

2007 Officers

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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

South Coast Orchid Society

Newsletter

Founded in 1950

June 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
Orchid Digest	Janell Schuck
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:

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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
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Long Beach, CA 90808
(562) 430-0090

dwmackewicz@yahoo.com

Monday, June 25, 2007

Topic: **Growing Crytohilum Oncidiums**

Speaker: **Dr. Howard A. Liebman**

7:30 p.m.

We are fortunate to have Dr. Howard A. Liebman as our guest speaker for our June meeting. Dr. Liebman has been growing orchids out of doors for many years in the Pacific Palisades / Los Angeles area. His presentation will be on "Growing Crytohilum Oncidiums," which he considers to be fabulous plants. The focus will be on those plants that are well adapted to our coastal climate. Although Dr. Liebman leads a very busy life as the Chief of the Homology Dept. at USC/Norris Cancer Hospital, he still finds a little time to enjoy his orchid collection. He is an AOS Judge and has written articles for the Orchid Digest in past years.

All South Coast Society members should take advantage of this opportunity to hear Dr. Liebman since he does not do very many orchid lectures. Please invite your friends from other societies to also attend. This will be an excellent lecture.

Culture Session

7:00 p.m.

Susan Ochsner

"Those Fabulous Phals"

Susan will share her secrets on how to grow the easiest orchid of all, the PHALAENOPSIS !!!!!

Refreshments

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

President's Message

June 2007

I want to thank everyone who attended last month's meeting in our temporary location. I thought the group would be small, but we had a great turn out and a really great selection of blooming plants that the members brought for judging. This was Russ Nichols first meeting as the new Chair of Ribbon Judging and he really had his hands full. Congratulations to Russ and the entire crew for a great beginning.

I am also pleased to report that the Long Beach Department of Parks and Recreation has approved our monthly meeting contract for the next year beginning July, 2007 and running through June, 2008. The best news is our monthly fees have NOT been increased over the period of this contract! I want to extend a special thank you to the members of this group who helped make this happen thru the City of Long Beach! I know Dennis will be publishing the meeting schedule for the next 12 months as soon as he can fit in a news letter. (See below)

Our Society has been extended an invitation to attend a "member's only" barbecue at Hatfield Orchids in Oxnard on August 25th. This will be a joint outing with the Newport Harbor Orchid Society and Hatfield's will provide the Barbecue lunch at no charge with plenty of special prices and some new Orchid releases just for this group. Please let myself or one of the other officers know if you have an interest in order that we may arrive at a total headcount.

Also, please let me know if you have the skills and time to take over the Webmaster duties for our Society. I have tried to keep it going over the past couple of years, but not very successfully. We have Zero budget for this task and I could use some help. That's it for now.

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

Jim Miller

South Coast Orchid Society

Monthly Meeting Dates

2007	2008
23 - July	28 - January
27 - August	25 - February
24 - September	24 - March
22 - October	28 - April
26 - November	19 - May
17 - December	23 - June

Note: dates are subject to change from L.B. Parks Dept.
Always check current newsletter to confirm date.

Snails and Slugs - Be Gone

Caffeine is an excellent pesticide for snails and slugs. The use rate is about 2-3% solution in water. That's about 1 1/2 - 2oz. per gallon of spray. My research (source is the F.D.A.) tells me that the spray is safe around pets and even children. Caffeine breaks down rapidly in the garden, lasting only about 3 days. The by-products are harmless. It doesn't appear to harm beneficial critters like incarsia wasps or bees. Nope, it's not effective on ants. It kills snails and slugs by rapidly paralyzing their nervous systems. We water it into the pots directly after spraying the plants. You have to search the net a bit to find "reasonable" prices. It's still a bit on the expensive side. I figure it costs about \$25 to spray your yard. Often we can go for two years between sprays. It gets them all....

Provided by member Whitney France

May Meeting

Speaker Don DeLano

Orchids on the Ribbon Judging Table

(Thanks to Kathy Smith for
all these pictures.)



SCOS' Q & A Column

Did you ever wonder how our plants are judged each month? I did, and now that I am the stuckee for ribbon judging, it is my job to answer that question. So, here are some thoughts about a set of guidelines for judging our plants. As always, suggestions and comments are welcome.

It seems to me the most fundamental requirement is that the plant be an orchid. That's the easy part. It should be accurately identified by a name that allows for tracing the ancestry of the plant, and placing in the correct category for judging. The categories are currently consistent with divisions of the orchid family at the subtribe level. (For those in need of a little taxonomy, the orchid family is divided into subfamilies, then tribes, then subtribes, before arriving at genera. Generally, orchid species are identified by their genus and species name.) A subtribe grouping allows us to collect a reasonable number of orchids in each category - enough to have a contest, but not so many that good plants go unrewarded. Hybrids generally fit into a subtribe, and those that don't can be grouped according to flower characteristics consistent with one of the subtribes. Should plants that cannot be identified (the old lost nametag problem) be given a separate category?

I believe that we are rewarding the grower of the plant, whose hard work has resulted in one or more beautiful flowers. Hence, we may require that a plant be under the care of our members for at least six months. This is long enough to kill a plant (as I have done much too often), and also long enough to assure any bloom is the creation of its keeper. This same rule was in use in the Malibu Orchid Society (MOS) when I last attended a meeting.

Some of our members are new to orchids; some just need a little more time to get the hang of orchid growing. Should we have a beginner's category? This would (hopefully) encourage newcomers, and those less sure of their skills, that we have a place for their plants, and their participation is valued.

What are our ribbons? We currently have four ribbons that may be awarded in each category: first, second, third, and cultural. I believe the first, second and third place awards should be for flower quality, and the cultural award should be for excellence in growing the plant. This would make SCOS judging more consistent with AOS judging. Should judges be required to give out all four ribbons each month, or is it possible that one or more ribbons may not be awarded? What if there are two outstanding flowers in a category? Should more than one first place ribbon be awarded in exceptional cases?

If the first, second and third place ribbons are to be awarded on flower quality, where does that leave a plant that is displayed well? Do we also need a display category, that cuts across each of the other categories to recognize the overall appearance of the plant and its presentation? To the extent the SCOS and its members participate in orchid shows, this is a talent we should cultivate.

Given that we have so many categories and ribbons to award, I recommend we adopt a cost-saving measure recommended at the May meeting: ribbon winners, who turn back in their ribbons, are to get a raffle ticket for each ribbon returned. The award will still be recognized in the newsletter, and the points counted toward year totals; and the SCOS will save on ribbon costs. (An alternative I find less appealing is to present stickers instead of ribbons.)

Finally, I want to assure everyone that these will be guidelines, and that we do not intend to become too rigid, and take the fun out of displaying our beloved orchids. For those with expert qualifications, there is always the AOS judging in the room adjoining our meeting place.

Russ Nichols

Editor's Note: Russ is a SCOS Director and has volunteered to write this column on a monthly basis and now chairs the Ribbon Judging Committee.



**South Coast Orchid Society
Ribbon Judging Results
May 21, 2007**

Cattleya (Laeliinae Subtribe)

First	Cattleya guatemalensis	Jim Hoyle
Second	Slc. Rajah's Ruby	Espie Quinn
Third	Iwanagara Apple Blossom	Janell & Harry Schuck
Culture	Lc. (Lc. Pixie x Lc. Rojo)	Jim Miller

Dendrobium (Dendrobiinae Subtribe)

First	Den. Nora Tokunaga	Kathy Smith
Second	Den. williamsonii	Jim Hoyle
Third	Den. sulcatum	Kathy Synsteliën

Phalaenopsis (Sarcanthinae Subtribe)

First	Renanthera ?	Kathy Synsteliën
Second	Bifrenaria ?	Jim Hoyle

Cymbidium (Cyrtopodiinae Subtribe)

First	Ansellia gigantea	Espie Quinn
Second	African Sure Euphorbia	Kathy Synsteliën

Pleurothallid (Pleurothallidinae Subtribe)

First	Masdevallia Samantha	Doris & Larry Arakakis
Second	Masdevallia Talas	Doris & Larry Arakakis
Third	Masdevallia ignea	Russ & Susan Nichols

Oncidium (Oncidiinae Subtribe)

First	Oncidium flexuosum	Jim Hoyle
Third	Oncidium longipies	Kathy Synsteliën

Paph & Phrag (Cyrpedioideae Subfamily)

First	Paph. nieum ('Fullest Yet' x 'Milk Opal')	Janell & Harry Schuck
Second	Paph. S. Gratirix	Doris & Larry Arakakis
Third	Paph. armeniacum	Doris & Larry Arakakis

Thanks to Susan Nichols for helping judge our orchids.

Note: Bifrenaria is a genus in subtribe Lycastinae, and will be judged in that category in the future.

April 23 Pleurothallid judging results, omitted from the May newsletter:

First	Pleurothallis recemiflora	Russ & Susan Nichols
Second	Pleurothallis quadrifida	Jim Hoyle
Third	Pleurothallis grobyi	Jim Hoyle

Please write the name of your orchids legibly.

Capitalize the genus name, but do not capitalize the species name.

Put cultivar names in single quotes.

For example: Cattleya trianaii 'Clement Moore'

Orchid Growing Tips & Information

Nitrogen - Enlarges leaves.

Phosphorus- For root development.

Potassium(K)- So you can bend the leaf and it won't break. Keeps leaf green, and can take cooler temperatures.

Epsom Salts = Magnesium Sulfate

Ammonium Nitrate - 1 tsp per gallon for foliage feeding.

Calcium Nitrate - Greens lawn overnight!!

For the Phalaenopsis- 6-7 wks at 55-60 degrees Fahrenheit. will initiate flower spike.

For the Cymbidium: Repot 1x every 3 years. Push down on top of bark; if it sinks, it needs repotting.

Why do my leaves have brown tips?

Because of Alkaline water.

In June, the plants with the burnt leaf tips should be torn off at the base of the bulb.

When repotting only because plant is too big for the pot, do not disturb the roots. Just take the plant and add more bark into a larger pot.

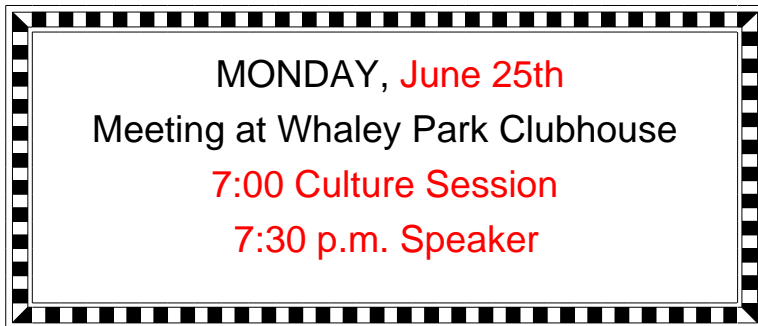
Repot mid April - May or Aug-September when new roots are emerging.

These notes were provided by the late Jimi Fox of Orchids Limited.

From Whitney France

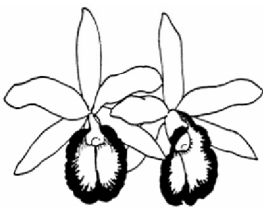
South Coast Orchid Society

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NOTE: Some spam and Junk-Mail filters block large group email-ings. Check your email system & set it to allow emails from the editor - dwmackewicz@yahoo.com, e.g., add to your "Contacts" list.



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