



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 163

September 2012

www.sdorchids.com

CULTURE MEETING– September 4, 6:30 PM **Anna Majeuskis – My First Orchid was an Epi**

By Ben Machado, 2nd Vice President

Everyone with any kind of an orchid collection is bound to have at least a few of the reed-stem Epidendrums sparkling and bringing year round color to their lives. But you have to admit that you never see Epi's in as fine a condition as the Epi's Anna brings in for show and tell and for our various shows. At this month's culture meeting Anna is going to share some of the techniques she uses to bring her prizes to their full glory.

was an Epi given to her by a close friend. Over the years she focused on providing the conditions best for extreme high quality Epi presentation, working with light, watering, fertilizing, repotting. You know, the same thing you do with all your orchids; in this case it's those little finesse treatments that Anna uses to make her Epi's happy plants.

Continued on page 5.....

Anna says it's true, her first orchid

GENERAL MEETING– September 4, 7:30 PM **Tom Biggart – Bifoliate Cattleyas**

By Scott Labouff, 1st Vice President

Cattleyas are divided into two primary groups, the unifoliate or one-leaved Cattleyas and the bifoliate or two-leaved group of Cattleyas. Tom Biggart will address the latter bifoliate group. Examples include names you may already be familiar with: *C. bicolor*, *Guarianthe* (*Cattleya*) *bowringiana*, *C. forbesii*, *C. harrisoniana*, *C. intermedia*, *C. loddigesii*, *C. schilleriana*, *C. skinneri*, and *C. walkeriana*, among others. This group is primarily native to Brazil and neighboring countries.

Tom Biggart is the owner and head grower of GRANITE HILLS ORCHIDS in El Cajon, California, a small town 15 miles east of San Diego. His nursery is a hobby business which means he doesn't make a living growing plants. It is more of a labor of love! Tom loves plants in general, and orchids are his main passion. He is very interested in Encyclias and has a large collection of *Encyclia* species

Continued on page 8.....

San Diego County Orchid Society

Board of Directors

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 Treasurer: [Carol Berg](#)
 Secretary: [Helen Pfister](#)
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 Jim Wright
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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 batescroom@gmail.com.

Advertisers

Please contact Carol Berg at winklerca@yahoo.com.

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

San Diego International Orchid Fair

*Dedicated to the Memory
of Loren Batchman*

October 6 - 7



Wide Variety of Rare and Unusual
Orchids, Lectures on Culture and
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Cost: Free with membership or
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Bring in this ad for \$2.00 off admission.
Good for October 6-7, 2012 only.

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Orchid Dates to Remember

September 1

SDCOS Species Group Meeting

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

September 4

SDCOS Culture Meeting

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

September 4, 7:30 p.m

SDCOS General Meeting

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

September 5

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

September 6, 7:00 PM

SDCOS Board Meeting

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

September 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

September 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

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



Fascination of Orchids Show and Sale
September 29 & 30, 2012 10 am to 5 pm
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1631 West Sunflower
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Southern California Orchid Species Society

ANNUAL ORCHID AUCTION
Sunday, October 14, 2012

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Corner of Chapman and Kraemer

Preview at 12:30 PM
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Orchid Conservation Alliance

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

Receive your
SDCOS Newsletter
by E-Mail!

membership@sdorchids.com

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

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

There were five orchids presented for judging. Two awards were given.



Lc. San Diego Variable 'Solana Beach' AM/AOS
Exhibited by Billy Baker
Awarded AM/AOS 82 points



C. leopoldii v. virginalis 'SVO No Spots' AM/AOS
Exhibited by Fred Clarke
Awarded AM/AOS 82 points

Dear Friends,
I am excited to announce the

**Southland Orchid Show at the
Huntington Botanical Gardens and
Library on October 19 – 21, 2012.**

This year's theme is 'Orchid Mystique'. I hope that you will be able to join us and see the clever designs the participants will dazzle us this year.

It goes without saying that the show cannot succeed without your assistance. If you can, please sign up as a ribbon judge, host/hostess, and plant hotel volunteer.

The ribbon judging is on Thursday, October 18 and starts at 9:30. Please come by 9:00 so you can socialize and meet your fellow judges. Lunch will be provided and you will get a commemorative show pin.

The host/hostess and plant hotel volunteers sign up is for Friday through Sunday. You will receive a free commemorative pin and free entrance to the show. Invite your partner, friends, or relatives to join you.

There is a new category of floral designs through the Gardens Club. Contact me if you are interested and I can give you more information.

You may reach me at 909-626-8244 or at wardbrendar@hotmail.com. Thank you very much for your support.

Brenda Ward
Volunteer Coordinator

*Culture Meeting Details
Continued from page 1.....*

Anna is pretty much a mainstay of our Orchid Society. She is always there for everything, it doesn't matter what. Ask her to bring in plants, perform security, make corsages, help with set up, it doesn't matter to Anna she's right there to help in any way with cheerfulness and energy. Once more, Anna is again doing the extra little bit by putting together this culture presentation.

Thank you, Wade Bogren, for your very fine culture presentation last month about orchid media. Once Wade started into his presentation silence fell over the room because he had everyone's attention. No telling, as the result of his presentation all the Melaleuca trees in the San Diego region may suddenly lose their outer bark layers.



The **Orchid Society**
of **Santa Barbara**
PRESENTS
**ORCHID
TREASURES**

Show and Sale

November 17, 2012: 10 AM - 5 PM
November 18, 2012: 10 AM - 3 PM

- X Beautiful & Educational Displays
- X *Laelia anceps* on Parade
- X Orchids for Sale
- X AOS, CSA, & Ribbon Judging



Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
2599 Puesta del Sol Road, Santa Barbara, CA
Show FREE with Museum Admission, Museum FREE on Sunday Nov. 18th
Museum: \$10 Adults, \$7 Seniors & Ages 13-17, \$6 Ages 3-12
Info: fmorchids@hotmail.com or www.orchidsb.net

WORLD-FAMOUS

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- ~ Free Zoo Skyfari
- ~ 4 two-for-one coupons for Zoo Bus Tour.

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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

From the Membership Desk

Welcome to our newest members: Glee & Bob Shaddock, Krista Mills, Elena Oleksishina, Andy Groshans, and Connie Massey.

Membership Report

There is now a new member name badge as our former maker retired. You will notice some differences but there is no need to order a new one. If you don't have a badge you may consider purchasing one. They are \$7.00 and comes with a Swivel Bulldog Clip like the previous one. At an additional cost you can order a badge with a Magnet, Pin, or Military Clip.

If your membership is expiring or has expired you might want to renew via PayPal through the Society website. One can join the Society, or renew an individual or a dual membership via the Membership page. You can also purchase a SDCOS name badge or make a contribution to the Society conservation efforts. The Membership Application page has the current application and PayPal access. That page is: <http://www.sdorchids.com/MembershipApplication.html>.

Your Board encourages you to continue bringing new members including student members to the Society.

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Updates from Your President

By: Bruce Berg

I hope your plants have survived the scorching heat we've had in August. It's a challenge to keep our plants healthy this time of year. Water, mist mist mist Water, mist mist mist. It's also tough to get out in the heat to check on our plants. Sometimes I think that "Santee" must be a name for "a place that gets hotter'n heck in the summer."

Some exciting news from Dave Hoffmaster later in the newsletter about the AOS Membership meeting being held in conjunction with our Spring Show this coming March 22nd thru 24th, 2013. Speaking of the show you can vote at the September meeting to select the show theme!

The Board voted on a set of goals to accomplish this coming year. Details are in the Board Minutes section. If members have suggestions to help with achieving these, or to make these more meaningful, your suggestions would be welcome. I'm looking forward to having some society visits to local nurseries. The Board also finalized a new contribution form for people donating either plants or money to the society.

The Finance Committee opened up an investment account at Fidelity. The new committee members are: Helen Pfister, Scott Opis, Carol Berg, and David Brown. The goal for the committee is to find a safe investment portfolio so that we can earn some interest while protecting our principle.

We have several new members to welcome. In July, Kelvin Chan joined our society. In August, Glee and Bob Shaddock, Connie Massey, and Kristina Mills became new members. Andy Groshans, who was a previous member, rejoined us. We have a new student member, Elena Oleksishina. Welcome! A great way to meet our society members is to look at the plant forum table and ask who brought in a

plant that you like. It's likely that you can meet a new friend who shares your interest in a plant that you like. Also, for our society members, if you see someone new, especially ones looking at our plants on the display table and introduce yourselves and have a fun time meeting people who share your love of orchids! I know I will!

*General Meeting Details
Continued from page 1.....*

and hybrids. Also, Australian cool growers are a current interest. Tom is a retired elementary school teacher with orchids as his new students. The past few years he and his wife, Neal, have gotten interested in ceramics. In typical Biggart fashion they now have a throwing building, a glazing building, and a kiln yard with 3 kilns. His pottery is designed primarily for plants and can be seen at most of the local orchid shows and at the nursery. Tom loves to talk about orchids and pottery with anyone interested!

You may want to take a look at your own collection of Cattleyas to see the variety of unifoliate and bifoliate plants you have. Tom always provides an entertaining and educational presentation. Tom will also provide this month's plant opportunity table.

Dinner with the Speaker

Join Tom Biggart and other members for dinner at the Prado Restaurant before the meeting.

Please RSVP no later than Monday, September 3. Contact Scott LaBouff at 619-248-7300.

Meet in room 101 at 5:30.
Dinner is at 5:45 PM.

Orchid Fertilizers Part 2: The Slightly More Technical Side

By Christopher Croom

Last month, I filled your head with ideas that appealed to you that I'm sure some folks regarded as wrong: unless you're a commercial grower or trying to win awards fertilizers don't really matter all that much, epiphytic orchids are probably more conservative in their use and needs of nitrogen than other plants, chemical fertilizers are less nice to the little creatures around your orchids while organic fertilizers tend to be less nice to orchid flowers, the *real* "food" plants "eat" comes from the interaction between their leaves and the sun, and that in any case tearing your hair out over whether or what to fertilize with isn't worth it on any level. From my experience and for most orchids, these maxims are largely true. But, there are a few more details to pay attention to for the greatest possible enjoyment of your orchid collection.

One factor that seems to be important in bringing many types of orchids into bloom is the proper balance of calcium and magnesium, or at least the presence of those elements in the water that you use to irrigate your collection. This is why many people will add Epsom salts to their fertilizer mixes, usually at a rate of 1 tsp. to 1 tablespoon per gallon depending on the quality of water you are starting with. While there is plenty of calcium and magnesium in the soils around San Diego that leach into our tap water making this tactic less important to those who water their orchids using city water, if you purify your water before using it on your orchids, adding calcium and magnesium to the purified water

may be necessary for optimal blooming for some kinds of orchids. Luckily, many fertilizer companies are already mixing magnesium, calcium, and other trace elements into their fertilizers in ample amounts so you don't need to worry about this.

How you fertilize and your fertilizer mix all depend on how you are watering. With a small windowsill collection you might filter water in your Brita pitcher and then add 1/2 tsp. of chemical fertilizer and 1/4 tsp. of Epsom salts to each gallon and mix it before you water your plants with it. With a slightly larger collection, you could purchase a pressure sprayer (from 1 qt. to 5 gal.) from Home Depot and do the same thing. With an even bigger collection, you'll have an injector (like a Siphonex/Hozon or an electronic one) that squirts fertilizer from a pre-mixed bucket into the stream of water you use every time you water.

As for the ubiquitous numbers on fertilizer packaging, these refer to the ratio of nitrogen to phosphorus to potassium, so a "30-30-30" fertilizer is "balanced," having equal numbers of these growth- and blooming-encouraging elements. Conventional orchid wisdom suggests using a balanced fertilizer most or all of the time if you don't want to get fancy. If you do, then the conventional wisdom says to use nitrogen-heavy fertilizers during times of active growth (like a 30-10-10) when you want the plant to put on pseudobulbs and leaves; but right before the plant comes into blooming season, using a phosphorus-heavy fertilizer (like a 10-30-10) encourages development of the inflorescence. Sticking to a "weekly, weakly" fertilizer regimen and switching the balance of fertilizers at the right times is definitely a tactic worth using on finicky bloomers if you can.

San Diego County Orchid Society Board Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2012

Attendees: Bruce Berg, Scott LaBouff, Ben Machado, Carol Berg, Helen Pfister, David Brown, Bob Clark, Jim Wright and visitors Jack Schaefer and Ron Kaufmann.

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

Officer Reports:

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

Carol Berg presented the Treasurer's report for July. David Brown moved to file the report for audit—the motion passed.

Renewal notices for advertising in our Newsletter are slowly being returned.

California Garden Club sent a request for our renew. Helen Pfister moved that we renew, the motion was seconded. The Board then held discussions. Our name did not appear in last years publication and again this year we missed the cutoff for our Society's name to appear in the publication—the motion failed.

Committee Reports:

Jack Schaefer, our webmaster, gave an updated report on the web counter. All site had many more hits including the culture page, which in the past has had very few if any.

The yearly bill for Earth Link has been paid. The "In memoriam" page is up and now waiting for articles to be written and approved by the Board. The web committee met last Monday and have the user login designed.

Bob Clark, our Membership Chair, one new student membership.

Bruce Berg gave the Board a report on the Fi-

nance Committee meeting. A general account has been opened with Fidelity Financial. The following members were nominated for appointment to the Finance Committee: Helen Pfister and Scott Opis along with the Treasurer and Past President. Dave Brown moved to accept these nominations—the motion passed.

The Board held discussions on the following: the need for 3 signatures to open an account. Garner Fund investments being secure. Finance Committee to report to the Board every 3 to 6 months.

Old Business:

Bruce Berg motioned to establish a committee for raising money, to evaluate and report back recommendations to the Board—the motion passed.

Bruce Berg motion and nominated Jack Schaefer as Chairperson of this Fund Raising committee—the motion passed.

Donation form letters that the Board has been working on needs to be slightly revised and will be approved by the Board via email.

Bruce Berg motioned to adopt the following goals for this years Board—the motion passed.

1. Recruiting new members and retaining current members.

a. Promote and support our website, to encourage more people to visit our site, attend meetings, and become members. Measure website hits and compare with new memberships, or visitors.

b. Signs magnetic or yard signs, or bumper sticker with "Orchid Show and Sale SDORCHIDS.Com:" or license plate holder "www.sdorchids.com San Diego Orchid Society". Making a banner or two.

c. Have a training plan in place by January to encourage and recruiting student members.

d. Institute a phone call process to contract

non-renewing members. Track phone calls made against subsequent renewals.

e. Give each new member an orchid the first meeting they attend as a new member. (From the opportunity table). Measure of success, 100% accomplishment.

f. Do a short bio in the newsletter on new members or send email to new members welcoming them to the society. Measure of success, 100% Accomplishment.

g. Visit with each visitor or new member at each General Meeting.

h. Go out to 4 garden club meetings and give talks on orchids and take membership applications.

2. Financial Security.

a. Open account at an investment firm.

b. Make initial investments to get higher rate of return than present.

3. Programs to benefit membership.

a. Visiting local vendors or nurseries. Goal, 4 per year.

b. Maybe plan a picnic in a park or on the beach. Goal, 1 per year.

c. Just a get together that does not involve bringing orchids—just getting together. Not to take the place of the Award Party or Holiday Party (Christmas). (Combine with (b) above?)

c. Hands-on repotting party. Goal, 2 per year.

d. Organize one carpool or bus trip to visit an orchid show in the LA area or Santa Barbara.

David Brown gave a report on the Summer Show in the Park. David also reported back on his findings in regards to Marina Village. This information will go to the Show Committee for evaluation.

New Business:

Ron Kaufmann reported to the Board on the Conservation Committee and their activities and fund raising strategies. Expounding on their accomplishment last year and plans for this coming year.

The Spring Show Committee chairmen reported that they have been working with the AOS to explore inviting them to host their next Membership meeting in conjunction with our Spring Show.

San Diego Home Garden Show is September 14, 15, and 16. We have been invited to participate. Ron Kaufmann may utilize this space for the Conservation Committee, he will notify Bob Clark before the deadline of August 27th

The Board held discussions on the format of the General Meeting and the possible problems with photographers at the Park Show using tripods.

Speakers for September will be as follows:

Culture Class—Anna Majeviskis—My first orchid was an Epidendrum.

General Meeting—Tom Biggart—Brazilian Cattleyas

Plant Opportunity Table –Tom Biggart

Date of next Board meeting September 6, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Helen R. Pfister, Secretary

Addendum to August 9, 2012 minutes

On August 12, 2012 Bruce Berg via phone calls and emails made the following motion:

To accept AOS request to have their Membership Meeting during our Spring Show—the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen R. Pfister, Secretary



San Diego County Orchid Society
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Letter From the Editor

Dear SDCOS,

We've been benefitting somewhat from a summer that is more tepid than it could be, even though California has had more wildfires this year than most of the western states combined. Along the coast we've been a few degrees above normal here and there; inland orchid populations have been subjected to a more Mercurial kind of heat. If this were West Texas or Nebraska or even Brawley, our tune could be much worse. Most orchids really don't like it over 100 degrees, although I'm sure you could find some notable exceptions (I would suspect *Oncidium cebolletum* and *Rhyncholaelia*, some *Oceoclades* and *Eulophia*, a few *Schomburgkia*, and rupicolous Laelias probably care very little as long as they have access to water).

Our orchid society has been suffering from shrinkage over the past few years, like a *Cirrhopetalum fascinator* living on a fast-drying medium with no access to fertilizer. Luckily the Board has put together a comprehensive plan to deal with this issue; read about it on pages 10-11.

Tom Biggart, local orchid grower and potter extraordinaire, will be providing a plant table (mmmmm....bulletproof established rupics) for his General Meeting talk on September 3rd. When I get done writing about fertilizer I'll throw together a plausible (albeit possibly fictitious) explanation for Tom's interest in ceramics (besides, maybe artistic talent) in an article about specimen plants and what to do with them. I'm thinking of becoming a potter myself because of a few orchid-related problems.

Contact Information:

Christopher Croom

(619) 583-3804

batescroom@cox.net

Also, any newbies wanting to learn about confidence-building and rewarding easy-growers should come to Anna Majeviskis's Culture Meeting talk on September 3 to learn about reed-stemmed Epidendrums, arguably the most forgiving of all orchids.

Happy Growing,
Christopher