

2004 Officers

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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

June 2004

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pjreyes@earthlink.net
Espie Quinn 714-968-0220
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.

John Reyes
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Los Alamitos, CA 90720
pjreyes@earthlink.net

June Program

Monday, June 28, 2004

8:00 p.m.

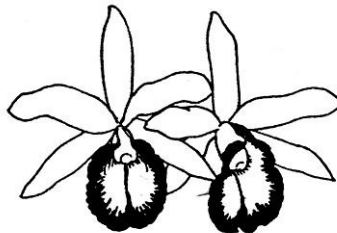
The South Coast Orchid Society Proudly Presents
An Orchid Digest Program

"EPICATS: UNCOMMON BEAUTIES OF THE WORLD"

Espie Quinn will present the program prepared by the Marianne Matthews on this fascinating group of orchid hybrids. The program is an extensive study on the hybrids using seven different *Epidendrum* species, showing first generation hybrids to the more complex results.

Espie is an esteemed SCOS member and longtime orchid enthusiast. She has been growing orchids for the last two decades and has graciously agreed to be our program host and speaker for what should be an pleasant evening.

The plant table is being provided by Sunset Valley Orchids located in Vista, California. See Fred Clark's business advertisement on Page 3. Should be great evening and we hope to see you all there.



Refreshments

Last names R to Z
Please bring refreshments.
There is a special drawing for those who bring food!



Ribbon Judging April & May 2004

APRIL 2004

Cattleya Alliance

Cultural: Lc. Rocket Burst - Ruben Colmenares

First: Lc. Fire Dance 'Patricia' - John Reyes

Second: Lc. Tokyo Magic 'Moonbeam' -
Ruben Colmenares

Third: C. Indigo Mist 'Blue Chip' - Ben & Consolita Sibal

Cymbidium - Mini

First: Cym. Vogelsang 'Eastborne' - John Reyes

Second: Cym. Mem. Connie Joe Nine - Phil Plocher

Cymbidium - Standard

First: Cym. Midnight Magic - Joe & Bess Graffio

Dendrobium

Cultural: Den. Euryalis x Himeji - Harry & Janell Schuck

First: Den. Yukidaruma - Ben & Consolita Sibal

Second: Den. Yumiji - Ben & Consolita Sibal

Third: Den. Nobile 'Ansel Flower' - Ben & Consolita Sibal

Epidendrum & Encyclia

First: Enc. Nursery Rhyme - Ruben Colmenares

Second: Epcat. Purple Glory - Ruben Colmenares

Phalaenopsis

First: Phal. Unknown - Joe & Bess Graffio

Vanda

First: Ascd. Princess Mikasa - Ruben Colmenares

Second: Ascd. Princess Mikasa - Alex Santos

Third: Ren. Bela - Ruben Colmenares

Other Genera

Cultural: Sarco. Fitzhart x hartmanii - Phil Plocher

First: Campana uniglosa - Ruben Colmenares

MAY 2004

Cattleya Alliance - Mini

Cultural: C. Jungle Flair - Ruben Colmenares

First: Lc. Jewel Box 'Scheherazade' - Helen Powell

Second: Slc. Madge Fordyce x Epi atropurpureum -
Ruben Colmenares

Third: Otaara Haw Yuan Bay - Helen Powell

Cattleya Alliance - Standard

Cultural: Lc. Elsie Stonehouse - John Reyes

First: Epcat. Purple Glory x Lc. Trick or Treat -
Ruben Colmenares

Second: C. Quicksilver - John Reyes

Third: Lc. Ray's Ruby x Lc. Trick or Treat - John Reyes

President's Message

Our speaker Dr. Harold Koopowitz started our summer with an excellent slide show and talk on his quest for a new orchid species in Peru. He took us along with his team through the ancient Inca ruins at Machu Picchu to the dense jungle in search of Phramipedium kovachii. It was a great way to launch us into the vacation season.

Harold thanks for a great presentation.

I am looking for a new newsletter editor. If you have any interest please discuss it with me. It is your chance to express yourself.

**John Reyes,
President**

Odontoglossum

First: Dgmra. Flying High - Joe & Bess Graffio

Paphiopedilum & Phragmipedium

First: P. Bengal Lancers - Chuck & Bonnie Navens

Phalaenopsis

First: Dtps. Canyon Mist - Joe & Bess Graffio

Species

Cultural: Gram. elegans - Dean Viereck

First: Epi. Unknown - Ruben Colmenares

Second: Den. loddigesii - Ruben Colmenares

Second: Max. tenuifolia - Chuck & Bonnie Navens

Third: Den. prentice - Chuck & Bonnie Navens

Judges: Bonnie Navens & Espie Quinn

JUNE CULTURE SESSION

Join us at the beginning of each meeting as we discuss different topics about orchid culture as chosen by you. This month's culture session will include a discussion of the when, what and how to feed your orchids--although not comprehensive--that would take longer than we have--it will include an overview of what you should know about feeding your plants.

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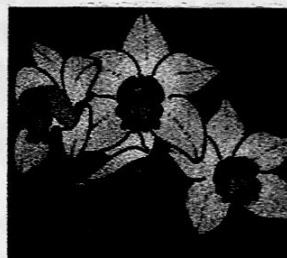
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A BIG THANKS TO ALL OUR ADVERTISERS



Ernie Campazano

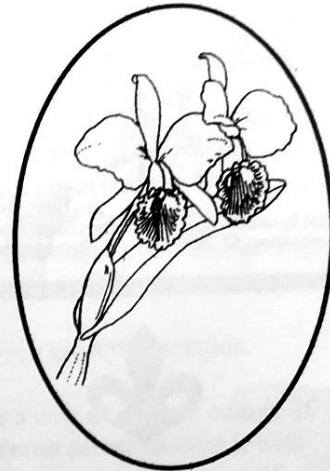
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TELL OUR ADVERTISERS YOU SAW THEIR AD IN THE SCOS NEWSLETTER

Do Orchids Eat?

William Louis Stern explains how orchids manufacture their food. Orchid literature implores us to "feed" our orchids for better flowering or for enhanced maintenance in vigorous physical condition. Usually we understand this to mean to provide them with fertilizer, that is, preparations composed of inorganic salts containing the chemical elements nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P) and potassium (K). These, together with magnesium, calcium and sulfur, constitute some of the essential inorganic or macronutrients that all green plants require for continuing healthy growth and flowering. In addition, other chemical elements are needed by plants, but in very small amounts. These are called micronutrients, or often, trace elements. Among them are iron, chlorine, copper, manganese and zinc. Many commercially available fertilizers contain micronutrients as well as macronutrients. Plants only take up, or absorb, chemical salts dissolved in water, mostly through their roots. Orchids are no exception. These mineral-salt solutions are distributed throughout the plant by the conducting chemicals. The functions of the chemical elements in these mineral salts, or inorganic nutrients, are fairly well known. For example, nitrogen is a basic component of amino acids (the building blocks of proteins), nucleic acids (the building blocks of DNA), chlorophylls and coenzymes; potassium is involved in the passage of solutions through the differentially permeable membranes of cells (osmosis), opening and closing of stomata and as an activator of many enzymes; phosphorous is a component of the energy-carrying phosphate compounds and of nucleic acids (DNA/RNA); and magnesium is the central atom in the chlorophyll molecule and, like potassium, it is an activator of enzymes. In no sense of the word are any of these inorganic mineral nutrients food (carbohydrates, proteins and lipids fats and oils) for green plants, because, unique among all organisms, green plants manufacture their own food. One cannot, then "feed" plants, and to employ that verb in the context of plant nutrition is fundamentally flawed and misleading. Green plants possess the amazing ability to manufacture their own food through the process of photosynthesis.

And it is this process upon which the entire world of living creatures depends for its own food, either directly by eating plants, or indirectly, by feeding on other organisms that have fed on green plants. The process of photosynthesis, or the manufacture of food using the energy of sunlight, is often expressed by this simple chemical equation: Sunlight $\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \longrightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6 + \text{O}_2$

Chlorophyll That is, green plants utilize the gaseous carbon dioxide (CO_2) of the atmosphere, plus water (H_2O), in the presence of an energy source (sunlight in nature) and chlorophyll to produce glucose ($\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6$; a kind of sugar that is a basic carbohydrate food) and give off oxygen (O_2) into the atmosphere as a byproduct. The process of photosynthesis is much more complex than the equation would suggest, and in a recently published textbook, telling the whole story required 21 pages (Raven, Evert and Eichhorn, 1992). The important fact is that plants do not eat; we cannot "feed" them. They manufacture their own food, beginning with the glucose produced during photosynthesis, and use the mineral salts in fertilizer (or the naturally occurring mineral salts in the environment) to complete the manufacture of food, to fabricate plant parts and to perform metabolic processes. A critical distinction between food and mineral nutrients, required by both plants and animals, is that food provides organisms with energy, minerals do not.

References: Raven, P.H., R. F. Evert and S. E. Eichhorn. 1992. *Biology of Plants*. 5th edition. Worth Publishers, New York.

William Louis Stern's article "Vegetative Anatomy of *Stanhopea* (Orchidaceae) with Special Reference to Pseudobulb Water-Storage Cells," co-authored with Michael Wayne Morris, appeared in the March 1992 *Lindleyana*, the AOS's scientific journal.

Courtesy of the American Orchid Society.

South Coast Orchid Society

John Reyes, Newsletter Editor
10321 Lassen St.
Los Alamitos, CA 90720



MONDAY, JUNE 28

**Meeting at
Whaley Park**

**7 p.m. Judging
8 p.m. Speaker**

**Members are welcome to come
early and view AOS judging in
the small hall**

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

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