



To promote interest in orchids and their cultivation,
to educate by exchanging information and experi-
ences related to successful orchid culture, and to sup-
port the conservation of orchids in the wild.

Volume 172

June 2013

www.sdorchids.com

CULTURE MEETING- June 4 6:30 PM Charley Fouquette—Growing Speciosums in Your Yard

By Ben Machado, 2nd Vice President

Charley Fouquette has a presentation for us titled “Growing Speciosums In Your Yard.” He has taken particular interest in the Australian orchids and wants to share with you the benefits of his experience when it comes to growing *D. speciosum*-type plants.

Some of the speciosums are huge in size, making some orchid hobbyists reluctant to take on something that can singlehandedly fill up a greenhouse. Charley has the right alterna-

tive in store: outdoor growing. With his on hand experience of what it takes to bring these oversized beauties along, he wants you to know this is the one *Dendrobium* that is not that hard to raise outdoors here in the San Diego area. There are some culture requirements that Charley will share with you, plus he has some choices in mind that will meet the space requirements of anyone interested in *D. speciosum*.

Continued on page 7...

GENERAL MEETING- June 4, 7:30 PM Ron Parsons—Orchids of China

By Scott Labouff, 1st Vice President

Ron Parsons is considered by many to be one of the finest flower photographers in the United States. His photography and encyclopedic knowledge of orchids is known both nationally and internationally. He has been photographing orchids and other flowers for over 25 years, and has a slide collection of flowers easily over 100,000 strong. Although he has been using a digital camera for only 3.5 years, he has 35,000 digital images, mostly flowers. Ron loves to

travel, photographing orchids and other wildflowers in habitat as well as at private and public collections.

His photos have been featured in many journals, articles, books, including two of his own books co-authored with Mary E. Gerritsen. The first on the genus *Masdevallias*—*Gems of the Orchid World* and the second on his favorite genus of wild

Continued on page 7...

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 July newsletter must be submitted by June 15.



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Orchid Dates to Remember

June 1

SDCOS Species Group Meeting

First Saturday of the month

Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

June 4, 6:30 PM

SDCOS Culture Meeting

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

June 4, 7:30 PM

SDCOS General Meeting

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

June 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

June 6, 7:00 PM

SDCOS Board Meeting

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

June 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

June 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



THE PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY
PRESENTS

2013 Orchid Auction



Saturday, August 3, 2013
Preview at 11:00 am
Auction starts at 12 Noon

The Pavilion at Lake San Marcos
1105 La Bonita Drive
San Marcos, CA 92078

FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING
More info at www.palomarorchid.org

The San Diego County Cymbidium Society Presents

Glen Decker

(Owner of Piping Rock Orchids in Galway, New York)

Wednesday, June 19, 7:00 pm
San Diego Botanic Garden,
Ecke Bdg.
230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas

Glen Decker has held positions in both the American Orchid Society and the Orchid Digest. He has won numerous awards, including the Butterworth Prize. And he has appeared in the a PBS TV special entitled *Orchid Delirium*.

Information: whartongc@aol.com or 619-520-1366

Neverbloomers

By Christopher Croom

I've been thinking lately about orchids that never want to flower and all the things I've done to them to make them bloom over 15 years of growing orchids, and I wanted to provide readers with useful information about perhaps the most useless of all orchids that we grow for their flowers: ones that never seem to have any.

In my experience, anyone who tells you that "All the orchids in my collection bloom every year" has one of three things going on with them:

- 1) Pathological lying.
- 2) They are an orchid vendor and they sell more plants when they tell people that.
- 3) Their collection consists of 5 Vanda hybrids.

I've owned 3 Stanhopeas for about 11 years or more now. They're probably *S. oculata* or *S. tigrina* or one of the common varieties, and I purchased at least one from the Conservation Committee (the other 1 or 2 probably came from Andy). Now if you know your Stanhopeas, you also know that when and if these three plants finally bloom, I'll have less than a week to enjoy the flowers. One is finally spiking for the first time as I write this, but for all I know it could end up just another damned pseudobulb. I know someone with about 100 Stanhopeas, and only 10 or so bloom in a good year, so I'm pretty sure my experience is roughly typical. There are some truly awesome flowers in this genus, but you may never see them.

I've had 2 Dendrobiums that I've grown outdoors for over a decade, and each has only flowered once. They are *D. griffithianum* and *D. gibsonii*. There's a reason why you've never seen these flowers at any shows: they last for a week when they open, and the plants that produce them *never* let them out. I'm growing them in the right temperature and with the right amount of light, they look healthy, but they do...nothing.

Slow-growing Bulbophyllums with big spaces between the pseudobulbs on the rhizome also seem to be reluctant bloomers. *B. putidum* is one such flower: wait a decade while growing it perfectly, and you might see a bloom or two.

I have three plants that I might occasionally get to flower, but only after I abuse the heck out of them: *Vandopsis parishii*, *Oeceoclades calcarata*, and *Eulophia petersii*. If I want these things to bloom, all I need to do (sometimes) is put them in the sunniest spot in my yard and stop treating them like living things by withholding water. Often this will do the trick, but often I'll end up with sunburned leaves that take 3 years to grow out. This illustrates the orchid growing near-universal tenet that if something isn't blooming, increase the amount of light (you may even have to make yourself uncomfortable to get this to reliably work).

Finally, remember that some orchids just have to be mature enough to start blooming more regularly. *Paph. rothschildianum* and its relatives in the Mastigiopetalum section often take a decade to reach blooming size, and as Charley will tell you on Tuesday, the same can be true for perhaps the most floriferous of all orchids: *Dendrobium speciosum*.

Volunteer Photographer Needed!

Are you available to substitute occasionally for the monthly judging photography?

Novice photographers are welcomed and any type of equipment, including cell phone cameras will work.

Contact orchldy1@mac.com

Quarterly Tours

The 3rd in our series of orchid related tours takes us to the estate of Debby Halliday. Many of you have seen many of the wonderful orchids she brings to the shows and meetings. During your tour of this 4.5 acre property you will see a spectacular 20 by 40 foot green house, and in addition, Debby has huge koi pond and an orange grove, all in a tropical garden atmosphere.

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Limited Space!! Make Your Reservations Now!

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

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Your membership supports our plant and animal collections and includes a monthly visit to our Orchid Odyssey on the third Friday of each month from 10am until 2pm.

**General Meeting Article
continued from page 1....**

flowers *Calochortus*, *Mariposa Lilies* and *their Relatives*. Ron and Mary are currently finishing up a five-year book project on miniature orchids species, a two volume set of over 1200 pages which will be released later this year.

Last June Ron and Mary visited western China on an orchid tour led by Holger and Wenqing Perner to Sichuan Province. The tour was designed to see native *Cypripedium* species, the temperate, northern hemisphere genus of lady slipper orchids. They saw 8 of the 36 native species as well as many other fantastic genera of wildflowers such as *Rhododendron*, *Paeonia*, *Primula*, *Meconopsis*, *Pedicularis*, etc. While traveling through extremely scenic landscapes including Tibetan ethnic areas they had a fantastic adventure, and are going again this year on June 18!

Enjoy a visit to Ron's website: www.flowershots.net

Join Ron and fellow SDCOS members at the Prado Restaurant for dinner before the general meeting. Call 619-248-7300 to RSVP.

Ron will also present "Miniature Species You Can Enjoy and Grow" on Wednesday June 5 at the Palomar Orchid Society. Meeting time: 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Visit www.palomarorchid.org/event/2013/06/04/pos-monthly-meeting.html for address and directions.

From the Membership Desk

Please welcome our newest members:

Maggie Clark, Elsa Carbonel, Leslie Costello, and Tony & Anna Saldana.

**Culture Meeting Article
continued from page 1.....**

Charley and his wife Sue reside in Fletcher Hills, above El Cajon, in the Eastern region of San Diego. Along with orchids, Charley has many other horticultural interests to keep him busy. However, as if he doesn't have enough to do with all his growing, Charley is always there to help our society: particularly with helping show set up, or making culture presentations during our shows, or helping with our social events, or making himself available to help anyone with orchid growing tips. Charley has an aura about him that makes him seem bulldog tough on the outside, but he is a very outgoing, always ready to help individual. You probably know that he is an avid deep sea fisherman. He takes voyages that last weeks at a time! But did you know that Charley gives most of his catch to various local food banks? That's the way he is, generous with whatever he has, including his orchid cultivation knowledge.

March was our last culture class presentation, provided by Debby Halliday. Talk about details, she did a magnificent job explaining the hazards of viruses, how to accurately detect viruses, and in the end another option rather than throwing out a favorite plant that may be virused. We all benefited from the presentation. Thank you Debby.

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Nominations for 2013-2014 SDCOS Board

The Nominating Committee is pleased to make the following recommendations for the SDCOS Board for 2013-2014:

President: Bruce Berg (continuing)

1st Vice-President: Scott LaBouff (continuing)

2nd Vice-President: Debby Halliday (new)

Secretary: Helen Pfister (continuing)

Treasurer: Carol Berg (continuing)

Director-at-Large (through June 2014):
Jim Wright (continuing)

Director-at-Large (through June 2015):
Kay Klausing (continuing)

Director-at-Large (through 2016):
Bob Clark - second three year term

Past President: Dave Brown

Ben Machado will be leaving the board after one year as Second Vice-President. Ben has served on the board multiple times and the Society thanks him for his repeated and dedicated service. If this slate is approved, Debby Halliday will join the SDCOS board for the first time as the 2nd Vice-President. Debby is an outstanding grower and her knowledge and experience will be an asset to the board. The rest of the officers have indicated a willingness to continue to serve in their current roles. Due to term limits, this will be Bruce Berg's third consecutive and final year serving as President. Bob Clark's three year term as a Director-at-Large ends in June. However, he has indicated his desire to run for another term.

The recommendations of the nominating committee require approval by the society membership. At the general meeting in June, the Chair of the Nominating Committee will formally make the recommendations and ask for a vote of approval. Other nominations may be made before the vote, either by contacting the Chair of the Nominating Committee or from the floor at the general meeting. Board members for 2013-2014 will be sworn in at the general meeting in July.

Respectfully submitted,

SDCOS Nominating Committee
(Betty Kelepecz, Ron Kaufmann, Pam Peters,
Peter Tobias and Dave Hoffmaster)

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Judging at the San Diego Judging Center Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park

May 2013.

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

There were 8 orchids presented for judging. Three were awarded, including an FCC.



Dracula chi-maera 'Pacifica'
FCC/AOS

Exhibited by Betty Kelepecz

Awarded FCC/AOS 91 points



Paph. philippinense 'Sunset Valley Orchids' AM/AOS

Exhibited by Fred Clarke

Awarded AM/AOS 80 points



Bct. (Brassocatanthe) Robert Randall AM/AOS

Exhibited by Anita and Jerry Spencer

Awarded AM/AOS 81 points

San Diego County Orchid Society Board Meeting Minutes May 6, 2013

Attendees: Bruce Berg, Carol Berg, David Brown, Scott LaBouff, Ben Machado, Helen Pfister, Bob Clark, Kay Klausung and visitor Jack Schaefer

President Bruce Berg called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Officer Reports:

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

Treasurer Carol Berg submitted the reports for March and April. David Brown moved that they be filed for audit—the motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Bruce Berg, co-chair of the spring show “Orchids by the Sea” gave a brief report on the show. A wrap-up meeting is being scheduled soon. Income from the show was less than hoped.

Discussions were held by the Board on how to bring attendance up therefore increasing our revenue.

Bruce reported that the Dave Hoffmaster had talked with the Scottish Rite Center. The Center would like a commitment from us for the years of 2015, 2016, and 2017. Bruce moved to approve the dates and it was seconded. The motion was defeated.

Jack Schaefer, our webmaster reported that the show pictures are now on the web.

Bob Clark, our membership chair reported that we are down in our membership.

Old Business:

Quarterly tours—June 22, Debby Halliday—an incorrect address was published. Will be corrected in the June issue.

Bob reported the newsletter deliveries are as follows: 25 by mail, 29 by picked up, and 181 by email.

AOS judging at our Park shows, the schedule has been sent to the [Pacific South Judging Center](#).

The Zoo greenhouse will be open on Sunday June 2nd and David Brown former President of the SDCOS will be available for questions and answers from 12 to 2 PM.

The donated collection of orchids from Bob Stanley are in good shape and number about 300 total. These will be used for the opportunity table for June and possibly July with the rest of this collection possibly being sold at the July show in the Park.

The Board would like to thank Betty Kelepocz and her Nominating Committee for their hard work.

The May Awards Party is tomorrow night and everything is ready.

New Business:

The San Diego Fair contacted Bruce Berg and asked if he or any of the members would like to participate in the orchid show at the Fair. It was a late call but Bruce decided to register several plants. Since the Fair is for 30 days there are several obstacles that need to be addressed. He will write a full report on his experiences.

Speakers for June will be as follows:

Culture Class—Charley Fouquette, Growing Speciosums in Your Yard.

General Meeting—Ron Parsons, Orchids of China

Opportunity Table—Bob Stanley Collection

Bruce Berg will email the Board the information received from the Scottish Rite Events Center for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen R. Pfister, Secretary

Membership on Newsletter Delivery

The new newsletter delivery method has been going on for three months now. I thought I would list those members who are listed to pick up their newsletter from Membership at the Society meeting. If you desire to get the email newsletter notice or want your paper copy delivered to your mail box at a cost of \$5 a year to cover postage, please let Membership know your choice. Pickup List: Jackie Bechtel, Barbara Cala, Richard Chadwick, Sarah & Sam DeMaria, Arthur Ferrario, Anne Fletcher, Rosie Gamby & Corky Zumstein, Gin T. Gan, Shirley Hall, Lisa Humphreys & Nico Goossens, Ronald Jones, Merrilyn Joyce, Angelina & Fred Kleinbub, Sherry Lister, Melva Miret, Liduvina Padilla, Robert Parma, Steve Pruyn, Cathy Redman, Kay Robinson, Kevin Rynearson & Tiffany Neary, Debby Sauer, W.J. Scott, Lena S. Shiroma & Cory Krell, Anita & Jerald Spencer, Peggy Swanson, and Pearl & Pearlita White.

Bob Clark
Membership Chair

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@sdorchids.com) (619) 583-3804

Pleurothallids
[Christopher Croom](mailto:Christopher.Croom@sdorchids.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) 426-6831



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Letter From the Editor

Dear SDCOS,

June gloom is upon us again, and since orchids tend to be naturally fungus resistant, you won't have to worry about the powdery mildew getting on them that you're fighting on your chard, zucchini, watermelons, and squash. While the gloom might make for darker mornings and may successfully convince your out-of-town friends that San Diego is not the 3 million-strong Club Med that it seems, remember it is the insulative blanket that is keeping your orchids from being blasted by sunshine and heat for three straight months. If it weren't for June gloom, I'd have to write an article about sunburn every summer. And since June gloom is directly related to our proximity to the Pacific Ocean, without it our climate would be Phoenix and this would be a newsletter about *Lophophora*, not orchids. Yup, June gloom is directly related to us having the best growing climate in the world.

Contact Information:

Christopher Croom

(619) 583-3804

batescroom@gmail.com

Charley's presentation on *Dendrobium speciosum* sounds fantastic if you're interested in winning awards. While your orchid books may say that *Cattleya (Guarianthe) skinneri* is the single most awarded orchid, around here we've had to re-write the judging rules just so a speciosum doesn't win Best in Show at every Scottish Rite Center event we pull off. Think

about that for a second.

In any case, get your repotting done before that marine layer burns off!

Happy Growing,
Christopher