

## 2007 Officers

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Recording Secretary	Margaret Nerio
Membership Secretary	Cassandra Smith
Treasurer	Mildred Carr
Immediate Past Pres.	Ruben Colmenares



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.

[www.southcoastorchidsociety.com](http://www.southcoastorchidsociety.com)

# South Coast Orchid Society

Newsletter

Founded in 1950

January 2007

## Board of Directors

Expires 2007	Luis Morente
Expires 2007	John Reyes
Expires 2008	Irma Hughes
Expires 2008	Andy Tao
Expires 2009	Russ Nichols
Expires 2009	Ron Nash

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Auditor	Janell Schuck
Newsletter	Open
Kitchen	Dennis Mackewicz
	Marylyn Paulson

## Shows

John Reyes

## Raffle Ticket Sales

Jane Brecht and Helen Powell

For more information contact:

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Susan Ochsner	562-425-7475
Cassandra Smith	
Mildred Carr	562-492-1205
Ruben Colmenares	562 421-9203

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

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Monday, January 22, 2007

Topic: "ORCHIDS OF VIETNAM"

Speaker: Dr. Leonid Averyanov

8 p.m.

Dr. Leonid Averyanov is the orchidologist at the St. Petersburg Komarov Botanical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The institute has one of the largest herbarium collections in the world, including tropical orchids. Close cooperation between botanists at Komarov and their counterparts at the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources in Hanoi, Vietnam started in 1963. From 1979 to 1991, Komarov Institute has organized and funded yearly expeditions to study the flora of Vietnam. Dr. Averyanov was a major participant in these expeditions. He collected herbarium specimens, and described many new orchid species. Among them are *Paphiopedilum helenae* named for his wife, and *Paphiopedilum hiepui* named for his long time friend and traveling companion, Dr. Nguyen Tien Hiep of the Vietnamese Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources.

We know very little about the rich flora of North Vietnam. After the war, Vietnam has been closed to western explorers for many years. The area is mountainous and has few roads. Many orchid habitats are inaccessible, except on foot during dry season. Prior to the late 1990's Dr. Averyanov was one of a few foreign botanists allowed access for exploration of North Vietnam's flora, making his research invaluable to orchidologists and botanists not only in Russia, but the entire world. He has published many articles in the *Orchids*, the Magazine of the American Orchid Society. His book, "Slipper Orchids of Vietnam" with an introduction to the flora of Vietnam was published in 2003 by Timber Press. This is a valuable resource on the slipper orchids as well as their habitat, geography, climate and companion plants.

When academic research funding became scarce in Russia, Averyanov was forced to turn to other sources. Since 1991, National Geographic, AOS, and several orchid groups including the San Diego County Orchid Society have funded his explorations. Let's hope that such support continues.

This is the third time the Paphiopedilum Guild has arranged to bring him to this country.

## Refreshments

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



## December Meeting / Pot Luck



**Presidents: Incoming - Jim Miller  
and Outgoing - Ruben Colmenares**



**Marylyn Paulsen & helpers manning the Kitchen for our Pot Luck**



**Ruben Presents longtime member and  
friend of SCOS, The Phil Plocher  
Grower's Award of Excellence**



**Paul & Jane Brecht**



**The Choral Bells Entertainment**

### EPIDENDRUM CULTURE

Epidendrum is a wide-spread genus of about one thousand species. They are easy to grow, and flower profusely, with many brightly colored flowers all year round. The flowers vary from one-fourth inch to over three inches. They grow wild in tropical and subtropical America, from Florida to Brazil. These little jewels can be some of the most rewarding of all orchids. In Southern California they will survive outside with very little effort, but should be brought inside to a protected area in near frost conditions. The genus is closely related to the Cattleyas.

**Temperature & Light:** These orchids will grow well in full sun in planter beds or pots with excellent drainage. Some hybrids need partial shade, especially during the noon hours.

**Humidity & Air Movement:** Most orchids benefit during the growing season from relative humidity. Watering the area around the plants both morning and night is the best method to achieve this. Good air movement is very beneficial to most orchids, including epi's.

**Nutrition & Watering:** All orchids will thrive and grow far more rapidly if fertilizer is regularly applied, both to the leaves as well as the roots. Using water soluble fertilizers, such as Hyponex, Miracle Grow, or other orchid fertilizers at least twice a month will produce some remarkable plants and flowers. Slow release fertilizers should be used on the media around the roots.

Water orchids heavy and let it dry considerably before watering again. Never let orchids stand in a container of water at any time. Orchids are air plants and do not like to have their roots kept in water. It is better to keep it on the dry side.

Continued on next page



# JANUARY/FEBRUARY CHECKLIST for Southern California

Prepared by Ned Nash and James Rose (\*)

## **Cattleya**

Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

## **Cymbidium**

We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30° F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

## **Lycaste**

The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

## **Odontoglossums**

Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on *Odontoglossum* breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using *Oncidium* and *Brassia*, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

## **Paphiopedilum (paff-ee-oh-PEE-di-lum)**

The standard *Paphiopedilum insigne*-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a *Paphiopedilum*, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

## **Phalaenopsis**

Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

## **Zygopetalum**

For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

(\*) Editor's Note: Jim Rose is at Cal-Orchids (in Santa Barbara) which supported our November Auction - see vendor list on last page.

**THANK YOU — November Auction Vendors and Volunteers**

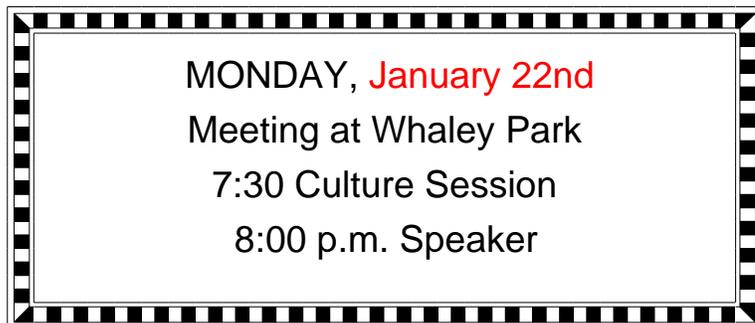
To all of the Donors from our November Auction I would like to give a personal THANK YOU!

This is also for all of the volunteers that help out before, during, and after. It takes a lot of volunteers to make our Society what it is. I hope we all can pay back some of this support by purchasing your plants this year from the **vendors you find on the back page of our Newsletter**. And let them know you are there representing South Coast Orchid Society.

Thanks, Joan Bailey

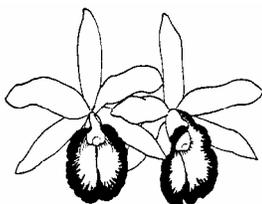
# South Coast Orchid Society

Dennis Mackewicz, Newsletter Editor  
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Long Beach, CA 90808



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

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