

## 2007 Officers

President	Jim Miller
1st Vice President	Janell Schuck
2nd Vice President	Susan Ochsner
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 7:00.

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

# South Coast Orchid Society

Newsletter

Founded in 1950

May 2007

## Board of Directors

Expires 2007	Butch Arciaga
Expires 2007	John Reyes
Expires 2008	Irma Hughes
Expires 2008	Andy Tao
Expires 2009	Russ Nichols
Expires 2009	Ron Nash

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AOS Judging Programs	Open
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AOS Rep	John Reyes
Publicity	Janell Schuck
Culture Sessions	Janell Schuck
Ribbon Judging	Susan Ochsner
Newsletter	Russ Nichols
Kitchen	Dennis Mackewicz
	Marylyn Paulson

## Shows

John Reyes

## Opportunity Table and Silent Auction

Jane Brecht and Helen Powell

## For more information contact:

Jim Miller	949-707-0728
Janell Schuck	562-431-5090
Susan Ochsner	562-425-7475
Cassandra Smith	714 249-8015
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.

Dennis Mackewicz  
3198 Lilly Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90808  
(562) 430-0090

[dwmackewicz@yahoo.com](mailto:dwmackewicz@yahoo.com)

Monday, May 21, 2007 **(3rd Monday in May)**

Topic: **Orchid Pests**

Speaker: **Don DeLano**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Stearns Park**

**(New Location for May-only)**

As summer approaches, we all should be watching our Orchid Collection's for those critters who like to take up residence and feast on our plants. Our speaker this month will give us a program on how to identify these pests and hopefully get rid of them without endangering the environment.

Don DeLano is a graduate of Cal Poly University in Pomona with a B.S. Degree in Ornamental Horticulture and has done extensive post-graduate work in this field. From 1975-1984 he returned as a Lecturer at Cal Poly Pomona in the Ornamental Horticulture Department.

Currently Mr. DeLano holds the position of Horticulturist at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds Fairplex. He supervises the year-round landscape operations, planning, designing, and installation at that venue. He actively promotes most aspects of plant care, plant identification, and gardening. Over the years he has worked with many horticultural societies in Southern California and has lectured extensively to these organizations. He has a vast knowledge of orchid culture. He resides near Norman's Orchids in Montclair, California, which would be very dangerous for most of us "orchidholics".

**Culture Session**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Espie Quinn**

**Spring Cleaning Your Dendrobiums**

**Refreshments**

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

## President's Message

**May 2007**

May has arrived far too quickly for me and I am having a little trouble keeping up. Flower buds are popping up all over the place and this is a good sign of things to come. The show season is slowing down just a bit and then the summer round will begin. Take a friend or two along and you will enjoy the Summer season even more.

Paul Brecht passed away on April 7<sup>th</sup> and will be missed by many in this Society. Paul and Jane were both strong supporters of this society and continued to come and volunteer at every meeting until Paul's health prevented him from attending. I remember the many dinners we shared before the meetings and he would always have a positive comment to help soothe out a rough day. Paul was a giant in the orchid industry and supported many groups throughout the area. We extend our condolences to Jane and all of the Brecht Family. (See his biographical information on page 5.)

I heard more than one person say that the plants you brought for ribbon judging last month were the best selection yet. Thank you for sharing and please continue to bring in your blooming orchids for all to see.

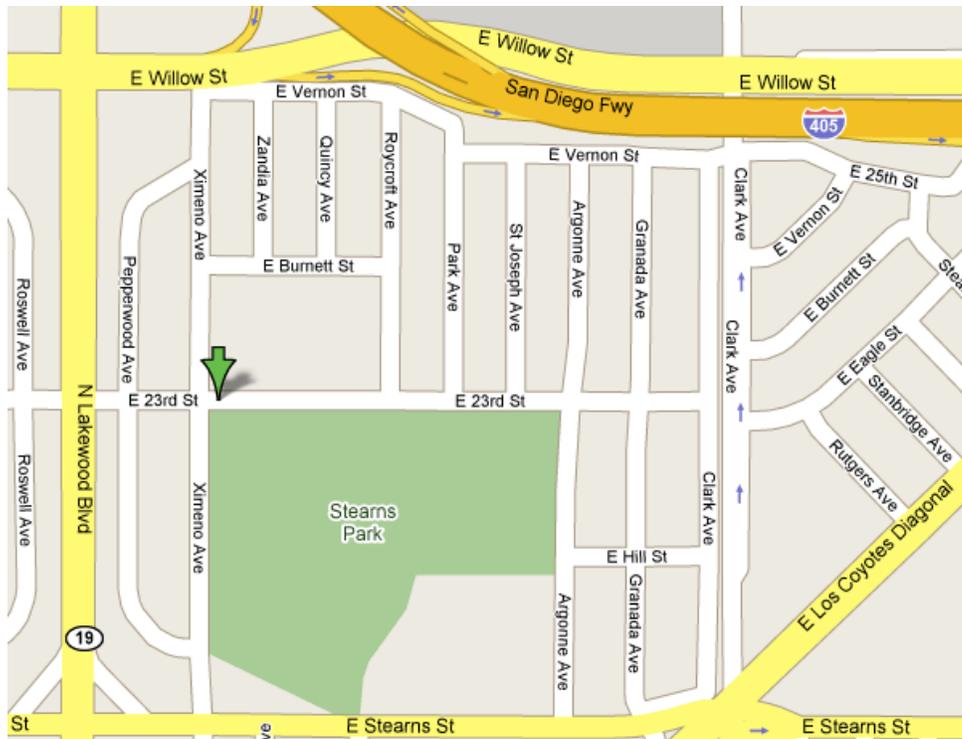
Please do not forget the new location for the May Meeting. There was a conflict with the early date on May 21<sup>st</sup> due to the Holiday. We have been able to secure the facility at Stearns Park only a few blocks away. The address is 4520 E. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Have a great month. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Jim Miller

### **Stearns Park** **4520 E 23rd St** **Long Beach, CA 90815**

**Direction to the Community Center for the May Meeting:** enter the park road from 23rd St. The building will be on your right a short distance with parking spaces below. Note: for handicap and others wanting to avoid going up steps, park on 23rd St. For those traveling North to the park, avoid Clark since the channel blocks turning West onto 23rd St.



## April Meeting



Speaker Nick Tannaci did both our Culture Session and at the end of his talk, had everyone in the audience potting a Paph. which was six months out-of-flask which we took home after if was properly labeled.

### Orchids on the Ribbon Judging Table



## SCOS' Q & A Column

I did not get a specific question for this month, so here are some questions (with answers) that might have been asked. These are questions we don't start to think about until we have gone home from the monthly meeting, when we are trying to recall the culture session and decide what it means. I'll start with one example that was asked when I gave the culture session.

I said that a *Cattleya intermedia* is a "tough" plant. What did I mean by "tough?" I meant it could withstand and flourish under a wider variety of cultural conditions. For someone wanting to grow *Cattleya* species, this might be a good first plant. I had a *C. intermedia* var. *Aquinii* "Boa Vista" that I did little to encourage. It came in a small clay pot, and when it overgrew the pot, I did not repot it, so that it eventually grew around the outside of the pot, with roots dangling in the air. Pseudobulbs were always thin and emaciated. Leaves shriveled and looked wrinkled. This went on for nearly 10 years before I took pity on the plant and repotted it. In that 10 years, there were great variations in the time I was able to spend with the orchids, and all the day-to-day processes (watering, fertilizing, debugging) had their ups and downs. Yet, the plant not only survived but bloomed regularly.



"**Consistency**" is another word that carries a lot of meaning. What do we mean when we say the culture must be consistent? In nature, *Cattleyas* (to pick my favorite example) live in places where it rains when it is warm, and is generally dry when it is cold. We have nearly opposite weather here in Southern California. Thus, to be consistent, watering and humidity need to increase when the temperature rises, and decrease when the temperature falls. Also, because all plants grow more when days are longer, fertilize more in the summer and less in the winter. The location of your orchid should also be taken into account. If it is growing on the east side of your house and gets sunlight only a few hours each day, water and fertilize less than if it is growing on the south side, where it may get as much sunlight as the day allows. Also, your culture needs to be consistent with the plant; *Masdevallias* simply need more water than *Cattleyas*.

**Orchids grow slowly.** They also respond slowly to most changes in their environment. What are the implications? One implication is that you can't affect a great change in the plant's apparent well being in a short period of time. If the appearance of your plant suggests a problem, you can change your culture immediately, but it may take months for the effect to show up in the appearance of the plant. So the fact that the plant does not respond immediately does not indicate a need for additional changes in culture, it just means not enough time has been allowed under the new regimen of care to have an impact. Furthermore, continued changes in culture may make things worse. Better to figure out what is the correct culture for the plant, devise a plan to provide that, and allow time for results to show up. I believe that orchids do best when given an optimum location and left in the same spot, with the same orientation to the sunlight, for as long as possible (years).

Conflicting information presents its own question. When I gave my culture session, a member pointed out my *Cattleya aurantiaca* had a dry flower sheath, that should be split open to avoid condensation rotting the buds. This is advice I have heard before. Yet Carl Withner says Group II *Cattleyas* flower "after ... leaf sheaths have dried ...," and, in nature, nothing of which I am aware goes around splitting sheaths. The picture I included shows healthy *Cattleya guatemalensis* buds poking through a dry sheath, so splitting is not always required. Also, the sheath exists to protect the developing buds. So, what should I do? I tend to leave a dry sheath untouched until the buds break through, and then split the sheath so that overhead watering or rain do not fill the sheath and cause rot (which once happened to a *C. lueddemanniana*, necessitating removal of the pseudobulb). What should you do? The safer approach is to split the sheath, and cover the lead pseudobulb if you think the buds need protection. (My recommendation for covering would be a lightweight plastic bag, left open at the bottom for air, used only overnight or when watering, removing it so the plant receives sunlight during the day.)

Russ Nichols

Editor's Note: Thank you Russ Nichols. Russ is a SCOS Director and has volunteered to write this column on a monthly basis.



## RIBBON JUDGING

Member's 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. EACH MEMBER HELPING WITH JUDGING WILL RECEIVE A FREE RAFFLE TICKET FOR THEIR EFFORTS. **Please Print Your Plant Names LEGIBLY!!**

**Thanks to Espie Quinn, Kathy Synstelien, and Butch Arciaga for assisting with the judging in April.**

### Ribbon Judging April 2007

#### CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

1 <sup>st</sup> Lc. Tricker Treat x Pot. Wm. Farrell	Espie Quinn
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lc. Chit Chat 'Tangerine'	Espie Quinn
3 <sup>rd</sup> Pot. Horo Gem 'Super Spot'	Bonnie Kroll

#### CYMBIDIUMS

1 <sup>st</sup> Cym. Pee Wee 'Pecan Crunch'	Espie Quinn
2 <sup>nd</sup> Cym. Devon Gala	Espie Quinn
3 <sup>rd</sup> Cym. Pat Ann 'Apollo'	Espie Quinn

#### **CULTURAL AWARD**

Cym. Tiger Tail	Jim Miller
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#### DENDROBIUM ALLIANCE

1 <sup>st</sup> Den. eurylas 'Hemiji'	Dennis Mackewicz
2 <sup>nd</sup> Den. kingianum 'Blush'	Espie Quinn
2 <sup>nd</sup> Den. henanense (species)	Doris & Larry Arakaki
3 <sup>rd</sup> Den. 'Sakura Himma'	Kathy Synstelien
3 <sup>rd</sup> Den. unicum (species)	Jim Hoyle

#### ONCIDIUM & ALLIED GENERA

1 <sup>st</sup> Brassia Charleson Fitch 'Izurni'	Shelly Brewer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Unknown White Miltonia	Doris & Larry Arakaki

#### PAPHIOPEDILUMS & PHRAGMEPIDIUMS

1 <sup>st</sup> Paph. malipoense (species)	Miranda & Butch Arciaga
2 <sup>nd</sup> Paph. hirsutissimum (species)	Kathy Synstelien
2 <sup>nd</sup> Phrag. Hannae Popow	Doris & Larry Arakaki
3 <sup>rd</sup> Paph. 'Hsinging Concon'	Doris & Larry Arakaki
3 <sup>rd</sup> Paph. armeniacum (species)	Doris & Larry Arakaki

#### **CULTURAL AWARD**

Paph. lowii (species)	Andy Tao
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#### PHALAENOPSIS ALLIANCE

1 <sup>st</sup> Phal. Unknown Phalaenopsis	Shelly Brewer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Phal. Bro Delight x Spotway	Bonnie Kroll

#### VANDA ALLIANCE

2 <sup>nd</sup> Unknown Vanda	Shelly Brewer
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#### SPECIES

1 <sup>st</sup> Sarcophilus hartmannii	Kathy Synstelien
2 <sup>nd</sup> Encyclia neomatocaulon	Shawn Bird
3 <sup>rd</sup> Chielioscista useuoides	Shawn Bird

#### **CULTURAL AWARD**

Arcrakois fastnose	Jim Hoyle
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#### OTHER GENERA ALLIANCE

1 <sup>st</sup> Coelia (Bothriochilus) triptera (species)	Dennis Mackewicz
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Janell Schuck, Ribbon Judging Coordinator



### Can You Help?

**We need more plant divisions for the plant opportunity table from members. They need not be in bloom.**

**We also would like members who have plants they can donate to the Silent Auction to help fund our Treasury in order to acquire speakers and cover other Society expenses.**

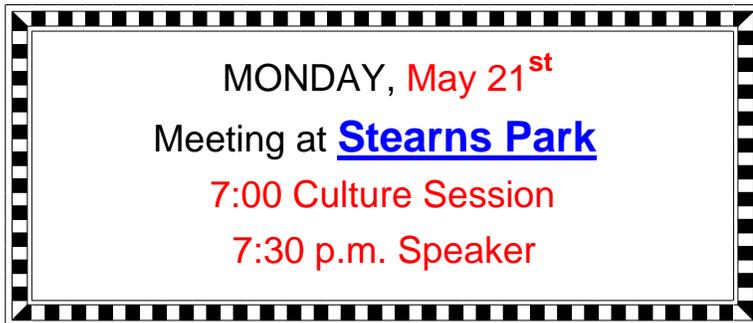
**Paul Brecht  
1919-2007**

Paul was born on a wheat and cattle ranch in Golden Valley, North Dakota on March 22, 1919. After completing his high school education, Paul joined the Civilian Conservation Corps. Two years later, he entered North Dakota State University at Bottineau where he received his degree in horticulture. After graduating, he worked for a short time as the caretaker of an estate in North Carolina before moving to California, where he joined the Rod McLellan Company, the world's largest Gardenia range. A few years later the McLellan Company entered the Orchid field and sent Paul to Ohio State University to do graduate work and research about orchid culture. During World War II he served three and half years in the Coast Guard. At the end of the war he rejoined the Rod McLellan Company where he met Jane. They were married in June of 1946, and soon after, had two daughters, Pauline Elizabeth (Polly) and Mary Ann (Molly). In 1959 the family moved to Southern California where Paul gained further experience in the hybridizing of orchids at the B.O. Bracey Co.

Three years later Paul opened Brecht Orchid Gardens in Costa Mesa. He served as President of the Orange County Orchid Society, the South Coast Orchid Society and the Newport Harbor Orchid Society, of which he was a founder. He also enjoyed a passion for civic service and was a President of the Costa Mesa Optimist Club and the Costa Mesa -Newport Harbor Lions Club. He served as a Director for the Costa Mesa Historical Society, the Child Guidance Center of Orange County, and the Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce. In 1987, Paul received a Golden Service Award from North Dakota State University where he established a Horticultural Scholarship for undergraduate students. In 1994, he was awarded "Man of the Year" by the Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce. In 2000, after almost 60 years in the orchid business, Paul retired. He continued to stay actively involved in community service.

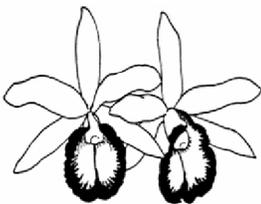
# South Coast Orchid Society

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



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

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