



San Diego County Orchid Society

Volume 139
August 2010

NOVICE MEETING

August 3, 6:30 PM—Casa Del Prado—Room 104

By: Scott LaBouff, 2nd Vice President

I am pleased to announce the speaker for the novice class this month will be Bud Close. Bud is an experienced grower whose fascination began with caring for a neighbor's orchids. This sparked his interest and devotion to the study of orchids.

Bud has served many valuable roles in our society. As a successful orchid grower in East County

for 63 years, Bud will share with us his triumphs and failures in orchid culture. We are fortunate to have Bud share his considerable knowledge of orchid culture so please be prepared with questions and issues of concern to you.

Finally, I want to extend our gratitude to Bruce Berg for organizing an informative novice class program throughout this past year.

GENERAL MEETING

August 3, 7:30 PM—Casa Del Prado—Room 101

By Bruce Berg, 1st Vice President

We are lucky this month to have our own Tom Biggart speaking on the rupicolous Laelias of Brazil. A few years ago Tom made a very exciting trip to Brazil with the Orchid Conservation Alliance where he observed (and purchased) many native Brazilian orchids for his collection and to sell in his Granite Hills Orchids nursery. He has a secret mixture and instructions for planting these rock-growing orchids. Unfortunately, the mixture recipe can not be disclosed before his talk.

Tom is owner, operator, salesman, hydrator, weed puller, transplanter, security guard, and ceramic potter for Granite Hills Orchids in El Cajon. His plants are known for their hardiness, in particular their willingness to grow after they leave his care. He describes his business as a hobby business because he doesn't make a living growing plants. Tom is a former elementary school teacher from the Chula Vista City Schools, retiring in 2002. The past few years he and his wife Neal have become interested in ceramics. In typical Biggart fashion they now have a throwing building, a glazing building, and a kiln yard with three kilns. His pots are designed primarily for plants and can be seen at our shows and at his nursery.

Tom is in business with the Harvey's of Cedarvale Orchids. They are major Australian growers and hybridizers of native Dendrobiums. Tom is very interested in Encyclias and has a large collection of rare and unusual plants. He always brings some of the most fascinating plants for discussion at the species group meetings. Tom is one of the most knowledgeable in SDCOS when it comes to plant identification and always willing to talk about orchids or pottery. He is also one of the nicest and most approachable of our members.

He is currently representing Eco-Orquideas, a nursery growing primarily native Brazilian orchids located in São Paulo. Tom can obtain many hard to find Brazilian orchids for the hobbyist and has lots of helpful information on the culture requirements for these interesting orchids.

Granite Hills will be providing the opportunity table this month. Tom will also bring some plants for sale. He always provides plants that are unusual, hard to find, and easy to grow. So show your appreciation to a great friend and member of the SDCOS, and use that credit card. We will also be auctioning off a few plants at this meeting.

If you wish to join Tom for dinner at the Prado restaurant before the meeting, please meet Tom and Bruce in Room 101 at 5:30 pm.

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 Carol Berg at winklerca@yahoo.com.

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



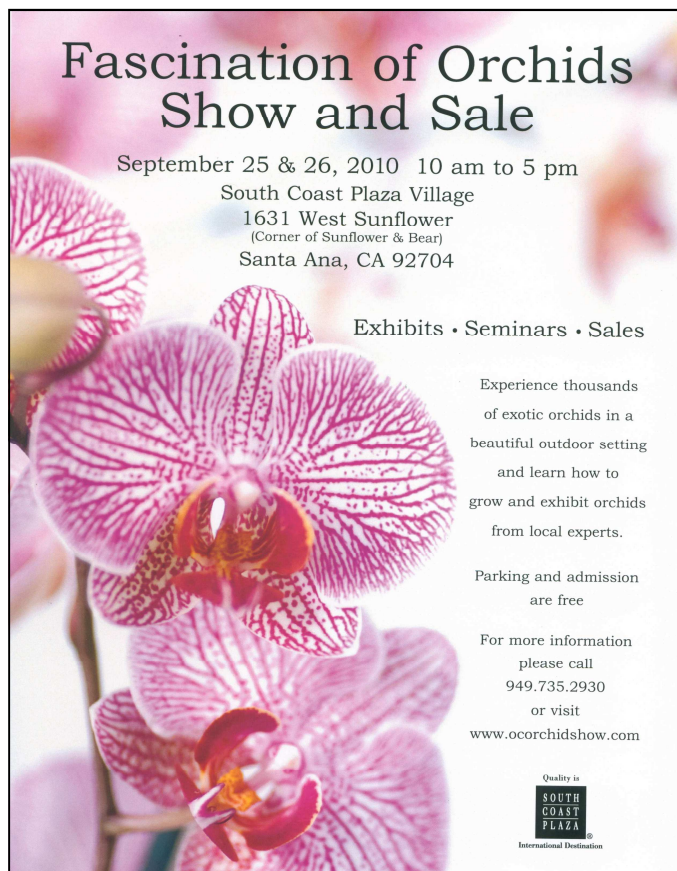
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Orchid Dates to Remember

August 3, 6:30 p.m.

SDCOS Novice Meeting

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 104

August 3, 7:30 p.m.

SDCOS General Meeting

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

August 4

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

August 5, 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

August 7

SDCOS Species Group Meeting

First Saturday of the month

Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

August 18

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

August 20

San Diego Zoo's Orchid Odyssey

Third Friday of the month

10 AM-2 PM (orchid greenhouse is open)

Janette Gerrity (619) 231-1515 ext. 4306

September 25-26

Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale

10 AM-5 PM

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October 23-24

SDCOS Fall Show in the Park

Balboa Park, Room 101 of Casa del Prado

More details to come in the September newsletter

If you have any announcements that you would like to include contact bates-croom@cox.net.



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
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

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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

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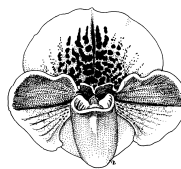
Cymbidiums
Loren Batchman— casa@orquideas.com

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
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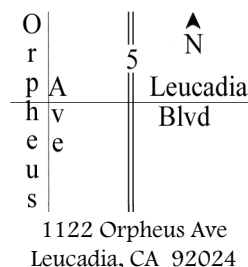
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Monthly Report on AOS Judging at Quail Gardens

By: Helmut Rohrl

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 July 5, 2010 Encinitas session six cultivars were shown and three were awarded.

Dan and Judy Smith brought in one cultivar:

Laelia purpurata (syn. *Sophranitis purpurata*) with 4 flowers on one inflorescence. The natural spread of the flowers is 16.0 cm. Sepals and petals are white, with petals striated bluish; the lip is white, overlaid and striped bluish. AM/AOS.

Loren Batchman exhibited

Zygoneria Copper Queen 'Yellow Bird' (Z. New Era x Pbt. Kiwi Gold) with 5 flowers on one inflorescence. Natural spread of the flowers is 6.5 cm. Sepals and petals are yellow-green, spotted brown; the lip is white, spotted and striped purple. HCC/AOS.

Helmut Rohrl brought in

Oda. n.r. (Odm. Doctor Tom x Gale Gettel) with 10 flowers on one inflorescence. Natural spread of the flowers is 10.5 cm. Sepals and petals are white, marked and flushed light magenta; the lip is white, blotched dark; the keels are yellow. AM/AOS.

Paphiopedilum Mount Low (Mount Toro x lowianum) with 6 flowers on one inflorescence. Natural spread of the flowers is 17.8 cm. Dorsal sepal and synsepal are white, suffused and veined purple; the petals are yellow, spotted brown, distally shading to dark maroon; the pouch is yellow heavily overlaid and veined dark maroon; the staminode is yellow with brown-maroon center. AM/

AOS.

Paphiopedilum Kemp Tower (Prince Edward of York x philippinense) with 4 flowers on one inflorescence. Natural spread of the flowers is 26.0 cm. Dorsal sepal and synsepal are off-white, heavily overlaid and streaked dark maroon; the petals are yellow, spotted maroon, the lower 2/3 turning solid dark maroon; the pouch is yellow, overlaid and veined red-brown; the staminode is yellow-brown with margins densely, dark brown hirsute.

Paphiopedilum Hsinying Franz (Stone Susan x rothschildianum) with 4 flowers on one inflorescence. Natural spread of the flowers is 22.0 cm. Dorsal sepal and synsepal are light yellow, overlaid and heavily streaked dark brown; the wide petals are yellow, spotted and streaked dark brown; the pouch is yellow-green, heavily veined purple-maroon; the staminode is yellow, overlaid and streaked brown.

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
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SDCOS Summer Show in the Park—July 24 & 25



Betty Kelepecz's *Masdevallia davisii* earned 2nd place in Section 12P. This cool grower from the Peruvian Cordillera has been in cultivation for so long—over 100 years—that people have forgotten about these pretty, waxy flowers, which is why you don't usually see this plant even in the collections of Pleurothallid Alliance nuts.



Jerry Spencer's Cymbidium Canterbury 'Emma' took 1st place and Best of Section 2 at our July show. The rich anthocyanins that make this flower reddish are extremely tasty, and the small, starry flowers packed more charm than they originally appeared to from across the room.



Look at the pretty pansy orchid! Don't touch the pretty pansy orchid. The pretty pansy orchid wants to be your friend. The pretty pansy orchid loves us. The pretty pansy orchid wants you to think it's made of buttercream frosting and decorated with a butterfly. (Fred Tomaschke, 1st place section 9E, Miltoniopsis unknownianum.)



When I saw this plant it screamed to me "*Paph. lowii*!" and I thought, "So, how'd it get the Rabbi sideburn petals?" That's 'cause it's a Paphiopedilum Robinianum, a primary hybrid between *P. lowii* and *P. parishii*. This was the Best of Show, completely dominated section 7, and even earned a cultural award. Great work, Dellingers!



Fred Tomaschke also earned a 1st place and Best of Section 6B for this unknown Laelia with Encyclia-like petals. The lip of this plant makes it look like a member of the (former?) Hadrolaelia section, kind of like a pale *L. praestans* or *L. pumila*, or maybe even an *L. sin-corana*. I agree with Fred; finding out what this is probably won't be easy.



The Dellingers also took 1st Place and Best of Section 8H for this Phalaenopsis Taisuco Firebird, a prime example of the Phalaenopsis hybrids that have appeared over the last decade with rich marbling over the sepals and petals. The marbling helps it grill up moist and juicy, just like a ribeye.



Anita Spencer's *Brassolaeliocattleya* Waiane Leopard 'Ching-Hua' earned a 1st place in section 4H. It looks like the spotted *Cattleya* genes won this little genetic competition between the three genera.



It's not my fault that this flower is called *Cymbidium* Little Black Sambo 'Black Magic', nor are Edith and Leno Galvan responsible. It *did* earn Best of Section 3B and a 1st place ribbon.



Fred Tomaschke's *Colmanara* Catatanthe took 1st place in section 9F. These flowers look like *Oncidiums* because they are a multi-generic hybrid made up of members of the *Oncidiinae* Alliance (like *Brassia*, *Odontoglossum*, *Miltonia*, and the like). Most of these things grow well outdoors in San Diego County if protected from heat and frost.



Renate Schmidt's *Doritis pulcherrima* was special for a couple of reasons: the semi-peloric petals on this flower think they're lips, and this is a paler pink than you usually find in this bloom. It earned second place in 12V, and even though I think Renate was robbed, I didn't help volunteer with the judging, leaving me with absolutely no right to complain.



Renate Schmidt's *Epicattleya* El Hatuio may have won something in section 5, and possibly in class D. The spelling may also be incorrect. This bi-generic hybrid may have been made back when we were still calling *Epidendrums* *Encyclias*. Scientists have confirmed, however, that there is tremendous contrast between the magenta on the lip of this flower and the pure white sepals and petals.



Betty Kelepecz's *Sobralia macrantha* 'Bolin' (HCC/AOS) reminded me of a *Sobralia rogersiana* somehow (see article on p. 10). This was a stately, rich flower that held up well over the weekend and earned it a 1st place and Best of Section 11.

Thank you volunteers for the Summer Show in July

By Bruce Berg

While it may take a whole village to raise one child, it also takes quite a few of our Society members to run a show! Walking around, you see maybe a half dozen people at a time wearing their membership badges, but by the time you look at how many are involved with the different phases of the show, there are a lot of volunteers needed. Thanks to each and every one of you who helped us with this Summer Show in July.

I'll try to list everyone who helped. If you helped and I omitted your name, my apologies in advance!

On Friday afternoon, David Brown had the following people helping with setup: Jim Wright, Andy, Helen Pfister, Tom Biggart, Carol and Bruce Berg, and Betty Kelepecz. Helping Pam Peters with plant registration was Betty Kelepecz. Thanks, Jim Wright, for bringing in the great deli sandwiches which kept the crew happy.

Starting bright and early on Saturday morning, Pam Peters had a great crew of judges who worked diligently on evaluating the many beautiful plants brought in for judging. Her crew included: Andy, Felica Acantilado, Irma Adams, Loren Batchman, Bruce Berg, David Brown, Elaine and Marv Dellinger, Jan and Jack Dimond, Lynn Ford, Sue and Charley Fouquette, Edith and Leno Galvan, Siv Garrod, Dave Hoffmaster, Betty Kelepecz, Kai Klausung, Ben Machado, Dolores Maxwell, Ian Milley, Pam Peters, Helen Pfister, Tiffany and Kevin Rynearson, Renate Schmidt, Pen and Ty Smith, and last but definitely not the least, Jim Wright.

Helping Carol Berg with the member sales table in writing up sales tickets were Betty Kele-

pecz, Tom and Barbara Smith, and Helen Pfister. Many thanks to Loren and Nancy Batchman for running the cash register.

Helping Bruce Berg with Security and the Plant Hotel were Elizabeth Glover, Jack and Jan Dimond, Andy, Dolores Maxwell, Ray Brandt, Bud Close, Helen Pfister, Renate Schmidt, and Dave Hoffmaster.

Genie Hammond had help from Jim Reid and his daughter Merrilyn Joyce making corsages. Bob Clark and Candy Kalman provided information to our visitors on membership benefits as well as helping out with security.

Special thanks to the many members who brought plants in for display. Also, special thanks to the members who came in on Sunday afternoon to pick up their plants and stayed to help with taking the show materials down.

Macrantha, Not micrantha. And, What Is a rogersiana?

By Christopher Croom

A week ago I had the privilege of delivering a talk on species *Cymbidiums* to the Malibu Orchid Society (which oddly meets in Pacific Palisades), whereupon I encountered the most splendid *Sobralia macrantha* I'd ever seen, with blooms the size of a child's head. I told the gentleman who brought it in "Nice macrantha," and he said "Read the tag again."

The tag read "*Sobralia rogersiana*," and I started kicking myself immediately, wondering how the existence of a *Sobralia* with such a beautiful bloom had somehow escaped my attention. A quick search on a smart phone revealed that the new species had been named in 2007 by Eric Christenson and was pub-

lished in *Orchideen Journal*, an orchid magazine I don't subscribe to because most of the articles are written in German, a language I could never read very well (and read even less well now). Hiding under my nose in a German publication was a *Sobralia* I could grow with giant flowers.

Right next to it at the meeting was a *real S. macrantha* with blooms not quite 2/3rds the size of the incredible *rogersiana*. I initially thought that the latter was just a gargantuan division of some perfect, awarded *macrantha*, just like the orchid in the photo on the bottom right of page 9 of this Newsletter. Also, somewhere in the past week, my editor's antennae became irritated about *macrantha*, because I saw it spelled "*micrantha*" on a tag somewhere, and then I started noticing that everybody said "*micrantha*" when they meant "*macrantha*," and I even started doing it, too.

The only reasons why this level of obsessive compulsive disorder should be validated by anything (animal, vegetable, or mineral) is that "micra" means 'small' and "macra" means 'big', and just like there are two different plants called *Dracula radiosa* and *D. radiella*, there once was a *Sobralia micrantha*, too! (It's now an old-school synonym for *Elleanthus virgatus*.) Oh, crap! Not only is capitalization important, but one minor change in a vowel and we're suddenly in a different genus.

Editorial grumblings aside, having something that was clearly a *Sobralia macrantha* right next to this hot new thing (*Sobralia rogersiana*) allowed for a few minutes of armchair taxonomy, and while we didn't dissect and measure any flowers, it was unbelievably difficult to come up with any justification for a new species based on our casual comparison

between the two flowers. A lot of orchids that are classified as different species are almost impossible to tell apart when comparing flowers like this. We also may have been looking at the same species that evening.

According to Christenson's article (available here: http://brucerogersorchids.com/uploads/Orchideen_article.pdf), everything we've been calling *Sobralia macrantha* in cultivation has always been at least two different species with overlapping natural ranges: true *S. macrantha* and *S. rogersiana*. Luckily there are a couple of easy ways to tell them apart, so you can (and should) go home and find out whether your *macrantha* is really a *macrantha* (real *macranthas* are actually rarer in cultivation, per Christenson).

In *rogersiana*, the goldish color patch in the lip is heart-shaped (with an "apical notch of purple pigment"), while in a true *macrantha*, the yellowish patch is circular or elliptical. More subtle differences between the two plants include Christenson's observation that in *S. macrantha*, there is a very shallow notch in the lip apex, while in *rogersiana* the same notch is much deeper, making the lip apex bilobed. *S. rogersiana* also has magenta flowers whereas the flowers on *S. macrantha* are a paler pink, and everything about *rogersiana* is bigger: it's much taller and every part of the flower is about 50% larger. (Remember, though, that plant height can be strongly influenced by light levels and flower color shade and size can be manifestations of genetic variability within a species.)

Now I know why everything was so confusing at that meeting. If you grow *Sobralia macrantha*, there's a very good chance that you don't grow *Sobralia macrantha*.

San Diego County Orchid Society June Board Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2010

Attendees: David Brown, Bruce Berg, Bob Clark, Genie Hammond, Dave Hoffmaster, and Kevin Rynearson.

President David Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Officers Reports

Minutes from the May Board Meeting were presented and approved as amended.

Show Committee

No significant activity to report.

David Brown will chair the July Mini Show. We are still looking for someone to chair these shows in the future.

Old Business

The Board congratulated Steve Mallory on a job well done putting together the June potluck dinner. The event was well attended and all had a good time. Thank you, Steve.

Efforts continue on the proposed budget for the 2010/2011 Society activities. David Brown will work with Bruce and Carol Berg to have a proposal for the July meeting.

Dave Hoffmaster will call Jose DeLuna at The Scottish Rite Event Center to set up a meeting to discuss a long term contact for our spring show.

New Business

The speaker for the July general meeting will be Winn Winmaw discussing Burmese orchids. Lico's Orchids will provide the plant table that evening.

Dave Hoffmaster will discuss his thoughts on repotting Phalaenopsis during the novices meeting.

The Society is considering renting a bus for the membership to travel to the Santa Barbara Orchid

Fair on July 10. David Brown is looking into several bus companies for the best rate and it looks like we rent a bus to accommodate 50 people for \$1250. That works out to \$30 per person. The remaining amount would be used for gratuity and miscellaneous expenses, like water.

Genie Hammond made a motion to purchase a 10' x 10' canopy. A canopy is needed for use as a sun and weather protection for a table to be used as part of an outreach program. This would permit us to attend events such as the Home and Garden Show at Del Mar and promote the Society. It was moved to authorize an expenditure of \$100 maximum for such a canopy and the motion passed. Bruce Berg volunteered to acquire the canopy on behalf on the Society.

There will be a hike on Saturday, June 6 to Oakzanita Peak in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park to look for native orchids. All are welcome. Those interested in taking the hike should meet at Denny's at the 70th street exit off I-8 at 8:00 that morning.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

San Diego County Orchid Society July Board Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2010

Attendees: David Brown, Bruce Berg, Scott LaBouff, Carol Berg, Bob Clark, Genie Hammond, and Chris Croom.

President David Brown called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Approval of minutes:

Chris Croom moved to approve the Minutes from the June Board Meeting as amended. Motion was approved with discussion by the Board.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Croom moved to file the June Financial Report presented by our new Treasurer, Carol Berg. Motion was approved. Carol reported that she

would meet with Lynn Ford to get Carol's signature added to the account. Carol and Lynn will meet with the accountant to review and prepare the annual report. Bruce asked if the Spring Show column amount on the report should be zeroed out for future reports until the Board and membership approve a budget for the 2011 show. Genie replied that that was the correct procedure.

Officers Reports

Show Committee

Theme suggestions have been received and the Show Committee will screen the list down to about six top entries. These entries will be presented at the next General Meeting for the membership to vote on. There was discussion on possible changes to the descriptions of various plant categories. Genie will discuss further with Pam Peters.

David Brown will chair the Summer Show. We have enough volunteers to help with the show. The vendor area will be partitioned off so that guests may purchase plants from vendors during the time Member plants are being judged. The partition will be removed after judging to allow for circulation between the show and sale areas.

Old Business

Carol is working with the financial data she received from Lynn to finalize the report formats. David Brown will work with her on developing a budget for the coming year.

David Brown and Dave Hoffmaster have a meeting scheduled with the Scottish Rite staff to develop contracts for 2013, 2014, and beyond on Friday, July 16.

New Business

The speaker for the General Meeting in August will be Tom Biggart who will present a talk on the rupicolous Laelias of Brazil. Granite Hills Orchids will present the plant opportunity table.

The speaker for the novice needing is undetermined at this time.

Chris Croom moved to approve a \$75 reimbursement to Genie for supplies and postage needed for sending out cards to our members. The motion

was approved.

David Brown is reviewing the Standing Committees for the Society and hopes to have a complete list of committee chairpersons by the August Board meeting. He needs to contact each of the people involved to verify their support before publishing the list.

David presented an email communication from the Vallarta Botanical Gardens Orchid Conservatory with a request that we participate in supporting the construction of a new facility at the site. Ron Kaufmann was given a copy of the request since the Conservation Committee had initially funded a project there several years ago. David Brown offered to email copies of the email to the Board members. No other action was taken.

David Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM. Motion approved.

Granite Hills Orchids

2009 list of Dendrobium speciosum is now available.

Check on my website

www.granitehillsorchids.com.

Click on INVENTORY on the navigation bar to view the listing and the pictures.

If you would rather, email me at

tombiggart@mac.com and I can

forward you a copy without the pictures.

These plants will go quickly as they are divisions of prime Australian plants. Put in your order quickly by email or by phone at



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Letter From the Editor

Dear SDCOS,

You may have noticed some interesting things happening in your orchid collection during our particularly mild and beautiful Summer of 2010. You have probably already figured out that most of your plants, while in active growth, seem to need no more water than they did in May. This is because lower temperatures cause the water in our orchid pots to evaporate much more slowly than if the mercury was just a few degrees higher like it normally is this time of year.

This may also cause some of the normal rhythms in your collection to be slower than usual. A lot of things in your collection may flower a month or three later this year, because temperature is the key variable plants use to figure out what time of year it is, and therefore what they're supposed to be doing. (This whole process is hopefully mediated by genes rather than plant cognition; if the latter ever is discovered, the tortured souls of every orchid each of us has ever killed will perpetually haunt our nightmares. Be kind to your orchids...just in case.) I had an interesting conversation with a Society member at the July Balboa Park "Mini" Show about precisely this: Cymbidiums that typically bloom in spring on display in July, in full splendor.

Contact Information:

Christopher Croom

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Hopefully there aren't too many plants that you absolutely *had* to pack a few pseudobulbs onto this summer, otherwise cool temperatures and the associated winter shrinkage would necessarily kill them (slow growers can be like this, as well as things you're not supposed to be growing outside). On the positive side, you had an extra month to get your repotting done before the summer heat hits

us. Mr. Sunbeam is undoubtedly conspiring to burn the heck out of us tomorrow, and only because I just now complimented his mercifulness this year.

Happy Growing,
Christopher