



San Diego County Orchid Society

Volume 138

July 2010

www.sdorchids.com

NOVICE MEETING

July 6, 6:30 PM—Casa Del Prado—Room 104

By: Bruce Berg, 2nd Vice President

Thanks to Steve Mallory for pulling together the potluck Awards Dinner for the June meeting. Thanks also to Ann and Paul Tuskes and to Loren Batchman for the great slide show highlighting not only the Spring Show awards, but to show us the flowers within the flowers using a camera to explore the micro world of the orchid flowers.

July is the month that the newly elected members for our Society Board start on their new jobs. I am pleased to introduce Scott LaBouff as your new Second Vice President. One of his new duties is to put on the programs for the Novice Meetings. Scott has been a member of the Society for about five years. He and Val were out for a walk one evening in the park and walked by a Society meeting in progress. They were glad to find a place where they could learn more about their orchids and to meet new friends. Scott's main interest with orchids is in raising species orchids. He is very interested in bringing infor-

mation to us on the cultural requirements for our plants.

This month, our speaker will be Dave Hoffmaster who will demonstrate how to repot *Phalaenopsis* orchids. Dave is a retired Chemical Engineer who has been interested in orchids since 1997. He became involved with the society in 2002 and became interested in the Conservation and Species groups. Dave is a good resource for your questions on how to get your Phals to rebloom and how to keep them happy and well fed.

This month there will be a mini show the weekend of July 24th and 25th. This is a good opportunity to show your blooming plants off and to come and see plants that others have brought in to share. It is also a good opportunity to see who is raising a plant like you have who could give you some pointers on any care questions you may have about your plants.

GENERAL MEETING

July 6, 7:30 PM—Casa Del Prado—Room 101

By Steve Mallory, 1st Vice President

Winn Winmaw will be discussing *Vandaceous Orchids and Their Culture* at the July general meeting.

Winn was born in Shan State, eastern Burma, where *Cymbidium lowianum*, *Vanda coerulea* and *Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* are found abundantly in the wild. The first orchid that Winn collected from the forest floor was a *Dendrobium* species when he was 7 years old. With this he began taking care of orchids in his family's garden. As an undergraduate studying physics at the University of Rangoon, Winn was a

member of the Department of Botany's orchid society. Later he lived in Japan for four years for further study and training.

In 1988, he moved to the United States and settled in Orange County. Eventually he began collecting and growing orchids here, and today he has a large orchid collection, many of which are vandaceous orchids that he grows in shade- and greenhouses. He has been a member of the Newport Harbor Orchid Society since 1995. Recently Winn has made several trips back to Burma and has explored orchids in nature. He shares his orchid experiences by giving presentations to orchid societies.

San Diego County Orchid Society

Purpose: To promote interest in orchids and their cultivation, to educate by exchanging information and experiences related to successful orchid culture, and to support the conservation of orchids in the wild.

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Meetings

San Diego Orchid Society meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park.

Novice Class: 6:30 PM, Room 104

General Meeting: 7:30 PM, Room 101

Newsletter Entries

If you have monthly meetings, classifieds, submissions of interest, photos, or announcements related to orchids, please contact Christopher Croom at (619) 583-3804 or batescroom@cox.net.

Advertisers

Please contact Lynn Ford at (619) 283-4172 or lynnford10@earthlink.net.

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



Open House

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July Orchid Fair SDCOS Trip to Santa Barbara!

On Saturday, July 10, we will have a charter bus to take us to Santa Barbara to visit the Santa Barbara Orchid Fair. (We will also try to arrange to stop by SBOE and Cal Orchid.) We will leave Balboa Park at 8:00 am and return between 9:00 or 10:00 pm. We will stop at a park and ride in Carlsbad and pick up some orchid enthusiasts from the north county orchid clubs. The cost is \$30.00 per person and there is room for 57 passengers. First come, first served. I think this will be a very fun trip and I hope that you will make plans to join us. If you are interested, please contact me via email at president@sdorchids.com or give me a call at 619-294 5925.

Happy Orchiding,
David Brown

Orchid Dates to Remember

July 3

SDCOS Species Group Meeting

First Saturday of the month

Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

July 6, 6:30 p.m

SDCOS Novice Meeting

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 104

July 6, 7:30 p.m

SDCOS General Meeting

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

July 7

Palomar Orchid Society Meeting

Culture class at 6:30; meeting at 7:30

First Wednesday of the month

The Carlsbad Woman's Club

3320 Monroe Street, Carlsbad

Melana Walding (760) 295-7228

July 8, 7:00 PM

SDCOS Board Meeting

Normally, the Thursday following the General Meeting (usually the first Thursday of the month; second Friday of the month in rare cases)

Balboa Park, Rm. 104

July 16

San Diego Zoo's Orchid Odyssey

Third Friday of the month

10 AM-2 PM (orchid greenhouse is open)

Janette Gerrity (619) 231-1515 ext. 4306

July 21

Cymbidium Society Meeting

Regular meeting, third Wednesday of month

Culture class at 6:30, Meeting at 7:00 PM

The Carlsbad Woman's Club

3320 Monroe Street, Carlsbad (858) 748-8355

July 24-25

SDCOS Summer Show in the Park

Balboa Park, Room 101 of Casa del Prado

July 9-11

30th Santa Barbara Orchid Estate

International Orchid Fair

Earl Warren Showgrounds

www.orchidfair.com

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

July 24-25, 2010

San Diego County Orchid Society



Summer Show in the Park

Casa del Prado in Balboa Park

Additional details on page 7



Palomar Orchid Society

Annual Orchid Auction

Saturday, August 7, 2010

Preview at 11AM, Auction at 12:00 noon

Location: Woman's Club of Carlsbad
3320 Monroe Street
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Directions: Go east off the 5 onto Carlsbad Village Drive. Go ¼ mile to Monroe and turn right. The Woman's Club is one block on the left. Parking is free in the rear of the building.

Monthly meetings: First Wednesday of the month at the Woman's Club. Culture class at 6:30 p.m., regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.



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San Diego County Orchid Society Membership



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P.O. Box 161020
San Diego, CA 92176

For further details, contact
membership@sdorchids.com

Help Hotline

The SDCOS offers this service to members who seek cultural information about their orchids. Here are some friendly hobbyists with a great deal of experience about certain types of orchids, and they have kindly volunteered to answer your questions.

Cattleyas, Oncidium/Odonts, Vandaceous
Greenhouse grown, West SD County
Helmut Rohrl (858) 452-0976

Species, all types
Indoor and outdoor
Ann & Paul Tuskes (858) 274-5829

Paphiopedilums
Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas, Dendrobiums
Bob Swanson (619) 465-2297

Vandas, Ascocendas
Edith and Leno Galvan (619) 441-7503

Encyclias, Epidendrums, Laelias
[Christopher Croom](#) (619) 583-3804

Pleurothallids
[Christopher Croom](#) (619) 583-3804

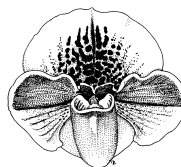
Cymbidiums
Loren Batchman— casa@orquideas.com

Northeast County, all types
Dave Reid (760) 728-7996

San Diego Central
Outdoor, all types
Jim Wright (619) 276-5295
Fred Tomaschke (619) 276-3235

San Diego East County, all types
Bud Close (619) 444-8839

South County, all types
Genie Hammond (619) 422-2235



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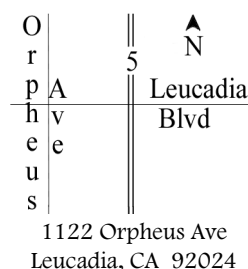
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Monthly Report on AOS Judging at Quail Gardens

By: Helmut Rohrl

Photos by: Joan Bailey

Judging at the Encinitas site (Quail Gardens, Administration (Ecke) Building) begins at 7:00 pm on the first Monday of each month. The facility opens at 6:30 pm. Anyone interested in orchids is encouraged and welcome at the sessions. Visitors may join the judging teams at their tables, but cannot participate in the judging process. Anyone who wants to exhibit plants for judging but is unable to bring the plants to Quail Gardens, please contact one of the local judges or have others bring the plants to the facility.

At the June 7, 2010 Encinitas session ten cultivars were shown.

Betty Kelepecz presented:

Masdevallia virgo-cuentae with three flowers on three inflorescences; the natural spread of the flower is 6.9 cm; the dorsal sepal is yellow-green and the lip is dark maroon, striped white. HCC/AOS.

Epidendrum bifalce with many flowers on two branched inflorescences; the natural spread is 1.1 cm; all segments are lavender. CBR/AOS.

Dracula bella with one flower and two buds on three inflorescences; the natural spread of the flowers is 24.5 cm; sepals are light yellow, densely spotted red-brown; the lip is white, faintly striated light brown. AM/AOS.

G. J. Ho presented:



Phragmipedium Giganteum (caudatum x Grande) with four flowers and two buds on two inflorescences; the natural spread of the flower is 34.0 cm; sepals and petals are whitish yellow, veined greenish brown; the pouch is yellow-green suffused brown; the staminode is yellow-green, suffused brown.

Ann and Paul Tuskes showed:

Sedirea japonica with eight flowers and four buds on two inflorescences; the natural spread of the flower is 4.1 cm; all segments are off-white, the lateral sepals barred purple; the lip is off-white, spotted purple. HCC/AOS.

Gin Gan brought:

Epidendrum vesicatum with two flowers on one inflorescence; the natural spread of the flower is 2.0 cm; sepals and petals are green, suffused and marked brown; the lip is white, striped reddish.

Restrepia dodsonii var. *aurea* with four flowers on four inflorescences; all segments are white. HCC/AOS.



Charlie Fouquette showed:

Paphiopedilum Hio Chi Minh (delenatii x vietnamese) with two flowers on one inflorescence; the natural spread of the flower is 10.8 cm; sepals and petals are white, suffused and striped purple; the pouch is dark purple; the staminode is off-white, marked brown, centrally green.



Paphiopedilum Doll's Kobold (charlesworthii x henryanum) with one flower on one inflorescence; the natural spread of the flower is 8.8 cm; the sepals are white, striped light purple, spotted light brown; the petals are white, suffused light green, spotted brown; the pouch is green-yellow, suffused and striped brown.



Paphiopedilum armeniacum with one flower on one inflorescence; the natural spread of the flower is 10.5 cm vertically; all segments are golden yellow; the staminode is yellow with two vertical brown stripes.

Summer Show and Sale in the Park

By: David Brown

It is once again time for the San Diego County Orchid Society's "Summer Show and Sale in the Park." The Show and Sale will be held on July 24 and 25 in room 101 of Casa del Prado. So start getting your orchids ready to be viewed by the public. One of the reasons for having our shows in the park is to inform the public about our society and for us to share our passion for orchids. I encourage you to help out with the show by coming to the show to talk to the public and other Society members. If you don't feel comfortable conversing with the public, there are many other tasks that need to be done. We can always use the help. There will be sign up sheets at the July meeting for those interested in volunteering.

I will be setting up for the show with the people who have volunteered to help on Friday at 2:00 pm. People can begin bringing in plants for display from 5:00 pm until about 8:00 pm on Friday; and on Saturday from 8:00 am until 10:00 am. Judging will begin about 10:00 am on Saturday and the Show will open after we conclude with judging. We also need assistance with judging. Participating on a judging team is a great way to learn about our plants and get to know other members. If you are new and not experienced at judging, that is not a problem. You will be paired with at least one experienced person. Judging consists of reaching a consensus among your group of what you like best.

We will encourage members to sell extra plants from their collections, just as we have at the past few shows. If you want to, you may donate plants to the Society or to our Conservation Committee. These donations are very helpful and greatly appreciated. We will also have vendors like we have in the recent shows as well.

The Summer Show and Sale will open after judging on Saturday and will close at 5:00 pm. The Show and Sale will open at 10:00 am on Sunday and the doors will close at 4:00 pm. We need to allow those who show up about 4:00 pm to enjoy our orchids and hopefully make a few purchases.

At 4:30 pm sharp, I will announce that our show is closed and it is time for all non-members to exit the Show. **DISPLAY PLANTS MAY NOT BE REMOVED BEFORE 4:30 pm.** After the show we will tear down the room and we will be done until the next show in October.

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Companion Plants for Your Orchids: Usually Less Important Than You Think

By: Christopher Croom

In my humble and superficial 12-year jaunt into the world of orchids, one question seems to keep nagging me, because it comes up far more often than it probably should: “What are some good companion plants for my orchids?”

This is not a bad or a stupid question, and it’s very intuitive if you’ve studied gardening in soil or permaculture on any level. Tomatoes grow well with basil and asparagus, fig trees thrive next to rose bushes, guava trees emit a fragrance that keeps many citrus pests away, so why shouldn’t some kinds of plants convey similar benefits to our orchids?

In your garden soil, companion plants often work well together because they don’t compete for resources and one plant often enriches the soil so the other plant can produce more flowers and fruit. But in your shadehouse or patio orchid collection, anything growing in the pot with the orchid is a “weed” that competes for resources with your orchid—most of us don’t plant cover crops like legumes in with our orchids. Also, most of your orchids are probably epiphytes and most companion plants are not, so this generally precludes the possibility of planting anything with your orchid (next to or at the same height) to enhance its growth.

The other problem with companion plants depends on your level of addiction. If you have a finite amount of space for your orchids and you *really* love them (and you do, otherwise why expose yourself to this drivel?), then every cubic inch taken up with a companion plant is one less cubic inch that could be occupied with orchid. Think about it. Yes, keeping plants close enough together so that the overall humidity is increased with each plant benefiting from its neighbor’s transpiration (provided adequate air movement, of course) is something that can be enhanced by more plants in the greenhouse, but orchids don’t know or care whether that that extra humidity from transpiration is coming from a lesser plant or another orchid.

Some orchid growers **gasp** like *other* kinds of plants, and for them companion planting is just an excuse to bring other “cool” things into the greenhouse. A specimen plant of *Tillandsia caput-medusae* is a real show-stopper of an epiphyte that can be suspended by a hook right above your orchids and watered every time you water them. Many of the glaucous, furry *Tillandsia* species have fragrant flowers so I’ve seen these in many orchid growers’ greenhouses, but they’re growing these plants just because they’re interesting and not because they do anything for the orchids (although one *could* use a monofilament net embedded with tiny tillandsias to shade an orchid bench). Other orchid growers like ferns (staghorns will do great alongside *Odontoglossum* and other shady/cool-growing orchids), some are into epiphyllums, and some of us like the disgusting things depicted on this page, but all these plants really do is fill the empty spaces between our orchids.



For instance, this *Amorphophallus* that Ron Kauffman gave me grows beneath my orchids and has a bloom that lasts for a day that smells like mammal meat that is just starting to rot. It looks cool, has an 18” flower, and attracts the same sapromyophilic flies that are attracted to *Bulbophyllum echinolabium*, but conveys absolutely no benefit to my orchids besides helping me to better understand plants that only have growths above the soil for about half the year and need a dry winter rest (like *Haubenaria*—Thanks, Ron!).

Another companion plant that does nothing for my orchids is the strange *Huernia* you see at the right that I grow alongside other succulents like *Stapelia* and some succulent orchids, like *Oeceoclades* and *Eulophia*. These are bomb-proof, full-sun dwellers that just take up the spaces between the plants I *really* care about. Once again, I grow these companion plants only because they are hip and fashionable due to their foul-smelling, sometimes hairy flow-



ers that delight my house guests.

Sometimes companion plants can do more for your collection than merely making you the envy of other society members loosely affiliated with the SDBGF. One epiphytic companion that every *Vanda* grower needs to know about, a trick Michael Coronado from R.F. Orchids taught me, is *loosely* wrapping Spanish moss around the roots of Vandas to help maintain humidity around the roots where the plant needs it most.

Here, you see a *V. lilacina* growing on a large piece of manzanita with Spanish moss draped over its roots. (If



you look closely enough, there are four other orchids crammed into this space, all providing

each other humidity; the broad-leaved passion-fruit vine above them provides shade).

Spanish moss is really a species of *Tillandsia* and not a kind of moss at all; you can buy it in bags at most garden supply shops, and even if you purchase it really dry, after a few weeks of watering it usually springs back to life and starts growing again. In my own collection I've seen it make Vandas that became sickly start to thrive again so many times I see no point in growing Vandas without it. If my Vandas were growing in a greenhouse with high and stable humidity levels (rather than outdoors), Spanish moss might not be quite the panacea it appears to be for me.

Predatory plants can actually earn their keep in



your collection—you know, the neat little ones that are often a pain in the butt to grow but are more carnivorous than some people. Andy has *Pinguicula* (butterwort/“starfish plant” at Home Depot) interspersed

with all of his really wet growers near the most ventilated side of his intermediate house to keep

the fungus gnat population as low as possible. These carnivores have digestive enzymes in glands on the surfaces of their leaves; the enzymes cause the gnats' limbs to literally melt off when they land anywhere on the plant (and then your revenge against these tiny nuisances slowly ensues). The same enzymes in the butterworts are used in some cultures (like the Saami of Norway) like rennet for making cheese.

The last worthwhile herbaceous carnivore that is useful to orchid growers has the same namesake as the trendy, overpriced restaurant with the killer view up on Highway 1: *Nepenthes*. These are often called “tropical pitcher plants” and are far easier to grow than the unrelated temperate pitchers like the cobra lily. These definitely eat their share of fungus gnats, aphids, cute little

frogs, mice, tiny children, or whatever falls into the syrupy traps that unfurl from each leaf tip. The *M. veitchiana* you see on p. 11 grows right next to the *Nepenthes* hybrid pictured above. Not all of the tropical pitchers can grow outside, so you might kill a couple before you get them figured out, but these are far and above less of a growing headache than sundews, Venus fly traps, and the aforementioned temperate pitchers unless you happen to be strange and have vast quantities of distilled water on hand. Plus, *Nepenthes* grow well in shade and crowded in small pots with moss while the others mentioned in this paragraph need full sun with their peat soil and distilled water.



There, of course, are companion plants that coexist with orchids in their wild habitats, like the poisonous rhododendrons that appear to have somewhat symbiotic relationships with Chinese Paphs, but I know you're not about to take a \$50 Paph and grow it in *dirt*, are you? This is not Seattle.

In short, don't stress out about companion plants. Grow the useful ones if you need them and the cool ones if you like them and don't be afraid to try new combinations if you're lucky to have the space. Do use Spanish moss with your Vandas, and if the fungus gnat becomes your nemesis, get some butterworts and *Nepenthes*.

In Search of Wild Orchids A Return Visit to Oakzanita Peak

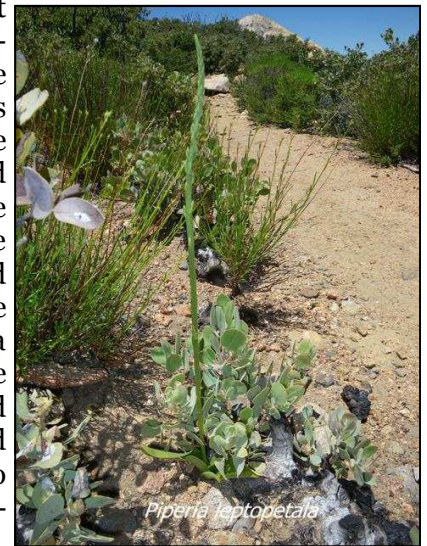
By: Nico Goossens and Bruce Berg



A small group of our Society members joined Nico and Bruce on a return visit to Oakzanita Peak on Sunday, June 6, in hopes of finding the *Piperia leptopetala* in bloom that they had located three weeks earlier in May. Dave Hoffmaster and Scott LaBouff were joined by new members, Ed Holler, Lena Shiroma, and Cory Krell.

The day was a beautiful warm summer day in the mountains. Nico described the many flowers in bloom and engaged the group to see the progression of the forest in reestablishing itself after the fires that burned so much of our County in 2003 and 2007 (this area was completely torched three years ago). The oak trees are slowly reestablishing themselves both with new branch growths on trees not totally destroyed as well as new volunteer plants and shoots coming up from the bases of old trees. The old stately trees that they once were may someday return to their full splendor. Our pine tree forest however, may never re-establish by itself from these very destructive fires, as only a few survive and may not be able to reconnect for seed. The flowering plants are going through the succession process of recovery after a fire. Initially annuals and perennials from seed and root stump suckers are abundant the first year or two. Foreign invasive grasses also tend to be everywhere. Then as bushes get larger and trees start to overshadow, the number of annuals start to diminish.

At the location where the plants had been found previously (with Nico and Bruce acting naïve about knowing where they were and supplying a few clues), Dave was the first to identify and locate *Piperia leptopetala*. The group did a quick survey and noticed that there were fewer plants than what had been previously reported. After a lunch at the peak, the group returned to the area and formed a search line to count the plants. Only twenty-seven plants were found from the previous count of 120. There were a number of plants that had leaves and inflorescences chewed off by some critters. In fact, a few of the inflorescences appeared to have just been severed during our time having lunch, as the spikes were lying fresh and limp on the ground. The *Piperia* were found growing under the new Manzanita shrubs and were difficult to find unless we moved the foliage aside to look for the orchids.



We did not find any plants in full bloom although several had buds emerging. With the rate of predation occurring, it is quite likely that none of the plants will survive long enough to produce seed pods that could be viable. We believe that this area should be visited again next May to see if more plants will emerge and again try to produce seed. What we found follows the experience of the survey work performed two years ago by Robert Lauri, Peter Tobias, and Nico Goossens. These *Piperia* emerge from dormant bulbs, produce only one to two leaves before being browsed and this colony may not have produced enough leaves to make the sugars for adequate food storage to reappear two or three years in a row.

We did see ground squirrels and evidence of rabbits in the area. In addition to the ground squirrels, we also found two rattlesnakes warming in the sun. We wish them good hunting!

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Another great year-round outdoor grower in North Park is *Dendrobium hancockii*, which has bamboo-like pseudobulbs and leaves. This stately plant produces 2” yellow, fragrant flowers that smell like a personal hygiene product. At different light angles the blooms can either appear waxy and plastic (above), or striated and diaphanous (below).

San Diego County Orchid Society December Board Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2010

Attendees: David Brown, Bruce Berg, Bob Clark, Christopher Croom, Dave Hoffmaster, Lynn Ford, Steve Mallory and Kevin Rynearson.

President David Brown called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Officers Reports:

Lynn Ford presented the Treasurer's Report for February. It was moved that we file the report for audit. The motion passed.

Committee Reports:

The Show Committee has kicked off the 2011 Spring Show effort by asking the membership for to submit ideas for the show theme. The winner will get a subscription to Orchid Digest. The \$35 cost of a subscription is part of the show budget for next year.

Dave Hoffmaster will set up a meeting with Scottish Rite to explore the possibility of a long term contract that will guarantee the dates for the spring show years in advance.

Old Business:

Bruce Berg presented a report format for mini shows. The report captures the revenue and expenses with the detail requested by the current board. It was agreed we would leave the report as a draft to be adopted by the next board.

We agreed the June potluck would start at 6:30 in room 101 and would publish that time in the Newsletter. The room will be open earlier and we will start serving wine by 6:00.

Dave Brown will check our inventory of plates, glasses, cutlery, etc and advise if additional items are needed.

Anyone interested in helping to set up for the potluck should let David Brown know. We will start setting up room 101 by 3:00 Tuesday afternoon

and help will be appreciated.

The Board is working on a proposed budget for the Society. The proposed budget will be presented to the new board in July for their comments before being presented to the membership for approval.

New Business

There will be no novice class or general meeting in June because of the potluck

Several members will be hiking into the local area to survey our native orchids. Since they will be walking into sensitive areas that are closed to the general public, they requested fund to make vests to identify members of the group. The board authorized \$50 to buy vest materials.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

2011 Spring Show Theme Ideas Wanted!

Dave Hoffmaster and Bruce Berg have volunteered again to be co-chairs for the Spring Show next year. The Show dates will be March 24-27, 2011 at the Scottish Rite building.

One of the first things they will need is a theme for the show. There will be a prize of a year's subscription to Orchid Digest magazine for the theme topic selected. Keep in mind that it is helpful if the theme would give people preparing display booths creative options for the display of orchids.

The deadline for submission is July 6 at the General Meeting. Members are encouraged to either add their suggestion on the clipboard provided at the back table or to contact Bruce (b2berg@yahoo.com 619.258.1963).

Dave and Bruce would also like to hear from members who have any suggestions to make improvements over the last show.

San Diego County Orchid Society—General Meeting

June 1, 2010

The 2010 Nominating Committee of Tom Biggart, Edith Galvan, Ron Kaufmann and Peter Tobias made their recommendation for the 2010/2011 Board of Directors for the San Diego County Orchid Society. Their recommendations are as follows:

President:	David Brown
First Vice President:	Bruce Berg
Second Vice President:	Scott LaBouff
Secretary:	Dave Hoffmaster
Treasurer:	Carol Berg
Director at Large:	Bob Clark
Past President	Genie Hammond

The recommendations of the Nominating Committee were presented to the membership at the June 1 General Meeting. Charlie Fouquette moved that the recommended Board of Directors be accepted and Jim Wright seconded the motion. The membership then voted on the motion and it passed.

President David Brown awarded lifetime memberships to Pam Peters and Tom Biggart. The Board at the last Board Meeting approved this action.

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Concerning Plants for Judging Sessions

By: Helmut Rohrl

The Pacific South Judging Center conducts each month three judging sessions in the Los Angeles and San Diego area. They are:

Encinitas (Quail Gardens) on the 1st Monday at 7 pm.

San Marino (Huntington Botanical Gardens) on the 2nd Saturday at 10 am.

Long Beach (Whaley Park) on the 4th Saturday at 7 pm.

Visitors—with or without plants—are welcome anytime. If a SDCOS member wishes to have flowering plants judged at one of these sessions but is unable to take the plants to the judging facility, please contact one of the following AOS judges:

Loren Batchman, Solana Beach, 858-755-7572

Helmut Rohrl, La Jolla, 858-452-0976

Ann & Paul Tuskes, Clairemont, 858-274-5829

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Letter From the Editor

Dear SDCOS,

Hopefully you've gotten all your repotting done by now and your summer bloomers are in full swing. Don't forget to bring them in to our July show in the park on the 24th and 25th, and make sure to thank President David Brown for taking Tom Biggart's role as mini-show chair.

By the way, my favorite rupics that I wrote about last month are now *Cattleyas* (the Newsletter regrets the error and the pesky fact-checking from those "gotcha" media outlets). Practically every *Laelia* has become a *Cattleya* these days, except the Mexican species (a handful of others have become *Sophronitis*). That happened sometime since the last time I checked, circa 2005. If you don't stay on top of this genetic stuff you won't be able to find things anymore, like *Cattleya citrina*, for example (and nope, not an *Encyclia* anymore, either, if you were wondering). Genetic markers are hard to argue with, and not just because they're nonverbal. I'll write an article up about nomenclatural flux in the near future.

Contact Information:

Christopher Croom

(619) 583-3804

batescroom@cox.net

I will also have a better piece about Joe Alesi arriving soon; at the time of printing I haven't heard back from a couple of people and am awaiting more information.

I hope you enjoy the companion planting article on pg. 8-9; you could probably grow any aromatic herbs next to most terrestrial orchids as long as there were no allelopathic effects going on that hurt the orchids. Remember that most compounds in edible spices that make them yummy to us are produced to protect the plants from pests. Hanging a potted basil next to a mounted *Schomburgkia* might be completely impractical, but the same basil in a pot with a *Bletilla* might produce some interesting positive effects. Don't be afraid to try new things.

Happy Growing,
Christopher