



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 170

April 2013

www.sdorchids.com

San Diego County Orchid Society

CULTURE MEETING- April 2, 6:30 PM *Orchid Virus Testing and Control for the Good of Your Collection*

By Ben Machado, 2nd Vice President

Our culture class presentation this month is by Debby Halliday. Yes, that Debby Halliday, the one who consistently brings in her own orchid extravaganza for every one of our orchid events. This month she is going to share a bit of personal experience that has led toward her more than excellent show quality orchids.

We all know of and are aware of that most gruesome affliction, *The Evil Orchid Virus!!* Do we really want to

know? Can we just not think about it? Maybe it will just go away? Maybe we can live with it? Do we really have to destroy our plants? Holy orchids Batman, now what do we do? Debby doesn't claim to have all the answers but she is going to do her best to pass on what she has gone through when confronted with orchid virus.

Debby is a very interesting lady. She

Continued on page 6....

GENERAL MEETING- April 2, 7:30 PM *Red Masdevallias*

By Scott Labouff, 1st Vice President

Karen Muir will present a look at the red Masdevallia species, their temperature ranges and why some are used for breeding while others, although beautiful, are not. Additionally some of the more important hybrids for red color will be discussed along with basic growing rules.

Karen is originally from Michigan where she began raising orchids around 1975. She was a member of

the Michigan Orchid Society (MOS) and held all of the offices of MOS including Show Chair, Program Chair, Vice President and President. Karen became an accredited American Orchid Society Judge in 1997. The following year, she was transferred by her employer, Lincoln Mercury, to Irvine, California. Karen has been enjoying retirement since January 2002. She has served 5 years as the

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San Diego County Orchid Society

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 May newsletter must be submitted by April 15.

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Orchid Dates to Remember

April 2, 6:30 PM
SDCOS Culture Meeting
First Tuesday of the month
Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

April 2, 7:30 PM
SDCOS General Meeting
First Tuesday of the month
Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

April 3
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

April 4, 7:00 PM
SDCOS Board Meeting
Normally, the Thursday following the General Meeting, Balboa Park, Rm. 104

April 6
SDCOS Species Group Meeting
First Saturday of the month
Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

April 17
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

April 19
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



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Update from Your President

By: Bruce Berg

The 2013 Spring Show “Orchids by the Sea” was a great show. Thanks to all of you who made it possible. In particular I’d like to thank the Show Committee Chairs for their hard work. Dave Hoffmaster, Show Chair working with the vendors, the Scottish Rite Event Center staff, and the AOS (American Orchid Society) staff who had their own meetings in conjunction with our show.

Thanks to Genie Hammond who worked with Ranch Catering to bring us the delicious lunches.

Although there were many other activities going on that weekend, Joyce Schoof and Susan Lewitt worked hard trying to get publicity for the show. Susan also was responsible for design and ordering the coffee mugs. Scott La Bouff designed and ordered the license plate covers.

Ann and Paul Tuskes coordinated the AOS awards judging and photography for all of the trophies earned by our members. They will hopefully make a presentation at our awards banquet at our May meeting.

Of course, Carol Berg did an outstanding job in making sure that all of the many financial tasks were completed perfectly.

Thanks also to Pam Peters who organized a great team of judges and clerks. She, along with Siv Garrod and Betty Kelepecz also made sure that plants brought in for judging were identified into the correct Class and Section. They also arranged plants on the tables to artistically present the plants.

Scott La Bouff coordinated our team of volunteers for Security.

Esther Sevila managed the Plant Hotel.

Patti Hoffmaster put together a great show program and our Society display.

In addition to putting on our show, we also hosted an AOS members meeting. We had many compliments from the AOS members on the quality of our show, displays, and quality of plants on display. Visiting with them, I learned that putting on four shows a year is something that other societies are not able to do. We have volunteers who step up to make our society special in the AOS. Our Conservation program and the way we fund our projects is of particular interest to them. It would make a great article for the ORCHIDS magazine to share our approach with other societies.

A new addition to our show brought about by Jack Schaefer and Scott La Bouff was a lighting display area where Best of Section plants were illuminated with special lights which brought out the natural colors of our plants. This display feature will also be used in the future at our Park Shows.

There were several other orchid societies who brought in great displays. Newport Harbor Orchid Society, Palomar Orchid Society, and the Cymbidium Societies all brought in some great displays. The Cymbidium Society in particular had a display that really addressed the show theme. We are all raising the bar in the quality of our society displays. Again, thanks to all of you who volunteered to make this show the best.

The show committee members will be meeting in a few weeks after recovering from the show to review how things went and to look at ways to improve future shows. Members are encouraged to give suggestions to the committee. Please forward your suggestions to Dave Hoffmaster, davehoff5@yahoo.com, or Bruce Berg, b2berg@yahoo.com.

Raymond Harry Brandt, Jr.

April 30, 1921 - February 18, 2013

Our society recently lost one of our long time members, Ray Brandt, who was known to his family as "Uncle Ray." Ray was born in River-



side, California and lived most of his life in California with the exception of living in Florida for a few years. He graduated from San Diego High School and shortly thereafter, signed up for military service from 1943 to 1951. He served in World War II and also

the Korean War. On returning to the San Diego area, he built a couple of homes, one in Oceanside, just steps from the ocean where he began growing and selling orchids under the name "Beach Boy Orchids." It was during this period that his friendship with Dave Reid began. He and Dave sold orchids together at our Spring Shows. Besides wanting to be closer to his family, the climate for growing orchids next to the ocean was not the best. He moved to a beautiful home in El Cajon where he really loved the area and the weather and where his orchids grew better. In addition to his orchids, Ray also enjoyed growing roses.

His orchids were truly his prized hobby. He spent many hours building his greenhouse and worked with his orchids daily. When he was only able to get around with his wheelchair, his relatives, Jolyne and Al, would bring the orchids that he would pick out each month to take to the meetings to share with

our members. He would sit outside on the patio and work on the ones he chose to take to society meetings. He typically brought in enough plants to share that would cover two tables.

He was a member of the San Diego Orchid Society for many years and participated in the monthly meetings by sharing his orchids and his knowledge with the members. When asked about his secrets for growing his orchids, he was always willing to share his tricks and secrets freely. One of his secrets was that he would use warm water to water his plants. "Who wants to wake up to a cold shower?" Another trick was that his greenhouse has all of the orchids suspended above the benches so that bugs couldn't gain access to the pots. His Vandas all had Spanish moss wrapped around the roots to help keep the humidity up. When asked about which orchids he liked best, he would tell the questioner that the bigger and more colorful the orchid was, the better he liked it. One of his favorite orchids was Vanda Queen of Thailand. He would always get ribbons for the orchids that he chose to take to the society shows. He always volunteered and showed his orchids in the big Spring Orchid Shows at the Masonic Temple in Mission Valley.

He was also very faithful each week to make the long trip to his good friend, Dave Reid's home to help him separate orchids and re-plant them into pots. He cherished his friendship with Dave Reid. He also loved the many wonderful friendships that he made over the many years from being a member of the San Diego Orchid Society.

Ray will truly be missed by everyone who knew him, as he has left a legacy for others to follow. We cherish his life and his memory will go on for many years to come.

General meeting continued from page 1....

American Orchid Society Chair of the Pacific South Judging Region and has traveled to Canada, Guatemala, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, South Africa, England and Japan to attend and judge orchid shows. She has lectured on the society circuit at the California Paphiopedilum Guild, the Slipper Alliance and National Capital Orchid Society Paphiopedilum Forum, all in the United States, along with two South African Paphiopedilum Conferences and the Paphiopedilum Forum in London, England. Karen is now the Affiliated Societies Representative and Treasurer for the Orchid Digest. Karen resides in Laguna Niguel, CA.

Please note that there will not be a speaker's dinner this month as Karen will participate in judging before the general meeting.

The plant opportunity table will be provided by Fred Clarke from Sunset Valley Orchids.

Culture meeting continued from page 1....

has grown orchids behind her apartment in New York, in the Caribbean, and finally settled in California. She was first introduced to orchids by her husband, Don, in 1969. They built their first greenhouse—a small prefab redwood lean-to over the bedroom windows of their NY garden townhouse apartment. The New York Orchid Society and the generous members helped them start their first orchid collection.

After New York they spent five years in the Caribbean Islands, where they had many opportunities to see orchids in the wild. Living in the cloud forest of St. Lucia, it was so humid that the clouds would drift through the living room and even the photographs got mildew, but the orchids on the porch loved it. When they left the Caribbean for California they could not bring their orchid collec-

tion, which was just as well because their focus was on their cactus and succulent nursery in Rainbow.

In 2002 they moved to Rancho Santa Fe with the hope of building a greenhouse and getting seriously back into orchid growing. They completed their wonderful greenhouse in 2008. Unfortunately, Don was struggling with illness and didn't get to enjoy it for long. Debby is still building an eclectic collection and discovering what wants to grow for her. She wants to add a shade structure to grow more of the plants that require cool nights. For now, she loves growing and showing her orchids, and being a member of the SDCOS.

The presentation last month by Pam Peters was truly insightful for everyone, no matter what their experience level might be about Orchid Ribbon Judging. Pam was very thorough with her judging program presentation. Using her lighthearted way during the presentation she made it clear that Ribbon Judging can be fun. It's not all that difficult after hearing about it from Pam. All we need to do now is show Pam that we too have something to offer when it comes to submitting our plants for judging. Thank you Pam for your wonderful presentation.

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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 858-452-0976

Tuskes, Ann and Paul 858-274-5829

Quarterly Tours

We have another wonderful opportunity to see a local orchid collection. The 2nd of our series of tours takes us to the fabulous garden of Dr. Peter Tobias. Peter has a wonderful display of orchids and other epiphytes grown as they would be in nature.

The date is April 27th at 10:00 AM and the address is 564 Arden Dr. Encinitas, CA.

Hope you can join us!

Judging at the San Diego Judging Center

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, March 2013
Text and photos by Phyllis S. Prestia Ed.D.

There were 6 orchids presented for judging. One was awarded.



Comparettia macroplectron 'Windflower' AM/AOS
Exhibited by Betty Kelepez
Awarded AM/AOS 81 points

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When to Water

By Christopher Croom

Last month we discussed *How to Water* and one of our members suggested I run an article on *when* to water also so I could finish clearing up any confusion any of our members may have about timing and watering. I initially flatly refused the request, but then he dared me, so now we have an article.

When to water your orchids is the part of orchid culture that makes them seem more like Gremlins than plants. I remember watching a Nova special on PBS on orchids over 10 years ago shortly after I started growing them and the narrator saying "...and no matter what you do, never, ever water them after noon." I remembered thinking "What could the orchid possibly do if I water it at 12:01? Turn evil? Multiply itself?"

To complicate the issue of when to water, let me share the following anecdote: A few years ago, I decided to be the first person in North America to successfully grow the Australian terrestrial orchid *Thelymitra nuda*, also called the Sun Orchid or Spotted Sun Orchid. It has a round, powder blue non-resupinate flower (meaning upside down for an orchid) with a fuzzy white callous on the lip. The problem with my goal, however, was that when it's winter in Australia it's summer here because of the Earth's axis. I received a flask filled with a bunch of seedlings that were so mature they were about to rot unless I deflasked and potted them soon. The problem with repotting them was that it was now summer, and *Thelymitra* rot when you get them wet and the temperature is over about 80 degrees. So I had to be able to move the plants out of the flask and into a compot and somehow establish them over the course of that summer without watering them. This is probably why no one you know grows *Thelymitras*.

Obviously, the problem of *when* to water is compounded by the sheer diversity of orchids, with the *Thelymitra* example being perhaps the most fraught with difficulty. Luckily most orchids are not like *Thelymitras*, and the watering rules that I am about to share will work for practically anything.

The other thing to keep in mind is that depending on how you're growing your orchids, the type of mix they're growing in, and the water requirements of each individual plant, your orchids may all need water at different times. Unfortunately, when most of us water our orchid collections, we just water everything because it is near impossible to remember what each individual plant needs when. I have known some internationally recognized professional orchid growers who always kill *Habenaria* because it's impossible for them to remember to leave that group of plants on the bench alone for a couple of months in winter to induce them to bloom again. Often this may be because they're growing mounted orchids that need frequent watering right over the plants that need to dry out all winter, because there simply wasn't any more space in the greenhouse.

Growing mounted plants on a pipe right over potted plants ensures that everything in your collection is going to get water at the same time. But if your potted orchids are all growing in fine fir bark that has a tendency to stay soaked for a while, you could be overwatering your potted orchids on the bench in order to just keep your mounted orchids above them hydrated. Growing potted orchids that are right under your mounted plants in very coarse fir bark might be the answer to not overwatering your potted plants in this situation.

Understanding the relationship between light, water, humidity, and temperature is an important key to making the sometimes elaborate mental calculus necessary for an accurate determination of whether an indi-

vidual orchid needs water or not. Often it is our misunderstanding of the interplay of these variables that leads to sunburned plants when we move them outside every May to benefit from the increased air movement and humidity of a summer outdoors, for instance. This also explains why our plants always look so desiccated after we bring them inside for winter if we continue treating them the same way we were treating them when they were outside.

When temperatures increase, everything about your plants will happen faster. They will usually photosynthesize quicker and respire and transpire more, requiring more water and humidity. If the temperature goes up and you're already watering every plant every day and don't have the time to water twice a day, lowering the light levels that your orchids experience is a good strategy to compensate for the increased amount of water your plants will be using.

Likewise if the temperature suddenly drops, you'll need to decrease the amount of water your plants get, decrease the humidity, or increase the amount of light your plants are getting to keep them in optimal growth. (And don't forget to fertilize your orchids more when they're actively growing than when they're dormant in winter.)

When the marine layer burns off at the end of June or July, your outdoor plants will be getting much more light than they did during "June gloom," so watering them more or increasing the humidity will help them compensate for the change since they will be using more of the water in their environment than they were using before.

But what happens if you water an orchid after noon? Most of the time it just gets hydrated and generally speaking, no orchid hobbyist should worry about killing his or her plants because he or she watered at 12:01.

Ever. But what we want to make sure we avoid doing is creating a situation in which orchid leaves are still wet when the sun goes down and stay wet late into the evening. These kinds of conditions cause the crowns to rot in monopodial orchids, which almost always universally kills them. Also, wet orchid leaves at night often result in unsightly spotting and can engender conditions that lead to fungal outbreaks that kill entire plants. In other words, the only time you want to water in the afternoon or early evening is *when the weather is hot enough that the plant leaves will dry completely before reaching the minimum temperature that night.*

In the spirit of *How to Water*, let me break this complicated universe down into a series of discrete, easy-to follow rules about *when* to water:

1. Water in the earlier part of the day, except when it is hot during summer.
2. Water mounted orchids a lot, even every day, as you cannot overwater them.
3. Water potted orchids when the pseudobulbs shrivel, when the pot feels too light for the plant, or when the moisture meter you're using tells you the plant is dry. Keep same size plants in same size commercial plastic pots when possible to make it easier to weigh the plant if you have trouble.
4. Water more often if your orchids are burning from too much light.
5. Be careful about what you grow under mounted orchids. You may not want to get those plants that wet, and may need to adjust their growth media so it absorbs less water (or is more coarse).
6. Water more in summer and less in winter so that the amount of water synchronizes with the plant's growth rate. Remember that some species and a few hybrids require dry winter (or summer) rests.

San Diego County Orchid Society Board Meeting Minutes March 7, 2013

In attendance: Board: Bruce Berg, Scott La Bouff, Ben Machado, Carol Berg, Bob Clark, Jim Wright, and David Brown. Visitor: Jack Schaefer.

The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Berg at 7:02 P.M.

Officer Reports:

Minutes: February Board meeting minutes were approved via email prior to this meeting and were published in the March newsletter.

Treasurer: Carol Berg presented the report for February. David Brown motioned to file for audit, passed.

Committee and Other Reports:

Spring Show - Orchids by the Sea by Co-Chair Bruce Berg:

1. The Show Committee met just before the Board meeting.
2. Plans and preparations are going well.
3. A discussion was held on lighting for the awarded orchid display area. The area will be on the stage in the main hall where the corsage sales have been in the past.
4. Publicity research has been done into a reciprocal agreement of website links with 101 San Diego Things to Do.

Pam Peters has made a revision to the Show Rules for Displays/Exhibits & Plant Registration.

Bob Clark moved that the Society do the reciprocal website link with 101 San Diego Things to Do, approved.

Webmaster: Jack Schaefer reported on Feb-

ruary website viewings.

A discussion was held on a search function for the Website.

Membership: Bob Clark reported the total membership increased by one member in February. Bob also gave a report on the upcoming email newsletter distribution that begins in April. For the 60 printed copies that will be required, Bob reported on the difference with BK Printing's quote and charges of producing the February and March newsletters.

Finance Committee: Bruce Berg reported that the Committee suggested emailing the minutes to the Board. Bruce motioned as such and the motion passed.

Orchid Tours: Jim Wright reported that the tour at Peter Tobias' is still on for April 27th. David Brown reported that the June 2nd Zoo Greenhouse is still a go and he is working on the Zoo Botanical Bus Tour on the same day.

Orchid Culture on Website: Scott La Bouff reported that nothing had been accomplished for the monthly culture help. A discussion ensued as to sources for that culture information.

Old Business:

Ben Machado presented a paper for the Board to review on the New Member Gift Certificate program. A vote is planned for the next Board meeting.

New Business:

A discussion was held on the May Awards banquet. Bruce will check into catering costs. David will arrange the room. It was reported that enough wine is on hand for the banquet.

Bruce reported that Older Adults with the San Diego Public Library requested the Soci-

ety to have a booth at their event April 27th at the Pacific Beach Taylor Library. Bruce will follow-up and attempt to get the membership to help.

Regular elections are in June. The current 2nd Vice President, Ben Machado, informed the Board that he would not be seeking re-election.

Speakers for April:

Culture/Novice Class: Debby Halliday - Orchid Virus Testing and Control for the Good of Your Collection

General Meeting: TBA

Opportunity Table: TBA

The next Board Meeting is April 4, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Clark, Acting Secretary

From the Membership Desk

Please welcome our newest members: Veronica Lopez, Judy Mayberry, Naty Ang, Susan Cunanan, Tim Hong, and Kathleen Johnston. We want to welcome back Ed and Ann Holler, Ed Danielewicz, and Lisa Goldberg.

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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

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Dave Reid (760) 728-7996

San Diego Central
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Letter From the Editor

Dear SDCOS,

I sincerely hope that everyone enjoyed the big show we just had in the Scottish Rite Center. When I get more pictures from the show, I'll run them in next month's newsletter. We had to make an executive decision to get this newsletter out slightly on time, so I apologize if you were waiting with baited breath for show pictures this month.

I'm curious about how the AOS conferences at the Marriott went. I was hoping so many AOS representatives would descend on San Diego like a plague of locusts that the sun would grow dim and the foot traffic we'd have into our show would be the best in recent memory. One can always dream. It's interestingly coincidental to think that there was a secret (yet publicized) AOS meeting going on in a hotel while we were having a show at the very meeting-house the Masons use to be secretive. I'm surprised Kissinger didn't make an unannounced appearance somewhere in San Diego last weekend.

Contact Information:

Christopher Croom

(619) 583-3804

batescroom@gmail.com

Don't forget the awards banquet we have coming up in May, wherein all show winners will be lauded in a celebratory fashion over dinner. These types of things always end up being more fun than you think, so we hope to see you there.

Also, all the volunteers who helped to set up and take the show down, who ran security, who sold tickets, who helped out with the plant hotel, and all others need to be acknowledged for the hard work that they did to make our show possible. THANK YOU!!!

Happy Growing,
Christopher