



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 161

July 2012

www.sdorchids.com

CULTURE MEETING– June 5, 6:30 PM ***Kay Klausing– Water Quality***

By Scott LaBouff, 2nd Vice President

The importance of water quality is often discussed in orchid culture. Kay Klausing will introduce us to two water system options available for improvement of municipal water. These systems include de-ionization (“D/I”) and reverse osmosis (“R/O”).

Kay will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each system as well as how to install them, along with the costs and maintenance involved.

GENERAL MEETING– June 5, 7:30 PM ***Merle Robboy– Orchid Travels***

By Paul Tuskes, 1st Vice President

Our speaker for July is Merle Robboy. Merle has travels to observe orchids in the wild and will share some of his photos and observations with us.

His talk will focus on southern Mexico. This should be particularly interesting as many of these plants are great outdoor growers here in Southern California. Traveling introduces us to the culture, customs, food, plants and animals. In addition to Mexico, Merle has visited other Central American countries. Merle is an avid orchid grower who lives in Fallbrook and has a wide variety of orchids.

Rex Foster Orchids will be providing the plant table.

Dinner with the Speaker

Helen Pfister will be taking our July speaker Merle Robboy to dinner at the Prado.

If you would like to join them please call 619-222-8873 no later than Monday, July 2 before 11 AM. If no answer please leave a message.

Meet in room 101 at 5:30.
Dinner at 5:45 PM.

San Diego County Orchid Society

Board of Directors

President: [Bruce Berg](#)
 First VP: [Paul Tuskes](#)
 Second VP: [Scott LaBouff](#)
 Treasurer: [Carol Berg](#)
 Secretary: [Helen Pfister](#)
 Directors: [Bob Clark](#)
 Lila Wagar
 Jim Wright
 Past President: [David Brown](#)

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 Christopher Croom at (619) 583-3804 or batescroom@gmail.com.

Advertisers

Please contact Carol Berg at winklerca@yahoo.com.

Information for the August newsletter must be submitted by July 15.

WORLD-FAMOUS

San Diego Zoo

SENIOR PASS (over 60 years of age):

Yearly rate \$54 single and \$75 dual
 Renewal rates: \$37 single and \$59 dual

DUAL MEMBERSHIP (under 59 years of age):

Yearly rate \$109.
 Renewal Rate - \$94.

- ~ For two adults in the same household.
- ~ A year of FREE UNLIMITED ADMISSION to both the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park.
- ~ 6 discount guest coupons good toward admission.
- ~ A One Year Subscription to ZOONOOZ.
- ~ Free Zoo Skyfari
- ~ 4 two-for-one coupons for Zoo Bus Tour.

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP

Yearly rate \$88.
 Renewal rate \$76.

For One Adult.

All of the benefits described above under dual membership.

Prices & benefits subject to change.

For more information, call 619.231.0251

Or call toll free 877.3 MEMBER

Visit our website: www.sandiegozoo.org

Your membership supports our plant and animal collections and includes a monthly visit to our Orchid Odyssey on the third Friday of each month from 10am until 2pm.

Casa de las Orquideas

Southern California's leading source for Cymbidium and Zygopetalum seedlings. Over 30,000 plants in stock from 3" pots to blooming size. Our complete list of seedlings and flasks is on the web at www.orquideas.com.

Open by appointment only!

170 S. Nardo Ave., Solana Beach, CA 92075.

Phone and Fax: (858) 755-7572

Email: casa@orquideas.com

The 32nd Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair

Friday July 13 & Saturday July 14,
 2012, 9 AM to 5 PM

Sunday July 15, 10 AM to 4 PM

www.orchidfair.com

Orchid Dates to Remember

July 3

SDCOS Culture Meeting

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

July 3, 7:30 p.m

SDCOS General Meeting

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

July 5, 7:00 PM

SDCOS Board Meeting

Normally, the Thursday following the General Meeting, Balboa Park, Rm. 104

July 7

SDCOS Species Group Meeting

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

July 11 (*normally first Wednesday of the month, but delayed one week due to holiday*)

Palomar Orchid Society Meeting

Culture class at 6:30; program at 7:00
First Wednesday of the month
The Carlsbad Woman's Club
3320 Monroe Street, Carlsbad
Melana Walding (760) 295-7228

July 18

Cymbidium Society Meeting

Regular meeting, third Wednesday of month
Culture class at 6:30, Meeting at 7:00 PM
San Diego Cty. Botanic Gardens– Ecke Bldg.
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024
orchldy2@mac.com or (760) 732-0055

July 20

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

If you have any announcements that you would like included in the "Dates to Remember" section of the newsletter, please e-mail bates-room@gmail.com.



**San Diego County
Orchid Society**

Show in the Park

July 21 and 22

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101



THE PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY
PRESENTS



**2012 Orchid
Auction**

Saturday, August 18, 2012
Preview at 11:00 am
Auction starts 12 Noon

The Pavillion at Lake San Marcos
1105 Bonita Drive
San Marcos, CA 92078

FREE TO THE PUBLIC • More info at www.palomarorchid.org

**Receive your
SDCOS Newsletter
by E-Mail!**

Contact:

membership@sdorchids.com

Enjoy the CALIFORNIA
GARDENS magazine with your
membership in San Diego
Floral Association.
\$35

(619)232-5762

www.sdfloal.org

SANTA BARBARA ORCHID ESTATE

Every day a different orchid—check out
"Orchid-Of-The-Day" at www.sborchid.com

Specializing in outdoor-growing
orchids for coastal California, incl. *Laelia anceps*
and hybrids, *Cymbidium* species and hybrids, and
species.

Open daily: Mon-Sat, 8 to 4:30, Sun 11-4
1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93111
(800) 553-3387 sboe@sborchid.com

Granite Hills Orchids

Are your *Cymbidiums* busting their pots?!?
Are your *Cattleyas* climbing the neighbor's fence!?!?

It's time to call Darcy, the world famous repotter for
some help. She can be reached at [619-339-6888](tel:619-339-6888).
Don't put this off as now is prime repotting time. Your
orchids will thank you immensely!

For recommendations call Bud Close,
Jim Wright, or Tom Biggart

www.granitehillSORchids.com
tombiggart@mac.com 619-886-8121

**Concerning Plants for
Judging Sessions**

By: Helmut Rohrl

The Pacific South Judging Center conducts
each month three judging sessions in the Los
Angeles and San Diego area. They are:

San Diego

Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104
1st Tuesday of the month at 6 pm

San Marino

Huntington Botanical Gardens
2nd Saturday of the month at 10 am

Long Beach

Whaley Park
4th Saturday of the month at 7 pm

Visitors—with or without plants—are welcome
anytime. If a member of the SDCOS wishes to
have flowering plants judged at one of these
sessions but is unable to take the plants to the
judging facility, please contact one of the fol-
lowing AOS judges:

Rohrl, Helmut (La Jolla)
858-452-0976

Tuskes, Ann and Paul (Clairemont)
858-274-5829



Cym. Sweet Devon
'Edith' earned Leno
Galvan an 80—point
AM/AOS and an 89-
point CCM/AOS.
Obviously the
judges really liked
this one. Guessing
by the name and
shape and color of
the flowers, I'd say
this one probably
has a fair amount of
C. devonianum in it.

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

June 2012

Text by Phyllis S. Prestia Ed.D. Photos by Arthur Pinkers, official AOS Photographer and Judge.

There were 16 orchids presented for judging. Six awards were given, with two awards to one orchid.



Prosthechea vitellina 'Helen's Delight' earned Helen Pfister a 77-point HCC/AOS. This plant requires good-quality water and temperatures between about 40 and 90°F.



Here's a close-up of Leno Galvan's multi-award winning Cym. Sweet Devon 'Edith', dutifully named after his wife. This plant probably benefits from good-quality water.



Paph. Houghtoniae 'Janet' earned Charlie Fouquette an AM/AOS with a score of 80 points. This one is a primary hybrid between *P. haynaldianum* and *P. rothschildianum*.



Phrag. dalessandroi was exhibited by Helmut Rohrl and earned an AM/AOS with 82 points. Some folks used to think this was a variant of *P. bessae*. Phrags absolutely hate drying out.



C. (x?) dolosa 'Thanks Mike Wang' earned David Kochman an HCC/AOS with a score of 79 points. Some experts believe this to be a natural hybrid between *C. walkeriana* and *C. loddigesii*, but no one can re-create it.

Updates from Your President

By: Bruce Berg

The Summer Show in the Park is almost here! The show will be the 21st and 22nd of July. Setup will be on Friday the 20th. We can use volunteers with setup, takedown, helping with sales, and security. David Brown is the Chairman and further questions can be directed to him. The sales area can use some paper bags or plastic bags for our members and customers to take home some great plants that'll be for sale.

The elections results for the 2012--2013 Board were: Bruce Berg, President; Scott La Bouff, 1st Vice President; Ben Machado, 2nd Vice President, Helen Pfister, Secretary; Carol Berg, Treasurer; and Kay Klausung, Board member for the 2012-2015 term. The following people will continue on in their positions on the board; Bob Clark, Board member and parliamentarian, Jim Wright, Board member; and David Brown, Immediate Past President. Thanks to the following members of the Selection Committee; Ron Kaufmann, Betty Kelepecz, Genie Hammond, Pam Peters, and David Hoffmaster.

Debbie Halladay lost her husband Don in May. Don was a member of the society for many years who, because of his failing health, was not able to participate with us the last several years.

This last six months or so, our Society has lost a number of members whom we would like to remember in a new page on our website. Jack Schaefer is now working on developing the page in memoriam of our Society members. If any of our Society members have information and hopefully a photo to share, we would appreciate help you can give us in making this section of the website a good place to reflect on the good memories we have of our friends

and colleagues. The details are being worked out, and your thoughts and comments are encouraged.

2012 – 2013 Budget: As our fiscal year comes to a close, the Board has reviewed how we did financially for the current year and what we want to propose to the new Board who will take over after the July swearing in ceremony. In a nutshell, we did well. Our income and expenses were in balance with the exception of the new requirement for putting up deposits for the next two Spring Shows. The proposed budget for the next year will be quite close to the current budget.

A discussion was held about looking at any changes that we would like to make. One item in particular needs to be discussed further with the membership. That is whether or not we should continue printing and mailing out the newsletter, or do we want to spend the money on something else? Most societies and associations now exclusively publish their newsletters online. Our current net cost for printing and mailing is approximately \$2700. It is the most expensive item in our budget. It represents about 15% of our total expenses per year. Do we wish to continue as we are doing, or possibly do something else like to have our Holiday Party and the Awards Banquet catered? How would we provide newsletters to our members who do not have computer access? We recognize that this is an item that will be controversial. The Board agreed that no changes regarding the newsletter would be made before discussions with, and approval by our membership.

General Meeting Minutes June 5, 2012

Ron Kaufmann presented the slate of officers for the 2012-2013 year for the San Diego County Orchid Society.

Bruce Berg, President; Scott LaBouff, 1st Vice President; Ben Machado, 2nd Vice President; Helen Pfister, Secretary; Carol Berg, Treasurer; Kay Klausing, Director-At-Large 2012-2015; continuing David Brown, Immediate Past President; Director-At-Large, Bob Clark 2010-2013 and Jim Wright, 2011-2014.

Bruce Berg asked the membership if there were any nominations from the floor. No names were forthcoming. He then asked for a motion to elect these officers for the year 2012-2013. Jack Schaefer made said motion, it was seconded and a vote was called for—the motion passed unanimously.

These officers will be sworn in at the July General Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen R. Pfister, Secretary



**San Diego County
Orchid Society**

Show in the Park

July 21 and 22

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

~ANDY'S ORCHIDS~ "The Species Specialist"

Beautifully mounted epiphytes and potted terrestrials. Many rare and exotic orchids. Blooming size, established species are what we do best!

Our **MAIL ORDER CATALOG** features many new and unusual species from around the world with descriptions and cultural requirements, plus Andy's orchid growing tips. For your copy, call write, fax or email us and we will send our latest issue.

Your satisfaction is Guaranteed. We take pride in our reputation for selling a well-established plant and will replace it if you are not satisfied upon receipt.

**We are open by Appointment Only,
so call in advance and make yours!**

Andy Phillips

734 Oceanview Ave., Encinitas, CA 92024

Phone 888-514-2639 Fax 888-632-8991

speciesnut@AndysOrchids.com

www.AndysOrchids.com

CALAVO GARDENS

Orchid Supplies

Specializing in the needs of the orchid grower

NUTRICOTE 13-13-13

180 DAY SLOW RELEASE

The true controlled release top dressing

4044 Calavo Drive, La Mesa

619-948-5942 bmach16814@aol.com

**Receive your
SDCOS Newsletter
by E-Mail!**

membership@sdorchids.com

2012 Summer Show and Sale in the Park

It is time once again to prepare for another Show. For many years the shows were called mini-shows, I take exception to this description since the shows we put on in the park are larger than many society's annual shows. This is because of the participation of many of our members who bring in plants to display to the public. If you have not participated in the past I encourage you to share your successes with us and the public. This is a great opportunity to show off your beautiful flowers. The purpose of these Shows in the Park is to demonstrate to the public what can be grown in San Diego. We live in a botanical wonderland with a multitude of micro-climates that allows us to grow a vast array of really interesting plants. Hopefully, this will encourage others to become interested in the hobby we all love. Additionally, this is a fund raising mechanism for our society; it allows us to maintain low dues and to enjoy the benefits of our society. Therefore, it is important that as many of you as possible participate to make the show a big success. There are many ways you can be involved.

If you have plants to display, please bring them into room 101 of Casa del Prado on Friday from 5:00pm until 8:00pm or Saturday from 8:00 am until 9:30 am. These plants can be entered for ribbon judging by filing out a plat tag with the name of the plant and your name with its class and section number. Class and Section number can be found on our website. The plant tags will be available at the next meeting so that you can fill them out prior to bring them to the show. But if you don't know how to find out the plant tags, have no fear, there will be assistance available when you bring your plant. Now just a word about plants being brought in to the show, please make sure that there are no pest on your plant and that you "clean them up" appropriately.

If you don't have any plants in flower, there are still many opportunities for you to help with the running of the show. We can always use people to watch the doors and to ensure that people do not touch the plants. If people ask questions, and you know the answer, feel free to share your insights. If there are questions you don't know the answer to, there are many in our society who probably does know the answer, all you have to do is ask someone and I am pretty sure that we can find someone who knows something about it.

We always need security, our need is greatest on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, so if you are free, please come down and help us out. This is also a great time to chat with other members and pick their brains about orchid growing and various other pearls of wisdom. There is a great deal of knowledge in our society and the best way to glean this information is to chat with the growers who are successful. Much of what I have learned about orchid growing has come from talking to our members who are no longer with us such as Forrest Robinson, Rudy Pfeiffer, Don Van Kirkeritz and Lorren Batchman just to name a few. There is still much to be learned from many of our members and I encourage you share your experience with as many as possible.

Finally, the Show and Sale will be Saturday July 21 and Sunday July 22. Friday July 20 at 2:00 pm we begin to set up the Show and Sale space. I could do for a few people to help with this task and this goes very quickly with a little help so if you are free at 2:00 pm; please call me and let me know you are coming (619-294-5925), although if you just show up, that will be okay too. About 5:00 pm on Friday, you can bring plants in for display and goes on until 8:00pm. Saturday the doors open at 8:00 am for people to bring plants in for the Show, at 10:00 am we begin ribbon judging and we open the show when we are done judging.

The sales area has been opening at 10:00 am for people who arrive at the show early. We close at 5:00 pm on Saturday. We open on Sunday at 10:00 am and we close the doors at 4:00 pm. **THE SHOW IS NOT OVER AT THAT TIME!** We allow the remaining members of the public to enjoy our displays and when these patrons are gone WE begin to dismantle the show. An announcement will be made when it is time to begin. I hope to see you at the Show and Sale.

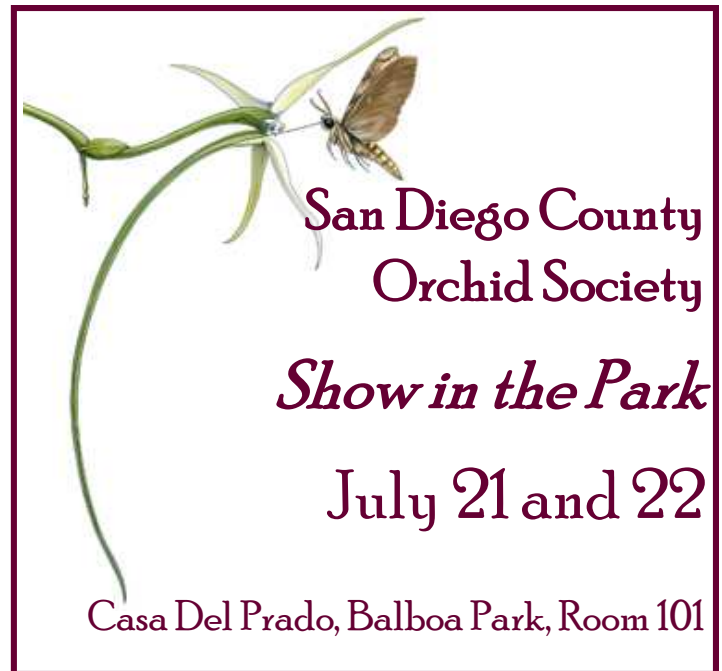
Respectably submitted,
David Brown
Summer Show Chair and Past President

Show Committee Report

It is time to start thinking about our spring show at the Scottish Rite Center. The show will be held March 22-24, 2013 and it will be our 77th annual show. The first item we need to consider is a theme. Last year's theme was "Galaxy of Orchids". Members are encouraged to come up with potential themes and submit them to either Bruce Berg (b2berg@yahoo.com) or Dave Hoffmaster (davehoff5@yahoo.com) by no later than the August 7th meeting.

We ask that you limit the number of entries to 6 potential themes. The show committee will review all entries and will narrow the list to a top ten. These will then be published in the September newsletter and we will vote at the September meeting for the final selection.

We are counting upon the membership to provide ideas for the theme and we need as much participation as possible. As an incentive, we will give the person who submits the winning theme a one year subscription to Orchid Digest magazine. So get our your pencils and pens and jot down your ideas.



New Website Section "In Memorial"

The Board of Directors has approved a new "In Memorial" section to the SDCOS website. Memorials which reside on our website will provide a permanent remembrance of past society members. In this section, articles detailing passed members' contributions to our society and to orchid culture in general will reside prominently for a period of one year after which articles will be archived, but still accessible.

You are invited to provide any information or personal recollections of past members you would like to see included. Please provide specific information. Your contribution may be included on the website as determined and approved by the board.

San Diego County Orchid Society Board Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2012

Attendees: Bruce Berg, Carol Berg, David Brown, Bob Clark, Helen Pfister, Paul Tuskes, Kay Klausing, Scott LaBouff and visitor Jack Schaefer and Ben Machado

President Bruce Berg called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Officer Reports:

Minutes for the May meeting were approved via email prior to this meeting and were published in the June newsletter.

Carol Berg presented the Treasurer's report for May. David Brown moved to file the report for audit—the motion passed.

Carol Berg also presented for discussion purposes only a budget for 2012-2013. The Board continued its discussions on the cost of the newsletter. Bruce Berg will write an article proposing an alternate of catered meals for the Holiday Party and the Awards Banquet instead of printing and mailing out the newsletter. The Board is looking to do a survey of the membership before any final decision is made.

Committee Reports:

Jack Schaefer, our Webmaster, stated the use of the web site has increased. The Summer Park Show information will be posted shortly.

An *In Memoriam* page for our website has been proposed. Helen Pfister moved that such a page be created and after one year the article be archived. All articles must be approved for

publication by the Board—the motion passed. Scott LaBouff will write an article for the newsletter about the above *In Memoriam* Page.

Bob Clark, our Membership Chairman, reported that our membership has decreased by 5 single members and 7 dual members. Calling the above non-renewing members was a topic of discussion. Paul Tuskes volunteered to call them. It was suggested that a rotation for calling be implemented.

David Brown, our Finance Committee Chairman, will provide the Board with a list of names for the Finance Committee for approval prior to the next meeting. He will also see if he can find a financial organization that will allow for requiring two or more signatures for withdrawals for a nonprofit organization.

Old Business:

Contracts for 2013 and 2014 with the Scottish Rite Center have been signed for the following: March 21-24, 2013 and March 20-23 2014.

David Brown will chair the Summer Show in the Park. Set up will be on Friday at 2 PM. Volunteers are always needed and sign up sheets will be available at the next General Meeting.

Bruce Berg moved that we purchase outdoor signs, spending no more than \$200.00, these signs to be placed on or near Park Boulevard – the motion passed.

Fund raising for our Spring Show at the Scottish Rite Center was discussed. Corporate sponsors are needed: our selling points being conservation, education and local hikes inventorying our own native orchids. Jack Schaefer and Bruce Berg will work on this project and

present more to the Board at a later date.

A standardized tax exemption form 501(c3) was discussed by the Board. Carol Berg will check the IRS requirements for required signatures. David Brown will obtain a legal review of the form. This will replace the several versions that are currently being used. A motion to adopt will be made at the next Board meeting. This form may be used by both the SDCOS and the Conservation Committee.

New Business:

Kay Klausung will be our Culture class speaker. His talk will be on the costs of water: reverse osmosis, deionized, local water and others.

Merle Robboy will be speaking about Southern Mexico orchids at our General Meeting. Merle requested that his speaker's fee be donated to the Conservation Society. Thank you Merle. Helen Pfister will host the speaker's dinner.

Paul Tuskes is assisting Scott LaBouff with the next several monthly speakers.

Discussions were held about our participating at the Del Mar Fair next year.

David Brown stated that he would like to attend the San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation Dinner. Bruce Berg moved that we pay \$20.00 for the cost of the dinner—the motion passed.

July 5th is the date for the next scheduled Board Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen R. Pfister, Secretary

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
Helmut Rohrl (858) 452-0976

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 (760) 728-7996

San Diego Central

Outdoor, all types
Jim Wright (619) 276-5295
Fred Tomaschke (619) 276-3235

San Diego East County, all types

Bud Close (619) 444-8839

South County, all types

Genie Hammond (619) 422-2235

How To Do This:



By Christopher Croom

Building your own shade house or orchid greenhouse can be a daunting task, but a Rastafarian in Belize with no shirt or shoes once told me “If you can hammer a nail into a board, you can build a house.” Luckily, a shade or greenhouse is not a piano or a piece of heirloom furniture, and you won’t be using bird’s eye maple to do it. However, if you do not have basic construction skills and an interest in putting some real sweat equity into your space, you might need to seriously consider having someone else build it for you (the most expensive option), buying something prefabricated (slightly less expensive), or purchasing a kit (a little less costly). Also, you’ll need a fair amount of able-bodied friends or neighbors to help you hump long boards up ladders onto posts and who won’t sue you if you drop digging bars on their heads, so if you’re a hermit who lives in a cave you might need to pursue the aforementioned other options.

To make your life slightly easier if you’re considering this process (and you should if you own property and have the space, as I did it and definitely do not consider myself a talented construction worker), I have compiled a

few tips you might want to consider before delving into making a controlled environment to maximize the happiness of your plants:

1) **Loosely consult a few magazines or blogs to give you ideas:**

This will help you get started by giving you ideas about structures you can build and steps for how to build them, including materials lists. A shade or lath house is basically a patio cover with sides, so start looking at patio covers. The reason you should loosely consult magazines or blogs is that they might mention materials that you cannot get in San Diego due to different building codes than the area in which the magazine or blog is written. Plan on significantly changing any of the materials you come across in published “recipes” due to availability.

2) **Dot the stupid I’s and cross the stupid T’s:**

Albeit totally lame, you may need to pay the city for a permit so they get their cut of enjoyment from any pretty building you’re going to make. Definitely call 811 and figure out how not to kill yourself while digging post holes. Mark the ground you want to dig in with orange flags and spray paint (“U.S.A.” for underground service area), wait patiently for a response from all utility parties, and pray that you don’t dig into your water line since the city will not map its route to the street for you. Stay away from the gas line! Additionally, you are going to expose the ground to a lot of water, so put in some proper drainage materials (sand, gypsum, French drains) before building the structure over it if necessary.

3) **Start with a footprint, measure the ground, and draw it out:**

Figure out how big you want the footprint of your orchid house to be and measure the ground you intend to build it on to make sure you have the space. Even if you suck at drawing, you need a plan for how your project is going to turn out. Use a ruler, make some straight, pretty lines on good paper that approximate what you're trying to build to the best of your ability, and then bust out a calculator so you can start adding up the lengths of each line. The lines are the boards you are going to use, and you'll be using 4 x 4's for the vertical posts and 2 x somethings for the horizontal stuff on top. Your drawing does not have to be to scale, however lines that represent equal lengths of lumber should be approximately the same length. The lengths and sizes (4 x 4, 2 x 4, 2 x 8, etc.) of each timber should be designated somewhere on the drawing. It also needs to be easy enough to decipher so that you can refer to it while you build it if necessary. (This is where that drafting class that you transferred out of in middle school or that you didn't take because the colleges weren't looking at vocational ed would come in slightly handy.)

4) Use math in everyday life...even algebra:

You'll need to use addition and multiplication to figure out how many boards you need of each type and how much they're going to cost so you can put together an estimate for yourself. (If it breaks the bank, then it's up to you to peddle a bunch of plasma, knock over a liquor store, or sell a few of your children to the Zetas.) Double check your math, because you don't want any nasty surprises mid-build. It sucks trying to make a building with a square footprint when you only have three posts. Also, figure out how you're going to get the

materials to the place you intend to build the structure. It might be completely worth the \$100 to have it delivered by the hardware store. Finally, to make the corners 90° when you dig the holes for the posts, you'll have to use the Pythagorean theorem: after using masonry twine and stakes to mark out the 4 corners of the footprint of your structure, measuring 3' on one side of a stake and 4' on the other should leave an exact 5' distance between the two lengths, ensuring a right angle for the corner of the triangle you just made by $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$. Otherwise, you risk the scathing ridicule of helicopter pilots by building something that looks like a trapezoid from the air.

5) Make sure to have the proper tools and materials:

You'll need a post level, shovels, a tri-square, a large circular saw, a hammer, a screw gun/drill, post-hole diggers, bags of concrete, a wheelbarrow for mixing them, deck screws in the right sizes, galvanized brackets for mounting the pieces together, and shade cloth for the top (plus the staples to install it) at a minimum. Renting a large electric breaker power tool from Home Depot to bust through the clay soil when digging post holes may be necessary.

6) Pound it out!

Get to work. Remember that you aren't building a piano and that nothing works out the way it's supposed to in construction. You will have to curse and swear and may feel like you're at your breaking point numerous times. Luckily, the army of tiny Mexicans you hired from the Home Depot corner are there to protect you and enhance your project with their superior jobsite knowledge!



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

NON-PROFIT
ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #2359
SAN DIEGO, CA

Letter From the Editor

Dear SDCOS,

It's summertime now, and I bought a bag of Match Light charcoal a couple of weeks ago to make finnan haddie. Now the dang stuff ain't Match Light anymore because it will hardly ignite due to having absorbed so much ambient humidity from the outdoors. I might expect this if I lived in La Jolla, but I live in Normal Heights. This anecdote made me flashback to some folks that I sold orchids to from Andy's booth ten years ago or so. Folks that tried to convince me that Del Cerro was as dry as the Sahara, that parts of La Mesa were reliably as hot as Death Valley, and that Allied Gardens got as cold as the dark side of the Moon at night in winter. They were telling me this to excuse themselves from having to buy some awesome orchid I was selling and believed would immeasurably enhance their lives, because when I told them a certain orchid "grows outside" in San Diego, they thought I meant "grows outside of the planter box in a big, climate controlled indoor greenhouse at Kew Botanical Gardens."

Contact Information:

Christopher Croom

(619) 583-3804

batescroom@cox.net

I've had to struggle with folks who insisted that Talmadge regularly registered over 100°F in the summertime and that San Carlos consistently logged temperatures below 32°F at night all winter long. It seems like there are a whole lot of people in southern California who have never lived in a legitimately cold place like Minnesota (whose state flower is an orchid) and/or have disproportional access to broken thermometers. I've grabbed people by the shoulders and said "Hey. You live in San Diego, which is subtropical and the best growing climate in the world," only to have them look at me like I was demanding they drink Jonestown Kool-Aid. We have a lot of things to be truly happy for in San

Diego. First among them is that there's almost nothing we can't grow here au naturel. So, when I say "Happy Growing," I mean it. You should have it coming out your ears by now. If not, I'll work harder here for you to make it so.

Happy Growing,
Christopher