

# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter

Volume 66  
June 2004  
with over 700 members,  
and evolving!

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**CORRECTIONS:** Last month I showed the pictured collections on display at the Spring Show. The historic collection of orchid books is part SDSU and SDCOS.

## JUNE 2004 NOVICE MEETING

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004,, 6:30 PM - CASA DEL PRADO - ROOM 104  
By Lynn Ford, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Are you tired of having your blooming orchids in the house, in those ugly green or black pots? Then, this is the meeting for you to attend! Our speaker this month is long time member, Tom Biggart, Master potter and grower and seller of outstanding orchids (Granite Hills Orchids). Tom is an excellent and humorous speaker and will talk to us about how to choose the right ceramic pot for your orchids.

So, if you are interested in orchid pots for a perfect presentation, or need a quick course on finding the right container for your special orchids, you won't want to miss this artistic, intellectual and stimulating experience (we know that Tom can provide it all !!)

Be prepared for a surprise!

We had an educational and fun evening in April, with Charley Fouquette. He was a fount of information on Phalaenopsis, giving us information on the care and culture of these lovely 'moth orchids'. Thanks, Charley, for your talk and demonstration, and for answering all of our member's questions. Many Thanks!

## JUNE 2004 GENERAL MEETING

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004, 7:30 PM - CASA DEL PRADO - ROOM 101  
By Ivan Harrison, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

This month's speaker will be Lauris Rose of Cal-Orchid Inc. of Santa Barbara, and her topic will be "Hybrid Trends in Epidendrum". Lauris, and her husband James, have been working with orchids since 1970, and learned their trade with the world-famous Santa Barbara Orchid Estates and other commercial nurseries.

James and Lauris opened Cal-Orchid in 1990, and in January 2000 were joined in the business by their long-time friend, Ned Nash (who authored the book "Orchids" with photos by Greg Allikas, which many of us have in our orchid library, and former Director of Education and Conservation at AOS). The three of them now work full-time at Cal-Orchid, creating hybrids, seeking out species and furthering the public's knowledge of that plant we all love so much, the orchid.

Cal-Orchid is the developer of a fantastic, new line of reed-stem Epidendrum hybrids that are perfect for home and garden. Unlike the more commonly seen garden epis, or the newer types from Hawaii and Japan, Cal-Orchid "epis" are shorter, with very attractive foliage and big flower heads. Old spikes will often branch, giving flowers for months on end. Mature plants flower continuously for much of the year and will do best in a very bright location, on a patio, in a bright south window, or in a coastal garden.

In addition to Epidendrum, Cal-Orchid specializes in Cattleya, Brassia, Cymbidium, Dendrobium, Dendrochilum, Bulbophyllum, Paphiopedilum, as well as Angraecum and other African species.

It is hoped, but not yet confirmed, that Lauris will be furnishing the orchids for the Plant Opportunity Table, so don't forget to bring your wallets!

## 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 July issue, please contact us by June 11<sup>th</sup>.**

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](mailto:editor@sдорchids.com)

Advertisers: please contact Marjorie Kuhlmann at 858.675.0885 or [m\\_kuhlmann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m_kuhlmann@sbcglobal.net) under the same deadline as in bold above.

### *The San Diego County Orchid Society*

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### **SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY**

**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.  
email: [tess\\_mazza@hotmail.com](mailto:tess_mazza@hotmail.com)

\*1/2 price January first through June thirtieth

## UPCOMING CALIFORNIA EVENTS

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](mailto:ckauff1456@adelphia.net)

June 12

Annual Orchid Auction presented by the Orchid Society of Southern California. Location: Meeting Hall of the First Christian Church, 221 South Sixth Street, Burbank  
Doors Open 1pm, Auction Starts 2pm, Free Admission and Refreshments. All Are Invited!

See [www.orchidssc.org](http://www.orchidssc.org) for more information.

June 17

San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists Annual Auction: at the L. A. County Arboretum & Botanic Garden Lecture Hall, 301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia, CA 91006  
Good Plants, Good Prices, & Good Fun with our Auctioneers, Ernest Hetherington & Doug Conkin.  
Doors Open at 6:30pm Contact: Bill Ryan at 626.330.8122 or [3w3r@adelphia.net](mailto:3w3r@adelphia.net)

July 24 -25

The SDCOS will be holding their quartly mini show on July 24th and 25th at the Casa Del Prado in **Balboa Park**. This is not a showcase for miniature orchids, but it is a small show! This mini show is presented, hosted by, and showcases the SDCOS members. I have a good feeling you do have a special something that will win! So bring it in. Bring your plants on Friday the 23rd between the regular hours of 6pm-9pm or early Saturday morning 7-9am so that they can be judged. For more information, get a hold of [Gary Pierwola](#) or [Ivan Harrison](#).

## From the Editor

Michael Orser

Hello!

Sorry I have not been around as of late, but I'm trying to get everything back to normal. I am still technically unemployed, learning about and trying to run a business that has yet to pay back my investments, dodging computer problems (yes I get them too), while trying to put value in the things I cherish most. I figured out the meaning of life. I knew it before as the acceptance of change, as life is about change and how we adapt to it. And this leaves me with a

question to you. What is normal? Within a common group, there is always some type of deviation. I have two Slc. Roblar 'Orange Charm' HCC/AOS. One has orange flowers and the other are closer to being red. These are of a line that has been branded by excellence, but they are not the exact same. And to me this is normal. But in our society, the talkshows, and the news seem to make the abnormal to become the norm. I know a lot of you have been members for quite a while, and have seen me repeat the same old things over and over. I personally have been involved with orchids for about five years, and I still consider myself a novice. To come down to it, I would like to ask that you give me some feedback as to this newsletter. For those of you who attend the meetings, I will bring a box to be placed at the back of the room at the general meeting for your comments, suggestions, or possible articles to be included in this newsletter. The box will be labeled NEWS. Please bring your own paper and pens/pencils, as I cannot. Do you wish to have a normal newsletter? Or do you wish for change?

## VP Report

By Ivan Harrison

Thanks to everyone who attended for making the Awards Banquet such an enjoyable evening. First thanks must go to Board Director, Sam DeMaria for once again organizing the wonderful food provided by Ranch Catering. It really was exceptional.

Second thanks go to Paul and Ann Tuskes for two carousels' worth of color slides of the people, displays and orchid blooms from the Annual Show. The photos were demonstrative, expressive and most of all beautifully colorful, and Ann and Paul took it in turns to provide an amusing repartee as commentary.

It was appropriate that I thanked each of the Show volunteers individually, and I thank you all for allowing me to do that. If I missed mentioning you by name, please accept my apologies. I did my best to remember each of you, but to those I omitted, I have two excuses – firstly, I'm getting old, and secondly Rosemary made up the list!

Bob Hodges, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported the candidates for each open Board position. Thanks to Bob and to each of the committee members for their diligent work in selecting suitable applicants. If all goes well, I will still be around in July, and, if not, I've really enjoyed serving the Society as VP over the last three years!

## Orchid Garage Sale

### June 26 from 9-12

All Sellers Welcome

I am hosting a garage sale at my house for anyone interested in selling or buying a few plants. Spaces (4-6 feet) are available at no charge. Please call 760.753.3173 to reserve a space.

Peter Tobias 564 Arden Drive Encintas

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Conservation Committee Meeting at  
1PM after the Garage Sale  
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# Get out your digital cameras!

by YOU, the SDCOS members!



1	4	7	9
2	5	8	10
3	6		



CJ La Belle

1. *Ascocentrum Christensonianum*
2. *Lycaste Always*
3. *PaphDelenatii* 'Dumplings' x 'Fantastic Fountain'
4. *Zygo. Blackii* x *HelenKu* 'RedRead' x BG White 'Stonehurst'

Ginger and Mel Ochs

5. *Dendrobium chrysotoxum*
6. *Epidendrum parkinsonianum*

7. *Aerides japonica*

8. unknown *Cymbidium*

Linda Gardner

9. *Paph Freckkles*
10. unknown *Paph.*

# Cindy Hill Wins Best of Show at New York International Orchid Fair

by Pamela Peters

An orchid plant grown by society member Cindy Hill took Best of Show honors at the 24<sup>th</sup> New York International Orchid Show held at Rockefeller Center, April 14-18, 2004. Her *Cochlioda vulcanica* 'Ganesh', a species native to high elevations of Ecuador, had over 120 unusually large, crystalline, rosy-pink flowers on a robust 5-inch plant. Her plant tied for show champion with a *Bulbophyllum* from Borneo with 6-ft long leaves and four spikes of carrion-scented maroon flowers... a hard act to follow! Judges of the American Orchid Society also awarded Cindy a Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM/AOS) in recognition of excellence in culture. The plant was at the New York show because a friend had asked to borrow a few of her plants to help fill in his display. Cindy, an AOS student judge and Acting Editor of Orchid Digest magazine, grows orchids at her home in Solana Beach.

## Please Don't Discard Orchid After It Blooms

ORCHID Q&A

ARTHUR CHADWICK, May 22, 2004, [Richmond Times Dispatch](#)

Q. The growing instructions that came with my new orchid say to "throw the plant out" when the blooming is over - that the farm will "grow more." What kind of advice is that? Joan B

A. While some might advocate discarding a Poinsettia after the holidays, I find it hard to believe that a commercial grower would recommend composting such a highly prized plant as an orchid. To begin with, the plant is roughly 5 years old and has taken an incredible journey from seed pod to laboratory to greenhouse. The best should be yet to come given the life expectancy of an orchid is endless and, under proper guidance, the plant usually gets larger and more floriferous each year.

The farm has sadly underestimated the horticultural ability of the general public and the relative ease in which orchids will re-bloom. In the next few years, orchids are expected to become the most popular houseplant in the United States with more and more hobbyists learning the cultural practices. Furthermore, everyone has the growing conditions

for low-light orchids like *Phalaenopsis* and *Paphiopedilums*.

If your orchid requires more light than you can give it, you can always give the plant to a neighbor or friend who will thank you for your thoughtfulness. There are also orchid professionals who will "board" the plant until it reblooms and local orchid societies that will gladly take the plant off your hands. But throw it out? Never!

Q. I have a Vanda in a basket that is hanging in my sunroom. I mist the roots every day but the leaves look dehydrated. Should I put the plant outside for the summer? John H

A. The best place for most orchids during the warm months in Virginia is outside where the climate is nothing short of rainforest-like. New leaves and roots are immediately triggered by hot and humid growing conditions and good clean air circulation; all of which is the perfect cure for your orchid's winter blues.

Vandas are one of the showiest of the orchid family with some flowers the size and roundness of softballs - in vivid colors such as magenta and blue (yes, ocean blue). There is a technique to growing vandas, however, that is different from other orchids. The plant grows best in a slatted wood basket with the roots exposed to the air. The grower must mist the roots heavily for at least one minute until the normally white roots turn green. Then repeat the process once or twice a day, every day, forever! Without a doubt, Vandas are a high-maintenance orchid, but the flowers are, as they say, "to die for."

Q. I've heard that orchids are from the rainforest. How can I possibly duplicate these conditions in my house? Todd V

A. Just imagine for a moment that you are hiking through a tropical jungle and everywhere you look, there are 200-year-old trees completely covered with ferns, mosses and bromeliads. The sheer weight of the epiphytes clinging to the branches seems sufficient to topple each tree. Exotic palm trees soaring three stories high and *Philodendron* leaves large enough to sleep under abound. The green vegetation is so lush, overgrown and intertwined that it is hard to distinguish one plant from another.

Suddenly, there is a rustle overhead and you look up to find several howler monkeys scampering amongst the treetops. Moments later you catch a glimpse of the most beautiful bird you have ever seen - the male quetzal with long iridescent green tail plumes and a dazzling scarlet belly. The naturalist guide whispers in broken English that jaguars also inhabit these forests but are generally shy and only attack humans when provoked.

Near a clearing, a delicate lavender *Cattleya* orchid sits on an old growth tree limb in glorious full bloom. The flowers are a little ragged - having been battered by torrential rains, 60 mph winds and voracious insects - but are still an overpowering sight. Welcome to the native habitat of

orchids.

Surely, you can duplicate these conditions in your house! Start by putting your orchids outside from May through September. Always avoid full sun. The remainder of the year will be less than optimal but orchids are tolerant if you meet them half way. Keep the humidity at least 50 percent using either a humidity tray or a humidifier. Water the plants exactly when they need it - usually twice a week thoroughly. Offer shade to the low light types (paphs, phals) and filtered light to the others (catts, dens, oncs). The jungle wildlife is optional.

Arthur Chadwick is president of Chadwick & Son Orchids Inc. His column appears the fourth Saturday of the month. Reach him at 1240 Dorset Road, Powhatan, VA 23139, by phone 804.598.7560, or by e-mail at [info@chadwickorchids.com](mailto:info@chadwickorchids.com). Past columns are available at his Web site, [www.chadwickorchids.com](http://www.chadwickorchids.com).

## Book Opened Orchid-growing To The World

By CAROL SMITH, May 15, 2004  
*Seattle Post-Intelligencer Reporter*

Before there was an Orchid Thief, there was Rebecca T. Northen.

Northen, whose 1950 book "Home Orchid Growing" is still the bible for growers -- amateur and professional alike -- did for orchids what Julia Child did for French cooking, said one orchid lover. Her greenhouse still contained hundreds of orchids when she died April 30 at age 93 in Des Moines, where she lived with her daughter.

"She demystified this thing that was previously the purview of the rich doctors and the wealthy," said Bill Carley, who picked up Northen's book when he was a kid and got hooked. Now a member of the Northwest Orchid Society, he's still growing them 40 years later.

And so are millions of others around the country, inspired by the woman who made orchid growing accessible to anyone with a little sun and some patience. "She's the reason we have orchids in Trader Joe's," said Northen's daughter, Betty Lyons. "Truly, she was an orchid grower's orchid grower," said Andy Easton, vice president of Kerry's Bromeliads in Homestead, Fla., one of the largest growers in the world. Kerry's produces more than 4 million plants a year, he said, "but if there's any one book I still go to on a regular basis, that's Rebecca Northen's 'Home Orchid Growing.'"

Northen discovered orchids, the hothouse hotties of the flower world, in the coldest of places: Laramie, Wyo.

Born in Detroit in 1910, Rebecca Tyson had hoped to become a doctor like her father. She studied biology at Radcliff College and received her master's degree from Mount Holyoke in Massachusetts. Just after graduating, however, she heard about a summer botany camp in Wyoming, still considered the "Wild West" in those days.

She went for the adventure. Instead, love bloomed. She married her professor, Henry T. Northen, in 1937 and the two put down roots in Laramie, where they raised three children.

One day, the professor came home with a flask of tiny orchid seedlings, enough to start hundreds of plants. Northen fell under their spell immediately, and hard.

"There was something magical about them that captivated her," said her grandson Trent Northen of Arizona, who got his own start growing orchids from doing chores in his "Grandbecca's" greenhouse when she later lived in California.

Those first seedlings rapidly took over every surface in the house, including the bathtubs. Soon thereafter, the Northens built their first greenhouse. To support her proliferating hobby, and pay the heating bill, Northen sold Cattleyas, or corsage orchids, by the prom-load.

"When she was getting started, there wasn't very much known," the younger Northen said. "She had to figure it out."

The relationship between orchids and their pollinators especially intrigued her, he said. "She loved how these tricky orchids will fool bugs and hummingbirds into pollinating them."

If orchids were clever about their propagation, Northen had to be even more clever to get them to grow in Laramie.

"It was the most God-forsaken place in the world to grow orchids," said Easton, who used to visit the Wyoming greenhouse in the 1970s when he was a university student. She had a rare knack for getting different types to thrive in the same greenhouse, a feat that still eludes many professional growers today.

"That's a unique skill," he said.

It helped that she was stubborn. And patient. Some orchids took seven years or more to bloom.

She was persistent in her pursuit of them as well. In her early days, when it was still legal, she traveled the world collecting orchids from the Himalayas to the jungles of Central America.

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Submitted by Lynn Dornfeld

No board of Directors Meeting for the month of May.

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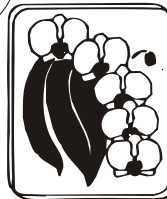
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## Cal Pacific Orchid Farm

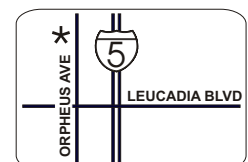
1000's of blooming orchids in our 36,000 square foot greenhouse

<i>Brassia</i>	<i>Encyclia</i>
<i>Cattleya</i>	<i>Miltonia</i>
<i>Colmanara</i>	<i>Mokara</i>
<i>Cymbidium</i>	<i>Oncidium</i>
<i>Dendrobium</i>	<i>Paphiopedilum</i>
<i>Degarmora</i>	<i>Vanda</i>

... and more ...

The Southland's Largest Showroom  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

*We Also Offer:*  
 Custom Arrangements  
 Room & Board Program  
 FedEx Shipping Nationwide



Hours: 8am - 4pm M-F  
 9am - 3pm Sat  
 760-436-0317

1122 Orpheus Ave  
 Leucadia, CA 92024

## 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

Cattleyas, Oncidium/Odonts, Vandaceous,  
Greenhouse grown, West SD County  
Forrest Robinson - 858.270.6105

Species, all types, Indoor and Outdoor  
Ann & Paul Tuskes - 858.274.5829

Paphiopedilums  
Ann Tuskes - 858.274.5829  
Bob Hodges - 619.461.4915

Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas, and 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](mailto: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

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

## DATES TO REMEMBER..

June 1, 6:30 pm  
Beginner's Class/Novice Meeting  
First Tuesday each month  
Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park  
Lynn Ford 619.283.4172

June 1, 7:30 pm  
General Meeting  
First Tuesday each month  
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park  
Gary Pierwola 619.426.9108

June 5, 9:00 am  
SDCOS Species Group Meeting  
First Saturday each month  
Paul or Ann Tuskes 858.274.5829

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

June 8, 7:00 pm  
SDCOS Board Meeting  
Second Tuesday each month  
Balboa Park  
Lynn Dornfeld 619.889.4612

June 16  
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

June 18, 10 am - 2 pm  
San Diego Zoo  
Orchid Greenhouses Open House  
Third Friday each month  
Janette Gerrity 619.231.1515 ext. 4306

June 18, 6:45 pm  
Palomar Orchid Society Meeting  
Third Friday each month  
The Carlsbad Women's Club  
Melana Walding, 760.295.7228

June 19  
Hybrid Orchid Group  
Helmut Rohrl  
Applied Physics & Mathematics Bldg. UCSD  
Info: 858.452.0976

# 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](mailto: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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# Got Dendrobiums?

[annettesorchids.com](http://annettesorchids.com)

