



General Meeting/Awards Banquet

6:00pm Tuesday, May 4th 2004
Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park
By Ivan Harrison

There will be no speakers at this month's meeting, as we gather to relive the joys of the Annual Show held at the end of March. The meeting will start at 6pm with wine, punch, coffee and appetizers, followed by dinner. Space is very limited due to the size of our room, and pre-registration is required. All those who signed up at the April meeting have an assured seat, and we have room for only an additional 100 people.

If you did not sign up at the April meeting, please either telephone 619.448.3312 and leave a message with your name and telephone number or email me at pfragma@cox.net, so that we can confirm your reservation. Preference will be given to members, so please check first before bringing a guest.

Following dinner there will be a slide show of the event by Paul and Ann Tuskes and an acknowledgement of the various big winners. I will also provide a financial report.

This is also the time that the Nominating Committee will be formed in order to elect the Board for 2004-2005. Voting will take place at the June meeting. If anyone is interested in serving on the Board, the vacancies will be announced this month and you should contact the Chairman of the Nominating Committee to make your availability known. Any of the Board members can answer any questions you may have in this regard.

I look forward to seeing you at the Awards Banquet.
Ivan



Clockwise from top: David Brown's conservation display, SDSU/SDCOS historic collection of books on orchids, watercolor orchids from Grant Elementary School, and a collection of orchid pins all on display at our March Spring Show.

Members and Advertisers

If you have monthly meetings, classifieds, submissions of interest, or announcements related to orchids, **to be considered for publication in the upcoming June issue, please contact us by May 14th.**

You are encouraged to contact the editor by either email or phone from 2 pm to 8 pm only, Michael Orser at 619.269.3445 or editor@sдорchids.com

Advertisers: please contact Marjorie Kuhlmann at 858.675.0885 or m_kuhlmann@sbcglobal.net under the same deadline as in bold above.

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OUR 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.*

SDCOS meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at Casa Del Prado in **Balboa Park**. We invite you to join the society to receive the monthly newsletter and many other benefits.

Beginner's Class: 6:30 pm, Room 104
General Meeting: 7:30 pm, Room 101

If you would like to join the society, please send your check for \$15* for individual, \$20 for Dual membership, payable to SDCOS, to: **Tess Taylor**, SDCOS Membership, P.O. Box 16102, San Diego, CA 92176.
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UPCOMING CALIFORNIA EVENTS

May 1-2

Carmel Orchid Society MayFaire, Crossroads Shopping Center, Hwy. 1 at Rio Rd., Carmel, CA. Contact: Ida Hale, 241 Lerwick Dr., Monterey, CA 93940; 831.646.8724.

May 1 - 2

Newport Harbor Orchid Society Show, Costa Mesa Community Cener, 1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa, CA. Contact: Jan Anderson, 11081 Hunting Horn Dr., Santa Ana, CA 92705; 714.835.4400; janw@ocprobatelaw.com

June 5-6

Conejo Orchid Society Show, Thousand Oaks Library, 1401 E. Janss Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA. Contact: Joe Grodell, 1296 Potter Ave., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360; 805.523.1857; ckauff1456@adelphia.net

Conservation Sale Brings In \$7000

Submitted by P. Tobias

I am very pleased to report that the Conservation committee raised just over \$7000 at the spring SDCOS show and sale. This brings the all-time moneys raised to just under \$99,000. Not too shabby ! Congratulations and many, many thanks go to the fine troupe of donors and volunteers who made this possible.

Donors include Moti Bodner, Salon Cabana, John Vugrin, Ron Kaufmann, Paul Tuskes, Alexandra and Vernon Bernardino, Harry Crosby, John Walters, Lee Landes, Lee Mize, Loren Batchman, Peter Tobias, Lorin Ellsworth, Richard Coarsey, Andy Phillips, George Hauk, Jim Wright, Laurence Lhoest, Shirley Callard, Gary Pierwola, Pat Trimm, and Marty's Orchids. Special note should be made of the donations from Moti Bodner and John Walters. Together, their five plants donated raised over \$1500.

Volunteer workers include Shirley Hall, Pam Peters, John Vugrin, Dave Graham, Tricia Moorea, John Linkins, Bruce Hubbard, Maureen Schoomaker, Ida O'Neill, Rebecca Young, Ron Kaufmann, Paul Tuskes, John Alexander, Caroline and Bill McCullagh, Judy Abeles, David Brown, Virginia Magnus, Marga Fountain, and Lynn Ford.

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Francisco Miranda hails from Brazil, and it seems only natural that his web site is dedicated to the diverse array of beautiful orchids found in that country. In addition to running a commercial nursery, Miranda is an experienced botanist, taxonomist and author, and his site contains information of value to anyone who would like to learn more about Brazilian orchids. For starters, there is a taxonomy page, containing useful articles about how to identify particular species and distinguish them from other, similar species. One of the current articles describes some methods for differentiating between *Cattleya loddigesii* and *C. harrisoniana*, a problem that has plagued orchid growers for many years. Perhaps even more useful is the "Species of the Month" section, which contains monthly profiles of Brazilian orchid species from February 2000 through December 2002. Add to these sections the botanical illustrations of Maria Cristina Miranda and a price list with numerous tempting offerings, and you truly have a site worth visiting again and again.

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Orchid Sends a Not-So-Subtle Message to Bees: Buzz Off

By CAROL KAESUK YOON
from nytimes.com
Published: April 6, 2004

In the botanical world, orchids are famed not only for their great beauty, but also for their powers of deceit, well established as the liars and cheats of the plant kingdom, making false promises of food, drink and even sex to the bees and other pollinators flying by.

Many orchids have a sweetly alluring fragrance but not a drop of the expected nectar. Others look and smell just like female bees, attracting male bees that try hopelessly to mate with the blossom.

Yet for more than a century, scientists have been unable to figure out why these species have evolved to be so unpleasant and unwelcoming to pollinators.

Now scientists report that the reason orchids treat their insect visitors so shabbily is that they want them to fly away.

A team from South Africa and Sweden says that once an insect visits an orchid flower and picks up a packet of pollen, the ideal outcome from an orchid's point of view is that the insect flies away and fertilizes other plants.

If the bee hangs about, visiting other flowers on the same plant, it will fertilize the plant with its own pollen, producing defective, inbred seeds that are unlikely to sprout into healthy offspring.

The report was published online in February in *The Proceedings of the Royal Society*.

In fact, the deceptions of orchids are so elaborate and so well carried off that Charles Darwin was himself fooled.

"He couldn't believe that insects would visit flowers that didn't have a reward," said Dr. Steven D. Johnson, pollination biologist at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa and an author of the report. Darwin, he said, insisted that although people had not yet found it, there must be nectar inside the flower, somewhere. Dr. Johnson added, "He was completely wrong about that."

The researchers studied the green-winged orchid on the island of Oland, off southeastern Sweden, where in late spring and summer, fields of hundreds of the plants are in bloom. The plants, known as *Anacamptis morio*, are visited by bumblebees.

To test the importance of not providing nectar rewards, scientists simply added nectar to flowers to see what the

bees would do. But as Darwin suspected, these deceptive species do suffer from their stinginess and are visited infrequently, so infrequently that observing natural visits by pollinators is all but impossible.

"Some people have studied these orchids for 10, 20 years and seen a dozen visits over that time," Dr. Johnson said.

So, to carry out their study, researchers used what is known as the "bee interview technique." Out in the field, a scientist queries a bee in the wild by setting an experimental flower down near it.

What the researchers found was that when they added nectar to an orchid's blossoms, bees lingered at the plant, probing twice as many flowers, each one for more than twice as long. Scientists estimate that the result for such a nectar-filled plant in the wild is a fourfold increase in the amount of its pollen used in fertilizing itself.

That would mean four times as much precious pollen wasted in the production of sickly seeds.

"It's an interesting problem that we haven't known much about," said Dr. Florian P. Schiestl, an evolutionary biologist at the Federal Institute of Technology in Switzerland, who was not involved with the work. He called the new report "quite convincing."

The researchers say that the new studies probably shed light on other deception in orchids. Other species smell like a fungus to attract fungus gnats, or even like feces or carrion to attract the sort of insect that prefers to mate and lay its eggs on such things. One species has even evolved a flower that looks like a male bee, spurring territorial male bees to fly over and attack it. In each case, the poor insect gets only a packet of pollen, a good dose of frustration and — happily for the plant — a reason to fly off.

Dr. Schiestl notes, however, that while an individual orchid benefits when an insect is unsatisfied enough to fly off, somehow another plant of the same species has to be able to lure that insect in, or else the pollen it carries will never lead to fertilization and its ultimate evolutionary goal: a seed.

"Bees can learn and memorize the odor of an individual flower to decide what it will visit next," he said. "So if it encounters a deceptive flower, it will avoid flowers that smell similarly." So how have green-winged orchids, which any right-thinking pollinator would avoid after the first pointless visit, managed to persist?

The answer appears to be further deceptions still.

Dr. Schiestl said that in a new study, he and colleagues found that a closely related orchid that produced nectar had flowers that all smelled enticingly like one another. The smells of individual flowers of the deceptive *Anacamptis morio* species, however, differ widely, providing a moving target to the hapless bees trying to avoid being tricked yet again and ensuring confusion, along with a healthy crop of green-winged orchids next year.

May/June Orchid Checklist

Prepared by Ned Nash

Cattleya

The last of the spring-flowering types — those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb — will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage.

May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.

Paphiopedilum

The Paphiopedilum Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in Paphiopedilum fairrieanum—derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development.

The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

Phalaenopsis

Except for the latest—spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on

Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season.

Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

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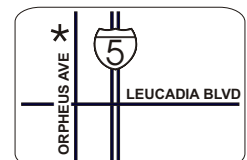
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Violet Devoe one of several blue ribbon winners at the SD Orchids show in March



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Violet Devoe

LC Dancing Gold

SDCOS Board of Directors Meeting

Submitted by Lynn Dornfeld



April 13, 2004: Called to order at 8:04PM

Present: Gary Pierwola, Ivan Harrison, Lynn Ford, Barbie Mays, Lynn Dornfeld, Charlie Fouquette, Genie Hammond, Sam De Maria, Bob Clark, David Graham.

Others Present: Ro Harrison, Dave Mays, Peter Tobias, Dave Brown, Candy Kalman, Tess Taylor, Judy Pierwola, Sue Fouquette, Lisa Humphreys, Ben Machado, Susie Machado, Ron Velarde, Ron Kaufman.

Reports

1. Minutes of the March meeting were read, revised and approved by motion.
2. Treasurer Barbie Mays-report for March was read, discussed and approved by motion.

Old Business

1. Sam discussed the May 4th Awards Banquet. Charlie and Gary bringing wine. Appetizers served at 6PM, meal at 7PM. Beef, chicken dinner selection. Ranch Catering to set up. Gary will be there early, as needed. Correction from March minutes: service will be for 275 attendees.
2. Chula Vista Printers can do glossy membership flyers for cost of \$1300 for 5000. Motion made and approved to use Chula Vista Printers.
3. The San Diego Botanical Society sent us annual letter outlining room use rules. Of particular note:
 - A. All tables used at meetings need to be covered.
 - B. No animals are allowed at meetings unless they are assisting handicapped/blind persons.
4. SDCOS received a letter (April newsletter) from Steve

Beckendorf, President of the Odontoglossum Alliance and member of the Research Committee for AOS. He thanked SDCOS and the Conservation Committee's efforts for more than \$90,000 donated to various conservation projects over past decade.

5. David Brown will construct a letter to SDCOS newsletter and ZooNoos in support of the work Janette Gerrity does for orchid conservation at the S.D. Zoo, as well as for her contributions to SDCOS.
6. Microsoft Professional Office Software has been purchased for about \$260-should be here by end of week. This will help Tess Taylor organize the membership information.

New Business

1. Del Mar Fair has proclaimed July 1, 2004 Orchid Day at the Fair. They are asking for SDCOS to have a table available for membership info. and speakers are needed for 2 and 3:30PM presentations. Charlie Fouquette will be one of the speakers. Orchid entries for judging can be taken to the fair early AM on 7/1. \$7 entry. Talk to Gary Pierwola or Charlie for more info.
2. Gary showed the group a sample calendar with culture info. included from Santa Barbara. Will check with C.V. Printers for costs for similar thing for SDCOS. Charlie suggested to circle membership and board meeting dates each month. More discussion to follow as to uses for SDCOS.
3. Lynn Ford has taken over Orchid Digest membership sales representative position.
4. Ron Velarde, SDCOS Librarian, discussed subscriptions SDCOS Library receives. Orchids, Orchid Digest, Orchid Advocate, Orchid Quarterly, Lindley, Orchid Review suggested. He will check back issues we have and what we may need. Gary will bring current publications to next meeting and compare notes with Ron. Ron has many past publications to be put into storage or be donated to other societies. Gary and Ron to meet at storage. Library is not currently mentioned in newsletter. Lynn Ford will add SDCOS Library info. to newsletter as a reminder to membership that resources are available to all. Discussed creating a bibliography of orchid books SDCOS keeps here at Balboa. SDSU Library is willing to add them to current orchid book collection to preserve books. Gary will contact SDSU to arrange transfer. Peter Tobias asked about recently purchased orchid books- SDCOS has not made any purchases. Suggestion to look into future purchases made by Peter.
5. Board to discuss Conservation Committee draft proposal and membership fees/annual schedule issues at May Board meeting. Per discussion with Paul Tuskes, Gary states any changes made re: these 2 issues are policies and procedures, not by-laws, changes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46PM

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 who have kindly volunteered to answer your questions

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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

South County all types
Genie Hammond - 619.426.6831
Ed Marty - 619.470.7175

DATES TO REMEMBER...

May 1st, 9:00 am
SDCOS Species Group Meeting
First Saturday each month
Paul or Ann Tuskes 858.274.5829

May 3rd, 7:00 pm
Quail Botanical Gardens Judging Center
First Monday each month Encinitas. Bring plants in!
Make those judges work!

May 4th, 6:30 pm
Beginner's Class/Novice Meeting
First Tuesday each month
Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Lynn Ford 619.283.4172

May 4th, 7:30 pm
General Meeting
First Tuesday each month
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Gary Pierwola 619.426.9108

May 11th, 7:00 pm
SDCOS Board Meeting
Second Tuesday each month
Balboa Park
Lynn Dornfeld

May 15th
Hybrid Orchid Group
Steve Pruyon on Lycaste Orchids
Applied Physics & Mathematics Bldg. UCSD
Info: 858.452.0976

May 19th
Culture class begins at 6:30 pm
General Meeting at 7:00 pm
Cymbidium Society Meeting
Third Wednesday each month
Carlsbad Women's Club
Info: 760.451.1472

May 21st, 10 am - 2 pm
San Diego Zoo
Orchid Greenhouses Open House
Third Friday each month
Janette Gerrity 619.231.1515 ext. 4306

May 21st, 6:45 pm
Palomar Orchid Society Meeting
Third Friday each month
The Carlsbad Women's Club
Melana Walding, 760.295.7228

HELP NEEDED AT MONTHLY MEETING!

We all love the coffee, punch and donuts during intermission during our meetings – right? Gary and Judy Pierwola have been handling this job since Cliff and Marlyn Lanoue gave it up. Our President has other jobs that need to take priority, and so we, the membership, are looking for 2 or 3 people who would be willing to take over this very important function. Friends can do it together, or individuals can take over certain aspects, but we really, really need some help in the kitchen.

The tasks involved are:

1. Purchasing the donuts on Tuesday afternoon (with Society funds) and bringing them to the meeting
2. Arriving between 5:30 and 6:00 to set the coffee pot percolating, make the punch and prepare plates, napkins, glasses and cups
3. Standing in the kitchen during the break to help anyone who needs assistance
4. Cleaning up after the intermission and putting all the supplies away

It's not difficult, but it is very, very important. If you would like to help at the June meeting, please talk to Judy or any of the Board to let them know what you are prepared to do.

Heaven forbid we would have a meeting with no coffee or donuts!

OPPORTUNITY TABLE STILL NEEDS HELP!

Camille See has taken over the Opportunity Table at our monthly meetings and needs people to help on a monthly basis. It's a great way to meet the members and make friends. If you can help please call Camille at

619.934.7434 or email her at:

Rubbacat@email.com.

DID YOU FORGET TO SEND IN THE MONEY FOR YOUR PRE-SHOW TICKETS?

If you have not already done so, please mail your check for \$25.00 made payable to

SDCOS c/o Rosemary Harrison,
9112 Northcote Road
Santee, CA 92071.

If you were unable to sell some or all of your tickets, please return them to Rosemary



Membership Chairman - [Tess Taylor](#)
San Diego County Orchid Society
P.O. Box 16102
San Diego, CA 92176

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