



MARCH BEGINNER'S MEETING

March 4th, 2002- 6:30 PM - Casa Del Prado - Room 104

By [Ivan Harrison](#), 2nd VP

By the time you read this, there will be less than a month until "Show Time", which didn't mean much to Ivan or me in March 2000 when we still had less than 50 orchids. We had just joined the Society, but didn't know a single member. We had lots of questions, but not a clue how to get answers without feeling foolish at asking such fundamentals such as "What is a Plant Hotel?", "What if my orchid has no tag?" and "How do I register, especially if I don't know the name?" Sound familiar?

This will be the meeting that we will do our best to involve you in our most interesting and exciting orchid function of the year – the 57th Annual SDCOS, which is being held at Scottish Rite Center in Mission Valley on March 21st-23rd.

Those of you who have attended the Novice Class regularly know that Ivan and I started getting involved in SDCOS by volunteering – not at the 2000 Annual Show (we paid our \$6.00 like everyone else), but later in the year at the July mini show, just helping with set up and hanging around orchid people to try and learn. In 2001 we won the Novice Trophy, and in 2002 we got two Best of Section plus a whole bunch of ribbons. That's the joy of the Annual Show – there are LOTS of ribbons to go around. The categories are different from our mini shows, so there are lots of opportunities for your plant to shine!

We plan on bringing as comprehensive an explanation as we can of what happens at the Show, how it happens, why it happens, and the benefits of becoming involved. If any of you have questions that you would like answering at the meeting, feel free to contact us beforehand at 619.448.3312 or phragmania@cox.net so that we can find out before you put us on the spot! And bring a pen and paper – hopefully you will want to make lots of notes.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

March 4th, 2002- 7:30 PM - Casa Del Prado - Room 101

By [Ben Machado](#), 1st VP

Ronald J. Midgett, PhD from Rochester, New Hampshire is our guest speaker this month. He has a presentation for us titled "Mini Catts, Historical Perspective."

Ron is one of the nation's leaders with his knowledge of Mini Catts. During his 30 years of interest in orchids he has spent most of his time involved in the world of Mini Catts. To attest to his high esteem you only need to visit our own web site, sdorchids.com, to see that we also hold him in high regard since we carry one of his articles, originally contributed to the American Orchid Society. The article may be a little dated but his knowledge has expanded over the period. He now has an updated presentation for us.

Here is what Ron has to say about himself:

"Ron started growing orchids in Riverside, CA while completing his Ph.D. in biochemistry at the Univ. of California, Riverside. He "studied" orchids under Paul Gripp, Ernst Heatherington, Hugo Freed, Bob Dugger, Frank Fordyce, and other well known orchidists. He moved to Pittsburgh, PA for a short time and then to New Orleans. In New Orleans, he became president of the New Orleans Orchid Society. After leaving New Orleans, he spent 3 ½ years on the island of Montserrat where he discovered a pure yellow form of *Oncidium urophyllum*. He returned to the states and settled in New England.

He has served as the show chair for the Massachusetts Orchid Society and is the founder of the New England Orchid Fair. Ron is an American Orchid Society judge (probationary to be elevated this year to fully accredited. He is also the owner of New England Orchid Company."

Ron will also provide the plants for our Plant Opportunity Table. He has a selection of his own crosses, mostly mini catts, paphs and oncidiums.

Members and Advertisers

If you have monthly meetings, classifieds, submissions of interest, or announcements related to orchids, **to be considered for publication in the upcoming April issue, please contact the editors by March 14th.**

You are encouraged to contact the editor by either email or phone from 12 pm to 6 pm only, Michael Orser at **619.269.3445** or editor@sdoorchids.com

Advertisers: please contact Marjorie Kuhlmann at **858.675.0885** or kuhlmann@utm.net under the same deadline as in bold above.

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SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

OUR 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.*

SDCOS meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at Casa Del Prado in **Balboa Park**. We invite you to join the society to receive the monthly newsletter and many other benefits.

Beginner's Class: 6:30 pm, Room 104
General Meeting: 7:30 pm, Room 101

If you would like to join the society, please send your check for \$10* for individual, \$12.50 for Dual membership, payable to SDCOS, to: **Vivian Folmer**, SDCOS Membership, 13127 Roundup, San Diego, CA 92129. Telephone: **858.538.6187**, email: vivianfollmer@hotmail.com

*1/2 price January first through June thirtieth

UPCOMING CALIFORNIA EVENTS

March 8-9

Central Coast 8th Annual Orchid Show and Sale, South County Regional Center, 800 W. Branch St., Arroyo Grande, CA. Contact: Rosemary Bradshaw, 1656 La Mirada Dr., Nipomo, CA 93444; 805.929.1791; orchidlady@earthlink.net

March 14-16

San Joaquin Orchid Society Show, Sherwood Mall, 5308 Pacific Ave., Stockton, CA. Contact: Judy Jackson, 18961 Gawne Rd., Stockton, CA 95215; 209.463.9702

March 14-16

Malihini Orchid Society Show, Vallco Fashion Park, 10123 N. Wolfe Rd., Cupertino, CA. Contact: Bob Stillman, 387 Fremont Ave., Los Altos, CA 94024; 650.941.1352

March 21-23

San Diego County Orchid Society Show, Scottish Rite Center, San Diego, CA. Contact: **Ben Machado**, 4044 Calavo Dr., La Mesa, CA 91941 or 619.660.9870

March 27

The Grand Opening of the 58th Annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Show from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Earl Warren Show Grounds. Admission is \$40 per person. This evening benefits the Sansum Medical Research Institute. A Diabetes Education Fair, adjacent to the entrance of the orchid show, will be open to the public from 3:00 - 7:00 PM. Please call 805.682.7638 ext. 243 for reservations or Sandy and Al Svoboda at 805.969.4536 or asvoboda@earthlink.net

March 28-30

Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, Earl Warren Showgrounds, Exhibit Building, Santa Barbara, CA. Contact: Frank Cobb, 1096 N. Patterson Ave., Santa Barbara, CA 93111

March 29

The 28th Annual Cymbidium Congress, 8:30 am - 4:30 PM, Holiday Inn, 5650 Calle Real, Goleta, CA; Contact: Albert C. Svoboda 805.969.4536, asvoboda@earthlink.net

April 12-13

Tropical Plant Society of Modesto Show, Stanislaus Union School, 1931 Kiernan Ave., Modesto, CA. Contact: Susan Wedegaertner, 1348 Kiernan Ave., Modesto, CA 95356; 209.545.4732.

Hey - dont forget

April 12-13

Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society Show and Sale, Westgate Mall, 1600 Saratoga Ave., San Jose, CA. Contact: Conrad Kumata, 19987 Knollwood Dr., Saratoga, CA 95070; 408.996.8335.

May 3-4

Carmel Orchid society MayFaire, Crossroads Shopping Center, Highway 1 at Rio Road, Carmel, CA. Contact: Ida Hale, 241 Lerwick Dr., Monterey, CA 93940; 831.646.8724.

The Orchid Hunter

Botanical adventurer Lou Jost discovers flowers found nowhere else on Earth

By Fred Pearce

This story ran in the Boston Globe on 2/11/2003

ANOS, Ecuador -- High in the Andean mountains of Ecuador are cloud-covered mountains that no satellite has ever observed and no cartographer has ever mapped. Up there somewhere, the Incas are said to have hidden their treasure when the Spanish came calling half a millennium ago.

Bounty hunters have so far failed to find the hoard. But now, Lou Jost, an American scientist and botanical adventurer, states that he has found the mountains' real ecological El Dorado -- its vast collection of orchids that are found nowhere else on Earth. And his discoveries are changing our understanding of how and why endemic plant species survive.

Jost, who gave up life as a quantum physicist to take up botany, has spent six years living in the Ecuadorean Andes, collecting dozens of new orchid species in the remote cloud forests and valleys. He operates alone, without the help of any academic body. His tiny greenhouse, housed on the roof of his apartment in the tourist town of Banos, harbors a collection of unique plants.

Most of his collection comes from the watershed of the River Pastaza as it carves its way through the Andes and down into the Amazon rainforest. The valley has more endemic orchids than anywhere else on the planet.

Why? The Pastaza valley is the deepest, straightest valley in the eastern Andes. Every afternoon, a hot, wet wind blows up the valley from the Amazon. It brings volumes of moisture that evaporate to form near-permanent clouds over the precipitous mountain ridges that flank the valley.

"Each ridge has its own microclimate in the clouds," Jost said. And in these wet, sunless environments, dozens of species of tiny, delicate orchids have evolved, with flowers often so fragile they would collapse in minutes anywhere else. "Each orchid species seems to specialize in a particular combination of rain, mist, wind, and temperature."

Ecuador is a planetary hotspot for plants. Peter Jorgensen of the Missouri Botanical Gardens reported in the journal *Science* last November that current records show more than 4,000 species native to a country the size of Nevada, with four out of five species threatened with extinction. And the Pastaza valley is the heartland of that diversity.

Jost has identified 90 endemic orchids around the valley during six years of study. "There is nowhere like it, and I see no sign that the discoveries will stop," he said. On one recent red-letter day, he found four new species of *Teagueia* orchids -- one purple, one black with antelope-like horns, one orange, and one striped tan and purple -- in a single patch of moss on Mount Mayordomo. That one find raised the number of known *Teagueia* species from six to 10. And since that day, he has found another 16 *Teagueia* orchids on the mountain.

Meanwhile, he and other botanists have found 197 unique plant species in all in the Pastaza valley -- more than the 180 found on Ecuador's other biological treasure house, the Galapagos Islands. "The Galapagos is fully studied, but up here we have huge areas that have never been explored."

The rarest orchids are no shrinking violets in their own habitat. They are often the dominant plants on their own ridges. "High in the clouds, you can come across whole areas of forest smothered in a single species of orchid that probably exists nowhere else on Earth. It is an amazing experience."

Jost believes that his findings conflict with conventional thinking about the evolution of endemic plants. "The usual view is that endemism is caused by geographical isolation: The plants could grow elsewhere, but they cannot escape the confines of their single habitat. That's not true for these orchids. They have tiny dust-like seeds that can spread easily. But the colonizations fail because they literally cannot grow anywhere else."

This might be good news for the survival of biodiversity if, as expected, the planet warms in the coming decades. Many endangered plants may be better at seeking new territory than botanists previously thought. But the question remains: If they are so picky about climate, will they find anywhere suitable to go?

Now a widely respected and published botanical Indiana Jones, Jost is never happier than when clambering through the bone-chillingly cold and damp Andean valleys, skirting ravines and scaling cliffs in near-zero visibility. "The only way to discover the botanical secrets up there," he said, "is to walk every ridge and valley."

Some parts are guarded by Shuar Indians, descendants of the Incas. But most are empty, except for the occasional mountain tapir and spectacled bear. "Especially on the south side of the valley," he said, "there are mountain ridges that

no scientist has ever visited."

But whether braving bears or frostbite, Jost rejoices in following in the footsteps of his hero, 19th-century English botanist Richard Spruce, who trekked through the Pastaza valley in the 1850s after crossing the Amazon basin. "He did things and went to places that no botanist has done since. He discovered plants that nobody has seen since."

I met Jost in mid-December, just after he had returned from his latest expedition. His apartment was strewn with plant samples. And in his tiny, makeshift rooftop greenhouse in Banos, he was ready to show off tiny, perfectly formed orchid flowers from past expeditions, many of which had opened their petals under his tender care.

"You have to know what you are looking for when you go orchid hunting," he said. "The flowers are only a few millimeters across and usually hide under the leaves. Often the plants are not in flower. If I spot what I think is a new species, I can often only be sure when I bring it back here to wait for the flower to appear."

The survival of these plants away from the cloud forests is precarious. Jost keeps the greenhouse's air cool with an electric fan, which is dependent on the town's fitful power supply, and a passive air conditioner that draws in air over permanently wet tiles.

Can Jost's Andean orchid El Dorado survive? The Pastaza valley is ever more vulnerable to development. Tourists flock to Banos for adventure holidays on the river and treks in the mountains. A new asphalt road soon will pass down the valley. Commercial logging is still rare, but farmers are clearing the hillsides for pastures and to grow crops.

The valley is a growth corridor between two national parks, the Sangay and Llanganates, to its north and south. "The irony is that there are probably more unique species in the valley than in the protected parks," Jost said.

Last December, following biological surveys by Fundacion Natura, a national environment group, the mayor of Banos declared the valley an ecological corridor with a new development strategy aimed at preserving habitat such as cloud forests.

One aim, said Xavier Viteri of Fundacion Natura, is to encourage more ecological and scientific tourism. "Local business is getting wise to the idea that these kinds of tourists bring money and fill hotels -- but to keep them, you have to keep nature as well."

Jost agrees. After all, he went to Banos as a scientific tourist, and stayed to put the valley on the ecological map.

Letter to San Diego

David and Izabel Miller

Submitted by [Peter Tobias](#)

[Note - Many thanks to Minoa Chang for her help with the translation of this article from the Portuguese. First published, in Portuguese, in *Orquideas Brasil*, Autumn issue, 2002]

We were overjoyed by the decision taken by the San Diego County Orchid Society to help us complete the field research for our book, *Orchids of the Organ Mountain Range*, in the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. So overjoyed, in fact that a three week long trip was planned for November and December 2001, a little early for serious flowering, but we expected to be able to identify at least 75% of the orchids from their vegetative morphology alone. Dick Warren and Chris Dobson, from England, soon made themselves available. Helmut Seehawer, from Germany, had to shorten his visit and could only work with us for two or three days (but did he ever contribute, coming up with *Phragmipedium vittatum*, *Bletia catenulata* and *Loefgrenianthus blanche amesii*, all rediscoveries for the Organ Mountain Range, as well as 23 new *Pleurothallids*). Izabel and David Miller also cleared their calendars for this period, while Christine and Gabriel Gattan from the Rio de Janeiro Botanic Garden did too.

We started off on the 17th November to the Desengano State Park. All had assembled at our Macae de Cima headquarters from various points of the compass on the day before. We started with the usual problem: guides, carefully organized a week before, were nowhere to be found: nor were they to be found on the following morning. In this neck of the woods you need to be laid back, unstressable and always able to produce a Plan B. Calmly, we produced Plan B, which involved finding another guide without upsetting the sensitivities of the first. So, we found another guide, who, of course, immediately contacted the first guide, who then showed up and at 11.30 AM (instead of 7.30 AM) we set off. At first we were in a degraded mountain forest which had no sign of even a terrestrial orchid, but then we reached a cliff face which produced some wonderful old friends: *Epidendrum robustum* growing to 1 meter tall, some with unusual and completely green flowers, *Pseudolaelias* and their *Vellozia* symbiont, *Prescottias*, and *Oncidium blanchetii*, but nothing new. This "nothing new" factor is not as disappointing as it seems because we had extended our knowledge about the ranges of species previously found in other sectors of the Organ Mountains.

Our objective is to demonstrate that this "spine of the State of Rio de Janeiro", the Organ Mountains, despite all the appalling deforestation consequent due to the coffee and railroad cycles of the 19th and 20th centuries, still has an incredibly rich flora, as exemplified by the orchids. In order to be persuaded that this flora should be conserved, people

need to know what exists there. Thus we believe that a book which describes and shows, in pictures, what still exists there will help the conservation effort.

Day 3 found us scaling another mountain and among a whole pile of old familiars we found one more species, *Bifrenaria inodora*. One more species, but the 70mph winds carrying horizontal rain forced us away from the mountain ridges and back to town. The next day dawned bright so off we went to a different type of locale, a fairly violent series of rapids at 1200 - 1500 ft., on a large tributary of the Paraiba River which marks the end of the Organ Range anticline. Quite amazingly, beside these rapids was a five acre fragment of apparently original transitional forest. The braver members of the party crossed these rapids on a bridge of rotten wood supported by handholds of rusty steel cable, and landed on the island by descending steps which literally fragmented under their feet. However, what met them on the island were mammoth clumps of *Oncidium baueri* with ten foot long spikes bearing up to 500 flowers, large quantities of *Cattleya guttata*, not to mention groups of *Trichocentrum fuscum*, *Amblystoma tridactylum* and many, many *Pleurothallids* and tree cacti. So, finally the results began to tumble in.

Much animated but even more tired by the strains and the stresses of finding guides (who were basically incompetent) and the inauspicious climbs in appalling weather, we took a day off in the coastal town of Macae, ate well and drank deeply amongst the hordes of oilmen brought in to tap the enormous oil reserves off the coast. And so, partly restored, we took off to the mountainside of Pico de Frade (Friar's Peak) which rises directly from the Macae coastal plain. And once again we had a hard time to find a good local guide. We have found that it is dangerous to wander about unknown forests without a local guide, so, on the recommendation of a friend who has an orchid nursery in Macae, we made contact with one such on the following morning. He owns a bar/restaurant called the "Orchid Lovers Inn" and since he seemed sympathetic, we spent two or three hours looking at his collection, making identifications, writing labels of plants which, he said, were all from that region. These included *Aspasia lunata*, and *Cochleanthes candida* in quantity, *Laelia crispa* and *Laelia perrinii*, with occasional "tasters" from his private collection across the road like *Encyclia bracteata*, and piles of recently collected *Warmingia eugenii*, *Maxillaria johannis* and *Rodriguezia bracteata* we bonded, lunched on his recently killed pig, drank industrial quantities of beer, identified the rest of his plants and agreed to meet on the morrow.

We picked him up early the next morning. (We had spent the night in a pousada, a sort of mini hotel which had no water, even though it was beside a rushing river. The pousada had no water because the owner would not send his son up on to the roof because he (the son) was so pie eyed drunk that he would have fallen off and we would still have had no water but instead perhaps a corpse.) And so, off we drove to climb the foothills of the Pico de Frade subchain. The orchids were very sparse, and apart from finding old

friends in numbers, we did also find *Encyclia bracteata*, *Cirrhaea saccata*, *Epidendrum tenue*, *Capanemia carinata* and *Campylocentrum calostachyum* amongst others. However, the forests seemed to us largely denuded of orchids and so we decided to decamp home for a one night distressing in Macae da Cima before moving onwards to Petropolis.

At this point we had found 11 new non *Pleurothallid* species as well as confirming the ranges for nearly 150 other species. On the way back along 60 km of dirt road through bucolic landscapes and sleepy villages, our hawk eyed photographer Izabel, spotted a lovely white bankside species which we identified as *Habenaria trifida*, bringing our catch up to 12.

Not content to rest for too long, and knowing they were to return to ice and snow in England, the two intrepid Englishmen spent a day "visiting old orchid friends" in the forest around Macae da Cima. This meant an intensive six hour hike up hill and down dale, looking at massive flowering colonies of *Oncidium crispum*, *Bifrenaria atropurpurea*, trees covered with *Octomeria gracilis* and a rare sighting of the lovely *Psilochilus modestus*.

The road from Nova Friburgo to Petropolis passes several of our cliff face stomping grounds, flush with *Oncidium batemannianum*, *Pseudolaelia corcovadensis*, *Bifrenaria harrisoniae*, *Epidendrum robustum*, and *Pleurothallis teres* among others. By the roadside we saw *Oncidium blanchetii*, *Laelia cinnabarina*, *Epidendrum xanthinum* and many color forms of *Epidendrum denticulatum*, all in full flower.

In Petropolis we were to stay with our colleague Gabriel and it took some searching to find his carefully hidden house (which, according to him, you can't miss!), but after some cellphone calls, we got there and, as usual, our prearranged guides did not appear as they were out collecting orchids for the Christmas sales. So we reverted to Plan B. You may have realized by now that Plan B is very often used in laid back Brazil since Plan A and Brazil are basically incompatible. On this occasion, Plan B was a stumble up a forested high river valley, the trouble being getting there, and the fact that the driver (David Miller) was half mad with fear after 10 km of rocky roads, which were like the base of a dried river bed, and four very narrow bridges without sides, which appeared to be slightly narrower than the wheelbase of our old VW bus. But, stumbling along the rocky stream, we found over 40 species on this salvaged Plan B day. Interestingly, our Plan B days are often more productive than those organized with carefully researched and paid guides which suggests that those with a nose for orchids should follow their instincts. The highlights on this day were large clumps of flowering *Masdevallia infracta* and a large *Pleurothallis saurocephala*. Again, no new finds but much information on the ranges of familiar species was obtained.

We decided to hit the Acu Mountain where 26 years before, Jack Fowlie had found and invented a new species,

Sophronitis acuensis, from a group of plants growing in scrub on a high mountain field at 7000 feet. Of course, instead of setting out at 6am in the cool, we started at 9am in the heat. It was the same road and narrow bridges as the day before. The climb from 3500 to 7000 feet was in the heat of the day at about 105 oF and was almost impossible. Only one of us, Gabriel, a trained climber, and with the small but significant advantage of 40 fewer years, was able to make it to the summit and found a couple of these over collected *Sophronitis* plants. The rest of us, in ones and twos, fell by the wayside, but not without our hawk-eyed photographer Izabel finding both a splendid *Grobya galeata* and a beautiful Jewel orchid, *Cyclopopogon elegans*.

We rested for half a day, as we were all half dead from heat exhaustion and muscle strain, so we licked our wounds and counted our victories: 17 new non *Pleurophallid* species and 23 new *Pleurothallids* bringing us to a total of 623 orchid species from 112 genera in the much depleted Organ Mountain range.

We have now covered, fairly effectively, all parts of the Organ Mountain chain. Though it is a huge area, most of the anticline, which is the western side, has been completely deforested. It is only along high mountain stream gullies, on some relict trees, some accessible cliff faces beyond the reach of grazing animals, or in the occasional small oases hidden from the roadside, that one can expect to find orchids. The scarp slope is a different story and on its near vertical ramparts, significant areas of primeval forest can still be found. It is our good fortune to live at Macae da Cima in the centre of the mountain range alongside and within the least despoiled region of all, and it is from this area that most species have been found.

We had aimed for between 650 700 species, but, under the circumstances 623 is pretty good, and without a doubt, more will drop in before the book goes to press.

We all thank the Trustees and members of the San Diego Orchid Society for their constant support of this project and we hope it gives you some satisfaction that you are helping us to conserve one of the most valuable, rich, and precious areas in the Atlantic coastal rain forest of Brazil.

[Note - I was extremely privileged to visit David and Izabel Miller in their Macae da Cima home and to have seen the rain forest they are striving to preserve. David Miller is an Irishman who worked for many years as a CPA in Brazil. How he first became interested in orchids I do not know. Upon his retirement he purchased a large tract of back

woods and called his boyhood friend Richard Warren, now a plant pathologist, to come and help him figure out what he had bought and how to conserve it. That was at least twenty years ago. They have published one book in the interim and are working on another, larger volume. Three years ago the SDCOS first granted them money to foster work on the book mentioned in the article. The conditions at their house in Macae da Cima are absolutely glorious in terms of nature, but somewhat primitive in terms of creature comforts. Our first grant bought a diesel generator to allow David to work by electric light instead of candle light. Given that he is pushing 80 years old, it was not a trivial improvement. The land now has legal status as a preserve. David and Izabel, Izabel is a great cook on a wood burning stove and a wonderful photographer, continue to strive for the welfare of orchids in their greater home, the Brazilian Atlantic rain forest. - Peter Tobias]

For Sale, Show Tickets

Submitted by [Barbie & Dave Mays](#)

We'd like your help with the pre-show tickets...

Dear Fellow Society Members,
To make our Big Show this March 2003 a great success, we can use the help of all of our members in selling pre-show tickets. We will soon be mailing you a packet of 6 numbered tickets, costing \$20.00. When you sell 5 of these tickets, at \$4.00 each the 6th ticket is yours to keep... free. Regular admission at the door will be \$5.00.

By selling pre-show tickets, you can...

- save your friends and orchid buddies \$1.00 each
- keep a free ticket for yourself, or give it as a gift
- spread the word about our exciting Show and Sale
- support our society in its biggest fund raiser of the year

Just send your check for the tickets sold (payable to SDCOS) in the self addressed return envelope. If you have unsold tickets, please return your tickets to us before show time so we can keep track of them by number.

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THE TICKET STUBS!

If you do not wish to participate by selling pre-show tickets, please contact us at 619.593.7498, and we will not send you a ticket packet. You may also request additional tickets to sell. In past years there has been a nice prize to whom sells the most! Thanks for your help.

Judey Shoemaker

By Ben Machado

Judey recently passed away. She was the faithful member who came to each of our meetings. She was there for every event and willing to help in her limited capacity as much as possible.

She passed away only recently, yet her husband Dee was there at our last meeting. Certainly they are representative of the kind of people in our society that are deeply committed to the cause of orchid cultivation.

Thanks to SDCOS

By Dee Shoemaker

I wish to thank the members of the San Diego County Orchid Society for their good thoughts and condolences.

The La Jolla Cymbidium Show

Copied from Cymbidium Society News Volume II Number 4, April 1947

From the Presidents Desk - David W. McLean

The La Jolla Cymbidium Show was held on Saturday and Sunday March 22nd and 23rd in the beautiful Beach and Tennis Club on La Jolla's shore. We arrived on the scene in the last rush of setting up the show, some fifteen or twenty minutes before the room was cleared for the judges. General Chairman H. G. Ploger was in several places at once; quiet, purposeful activity ruled the scene.

The show room was about forty by fifty or sixty feet in size. Exhibit tables lined the side walls except for one corner banked up with sphagnum moss for the cut flowers and one stretch of wall built up with a black velvet-covered sloping area for the corsages.

Down the centre of the room extended a long, wide table stepped up in the centre, with plants three deep on each side, and a raised background of ever green as a centre partition. The wall tables also had backgrounds of black material or evergreen foliage.

Six commercial growers aided by furnishing non-

competitive exhibits. The tables were well filled with a profusion of plants, spikes, and cut flowers. All exhibits were roped off, but the labels were large and the visitors had no trouble seeing and enjoying all.

The first award for the best plant went to a beautiful green four-spike FLORYI x ERICA SANDER; the winning cut flower was a beautiful dark rose LUMINOUS (Louis Sander x Giant Rose). Two exhibits of special interest to this scribe were: an unlabelled variety thought to be a Wiganianum, though it was somewhat larger and darker with a definite and interesting fragrance; a series of cymbidium portraits in water color made by Paul V. Ferguson of Lakeside, painted from life.

The grand sweepstakes cup was won by our own Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Bauer. Roy had firsts on two plants, a chartreuse RICHMOND and a buff MOIRA, and a second and third on cut flowers. Helen had entered some five corsages, in competition with professionals, and ran off with four firsts! Helen's corsages were really out of this world. Your energetic Vice President, Jack Hudlow, got busy at once promoting a class in cymbidium corsage making in our society, with Helen as teacher. We not only second the motion but will probably join the class ourselves in person!

When we left the show at about 2:30 Sunday afternoon, the show room was packed and a line twenty feet long stretched outside the door, waiting to get in. The attendance was then approaching two thousand and our guess is that it must have reached and passed that number.

That show was the first all cymbidium show in San Diego County, the second in California if not in the United States. It was sponsored by the Eva Kenworthy Gray chapter of the American Begonia Society. It was a grand success and Chairman Gil Ploger and all those who had a part in making it so may well feel proud.

During the show, applications were taken for a San Diego County Cymbidium Society. Mrs. Clarisse Carlton of San Diego, had written Cymbidium Society Inc. regarding such a proposed society, asking on what basis such a group could affiliate with this society. Our Board of Directors has set up a committee to work out a plan for affiliate groups such as this and suggested that the San Diego group proceed with the enrollment of members. We are told there were forty enrolled prior to the La Jolla Show, about sixty more enrolled during the show and the officers and a board of directors have been chosen. Congratulations La Jolla and congratulations San Diego! It is our earnest hope that a suitable plan of affiliation will be forthcoming, so that we may all pool our interest, our strength and influence, for enhancement of interest in outdoor grown orchids and the advancement of the art and science of their culture.

2003 SPRING SHOW REPORT

By Ben Machado, Show Director

This is it, the final show report before our big Spring Show. Just to be sure everyone has the same information let's go over the event and schedule. Our theme this year is "Jewels of the Jungle. Our Show dates are March 21 – 23. Our Show will be held at the Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South, Mission Valley, San Diego. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children less than 12 years of age. Show opening time has changed slightly this year; Friday, March 21 our hours are 4 PM to 9 PM, Saturday, March 22 our hours are 9 AM to 6 PM and Sunday, March 23 our hours are 9 AM to 4 PM. Please remember, teardown will begin at 5 PM on Sunday.

Thursday, March 20 is our set up day. We take over the Center at 7 AM, starting immediately with floor layout and setting up the booth partitions and tables (provided by the Society). At 11 AM the Center is open to vendors, exhibitors and Society members to set up their various displays, sales booths and information tables. Plant registration will begin at 6 PM until 10 PM. Everyone, including non-members of the SDCOS can enter their plants for showing and judging. Plant registration continues on Friday, March 21 from 7 AM until 9:30 AM. AOS judging starts at 10 AM, followed by SDCOS Ribbon Judging at about 11 AM. The exact start time is up to the Ribbon Judging Committee Chair; Forrest Robinson and Jim Wright. They are taking care of setting up the teams and will let the teams know the exact start time.

And then the Show opens at 4 PM.

That means there's a whole lot of setting up and pre planning that needs to occur before opening time. Not all of this preparation will occur on set up day. You, every one of you Society members needs to prepare your floral showpieces right now for show time! You spend all year listening to lectures, reading, researching and fussing over your plants, now is the time to share with the rest of the world the fruits of your labor. Put in that little extra effort of staking, wiping, shining, (and debugging) to make sure your little beauty is show quality. No matter how heavy the competition, your little beauty and all the little beauties of every member will make a difference to our show. Do not be intimidated that this is a show that only the big boys can enter. Every entry has an opportunity for special recognition amongst the many, many sections and categories. In the end this is what it's all about, sharing

your floral splendor with others.

Now is the time for volunteering: So far there's been a tremendous response of volunteers signing up. At the last General Meeting members were hovering around the tables trying to get to their favorite committee. The sign up sheets will be available again during our March 4 General Meeting, or if you prefer you can contact the committee chair from the list below. Every effort will be made to keep volunteers on the committee of their choice; however, some of the volunteers may need to be reassigned to another committee as the first choice fills up.

Conservation Sales Booth	Peter Tobias
Construction	Fred Weber, Bud Close
Corsage Booth	Jim Reid, Alma Marosz
Plant Hotel	Esther Sivila
Plant Registration	Fred Weber
Ribbon & Trophy Judging	Forrest Robinson, James Wright
Ribbon & Trophy Judging Clerk	James Wright, Forrest Robinson
SDCOS Sales Booth (Tees etc.)	Joan Close, Pat Tolen
Security	Romy Reyes
Staging, Exhibit Room	Sam DeMaria, Paul Yasuhara
Staging, Sales Rooms	Romy Reyes
Show Ticket Sales	Jill Weber, Judy Krashowetz
Videos & Lectures	Pamela Peters

A little appreciation for our volunteers: In addition to the free show tee shirt, this year each volunteer will also receive a ticket to our May Awards Banquet. Yes, the banquet has always been free in the past, but as result of the overcrowding at our Holiday Celebration in December we are forced to implement some controls.

Maximum seating for the May Awards Banquet is limited to 275 persons and will be controlled by passing out numbered tickets. The first recipient of the free tickets goes to each of our show volunteers. At the April 1 General Meeting, remaining free tickets will be passed out to Society Members. After April 20th the last tickets will be available for guests at \$10 each.

Each and every show volunteer who puts in at least 4 hours of volunteer time will receive one of the one of a kind tee shirts made exclusively for our annual event, plus a ticket for the May Awards Banquet. The volunteer hours accumulated above and beyond the initial 4 hours can be

applied for Orchid Bucks. It's not a whole lot, but at least you get one Orchid Buck for every hour you spend volunteering. Those Orchid Bucks are good for any purchase the Society has to offer. You can use them for the Plant Opportunity Table, buy plants at the Mini Shows or buy some of the paraphernalia at the Society sales booth. Let Rosemary Harrison know about the number of extra hours you worked for the Orchid Bucks.

Plant Registration: Plant registration went so smoothly last year, it was unbelievable! We only have Fred Weber to thank for coming up with a different approach. He was the skeptic who just couldn't figure out the advantage of the way we were doing Plant Registration in the past. After everyone ran out of reasons why his approach wouldn't work, we gave up and let him give it a try. Are we ever glad we followed his lead! We're going to do more of the same this year.

Plant entrants are asked to make out their own registration card. This is the same card that will be hung on the respective plant, so print legibly. The entrant selects the Section and Class to the best of their ability, but before the plant goes to the table, one of our senior members of the society will confirm the cataloging. There are a number of Program Schedules available for entrants to refer to and Ron Kaufman has the Wildcat Orchids database available for reference. Give it your best in selecting the Section and Class for your plant, but please be sure to have one of the Catalogers confirm your entry.

Here is a list of the Sections for this year, the classes are too numerous for this column. By show date the complete Program Schedule will be available.

SECTION 1 and 101 -- STANDARD CYMBIDIUM HYBRIDS

* Flowers with natural spread of 3-1/2" or more

SECTION 2 AND 201 -- MEDIUM CYMBIDIUM HYBRIDS

* Flowers with natural spread of 2" to 3-1/2"

SECTION 3 and 301 -- MINIATURE CYMBIDIUM HYBRIDS

* Flowers with natural spread of less than 2"

SECTION 4 and 401 -- STANDARD SIZED CATTLEYA HYBRIDS

SECTION 5 and 501 -- MINIATURE CATTLEYA HYBRIDS

* Leaf span under 6" from rhizome to tip

SECTION 6 and 601 -- COMPACT CATTLEYA HYBRIDS

* Leaf span between 6" - 12" from rhizome to tip

SECTION 7 and 701 -- PHALAENOPSIS, KINGIDIUM,

DORITIS AND DORITAENOPSIS HYBRIDS

SECTION 8 and 801 -- PAPHIOPEDILUM, PHRAGMIPEDIUM AND CYPRIPIEDIUM HYBRIDS

* use dominant color of petals and lip to determine correct Class, not color of dorsal sepal

SECTION 9 and 901 -- VANDA ALLIANCE HYBRIDS

SECTION 10 and 1001 -- DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS

SECTION 11 and 1101 -- ONCIDIUM SUBTRIBE HYBRIDS

SECTION 12 and 1201 -- OTHER GENERA HYBRIDS

SECTION 13 and 1301 -- SPECIES

SECTION 14 and 1401 -- SPECIMEN PLANT

* A plant or any genus notable for excellence of culture

Don't forget that plant registration is Thursday, March 20 from 6 PM to 10 PM and Friday, March 21 from 7 AM to 9:30 AM. It is highly recommended you register on Thursday; a huge task force is expected to be on hand to help with the registration on Thursday evening to make the effort go as smoothly and quickly as possible. Friday is reserved for those who just cannot make it to registration on Thursday evening. If at all possible, please take care of your registration on Thursday evening.

Catering: Sam DeMaria is taking care of the Saturday night banquet. There are only 125 seats and the cost continues to be held at only \$14 per person. Ranch Catering is again taking care of our banquet. The banquet will start with hors d'oeuvres, wine and beverages. The dinner selection has not been selected, but you can depend that the dinner as well as the desert will be great. Reach Sam for your ticket.

Also, Sam has made arrangements to set up the Ionic Room as a break room for the volunteers from 10 AM to 3 PM on Saturday and Sunday. There will be a supply of cold cuts, a relish tray of vegetables, some kind of pastry or cookies or cake and of course coffee and soda pop. Give yourself a break and visit with some of your fellow members.

Teardown: This is the last important note for this Show Report; teardown does not begin until 5 pm on Sunday, March 23. Ticket Sales will stop at 3 pm, the last visitors will be allowed into the exhibit hall until 4 pm, but teardown will not begin until 5 pm. So if you are in a rush to get to your plants and cannot work within that schedule please make arrangements to have someone pick up your plants after 5 pm.

So be it for this Show Report; pull some of your blooming plants, groom them, polish them, do whatever you want to do, just be sure to put them into our show.



Of course, it is gorgeous – it’s a show of our beloved orchids, but for sheer visual impact it is hard to beat the display room at the Scottish Rite Center. Here I am at the 2003 Center Display with SDCOS members Tess Taylor and Jim Davis. [see photo above]

As you can see from the displays of local growers Sunset Valley Orchids [photo on right side of page 11], and Casa de las Orquideas [photo on left side of page 11], the displays are considerably smaller than at our Show. Fred Clarke and Loren Batchman were, of course, busy upstairs manning the sales booths, along with other SDCOS members, J&M Orchids, Andy’s Orchids and The Orchid Connection.

Ivan had been invited to present his “Ten Commandments of Orchid Growing”, which he did in his usual inimitable way. There was a crowd of around 100 people for the seminar, and lots of terrific questions during and after the session [see Ivan at work below].

Fascination of Orchids boasts 100,000 visitors to the Show, and it certainly was busy. But it only whet my appetite for the visual extravaganza, awesome hues, overpowering fragrances and general excitement that make up the SDCOS Annual Orchid Show. See you there!

Report on Fascination of Orchids Show

South Coast Plaza, Costa Mesa
February 6th – 9th, 2003

Story and photos by [Ivan](#) and [Rosemary Harrison](#)

My only experience of orchid shows comes from our **Annual Show** in March and the **International Orchid Fair** in Del Mar in October, so it was with much excitement and interest that we headed north last Saturday to the **Fascination of Orchids Show**.

This show takes place on three floors of the Crate & Barrel wing of South Coast Plaza shopping center: vendor displays on the ground floor and sales booths on the other two.





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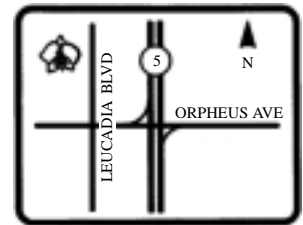
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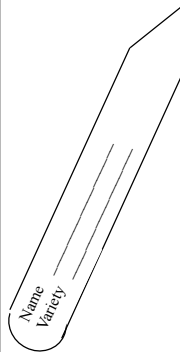
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Upcoming Conference

from the AOS webpage

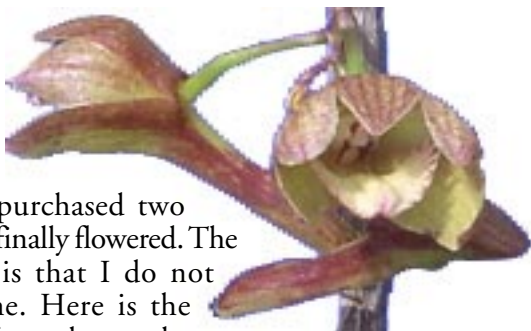
The Third International Conference on the Comparative Biology of the Monocotyledons and Fourth International Symposium on Grass Systematics and Evolution will be hosted by Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden on March 30 - April 5, 2003. Topics will include morphology, anatomy, development, reproductive biology, molecular biology, cytology, genomics, genetics, biochemistry, paleobotany, phylogenetics, classification, biogeography, ecology, and data integration. Sessions will be devoted to particular groups within monocots such as grasses and orchids. Monocots III will provide a rare opportunity for researchers in diverse fields to interact, share ideas, and form collaborations. Springtime marks the flowering peak of the diverse California flora, and field trips are planned.

See www.monocots3.org for conference details; or write Monocots III, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 North College Avenue, Claremont, California 91711-3157 U.S.A.; e-mail info@monocots3.org; fax 909.626.7670; telephone 909.625.8767 ext. 333.

Contest

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There is a *Dedrobium* I purchased two years ago and it finally flowered. The only problem is that I do not know the name. Here is the picture, and if you know the correct name, please contact the editor. If you are the first, you will receive five dollars in SDCOS Orchid Bucks. In order to see this picture in color, view the SDCOS Newsletter online at www.sdorchids.com/news.htm



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SDCOS Board of Directors Meeting

by [Romy Reyes](#)

Meeting called to order at 7:00PM, Feb. 11, 2003

Present: Gary Pierwola, Ivan Harrison, Charlie Fouquette, Sam DeMaria, Ben Machado, Genie Hammond, David Graham, Barbie Mays, Dave Mays, Bob Clark, and Romy Reyes. Other members present: Judy Pierwola, Ro Harrison, Candy Kalman, Bud Close, Jim Wright, and Peter Tobias

Reports

Minutes of the January meeting was read and approved by motion. Treasurer Barbie Mays- Report for the month of January was read and approved by motion. First Vice-President Ben Machado- Dr. Ronald Midgett will be the guest speaker at the March general meeting. TOPIC: Mini Catts- A Historical Perspective. Dr. Midgett will be providing the plants for the Plant Table. Second Vice-President Ivan Harrison- The Beginners Class will have Ro Harrison as the presenter and her topic is: "It's Showtime!"

Old Business

The AOS Judging Center at Quail Gardens have books. No funding from the society necessary at the present time. The Spring Show Awards banquet will be on May 6, 2003. Attendance to this banquet is limited to 275 people.

New Business

Peter Tobias proposed a Plant Auction to raise money for the Conservation Committee. More details to follow and will be presented to the general membership. The American Orchid Society membership campaign is on. Paul Bechtel is the area representative and Siv Garrod is the Society representative.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12pm



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
Bob Swanson - 619.465.2297

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 - 619.276.3235

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

New Member & Novice Class Information
Ivan and Rosemary Harrison 619.448.3312

DATES TO REMEMBER...

March 1st, 9:00 am
SDCOS Species Group Meeting
First Saturday each month
Paul or Ann Tuskes 858.274.5829

March 4th, 6:30 pm
Beginner's Class
First Tuesday each month
Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Gary Pierwola 619.426.9108

March 4th, 7:30 pm
General Meeting
First Tuesday each month
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Gary Pierwola 619.426.9108

March 11th, 7:00 pm
SDCOS Board Meeting
Second Tuesday each month
Balboa Park
Romy Reyes 619.328.6578

March 14th, 7:30 pm
Palomar Orchid Society Meeting
Second Friday each month
Vista Community Center
Dave or Vera Stankey 959.498.7122

March 15th, 9:00 am
Hybrid Orchid Group
Third Saturday each month
Applied Physics & Mathematics Bldg, UCSD
NO MEETING THIS MONTH ONLY
Lynn Ford 619.283.4172

March 19th, 7:00 pm
Cymbidium Society Meeting
Third Wednesday each month
Carlsbad Women's Club
Larry Phillips 619.746.5518

March 21st, 10 am - 2 pm
San Diego Zoo
Orchid Greenhouses Open House
Third Friday each month
Janette Gerrity 619.231.1515 ext. 4306

