



Palomar Orchid Society

It's All About Orchids!

www.palomarorchid.org

December 2010

Palomar Orchid Society Holiday Party

Dec. 1, 6:30 pm

5 course dinner, \$25.00 per person

Chin's Restaurant

1650 Descanso

San Marcos, CA

If you haven't made your reservation,
Call Estelle immediately to save your spot!

★ (Must call before November 28)

Estelle Hoffman
760-433-3344

Come and have good food, good times!

Winterizing Your Orchids

By Courtney Hackney

Winter is a time when some kinds of orchids need very different care from what they required in the summer. In some cases, these differences are very great, while in others, the cultural changes required are more subtle.

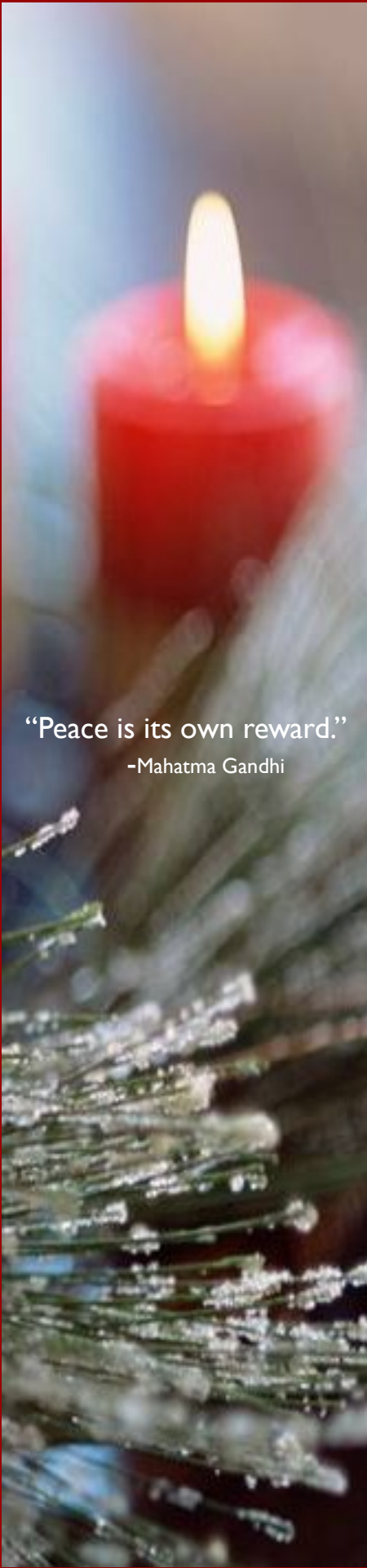
Standard Phalaenopsis, those with large flowers and no fragrance, require a cool down period of 7-10 days to initiate flowering. How cold should they get? Most experienced hobbyists let temperatures get into the low 60s or even upper 50s, which generally works well. This process is even more effective if day length is getting shorter and plants are allowed to get a little drier than usual. It is also a good idea to only let phals get cooler when there is some assurance that day temperatures will warm up at least 10-15 deg F. Many commercial growers accomplish spike initiation simply by providing this day to night temperature differential and do not worry about how cool the night temperature. Many indoor growers of phals find that their plants do not initiate spikes until much later in the year because they do not let their home get as cool or experience this temperature range. Putting phals in an unheated porch can get them to spike.

Once the first spikes appear, it is important to maintain a night temperature of at least 65 deg F to limit disease. This becomes more critical when those gloomy days appear in winter. It is also important to increase fertilizer, especially nitrogen to growing spikes and buds. Conventional wisdom used to dictate a fertilizer low in nitrogen and high in phosphorus until buds began to form and then switch to high nitrogen fertilizer to get the most and largest blooms. Recent studies point to just using nitrogen-rich fertilizers throughout the process. While commercial or exhibition growers practice this, the hobbyist is better advised to use their normal fertilizer regimen if their phals are growing well.

Catasetums and related genera are in the process of becoming dormant. Withhold water and fertilizer as their leaves begin to yellow. A light misting is OK, but let the plant and medium become much drier than when the plant is actively growing. Any orchid that loses its leaves needs to be treated similarly. Many semi-terrestrial orchids, e.g. *Eulophia* species, need similar treatment. Too much water at this time of year will cause the plant to lose its roots to rot and the entire plant could follow. The ideal situation is to set orchids with this requirement in a different growing area where water can be carefully controlled until growth begins in late winter or early spring.

Many members of the **Cattleya** Alliance will also benefit from drying more thoroughly. Bifoliate cattleyas and cattleya species are generally grown drier in winter, although there is much variation among them. Some species reputed to be hard to grow, e.g. *C warscewiczii* and *C dowiana*, need to be kept very dry from about October through February or they will not produce good flowers and might even die. Modern hybrids have had the tendency to “die if they do not dry” “bred out”, but they still grow better if they are kept drier in winter. The exceptions to the rule are those small stature mini-catts that have a good dose of *Sophranitis coccinea*. They usually are generally identified by their bright red, yellow or orange flowers. These need a constant temperature, above 60 F, regular water supply, and may not experience any dormancy.

Cymbidiums require cool weather to initiate flower spikes too, but they require far cooler temperatures and lots of light. Place them outside as temperature drop and keep them there until there is the forecast for a hard freeze or hard frost. They will tolerate light frosts.



“Peace is its own reward.”

—Mahatma Gandhi

Message from the Board

Dear POS Members and Friends,

Well, we've finally come to the end of another great year for POS. We had a great spring with the Flower Fields Sale and a super annual auction. We've also had a great lineup of speakers thanks to Renate Schmidt and the board, and our final speaker for this year, Jim Rose was superb. We've tried to assemble a variety of topics and activities that give a good overview of orchids and orchid culture, and I think we've accomplished that very well. Next year, I look forward to having an equally good lineup of speakers. Also, a new slate of officers and board members were chosen and will be installed at the holiday dinner, which I hope everyone is attending.

There are a couple of housekeeping issues I should mention, include a discussion of how our nursery caravans will be done in the future. There was a proposal by Merle Robboy to have "grower visit" events separate from "buying caravans," and at the November meeting, members present gave a big thumbs up to the idea. So, we will plan for the up-

coming year, "caravans" which will visit our member growers to see and learn how they do things. This is not a critique of how people are doing things, but a chance to share and learn from each other to improve everyone's orchid growing.

Also, myself and the board was just informed of an issue with the raffle, and so there will be no January, 2011 plant raffle. Instead, we will test something that we have been discussing for a while, which is a member/society mini-auction in place of the January raffle. We expect the regular raffle will resume in February, 2011. Please consider donating a nice plant to the January member auction. Donors may contact myself, Renee Daly, Sandy Sandquist or any board member to donate ahead of the January or bring the plant to the January meeting.

Christopher Croom will be speaking in January, and it is always a fun and informative talk. Hope to see you there!

Good Growing!
Gil Ho

Officers to be installed for 2011

President – *Gil Ho*

1st VP/Programs - *Alex Nadzan and Renate Schmidt (Co-chairs)*

2nd VP/Raffle/Photographer - *Debra Funakoshi*

3rd VP/Membership - *Renee Daly and Sandi Sandquist (Co-chairs)*

Secretary – *Lena Shiroma*

Treasurer - *Christina Hsing*

First Year Trustees – *Pat Schmidt*

Cher Whelan

Janet Lomba

*The Officers and
Board of the
Palomar Orchid
Society wish each and
every member a
wonderful
Holiday Season!*

Photos from the November Meeting

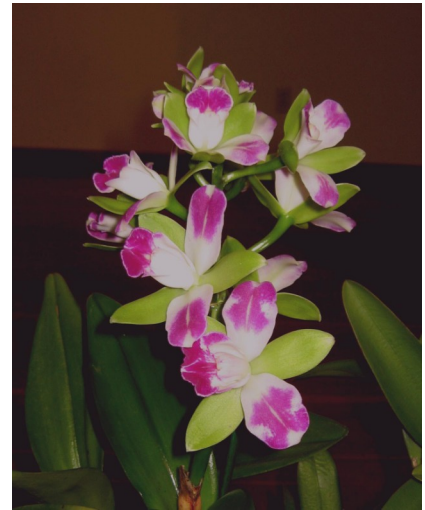
Much Thanks to Debra Funakoshi for the photos.



Alex Nadzan's beautiful Bc. Samba Splendor 'Puerto Rico' AMIAOS.



Alex Nadzan's exotic Zygopetalum Pine Road



Anita Spencer's gorgeous Bc. Afton Belle 'Green Goddess'



Gil Ho's wonderful Phrag. Memoria Ed Murphy x boissierianum.



Another beauty from Anita Spencer: Bc. Mem. Crispin Rosales 'Sandra Spearman'



Jim Mickelson posing with his unique species, Epidendrum ciliare and a close-up of the bloom.



Pat and Linda Rusnell's lovely Lc. Molly Tyler 'Towering Beauty'.



POS member Cher Whelan leaving the meeting with orchids she bought - and her dog, Yoda.



Christina Hsing, Alex Nadzan, and Nico Goosens talking about orchids during the break.



November guest speaker Jim Rose of Cal -Orchids.



RUDVALIS ORCHIDS

ANNUAL FALL OPEN
HOUSE

DEC 4-5
9 AM TO 3 PM

Casa de las Orquideas is once
again having an

Open House

Dec 4-5

9 am to 4 pm

We have lots of new cymbidium seedlings and meristems
waiting to make their debut!

Special guest growers, including Andy's Orchids and
The Rowland Collection, will also be here.

Watch our website at www.orquideas.com for further details,
and contact us at casa@orquideas.com or (858) 755-7572.

Our address is 170 S. Nardo Ave., Solana Beach, CA 92075.
Parking is limited - please consider carpooling.

Loren and Nancy Batchman
Casa de las Orquideas



SUNSET VALLEY ORCHIDS
Grower and hybridizer of quality orchids

1255 Navel Place, Vista, CA 92083

Fall Open House

December 4th and 5th

9 am to 4 pm each day

Once a year discounts on all our stock!

We are now importing

New Zealand 'Orchiata Orchid Bark'

This is the best bark available in the USA!

Visit our website at sunsetvalleyorchids.com or call Fred at 760-310-0778

MONTHLY REPORT ON AOS JUDGING AT SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN

Helmut Rohrl

Judging at the Encinitas site (San Diego Botanic Garden, Administration (Ecke) Building) begins at 7:00 pm on the first Monday of each month. The facility opens at 6:30 pm.

Anyone interested in orchids is encouraged and welcome at the sessions. Visitors may join the judging teams at their tables, but cannot participate in the judging process.

Anyone who wants to exhibit plants for judging but is unable to bring the plants to S. D. Botanic Garden, please contact one of the local judges or have others bring the plants to the facility.

At the November 1 meeting, four cultivars were shown:

Betty Kelepecz presented

Dracovallia Blue Boy (*Masd. uniform* x *Drac. Chimaera*)

with two flowers on two inflorescences; the natural spread of the flower is 4.2 cm; the sepals are light lavender-purple, the lip is white with light purple markings. HCC/AOS.

Masdevallia lynchiphora with three flowers on three inflorescences; the natural spread of the flower is 3.1 cm; the sepals are light purple with white caudae proximally dark purple, the lip is white. AM/AOS.

Masdevallia venus with one flower on one inflorescence; the natural spread of the flower is 2.3 cm; the dorsal sepal is light tan, veined green; the lateral sepals are brown-mauve, striped darker; the lip is light tan.

Loren Batchman presented

Propabstopenalum Copper Queen (*Z. New Era* x *Pbt. Kiwi Gold*) with twelve flowers and ten buds on six inflorescences; the natural spread of the flower is 7.1 cm; sepals and petals are light tan, marked brown, and the lip is white, heavily overlaid and veined dark purple. HCC/AOS.



Photographer Needed:

I am looking for someone who may want to come to the Encinitas Judging session and

take digital pictures of the entrants for submittal to the POS and SDCOS newsletters.

No pay, just satisfaction in helping the societies and the chance to educate yourself on orchids and the judging process.

Call Helmut at 858-452-0976 if you are interested in helping out!

Concerning Plants for Judging Sessions:

The Pacific South Judging Center conducts each month three judging sessions in the Los Angeles and San Diego area. They are:

Encinitas

(S.D. Botanic Garden), 1st Monday at 7 pm

San Marino

(Huntington Botanical Gardens), 2nd Saturday at 10 am

Long Beach

(Whale Park) on the 4th Saturday at 7 pm.

Visitors –with or without plants – are welcome anytime.

If a member of the SDCOS wishes to have flowering plants judged at one of these sessions but is unable to take the plants to the judging facility, please contact one of the following AOS judges:

Loren Batchman (Solana Beach) 858-755-7572

Helmut Rohrl (La Jolla) 858-452-0976

Ann and Paul Tuskes (Clairemont) 858-274-5829

Helmut Rohrl

1. Go to Holiday Party;
2. Get orchids ready for winter;
3. **Renew Membership!**
(Use the form on next page to renew your membership for the 2011 year. Take to meeting or mail in - it's so easy!)



Membership Application/Renewal Palomar Orchid Society January 1 to December 31, 2011



2011

Last **First** **Middle**

Street

City **State** **Zip**

Phone

Email Address Please provide to receive the monthly newsletter and other information.

Individual Membership \$20

Family Membership \$25

Additional Names (Family Member option)

General Fund \$ _____

Additional Names (Family Member option)

Speaker Fund \$ _____

Name Badge (\$6.50 each) \$ _____

Other \$ _____

\$ _____

(Please specify: _____)

Total amount enclosed

Make checks payable to: **Palomar Orchid Society**

Mail to: Renee Daly c/o Palomar Orchid Society

5210 Frost Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92010

or bring to a meeting!!

Do not write in this section - Official Use ONLY

Amount enclosed:

Date Received:

_____ Cash

_____ Check

Orchid Fair

Flower Fields

Auction

Referral

Other



Palomar Orchid Society
Membership Chairperson
5210 Frost Ave
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Next Meeting:
January 5



It's All About Orchids!

Meeting Information

The Palomar Orchid Society meets the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of every month at the Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320 Monroe, Carlsbad. Go east off 5 on Carlsbad Village Drive 1/2 mile to Monroe, turn South on Monroe to Women's Club. OR go west off El Camino Real at Carlsbad Village Drive to Monroe and turn south to the Women's Club. Beginner's Culture Class starts at 6:30 pm. The regular meeting begins at 7:00 pm. The next regular meeting will be on January 5, 2011.

Other Nearby Orchid Societies

San Diego County Orchid Society: First Tuesday of the month, 7:30 pm, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Membership: Bob Clark, 858-270-8352, email bclark@sdorchids.com

San Diego County Cymbidium Society: Third Wednesday of the month. Always a speaker, Q&A session and raffle. 7:00 PM. Free admission and refreshments. San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. (760)732-0055.

Open Houses\Other Orchid Sightings

San Diego Zoo Orchid Greenhouses: Third Friday each month, 10 am to 2 pm. Free with admission. Contact: Janette Gerrity 619-231-1515, ext. 4306

San Diego Botanical Garden Judging Center: First Monday each month, 7:00 pm. Encinitas. Bring plants in to be judged.