



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.

Volume 157

March 2012

www.sdorchids.com

CULTURE MEETING— March 6, 6:30 PM

By Scott LaBouff, 2nd Vice President

Jim Wright will enlighten us on all aspects of ribbon judging, along with how to choose an appropriate plant of your own and preparing it for the show. This includes how to stake the flowers for optimal orientation and cleaning your plant to ensure it is free of pests. You do not want to show a plant with bugs crawling around or with unsightly scale. Also important is how to package your plant for safe travel to the show. Finally there is the process of entering your plant by completing the entry form with the correct judging section and class.

Our upcoming Spring show, March 9th – 11th, is a perfect opportunity to show your plant. It is a satisfying experience to enter your orchid regardless whether it is awarded a ribbon and the show is an excellent opportunity to ask questions and expand your knowledge. Plan to attend the numerous talks scheduled throughout the show and sign-up for judging, as a judge or clerk. There are several opportunities to volunteer during the show where you can interact with fellow members and the public. All of these activities are a perfect time to learn more about orchids. Enjoy the show!

GENERAL MEETING— March 6

Bruce Kidd Trip to Thailand

By Paul Tuskes 1st Vice President

Bruce Kidd, will give the March Presentation regarding a Trip to Thailand.

The thrill of encountering wild orchids growing *in situ* is one of the most enjoyable experiences of the orchid hobby. Who hasn't looked at potted orchids sitting on the bench and wondered what an entire hillside or forest full of them might look like growing in their natural state, sprawled over tree limbs or clustered on rocks alongside a waterfall, the way the first orchid explorers found them? Wouldn't you like to see them that way, rather than huddled by the window near the kitchen sink? Are

those grand old days of orchid exploration days really gone by, not to return? Well, not necessarily. It might be a little more difficult these days to find pristine, untouched populations of wild orchids, but they're out there if you work to find them, and the excitement of discovery is as genuine today as it must have been two centuries ago

Last year, Bruce and Yasue Kidd went on the orchid trail during nearly two months wandering in Thailand. They'd been told that you need to get

Continued on page 5....

San Diego County Orchid Society

Board of Directors

President: [Bruce Berg](#)
 First VP: [Paul Tuskes](#)
 Second VP: [Scott LaBouff](#)
 Treasurer: [Carol Berg](#)
 Secretary: [Helen Pfister](#)
 Directors: [Bob Clark](#)
 Lila Wagar
 Jim Wright
 Past President: [David Brown](#)

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 batescroom@cox.net.

Advertisers

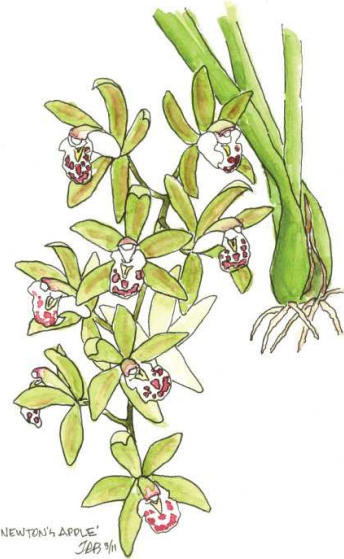
Please contact Carol Berg at winklerca@yahoo.com.

Information for the April newsletter must be submitted by March 15.

ORCHID SHOW & SALE

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY PRESENTS

GALAXY OF ORCHIDS



CMA, NELLA 'NEWTON'S APPLE' JBB 1/11

MARCH 9-11, 2012

Friday 3pm-7pm, Saturday 9am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm

Scottish Rite Center
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 San Diego, CA 92108

Admission \$7
 Weekend Pass \$10
 Children under 12 Free
 Parking Free

For additional
 information:
sdorchids.com
 760.529.2947

67th Santa Barbara International Orchid Show

Orchidelic

March 16~18
 2012

9AM~5PM

general admission: \$12
 seniors/students w/ID: \$10
 children 12 & under w/adult: free

Earl Warren Showgrounds
 Highway 101 & Las Positas Road

www.sborchidshow.com

Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization

beautiful displays
 orchids for sale
 art show & sale
 potting demos



Orchid Dates to Remember

March 3-4

South Bay Spring Show and Sale

Torrance Cultural Arts Center
3330 Civic Center Drive
Torrance CA

March 3

SDCOS Species Group Meeting

First Saturday of the month
Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

March 6

SDCOS Culture Meeting

First Tuesday of the month
Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

March 6, 7:30 p.m.

SDCOS General Meeting

First Tuesday of the month
Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

March 7

Palomar Orchid Society Meeting

Culture class at 6:30; program at 7:00
First Wednesday of the month
The Carlsbad Woman's Club
3320 Monroe Street, Carlsbad
Melana Walding (760) 295-7228

March 8, 7:00 PM

SDCOS Board Meeting

Normally, the Thursday following the General Meeting, Balboa Park, Rm. 104

March 9-11

San Diego County Orchid Society Spring Show and Sale

Scottish Rite Center, Mission Valley
www.sdorchids.com

March 12

Long Beach Amateur Orchid Society Annual Orchid Auction

6 PM– 9 PM
St. Gregory's Episcopal Church Hall
6201 E. Willow Street, Long Beach, CA
www.lbaos.com

March 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

March 16-March 18

The 67th Santa Barbara International Orchid Show

Orchidelic
www.sborchidshow.com

March 21

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

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.



Orchid Show and Sale
March 3rd and 4th
Orchids-R-Easy Classes All Weekend

Sales: Sat & Sun 10-5
Show: Sat 12-5 & Sun 10-5
Location: Torrance Cultural Arts Center
3330 Civic Center Dr., Torrance, CA

- Buy direct from commercial growers
- See award winning orchids
- All day demonstrations on orchid care and repotting

Admission: \$5 Adults
Free Parking

For all show information and a map to the show and sale:
www.southbayorchidsociety.com
Information: (310) 707-7097

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-sparkling light purple flowers.....\$15

Laelia briergeri

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-cute orange flowers on mat-like plant.....\$15

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 fol-
lowing AOS judges:

Rohrl, Helmut (La Jolla)
858-452-0976

Tuskes, Ann and Paul (Clairemont)
858-274-5829

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WORLD-FAMOUS

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Renewal rates: \$37 single and \$59 dual

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Yearly rate \$109.
Renewal Rate - \$94.

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- ~ A year of FREE UNLIMITED ADMISSION to both the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park.
- ~ 6 discount guest coupons good toward admission.
- ~ A One Year Subscription to ZOONOOZ.
- ~ Free Zoo Skyfari
- ~ 4 two-for-one coupons for Zoo Bus Tour.

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP

Yearly rate \$88.
Renewal rate \$76.

For One Adult.
All of the benefits described above under dual membership.

Prices & benefits subject to change.
For more information, call 619.231.0251
Or call toll free 877.3 MEMBER
Visit our website: www.sandiegozoo.org

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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Continued from page 1....

a guide, or you'll never find orchids in the wild. That turned out to be true in areas easily accessible to humans. So, Bruce and Yasue took it as a challenge to see if by following their orchid instincts and hiking uphill long enough, maybe they could find some hidden treasures without the leeches, diseases and cannibals that made orchid hunting a real adventure back in the early days. And finally, they found what they were looking for. Tonight's presentation, "An Orchid Adventure in Thailand," shares some of that experience.

Bruce Kidd has a M.Sc in Weed Science from the University of Arizona and recently retired after 30 years with Dow AgroSciences, where his work involved helping turf and growers solve weed, disease and insect problems in ornamental crops including orchids. Bruce is a past president of the San Diego County Cymbidium Society, and grows about 500 very

tough orchids up in Murrieta. Favorite quote: *"If you're into orchids, you're only a few phone calls away from almost anybody in the world."*

AOS Judging. Hope you enjoyed seeing the great photos of AOS awarded plant given in San Diego during 2011 at the last meeting.. Will pictures of your plants be shown for 2012?. Remember, judging starts at 6 PM before the meeting in room 104. You are always welcome to come and watch.

DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER

Bruce Kidd

Helen Pfister will be taking our March speaker to dinner at the Prado. If you would like to join her and Bruce Kidd and his wife please call 619-222-8873 no later than Monday, March 5 before 11 AM. If no answer please leave a message. Dinner reservations are for 5:15 PM on the 6th.

Updates from Your President

By: Bruce Berg

The time is here for our 66th annual Spring Show. I wish all the volunteers well in helping make this a great show. Speaking of volunteers, we are in need of more members to help with the show. Please contact me if you can help. B2berg@yahoo.com. I also applaud the members who are working hard behind the scenes to organize the show. If you see Dave Hoffmaster, Pam Peters, Susan Lewitt, Esther Sivila, Scott la Bouff, Genie Hammond, or Carol Berg, give them a thanks for all the work they've done to try and make this a great show. At the next upcoming General Meeting, Jim Wright will give a presentation on how to prepare our plants for judging at the Spring Show. Let's use this opportunity to prep up our plants and bring them to the show.

The Society received a gift from the Bell Garner estate of several hundred orchids that will be sold at the Spring Show. The funds from this sale will benefit all of us in the Society. When you visit the show, look over the plants and help by buying one or more plants.

At the Newport Harbor orchid show, our society did not walk away with the best display in the show. In fact, we learned a few things that we'll try to incorporate for next year's show. Congratulations to Renate Schmidt for her AOS award on her beautiful *Angraecum*. Thanks to Fely Acantilado, Helen Pfister, Dave Hoffmaster, and Betty Kelepecz for displaying their plants. We did win quite a few ribbons. My little *Phaleanopsis* won a Best of Section award.

The Board is to be commended on addressing the financial issues of trying to invest our society funds to help improve our income. We have established a Financial Committee who will be looking for help. We need to add 3 members at large to the committee. If you are interested, contact me. The Board is also

starting to work on developing a method to attract new, younger, members to the society. If any of you wish to help mentor new student members, please let me know. This might be a good opportunity to share some of your knowledge on how to repot orchids, or some information on orchid culture in a one-on-one mentoring opportunity. Also, if you know of a student who is interested in orchids, let them know that we are offering free memberships to students. Contact any Board Member for more information.

Nico Goossens and I will be taking a group of members on a hike and campout to the Agua Caliente County Park to try and locate a population of *Epipactis gigantea* wild orchids. This is the first hike that we'll organize this year. If you like to go hiking, or are interested in learning more about our native orchids, this activity may be just the thing you'd enjoy.

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membership@sdorchids.com

Judging at the San Diego Judging Center (Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park), February 2012.

Text and photos by Phyllis S. Prestia, Ed.D.

There were 5 orchids presented for judging. Two were awarded:



L. anceps 'SanBar Pink Envy' HCC/AOS
Exhibited by Paul Tuskes
Awarded HCC/AOS, 79 points



Zygo. Fandango 'Royal Basin' AM/AOS
Exhibited by Arthur Pinkus
Awarded AM/AOS, 82 points

Other exhibited orchids:

Lycaste Spring
Rainbow
Exhibited by
Betty Kelepecz



C. Precious Katie
Exhibited by
Renate
Schmidt



Slc. Fire Magic
Exhibited by
Helmut Rohrl



San Diego County Orchid Society Board Meeting Minutes February 9, 2012

Attendees: Bruce Berg, Carol Berg, Helen Pfister, David Brown, Bob Clark, Jim Wright, Scott LaBouff and visitor Jack Schaefer.

President Bruce Berg called the meeting to order at 7:19 PM.

Officer Reports:

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

Carol Berg presented the Treasurer's report for January. David Brown moved to file the report for audit—the motion passed. The Board held discussions on the profit and loss and on how to decrease our losses. This was tabled until after the Spring Show.

Committee Reports:

The Board congratulates Jack Schaefer and his committee on a great job on the new web-site for our Society. Jack stated that more fine turning needs to be done. He will be doing this in an on-going manner. Other suggestions for the Web-site: a catalog of all Library books that our members can check out, more photographs of our hikes and other Orchid Shows that we attend. A member's only area was also a suggestion.

Bob Clark stated that our membership is up from last month. Our flyers for membership will need to be updated to include student membership with a consent form that parents must sign.

Old Business:

The Board, having initiated student memberships, held further discussions on other ways to help the students learn more about orchid culture and getting some hands on training.

Having received the Articles of Incorporation from the state David Brown moved that we form a Financial Advisory Committee based on the structure of the Garner Educational Fund. The Financial Advisory Committee shall be a five (5) member committee. The Past President and Treasurer of the Society shall be members of that committee—the motion passed.

Helen Pfister moved that the account being opened must have three signatures for withdrawals, President, Past President and Treasurer—the motion passed.

The Newport Harbor Orchid Show "Romancing the Orchid" is coming up and four of our members will be going up to set up the display for our Society, Bruce Berg, Carol Berg, Dave Hoffmaster and Helen Pfister.

New Business:

Speakers for next month are:

General meeting: Bruce Kidd talking about their trip to Thailand. Helen Pfister will be taking the speaker and his wife to dinner. Jim Wright will be speaking to the Culture Class about judging from start to finish.

The President accepted the resignation of Lila Wagar. The President placed before the Board the nomination of Kay Klausing to finish the term as member at large – the motion passed.

The Nominating Committee for the coming years Board will be Ron Kaufmann and Betty Kelepecz.

The next Board meeting is on March 1, 2012 the Thursday before the General Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen R. Pfister, Secretary

Dyed Orchids and Other Abominations

By Christopher Croom

Someone awesome sent me another windmill to tilt at last month, and this trend reminds me of when the Dendrobium White Fairy #5 was infused with glow-in-the-dark genes from the firefly to make the first radioactive-looking orchid in 1999. That patent has or is about to expire, so expect to see these plants at a big box store near you some-time soon.

The windmill, this time, was dyed orchids. Yes, dyeing—a process usually reserved for lame flowers like carnations on St. Patrick's Day, has now taken root in our hobby.

In the February 2012 issue of *Greenhouse Grower*, there's a great article about Phalaenopsis 'Blue Mystique', grown by a company called Silver Vase, that apparently neither has the skill nor time commitments to make blue Phalaenopsis the hard way, by selective breeding with *Doritis pulcherrima* var. *coerulea* and others. Moreover, unless you use the proprietary dye treatment at home (and you can't get it), your next spike from 'Blue Mystique' comes out pure *white*.

Silver Vase claims that the dye process brings more people into the orchid industry who might not otherwise be interested (and I'm sure they really want to stay as soon as their advertised blue orchid blooms out white). The company has also discovered that their dyed inventory sales now far surpass the rest of the orchids they sell, making them fearful that once the fad passes they won't be able to make ends meet.

Not to mention putting 'Blue Mystique' in single quotes is an insult to awarded orchid cultivars and expert breeders everywhere. Dyed (or unnamed) plants bred for the "throw away" market are not for orchid hobbyists like us who actually care about getting the plant to bloom again.

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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Indoor and outdoor
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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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Letter From the Editor

Dear SDCOS,

I hope everyone is gearing up for our BIG SHOW, “Galaxy of Orchids,” at the Scottish Rite Center in Mission Valley. Make sure you don’t miss it, as it comes pretty early this year on **March 9th**. Admission is only \$7, and \$10 will get you an all-weekend pass. Don’t forget to come early on Friday with your cash roll in hand so you get the best pickings from the Conservation Committee booth, and remember that you won’t be allowed anywhere near the exhibit hall with purchased plants once the show starts, so please make good use of the plant hotel. That’s all I have for insider tips, except don’t go into any non-show related areas of the Center. The Masons might introduce you to their crocodile dungeon or use you as a prop in a play.

As for the dialog I started last month on this page, I received numerous responses in support of not awarding orchids without proper names on the tag (and zero who disagreed), as it does not further knowledge

Contact Information:

Christopher Croom

(619) 583-3804

batescroom@cox.net

about our hobby and encourages people to purchase plants that we are not likely to learn very much about. As an orchid society, we should help folks find the proper names for their plants when they lose the tags, but with tens of millions of hybrids compared to only about 30,000 species, this task is a lot easier for species, particularly when our Society doesn’t regularly utilize OrchidWiz or any of the expansive (and expensive) orchid databases that help one identify hybrids. Those beholden to the idea of having Noids (orchids without proper tags) in their collection and bringing them to anything other than monthly meetings should probably discuss the merits of a “Noid Invitational” once or twice a year with the Board to showcase these plants (that should not really be showcased) in a different venue, with only horticultural and specimen awards given. In the immortal words of Eminem, “Here’s my two cents: my ten cents is free.”

Happy Growing,
Christopher