



Purpose: 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.

Volume 78

June 2005

www.sdorchids.com

San Diego County Orchid Society

JUNE NOVICE MEETING

June 7, 2005, 6:30 PM— Casa Del Prado—Room 104

By Bill Molnar, 2nd Vice President

Everyone says that cymbidiums are easy to grow in Southern California. But, have you ever asked yourself, "Then why don't mine look like the gorgeous cascading Cymbidium waterfalls seen at our April show?" If so, then come to the June Novice Class to learn why. Felisa Acantilado, Edith Galvan, and Connie Warner are going to share their Cymbidium expertise

with us in the form of a panel discussion. They have similar, yet different techniques suited to their own environments of South Bay, East County, and North County. Make this your best Cymbidium growing year ever, by refining your Cymbidium growing techniques. Come learn from three of our best!

JUNE GENERAL MEETING

June 7, 2005, 7:30 PM— Casa Del Prado—Room 101

From Genie Hammond, Program Coordinator

Join us to hear a great discussion by Dr. Steve Beckendorf on the genus *Rhynchosstele*, which now contains species that used to be included in the *Lemboglossum* and *Odontoglossum* genera. *Rhynchosstele*, not to be confused with the Southeast Asian *Rhynchostylis*, is a typically cool-growing genus with about 15 members, and is found in Central America.

Dr. Beckendorf started growing orchids about 20 years ago and quickly became fascinated by *odontoglossums* and their close relatives because of their beauty and variety, because excellent plants were available from growers and hybridizers on the West Coast, and because of their glamorous past as some of the most sought after plants in the orchid frenzy that gripped Europe in the 19th century. Steve soon realized that few of the *Odontoglossum* species were readily

available and began collecting them for propagation and use in hybridizing. His attempt to find unusual or lost species has led to several trips to the cloud forests of Mexico and South America. He currently grows about 50 *Odontoglossum* species and another 30-40 of their near relatives along with lots of *Odontoglossum* hybrids and a smattering of other cool growing genera.

Professionally, Steve is a professor at UC Berkeley, where he teaches genetics and does genetic and developmental biology research. Because of this scientific background, he's interested in many areas of orchid research (including evolution and pollination), is actively involved in DNA-based revisions of orchid taxonomy, and currently serves as President of the *Odontoglossum* Alliance and as a member of the Research Committee of the American Orchid Society.

San Diego County Orchid Society

Board of Directors

President:	Gary Pierwola
Second VP:	Bill Molnar
Secretary:	Lynn Dornfeld
Treasurer:	Lynn Ford
Past President:	Genie Hammond
Parliamentarian:	Bob Clark
Directors:	Charlie Fouquette ('02-05) Sam De Maria ('03-06) David Brown ('04-07)

Membership

We invite you to join the San Diego County Orchid Society. With your membership you will receive the newsletter and many other benefits.

To join, please send your check for \$15 for an individual membership or \$20 for a dual membership, payable to SDCOS, to:

Tess Taylor
SDCOS Membership
P.O. Box 161020
San Diego, CA 92176
tess_mazza@hotmail.com

Meetings

San Diego Orchid Society meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park.

Novice Class: 6:30 p.m., Room 104
General Meeting: 7:30 p.m., Room 101

Newsletters

If you have monthly meetings, classifieds, submissions of interest, or announcements related to orchids, please contact Christopher Croom at (619) 583-3804 or batescroom@cox.net.

Advertisers

Please contact Lynn Ford at (619) 283-4172 or lynnford10@earthlink.net.

Information for the July newsletter must be submitted by June 10.



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Dates to Remember– San Diego County and California

June 4th, 9:00 a.m.

SDCOS Species Group Meeting

First Saturday of the month
Paul or Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829

June 6th, 7:00 p.m.

Quail Botanical Gardens Judging Center

First Monday of the month

June 7th, 6:30 p.m.

SDCOS Novice Meeting

First Tuesday of the month
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 104

June 7th, 7:30 p.m.

SDCOS General Meeting

First Tuesday of the month
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

June 10-12

2nd Annual Westminster Orchid Show

Westminster Mall
Eric Tencamp (949) 292-9091
erictencamp@cox.net

June 14th, 7:00 p.m.

SDCOS Board Meeting

Second Tuesday of the month
Balboa Park
Lynn Dornfeld (619) 889-4612

June 15th, 7:00 p.m.

Cymbidium Society Meeting

The third Wednesday of the month
The Carlsbad Women's Club
3320 Monroe Street, Carlsbad
(760) 753-6952

June 17th, 10 a.m.— 2 p.m.

San Diego Zoo's Orchid Odyssey

The third Friday of the month
(greenhouses are open)
Janette Gerrity (619) 231-1515 ext. 4306

June 17th, 6:45 p.m.

Palomar Orchid Society Meeting

The third Friday of the month
The Carlsbad Women's Club
3320 Monroe Street, Carlsbad
Melana Walding (761) 295-7228

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June Growing Reminders

By Christopher Croom

June is an important month for your orchid collection, as everything you own should be rapidly growing this time of year. This is why you should (generally) make sure to provide your plants with more water, and more nitrogen by using balanced fertilizers that have a larger first number (eg, if you were using a 10-15-10, switch to a 20-20-20 or something), which will provide your plants with a greater quantity of nitrogen which is necessary for the vital spring and summer growth periods. But, make sure to rotate fertilizers fairly regularly, though (after all, you wouldn't like to eat macaroni and cheese for months on end, either), and keep in mind that the higher the numbers, the stronger the concentration of the ingredients in the fertilizer, so a 10-10-10 will be more diluted than a 20-20-20. Make sure not to shock your pleurothallids and other dissolved solid and salt-sensitive orchids when changing fertilizers around, which is why it is often good to mix fertilizers at concentrations that are less than the manufacturer's recommendations (like half strength), and apply the fertilizer a little more often (every week) if you are in doubt about the salt tolerance of some items in your collection. Also, this time of month is an ideal time for repotting, and it will allow your orchids to become re-established before the next winter dormancy/slow growth period. Just make sure to wait until the new growths are large enough to not be easily damaged, and remember to center the new growths directly in the middle of the pot when repotting.

Centering the new growths in the pot is crucial, as it will maximize the amount of time the orchid can be in the new pot and media, thus minimizing future root disturbance. Don't mess with an orchid's roots if you can possibly avoid it—of course you should be removing dead and blackened roots when you repot—but as a general rule, repot only when necessary, when the mix has broken down to

a point that it might begin to affect root health or when the plant starts “walking” out of the pot. Also, try not to overpot (by placing the orchid in a pot that is too large for it), unless the plant is a particularly moist and vigorous grower, such as a *Sobralia*, a reed-stemmed *Epidendrum*, or a faster growing *Cymbidium*. Keep in mind, too, that if a plant has been growing in coarse fir bark you can't necessarily just switch it over to coarse coconut husk when it's time to repot, as coconut husk is generally a wetter medium than coarse fir bark, which starts off as a dry medium, but retains water more and more as it ages and ultimately becomes a sludgy/mud-like material that can be very detrimental to the roots of your plant. Coarse fir bark should also be soaked in water overnight before being used to repot anything, because unsoaked bark can be extremely dry for months on end, gradually dehydrating the orchid. (I'll write more about mixes and mediums in the coming months.)

Moreover, June is an important month because, for those of us who don't have greenhouses, it is a good time to move our indoor plants outside so they can benefit from the generally higher outdoor humidity (vs. indoors, in your dry house), moving air, and temperature changes that can induce blooming. Plants from large, commercial hot-houses (like in Hawaii or Florida) may be acclimated outdoors this time of year more easily, and any warmer growers that you want to try outside to see how they'll fare next fall and winter can be moved outdoors now (such as my new *Vanda cristata* or the *Vanda dennisoniana* that I think just might be able to live outdoors year-round in San Diego). Just keep an eye out for any insect infestations and use Sluggo or iron phosphate if you think the plants you are trying to acclimate outdoors are under siege from slugs or snails.

Happy Growing!

Help Hotline

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
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Species, all types

Indoor and outdoor
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Paphiopedilums

Ann Tuskes (858) 274-5829
Bob Hodges (619) 461-4915

Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas, Dendrobiums

Bob Swanson (619) 465-2297

Vandas, Ascocendas

Edith and Leno Galvan (619) 441-7503

Encyclias, Epidendrums, Laelias

Tom Osborn (760) 787-0282

Pleurothallids

Don van Kekerix (619) 224-4938

Cymbidiums

Loren Batchman-casa@orquideas.com
Sam DeMaria (619) 295-2951

Northeast County, all types

Dave Reid (760) 728-7996

San Diego West County, all types

Jean Beck (619) 435-8211

San Diego Central

Outdoor, all types

Jim Wright (619) 276-5295

Fred Tomaschke (619) 276-3235

San Diego East County, all types

James Masst (619) 443-2800

Bud Close (619) 444-8839

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Genie Hammond (619) 426-6831

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And the Winner Is...

By Lynn Y. Ford

April 8th, 9th and 10th of this year marked the San Diego County Orchid Society's 59th Annual Orchid Show and Plant Sale. 59 years!! Can you believe it?! And, as usual, there were many beautiful orchid plants, lovingly hand raised and cared for, brought in for Ribbon and American Orchid Society judging. Many of our fine orchid growers also submitted plants for the judge's consideration. Following is a list of the awards granted, along with the name of the grower. (Any misspelling of names is my fault).

Abernathy Cymbidium Trophy for Best Amateur Cymbidium Hybrid: **Lynn Dirige**

Bean Trophy for Best Vanda Alliance:
The Orchid Place

Bertsch Trophy for Best Intergeneric Hybrid:
Felisa Acantilado

Bishop Trophy for Best Miniature Cattleya Hybrid:
Linda Iolla

Bliss Trophy for Best Species Orchid:
Santa Barbara Orchid Estate

Canale Trophy for Best Colored Cattleya Alliance:
Santa Barbara Orchid Estate

Casa Herbrita Trophy for Best Sophronitis Hybrid:
Bill Molnar

Casey Trophy for Best Oncidium Alliance:
Fred Tomaschke

Cobb Trophy for Best Cymbidium:
Loren Batchman

Crosby Trophy for Best American Hybrid Cymbidium: **Orchids of Los Osos**

DeMaria Trophy for Best Reed Stem Epidendrum:
Divine Orchids

Doros Trophy for Best Phalaenopsis Intergeneric Hybrid: **Forest Robinson**

Dugger Trophy for Best Odontoglossum:
Felisa Acantilado

Foster Trophy for Best Amateur 3 Cymbidiums:
Lynn Dirige

Geer Trophy for Best Specimen Plant:
Santa Barbara Orchid Estate

Hadacheck Trophy for Best Dendrobium Alliance:
Petite Plaisance

Best Plant by Junior Grower: **Danielle Moorea**

Laughter Trophy for Best Phalaenopsis:
Fred Clark

Miller Trophy for Best Paphiopedilum Alliance:
Lilia Openiano

Moore Trophy for Best White Cattleya:
Joe Alesi

Sweepstakes Trophy for Best Orchid in Show:
Santa Barbara Orchid Estate

Thorne Trophy for Best Amateur Colored Cattleya Alliance: **Judy and Dave Smith**

Balboa Trophy for Best Amateur Show Theme Exhibit: **Jerry and Anita Spencer**

Coronado Trophy for Best Non-Orchid Material Exhibit: **San Diego State University Library**

Marosz Trophy for Most Educational Exhibit:
Grant Elementary School

Also won 1st, 2nd, 3rd Cash Prize:
Grant Elementary School

Pinckney Trophy for Most Artistic Exhibit:
Fouquette Orchids and Pakview Orchids

President's Trophy for Best Show Theme Exhibit:
Van Roland Company

Van Kekerix Trophy for Best Pleurothallid Alliance:
San Diego Zoological Society

Wilson Trophy for Most Unusual Orchid Flower:
San Diego Zoological Society

SDCOS Show Trophy for Best Open Natural Setting

Exhibit: Francisco Orchids

Phalaenopsis Alliance Trophy:
Charlie Fouquette

American Orchid Society Show Trophy:
Loren Batchman

Orchid Digest Trophy:
Cymbidium Society of Southern California

Cymbidium Society of America Show Trophy for
Cymbidium: **Loren Batchman**

SDCOS Cash Prize for Amateur:
1st: **San Diego Branch Cymbidium Society of America**
2nd: **Jerry Spencer**
3rd: **Forest Robinson**

SDCOS Cash Prize - Open:
1st: **Casa de Las Orquideas**
2nd: **Tayama Greenhouse**
3rd: **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate**

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visit our website: www.sandiegozoo.org

Your membership supports our plant and animal collections

A BIG Volunteer Thank You for the Spring Show!!

Thanks to these Nurseries for donating cut flowers for our corsage booth:

- Bangkok Botanical Garden
- Baron's Orchids
- Blossoming Orchids Nursery
- Cal Pacific Orchid Farm
- Casa de Las Orquideas
- Rex Foster Orchids
- Santa Barbara Orchid Estates
- Solana Orchids
- South Coast Orchids

Thanks to these members for donations to our corsage booth:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Joe Alesi | Al Frost |
| Wade Bogren | Rosie Gamby |
| Shirley Callard | Ben Hardy |
| Linda Canon | Anna Majewski |
| Joy Cisco | Jean Sharp |
| Wayne Dameron | Jerry Spencer |
| Sue Fouquette | Corky Zunstein |

Thanks also to Bob Hodges for hauling many, many boxes of vases, ribbons, etc. to the Society's storage room!



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**DAVE REID'S
ORCHIDS**

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2005

Called to order at 7:56PM

Present: Gary Pierwola, Genie Hammond, Sam De Maria, Charlie Fouquette, David Brown, Bob Clark, Lynn Ford, Bill Molnar, Lynn Dornfeld.

Others Present: Sue Fouquette, Chris Manning, Lisa Humphreys, Chris Croom.

Reports

1. Secretary-Lynn Dornfeld—Minutes from the April meeting were read, reviewed and approved by motion. Note: correction to Treasurer's report—show income, not profits, were reported. Corrected and approved.
2. Treasurer-Lynn Ford—April report was reviewed, discussed, then filed for audit in June after more show revenues and debits are evaluated.
3. Acting First Vice President—Genie Hammond discussed June's speaker-Steve Beckendorf, topic: Rynchosteles.
4. Second Vice President-Bill Molnar—June Beginner's Class will include a panel discussion by Connie Warner, Edith Galvan & Felisa Acantilado on: Growing Gorgeous Cymbidiums

Old Business

1. Gary reported that park renovations which will affect parking came one step closer to moving forward due to the loss of a lawsuit blocking the changes.
2. Per David Brown, our Park liaison, some road renovation may cause alteration to access of building in June, July, August. We may need to set up and tear down our own rooms in the future. More to come.

New Business

- 1) Chris Croom will be new Newsletter Editor. Motion made and approved to buy updated, PC compatible publishing software for newsletter. His e-mail address is: batescroom@cox.net. All entries for newsletter need to be in by Friday for inclusion in this month's newsletter.
- 2) James Glunt will be new Webmaster. He will update the website and get rid of guest book feature due to unsavory entries found there.
- 3) Genie has been trying to line up speakers. When she was researching this info, she found info on a speakers consortium to get world renowned speakers, run by Domingo Cabrera from Riverside. The cost is \$10/year for this service. Suggested we use this. Gary noted this service has been used in the past. Lynn F. will investigate if we have had a past membership. More to come.
- 4) The group discussed by-law changes needed to alter annual membership renewal time. Gary will discuss this with Paul Tuskes as to what may need to be done to revise by-laws. More to come next meeting.
- 5) Sue Fouquette said James Comstock gave a 3-D flower photo presentation at the Natural History Museum . Asked about whether we may be able to have this presented to our society as a future speaker. We need to investigate cost of presentation.

NO FURTHER DISCUSSION

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM

Submitted by: Lynn Dornfeld





Tess Taylor,
Membership Chairman
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Speaking of *Orchids* magazine, the official publication of the AOS, and at the risk of shameless self-promotion, make sure to read the May, 2005 issue of *Orchids* in which I discuss 14 fragrant, compact orchid species, almost all of which can be grown outside here in San Diego. Find out more about my article at www.aos.org!

Letter From the Editor

Dear SDCOS,

Hello, and thank you for giving me the opportunity to edit this newsletter. I welcome any photos, stories, articles, questions, and updated advertisements, and will include any appropriate and relevant material that we have space for. I would like to eventually make this newsletter a little bigger, and your contributions will greatly improve the quality of education we can provide to our members. Also, make sure to attend June's general meeting, where Dr. Steve Beckendorf will be discussing rhynchosteles, which were originally included in *Odontoglossum*, then became *Rhynchostele*, were separated into *Lemboglossum* in 1984, and have just recently been moved back to *Rhynchostele*. To see an awesome picture of a *Rhynchostele*, check out the cover of the October 2004 edition of *Orchids* magazine, where *Rhynchostele* (syn. *Odontoglossum*) *cordatum*, a species with fragrant blooms that grows well outdoors here in San Diego, is pictured. Congratulations are also in order for the SDCOS's 59th annual orchid show winners listed on pages 6-7 of this newsletter, and everyone who helped out with the show is greatly appreciated and should be proud of themselves for all the hard work they contributed!

-Christopher

P.S.: A big thanks to my wife, Eowyn, for helping me put this newsletter together.