



San Diego County Orchid Society

Volume 140
September 2010

NOVICE MEETING

September 7, 6:30 PM—Casa Del Prado—Room 104

By: Scott LaBouff, 2nd Vice President

Betty Kelepecz will present *Masdevallia* care and re-potting techniques for our novice class this month, followed by a discussion period. Betty has been growing orchids for 30 years and joined our society in 2006. Since joining SDCOS, Betty has been growing *Masdevallia* orchids, many of which

have been awarded. While Betty feels that *Masdevallias* are not necessarily orchids for novice growers, she admits that she was a novice *Masdevallia* grower four years ago. Many of us have seen the results of her success in *Masdevallia* culture. I am delighted she will share her expertise with us.

GENERAL MEETING

September 7, 7:30 PM—Casa Del Prado—Room 101

By Bruce Berg, 1st Vice President

Thanks Tom Biggart for a great talk about rupicolous laelias. We now know the secret of how these lithophytic plants root themselves in the crevasses of rocks and not on the rocks directly.

The secret to Tom's mix is to use a ceramic or clay pot with $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch gravel as a base, topped with enough sphagnum moss to keep the top layer of a 50/50 mix of potting soil and construction sand from sifting through the gravel. The top layer is a loose covering of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of gravel which keeps the potting soil and sand from washing out of the pot when watering.

These tough little orchids have thick leaves which naturally grow vertically from the rhizome with the back of the leaf facing the sun to protect the other side of the leaf. Be sure to allow enough room in the pot so that you don't need to repot for three to five years. They may be tough, but they really do not like to have their roots disturbed.

Our speaker for the September 7 meeting will be Bill Toone. His talk will be about harvesting rainwater.

Bill Toone is the Director and Founder of the ECOLIFE Foundation. This non profit organization is dedicated to implementing programs that provide sustainable solutions that address the root causes of humanitarian and conservation crises. He is currently working with the Government of Uganda on a rural water conservation project to improve the quality of water available to the village of Gayaza. In Kenya, ECOLIFE is the lead participant in a program with Save The Elephants in the Samburu National Reserve at the Ewaso Nyiro River. This project focuses both on the elephants in the Reserve as well as the protecting school children who have to go to the river for their water, putting them at risk with wildlife. The program focuses on sustainable housing and rain water collection to provide a safe source of water away from the Reserve.

Continued on page 8.....

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 October newsletter must be submitted by September 15.

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Orchid Dates to Remember

September 1

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

September 4

SDCOS Species Group Meeting

First Saturday of the month

Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

September 7, 6:30 p.m

SDCOS Novice Meeting

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 104

September 7, 7:30 p.m

SDCOS General Meeting

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

September 9, 7:00 PM

SDCOS Board Meeting

Normally, the Thursday following the General Meeting (usually the 1st Thursday of the month; 2nd Friday of the month in rare cases)
Balboa Park, Rm. 104

September 15

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

September 17

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 18-19, 2010

South Bay Orchid Society

Fall Show and Sale

South Coast Botanic Garden

26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes

www.southbayorchidsociety.com/Show

September 25-26

Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale

10 AM-5 PM

South Coast Plaza Village

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October 1-3

San Diego International Orchid Fair

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October 10

Southern California Orchid Species Society Annual Auction

1 PM preview, 2 PM auction

Placentia Library

411 E. Chapman Ave, Placentia

www.socalorchidspecies.com

October 15-17

Literally Orchids

Southland Orchid Show

Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens

www.orchidshow.org

October 23-24

SDCOS Fall Show in the Park

Balboa Park, Room 101 of Casa del Prado

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San Diego County Orchid Society
P.O. Box 161020
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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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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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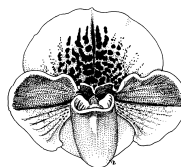
Cymbidiums
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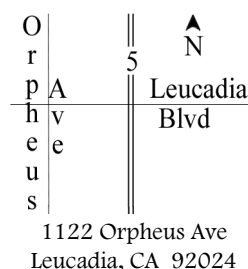
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Monthly Report on AOS Judging at Quail Gardens

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 August 2, 2010 Encinitas session ten cultivars were shown and three were awarded.

Loren Batchman exhibited:

Lorenara Pixie (Zba. Leopardinus x Gptm. Midnight Magic) with four flowers and four buds on two inflorescences. Natural spread of the flowers is 6.2 cm. Sepals and petals are green, heavily overlaid almost black brown; the lip is very dark purple.

Helmut Rohrl brought in:

Odontioda Le Marais (Saint Wood x Odm. Frechdachs) with thirty-nine flowers and seventeen buds on one inflorescence. Natural spread of the flowers is 8.1 cm. Sepals and petals are white, marked and blotched maroon; the lip is white, blotched dark. AM/AOS.

Norito Hasewaga presented:

Paphiopedilum Mem. Arnie Linsman (*delenatii* x Fumi's Delight) with two flowers and one bud on two inflorescences. Natural spread of the flowers is 10.5 cm. All segments are white, heavily suffused and veined dark purple. HCC/AOS.

Arnie Gum showed:

Oncidium dasytyle with four flowers on one inflorescence. Natural spread of the flowers is 3.2 cm. All segments are light yellow, sepals and petals are spotted brown; the crest is dark brown.

Bulbophyllum pectinatum with one flower on one inflorescence. Natural spread of the flower is 4.3 cm. All segments are light green, linearly spotted brown; the lip is with light pink center.

Gin Gan had:

Bulbophyllum annandalei with four flowers and two buds on two inflorescences. Natural spread vertically of the flowers is 5.8 cm. Sepals and petals are light yellow, spotted reddish; the lip is dark red.

Pleurothallis shuarii with one flower on one inflorescence. Natural spread of the flower is 1.2 cm. Sepals and petals are dark red-brown; the lip is dark maroon. CBR/AOS.

Brent Baker presented:

Phragmipedium Audrey (Twilight x Grande) with one flower and one bud on one inflorescence. Natural spread vertically of the flowers is 18.0 cm. Dorsal sepal and synsepal are yellow striped brown; petals are reddish striped darker brown; the pouch is maroon, veined darker, internally yellow spotted brown.

Two cultivars of *Paphiopedilum dayanum* with one flower on one inflorescence. Natural spread of the flower is 14.0 cm. Dorsal sepal and synsepal are white, veined green; petals are whitish veined brown, distally changing to light purple; the pouch is light maroon, striped darker.

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
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Ann & Paul Tuskes
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Continued from page 1.....

In San Diego County, he has partnered with local communities to clean up our beaches and to develop water conservation projects to showcase how we can take steps toward using our scarce water resources. He is also working with schools in the San Diego County to teach water conservation to our youth.

Prior to founding the Ecolife Foundation in 2003, Bill worked for 37 years for the Zoological Society of San Diego as a Conservation Program Specialist. His career launched with high profile successes in the early years of the California Condor Recovery Program.

We will be hosting Bill and his wife at a dinner at the Prado Restaurant at 5:30 before the meeting. If you would be interested in joining us, please RSVP. We have a table reserved for ten people.

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Requiem for the Best Epiphyte Potting Medium Ever: Rest in Peace, Osmunda!

By Christopher Croom

I was cleaning out my garage the other day due to moving soon to Normal Heights (more on moving my orchid collection later) when I ran across an old friend: the world's last known bag of osmunda, a strange growing medium that I had only just discovered before it disappeared forever, not so different in my experience from the Chilean "bass" being almost completely overfished by the time everyone in the U.S. was finding out about it.

So there it was in a clear plastic bag with a magenta and white label, the Snuffleupagus to my Big Bird, the dark matter to my inner astrophysicist, the now-imaginary friend of my early orchid growing successes. I had to pinch the bag and then pinch myself to make sure it all wasn't just a dream.

The Last Bag of osmunda came from Walter Andersen's Nursery about 10 years ago or more, and I'd been saving it in my garage for a decade because I couldn't throw it out, despite the fact that all the osmunda in the bag was *used*. This is how great osmunda was for me. I never killed a single orchid potted in this material and still grow some Catasetinae in it today.

I first found out about osmunda in several old-school orchid culture books that I checked out from the public library back in the days before I started to develop my own orchid reference library. It was heralded as the best orchid growing medium ever, if you could get it.

While it was expensive, it *never* broke down, similar to how coconut husk mix seems to last indefinitely. If you grew a healthy orchid in it and had to repot, you could take the roots and medium out in one piece and put it all into a new pot, tucking more osmunda in around the sides (I've seen this called "dropping on" or something like that). If you ever decided to grow that orchid in something else, you could remove most of the osmunda and re-use it for another plant if the orchid growing in it was healthy. Better yet, there was no perlite or diatomite or pumice or charcoal or greensand or saltpeter or pea gravel or strands of gold that needed to be mixed into the stuff. Just rip the bag open and you were ready to go.

If an orchid was an epiphyte that liked to dry out between waterings, the osmunda could be packed loosely and if the plant was thirsty and moist growing you could just pack the fibers into the pot tighter.

So, where did this "miracle medium" go? Well, we used it. *All* of it. Kind of. While the cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) is widespread in Asia and the New World, you have to kill it to get the roots that comprise this medium and populations are now too sparse and remote, so it became economically unviable to harvest, dry, bag, and sell. Woe to the next great scarce medium that we "discover."



San Diego County Orchid Society August Board Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2010

Attendees: David Brown, Loren Batchman, Bruce Berg, Carol Berg, Bob Clark, Christopher Croom, Genie Hammond, Dave Hoffmaster, Scott LaBouff and Kevin Rynearson

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

Carol Berg submitted the Treasurer's Income and Expense report for July. Christopher Croom moved to file the report for audit. The motion passed.

Committee Reports

The show committee has reviewed the list of names for the 2011 spring show as submitted by the membership and has narrowed the list to eight potential themes. The final eight will be presented to the Society at the September General Meeting for a vote. The winning name will become the 2011 show theme and the person submitting the name will receive a subscription to Orchid Digest.

All agreed that the Summer Show in the Park went well. The room design with limited ac-

cess from the display area to the sales area was an improvement and will be used in future shows. Several suggestions were submitted as possible improvements included: 1) A corsage making class for \$5 where we provide the flower and other materials and 2) A repotting demonstration.

David Brown is looking into getting our show information posted on Sign on San Diego as a way to increase attendance.

Old Business

Carol Berg presented a draft of an annual budget for the Society. The Board needs to review the proposed income and expense items and bring their comments to the next Board meeting. One item of interest is the cost of printing and mailing the Newsletter. Bob Clark agreed to provide a count of the members in the Society and how many have provided email addresses and how many of them receive the Newsletter by email. The Board could then look into the possibility of cutting down on the number of mailings we make.

David Brown and Dave Hoffmaster will meet with the Scottish Rite Center on August 13 to pursue a long-term contact with them to hold the Spring Show there for the next five years.

David Brown moved that the Society appoint the following people as Committee chairpersons. The motion passed.

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Design: Ted Angstrom
Design: Jane Linden, London - Geography of Orchids, Plate 40



Ron Velarde

Newsletter Editor

Christopher Croom

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Bruce Berg and Dave Hoffmaster

Balboa Park Show Director

Jack Dimond

San Diego Floral Rep

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David Brown

Conservation

Ron Kaufmann

Hospitality

Rose Alesi

Parliamentarian

Bob Clark

AOS Representative

Siv Garrod

Genie Hammond purchased a new guest book for our general meeting, as the current book is full.

New Business

The speaker for the general meeting is William Toone talking about ways to harvest and store rainwater for use on orchids.

There is some concern regarding payment to

the Society for advertising in our Newsletter. Carol Berg will provide a list of all advertisers for the next Board meeting.

Pam Peters submitted to the Board a revised set of judging categories for the fall and winter shows in the park. After some review, Bruce Berg moved that we accept the proposed changes. The motion passed.

Loren Batchman will propose moving the AOS Judging Center from the San Diego Botanic Garden to Balboa Park at the AOS August meeting. The proposed change will take place in 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Granite Hills Orchids

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Letter From the Editor

Dear SDCOS,

Summer has just started to feel more recognizable in the past few days as temperatures have soared to their normal levels for this time of year, which means that you should be watering your orchid collection quite a bit more on these hot days. While your potted orchids in fine bark and moss might not need as much water as your other plants, some of your mounted orchids might even appreciate water twice per day if you're growing them very bright or live in the hotter and dryer parts of the county (not Del Cerro).

This also means that you might need to water in the evenings a couple of hours before sunset, simulating the summer afternoon rains that tropical orchids typically experience in their native habitats. Crown rot on monopodial orchids seems to be less of a problem when nighttime temperatures are warmer, so the Gremlin-like rule of "don't get your orchids wet after 12 pm" doesn't generally apply this time of year. (There are a handful of orchids that rot whenever they get wet *above* a certain temperature, but luckily none of us grow *Thelymitras*.)

Contact Information:

Christopher Croom

(619) 583-3804

batescroom@cox.net

The speakers that Scott and Bruce lined up for September's meeting look interesting—we've never heard a talk on saving and storing rainwater before, and I don't recall any novice meetings ever being about *Masdevallias*. These have a reputation of being a very fussy genus of orchids (which is why Betty doesn't consider them to be the best choices for every novice), but like many other orchids, following their rules will yield great successes. For these and other members of the *Pleurothallid* alliance, you generally want to water them regularly,

not let them dry out too much, and use only purified (not tap) water. Then all you have to do is not let them get too hot (or cold), and you'll have weeds that make orchids.

Happy Growing,
Christopher