

2006 Officers
 President Ruben Colmenares
 1st Vice President Joan Bailey
 2nd Vice President Espie Quinn
 Recording Secretary Margaret Nerio
 Membership Secretary Helen Powell
 Treasurer Dr. Jim Miller



The South Coast Orchid Society meets on the fourth Monday of each month except holidays at the Whaley Park Clubhouse, 5620 East Atherton Street, Long Beach, California at 8:00.

<http://www.southcoastorchidsociety.com>

South Coast Orchid Society

Newsletter

Founded in 1950

March 2006

Board of Directors

Expires 2007	Janine Cormier
Expires 2007	Luis Morente
Expires 2006	Jim Miller
Expires 2006	Dean Viereck
Expires 2008	Irma Hughes
Expires 2008	Andy Tao

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AOS Judging Programs	Bill Heckeroth
Orchid Digest	Joan Bailey
AOS Rep	John Reyes
Publicity	Janell Schuck
Southland	Janell Schuck
Culture Sessions	Open
Ribbon Judging	Espie Quinn
Auditor	Janell Schuck
Newsletter	Dr. Jack Gentry
Kitchen	Dennis Mackewicz
	Dr. Jim Miller

Shows

Paul Brecht	Phil Plocher
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Raffle Ticket Sales

Jane Brecht

For more information contact:

Ruben Colmenares	562 421-9203
Joan Bailey	310 835-9614
Espie Quinn	714-968-0220
John Reyes	562-431-1142
Helen Powell	562-425-1687
Dr. Jim Miller	909-780-8322

Stories, articles and news items are welcome. The deadline is the 5th of the month.

Dennis Mackewicz
 3198 Lilly Avenue
 Long Beach, CA 90808
 (562) 430-0090
dwmackewicz@yahoo.com

Monday, March 27, 2006

Speaker: Ivan Marches

Topic: "Orchids of Ecuador"

8 p.m.

Ivan Portilla is a Vice President at Ecuagenera responsible for orchid shows and is customer representative for international sales. Ecuagenera is a grower and exporter of live orchids and exotic plants in Ecuador. Orchidaceae is one of the most populous families in the plant kingdom and is of great importance to Ecuador. Recent field research suggests that more than 4000 orchid species live in the wilds of Ecuador. "The most recent count of the number of orchid species in Ecuador is 3,787 which is the highest number recorded and validated with voucher specimens of any country in the world." (Calaway H. Dodson, PHD, author of "Native Ecuadorian Orchids")

Many of these species in Ecuador, and in other Latin American countries, especially Peru, are in danger of extinction due to improper use of natural forests, lots of illegal poaching and selling, and almost a complete lack of environmental protection.

Our speaker states that "Consequently, what we do at Ecuagenera is very important. We work to preserve these treasures and to provide information that supports the systematic study of Ecuadorian orchids. This research as well as our private reserve properties will allow the continued protection of this natural wealth and, at the same time, bringing into our homes the joy and beauty that is the orchid."

Ivan Portilla recently returned from a trip to Ecuador and will show slides of his country's orchids and their propagation.

Refreshments

Last names **H to P** please bring refreshments.
 There is a special drawing for those who bring food!

President's Message

March 2006

Marching into this month let me tell you that I am just so impressed with the quality of our membership. We are so fortunate to have so many committed members that make our SCOS what it is. Many of you came out in spite of the rainy and cold conditions. Half the time I am so busy running around trying to "lead" the meeting that I may forget to take time for the most important part of our SCOS family, our people. From time to time when we have people "out" in key positions—others will step in without missing a beat. The way that you all just pitch in even with the small stuff and help without having to be asked--you "just do it" and for that I am grateful. It sure would be a tough gig if we had to beg for help with all the things that we do. We've managed to make our meetings and the "work" that goes into it each month seem laid back and fun which in turn lets people enjoy what is being offered. So to each of you that help to set up and run the meetings each month I offer a sincere and heartfelt thanks which you are owed.

Have you noticed small changes here and there? This newsletter is getting a facelift. Each time I see it I notice something more. What's next? Photos and notes from the previous meetings and I am told that we will offer an electronically formatted newsletter (PDF). I strongly encourage anyone that has an e-mail address to sign up for this feature in lieu of the mailed hard copy so you can get the full effect of great color pictures and web-links that will be in each newsletter. The plus side of this is a significant cost savings for the SCOS—close to 1,000 dollars each year for printing the bulletin and stamps not to mention the time it takes our editor to prepare for mail-out each month. That money can then be freed up for other things like the rent and maybe Dennis can get more quality time in with his orchids. Huge thanks to **Joan Bailey and Dennis Mackewicz** for their efforts in making this happen.

For those that missed the last meeting (see photos and notes on the following pages) we had a great culture session on the topic of judging led by Espie Quinn. For the main event we were treated to an informative, lively and entertaining discussion on cymbidium culture by Doug Conkin.

For the second year in a row, the SCOS has won the best orchid display by a society. **John Reyes, Espie Quinn, Janell Shuck, Janine Cormier & Luis Morente** combined their talent and hard work and made our SCOS display the best in the house. Our very own **Linh Vu** raked in best display award by a single member. Great job! The Fascination of Orchids Show sales numbers aren't in yet but thanks to **John Reyes** for coordinating the member effort and of course to **Ron Nash** for his time and dedication.

Continued on next page

Membership Form 2006

Membership in the SCOS is open to anyone. Membership dues are \$20.00 per year per household, payable in January of each year. New members may join at any of the monthly SCOS meetings by completing this membership form or by mailing it with your dues to our membership coordinator:

SCOS/Helen Powell
4209 Blackthorne Ave.
Long Beach, CA. 90808

Make checks payable to the "SCOS". You will begin receiving our monthly newsletter the following month (*)

Please Print Clearly **Check One:** **Renewing** **New Member**

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Spouse/Partner _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ E-mail Address _____ (*)

(*) Email Newsletter options: email only email + printed copy available at meeting email + printed copy mailed

February Monthly Meeting

Culture Session

Espie Quinn

provided a quick seminar on ribbon judging. She used the Cymbidiums brought in for judging to explain features to look for in evaluating primarily the flower for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The "Culture" ribbon goes to the best-looking plant including its foliage and flowers and is considered the top award.



Featured Speaker

Doug Conkin presented a very interesting talk about the culture of growing Cymbidiums outside where our weather is ideal.

Some of his points on **Cymbidium Culture**:

1. Give them enough sun to keep their leaves light green. Move them (gradually) into more light if their leaves are too green and reduce the amount of direct sun if leaves are too yellow.
2. Water them generously - they have more leaf surface per bulb than any other orchid; particularly when its >90 degrees, humidity is low and Santa Ana winds exist, e.g., daily. In the wild daily rains in summer are normal.
3. Flower spikes start developing in August but only if evening temperatures are low providing a 20-25 degree swing from day-time highs to night-time lows; which is particularly ideal for our area; they must also have enough light.
4. Wait to repot until July or when the new growths have good root development to improve flowering for the next year; a radical departure from immediately after flowering.
5. He is currently using an orchid rock (diatomite) / coconut husk chunks and perlite mix for his media.
6. Fertilizers only help plants that are growing in the right culture to begin with. He pointed to research that indicates Cymbidiums need little phosphorous. He is using low-phosphorous fertilizers which facilitates calcium uptake by the plant which seems to be working well. One source is <http://www.jrpeterslab.com>



Orchid Growing in Orange County California

By Tony Glinskas and Roberta Fox

We enjoy a wonderful climate here in Orange County. The combination of latitude and proximity to the ocean and mountains permits us to enjoy ideal temperatures year around. This environment is not only great for us, but for many orchids. Many people think that orchids only grow in hot, humid, dense jungles. Although many orchids do live in the tropical rain forests, there are over 30,000 different types of orchids. They are the largest family of flowering plants on earth, and orchids can be found on all continents. Some are difficult to grow in this area without a greenhouse. However, many types of orchids will thrive in our local climate. These are the orchids that will be the topic of our discussion today. We will discuss the "easy to grow and bloom" orchids for our area.

Orchids as houseplants: Orchids are generally not houseplants, except when we bring them into our living area to enjoy while they are blooming. Most orchids require more light, humidity, and temperature variation than we normally have in our homes. Two orchids that do make excellent houseplants are *Phalaenopsis* ("moth orchid"), and certain types of *Paphiopedilum* ("slipper orchid"). Both require relatively low light, and we can easily increase the humidity around them to approximate the levels that they need. While not needing bright light, they need adequate duration of light (12 hours per day or more) to bloom. Artificial light to "extend the day" for them facilitates growing and blooming these orchids indoors.

Cymbidium: These are easiest orchids to grow outdoors in our area. **Light:** They require very bright direct light for best blooming. Near the coast, you can grow them in full sun. Inland, growers will need to provide some shade during the hottest days of summer. **Temperature:** Summer temperatures should range around 75-80 degrees F. They can take 100 degree temperatures, but will require some shading, more humidity, and increased air circulation. Winter temperatures as low as 28 degrees for a few hours will not harm the plant, but bud damage can occur below 40 degrees. It is critical that they receive a daily temperature variation of about 25 degrees in the late summer or early fall for the initiation of flower spikes. **Water:** Cymbidiums require ample water during the spring and summer months, and must never dry out.

Masdevallia, Odonotoglossum, and Lycaste: These orchids grow in tropical regions, but at higher elevations where it is cooler, but humid. These orchids are suited for areas along the coast or cooler spots in your garden. They are not happy when the temperatures go above 80 degrees for extended periods (extra moisture and air movement helps them make it through the summer) but can handle nighttime temperatures in the 30's.

Vanda: These orchids are tropical plants, but can do very well locally if we give them lots of light, humidity, and fertilizer, and protect them from cold. They tolerate high temperatures well. When exposed to temperatures below 45 degrees, they often get black spots on their leaves. The spots are not harmful to the plant, but do detract from their appearance. Some varieties are more forgiving of cold than others – when purchasing one, ask the seller about its temperature tolerance.

Laelia: Many Laelias (the most popular is *Laelia anceps*) come from the high mountains of northern Mexico. They thrive on high light, tolerate a temperature range from the 90's down to the 30's, and require little moisture. If a hybrid has "L" in its name (Blc, Slc.), it is likely to be temperature-tolerant as well.

Oncidium, Epidendrum, and Dendrobium: These orchids grow very well in this area with a minimum of care. They require high light and like to dry out between waterings. Cattleya hybrids also fit into this category, but prefer slightly less light. They can take a wide range of temperatures, but prefer 60-80 degrees. The Nobile type of *Dendrobium* can take temperatures in the 30's as long as it is kept dry. The *Phalaenopsis* type of *Dendrobium* doesn't like temperatures below 60 degrees.

Continued on the next page

Orchid Growing in Orange County California - continued

Paphiopedilums: There many different types of “Paph” or “Lady Slipper” orchids. In general, the solid green-leafed types are cool growers and require shade and little fertilizer. The “mottled” or light green-leafed types require warmer temperatures and more light. Both require constant moisture.

General Overview:

Water: Most orchids are “epiphytes” or air plants. They require moisture but don’t want to sit in water or have soggy media. Water must drain freely through the medium and then be permitted to dry a bit before the next watering. Most orchids needed to be potted in an open medium (such as bark or coconut chips or stones... NEVER soil) so that the roots will always get plenty of air circulation. If the leaves feel limp, this usually means that the plant is not getting enough moisture. However, it could also be due to rotted roots from too much water. Before increasing the water, take the plant out of the pot and inspect the roots. Pull off any rotted roots and repot in clean new media.

Light: This depends heavily on the type of orchid you are growing. Generally, the leaves should be slightly yellow-green in color. If the leaves are getting too yellow, decrease the amount of sunlight. If they are deep green, gradually increase the light. Rapid increase of light can cause sunburn, and will increase the stress on your plant, make it more susceptible to diseases and insects.

Fertilizer: Think of fertilizer as “vitamins” rather than “food”. Plants get their food from photosynthesis, in the presence of water, air, and sunshine. They do not get anything else in nature except for some decaying organic material, or “presents” from an occasional bird or animal. However, some extra “vitamins” will provide some necessary trace minerals. The very expensive “magic potions” and “complex” fertilizers are usually not worth the prices. Many studies have shown that fertilizers are pretty much the same. Get any balanced (16-16-16) fertilizer from your local home-supply store. A low concentration applied regularly is much better than a hearty dose at any time. Use ½ or ¼ the recommended strength. (“Once weekly, weakly” is a good rule). Water your plants first – never feed a dry plant.

Pest Control: The best protection for the plants is frequent inspection. A healthy plant will have strong defenses against pest invasion. The pests go after the “sick” plants and help them to end their misery. When you see a pest, pick it off rather than trying to spray it with poisons. If you must spray, use 70% rubbing alcohol, or soapy water. Since these are non-toxic, you can use them in the house and they will not harm pets or children.

Balance is the vital goal. If the temperature or light are increased, so must the air circulation, water, and fertilizer. When light levels and temperatures drop, reduce water and fertilizer.

The above list is a general overview and is by no means all-inclusive. Crossbreeding can lead to great complication in understanding the needs of the orchid. There are many variables, and a wide range of habitats in which orchids grow, which make it impossible to address the specific needs of each one in a brief summary. The plant label will help you seek information about a specific plant on the Internet, or in a good orchid book. The natural habitat of the plant will help to identify the conditions under which it will thrive. However, orchids are extremely adaptable, and often adjust to different environments if they are acclimated gently. When you purchase an orchid, ask the grower how they were caring for the plant. (Outside? In a greenhouse?) Inspect your plants often. If they are doing well, continue what you were doing. If not, consider making some changes, but gradually. Above all, go to a local orchid society meeting or an orchid show.

There is a wealth of orchid information on the Internet. Go to <http://fascinationfororchids.com/links.html>. Check out <http://www.orchidcentral.net> to learn what works for one hobbyist in Costa Mesa.

Editor’s note: you will find Roberta’s web site <http://www.orchidcentral.net> provides excellent pictures of blooming orchids she grows outdoors with good growing tips. She said that “We’ll be adding more culture articles to <http://fascinationfororchids.com>, too, that address orchid growing in southern California - we want this also to be a resource for local orchid growers.”



RIBBON JUDGING

Members are requested to participate in The Plant Forum by sharing and displaying their blooming plants each month. It makes our meetings more interesting and each plant entitles you to a FREE RAFFLE TICKET for a chance to win a new orchid. Espie Quinn gave another interesting judging session at the February meeting and we have many members who took the opportunity to learn more about Ribbon Judging. Hopefully more members will help out and gain more confidence and experience in judging.

EACH MEMBER HELPING WITH JUDGING WILL RECEIVE A FREE RAFFLE TICKET FOR THEIR EFFORTS.

Janell Schuck, Ribbon Judging Coordinator

Ribbon Judging January 2006

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Slc Precious Stones | John Reyes |
| 2. Laelia Lucy Ingram | Russ & Susan Nichols |
| 3. Lc Jungle Elf | Ruben Colmenares |

Cultural: Lc Purple Cascade Ruben Colmenares

CYMBIDIUMS

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Sarah Jean Ice Cascade | John Reyes |
| 2. Sarah Jean X Devonian 'Gwen
Mary Green' | Ruben Colmenares |
| 3. Street Hawk 'Cape Kidnapper' | John Reyes |

Cultural: Cym Sarah Jean Ice Cascade Butch & Miranda Arciaga

PAPHIOPEDILUMS & PHRAGMEPIDIUMS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Paph. spicerianum | Bonnie Navens |
| 2. Paph. Unknown | Butch & Miranda Arciaga |
| 3. Paph. Emerald Sea Colonist | Bess & Joe Graffio |

Cultural: Paph Avalon Mist Butch & Miranda Arciaga

SPECIES:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. amesiella monticola | Butch & Miranda Arciaga |
| 2. stenocoryne | Butch & Miranda Arciaga |

DENDROBIUMS (*)

1. Den. 'Ranger Fiestafal'
2. Den. Zeppillen
3. Den. Kogane

Cultural: Den. bracteosum

(*) The owner's of the above dendrobiums that were brought in for Ribbon Judging in January need to contact me at the meeting so we can give you credit for these winning plants. The Ribbon Judge for this section failed to write down the owners.

Ribbon Judging February 2006

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Blc Orange Treat | Ruben Colmenares |
| 2. Lc. El Centro | Ruben Colmenares |
| 3. Pot. mini Sun | Ruben Colmenares |

Cultural: Catt. Mem Douglace Ruben Colmenares

CYMBIDIUMS

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Cym. Pretty Pink | Dennis Mackewicz |
| 2. Cym. Unknown | Dennis Mackewicz |
| 3. Cym Rumrunner | Dennis Mackewicz |

Cultural: Cym. Via Butch & Miranda Arciaga

PENDULOUS CYMBIDIUMS

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Cym. Snowcourt | Butch & Miranda Arciaga |
| 2. Cym. Pennysworth | Jim Miller |
| 3. Cym. Rincon 'Clarisse' x Dend. 'cabury' | Butch & Miranda Arciaga |

Cultural: Cym. Jean Argus Butch & Miranda Arciaga

PAPHIOPEDILUMS & PHRAGMEPIDIUMS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Paph 'Avalon Mist' | Butch & Miranda Arciaga |
| 2. Paph. 'Pinocchio' | Butch & Miranda Arciaga |

Cultural: Paph. 'Avalon Mist' Butch & Miranda Arciaga

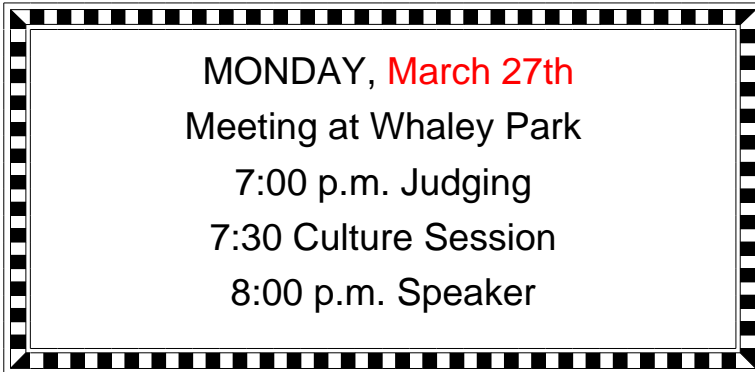
SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUMS

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Paph. appletonianum | Butch & Miranda Arciaga |
| 2. Paph. hirsutissimum | Butch & Miranda Arciaga |
| 3. Paph. charlesworthii | Butch & Miranda Arciaga |

Cultural: Paph. appletonianum Butch & Miranda Arciaga

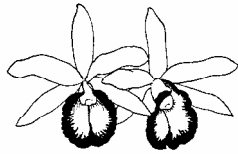
South Coast Orchid Society

Dennis Mackewicz, Newsletter Editor
3198 Lilly Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90808



HELP NEEDED TO SET UP TABLES & CHAIRS

Come **Before the Meeting** BETWEEN 6:30 & 7 p.m. to help.



We wish to thank these commercial vendors for their generosity and support.

<p>Tho's Orchid www.thoorchid@aol.com thoorchid@aol.com</p>				
<p>Andy's Orchids Andy Philips 734 Oceanview Ave. Encinitas, CA 92024 (888) 514-2639 www.andysorchids.com</p>	<p>Carter & Holmes, Inc. Mary & Owen Holmes P.O. Box 668 Newberry, SC 29108 (800) 873-7086 www.carterandholmes.com</p>	<p>Hatfield Orchids George Hatfield (805) 644-8413 george@hatfieldsorchids.com www.hatfieldorchids.com</p>	<p>Orchid Garden 3511 182nd St. Torrance, CA 90504 310-379-1488</p>	<p>Tayama Greenhouses Mike Kimura 753 S. Wall Street Los Angeles, CA 90014 (760) 753-6206 www.tayama.com</p>
<p>Bill Bailey's Orchids 1715 Via Arriba Palos Verdes Estate, CA 90274 (310) 375-1738</p>	<p>Casa de las Orquideas Loren & Nancy Batchman 170 South Nardo Avenue Solano Beach, CA 92075 (858) 755-7572 www.orquideas.com</p>	<p>JA-RO-CA Orchids Rod & Janet Carpenter 14737 Palm Avenue Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 (626) 336-3641 www.jaroca.com</p>	<p>Orchids Royale Jim & Noelle Burkey 5902 Via Real Carpinteria, CA 93014 (805) 684-8066 jburkey21@hotmail.com</p>	<p>The Rowland Collection Pat Rowland 12446 Georgian St. Garden Grove, CA 92841 (714) 892-3502</p>
<p>Butterfly Orchids Ernie Campuzano 821 W. Ballina Ct. Thousand Oaks, CA 91320 (806) 498-2077</p>	<p>Gallup & Stribling Orchids 3450 Via Real Carpinteria, CA 93013 (800) 222-7450 sale@gallup-stribling.com</p>	<p>Marcel's Orchids Sonora Winward 5133 E. Kildee Street Long Beach, CA 90808 (562) 496-0690 (Appointment Only)</p>	<p>Paphanatics, Unlimited Dr. Norito Hasegawa 3319 W. Lincoln Ave. Anaheim, CA 92801 (714) 826-8432</p>	<p>Tropical Gardens Zeny & Bill 22920 Cajalco Rd. Perris, CA 92570 (800) 866-443-0263</p>
<p>Cal West Tropical Supplies 11614 Sterline Ave. Riverside, CA 92503 (800) 301-9009 www.orchid-supplies.com</p>	<p>Granite Hills Orchids 1894 Dehesa Rd. El Cajon, CA 92019 (619) 441-9874 www.granitehillsorchids.com</p>	<p>Oakhill Gardens P.O. Box 25 Dundee, IL 60118-0025 (847) 428-8500 oakhillgardens@sprintmail.com</p>	<p>Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Paul Gripp 1250 Orchid Drive Santa Barbara, CA 93111 (800) 553-3387 www.sborchid.com</p>	<p>Wise Orchids 3524 Merinda Ln Yorba Linda, CA (714) 524-1730</p>
<p>Cal-Orchid Jim Rose 1251 Orchid Drive Santa Barbara, CA 93111 805 967-1312</p>	<p>Gubler's Orchids 2200 Bellfield Blvd. Landers, CA 92285 760-364-2282 www.gublers.com</p>	<p>Orchid Fever 10242 Culver Blvd. Culver City, CA 90252 310-559-6599</p>	<p>Sunset Valley Orchids Fred Clark 1255 Naval Place Vista, CA 92083 (760) 639-6255 fred.clarke@worldnet.att.net</p>	<p>Zuma Canyon Orchids George Vasquez 5949 Bonsall Drive Malibu, CA 90265 (877) 625-4266 Zumacanyon-orchids@compuserve.com</p>

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