter Hirsch*

Wow! It's our third issue together and the end of the millenium draws near! This undertaking would not be possible without the help of all those involved! And in such timely manor! As I write this I wonder how many Christmas cards will be competing with our newsletters' arrival...I wonder if any of my orchids will be acceptable for our Holiday Party, I wonder how long my newly built shade house will last...I wonder if they ever will come up with a 'fair' vote within the state of Florida...I wonder would anyone prefer if I email instead of print and post mail you your issues...One thing is for certain, there are more orchids than we could ever hope to collect.

The teamwork in putting this issue out for you would not be possible without their help:

*Cal Pacific Plant Farm*

*Close, Joan and Bud*

*Del Mar Office*

*Follmer, Vivian*

*Garrod, Siv*

*Graham, David*

*Kenner, George*

*Kuhlmann, Marjorie*

*Lawrence, Rebecca*

*Machado, Ben*

*Orser, Nicole*

*Tobias, Peter*

*Werth 111, Duncan S.*

*Wright, Ed*

*And everyone else I may have forgotten!*

Also, I would like to say,

**Thank you for doing such a brilliant job!  
And I wish you all the best for what is yet  
to come!**

Michael Orser

## SDCOS Board of Directors Meeting

November 14, 2000

Meeting called to order at 19:06

Present: Gary Pierwola, Barbie Mays, Dave Mays, Sam DeMaria, Loren Batchman, George Kenner, Paul Tuskes, and Siv Garrod.

### REPORTS

1. Last meeting's minutes were read, and approved by a motion made by George Kenner.
2. Treasurer - Barbie Mays - Report for November was presented, and approved by a motion made by George Kenner.
3. First vice president - George Kenner - The planned entertainment at our Christmas party turned out to be too expensive so it was canceled. About 300 orchids for gifts at the party will be purchased from local vendors. There will not be a gift exchange this year.
4. Show news - No show meeting this month, Ben Machado was called out of town. Everything is going well with the preparations.
5. Bud Close presented the painting by Ann Bauerfind, that will be used for the next show's poster. The original will be framed and returned to the artist.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. Bud Close - sold 36 old AOS bulletins that were donated to the society.
2. Bob Hodges and Alma Marosz are working on the clean-up and care of the books in the library.

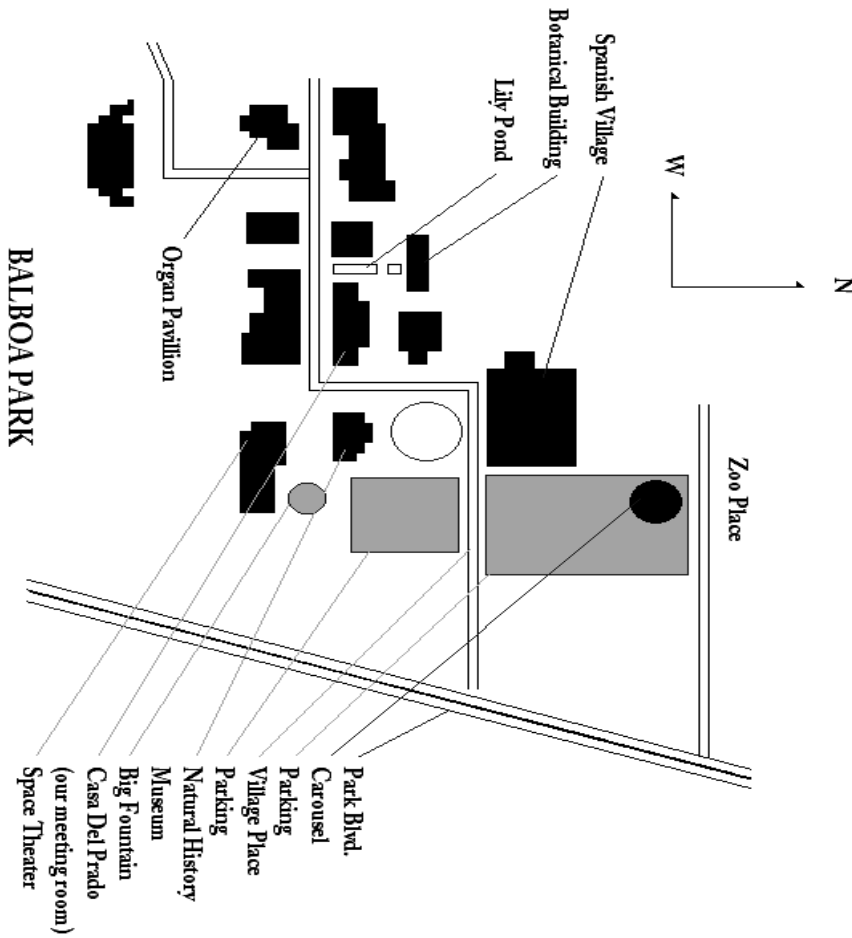
### NEW BUSINESS

1. The society received a thank you note from the Illinois College about the \$858 donation from the conservation fund for their Undergraduate Research Program. The support was for a student, Scott Stewart to propagate rare orchid seeds with mycorrhizal fungi.
2. Chair of the by-laws committee - Paul Tuskes - Will form the committee of at least 5 people. Fred Weber, Alma Marosz and Dave Mays volunteered. Recommended changes will be presented to the board.

Meeting adjourned 19:40

Submitted by Siv Garrod





**Membership Chairman – Vivian Follmer**  
**San Diego County Orchid Society**  
**13127 Roundup**  
**San Diego, CA 92129**

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