



*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 197

August 2015

<http://www.sdorchids.com>

CULTURE MEETING - August 4th, 6:30 PM

Question Time - Can you stump our expert panel?

Panel - Tom Biggart, Nico Goosens, Pam Peters

By Debby Halliday, 2nd Vice President

In August it's your turn! Bring your best questions to challenge our panel of experts. To be sure your questions are included, write them down in advance and give them to Tom Biggart, our moderator, when you get there. Questions will also be taken from the floor.

I'm excited about the breadth of experience this panel offers. Within the group, we have covered most climactic zones in our area, greenhouse and outdoor growing, mounting orchids, and judging. What a great panel!

Whatever you're wondering about, I'm sure one of these able growers should be

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GENERAL MEETING - August 4th, 7:30 PM

Cattleya guttata

Speaker - Alek Zaslowski

By Kay Klausing, 1st Vice President

The speaker at our August meeting will be **Alek Zaslowski** from AWZ Orchids in Brazil. The topic of his presentation will be "**Cattleya guttata**".

Alek was born and raised in Espirito Santo State and lives in Vitória, on the coast. When he was young, he was always surrounded by orchids at his parents' home. His father, Wladyslaw, started to grow orchids as a hobby in 1953, and took many trips with his son to see orchids in nature. These trips were what attracted Alek most, and he still

enjoys viewing orchids in the wild, especially in new locations.

Alek is a mechanical engineer and never expected to work with orchids. But they always caught his attention, and he admired their beauty and the way they grew in nature. Around 1990, his father retired, and Alek quit his job as an engineer to start an orchid business with his father. They were aware that orchids were quickly disappearing from the wild, and the original idea was that the orchid production in their nursery would help to

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Culture class continued

able to offer helpful advice.

Let me introduce our panel:

Tom Biggart, moderator – El Cajon

He is the owner of Granite Hills Orchids, and is passionate about orchids. He is very interested in Encyclias and has a large collection of Encyclia species and hybrids. The Australian cool growers are a current interest as well as Brazilian rupicolous Laelias.

Nico Goossens – Encinitas

Nico grows orchids with Lisa Humphreys at Lico Orchids. Most of you will have seen their booth at our shows with its broad selection of interesting plants. He has years of growing experience, has hosted a mounting workshop, and also knows a lot about building greenhouses.

Pam Peters – San Diego

Pam is a longtime member of the club and the head of our ribbon judging committee for SDCOS shows. She grows a variety of orchids outdoors under lathe and in other protected spots. Her experiences will be very relevant to those of you living just to the east of the coastal strip.

This promises to be a very informative and fun discussion, but you need to do your part. Interesting questions will make for an interesting evening.

We like to start promptly at 6:30, so please plan to be in your seats and ready to participate on time.

General meeting continued

reduce pressure on native populations.

They also noticed that most of the plants that were collected in the past simply disappeared from collections. Typically, these plants were killed or sold to foreign growers. Over the years, Alek and his father have built a collection that now includes some of the best varieties found within many species, especially those belonging to the Cattleya alliance.

Currently, AWZ has an orchid collection with around 20,000 plants from all over the world. They mainly grow and propagate species from Brazil and other regions of South America, and their plants are sold all over Brazil and also shipped abroad.

AWZ cultivates their orchids in two nurseries, including 5,200 square meters (56,000 square feet) of greenhouses. One property, for cooler-growing plants, is located in Domingos Martins, at an altitude of 1,100 meters (3,600 feet), and the other, for warm growers, is located in Viana at 300 meters (990 feet).

Join Alek and fellow society members for dinner at the Prado Restaurant, before the general meeting. Please call 619-929-1452 to R.S.V.P.

The plant opportunity table for the August meeting will be provided by AWZ Orchids.

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President's Message

Our Summer "Orchids in the Park" Show and Sale was another success. Your participation makes this show what it is. I hope that you enjoyed the time spent with friends and fellow members during the show. The quality and number of orchids displayed was a beautiful and varied selection. A special thank you goes to all who volunteered their time and to Bruce Berg, our *Show Chair*. Congratulations to everyone for a show well done.

We implemented a new "Point of Sale" (POS) system with great success. Kay Klausing deserves a big hand for taking charge in the implementation of our *Square POS*. The transition was trouble free.

We displayed a new "Orchids in the Park" banner on the Prado Promenade, along with other new signage for our park show and promotion of our 2016 Spring Show. Look for these pictured in this newsletter.

As we are now into summer, with many hot days to follow, you'll want to keep an eye on your collection of plants. Watering is required more frequently now and most importantly be sure to supply your orchids with excellent ventilation and protection from direct mid-day sun.

I am happy to report our "Doctor is In" Google Group has received orchid culture questions from the public. This is a forum available to you. Post your culture questions and problems for help; <http://www.sdorchids.com/TheDoctorsIn.html>. You are also invited to share culture tips here. Having a conversation with your fellow members is the best way to improve your skills. Additionally, our Orchid Hotlines are always an expert resource when in need of culture advice.

I remind everyone that our Spring Show dates have moved favorably to March 11-13, 2016. Mark this in your calendar.

I wish you success in growing orchids!

Scott LaBouff

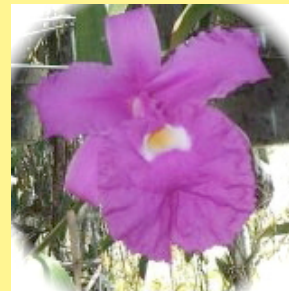
From the Membership Desk

Please welcome our newest members Samuel Safford and Chase Clemesha.

We are preparing to publish our 2015 Membership Roster. If there has been a change in your name, mailing address, phone number or email address please get those changes to Membership using one of these methods: email – membership@sdorchids.com; phone – leave a message at (858) 270-8352; in person - at our Society meeting; or mail – to Bob Clark's address from your roster.

Bob

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BILLY BAKER
bakwi1@cox.net

NEWCOMERS POTTING WORKSHOP - August 29

Attention New Members! Back by popular demand. We are having a potting workshop on August 29 at Debby Halliday's house. Dave Hoffmaster will demonstrate how to divide and repot an overgrown plant – with some divisions available to share. Debby will demonstrate how to repot a phalaenopsis.

We will meet at **12 pm** for potluck lunch and then get to work. It is an afternoon schedule this time because our work area will be in the shade then. After the demonstrations you will be free to work on your own plants – for best results they should be showing new root growth. There will be experienced members on hand to help if you need it. There will be a few donated cymbidiums to repot as well.

We are asking for a nominal fee of \$3 per plant to cover supplies. Ben Machado will provide medium and a range of pots. He will also have a few other supplies on hand for sale if you need them.

Please bring a lunch dish to share. We'll provide drinks and utensils. You are invited to enjoy the meal and conversation and take a tour of Debby's greenhouse and gardens before or after the workshop.

Here are the details. We ask that you sign up in advance so that we can have a place for you to work and enough supplies. Here is the link for online signup:

<https://www.volunteersignup.org/9DTXF>

Date: Saturday, August 29
Time: 12 pm
Address: 6769 La Valle Plateada
Rancho Santa Fe
Cost: \$3.00 per plant

Our previous workshops have been lots of fun. Here's your chance to find that "way in" to repotting orchids. You'll also get to enjoy socializing and becoming better acquainted with your fellow club members. Put it on your calendar!

NOTE – as always, you don't have to be a new member to come. If this session interests you, go ahead and sign up. You'll be welcome.



Culture article for August

by Bruce Berg

Light,

As I began looking at my plants in preparation for the Summer Show, I was disappointed to notice that only a few were ready to bloom. Thinking about the unusual weather that we have been having this year, I remember many sunny days in May and a good blooming in June for the Fair. We had a lot of "June Gloom" days last month, with a corresponding poor blooming this month. The common denominator seems to be the amount of sunlight or bright days under my shade cloth structure. One of the first things we tell beginners who ask "why doesn't my orchid bloom?" is that it probably needs more light. This month, I thought I would do some research on lighting and provide some tips that might be helpful in getting our orchids to bloom better for us.

The following article has been reprinted in part from an article from the AOS website entitled:

"Light, the Key to Successful Blooming"

The plant on the left has received enough light to produce flowers while the one on the right has not.

Note the difference in leaf color. The plant on the left has received enough light to produce flowers while the one on the right has not. Note the difference in leaf color. While there are many factors that can trigger blooming in orchids; a drop in night temperature, increase or decrease in day length and even sharp restriction in water availability, none of these will be successful unless your orchids have been grown with adequate light. For most hobbyists, this

factor is almost always at the heart of the question "Why won't my orchids rebloom?" You can't work magic or miracles and without adequate light during the growing season, no amount of cajoling with decreased nitrogen, abusive cold nights, dehydration or similar abuse will result in flowering. If you have noticed a general decline in the number of your plants that flower, it's highly likely that the amount of light you have reaching your growing area has decreased. Don't forget that trees and landscaping grow as well and can eventually shade your growing areas.

Ideally, most orchids should have light green foliage.

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So what is adequate light? While the actual levels vary with the genus, in general orchid foliage should be a light yellow-green rather than a lush sort of grass green. In addition, the leaves of your plants should be firm and stand upright. Even *Phalaenopsis* which need relatively low light will, depending on the genetic background of the plant, hold their foliage horizontally or somewhat upright and plants that produce very long, floppy leaves are being grown under insufficient light. Think of the leaves being the plant-equivalent of solar collectors. The lower the light, the bigger the leaves need to be to gather the same amount of light; the heavier the leaves the harder it will be to hold them firm and upright.

There are several ways to gauge the light your plants are receiving and you can't really trust your eyes. Our eyes are designed to effectively adjust to the light they receive. Your local supermarket may appear to be very brightly lit when, in fact, the actual light level is less than 500 foot-candles (*Phalaenopsis* need at least 2-3 times that level for adequate growth and flowering) and your office environment is typically about 1/5 of that level. While the most accurate way to measure light levels is to purchase a light meter you can get a pretty good estimate using just your hand. On a clear day, position yourself so that your hand is between your plants and the light source and about 12 inches from the leaves and observe the shadow, if any, your hand casts. If you can see no shadow, you probably do not have enough light for any orchids with the exception of the jewel orchids which are grown more for their leaves than flowers.



If the shadow is fuzzy and faint (below left) to moderate your

light level should be sufficient for *Phalaenopsis* and *Paphiopedilum* which require less light than most orchids. If the shadow you see is sharp (below right), you most likely have sufficient light for all but the highest light-requiring orchids like cymbidiums, vandas and ascocendas.

Don't let anyone tell you that you can't grow a mixed collection of orchids. Hobbyists do it all the time. They just take advantage of the variation in conditions throughout their growing areas. As far as light levels are concerned, direct sunlight entering an unshaded window can be as high as 4,000 to 8,000 footcandles measured directly at the glass while it may only be as low as 500 footcandles just inside the shade off to the side of the same window. Lower light plants like *Paphiopedilum* and *Phalaenopsis* can be staged in these shady areas while higher light plants like oncidiums and cattleyas can be arranged closer to the center and nearer the glass. It just takes a little experimentation.

Quality versus Quantity

Plants need red and blue light and they reflect green. Light from the red end of the spectrum is critical for flowering while that from the blue end is used in growth. This is usually not a problem when plants are grown out-of-doors or in a greenhouse unless the greenhouse skin is very old and has yellowed to the point that the spectral quality is poor. However, for plants grown under lights, this can be an important factor and is the reason that many books recommend a mixture of 50:50 cool-white and warm-white fluorescent tubes in the light rack. Spectral quality can also be an issue if you are growing your plants in a sunroom glazed with bronze or other colored glass since these glazing materials may filter out much of the spectrum used by plants.

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Duration

Longer is not always better. First, plants need a night just as we do. They are adapted to the daily cycle of the sun and different parts of their metabolic cycle are accomplished during light and dark periods. In addition, many orchids, especially species, are adapted to changes in day length. This is called photoperiodicity. Fall-blooming cattleyas flower as day length shortens while spring-blooming ones as day length increases. If these plants are grown under conditions of constant day length they may never flower. The old cattleya cut-flower growers used this knowledge to time flowering for important holidays and it's used today by Poinsettia growers for the Christmas market. Why is this important to the hobby grower? It's really quite simple. While a street light outside your greenhouse or living room window will produce such little light that being on all night won't matter that's not the case for lights in your growing area. If your only choice for a growing area is one that is lit late into the night, it would be best to concentrate on those plants like Phalaenopsis that flower without regard to day length.

Too much sunlight will burn an orchid's leaves.

Too Much Light

Unlike too little light whose effects are often insidious, the opposite can be true of too much light. Too much light, especially if it's a sudden change usually results in dramatic damage (sunburn) in very little time. The first sign of too much light is often yellow foliage. If left alone, this yellow foliage will eventually turn white and then dark brown and dry as the sunburned area dries out. Plants chronically exposed to too much light but not enough to cause sunburn will be stunted with yellow, hard foliage. If the problem is caught

before the chlorophyll has been completely destroyed it is often possible to reverse the damage. Once white spots or sunken areas have appeared, the damage is irreversible and the best thing one can do is stop further progression with more shade.

This is one area of orchid culture where you want to make changes SLOWLY. Orchids are easily sunburned if light levels rise too fast. When moving plants around, especially when bringing them outdoors after winter, err on the side of excess shade. Make changes when you are going to be home and can watch the plants. Feel the leaves. The palm of your hand is about 93F. If they are hot to the touch, the leaf temperature is well about 95F and serious damage can occur in very little time.

Tips:

Move your plants around where they will get more light.

Space your plants further apart so they get more light on the benches.

Change the shade cloth to a lower per cent value cloth (use 50% instead of 70%)

If your shade cloth is on tracks, or movable, leave your plants uncovered longer in the morning (say until the marine layer burns off).

Measure light levels with a light meter, or a camera light meter.

You can measure light with a light meter. Good ones are available between \$ 80.00 and \$ 150.00. Some measure light in foot-candles and others in luxes of Klux's

You can also use a 35 mm camera to measure light. Here is how to do it:

- Set the camera at 25 ASA.
- Set the shutter speed at 1/60 of a second.

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- Place a white sheet of paper where the leaves of the plants would be.
- Focus on the white sheet of paper from a distance of 1 foot.
- Make a note of the f/stop shown in the viewfinder.

Here are the approximate foot candles corresponding to various f/stops:

- f/2 = 100 fc
- f/2.8 = 200 fc
- f/4 = 375 fc
- f/5.6 = 750 fc
- f/8 = 1,500 fc
- f/11 = 2,800 fc
- f/16 = 5,000 fc.

Remember the maximum light should be at noon on a bright summer day

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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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July Orchid Show Photos!

Thanks Scott, Debby, Jack, Bruce for the wonderful photos



Debby Halliday with Best of Show Trophy for Brassavola Little Stars X *B. nodosa*

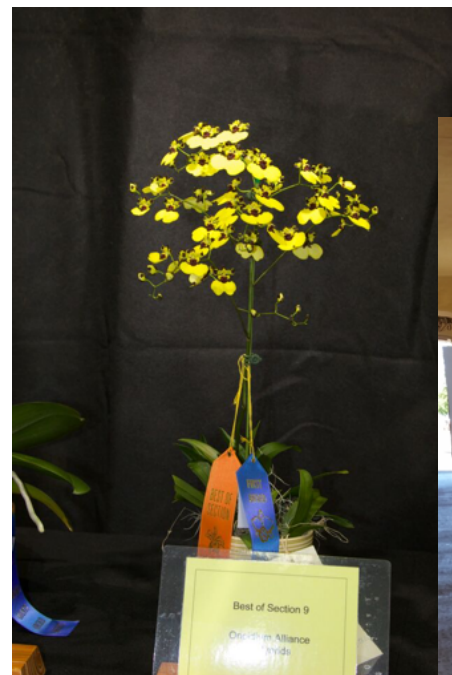


Tom Biggart receives Forrest Robinson trophy for cultural excellence on *Epicatt El Hatillo* x *E. tampensis*



Pedro Sanchez with Lt Clayton Waylay Blue Ribbon 2015 Summer Show





Show winners

by Bruce Berg

Here are the winners from the Summer show held the weekend of July 25 and 26, 2015 at the Balboa Park. Thank you to all the members who brought in plants to the show. We had a great show thanks to you!

Congratulations to Debby Halliday on her outstanding Brassavola Little Stars X *B. nodosa* hybrid for winning the Best of Show trophy. Congratulations also to Tom Biggart on his Epicatt El Hatillo X *E. tampensis* hybrid which won the Forrest Robinson Cultural award. The plant was also awarded an AOS award.

Best of Show	Brassavola Little Stars X <i>B. nodosa</i>	Debby Halliday
Forrest Robinson Cultural Award	Epicatt El Hatillo X <i>E. tampensis</i>	Tom Biggart
Best of Section 1, Standard Cymbidiums	Not Awarded	
Best of Section 2, Compact Cymbidiums	Cym. Canterbury 'Emma'	Anita and Jerry Spencer
Best of Section 3, Pendulous Cymbidiums	Not Awarded	
Best of Section 4, Standard Cattleyas	Lc. Sonitone	Debby Halliday
Best of Section 5, Compact Cattleyas	Brassavola Little Stars X <i>B. nodosa</i>	Debby Halliday
Best of Section 6, Miniature Cattleyas	Not Awarded	
Best of Section 7, Paphs and Phrags	Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice SVO AM/ AOS	Debby Halliday
Best of Section 8, Phalaeanopsis	Phal. Hybrid, Yellow and Pink	Debby Halliday
Best of Section 9, Oncidiums	Oncidium Alosuka	Betty Kelepecz
Best of Section 10, Other Hybrids	Dracula Raven	Betty Kelepecz
Best of Section 11, Specimen	E. Sietetrescuartos	Anita and Jerry Spencer
Best of Section 12, Species > 6"	<i>Stanhopea tigrina</i>	Felisa Acantilado
Best of Section 13, Species < 6"	<i>Pleurothallis dilemma</i> 'Windflower' HCC/AOS	Betty Kelepecz



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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
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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

Cymbidiums

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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Board of Directors Meeting Summary

The San Diego County Orchid Society's Board meeting was held on July 2nd, 2015.

Attending were Scott LaBouff, Kay Klausing, Debby Halliday, Bruce Berg, Carol Berg, Jack Schaefer, Carol Kerr, Bob Clark & Carey McCoy. The meeting was opened at 7:08PM

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

The Treasurer presented the Financial report for July which is the end of the Society's fiscal year. A motion was made & passed to file the report for review. Carol Berg also presented the 2015-2016 budget. It was reviewed by the board and accepted.

Our webmaster reported on the web activity for June. The page hit count hovers around 1900 hits/month as it did last month in line with expectations.

Membership Chair reported a total membership count of 324. Bob also noted that the Society Roster needs to be updated.

Spring Show 2016 – Co-Chair Jack Schaefer reported that the Show dates had moved to March 11th through 13th 2016 and it would be held at the Scottish Rite Center. Debby Halliday agreed to Co-Chair with Jack. An initial planning meeting was scheduled for early July at Debby's home

Scott LaBouff, Society President, reported Helen Pfister resigned as secretary of the Finance Committee. Debby Halliday volunteered to replace Helen. The Board approved Debbie's appointment as a Finance Committee member.

Scott proposed the purchase of new advertising posters for our "Orchids In The Park" Show and Sales. Carol Kerr volunteered to create a graphic design for the banners. The proposed purchase was approved and funds are included in the approved budget.

Scott also reviewed the Garden Party of the Century activities in more depth than last month. Particularly he noted that our booth beside the Lily Pond had a significant number of people wondering if we had plants for sale, which we did not. He also stated that sales of plants will be considered in future events. The San Diego Floral

Association has invited us to participate in their future Coronado Shows.

At Scott's invitation, Carey McCoy brought copies of the Sierra Club Liability Release forms for the board to review. These are standard liability release forms which we would adapt for our use for all future camping and hiking events.

Our 1st VP, Kay Klausing, reported that Alek Zaslowski will be speaking at the August general meeting. The topic of his presentation is *Cattleya guttata*. Alek will also provide the Opportunity Table.

Kay also mentioned that a training meeting on the POS system will be held at his home July 11th.

The 2nd Vice-President, Debby Halliday, reported that a new member Culture Class on Repotting will be held at her home August 29th.

Our new board member Carey McCoy expressed her gratitude at being selected to the board and promised to increase her volunteer work with the Society.

Our Past President Bruce Berg reported on the wrap-up of San Diego County Fair activities. Overall he stated that this was a good County Fair for the Society.

Due to the change in the Spring Show 2016 dates, Bruce requested allocation of funds to print bookmarks and other advertising materials. A motion to allocate the requested funds was made & passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM and the next SDCOS Board meeting will be on August 6th at 7PM.

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San Diego County Orchid Society

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Secretary: [Jack Schaefer](#)
Directors: [Bob Clark](#)
[Carol Kerr](#)
[Carey McCoy](#)

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

August 1st
SDCOS Species Group Meeting
First Saturday of the month
Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

August 4th, 6:30 PM
SDCOS Culture Meeting
First Tuesday of the month
Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

August 4th, 7:30 PM
SDCOS General Meeting
First Tuesday of the month
Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

August 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

August 6th, 7:00 PM
SDCOS Board Meeting
Normally the Thursday following the General Meeting, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 104

August 7-9th
Newport Harbor Orchid Society Exotic Plant Festival
Wesminster Mall (see advertisement this issue)

August 19th
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

August 21st
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



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

1st Class
Postage
Required

From the editor -

Rain in July was great for the plants. I will admit to being one of those people who read Bruce's article on rainwater caching and irrigation and thought, great article, but I have at least until October before I need to think about installing a system. Mother Nature sent a strong message (and may send another one this weekend) not to count on the old weather patterns. The plants love it - I grow a lot of Laelias and Laelia hybrids, and they get rain in the summer in their native habitat (the only place in Mexico where it rains in winter not summer is Tijuana). In addition to free water the plants get good water - a chance to flush out the minerals from the tap water. Not only did we get rain but the pattern of marine layer coverage, at least here at my house, is changing the illumination patterns and making me consider moving the plants around - see the article on light in this month's newsletter.

I hope all your plants are in full growth and the summer is a great one for you and your plants!

Suggestions for the newsletter always welcome.

David
develethos@gmail.com