



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.

Volume 152

October 2011

www.sdorchids.com

CULTURE MEETING

By Scott LaBouff, 2nd Vice President

Our speaker for the Culture (Novice) meeting this month will be none other than Christopher Croom, our Newsletter editor. He will be discussing moving an orchid collection and building a lath shade house, an ordeal he has spent the last year enduring in order to provide Society membership with the requisite information about how to avoid doing either of these things at all costs.

Christopher currently grows almost all his orchids outdoors in Normal Heights, and has a collection of around 250 plants. The shade house he just completed has a 144 square-foot floorplan, a French drain underneath it, and 4 tons of drainage stone to level out the floor and facilitate the drain moving water away from the structure. He will relate all of the anger, frustration, cussing, and swear-

ing that he experienced to you during the presentation, and suggest a list of mistakes he doesn't want you to make under any circumstances.

The presentation will also focus on how to nurse worn out orchids back to health after they've been moved and sunburned beyond recognition, and how to avoid potential situations that might lead to your collection looking less-than-presentable after a move.

So, we look forward to seeing you on the 4th if you find this topic remotely interesting. Make sure to come prepared with lots of questions, even if you think they only pertain to you, as there's bound to be at least one other person in the room who is wondering the same thing.

GENERAL MEETING

By Paul Tuskes 1st Vice President

Our speaker for October is Mary Geritsen and she will be give a presentation on the orchids of Borneo. She has traveled a great deal and this is her favorite presentation.

Borneo has an amazing assortment of orchids with some of the most spectacular Paphs and Vanda alliance plants on Earth. The plant opportu-

nity table will be provided by Tom Biggart.

Don't forget to bring your plants in for AOS judging. Judging is in room 104. Please have your plants there a little before 6 pm. Then, enjoy the park and attend the culture class in room 101.

San Diego County Orchid Society

Board of Directors

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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.

Culture Class: 6:30 PM, Room 101

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 bates-croom@cox.net.

Advertisers

Please contact Carol Berg at winklerca@yahoo.com.

Information for the November newsletter must be submitted by October 15.

**Receive your
SDCOS Newsletter
by E-Mail!**

Contact:

membership@sorchids.com

INTERNATIONAL
San Diego Orchid Fair
 Sponsored by and held at
 San Diego Botanic Garden

**17th Annual
 Orchid Show &
 Orchid Sale**

October 1 - 2, 2011

San Diego's largest selection of unusual
 Orchids. Learn how to care for your Orchid at
 "Orchids 101," our ongoing lectures on
 culture and care.

Friday, September 30, 2011
 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM
 Members Only Presale and Exhibit Preview (**New!**)

Saturday, October 1, 2011
 9 AM - 5 PM
Admission FREE in celebration of 25 years
 of the City of Encinitas!

Sunday, October 2, 2011
 9 AM - 4 PM
 General Admission

ENCINITAS 25
 VISIT SDBGARDEN.ORG
 FOR DETAILS
 WWW.SDBGARDEN.ORG

San Diego
 BOTANIC
 GARDEN

Orchid Dates to Remember

October 1

SDCOS Species Group Meeting

First Saturday of the month

Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

October 4, 6:30 p.m

SDCOS Culture Meeting

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

October 4, 7:30 p.m

SDCOS General Meeting

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

October 5

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

October 6, 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

October 19

Cymbidium Society Meeting

Regular meeting, third Wednesday of month

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

San Diego Cty. Botanic Gardens– Ecke Bldg.

230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024

orchldy2@mac.com or (760) 732-0055

October 21

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

October 1-2

San Diego International Orchid Fair 17th Annual Orchid Show and Orchid Sale

San Diego Botanic Garden

www.sdbgarden.org/orchid

October 22-23

SDCOS Fall show

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

See page 6 for more details....

November 5-6

53rd Annual Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Fall Open House

For more information call (800) 553-3387 or

www.sborchid.com

November 26-27

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Fall Show and Sale

Orchids: Nature's Masterpieces

www.orchidsb.net

If you have any announcements that you would like included in the "Dates to Remember" section of the newsletter, please e-mail batescroom@cox.net.



**San Diego County
Orchid Society**

Show in the Park

October 22-23

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

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**53rd Annual
Santa Barbara Orchid
Estate Fall Open House**

Saturday November 5, 8 AM to 5 PM

Sunday November 6, 9 AM to 4 PM

For more information:

(800) 553-3387

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www.granitehillsorchids.com

tombiggart@mac.com 619-886-8121

**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:

San Diego

Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104

1st Tuesday of the month at 6 pm

San Marino

Huntington Botanical Gardens

2nd Saturday of the month at 10 am

Long Beach

Whaley Park

4th Saturday of the month at 7 pm

Visitors—with or without plants—are welcome anytime. If a member of the SDCOS 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:

Rohrl, Helmut (La Jolla)

858-452-0976

Tuskes, Ann and Paul (Clairemont)

858-274-5829

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Judging Report

By Phyllis Prestia

Judging at the San Diego Judging Center (Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park), September, 2011.

There were 10 orchids presented for judging. Three were awarded:

Aeridovanda
Somsri
Sunlight
'Merienda
Lane' AM/AOS
Exhibited by
Ed and Donna
Wise
Awarded AM/
AOS 80 points



Awarded AM/AOS 84 points

Here are some of the others presented for judging:



Cyrtochilum McBeanianum 'Rustic Canyon'
HCC/AOS
Exhibited by Dr. Howard Libberman
Awarded HCC/AOS 77 points

Slc. What'll It Be 'Helen's Delight' AM/AOS
Exhibited by Helen Pfister



C. Katherine Clarkson
Exhibited by Renate Schmidt

Cynoches chlorochilon
Exhibited by Bud Close

Phal.violacea
Exhibited by Helmut Rohr

Phrag. besseae
Exhibited by Helmut Rohr

Fall Show in the Park October 22-23, 2011

Our fall show is fast approaching. Your participation is important. Please prepare your plants for the show. And, as always we need volunteers.

Timeline

Set up will be Friday October 21 at noon.

Plant registration will begin on Friday from 5 to 8 PM and again on Saturday morning from 8:00 to 10 AM.

Judging will be from 10 to 11 AM.

The show opens to the public at noon, but plants in the vendor area go on sale at 10 AM.

On Saturday the show closes at 5 PM.

On Sunday the show opens at 10 AM and closes at 4:30 PM.

Scott and I would like to thank the people who signed up to help at the September meeting... and would like to encourage others to sign up at the October meeting. Security, sales, set-up, tear-down, and judging could all use more people. The show is what we make of it.

Come and have a good time, visit the park and museums... and don't forget to bring your plants. See you at the show!

—Scott 2nd VP & Paul 1st VP

Fall Home & Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds



The Society had a Membership and Info Booth at the Fall Home & Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, Sept. 16-18.

We wish to thank the following volunteers for staffing the booth and answering questions on the Society and on orchid care: Candy Kalman, Dolores Maxwell, Laura Tezer, Susan Lewitt, Joyce Schoof, Duane Pompanescu, Tom Ketelaar, Helen Pfister, Scott LaBouff, and Bob Clark.



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SENIOR PASS (over 60 years of age):

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Renewal rates: \$35 single and \$50 dual

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Renewal Rate - \$84.

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- ~ A year of FREE UNLIMITED ADMISSION to both the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park.
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Your membership supports our plant and animal collections and includes a monthly visit to our Orchid Odyssey on the third Friday of each month from 10am until 2pm.

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www.AndysOrchids.com

San Diego International Orchid Fair 17th Annual Orchid Show and Orchid Sale

October 1, 9 AM - 5 PM
October 2, 9 AM - 4 PM



Come join us for the splendidly colorful San Diego International Orchid Fair where countless varieties of orchids grace the grounds, some in exhibits and some for sale from 15 well known vendors. Learn from the experts how to care for your newly purchased orchids at "Orchids 101," our ongoing lectures on culture and care.

Have your orchid judged- the show is an official American Orchid Society judging event and there will be ribbon judging as well. To register your plants for judging bring them to the Ecke Building on Thursday, September 29, 4 - 7 pm and Friday September 30, 9 am - 1:30 pm. Please make sure they are pest-free, flowers are staked, and plants are clean. Judging begins at 2 pm sharp.

Admission on Saturday: FREE in celebration of Encinitas 25th Birthday. Admission on Sunday: \$12 for adults, \$8 for seniors, students and active military and \$6 for children ages 3-12. Children ages 2 and under are free. Admission is free for San Diego Botanic Garden members and AOS Members. Discounts are available at the [San Diego Botanic Garden web site](http://www.sandiegozoo.org), parking: FREE both days.

In Search of Wild Orchids at Middle Peak

By Bruce Berg



When Nico Goossens suggested we take a hike in August to find orchids at Middle Peak, I was a little leary and almost told him to “go take a hike.” August is usually very warm and some-

what late in the season to go see our local native orchids in bloom. In the past, Middle Peak has been a very good location for finding several of our different species and we thought that their survival after the 2003 fire would be iffy. This fire had been extremely hot and burned our mixed conifer and oak forest down past the roots. It would be important to see what had survived and at what stage the succession growth had come back. We wanted to see the status of our native environment itself. Besides, looking for native orchids isn't always just for the flowers. We are also interested to see if they survive the fire, whether they would be able to establish the next generation, and would they be carrying seed pods?

The temperatures were in the upper 80s and although it was late in the year to be looking for orchids in flower, which would be important for us to determine the species, it's always fun to go on these hikes because there are a lot of other things to see and learn about. Southern California is truly a very unique environment that encourages different plant habitat from sea level to its alpine areas. Although predominately chaparral, we can also find conifer forest and up to sub alpine habitat such as on San Jacinto Peak. We were heading for Middle Peak, elevation 5883, a somewhat low rounded hill situated between Cuyumaca

Peak and North Peak. This hill is located at the north end of Cuyumaca Rancho State Park just above the reservoir. We were to hike 5 to 6 miles on dirt fire roads and trails completely surrounding the hill and ascend a total of about 1100 ft elevation, which according to Nico, would be considered very gradual and easy to do. The hikers who made the trip were Nico Goossens, Dave Hoffmaster, Dick Chadwick, and myself.

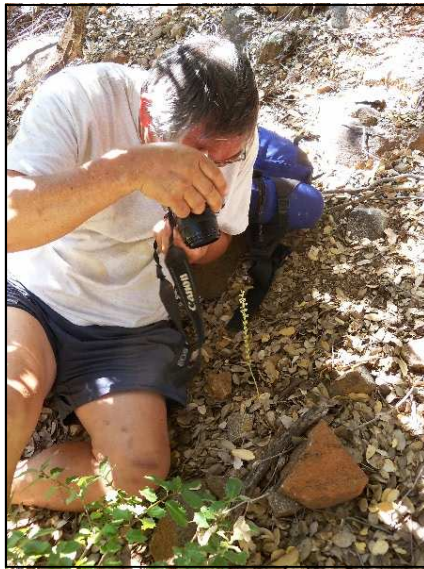


On the drive up through the park, we spotted a lot of wild turkeys and we expected to find other wildlife.

We drove to the dirt parking area at the intersection of Milk Ranch Road and Hwy 79 and began our hike up to the peak. Within the first quarter mile on the trail, we saw many different kinds of birds, rabbits, and a mule deer. We found lots of deer tracks and coyote tracks and scat. There were no living large pine trees and the cedars and live oaks had all lost the large part of their overhead canopy, but were starting to re-sprout. However we did see a lot of *Ceanothus palmeri* which is a tall bush that recovers quickly after fires and is considered one of the first important recovery plants because of its ability to fix nitrogen in the soil. It was accompanied by the many annual and perennial flowering plants that also quickly return to burned over areas. One of our more exciting finds was a Tiger Lily that was just finishing its bloom. Junipers, pines, and fir trees were coming up with heights of two to five feet, most having been replanted by the forest service. It was disheartening to see the many old huge trees that had been destroyed. We hiked almost to the peak; however the last

little bit was completely overgrown by brush and fallen logs. After having lunch where we could see many of the peaks in the Cuyamacas, we began our descent and followed fire roads back down to Milk Ranch Road. Dave, who had hiked this area previously, suggested we hike up to see the Azalea Springs and Azalea Glen. We found the springs and the storage tank. There was a water trough set up for horses and a spigot with clean, cool water for this small group of hikers.

Walking back down the stream along Azalea Glen, we were able to enjoy an area that had not been burned over which had some of the huge old Canyon Live Oaks or Maul Oaks and Jeffery Pines that the area was well known for. We had hoped to find *Corallorhiza maculata*, but were surprised instead by finding several patches of *Piperia transversa*, which were growing under the large interior live oaks in



the leaf litter. We counted over 84 plants in four separate patch locations and, had we let Nico continue hunting, we felt that we could have found many more. By this time, we started talking about big slices of Julian Dutch apple pie ala

mode (with piles of an orchid flavored ice cream).

Piperia transversa is an orchid that likes to grow where there is some moisture in the soil, even in our hot dry summers. The best place to look for them is under large trees in the thick leaf duff. The plant occurs throughout California and is not considered threatened because of the wide dispersal. Plants arise in late spring with two to three leaves that look a

bit like small *Phalaenopsis* leaves, but are not quite as fleshy. These leaves will shrivel and disappear by anthesis, which is the period when the flower is fully functional and means that the inflorescence gets to full height, from six inches to over twelve inches. The flowers are white in color with green mid vein on the sepals which distinguishes them from the other *Piperia* in our area. They are often con-



fused with *Calocortus*, our native mariposa lily. When you are walking along, you can spot a slender stalk arising from

the ground in the dappled sunlight. Looking closer, you can spot more and more of the plants dispersed widely. The plants we saw did not appear in large clusters, but in groups of two or three plants.

Finding these patches of orchids in the last half mile of our planned hike, we consider this a successful hunting trip. We were able to see how the burned over forest is recovering both naturally and with human help. We enjoyed the companionship with many shared memories of the trip. And lastly and most important, we found one of the orchids we came in search of.

We are planning to set up a schedule of hikes in the coming year where we would designate one or two weekends a month in areas which we already visited or in new areas where we will again be "In Search of Wild Orchids."

San Diego County Orchid Society Board Meeting Minutes September 1, 2011

Attendees: Bruce Berg, Carol Berg, David Brown, Scott LaBouff, Helen Pfister, Bob Clark, Lila Wagar, Jim Wright, Paul Tuskes and visitors Dave Hoffmaster and Patty Hoffmaster.

President Bruce Berg called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Officers Reports:

Minutes for the August meeting were approved via email prior to this meeting and were published in the September newsletter.

Carol Berg presented the Treasurer's report for August. David Brown moved to file the report for audit and the motion carried.

Committee Reports:

The Show committee submitted a proposed budget of \$35,000 for the March spring show to the Board. David Brown moved to approve the proposed budget. After some discussion, the motion carried. The Budget must now be submitted to the general membership for final approval. The theme for the show will be selected at the September General meeting.

Fall Show in the Park: Sign up sheets will be available at the meeting. This show is chaired by Scott LaBouff and Paul Tuskes. Scott LaBouff would like to have video instruction both on repotting and on the mounting of orchids made available for our shows in the park. These would be on a continuous loop for the general public and members to view. The Board will look into getting such instructional materials.

Bob Clark gave an updated report on member-

ship.

Old Business:

Carol Berg presented the budget for the fiscal year, David Brown moved to approve the budget and the motion carried.

The Board also held discussions on how to cut our losses, no resolution was reached.

The Board held further discussions on investment strategy. Jim Wright and Carol Berg will be meeting with an investment advisor to gather more information for the Board's consideration.

New Business:

Bob Clark has secured a place for us at the upcoming San Diego Home and Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. We will be in the outside patio. Nice going Bob. David Brown moved that for those members who volunteer, the parking fees should be reimbursed—the motion carried. Thanks again to Lila Wagar for the canopy that she donated. We will be using it at the San Diego Home and Garden Show.

The Board discussed the needed repair to our banner. Paul Tuskes moved that Bruce Berg be granted up to \$100.00 (one hundred dollars) for repair of said banner and the motion carried.

Mary Gerritson will be our speaker at the General Meeting talking on Orchids of Borneo. Jim Wright will be taking our speaker to dinner.

Christopher Croom will be our speaker at the Culture Meeting discussing how to build a lath house and the moving of orchids.

Jim Wright with the help of Carol Berg will be shopping for material for new tablecloths for the vendors' area for the park shows.

Bruce Berg and Helen Pfister will be setting up a display at the San Diego Botanical Garden Show for the Society.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Show Committee

The 2012 Show Committee proposes the following budget for the 2012 spring show at Scottish Rite. The overall budget is \$35,000 and is broken down as follows.

Advertising and Marketing	\$ 5,000
Sales & Merchandise	\$ 2,000
Judging & Awards	\$ 5,000
Facilities	\$ 16,000
Food	\$ 4,000
Supplies & Postage	\$ 3,000
Total	\$ 35,000

This budget was approved by the SDCOS Board at the September Board meeting and presented to the membership at September general meeting. The membership will need to vote on the budget at the October general meeting for final approval.

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Help Hotline

The SDCOS offers this service to members who seek cultural information about their orchids. Here are some friendly hobbyists with a great deal of experience about certain types of orchids, and 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](mailto:Christopher.Croom@orquideas.com) (619) 583-3804

Pleurothallids

[Christopher Croom](mailto:Christopher.Croom@orquideas.com) (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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Letter From the Editor

Dear SDCOS,

We dodged a big bullet this summer, as coastal temperatures barely broke 90 during the “dog days.” If you lost any plants from sunburn or underwatering, now is the time to start rethinking your strategy for next summer, as it would not be unreasonable to expect a hotter, more normal summer next year due to the simple statistical law of regression to the mean. (East County residents may have no idea what I’m talking about, because August in Lakeside is searing, and searing is searing regardless of quantitative temperature differences.)

And how to keep from underwatering your plants? This is as much an economic– and mental-health issue as it is anything else. Start by retiring, marrying a spouse who gets an awesome salary, becoming independently wealthy, retiring, or figuring out how to only spend your money on water, r/o systems, and plants. This will help ensure that you can drop everything to tend to an aphid infestation, to water right before dusk, or to drive to Solvang to find that “perfect” fertilizer. Next, estrange anyone from your social network who refuses to understand or who impedes your rigorous watering schedule. If you have a landlord, kiss your security deposit goodbye and pretend from this day forth to not understand a single word they say. (Start looking for a new rental unit now, by the way.) Hire a nurseryperson to water every day or have a bunch of kids and convince them that the health of your orchid collection is somehow directly related to their standard of living. Finally, move to Seattle and pay to heat the outdoors with your California-style propane heaters. The solutions are as creative as your boundless wealth and time. (Pretending to adjust your serotonin levels through the use of SSRI’s is entirely up to you.)

Contact Information:

Christopher Croom

(619) 583-3804

batescroom@cox.net

In short, happy orchidists lead to happy plants, so come on, get happy!

Happy Growing,
Christopher