



San Diego County Orchid Society

*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 174

August 2013

www.sdorchids.com

CULTURE MEETING- August 6, 6:30 PM

Caring for Imported Orchids

By Debby Halliday, 2nd Vice President

The August culture class will be given by Ron Kaufmann, long-time SDCOS member and chair of the Conservation Committee. His talk titled "Caring for Imported Orchids" will describe some of the factors that should be considered when purchasing imported orchids as well as some tips for success (and failure!). If you want to expand the scope of your collection with imported orchids, don't miss this talk!

Ron has been growing orchids for more than 20 years and has a diverse collection that includes both species and hybrids. He is a marine biologist by training, and his scientific work includes studies of Antarctic and deep-sea ecosystems as well as marine communities in coastal Southern California. He has a strong interest in conservation and has been a member of the SDCOS Conservation Committee for nearly 15 years and chair since 2004. Since 1991, the Conser-

Continued on page 7....

GENERAL MEETING—August 6, 7:30 PM

Botanical Tour, Central America and Lord Howe Island

By Scott Labouff, 1st Vice President

Seth Menser will present a botanical tour through some exciting locations, from brightly colored Heliconias in Central America, to massive Fig trees on Lord Howe Island, a volcanic remnant in the Tasman Sea. Enjoy seeing beautiful plants in their natural settings and of course, a few orchids along the way.

Seth Menser is a Senior Horticulturist at the San Diego Zoo with a background in Mycology and Botany. He

has worked with various government agencies on conservation projects throughout New Zealand, Australia, Costa Rica, Hawaii and California. Over the last several years Seth has traveled extensively across Australia researching and photographing native Ficus trees for a future field guide. At the Zoo, he helps oversee the zoos accredited plants with an emphasis on the Ficus collection

Continued on page 7....

San Diego County Orchid Society

Board of Directors

President: [Bruce Berg](#)
First VP: [Scott LaBouff](#)
Second VP: Debby Halliday
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.



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Orchid Dates to Remember

August 3

SDCOS Species Group Meeting

First Saturday of the month

Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

August 6, 6:30 PM

SDCOS Culture Meeting

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

August 6, 7:30 PM

SDCOS General Meeting

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

August 7

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

August 8, 7:00 PM

SDCOS Board Meeting

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

August 16

San Diego Zoo's Orchid Odyssey

Third Friday of the month

10 AM-2 PM (orchid greenhouse is open)

Janette Gerrity (619) 231-1515 ext. 4306

August 21

Cymbidium Society Meeting

Regular meeting, third Wednesday of month

Culture class at 6:30, Meeting at 7:00 PM

San Diego Cty. Botanic Gardens—Ecke Bldg.

230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024

orchldy2@mac.com or (760) 732-0055



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PRESENTS

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Judging at the San Diego Judging Center

(Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park), July 2013.

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

There were 24 orchids presented for judging. Six were awarded, including one FCC.



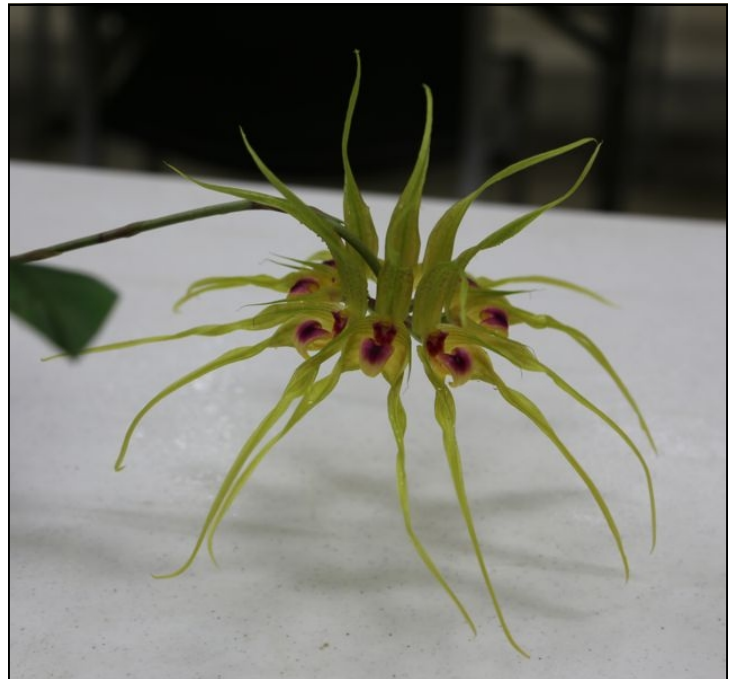
Encyclia Cynthia 'Darkest Pleasure' was awarded an AM/AOS at the last judging session. This plant might be able to be grown outdoors here in San Diego.



Prosthechea (syn. *Encyclia*) *cochleata* 'Steve Kelepecz' earned an AM/AOS. Just guess who this version of the national flower of Belize was named for.



Cattleya dowiana var. *rosita* 'SVO' earned an FCC/AOS at the last judging session. This is a warm grower from lowland Columbia with a lip so awesome that I keep trying to forget I can't grow it outside in winter.



Bulbophyllum virescens 'Windflower' earned an AM/AOS at the last judging session. Check out this awesome inflorescence with 8 flowers arranged in a perfect circle, Cir-rhopetalum-style.

Spring Show Committee

It is time to pick a theme for our 2014 spring show coming up March 21-23 at the Scottish Rite Center. We were pleased with all the ideas our members submitted and with the number of people that participated. The show committee reviewed all the theme ideas and has narrowed the list to what we think are the best eight. The next step is for the membership to vote and select the best of the best at our next general meeting. You need to choose from one of the following themes:

An Orchid Adventure
A Symphony of Orchids
For the Love of Orchids
Islands of Orchids
Once upon an Orchid
Orchid All Stars
Orchid Extravaganza
Orchid Jewels

Please keep in mind as you make your selection how easily the theme could be worked into the exhibits, displays and advertising including the show poster.

Everyone that attends the next meeting on August 6 will receive a ballot to cast your vote. The show committee will have a table just inside the meeting room to pass out and collect ballots. Results of the voting will be announced before the end of the meeting so please pick up and return your ballot early.

Thanks again to all the members who submitted their ideas. We received a lot of good themes and are looking forward to the final selection.

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@comcast.net) (619) 583-3804

Pleurothallids
[Christopher Croom](mailto:Christopher.Croom@comcast.net) (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

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 continued from page 1...

which is one of the largest in the world. Join Seth and fellow society members for dinner before the general meeting at the Prado restaurant. Call 619-248-7300 to R.S.V.P.

The plant opportunity table will be provided by Andy's Orchids, Encinitas, CA. web: andy-sorchids.com

Culture Meeting continued from page 1...

vation Committee has awarded over \$160,000 to support projects in 21 different countries. Ron also helped to found the Orchid Conservation Alliance and serves on the boards of the OCA, EcoMinga Foundation (a conservation foundation based in Ecuador) and the Orchid Digest Corporation.



**Orchid Show
and Sale**
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Show: Sat 11-5 & Sun 9-4
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- All day demonstrations on orchid care and repotting
- Stroll the botanical gardens

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www.southbayorchidsociety.com
Information: (310) 707-7097

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From the Membership Desk

Please welcome our newest members:

Cindy Benoit, Suzanne Brown,
Nasun Hah, and
Antonio Jose Martins Currais.

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

Participating in the San Diego County Fair

By Bruce Berg



I was contacted by Cindy Benoit, the Garden Show Coordinator for the San Diego County Fair, asking if we would participate in the Fair by bringing in orchids for their orchid competition and display. She said that they only had a few plants brought in (4 or 6) at the show last year. As a fairly new member, I'd heard stories about how difficult it was to meet their rules for entry and display of plants. I called her to discuss what we'd have to do to display plants. I found out that most, if not all of the things that I'd heard about, had been changed as a result of comments from our members. My conclusion was that we should give it a try. I asked if Dave Hoffmaster could also register as an exhibitor, because he lives close to the fair and he is a good grower with many fine plants. I called Cindy back and asked her if Dave and I could showcase some of the plants we show in our society. At the end of the show, I'd like to share with our members what our experiences were. I fully endorse our participation in future Fairs.

The Fair showcases many different types of plants and flowers. Orchids are a separate class. Each class is broken down into three "shows." Each is about 9 days long. Each "show" was treated and judged separately. We were encouraged to come in early any day that we wanted to water or groom our plants. Parking was convenient and carts were available to move plants.

Plants were changed out for judging for each of the three shows. Ribbon judging was done the morning of the first day of each show. In addition to the ribbons, there are cash prizes. A first place ribbon is rewarded with a cash prize of \$30. A second place ribbon is rewarded with \$25, and a third place ribbon is worth \$20. To register as an exhibitor for all three shows costs \$15. In addition to the financial incentive, two comp entry tickets to the fair were given for each plant entered.

One of the other misconceptions that I had was that we had to know what specific plants would be entered by the registration deadline in May. What actually happens is that Dave and I each gave Cindy an estimate of how many plants we wanted to enter. She then mailed out blank plant ID tags, which ask the same info we provide for our Park Shows. I had to select which plants to take in just like we do for our shows, clean them up and prepare the ID tags. When I brought in my plants for each of the judging periods (shows), she then recorded the information and the plants were judged. Plants were divided into only 3 categories, Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas, and others.

I was able to bring in and leave handouts with information about joining our society, coming to our meetings, and a schedule of our upcoming shows. I was told that about a million visitors come to the fair each year. This looked like a great opportunity to intro-

duce our society to a huge audience of visitors interested in orchids!

They are options for clubs and societies to also put in displays. This is something we should consider. To enter would cost \$80 for a 250 square foot display. A really good display could us win an "Award of Merit" and a cash prize of \$450. In addition, there are other awards with cash prizes. Plants in displays submitted by society members are also eligible for individual ribbons as described above. The Fern society put in a 250 sf display in addition to a 500 sf display, which has an Award of Merit award of \$750. In addition to these basic awards there are other rewards for other categories.



Here's my tip for making an orchid flower that you've been waiting to bloom for 13 years: write an article about how it never blooms. It seems our orchids, even this *Stanhopea tigrina*, just want and need some kind of attention even if we're just staring.

San Diego County Orchid Society General Meeting Minutes

July 2, 2013

David Brown Past President, sworn in the following officers elected at the June meeting for the 2013-2014: Bruce Berg President, Scott LaBouff 1st Vice President, Debby Halliday 2nd Vice President, Helen Pfister Secretary, Carol Berg Treasurer, Bob Clark Director-at-Large **2013-2016**.

Dave Hoffmaster presented more information in regards to the Scottish Rite Events Center and the contracts that they would like us to sign for the years 2016 and 2017. The signing of these contracts require a deposit of \$1,000.00 for each year. These deposit are refundable per the contract.

Charley Fouquette moved that we advance the \$1,000.00 for 2016 and 2017. The motion was seconded and a short discussion period followed. President Bruce Berg called for a vote—the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen R. Pfister,
Secretary

Exclusive tour of Fred Clarke's Orchid Nursery

Join us a tour in September (date TBD) to the fantastic nursery of Fred Clarke, known as SVO. We will receive special treatment as Fred will offer us a 25% discount, what a perfect opportunity to add to your mini cat collection. as you may know Fred is a known all over the world as an expert at developing amazing mini cats, not to mention other genera he is working on.

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Things We're Not Proud Of: Pesticides, Orchids, and You (Me)

By: Christopher Croom

Every now and again, my orchid collection gets inundated by pests, just as any outdoor collection in an unsealed shade house will occasionally do. While I do not have to deal with the temperate pests that you might find in an intermediate greenhouse because the shade house gets too cold in winter (e.g., bush snails), I also don't have any infestations that sneak up on me because I'm under no illusions about whether insects with biting and sucking mouthparts have access to my plants.

So, when my *Myrmecophila* (which means 'ant lover') bloom in summer, I keep my eyes peeled for the ants they inevitably attract, and the scale, aphids, and cottony mealybugs the ants carry with them like prized possessions. These are their livestock, and none of them has evolved much of a defense against mechanical crushing from a creature millions of times their size, so this is the method I resort to most often when confronting undesirable lifeforms. But if their numbers become too great to be kept under control by crushing, or when the crushing

threatens to also damage orchid tissue, then I have to resort to other means: breaking out the rubbing alcohol and cotton swabs (being careful to avoid contact between roots and isopropyl); spraying repeatedly with a vigorously shaken vegetable oil and water mix; insecticidal soap; or that great bacony horticultural hoax of the late 1990's, neem oil.

Swabbing every square inch of every plant with rubbing alcohol is extremely tedious (and impossible if you have a job and a large collection), and the aforementioned sprays tend to work for people who like to do a lot of spraying, if they work at all, because they have to physically cover up the spiracles through which the insects breathe in order to work. This means you'll have to contend with all the pests you missed the first time around as well as all the pests from the eggs that have hatched, and is precisely why those "green" pesticides only work for those who spray a lot.

So the infestation grows, and you try harsher means, going to the "thrins"—Permethrin and Pyrethrin, two toxins derived from chemicals that plants produce to

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repel insects, synthesized and distilled in a lab to make them stronger. But if these don't work after a couple of sprays, you ultimately get confronted by the darkest part of your nature in the face of losing valuable plants: you turn fascist and want to use Zyklon B to rid your growing space of the pest problem once and for all, opting for its 2013 progeny, a truly nasty organophosphate of some kind. Yup, something like malathion might do the trick.

While you hate yourself for settling on malathion and are well aware of the systemic pesticides on the market that are advertised to work on practically every plant (some are even advertised as safe on vegetables), your experience with Orthene has taught you that it tends to work only slightly better on aphids than insecticidal soap when used as directed.

Since your teachers taught you to read and to appreciate science, you will avoid that other ubiquitous systemic pesticide made by the Bayer Corporation, imidacloprid, because there are dozens of peer-reviewed scientific studies that implicate imidacloprid in Colony Collapse Disorder, the cluster of symptoms threatening the European honeybee, the creature that pollinates practically every fruit you enjoy.

And even though you know that correlation does not mean cause, if imidacloprid is virtually always there every time a colony dies, it has no place in your garden unless you intend to take part in fundamentally changing the nature of breakfast forever. (Moreover, knowing that bees spend a lot of time in the shadehouse, you also know they likely don't need exposure to Orthene for the same reasons that imidacloprid is probably killing them.)

So you stick to the Devil you know with the tradeoffs that are the least egregious. Hell, malathion was so "safe" that during the

Mediterranean fruit fly outbreaks of the early '90's they blanketed the whole county with it repeatedly. (If you recall, we were told to go inside, because getting an organophosphate on your skin can damage your nervous system.)

So you mix properly, use the right sprayer, wear goggles, a mask, and a disposable suit, and shower when you're done. If you like living dangerously, you ditch the goggles, mask, and suit and do it quick, but don't go crying to your doctor when you develop an unexplained tic. You make sure rain is not coming for at least 3 days and that nothing goes down a drain, because organophosphates wreak havoc on aquatic ecosystems, and UV light and oxygen break them down in about that time.

And this is how to do that which you will doubtless hate most about our hobby. Say a prayer for all the little creatures that you don't intend to kill that will probably suffer collateral damage before you proceed.

Finally, if it ever gets to this point, take an inventory of your skills as a grower. Ask yourself if there were any preventative steps you could have been taking to keep the infestation at bay. Was the waxy cuticle on your orchid's leaves soft because you didn't water it enough, and that's why so many aphids were able to bite it? Likewise, is sun or cold damage making them more susceptible? Do you need more carnivorous companion plants like *Nepenthes* to gobble up all those fungus gnats? Or do you need to visit Arbico and spend a couple hundred on beneficial insects and mites and give the *Wild Kingdom* thing a try?

San Diego County Orchid Society Board Meeting Minutes July 8, 2013

Attendees: Bruce Berg, Carol Berg, David Brown, Helen Pfister, Bob Clark, Kay Klaus-ing, Jim Wright, Debby Halliday and visitors Ron Kaufmann and Jack Schaefer

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. David Brown moved to file the report for audit—the motion passed.

The proposed budget for the coming year was presented to the Board. Carol informed the Board that we finished the last fiscal year \$63 under budget. The 2013-2014 budget for review and approval by the Board at the next meeting proposes a balanced budget.

Committee Reports:

The refundable deposits and signed contracts were mailed to the Scottish Rite Event Center, per membership approval at the last General Meeting.

Jack Schaefer, our Webmaster, stated that the total number of visits to our Web Site is down. The new members' program is still under construction. There are several programs that Jack has on a test site and he requested that some Board members visit and provide

feedback.

Bob Clark, our membership chair, reported that our membership is up this month and that we have a total of 301 members. Bob also suggests that our brochure needs to be updated. Postcards need to be designed for the society to use when members become delinquent. The possibility of forming a committee to assist Bob in this area was mentioned and might be helpful.

Old Business:

Jim Wright again thanked Debby Halliday for opening her home and greenhouse to the membership. Jim, is still working on SVO (Sunset Valley Orchids) and other nurseries in this area for our next tour in September.

Bruce Berg and Dave Hoffmaster participated in the San Diego Fair at Del Mar and found that it was an enjoyable experience. Both have recommended that the society and its membership participate in the 2014 San Diego Fair at Del Mar. Bruce forwarded prior to the Board meeting a draft article for the newsletter that was reviewed by the Board.

David Brown our show chair for the July show in the park has stated that there will be no AOS judging as there are not enough judges available.

New Business:

Ron Kaufmann from the Conservation committee, discussed with the Board the issue of co-mingling Conservation plants and Society plants for sale at Park shows only. We will try this at the July Show in the Park and evaluate at the next Board meeting. Plants will be labeled vendor number 1 for Conservation and vendor number 2 for the Society.

Jack Schaefer is designing a test site listing the accomplishments of projects funded in

the past by the Conservation committees. The website also has the necessary information needed by persons or organizations wishing to apply for grants.

The Board may be meeting at alternate locations. These locations will be published the month prior to the meeting so that it remains open to the general membership.

A chairperson is needed for the Fall Show in the Park.

Bruce Berg reviewed the goals set forth for the past year. Most if not all goals were met by the Board. A draft of the goals for 2013-2014 was given to the Board and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Bruce presented a list of the current and open vacant positions to the Board with a request that they help identify candidates for the Standing Committee Chairpersons.

Standing Committee Chairpersons 2013-2014:

Advertizing	Carol Berg
Historian	Open
Membership	Bob Clark
Refreshments	Open
Librarian	Ron Velarde
Special Activities	Open
Plant Opportunity	1 st Vice President
Hospitality	Open
Spring Show	Dave Hoffmaster and Bruce Berg

Volunteers	Laura Nolden
AOS Representative	Debby Halliday
Orchid Digest Representative	Open
San Diego Botanical and Garden Foundation	David Brown
Balboa Park Summer Orchid Show	David Brown
Balboa Park Fall Orchid Show	Open
Balboa Park Winter Orchid Show	Open
Conservation	Ron Kaufmann
Newsletter	Christopher Croom
Webmaster	Jack Schaefer
Finance	David Brown

Speakers for August 2013:

Culture Class—Ron Kaufmann—caring for imported orchids

General Meeting—TBA

Plant Opportunity Table—TBA

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen R. Pfister,
Secretary



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

1st Class

Postage

Required

Letter From the Editor

Dear SDCOS,

I hope you don't see my article in this month's newsletter as an advertisement for organophosphates, because I hate them, but I'd rather use them than lose an orchid if it comes down to that. I also mentioned using beneficial insects in your orchid collection; I didn't have space to write that my experience with them has been mixed. If you have a small light garden in a windowless office with no direct access to the outdoors and want to spend at least \$40 more than you would on some noxious spray, by all means order yourself up a case of *Hypoaspis miles*, predatory mites that will do to aphids everything you've ever dreamt of being able to do to them. But then you have to reinoculate from time to time,

and you can't use any other pesticides except the rubbing alcohol and Q-Tip thing on small areas of each plant. There's no sense in killing everything you just paid handsomely for to protect your plants.

Contact Information:

Christopher Croom

(619) 583-3804

batescroom@gmail.com

I also hope you appreciated the calculus provided in the article, because it's hard to admit using repurposed leftover chemical weapons stockpile material from WWII (even if it was partly responsible for the Green Revolution) when I work pretty hard to limit my environmental impact in a lot of other areas,

but sometimes one has to deal with enemies as such.

So, Rachel Carson demands that we exhaust all other less invasive means BEFORE going to our dark places to keep the spring loquacious. She's right, so we try to abide as well as we can.

Happy Growing,
Christopher