



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 162

August 2012

www.sdorchids.com

CULTURE MEETING— August 7, 6:30 PM *Wade Bogren- Alternatives to Potting Medium Strategy*

By Ben Machado, 2nd Vice President

Wade always has a way about looking at everything from a different angle. With this presentation you will find that orchid medium is not an exception. He has conducted his own hands-on assessment of various mediums and you are in for a surprise to hear what works. The presentation covers conventional and current mediums as well as mediums readily available but not usually used. At the very least he is going to make you take pause with consideration to the possible alternatives. This is going to

be a lively, mind stimulating presentation.

Wade is a long time member of SDCOS usually making himself available for orchid care presentations during our local shows. He is a very successful long time grower, growing a wide range of orchid species and hybrids at his East County location of Rancho San Diego. His plants are always in wonderful condition and he has always been generous with his personal experience along with his

GENERAL MEETING— August 7, 7:30 PM *Arnold Gum- Multifloral Paphiopedilum Breeding*

By Scott Labouff, 1st Vice President

Arnold Gum will speak to us about Paphiopedilum breeding. Arnold will focus on the amazing variety of Paphiopedilum sections, the surprising differences between each section (not all Paphs are born equal!), and the results to expect when you cross between species from different sections. Each section is highlighted by its key traits such as multiple flowers, long petals, and bright colors. Then, hybrids both within section and across different sections are explored, with an eye towards creating colorful

multi-floral Paphiopedilums. Arnold will pepper his talk with periodic questions presenting prizes for the right answer, so pay attention. If you are eager for a prize, study your Paph trivia before the meeting.

Arnold is a patent attorney by day; orchid connoisseur and AOS Judge by night and week-end. Arnold started growing orchids as a young child.

Continued on page 2.....

San Diego County Orchid Society

Continued from page 1....

Board of Directors

President:	Bruce Berg
First VP:	Scott LaBouff
Second VP:	Ben Machado
Treasurer:	Carol Berg
Secretary:	Helen Pfister
Directors:	Bob Clark Kay Klausing 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@gmail.com.

Advertisers

Please contact Carol Berg at winklerca@yahoo.com.

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

However, as opposed to most orchid growers who started with a potted orchid, Arnold's first orchid experience was with a flask. It all started with a shriveled Dendrobium seed pod off of one of his father's plants. Having seen his parents plant seeds in the ground before, the logical assumption was that orchid seeds would grow in the rich Hawaiian soil, just like all of the other lush green plants growing in the back yard. It was, after all, Hawaii! Luckily, Arnold's dad intervened, finding Arnold with hoe in one hand and orchid pod in the other. He explained that orchids are germinated on sterile agar medium. Arnold's first of many questions was, "what's Agar?". One thing led to another and after many questions and much patient explanation by Arnold's dad, Arnold and his father ended up at Stanley Taba Orchid Nursery. Stanley generously gave Arnold two sterile flasks with orchid medium, probably guessing that an elementary school kid would have fun with the flasks but probably not guessing two little flasks would lead to a house full of orchid flasks! [Holy Mitosis, Batman!] One thing led to another and before you could say "humu humu nuku nuku apua'a," the back yard was filled with over three thousand orchids, the house had flasks lining every window, and weekends were spent with orchid growers around the island, learning, observing, and, of course, collecting more plants.

Orchids turned into a lifelong hobby, having survived four college degrees and moves from Hawaii to California to Colorado and back to California. Wherever he went, Arnold has joined local orchid societies and, on occasion, spoken on various orchid topics. *Paphiopedilum* is one of his favorite genera.

Orchid Dates to Remember

August 1

First Wednesday of the month

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

August 4

SDCOS Species Group Meeting

First Saturday of the month

Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

August 7

SDCOS Culture Meeting

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

August 7, 7:30 p.m

SDCOS General Meeting

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

August 8, 7:00 PM

SDCOS Board Meeting

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

August 15

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

August 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

If you have any announcements that you would like included in the "Dates to Remember" section of the newsletter, please e-mail bates-room@gmail.com.



Fascination of Orchids Show and Sale

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 San Marcos, CA 92078

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Concerning Plants for Judging Sessions

By: Helmut Rohrl

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

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:

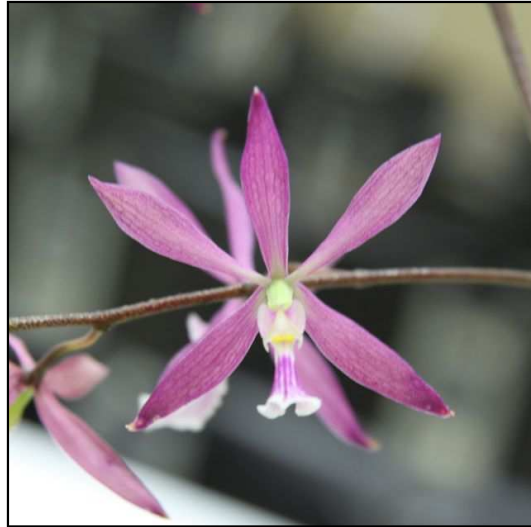
Rohrl, Helmut (La Jolla)
858-452-0976

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

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

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

There were 19 orchids presented for judging. Nine awards were given.



Enc. Coral Miss 'Nitz' HCC/AOS
Exhibited by Anita and Jerry Spencer
Awarded HCC/AOS 76 points



Odm. Hallio-Crispum 'La Jolla' AM/AOS
Exhibited by Helmut Rohrl
Awarded AM/AOS 83 points



Paph. Prince Edward of York 'Sue' AM/AOS
Exhibited by Charlie Fouquette
Awarded AM/AOS 81 points



Catasetum Karen Armstrong 'SVO' HCC/AOS
Exhibited by Fred Clarke
Awarded HCC/AOS 78 points



L. Pacavia 'Carla Mae' HCC/AOS
Exhibited by Anita and Jerry Spencer
Awarded HCC/AOS 77 points



Cirr. pulchrum 'La Jolla' HCC/AOS
Exhibited by Helmut Rohr
Awarded HCC/AOS 75 points



Paph. Robinianum
'La Jolla' AM/AOS

Exhibited by
Helmut Rohr

Awarded AM/AOS
80 points



Rhyncho스테le cordata 'La Jolla' JC/AOS

Exhibited by
Helmut Rohr

Awarded JC/AOS



Encyclia alata ssp. parviflora AM/AOS
Exhibited by Tom Osborne
Awarded AM/AOS 83 points

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Orchid Hotlines

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

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

Karl 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

Granite Hills Orchids

Are your Cymbidiums busting their pots?!?
Are your Cattleyas climbing the neighbor's fence!?!

It's time to call Darcy, the world famous repotter for some help. She can be reached at [619-339-6888](tel:619-339-6888). Don't put this off as now is prime repotting time. Your orchids will thank you immensely!

For recommendations call Bud Close,
Jim Wright, or Tom Biggart

www.granitehillSORCHIDS.com
tombiggart@mac.com 619-886-8121

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Lc. Angel Heart 'Hihimanu' earned Anita Spencer a 1st Place and Best of Section 4B at the July SDCOS orchid show in Balboa Park. Remember, "Lc." means "grows well outdoors in San Diego."

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Updates from Your President

By: Bruce Berg

What a great show the July Show in the Park! Walking through and admiring the plants that our members brought in, I saw many orchids that looked like AOS awardable candidates. You, our members, brought in some outstanding plants. David Brown is writing a thank you article for all the help he received in making this a great show. I'd like to thank David for his work in chairing the show. I had three couples during the show come up to me and say what a great show it was. One couple had visited Hawaii and an orchid garden there. They said our show was 10 times better than what they saw there. Several visitors came here specifically to take pictures, while others came in to see the show. Our show was advertized in the UT, thanks to Susan Lewitt. Our vendors had some great plants for sale. It's tempting to buy, and buy, and buy! Our Conservation sales netted almost \$2000.

Congratulations to Billy Baker for his fantastic E. Cynthia 'Darkest Pleasure', which was voted "Best in Show." Not to be outdone,

Charlie Fouquette brought in his *B. cucullata* which was awarded the Forrest Robinson trophy for best culture.

It isn't too early to start planning for our Fall Show in the Park. Mark your calendars! The dates for this show are October 27 and 28. Helen Pfister and Jack Schaefer will co-chair this show. Fall is a great time to showcase Cattleyas. I'm just hoping to have some of my favorite mini-Catts in bloom.

Your Board is developing goals for the coming year. Your suggestions for things that we can do to accomplish these goals will be welcome. The first goal is to recruit new members and to retain current members. A second goal is to work towards managing our investments better. The third goal is to suggest and implement some new programs to benefit the membership. The last one has already generated a suggestion for arranging field trips to visit our local nurseries.

I'm going to try an experiment and change the agenda for our August meeting by having the General Meeting start out with the speaker and then have our business portion after the break. Let me know what you think.



Photo by Phyllis Prestia



Once again Edith and Leno Galvan's Cym. Little Black Sambo 'Black Magic' took 1st Place and Best of Section 2(B).



Nico's Phal. Sogo Yukidan took 1st Place and Best of Section 8(A) for these rectangular white flowers with green centers.



Nico Goossens's *Cirrhopetalum makoyanum* took 1st Place and Best of Section 12 (ii) for this floriferous warm grower.



Bob Clark's Slc. Tropical Star earned a 1st Place and Best of section. It looks like it was in Section 5(J) at one point.



The Hoffmaster's *Sobralia Mirabilis* (*S. macrantha* x *S. Veitchii*) showed some beautiful line-bread characteristics of *S. macrantha* and earned 3rd Place.



Kay Klausning's *Laelia sanguiloba* only earned 2nd Place in Section 12 Q, despite being one of the largest of the species in this area.



Renate Schmidt's *Oncidium Alosuka* (is it 'Claire'?) earned 1st Place and Best of Section 9(J). This reminds me of *Onc. varicosum* var. *rogersii* 'Baldin' with its strong color contrast.



Take two stinky and large-flowered *Bulbophyllums* and cross 'em: Nico's *Bulb. Echinolabium* x *Bulb. Carunculatum* earned a 1st place (Section 10B) with its old cheesy, rotten meat-smelling flowers.



Kay Klausung's *Stanhopea nigroviolacea* 'Predator' was an extremely rare treat in Section 12, with its 7" mint chocolate chip ice cream-y scented blooms. When was the last time you saw one of these at our shows?



Our Best in Show plant was this *Encyclia Cynthia* 'Darkest Pleasure' grown by Billy Baker. And you thought it was grown by Renate!



Billy also grew this *Cattleya Valentine* 'Billy's Blue', which earned it a 1st Place and Best of Section 11. Nice job, Billy!



This looks like a Fouquette plant with lots of *P. rothschildianum* or *P. philippinense* in it, but in all the show excitement I neglected to photograph the tag.

Don't Pee on Your Orchids: A Fertilizer Primer

By: Christopher Croom

We make a big deal about orchid fertilizers, probably a bigger deal than needs to be made unless our living s are dependent on how sexy our orchids appear. Most orchids actually need very little fertilizer and get very little in the wild (monkey and bird poop, dust, leaf litter, etc.), to the extent that epiphytic orchids used to be thought of a “parasites” that actually stole resources from the plants they grew on. For most orchids (except for a handful of terrestrial saprophytes), nothing could be further from the truth. About 80% of orchids happen to just be less nitrogen dependent than the other vascular plants we are used to as an adaptation to epiphytic living.

Urea-free fertilizers used to be a big deal, to the extent that many “orchid” fertilizers are still urea-free. This is because urea is a great big nitrogenous molecule that has a hard time entering orchid roots, and we used to think that the unused urea would accumulate in the orchid pot and eventually burn root tips. That urea is always broken down by soil microbes in the case of terrestrial orchids, and seems to not be so harmful in the case of epiphytes, although there is no sense paying for nitrogen that your plants aren't guaranteed to be able to use. (Urea is found in urine, and to release it and other nitrogenous compounds that your orchids *can* use, you need only mix it with the right amount of urine-eating enzyme, urease. Or just mix urine with wood ash and fertilize your beets with it, as Finnish researchers did quite successfully.)

So a urea-free fertilizer is good to look for provided it isn't more expensive per unit than any other, garden-variety plant fertilizer.

Right now I've been talking about fertilizers that you dissolve in water, and water-soluble fertilizers should generally be mixed at 1/4th– 1/2 of the strength that the manufacturer recommends on

the label. If you don't have an injector, fertilize your orchids once a week to twice a month (more in the hotter months/growing periods and less right after blooming and in cooler months), and with an injector (Hozon/siphonex counts) or a careful hand you can fertilize your orchids at a very weak strength every time you water. While most orchids definitely do not need a tiny amount of fertilizer with *every* watering, commercial growers do it for a reason and a few orchids (like some tiny *Bulbophyllums* and others prone to “shrinkage” or extremely slow growth) virtually require it to grow and bloom properly.

If mixing fertilizer into your pressure sprayer or hose mixer isn't your cup of tea, you can still grow show-quality orchids with coated fertilizer granules such as Dynamite or Osmocote that are designed to be mixed with the potting material and slowly leach their nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus out into the pot over a few months. These will need to be replaced about twice year with a top dressing of your potted orchid, and you need to be careful not to add too much or you will burn your roots. Also, don't forget weekly flushing with this kind of fertilizer so that you don't develop pockets in the growth medium with a large amount of total dissolved solids.

Selecting the right kind of fertilizer with the kind of water you are watering your orchids with is also important. Since most of our tap water in San Diego County is alkaline and loaded with crap, using an acidic fertilizer like Miracid or anything for azaleas and then highly diluting it is often an excellent choice if you water with tap water. If you use deionized or reverse osmosis treated water, virtually any fertilizer will work if you don't mix it too strong. Organic fertilizers like fish emulsion and kelp extract work great in both environments but have a tendency to be expensive, break down organic potting media quickly, and make open blooms crash upon contact.

Finally, don't forget a varied diet for your orchids, so switch up the fertilizers every so often for best results!

San Diego County Orchid Society Board Meeting Minutes July 5, 2012

Attendees: Bruce Berg, Scott LaBouff, Ben Machado, Carol Berg, Helen Pfister, David Brown, Kay Klausing, Jim Wright and visitors Jack Schaefer and Paul Tuskes

President Bruce Berg called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Officer Reports:

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

Carol Berg presented the Treasurer's report for June. Bruce Berg moved to file the report for audit—the motion passed.

The Treasurer also presented a preliminary budget for the coming year. After some discussion David Brown moved to accept the preliminary budget as the budget for the year 2012-2013—the motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Jack Schaefer presented a report on the website. The "In Memoriam" page will be made available to the public.

Old Business:

David Brown will obtain rental information for the Marina Village facility.

David Brown stated that the Summer Show in the Park is on schedule. Betty Kelepez will be acting head judge for the Summer Show in the Park. Jack Schaefer and Barbara Smith will be acting cashiers.

The outdoor signs that Helen Pfister was looking into has been tabled for the present while David Brown is looking into doing the signs.

Paul Tuskes will be seeking assistance for the development of a brochure for fund raising purposes.

We are looking at 2 form letters for tax exempt donations, one for the cash donations and the other for plants.

Bruce Berg will write an article for the newsletter about the newsletter and its costs. He will ask the membership for their opinions on this subject.

New Business:

The Culture class speaker will be Wade Bogren speaking on "Alternatives to Potting Medium Strategy"

The General meeting speaker will be Arnold Gum. The opportunity table has not yet been arranged.

Goals for the new Board 2012– 2013:

Each member of the Board will email the President their suggestions for specific action items addressing the following goals for this year:

- Recruiting new members and retaining current members.
- Financial security.
- Programs to benefit membership.
- Spring Show support.

The Fall Show in the Park will be co-chaired by Helen Pfister and Jack Schaefer with assistance from Kay Klausing.

Bruce Berg moved to amend the two motions

passed on February 9, 2012.

The motion of February 9, 2012 to create a Finance Committee is hereby replaced with the following motion:

The Board approves the establishment of a Finance Committee whose responsibilities are to invest the Society’s funds in a reasonable and prudent financial manner.

1. The investments of the Society’s money are intended to ensure long term capital safety while providing a diversified portfolio that will earn a reasonable return.
2. The Committee will report directly to the Board of Directors who will approve the investment strategy developed by the Committee. The Committee will also report on the investments of funds directly to the Board of Directors.
3. The Committee will manage the investment of all of the Society’s money, including those of the Garner Educational Fund. The Garner fund investments shall follow the requirements of the Garner Resolution and will be identifiable separately from other investments.
4. The Finance Committee Chairman and committee members will be nominated annually by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer of the Society shall be a standing member of the committee. One member of the Board of Directors shall also be a member of the committee along with the immediate Past President.
5. It is also the intent of this motion that the Immediate Past President is not required to be Chairman of the Finance Committee, unless approved by the Board of Directors.

The above motion passed.

The second amended motion is as follows: The approved motion requiring 3 signatures for withdrawal of funds is hereby rescinded. This is because Article IV, Section 7 (f) of the Bylaws covers the depositories for all society funds. David Brown moved that we accept this motion as amended—the motion passed.

**Standing Committee Chairpersons
2012-2013:**

Advertising	Carol Berg
Historian	Open
Membership	Bob Clark
Refreshments	Ken and Candy O’Key
Librarian	Ron Velarde
Special Activities	Open
Plant Opportunity	1st Vice President
Hospitality	Open
Spring Show	Dave Hoffmaster and Bruce Berg
AOS Representative	Siv Garrod
Orchid Digest Rep	Lynn Ford
San Diego Botanical and Garden Foundation	David Brown
Balboa Park Orchid Show	Open
Conservation	Ron Kaufmann
Newsletter	Chris Croom
Webmaster	Jack Schaefer
Finance	Open

Date for the next Board meeting is August 9, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen R. Pfister, Secretary



San Diego County Orchid Society
P.O. Box 161020
San Diego, CA 92176

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Letter From the Editor

Dear SDCOS,

As I sit here on my mountaintop eating my loco moco (maple sugar and diced garlic chives sprinkled over the top are key, and don't forget a clove in the brown gravy), I cannot help but marvel at what wonderful summer weather we've been having. I mean, usually by this time of year we've had a shock or two of hot days to remind us that God still might be vengeful, like He was in Leviticus and still is in Haiti. We are not grappling with record heat and drought here, unlike the rest of our nation. This evidently is *your* summer if you tend to procrastinate on repotting and weeding your orchids, though I suspect it will be longer than normal because of all the good luck we've been having. This could even allow you more procrastination if we're actually facing three more months of rapid-growing temperatures; whatever you neglected in June, July, and August *might* be recuperable in September and October if you're lucky.

The SDCOS would like to thank last month's speaker, Merle, for donating his speaker fees to the Conservation Committee. 1st V.P. Scott Labouff would like you to know that Nico Goossens will be providing the plant opportunity table for this month's talk on *Paphiopedilum* breeding. Also, call Scott at (619) 248-7300 by 12 p.m. on 8/6 if you'd like to meet the August speaker for dinner.

Contact Information:

Christopher Croom

(619) 583-3804

batescroom@cox.net

You might notice some changes to the format of the August meeting; the business that is normally discussed in the beginning that usually makes your eyes roll back into your head out of boredom has been moved to the end of the meeting, after the speaker has talked. We'll see if folks like the new meeting layout; if you do, be sure to tell Bruce Berg (our President).

Finally, Dr. Phyllis Prestia would like me to inform you that all unattributed comments on the AOS awards page come from me and not her (as do all other unattributed comments elsewhere in the Newsletter).

Happy Growing,
Christopher