



*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 213

December 2016

<http://www.sdorchids.com>

SDCOS Holiday Party - December 6th, 6:00 PM

The San Diego County Orchid Society's annual Holiday Party is on December 6th. This will replace the regularly scheduled Culture and General meetings. We'll start our party off right with appetizers served at 6 pm with the main meal following. This year SDCOS will provide main dishes - **Society members are asked to bring an appetizer, salad, vegetable, side-dish or dessert to share, providing 8-10 servings.**

Potluck sign-up

<https://www.volunteersignup.org/HM74K>

Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided by SDCOS as well as plates, cups and utensils.

No RSVP is required. Guests are welcome.

Orchid plant exchange:

Anyone who brings an orchid plant may participate.

The orchid plant exchange works as follows:

Bring a nicely decorated orchid plant (well potted & pest free), with your name clearly labeled on the plant. The first person to select a plant of their preference is randomly chosen. Whoever's plant this person selects is then called to make their own selection

and so forth. The more appealing plants are selected first, so the nicer your exchange plant is, the sooner you will be called to select a plant of your own.

SDCOS member's gift orchid:

SDCOS will present a gift orchid to each society member present.

Arthur Pinkers will present a slide show of this year's AOS awarded orchids from our region. Arthur is an accredited AOS Judge and also serves as a photographer for the AOS Pacific South Judging Region.

Members are encouraged to bring a blooming orchid to be used as a decorative centerpiece for the dining tables.

Come join your friends for a fun evening of delicious food, good company, and new orchids to begin a happy holiday season.

Please contact Kay Klausing if you have any questions.

Phone: 619-929-1452

Email: Firstvp@sdorchids.com

President's Message

Our holiday dinner party is on Tuesday, December 6th, starting at 6 pm. SDCOS will provide the main course. See what dishes are needed and sign-up by visiting <https://www.volunteersignup.org/HM74K>. **See Kay's article on page 1 for program details.** Join us for a good time with friends, good food, and, if you like, participate in the orchid plant gift exchange. Members in attendance will also get to select a gift orchid courtesy of SDCOS.

As this year comes to a close we have another to look forward to, filled with meetings and shows with many orchids, some fragrant and fascinating, all wondrous and beautiful. I thank you for your participation. **Let's see what orchid gems come our way in 2017. Mark your calendar and sign-up to volunteer now.**

Our Winter "Orchids in the Park" Show and Sale, January 28th & 29th. Set-up is on January 27th:

<https://www.volunteersignup.org/3DKQE>

Our Spring Show is March 24th – 26th at the Scottish Rite Event Center. Sign up to volunteer at:

March 23 for set-up:

<https://www.volunteersignup.org/LWTRF>

March 24:

<https://www.volunteersignup.org/J8P8Q>

March 25:

<https://www.volunteersignup.org/T4HP4>

March 26:

<https://www.volunteersignup.org/YR4KR>

Our Summer "Orchids in the Park" Show & Sale is July 29th – 30st. Set-up on July 28th: <https://www.volunteersignup.org/FQ7TW>

Our Fall "Orchids in the Park" Show & Sale is October 28th – 29th. Set-up on October 27th: <https://www.volunteersignup.org/EL97H>

Check your newsletter for other event announcements throughout the year.

I wish you and your family a joyous holiday season.

Scott LaBouff

From the Membership Desk

Please welcome our newest members, Wendy Daneau, William Homyak, Michael Kimura, Maria Mc Clurg, and Bonnie Zoe Winn. When you receive the envelope with Spring Show tickets, take a look at your mailing label for your name, address, and the date your membership is due for renewal. If any of this information needs correcting, let me know. Have a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, a Happy Kwanzaa, and a very merry holiday season. May your New Year be all you want it to be.

Bob C.

SDCOS is now on twitter!



Check out <https://twitter.com/SDOrchids>

Twitter, with use by members, promotes our mission. Get regular meeting and show updates. Try it out. Post your favorite orchid photo of the moment.

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

Fall Show Wrap-up

By Bruce Berg

Members had a ghoulishly fun-fun-fun time at our Fall Show the last weekend of October when we were visited by Superheroes, Princesses, Were-wolves, Unicorns, Fairies, Devils and other ephemeral beings who came to see your fantastic orchids and participate in the Kids' corner activities.

It was a show dominated by Catts, although Betty Kelepecz won the "Trifecta" by winning Best of Show, Forrest Robinson, and People's Choice Award with her amazing *Bulbophyllum 'Elizabeth Ann Buckleberry'* orchid (see photo next page).

Once again Nancy Walters managed to engage and intrigue our younger visitors with craft activities which introduced them to the fascinating world of orchids. We had about 150 children participate in the event during this show. This is in comparison to 65 from the last show. There were orchid jigsaw puzzles made by Nico Goossens and Nancy Walters. Nancy designed bookmarks and pages with unusual orchids for the kids to color. She was assisted by Christy Alben and Bud Close. One of the big attractions was a raffle every half hour for a free orchid. Orchids were provided by Rex Foster Orchids, Bud Close, Debby Halliday, Phyllis Prestia, Bruce Berg, and several other members. Ron Kaufmann also donated copies of Orchids magazines which were handed out to winners. When a young person received an orchid, Bud would provide them with a culture sheet and explain how to take care of their new orchid.

We will need reed stem Epidendrums or *Dendrobium kingianum* keikis for our winter show, because the theme will be teaching the kids how to pot orchids and we hope to have enough keikis to give each child a plant of their own to pot. If you have some that you



can hold over until the January show, your contributions will be appreciated.

Thank you volunteers! I was concerned at the beginning of the show that we would not have enough people to man the show. It tends to produce symptoms of panic in the show chair to think we have everything ready to go and nobody there to help run the show. Please sign up on the volunteer sign-up sheets.

Thanks to the garage and room 101 setup team and Sunday teardown folks: Bob Clark, Medrick Bullock, Lou Wilson, Jack Schaefer, Tom Ketelaar, Betty Kelepecz, Scott Opis, Kay Klausing, Carol Kerr, Nico Goossens, and Gabriel Penaloza. Sandwiches: Carol Berg. Coffee and donuts: Carol Kerr. Security: Carol Kerr, Dave Hoffmaster, Ivan Allen, Vangie Nagrampa. Hosts: Carey Mc Coy and Irma Adams. Conservation: Betty Kelepecz, Natalia Gaidarenko, Peter Tobias, and Shirley Hall. Finance: Carol Berg, Myra de Tate, Renate Schmidt, Darrell Adderson, Gary Louis, Dave Hoffmaster, Cheryl Adams, and Gabriella Penaloza. Plant Hotel on Saturday, April Louis. Sara Cummings, one of our newest members volunteered all day

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Fall Show Wrap-up continued

Sunday at the plant hotel and stayed late to help with the tear-down. Bob Clark manned our membership booth all weekend and signed up several new members.

A special thanks to Jack Schaefer for doing the computer layouts for the table and lath layouts. Also thanks to the AOS team who judged the plants: Phyllis Prestia, Renate Schmidt, and Arnie Gum.

Thank you to our Carey McCoy and the fine speakers she lined up to give interesting presentations: Dave Hoffmaster, Karl Batchman, Debby Halliday, Nico Goossens, Alex Nadzan, Ben Machado, and Kay Klausung.

Once again Pam Peters did an excellent job of organizing the plant registration process so that we could get our plants registered and organized for judging. She was assisted by Betty Kelepecz. On Saturday morning she organized the judging teams and we worked together in small groups talking about the plants in our sections, discussing the plants and assigning ribbons. It was fun having a mix of new and experienced members on the teams, since the questions from new members made us look at the plants closer to figure out why flowers on one plant were better than another. After judging we had a great pot luck with two of my favorite dishes, Ernie's pancit, and Myra's figgie pie. The pizza and pulled pork sliders were good also, as were the other desserts. On Sunday, Anita brought in another pancit, Oh boy! Carey also brought in sandwich fixings to keep us going to finish up the show.

Thanks also to the vendors who brought in such interesting plants: Lico Orchids, Rex Foster Orchids, Calavo Gardens, Cortland Orchids, Granite Hills, Fouquette and Hardy Orchids, Casa de las Orquideas,



Everything Orchids, Anita's Orchids, Andy's Orchids, Kat's Orchids, Orchid Source, Phrao Orchid Nursery, and Tayama Orchids.

Thanks everyone for helping make this a fun show.

Bruce Berg and Carey Mc Coy.

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<http://rexforsterorchids.com>
cell 619-316-4331

BILLY BAKER
bakw1@cox.net

Fall Show Winners

Sec	OCTOBER 2016	Orchid	Winner
	James & Lise Wright Best of Show	Bulbo. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry'	Betty Kelepecz
	Forrest Robinson Cultural Award	Bulbo. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry'	Betty Kelepecz
	People's Choice Award	Bulbo. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry'	Betty Kelepecz
1	Cymbidium Standard Hybrid	no entries	
2	Cymbidium Hybrid Miniature	no entries	
3	Cymbidiuym Hybrid Pendulous	no entries	
4	Cattleya Alliance Standard	<i>Cattleya deckeri</i> 'Poul Brechie'	Pedro Sanchez
5	Cattleya Alliance Compact	<i>C. Juvenilis</i> x <i>L. pumila</i>	Debby Halliday
6	Cattleya Alliance Miniature	Catt. Sacramento Jewel (Slc. Tangerine Jewel x Lc. Sacramento Rose)	Ken Campbell
7	Paphiopedilum Hybrids	Phrag. Don Wimber 'Amazon Sunset'	Debby Halliday
8	Phalaenopsis Alliance Hybrids	Phal. Norman's Mist 'Montclair' AM/ AOS	Charley Fouquette
9	Oncidium Alliance Hybrids	Psychopsis Mendenhall	Debby Halliday
10	Other Genera Hybrids	Bulbo. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry'	Betty Kelepecz
11	Specimen Plants	<i>Phal. bellina</i> 'Eye Candy'	Charley Fouquette
12	Species > 6"	<i>Onc. praetextum</i>	Peter Tobias
13	Species < 6"	<i>Epidendrum porpax</i>	Betty Kelepecz
14	Display	Orchid Terrarium	Jessica & Olivia Salomen

Fall Show AOS judging - Text and photos by Phyllis Prestia
 There were 9 orchids presented for judging. Two were awarded.



Lc. Cherry Plum 'Estela' AM/AOS
 Exhibited by Pedro Sanchez
 Awarded AM, 82 points



Zelenkoa anusta Tina AM/AOS
 Exhibited by Kay Klausung
 Awarded AM, 82 points

Spring Show

by Jack Schaefer

Happy Holidays to everyone, I hope your Thanksgiving Day has been a good one! Your Spring Show Committee has been busy in November ramping up to our 71st Annual International Spring Show and Sale.

Our Show Committee has been working in high gear these last few months. Our Show Theme, "Orchid Fiesta!", was chosen during the summer so that we could produce our Show Poster and other advertising materials earlier in this year. We've produced the Spring Show Poster featuring artwork by Pam Peters and graphic design by Carol Kerr Graphics. I have to say that the post card sized version of the Show Poster was a great hit at the Huntington Library's Orchid Show and Sale this last October. Over 250 of the post cards were made available to the public and they were so popular that we ran out. Now we just have to hope that people will look at them next March and join us at our Show! We've also ordered smaller version in the 8.5" by 11" and 5.5" by 8.5" sizes. These will all be available at the Holiday Party on December 6th. We hope you will work with us to get these out after the first of the year so that your friends and neighbors will see them and come to our show.

I'm sure you've noticed the popularity of Nancy Walter's Kids' Corner at the "*Orchids In The Park*" Shows last July and October. They have been a great hit with the youngsters and some of the oldsters. Not surprisingly, we've made room for Nancy's Kids' Corner at the Spring Show. I know there are fewer kids, but we expect to attract more San Diego families with this feature.

Presale tickets have been printed and Patti Hoffmaster is handling their distribution. They will be available for members at the Holiday Party. Please be sure to pick up your envelope of tickets! We have had to raise the face price on the tickets to \$10, which of

course will be offset by one of several discounts.

Ticket packets for members will be offered at 5 tickets for \$35 which is a \$15 discount over the regular price of admission. This is a major part of the revenue income for the society and your support is appreciated. Unused and unsold tickets need to be returned. Remember that if you want to go to the show, you either need a ticket, or need to be a volunteer.

Debby Halliday has been busy contacting vendors & other Southern California Societies about their participation in our show & we hope to have a good representation of both groups.

Last year we introduced a new floor plan for the display area. We liked the "island" effect very much and hope that you did also. This year there will be some minor modifications, such as adding the Kids' Corner, in the display area. We will be standardizing all of the display booths on the two islands to a 9' by 9' (81 sq ft) configuration. The North Wall displays will remain 8' by 8' (64 sq ft) and the Table Top displays in the South Alcove will be 8' by 5' (40 sq ft). We will also have space for the popular 2' x 2' and 4' x 4' table top displays that our members enjoy creating. Ribbon judging has been reinstated for small displays this year, so you're not likely to go home empty handed. Start thinking about how you could express our great Fiesta theme with your own collection of beautiful orchids.

Dr. Phyllis Prestia is the new Cymbidium Society of America's judging chairperson for Southern California. She reminded us that the CSA's Gold Medal Cymbidium and Gold Medal Paphiopedilum Awards have display area and plant count requirements. For the Cymbidium Gold Medal, the minimum display area requirement is 80 sq ft of display space

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**San Diego County Orchid Society
Board Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2016**

Summary

Attendees:

Scott LaBouff, Kay Klausing, Debby Halliday, Carol Berg, Tom Ketelaar, Carol Kerr, Carey McCoy, Bruce Berg. Bob Clark was not present - excused absent.

The board meeting was held at *Balboa Park - Casa Del Prado Building, Room 104*. The call to order came at 7:07 P.M. by Kay Klausing, First Vice-President.

Secretary's Report: - Tom Ketelaar

The October 6, 2016 Board Minutes were approved by email prior to this meeting and were published in the November issue of the *SDCOS newsletter*.

Treasurer's Report: - Carol Berg

1. Carol provided the financial results for the July and October "Balboa Park Shows" stating a net income of \$2,151.00 for July and \$1,612.00 for October.

2. The older version of the software accounting program being used for the organization is no longer compatible with the current version of the "Windows 10" operating system. Carol requested funds to upgrade to the current version of "QuickBooks" to function with the current "Windows 10" operating system on Carol's computer. Prior to the board meeting, Carol had called the software provider for pricing of new software and was quoted \$225.00. Debby Halliday made a motion to expend a maximum of \$225.00 for the new software. Scott made an amendment to the motion that the amount be increased to \$250.00 to cover any sales taxes that would be applied upon purchase. The motion was seconded, voted upon and approved.

Membership Report: - No membership report was provided since the "Membership Chair" was excused absent.

By-Law Review Progress:

All board members have now reviewed the suggested By-Laws changes; no further changes have been submitted to Bob Clark. For membership review, all SDCOS members will be provided notice and a copy of the proposed changes either electronically or by hard copy. Once the By-Laws changes have been provided and published as required, the changes will be voted upon by the SDCOS membership. Target date is to have the vote take place at the March 7, 2017 general membership meeting.

2017 Spring Show Activity:

Debby Halliday reported that vendor invitations have been provided to both current and new vendors; as of this date about one third of the invitees have responded. She also stated that the 2017 show will have improvements for volunteers, vendors, and attendees. The 2017 show committee continues to meet as preparations for the show progress. Scott LaBouff has started submitting information to publications. He is searching publication fees in order to submit the amounts to the co-chairs and activate the announcement in publications.

President's Items:

1. The 10/22/16 excursion to "The 2016 Huntington Botanical Gardens International Orchid Show" in San Marino, California was enjoyed by the participants and Scott has received favorable comments and suggestions for improvements for future adventures. He also wrote a thank you letter to Brandon Tam for his assistance in arrangements and the tour through the off-public site greenhouses. SDCOS was

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Board minutes, continued

awarded a trophy for its display at the HBG show; the trophy was available at the 11/01/16 general membership meeting when those helping with the excursion and display arrangements were thanked for their efforts. Scott requested reimbursement for personal miscellaneous expenses incurred and created by the HBG participation, set-up, and take-down. Debby made a motion that Scott be reimbursed the amount of \$126.00 for those expenses. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and passed.

2. The board will be reviewing/creating policies for long-distance shows which may arise in the future. The board will formulate those policies prior to any future long-distance shows' commitments and activities.

3. **Mark your calendars now:** Due to the July Fourth holiday being Tuesday, July 4 of 2017, the *General Membership Meeting* for July will be held on Monday, July 3 of 2017 at the normal time and in the normal meeting room.

First Vice-President Items: - Kay Klausing

1. Kay is continuing the pursuit of audio-visual equipment to be used during meetings and presentations. At the November general membership meeting, he experimented with his webcam and found it worked with the current computer and projector system. He will be making recommendations in the future.

2. Since the December *General Meeting* will be the holiday dinner, there will be no speaker for December. The January *General Meeting* speaker will be Tom Miranda who is the orchid collection specialist at the Smithsonian Gardens greenhouses in Suitland, Maryland and has written articles for *Orchid Magazine*.

3. The December holiday dinner of 12/06/16 will feature barbecue as the main entrée;

since it is a potluck, participants are reminded to bring a dish to share. You may check on what dishes are still needed and sign up for what you will be bringing through the following link:

<https://www.volunteersignup.org/HM74K>

Second Vice-President Items: - Debby Halliday

1. Since the December *General Meeting* will be the holiday dinner, there will be no *Culture Class* speaker for December. The speaker for the SDCOS January meeting *Culture Class* is yet to be determined.

2. In October there were no questions submitted to "The Orchid Doctor Is In". As a reminder, questions may be submitted to "The Orchid Doctor Is In" through the SDCOS website, submitting a written request, or bringing in your plant for a personal consultation. Click on the "Doctor Is In" tab along the left side of the SDCOS website page <http://www.sdorchids.com> and you will be taken to the "SDCOS's Google Group" link where you may ask your question. For written inquiries submit your questions to Debby or Scott.

3. The next orchid potting workshop will be scheduled for the spring as the weather warms and new plant growth occurs; tours of various orchid collections are in the planning stages. Listen to meeting announcements and/or check the newsletter for the dates and locations.

4. What brings viewers to our shows is a question that needs to be tabulated. Questions regarding how people found out about our orchid shows will be added to "The Peoples' Choice" ballot in order to track where the SDCOS marketing dollars are best spent.

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Board minutes, continued

Directors at Large Items: - Bob Clark, Carol Kerr, and Carey McCoy

Carol Kerr reviewed some of the promotional materials that will be available to the membership for the *2017 Spring Show*.

Carey McCoy is beginning to work on ideas for the "San Diego County Fair of 2017" The theme for the fair is "How the West Was Fun" and SDCOS will again be participating with orchid displays. She is seeking ideas to incorporate orchids into the theme for our display and is open to any suggestions the membership may offer.

Past President Items: - Bruce Berg

Bruce is reviewing options for our future shows in Balboa Park since additional vendors have shown interest in participating at the shows. Other designs for set-up and room(s) use are being considered to accommodate displays, awards, and vendors. More members need to volunteer for the activities of the shows so tasks do not fall upon the same core group of people; our shows not only offer interest and service to the public but are rewarding for the SDCOS members as well.

For the *2017 San Diego County Fair*, Bruce made a motion to establish an award for the person earning the most first place ribbons in "Division 5100, Specimen Plants, Orchids in Containers" with the award being presented at the awards ceremony during the fair. The award would be sponsored and donated by the SDCOS; it will be funded by members donating plants specifically designated for the award; those plants would be sold at our shows. The proceeds from the sale of those plants would specifically be for the funding of the award. The motion to create the award was seconded and passed.

Scheduled Date for the next San Diego County Orchid Society Board Meeting:

The December Board meeting is canceled due to activities in Balboa Park for "December Nights"; the next SDCOS Board meeting is Thursday, January 5, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. – *Balboa Park - Casa Del Prado building, Room 104.*

Meeting Adjournment: 9:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Ketelaar, Secretary

Spring Show

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and 12 Cymbidium plants. All of the 9' by 9' displays will meet this requirement.

The Paphiopedilum Gold Medal requires a minimum of 30 sq ft and 12 Paphiopedilum plants. Either an 8' by 8' floor display or an 8' by 5' table top display will meet the area requirements for this Award.

One of the things we missed last year was the availability of individual Cymbidium plant judging by CSA Judges. We will have the appropriate paperwork at the Show for all who wish to submit plants for judging.

Please start planning ahead so that our 71st annual Spring Show will be a great success!

Judging at the San Diego Judging Center (Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park), November, 2016.

Text and photos by Phyllis Prestia; photo of L. Wellesley by Arthur Pinkers.
There were 11 orchids presented for judging. Four were awarded.

Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi
Bell'Orchidea HCC/AOS
Exhibited by Phyllis Prestia
Awarded HCC/AOS 79 points

(Lc. Nora's Melody x Slc. Circle of Life)
'Arnie' HCC/AOS
Exhibited by Arnold Gum
Awarded HCC/AOS, 78 points



Taeniophyllum obtusum 'Windflower'
CBR/AOS
Exhibited by Betty Kelepecz
Awarded CBR/AOS

L. Wellesley
'R.B. Lavender Spider'
HCC/AOS
Exhibited by Arthur Pinkers
Awarded HCC/AOS, 78 points





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Don't forget!

Our annual open house is coming!

☆☆☆☆

Saturday, Dec. 3 2016
9 am - 4 pm

Sunday, Dec. 4 2016
9 am - 1 pm

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Orchid Hotlines

The SDCOS offers this service to members who seek cultural information about their orchids. Here are some friendly hobbyists with a great deal of experience about certain types of orchids, and they have kindly volunteered to answer your questions.

Cattleyas, Oncidium/Odonts, 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

Cymbidiums

Karl Batchman casa@orquideas.com

Northeast County, all types

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

San Diego Central

Outdoor, all types
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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San Diego County Orchid Society

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[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

December 3rd
SDCOS Species Group Meeting
First Saturday of the month
Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

December 6th, 6:00 PM
SDCOS Holiday Party
First Tuesday of the month
Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

December 7th
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

December 21st
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

December 16th
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
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Required

From the editor -

It's the holiday season and with it thankfully come the rains. The sun in December and January is at its lowest in the sky and the days are short. That means a lot less sunlight for the plants to harvest energy from, so growth is limited. The positives here are lots of flowers from the winter flowering varieties - all my *Laelia anceps* are flowering along with the cymbidiums and the Aussie Dendrobiums are getting ready. But as winter comes on, remember that for an orchid, **cold and wet is dead**. Most of the plants we grow come from climates where the winter is the dry season rather than the wet season, and too much water in the winter can be bad for orchids while it's great for the local plants.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and wish all a happy holidays. Come to the holiday party!

May your plants always grow!

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