



POS News

The Palomar Orchid Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the understanding and cultivation of both hybrid and species orchids. We welcome members of all levels to join us for orchid fun and learning! Our mission is to promote interest in the appreciation of orchids and to provide an opportunity for their display and the exchange and dissemination of information relating to their culture.

A Monthly Publication

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President's Message

April 2020

Hello POS Members and Friends,

As we write this month's newsletter and President's Message, there is a lot of uncertainty about the future, not just the POS activities, but our way of life. There is uncertainty in the world, our country, the State of California and the communities in which we live. We hope all of you are safe and healthy and that you remain that way. We all share the same concerns with our well-being both physically and financially.

In compliance with directives from our President, Governor and local officials, we cancelled our April Meeting, the April caravan to the Spencers and our May Auction. Both the Santa Barbara and San Diego Orchid shows in March also

were cancelled. This announcement was sent out earlier in a separate email to all. Although many of you will miss our meetings and our caravan, these are not events that will permanently impact our lives. They can be rescheduled or wait till the following year. The Spencers have agreed to set another date when the timing is more appropriate. The postponement or cancellation of our 2020 Auction will impact POS financials but we will survive. The vast majority of our costs are attributed to monthly meetings so the absence of them will decrease the financial burden on our society. At this time, we have not rescheduled the Auction to another date. One reason is that we need to find another month where orchids are in bloom and a date that doesn't

conflict with the holidays and other possible orchid events. We also are concerned that when our economy and lives recover, the public will have less discretionary spending and our Auction may not be a financial success.

Many of our local and regional orchid growers are small businesses that are being impacted by the cancellation of orchid shows and other orchid events. It will be important for us to support these businesses when we return to normal at a later date.

Assuming our country can contain the coronavirus-19 situation by June, we will plan to have a June meeting (there was no meeting planned in May). But it's still too early to make that a definite plan. We will keep you posted, but you will know earlier if you follow the news. We may have to

juggle the slate of speakers to fit their schedules as well.

While we are mostly confined to our homes, we do have the opportunity to attend to things we have put off in place of more pressing activities such as organizing our computer files, identifying items we keep that are not needed anymore and, of course, attending to our orchid collections, which sometimes are taken for granted or delayed for another day. Our orchids still need watering, fertilizing and repotting/dividing. Although many of us may not be in the proper frame of mind to spend quality time with our plants, it does give us the opportunity to take our minds off the concerns of the day and allow us to accomplish things that we have control over.

During this period, we intend to share information via our

abbreviated newsletter, electronic mail, social websites, telephone, etc. Gerri Santiago and Helge Weissig have set up a facebook page associated with the Palomar Orchid Society page called 'Southern California Orchid Growers' where orchid enthusiasts can share orchid pictures and information on orchids for all to explore. Although many of our members do not use Facebook, we will endeavor to provide some of this info from our own members as well as culture info in the newsletter so members and friends can be kept informed during this period. Instead of the speaker information, we will replace it with an article called 'Highlighting Interesting Orchids in Bloom' and also include another topic entitled "Tips and Tricks'. The first articles are contributions by Alex and Bill, respectively, however, we invite

other members to contribute during this period.

If someone is short on orchid supplies, some members may be able to lend or sell some supplies (orchid bark, fertilizer, pots, etc.) in the interim. Contact one of us or one of your fellow members if you need some assistance finding supplies. You may also find sources of supplies on our webpage by downloading the culture presentations that Alex posted earlier this year.

In closing, both of us hope all of our members and friends remain well, upbeat and optimistic about the future. As always Bill and Alex are available to listen to your suggestions, questions and concerns. Please call Bill at 760-931-0502 or Alex at 760-529-5814. Bills e-mail is billtcwong@att.net and Alex's e-mail is anadzan@mac.com.

2020 POS Officers

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flickr.com/groups/palomarorchid/

Tips and Tricks

Tips and Tricks is a new section of the POS Newsletter that will begin with the April Newsletter. Each month one of our members will share several (2-4) tips or tricks that they find has helped him/her to be a better orchid grower. It can range from culture tips, cost-saving ideas, useful tools for orchid care, or any other useful tip. It will be similar to a mini Culture Class in our publication. We will try this for a few months and if well-received, we will continue it. For the inaugural month, Bill Wong has provided these helpful items. 1. When purchasing orchid chemicals or supplies (pest control, bark, etc.) purchase Concentrate (versus Ready-to-Use) or purchase the larger size package. Ready-to-Use (RTU) packaging is significantly more expensive because you are paying for a disposable spray bottle and convenience. It can easily be 4 times more expensive and time consuming to apply. When you run out, you need to make more frequent trips to the store. Most of us have a medium to large orchid collection and the cost savings is easily justified. The same is true of larger size packages of fertilizer and orchid bark. Bark and fertilizer are easily stored and typically have a long shelf life and can

be a shared purchase with a co-member (see Photo 1 below). 2. If you have more than 50 orchids, it becomes a chore to refill the watering pail and mixing in the proper quantity of fertilizer and hand watering each plant. A useful tool that I have been using for many years is a Siphon Mixer with Backflow Protection (made by Dramm, Hozon and others). It can be made of plastic or brass, but I prefer the brass. It is a small device that attaches to your water spigot and when used in conjunction with your garden hose, a 5-gallon pail and watering wand, saves time and energy. You can easily water 100 or more plants in a very short time. Fertilizer is automatically mixed with the water supply. The cost is somewhere between \$16 to \$25 on Amazon or your nursery supply (see Photo 2 below). 3. The last tip is to be sure to save all the labels from your chemicals that contain the product ingredients, application rates, and description of what it treats. This is especially important for pesticides in concentrate form. If you tear off the label and lose it, it is difficult to replicate the dosage and specification of what pests can be treated, although many suppliers do maintain this information on-line and available to

download. If you purchase a number of products, which many of us do, its beneficial to prepare a spreadsheet summarizing treatment dosages and what pests it will control. This saves time looking up a chemical on each label, versus reviewing a spreadsheet or relying on our memory (see Photo below).

photo 1



Concentrate

photo 2



Siphon Mixer

photo 3



Mfg. Labels

Highlighting Interesting Orchids in Bloom

In place of our monthly speaker information during this period, we are going to try to highlight interesting orchids currently in bloom along with some background information about these orchids. This month Alex will take a stab at it and encourage others to write short articles of interest to our members or just include pics and names of some of your favorite blooming orchids.

As many of you are aware, I have had a long time love affair with cattleya orchids, followed by cymbidiums as my second favorite orchid genus. My interest in cattleyas began over 30 years ago when my family and I resided in the Chicago area. One weekend in the late 1980's, I attended an orchid show at the Chicago Botanical Garden, which started my orchid hobby that has over the years developed into a hobby on steroids amounting to over a few thousand orchids. Among the vendors attending the show was Orchids by Hausermann, the largest and primary orchid nursery in the greater Chicago area and in the State of Illinois. Hausermann's had a very impressive booth where they displayed several mature orchids in bloom. One orchid that particularly caught my eye was a massive specimen of Lc. Gold Digger 'Buttercup' in full bloom with over several hundred bright yellow-orange inflorescences. Fortunately for me, Hausermann offered mericlone seedlings of Gold Digger for sale, which I purchased along with a 'Dancing Lady' type oncidium orchid. Those two orchids, which I still have divisions of the original plants, hold a special place in my large collection of orchids. My Lc. Gold Digger 'Buttercup' HCC/AOS, CCM/AOS is currently in bloom (see pic below). I have divided it many times so it is not even close to the size of the original one I saw at Hausermann's, but it has about 30 blooms at present and, surprisingly, it is free of virus after all these years even though I was not very knowledgeable about viruses in the first 15 or so years I grew it. The plant is quite vigorous and it grows outside all year long under about 50% shade cloth in a bark/perlite mix.

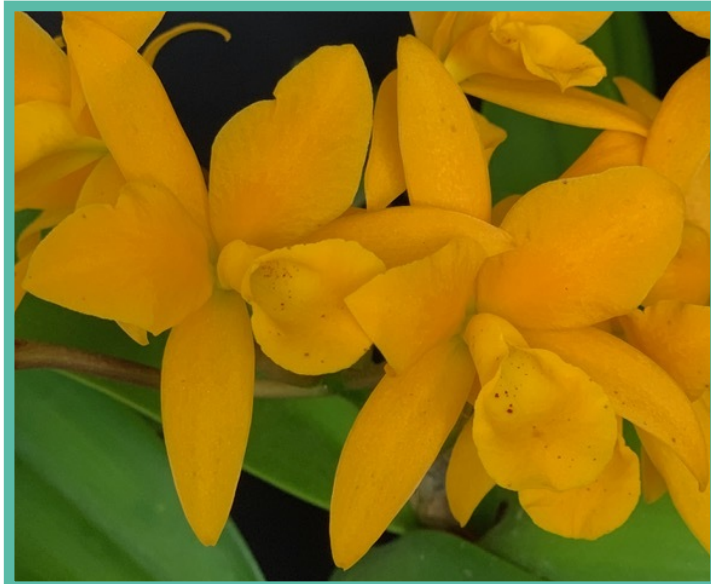
I currently own three cultivars of Lc. Gold Digger derived from the cross of Lc. Red Gold x Slc. Warpaint, registered back in 1974. This cross has produced some very popular progeny including the aforementioned 'Buttercup', 'Orglades Mandarin', and 'Orchid Jungle'. Of the three, Lc. Gold Digger 'Orchid Jungle' HCC/AOS, CCM/AOS is my favorite as it displays a stunningly bright red lip against a background of intensely yellow petals and sepals (see accompanying pic). I used Lc. Gold Digger 'Orchid Jungle' in my early cattleya hybridizing attempts to produce an interesting hybrid with *Brassavola glauca*. I was hoping the cross would preserve the intense red lip against white or off white background and, although I did not achieve my initial goal, I did create a couple of nice hybrids (AMN-063 A and B) as shown below.

I hope you enjoyed this information. Next time I plan to show some of my cymbidiums that have put on a beautiful display of sizes, colors and shapes this year. Too bad the SD Show had to be cancelled, since these cymbidiums would have been a great addition to our society display. Well, maybe next year!

Orchids in Bloom cont.



Lc. Gold Digger 'Buttercup'
HCC/AOS



Lc. Gold Digger
'Buttercup' (Close up)



Lc. Gold Digger 'Orchid
Jungle' HCC/AOS



AMN-063B: Lc. Gold Digger 'Orchid
Jungle' x *B. glauca*

AMN-063A: Lc. Gold Digger 'Orchid
Jungle' x *B. glauca*



Judging at the San Diego Judging Center (Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park), March, 2020.

Text and photos by Phyllis Prestia

There were 8 orchids presented for judging.
One was awarded.

Lyc. Alan Salzman 'Windflower' AM/AOS ➡

Exhibited by Betty Kelepecz

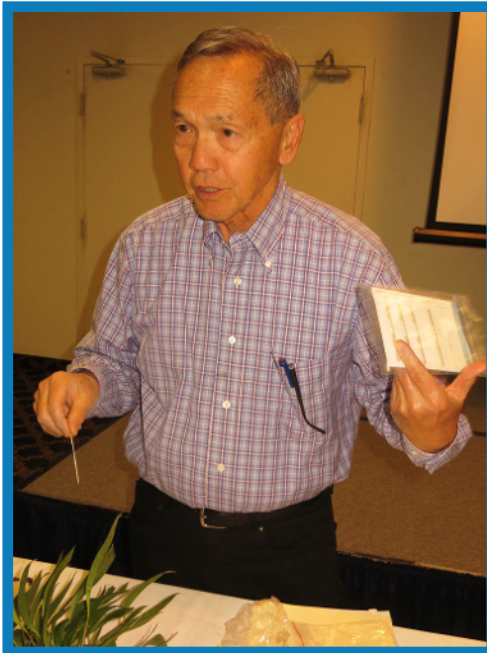
Awarded AM/AOS 83 points



**Photos by
Debra Funakoshi**



**Alex Nadzan showing how
to repot a Cattleya Orchid**



**Bill Wong showing how to
Virus Test Orchids**



**Ken Campbell explaining
how to mount an Orchid**



April To Do List

General

Review and continue to follow recommendations for March since continued cool temperatures throughout March, particularly on the coast, has delayed Spring flowering and onset of growth for some species and hybrids.

Fine tune the shading of orchids as heat and light continue to increase.

Remove with sterile utensils any dead flowers or leaves that were damaged by bacterial rot or fungal rot, being careful not to contaminate clean plants.

If not done yet, spray benches and growing areas with Physan to decrease possibility of bacterial and fungal diseases.

April brings on new growth for many orchids and the opportunity to repot and divide those orchids that initiate new root growth at this time. Try to repot when roots are small and just beginning to emerge in order to minimize damage to soft tissues and avoid transplant shock, giving plants a head start for the upcoming growing season.

Repot when orchids have begun to over grow their pots and/or when media has started to break down. Also consider repotting plants that have been in pots for 2 or more years and are existing, but not thriving. Repotting can revitalize and provide new vigor to such plants.

It is useful to thoroughly rinse and soak all media prior to potting. Dry media tends to wick moisture away from plants. Then keep plants relatively dry to encourage root growth. If you prefer to repot using dry bark mixes, be sure to water newly potted plants thoroughly (2-3x), then keep on dry side to stimulate root growth.

To divide orchids, allow for 3-5 bulbs per division.

Check plants for algae, as a crust of algae acts as a barrier to both water and fertilizer, thus preventing roots from breathing properly.

Cautiously use any pesticide, fungicide or chemical keeping in mind that most manufacturers typically do not specify the use of their products on orchids. Always use the lowest prescribed dose and avoid spraying flowers and buds. Recommended dosing for orchids can sometimes be found on the manufacturer's website or on various orchid forums (such as [The Orchid Source](#)).

Orchids that are in bloom require less water, which allows the flowers to last longer.

More details on specific genera can be found [on the AOS website](#).

Indoors and Greenhouse

Monitor for pests and diseases as temperatures begin to rise. Make sure fans and coolers are in good working order.

Provide good air circulation for indoor plants to discourage diseases and pests such as mealy bugs. Treat early to avoid spreading to other plants.

April is a good time to repot Paphiopedilums, which tend to benefit from a yearly repotting. Most do well in small bark and perlite containing a little charcoal. It is a good time to check the roots.

Outdoors

Continue to monitor and control snails and slugs as weather warms. They can do considerable damage to new growths, buds and flowers in short order.

Cattleyas, Oncidiums, Cymbidiums, and Aussie Dendrobiums should begin initiating new root and bulb growth. Increase watering frequency and fertilizer as new growth is observed and repot as needed.

Australian Dendrobiums are in full bloom now. Dividing and repotting can be done after flowering is complete and new roots begin to form. Dendrobiums like to be root bound so only repot when plants outgrow their pots or are not doing well. Leave room for 2 or 3 years growth.

In addition to Cymbidiums, Zygopetalums should be flowering and be ready to divide and/or repot once flowers wilt. Treat Zygos in the same manner as Cymbidiums and repot accordingly: repotting instructions on Casa de las Orquideas website and other sites on the internet.

March meeting Show & Tell photos by Helge Weissig



Den. Gilleston Gold – Anita Spencer



Blc. Schroder's Love x Blc. Cashens' Silk D'or –
Jim Anderson

POS MEETINGS CANCELLED FOR MONTHS OF APRIL AND MAY

General Meeting Information

The Palomar Orchid Society regularly meets the FIRST WEDNESDAY of every month at 6:30 pm at the Conference Center at Lake San Marcos (1105 La Bonita Dr., San Marcos, CA 92078).

Traveling on State Route 78, take the Rancho Santa Fe exit and head South. The entrance to the Lake San Marcos Resort is on your left about a 1/4 mile and South of the San Marcos Blvd. intersection. Traveling on I5 South from Oceanside and North Carlsbad, take the Palomar Airport exit and turn right onto Rancho Santa Fe after about 7 miles. Traveling North on I5 from South Carlsbad and Encinitas, for example, take the La Costa Ave. exit and turn left onto Rancho Santa Fe. The entrance to the resort will be the first right after the fire station in San Marcos.

Inside the resort at the first "T" intersection, turn left on San Marino Drive. At the next 4-way STOP, turn right on La Bonita Drive. Proceed ahead for one block on La Bonita. The conference center will be on the left and there is plenty of parking in front.



Bc. Sea Urchin – Anita Spencer



Bc. Joe Lankton – Ken Campbell



Lc. Azul Madoka – Jim Anderson



AMN-270 (Bc. Hawaiian Fantasy x Slc. Circle of Life) - Alex Nadzan

Epidendrum polibulbon –
Gerardeen Santiago



Lc.
Orglade's
Grand 'Tian
Mu' – Suzi
Sandore





Den. Golden Vista "SVO" x
Den.
Dunokayla
"Tuyet" -
Helge
Weissig



Pterostylis
curta "Kevin
Hee" - Alex
Nadzan



Rhyncostylis gigantea - Anita Spencer



Slc. Circle of Life "Trailblazer" x Pot. Hisako

Jerry
Spencer's
Cymbidium
Hybrids



New and current members can sign up or renew by paying at meetings, by mail using the form below or online at palomarorchid.org



Palomar Orchid Society
Non-Profit Organization 501(c)(3)
Membership Application

Last Name (Print) First Mid Initial Spouse Name for Directory

Mailing Address/Post Office Box

City State Zip Code

Home Phone: _____ Issue in Directory, circle Yes No

Cell Phone: _____ Issue in Directory, circle Yes No

E-Mail Address (print clearly): _____
Your e-mail address is not shared with other societies.

Circle selection:

Email, address in Directory Yes No Email Newsletter Yes No

Need newsletter via US mail. (May be charged extra) Yes No

Date Joined _____ Annual Dues January 1 – December 31.
Dues pro-rated quarterly for new members

Individual Membership \$25.00 \$ _____
Jan-Mar \$25, Apr-Jun \$18.75, Jul-Sep \$12.50, Oct-Dec \$6.25

Family Membership (same household) \$30.00 \$ _____
Jan-Mar \$30, Apr-Jun \$22.50, Jul-Sep \$15, Oct-Dec \$7.50

Member Names _____

Donation: 501(c)(3) tax deductible \$ _____

Name Badge: circle selection \$11 pin back \$13 magnetic back \$ _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

Please make check payable to **PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY**
Mail to: Trudy Ibbetson, 4817 Morning Canyon Rd., Oceanside, CA 92056

How did you hear about us? (circle selection)
Newspaper, Internet, Auction, Newsletter, Orchid Show(name) _____