

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.

Vol 195 June 2015

http://www.sdorchids.com

CULTURE MEETING - June 2nd, 6:30 PM Know your Enemy – About Viruses

Speaker - Kay Klausing

By Debby Halliday, 2nd Vice President

Kay Klausing will present our culture class for June. He has recently been investigating orchid viruses and has offered to share the results of his research with us.

Kay is a biochemist/molecular geneticist by training. He works as a scientist at a local biotech firm, Illumina. He has been growing orchids for almost 30 years and has tried it all, from windowsill to under lights to a greenhouse. He currently grows species only, with an emphasis on the Cattleya alliance. He is also the SDCOS first vice president and is responsible for booking the excellent speakers we look forward to hearing each month.

This should be a very informative and cont'd on page 2

GENERAL MEETING - June 2nd, 7:30 PM Rupiculous Orchids from Brazil

Speaker - Francisco Miranda

By Kay Klausing, 1st Vice President

The speaker at our June meeting will be Francisco Miranda. The topic of his presentation will be "Rupiculous Orchids from Brazil".

Francisco is a well know taxonomist, with a specialty in Brazilian native Laelias, and a naturalist who has traveled extensively to study orchids in their natural environments. Since 1988, he has been speaking at international orchidrelated events and meetings in the US, Canada, Brazil and elsewhere.

With his wife Maria Cristina, he ran Boa Vista Orchids in Brazil from 1986. After they moved to the US they opened Miranda Orchids in 1999. Their nursery specializes in growing mainly selected Cattleya-alliance species — most are produced in their own lab from their extensive collection of stud plants and additional plants are imported from select sources in Brazil to increase variety and novelty and keep up with the latest breeding trends in Brazil.

cont'd on page 2

Culture class cont'd

interesting presentation. We all share a concern about viruses and our orchids. Learning more about this invisible and incurable enemy can help us all in our efforts to keep viruses out of our collections.

I hope you'll join us at 6:30.

General meeting cont'd

Join Francisco and fellow society members for dinner at the Prado Restaurant, before the general meeting. Please call 619-275-2308 to R.S.V.P.

The plant opportunity table for the June meeting will be provided by Miranda Orchids.

From the Membership Desk

Please welcome our newest members Mary Whittemore, Brian Buzzella, and Eric Castillejos.

Bob

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County Fair Update

by Bruce Berg

Our Society has a display booth entered in this year's County Fair. It was designed by Nancy Walters and Carey McCoy to reflect the Centennial Celebration of Balboa Park's Panama Exposition. The orchid display has a nostalgic scene with posters of the Botanical Gardens in 1915, 1935 and 2015. It also has a mock Vintage Ticket Booth where visitors can get brochures and information on orchid shows, events, vendors, County Open House events, and Society membership.

We will be displaying member orchids which were entered for ribbon judging. We also need VOLUNTEERS to help us do a "Meet and greet", on June 7th, June 11th and June 19th. We need 6 people to man two shifts on each day. Details and times are on the signup sheets. You will get a free ticket into the Fair and there is free parking at the Horse Park. We will be sharing the workload with members from Palomar and CSA. The Volunteer sign-up website is:

Sunday June 7, 2015 www.volunteersignup.org/EPHLC

Thursday, June 11, 2015 - www.volunteersignup.org/DDMLE

Friday, June 19, 2015 – www.volunteersignup.org/4XRL9



President's Message

It's time to elect your Board of Directors. I've had great pleasure serving as President of our Society this past year. The current BoD team present themselves for re-election; Debby Halliday, 2nd Vice President; Kay Klausing, 1st Vice President; Jack Schaefer, Secretary; Carol Berg, Treasurer, Carol Kerr, Director-at-large; Scott LaBouff, President.

Election is scheduled at the beginning of our June 2nd General Meeting.

I am sad to say that Felisa Acantilado has decided to resign from her current term as Director-At-Large. Thank you Felisa for the time you have served on the BoD. Felisa has been a member of SDCOS for 25 plus years and a valued volunteer. She is an accomplished grower and a true lover of orchids. She is always ready with a compliment and a smile to reward the efforts of other members with their plants. We all appreciate her enthusiasm and support.

Thank you to **Bob Clark** for his continued exceptional service, as *Director-At-Large, Membership & Parliamentarian*.

Special gratitude goes to **Bruce Berg**, *Past President*, for his continued service to the Board and his dedication in bringing us quality shows, both at "Orchids in the Park" and our annual *Spring Show*. Bruce also serves as our *Ambassador* to the San Diego County Fair and contributes his monthly culture article in our Newsletter.

Each member of the BoD has provided valuable contributions in their roles, to the Board and to you. Debby has brought you outstanding culture talks, workshops, plant forums, and now, "Dr. Is In". Kay has brought you interesting and insightful featured speakers to take you into the world of orchids and he has provided quality orchid opportunity tables. He has also organized our banquets this last May and December. Bob keeps Membership on a steady path and Carol B.

keeps our *Treasury* in fine order. **Jack** does an extraordinary job recording our proceedings, actively improving our website, and I am happy to say, taking on Shows. **Carol K.** and **Felisa** have offered valuable insights and kept us connected to the membership at large. **I feel we've had a dynamic team on the Board.**

Additional team dynamos are David Eveleth, Newsletter Editor, Ivan Allen, Volunteer Coordinator; and Mary Ann Chantahala, Social Media Coordinator. All will be featured in the future, along with other dynamo members of Conservation Committee, Show Committee, Refreshments Committee, and Finance Committee. Congratulations to Dave and Patty Hoffmaster, now Life Members for their contributions to our Society. Thank you to all.

This past year, SDCOS members have participated in a beautiful Spring Show, a campout and hike at Agua Caliente Park, a series of re-potting workshops and our Orchids in the Park Shows and Sales. Speaking of, "Orchids in the Park" Show and Sale is July 25th & 26th. Volunteers are needed Friday (set-up), Saturday and Sunday. Sign-up at

https://www.volunteersignup.org/WJYCQ

Check among your orchids for show candidates, those growing new inflorescences. Begin their preparation by staking where needed. Give the plant a general inspection and cleaning so that you'll have it ready for show at the end of July.

I'd like to summarize some of this year's accomplishments and continuing efforts.

We are now equipped for *presentations in high-definition*, look for our *Orchid Wiz station* during meetings and shows, look at *updates* to *sdorchids.com*. Check out the *new Volunteer tab* to view all active

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President's message -cont'd

opportunities to sign-up, have fun and help your Society. Jack Schaefer has been busy with this and other updates including current construction of SDCOS' "Dr is In" Orchid Culture Google Group, which Debby Halliday will moderate. Thank you both. Jack has done much work and Debby's is just beginning. David Eveleth has brought in plants for "Dr is In", seeking suggestions to bring them back to health. Short discussions have followed concluding with expert suggestions for remedy. This is the purpose of this program. Bring in your plant when help is needed. Also, you can e-mail orchid culture problems or questions to sdcos-<u>orchid-doctor@googlegroups.com</u> Provide the plant's name; summarize your current basic care of this plant and a description of the problem you want to remedy. Including a picture of the plant, and problem area of the plant - if applicable, will be helpful. General and specific culture advice is available here.

The Board has been discussing "Point of Sale" systems for use at our "Orchids in the Park" Show and Sale events. We have decided to purchase a Square, Inc. POS system at half the cost of our previous consideration. We intend to initiate its use this July. This is an integrated system allowing for speedy purchases, and accounting. I am certain our customers will appreciate it as well. Thank you to Kay who provided detailed comparisons for selection of a new POS system.

I am seeking a skilled carpenter, among you, who can build a wheeled book case for our library. I'd like a rolling case to ease access for those wanting to browse for a book. Contact me for details at president@sdorchids.com

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SDCOS is now on Facebook!

Check out: <u>facebook.com/San-Diego-County-</u> Orchid-Society

We encourage all SDCOS members and orchid enthusiasts to 'Like' our page. Invite your friends to 'Like' us as well. SDCOS posts featured speaker information, Show photographs, prizewinning orchids, and volunteer opportunities.

To learn more, contact:



socialmediacoordinator@sdorchids.com

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President's message - cont'd

I'd like to see eagerness by each of you to expand your knowledge and understanding of orchids. Use the SDCOS Library. We've added "A Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species, Volumes 1 & 2". Inform me if you have a suggestion for addition to or a donation of books or other material for our library.

If you buy books, orchid products and other stuff *on-line*, then benefit SDCOS by using https://smile.amazon.com/, Enter "San Diego County Orchid Society" when prompted to select an organization. Amazon donates 0.5% of purchase price to SDCOS. Thank Kay for this suggestion during a BoD brain-storm session. We champion you to use this when buying on-line.

We enjoyed great fun and had many visitors at our booth during the Garden Party of the Century. We signed up and welcome new members, Brian Buzzella and Eric Castillejos. Thank you to Bob Clark, Debby Halliday, Nico Goossens, Ivan Allen, Linda Garner, and Carol Kerr who talked to visitors about orchids and the benefits of SDCOS membership. I had a great time here and feel that the day was a success. Bruce, Nico, Debby, and Kay loaned a very nice selection of orchids for display at our booth.

SDCOS members had a prominent display of beautiful orchids at "Our Park – Our Treasure" Flower Show, hosted by the San Diego Floral Association. Everyone had a great time. Congratulations to Jim Wright for his win of the A.D. Robinson Award for his very full and lovely Leptotes bicolor.

Pictures of Garden Party of the Century and "Our Park – Our Treasure" Flower Show are featured in this newsletter.

Visit our booth at the San Diego County Fair. This exhibit, co-sponsored by San Diego County Orchid Society, Palomar Orchid Society and San Diego Cymbidium Society, will introduce our passion for orchids to the public. This year's Flower & Garden Show theme is "A Walk in the Park", in honor of Balboa Park's 1915 Panama-California Exposition Centennial Celebration. This promises the ambiance of a walk in the park. There will be a number of orchids in exhibition during the fair. Orchid Day is June 11th. Please find Bruce Berg's article and volunteer sign-up links in this newsletter. Have Fun!

I wish *you* success in growing orchids! Scott LaBouff



Culture Article: Rainwater Collection, Part Two, Distribution

by Bruce Berg

Part one of this culture article described how I collect rainwater from my roof. This article describes how I deliver the water to my plants.

Water from my two water totes flows by gravity to a small shallow well pump (from Harbor Freight). It is important that the waterline to the pump is filled with water when the pump starts. Either use a check valve on your supply line, or have the storage tank above the pump. Plan your plumbing so that you can disconnect and remove the pump without having to drain the tanks. You will want to have a filter between the tank and your pump that you can clean It should be isolated by out periodically. valves so that the filter can be cleaned. I treat my water in the tanks with Physan 20, following instructions on the bottle. I also test the water with my TDS (total dissolved solids) meter after filling the tank with rainwater. If the water tests less than 100 ppm, then I feel that I could add some supplemental city water, using a proportional formula to make sure that the water added doesn't push the combined TDS over 100 ppm. Although I'm not currently doing it, I could buffer the water to have the pH slightly acid to make the orchids happier.

I also have some 32 gallon plastic trash cans and 55 gallon barrels that I will set up on my patio and fill from my tanks when I hear that rains are coming, on the chance that the weather forecasters are right. This gives me some additional storage to use to refill my tanks when they get low. I put plastic trash bags inside the cans to act as additional light blockers and to help seal the trash cans from leakage. I also keep the water cleaner this way by keeping it out of contact with the cans. I just have to remove the bags before





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Rainwater collection, cont'd

putting in the sump pump so that the pump doesn't suck up the plastic bag. Slicing the bag allows me to slide the plastic up and out of the can easily.

My water pump pressurizes a 3/4" PVC plastic irrigation system that is connected to sprinkler control valves. The valves establish 9 zones on my system that can be individually controlled. The valves are controlled by an Orbit 9 station controller. I went to multi stations for two reasons. First, I wanted to be able to control the times and days when I watered plants on various benches, both in my greenhouse, and in my Secondly, The water shade cloth area. pressure from the well pump isn't very high. To get all of the mist heads on my system to have enough water flow, I had increase the number of zones to increase the pressure and flow.

Note here that city safety codes do not allow the cross connection of rainwater systems to city water systems because of water quality safety issues.

From each of the control valves, I run black 1/2" PVC drip irrigation tubing suspended from galvanized pipes. I punch in 1/4" barbs and 1/4" tubing ending with a "DIG" mister head #43 fitting. I take #12 electrical wire and wrap it around the galvanized pipe and drop it down to the level of where I want the mister head and twist the wire and the 1/4" tubing together, ending with the wire securing the tubing. The wire is rigid enough to support the tubing about 12" down and 6" horizontal to water mounted orchids. I use electrical tape to secure the irrigation tubing to the galvanized pipe. I space the misters



about 15" for overlapping coverage. I don't put more than 20 misters on a zone.

The other thing that I do for water conservation is to collect runoff water and use it to water my garden and fruit trees. You can see from the photo that my benches are wood frames covered with corrugated metal roofing, sitting on concrete blocks. The blocks are set so that the frames are sloped just enough so that water runs towards where I have mounted short sections of gutter material. I drilled holes in the gutter to allow water to drain into the buckets below. Any water collecting in the buckets can be carried to the garden. As a side benefit, the garden plants get any unused fertilizers. Another thing that I do is to put plant trays with a liner of landscape fabric covered with bark and a second plant tray onto which my plants are placed. I think in the future, I may replace the bark with sand or gravel to keep things cleaner. The purpose is to catch water and release humidity slowly over the day, creating a more humid micro climate around the orchid.

Concerning Plants for Judging Sessions

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

San Diego

Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104 1st Tuesday of the month at 6 pm

San Marino

Huntington Botanical Gardens 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA 91108 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:

Tuskes, Ann and Paul 858-274-5829

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Dear SDCOS Members,

You're invited to attend this year's Orchid Digest Speakers' Day on Saturday, June 13, 2015 from 12:30-8:00 pm, Ahmanson Classroom, Botanical Center at the Huntington Library, Art Collections & Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA.

It will be a wonderful day with six very exciting speakers. Steve Beckendorf will take you to the cloud forests of Peru; Harold Koopowitz and Steve Hampson to the primary forests of Madagascar; Peter Lin will share some insights on what's trending in Phalaenopsis hybridizing; and Marc Hachadourian will give some hints regarding orchids you might not want to grow. The program will conclude with a glimpse at orchids from a very different prospective: through the eye of award winning botanical artist Carol Woodin.

In addition to outstanding lectures:

- there will be orchids for sale from Andy's Orchids, Big Leaf Orchids, Cal Orchid, and Sunset Valley Orchids
- · AOS Judging at 10 am
- A silent auction and time to catch up with friends during the happy hour and dinner.
- Admission to the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens is included as part of the registration.

Register on line: www.orchiddigest.org. Registration: \$65 (\$80 at the door). Any questions please contact Simone Friend, orchidsimonef@aol.com.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 13th, Nancy Benay Secretary, Orchid Digest Corporation Please mark your calendars and save the date: **Saturday**, **June 13, 2015.**

Orchid Digest Speakers' Day:

Orchid Potpourri

Ahmanson Classroom in the Botanical Center at the

Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA

12:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

Expert Lectures-Orchid Displays-Orchid Sales-Silent Auction-AOS Judging-Dinner

Scheduled Speakers:

Steven Beckendorf—
"Searching for Orchids in Southeastern Peru"

Marc Hachadourian—

"Orchid Species You Should Not Try to Grow!"

Harold Koopowitz and Steven Hampson— "Madagascar: Leaping Lemurs and Orchids"

Peter Lin-

"Trending Phalaenopsis Novelty Hybridizing"

Distinguished Orchid Digest Lecture:

Carol Woodin, "An Artist on the Orchid Trail"

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or contact Simone Friend at Orchidsimonef@aol.com or call (562) 431-1247. When contacting by e-mail, please include phone number, e-mail address and mailing address.

There is limited space, so don't wait to buy your ticket.

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, Phals, other Greenhouse grown, West SD County Debby Halliday debhallid@gmail.com 858-756-3578

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 (619) 583-3804

Pleurothallids

Christopher Croom (619) 583-3804

Cvmbidiums

Karl Batchman casa@orquideas.com

Northeast County, all types

Dave Reid, Reid's Orchids (760) 310-2153

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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For more information, call 619.231.0251 Or call toll free 877.3 MEMBER

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SDFA Our Park- Our Treasure SDCOS entries and Garden party pics!





Cattleya jenmanii "Dunsterville' by Debby Halliday - First Place! Congrats Debby!







SDCOS is now on twitter!

Check out https://twitter.com/SDOrchids
Twitter with use by members promotes of

Twitter, with use by members, promotes our mission. Get regular meeting and show updates.

Try it out. Post your favorite orchid photo of the

Try it out. Post your favorite orchid photo of the moment.

Perhaps share a timely culture tip. Sign-up is easy!

Board of Directors Meeting Summary

by Jack Schaefer

The San Diego County Orchid Society's Board meeting was held on May 7th, 2015.

Attending were Scott LaBouff, Kay Klausing, Carol Berg, Jack Schaefer, Carol Kerr, Debby Halliday, Bruce Berg, Bob Clark and Felisa Acantilado. The meeting was opened at 7:08 by the President, Scott LaBouff.

The Secretary reported that the April Board minutes were approved by email and were published in the May Newsletter.

The Treasurer presented the Financial report for April. A motion was made & passed to file the report for review. Carol reported the Spring Show financials pending some remaining miscellaneous expenses.

A claim to the City for reimbursement of losses due to the closure of Balboa Park and cancellation of our meeting on February 3rd is pending further action.

Carol reported that we had purchased a significant number of the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place ribbons for our Shows. 25% of the cost is billed to the Spring Show budget and the remaining will be billed against the Park Shows.

A discussion was held regarding the scheduling and timing of next year's Spring Show. It is planned for the last weekend in February. After much discussion, it was decided to go ahead with the January Park Show which is the last weekend in January. As noted below, we are purchasing a new Point Of Sale (POS) cash register which will reduce the number of volunteers required for the Park Shows.

Our webmaster reported on the web activity for April. As expected, the web site hit count returned to its normal level after the Spring Show activity. The *Volunteer Signup* and *The* Dr Is In webpages have been moved to left column buttons on all pages.

The Membership Chair reported a net increase in membership with 7 new members.

Under the President's report, Scott LaBouff reported that the "Garden Party for the Century" activities were on schedule. Also he reported that a plant logging system had been developed to handle tracking of all plants loaned to the society for displays so that every loaned plant could be accounted for and returned to its owner. The logging system will be available for all Shows and Society activities.

Our 1st VP, Kay Klausing, reported that Francisco Miranda will be speaking on Brazilian Orchids at the June general meeting. Francisco will also provide the Opportunity Table.

POS System. Kay also reported on his research into Point Of Sale systems. He gave a review of the available technology and recommended a particular system. After much discussion of pros & cons, the board authorized the purchase of a system. We anticipate having the new system up and running before the July Park Show. As a result, the board has canceled its request for a substantially larger budget allocation for a system similar to the one used by the Cactus and Succulent Society.

Our 2nd VP, Debby Halliday reported that Kay Klausing would be speaking on Orchid Viruses in the June Culture Class.

Our Past President Bruce Berg reported on several items. The San Diego County Fair is rapidly approaching. Bruce requested approval to use green table cloths for our booth at the SDCF. Also he requested funds for the printing of advertising materials

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Board meeting summary cont'd

including quarter-page flyers and color bookmarks to be used at the SDCF and future Society activities. The board authorized the printing of the requested materials.

Our Society has been offered booths where we can have volunteers meet and greet the public at the SDCF on June 7th, 11th and 19th. In particular, June 11th has been designated "Orchid Day" and Ben Machado & Charley Fouquette will be giving presentations. Volunteers will be solicited in the upcoming newsletter.

Bruce commented on the 2015 Spring Show activities, noting that the final Spring Show Committee meeting for 2015 would be held

at the Hoffmaster's on May 17th for a postshow wrap-up. He also noted that this was his last year as Spring Show Co-Chair. He suggested that a replacement Co-Chair who was also a member of the Board of Directors was highly desirable. After some consideration, Jack Schaefer volunteered to be a Co-Chair for the 2016 Spring Show. Since the 2016 Spring Show is the last weekend in February all Show committee activities will start at least a month earlier.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM and the next Board meeting is June 4th at 7PM.



FOR SALE

The following items have been removed from our society garage and Carol says "they must go." Some of them are not in working order, but before turning them into salvage, the Board wanted to see if any of the Society members wished to have them at deep discount. If you are interested, contact Bruce or Carol Berg at 619.258.1963. or b2berg@yahoo.com.

Vupoint Solutions Digital slide converter. Converts slides and film to digital \$5 OBO

Kodak Ektagraphic projector, no lense free

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Magna View Slide Sorter \$5 OBO

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Remote cables











San Diego County Orchid Society

Board of Directors

President: Scott LaBouff
First VP: Kay Klausing
Second VP: Debby Halliday
Treasurer: Carol Berg
Secretary: Jack Schaefer
Directors: Bob Clark
Carol Kerr

Past President: Bruce Berg Membership Chair: Bob Clark

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

David Eveleth at develethos@gmail.com.

Information for the newsletter must be submitted by the 15th of the month.

Advertisers

Please contact Carol Berg at winklerca@yahoo.com.

Orchid Dates to Remember

June 2nd, 6:30 PM

SDCOS Culture Meeting

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

June 2nd, 7:30 PM

SDCOS General Meeting

First Tuesday of the month

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

June 4th, 7:00 PM

SDCOS Board Meeting

Normally the Thursday following the General Meeting, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room104

June 5th

Palomar Orchid Society Meeting

Culture class at 6:30; program at 7:00

First Wednesday of the month Lake San Marcos Pavilion

331105 La Bonita Dr., San Marcos, CA 92078

June 6th

SDCOS Species Group Meeting

First Saturday of the month

Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

June 13th, 12:30 - 8:00pm

Orchid Digest Speakers Day

Huntington Library, San Marino

June 17th

Cymbidium Society Meeting

Regular meeting, third Wednesday of month Culture class at 6:30, Meeting at 7:00 Lake San Marcos Pavilion 1105 La Bonita Dr., San Marcos, CA 92078 orchldy2@mac.com or (760) 732-0055

June 19th

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

June 20th, 2:00 pm

Orchid Auction

First Christian Church, Burbank, CA (see ad this newsletter)



San Diego County Orchid Society P.O. Box 161020 San Diego, CA 92176 1st Class

Postage

Required

From the editor -

I am very excited that Francisco Miranda is to speak at the June meeting. I love rupiculous Laelias and grow some from Francisco's nursery. They are perfect plants for the climate here, delightful compact growers generally tolerant of lots of sun. If only they were fragrant! Perhaps Francisco can enlighten us on how to breed fragrance into these charming plants. One day I hope to go to Brasil and see them in their native environment.

With the drought only getting worse, Bruce's article on rainwater collection for irrigation is a great one. I noticed while strolling the neighborhood today that installations of barrels connected to the gutters are becoming more common.

Be sure to thank Felisa for her service to the society if you should see her - and all the other board members and volunteers. The best way to say thanks is to volunteer yourself!

All the best in growing orchids and keep sending pictures!

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