



# Palomar Orchid Society

It's All About Orchids!

[www.palomarorchid.org](http://www.palomarorchid.org)

February 2011

## Dates to Remember:

- **Feb. 2, Wednesday**  
**POS General Meeting**
- Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011  
San Diego  
Cymbidium Society  
Annual Auction  
San Diego Botanic Garden
- March 5 - 6, 2011  
South Bay Orchid Society  
Show and Sale  
Torrence
- March 11 - 13, 2011  
Santa Barbara International  
Orchid Show and Sale  
Santa Barbara
- March 25 - 27, 2011  
San Diego County Orchid  
Society Show and Sale  
Scottish Rite Center

**February Meeting - 7:00 pm**

**Wednesday, February 2**

**Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids**

**“New Hybrids with  
Catasetum, Cycnoches, and Mormodes”**

We are pleased to have this month one of our favorite local growers, and big supporter of the Palomar Orchid Society, Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids.

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 30 years and has been hybridizing for 22 of those years. With over 24 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery, Sunset Valley Orchids, located in Vista, California, just north of San Diego.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing *Cattleya* hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new *Bulbophyllum* and *Paphiopedilum* hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out!

His pioneering work in *Catasetum* intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, *Fredclarkeara After Dark*, which produced “the closest flower color to black ever witnessed”. This grex received seven FCC’s and three AM’s on the first flowers shown for judging.

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society. Some of us may not know it, but Fred is also the manager of the Carlsbad Flower Fields in Carlsbad.



*Fdk. After Dark 'SVO Black Diamond'*  
FCC/AOS

Fred’s presentation will be on “New Hybrids with *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches* and *Mormodes*.” *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches* and *Mormodes* are three related genera from



*Cyc. barthiorum 'Sunset Valley Orchids' AM/AOS*



*Morm. sinuata 'Sunset Valley Orchids' HCC/AOS*

(Continued on page 4)

**October Culture Class 6:30 pm**  
**Catsetum, Mormodes, and Cynoches Culture**  
**By Fred Clarke**

Fred will share some beginner Catesetum culture tips before the general meeting. Don't miss out and learn how to grow these unique orchids. 6:30 - Be there!

## Article from the AOS

By Ron McHatton

### *Catsetum pileatum* Rchb.f.

Pronunciation: Kat-ah-SEE-tum pee-lee-AH-tum (or pih-lee-AY-tum)

This spectacular *Catsetum* is widespread from the island of Trinidad, throughout the basins of the Negro and Orinoco Rivers in Brazil and Venezuela and into Colombia and Ecuador. The first plants introduced into England were collected in Venezuela and introduced into cultivation by Linden. The species was described by H. G. Reichenbach in 1882 in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*. Until 1921 this species was Venezuela's national flower. The Latin name refers to the adjective *pileatus* or "with a cap", in apparent reference to the hood over the broad lip formed by the carriage of the dorsal sepal and petals.

*Catsetum pileatum* is an impressive plant even out of flower. The fusiform (spindle-shaped) pseudobulbs grow about 16cm (about 6 inches) tall and the large leaves can reach 40cm (about 16 inches long) making typical plants nearly 60cm (2 feet) tall. Robust clones can be even bigger. *Catsetums* normally produce flowers of a single sex.

The plants themselves are not constrained to one sex or the other as are some plants but any given inflorescence will usually carry flowers that are either male or female with male flowers more prevalent. Male inflorescences can reach 30cm (12 inches) long and carry up to 12 flowers reaching about 13cm (about 5 inches) across. Female inflorescences are typically shorter, fewer-flowered and the fleshy flowers are fewer in number. In some species in the *Catsetum* Alliance, the differences between male and female flowers are so striking that early taxonomists mistook female forms for different species.

Inflorescences in this species are produced from near the base of the maturing pseudobulb typically in late summer or fall although plants are capable of flowering about any time. Mature pseudobulbs on well-grown plants may produce several inflorescences at once or spread out over a fairly long period of time.

Male *Catsetum* flowers have a specialized trigger mechanism clearly visible in the center of this flower. *Catsetums* belong to a group of orchids pollinated by male



Catsetum pileatum 'Riopelle',  
CCM/AOS  
Grower: James Riopelle  
Portland, OR



(Continued on page 3)



## Message from the President

Dear POS Members and Friends,

We are in the midst of winter, but the weather in the San Diego area has been unusually warm lately. Unlike other parts of the eastern US, it's still orchid growing season here. Cymbidiums have been blooming earlier for me and, as I hear, for other growers too. We are lucky to be in the San Diego area for many reasons, including the weather, but also for the wonderful orchid societies and growers we have locally.

POS is fortunate to be doing well. Behind the scenes, the board is maintaining the finances and operation of the society, and keeping on top of issues related to our non-profit status. I bring this up,

because we recently had an issue over state regulations regarding raffles, and we turned this into a member auction opportunity at the January meeting. I am happy to report that the auction was well-received and even made a bit of money for the society.

To make things interesting, we will think about holding these small member auctions again in the near future. Also, we are planning "caravans" to member's homes to see how different members grow their orchids.

Our friend, Mr. Fred Clarke, joins us this month with his wonderful talk on *Catasetums* and the like. (I'm sure black orchids will get a mention too!) It will be a very interesting talk. Please be sure to join us!

Happy Orchid Growing,  
Gil Ho

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Euglossine bees (sometimes called "orchid bees"). These bees are attracted to the powerful fragrances produced by these flowers and will swarm in large numbers. When a visiting bee accidentally trips the trigger, the pollinia are forcefully ejected from the anther cap and adhere to the bee's body. The tension in these triggers is substantial and pollinia can be thrown several inches (reportedly up to 6 feet if no obstacles are encountered) from the plant and at a speed measured in excess of 10 ft/second. The force involved in the impact appears to serve two purposes; first to cause the sticky pad to adhere firmly to the insect and second to get the insect to go to another flower.

*Catasetum pileatum* is a lowland species where it occurs as an epiphyte. The species is adapted to hot, humid rainforest with only a short dry winter season and this is one species that may not go completely dormant for any period of time. Temperatures range from a maximum of 30C (86F) to a minimum of 15C (59F) and humidity is high at night even in the dry season.



*Ctsm. pileatum* 'Imperial', AM/AOS  
Grower: Martin J. Nathan, MD  
Los Angeles, CA



*Ctsm. pileatum*  
'Kay Rinaman', CBM/AOS  
A rare yellow form  
Grower: James Riopelle Portland,

While actively growing, plants should be given as much water, warmth and humidity they will tolerate without damage to the foliage and ample fertilizer. These plants are heavy feeders and the goal is to produce the largest pseudobulbs as possible by the onset of late summer. After flowering and when leaves fall, the plants should be kept dry with high humidity and warm temperatures until the newly developing growths have roots about an inch long. With *Ctsm. pileatum*, this time interval can be quite short and successful growers provide a winter rest only if the plant's appearance indicates a need for dormancy.

Plants are best grown potted. Some successful growers use straight sphagnum moss in clay pots top-dressed with time-release fertilizer (in low-humidity climates plastic pots will retain moisture longer). Others recommend bark or tree-fern based potting mix. Regardless of the mix chosen, it must hold adequate moisture, drain rapidly so excess moisture isn't a problem and aerate the roots.

(Continued from page 1)



*Cyc. haagii* 'Sunset Valley Orchids' HCC/AOS

the Tribe Cymbidieae. Individually, each has been considered an orchid oddity, or "botanical", of interest mainly to the seriously addicted enthusiast. These plants have a brief deciduous period in winter, when the plants need a definite dry rest period bordering on neglect. These robust orchids are native to lowland tropical forests in Central and South America and are usually grown in warm or intermediate conditions.

Commercially, *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches* (or 'Swan' orchids) and *Mormodes* (or 'Goblin' orchids) have occupied a small market niche on the edge of a sea of *Cymbidiums*, *Cattleyas*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Dendrobiums*, *Epidendrums*, and so on.

This talk will feature a widescreen computer slide show on some of some excellent species of *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches* and *Mormodes*.

You don't want to miss this presentation. And if you belong to the Cymbidium Society and caught this lecture last September, Fred has added much more information and made some changes. Come and see one of the most sought-after lecturers in the orchid world!



*Don't Forget!*  
*Bring your plants in to sell!*

Members may bring in plants or divisions to sell to other members at the meetings. A donation of 15% of the selling price will go to the club from the seller.

Buying plants from other members is a win-win situation! Everyone is happy!

*From the*  
*Refreshment Committee:*

Remember: All members with last names beginning with **G, H, I, J and K** share at break time!

We appreciate everyone's effort in supplying our meeting with goodies. It makes for a great meeting all around!



*Need a Ride?* We know that some of you may not be able to attend our monthly meetings or other events because you cannot drive a car at night, or for some other reason. We do not want that to stop you from coming! Get a ride with another member! You can do this by getting in touch with our membership chairperson, Renee Daly. Call her at 760-929-0367 and she will get in touch with a member who will give you a ride! We have lots of members who would be more than happy to help get members to the meeting. Just Call Renee!



# Photos from the January Meeting

Much Thanks to Debra Funakoshi for the photos.



Alex Nazdan's beautiful  
*L. Summit 'Tomiko'*



Merle Robboy's wonderful  
*Miltassia Aztec 'Nalo'*.



Alex's superb *Brassavola*  
*Little Stars*.



Pearl Crosier brought in this  
fantastic *Phrag. Giganteum*.



Bill Wong brought in this gorgeous  
*Diacattleya Colmaniae 'Janet'*  
HCC/AOS.



Another exotic plant brought in by  
Merle is this *Angrecom ebumeum*  
var. *brevicalcar*.



Merle's brightly colored  
*Stenorhynchos speciosus*.



Our January guest speaker,  
Chris Croom, as he talks about a  
cymbidium.

# Photos from the Holiday Party

Much Thanks to Debra Funakoshi for the photos.



Our new 2011 Board!



Members Shelly and Bill Wong with their great Holiday



Congratulations to Sandi Sandquist for receiving the "Member of the Year" award from President Gil Ho.



Just a few of the gorgeous Holiday Plants members received at the Party!



Linda Berger, Renee Daly and Larry Jorgensen smile for their Holiday photo!



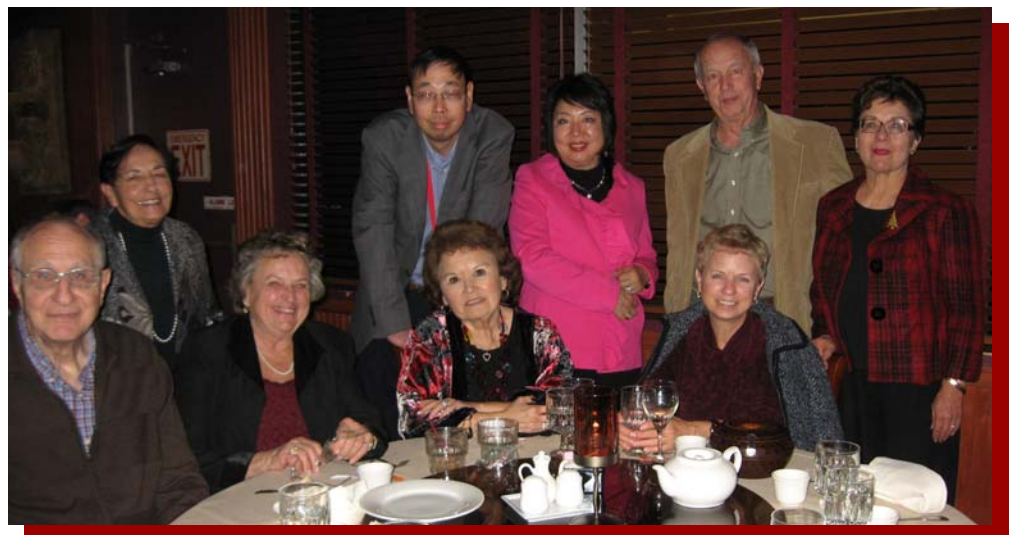
*Janet Lomba and Cecily Bird having a great time at the party!*



*Christina Hsing, our new treasurer, with her Holiday Cattleya.*



*Festively dressed Linda Rusnell seem happy with her and Pat's Holiday plants!*



## 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 06. December, 2010 Encinitas session six cultivars were shown.

Gin Gan presented

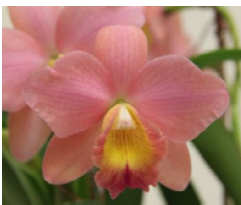


*Ascocentropsis pusilla* var. *albescence* with numerous flowers and buds on four inflorescences. The natural spread of the flowers is 0.4 cm. All segments are white, distally changing to light purple.

*Epidendrum madsenii* with two flowers on two inflorescences. The natural spread of flowers is 1.4 cm. All segments are white.



Bruce Berg presented



*Sophrholaeliocattleya*. Tangerine Jewel x *Laeliocattleya* Sacramento Rose with four flowers and one bud on three inflorescences. The natural spread of the flowers is 6.3 cm. Sepals and petals are light pink, the lip is yellow with rose-red margins.

Renate Schmidt presented

*Sophrholaeliocattleya* Mem. Trudi Marsh (Tangerine Jewel x Cosmic Delite) with two flowers on two inflorescences. The natural spread of the flowers is 5.6 cm. All segments are bright red. HCC/AOS.

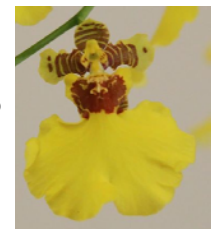


*Potinar*a Cosmo-Zelle (Blc. Goldenzelle x Sc. Beaufort) with four flowers on two inflorescences. The natural spread of the flowers is 7.2 cm. All segments are yellow the throat is streaked orange. AM/AOS.



Helmut Rohrl presented

*Oncidium* Sugar Truffles (Sweet Sugar x Raspberry Truffles) with twenty-six flowers and ten buds on one inflorescence. The natural spread of the flowers is 4.9 cm. Sepals and petals are yellow marked brown, the lip is bright yellow.



### **YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS DUE! SEND IN OR BRING TO MEETING NOW!**

If you have not already renewed, it is imperative you get your renewal dues in now. We would like to have our roster done by March, and we would like all our members to be in it.

You can mail them in to Renee Daly (see renewal form) or you can just bring it in to the next meeting.

The society needs your support, and staying current with your dues is one way to help!

Thank you very much to Phyllis Prestia, who has volunteered to take photos of the plants brought in to the Encinitas judging centers so that you, our members, can see the beautiful orchids brought in for judging. Thank you, Phyllis, for your time and efforts!

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



# 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
  - General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Speaker Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Name Badge (\$6.50 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- (Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Names (Family Member option)

\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Names (Family Member option)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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

*Upcoming Events*

**Annual Orchid Auction**

Saturday, February 5, 2011

**All Types of Orchids!**

Preview at 11 a.m. Auction at 12 noon



San Diego Botanic Garden  
Ecke Building  
230 Quail Gardens Drive  
Encinitas, CA 92024

Admission to the Garden for the auction is 1/2 price:  
Adults - \$6 Seniors - \$4 AOS Members - free with ID  
Admission fee is refundable at the auction check-out with  
the purchase of \$40. Parking is free.

**Directions:**

**Coming from the South:** Take I-5 North exit Encinitas Boulevard and turn right (heading east) (0.5 miles). Turn left on Quail Gardens Drive (0.3 miles). The entrance to the Garden will be on your left.

**Coming from the North:** Take I-5 South exit Leguacia Boulevard and turn left (heading east) (0.5 miles). Turn right on Quail Gardens Drive (1 mile). The entrance to the Garden will be on your right.

Auction Chairperson: orchldy2@mac.com or 760-732-0055

*Sponsored by the San Diego County Cymbidium Society*



Meetings monthly (except July and August) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at the Botanic Garden  
Culture class 6:30 p.m. - General meeting 7:00 p.m.

**Orchid Show and Sale**  
**March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Orchids-R-Easy Classes All Weekend**

Sales: Sat & Sun 10-5  
Show: Sat 12-5 & Sun 10-5  
Location: Torrance Cultural Arts Center  
3330 Civic Center Dr., Torrance, CA

- Buy direct from commercial growers
- See award winning orchids
- All day demonstrations on orchid care and repotting

Admission: \$5 Adults  
Free Parking

For all show information and a map to the show and sale:  
[www.southbayorchidsociety.com](http://www.southbayorchidsociety.com)  
Information: (310) 707-7097

**66<sup>TH</sup> SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL**  
**Orchid Show**

**ORCHIDS 66** *Get your kicks with orchids!*  
*orchids for sale, potting demos, art show, and more...*

**MARCH 11-13**  
**2011 9AM-5PM**

**EARL WARREN SHOWGROUNDS**  
HIGHWAY 101 & LAS POSITAS ROAD

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$12  
Seniors/Students with ID: \$10 • Children 12 & under (with adult): FREE

**WWW.SBORCHIDSHOW.COM**

*San Diego County Orchid Society Presents*

*Orchid Show and Sale  
March 25, 26, 27*

*2011  
Orchid Magic*

*Admission \$7  
Children under 12, Free  
Weekend Pass \$10*

*Scottish Rite Center*

*1895 Camino del Rio South, San Diego, Ca 92108*

*Friday, 4:00pm-8:00pm*

*Saturday, 9:00am - 6:00pm*

*Sunday, 10:00am - 4:00pm*

*for discount coupon  
or information see*

*[sdorchids.com](http://sdorchids.com) / 760.529.2947*

## Orchid Odyssey

Third Friday of each month (February 20 this month)  
First Sunday of March, June, September, and December

The Zoo's orchid greenhouse, home to over 3,000 [orchid plants](#) from over 800 species, varieties, and cultivars, is open to Zoo visitors during Orchid Odyssey.

Our orchid expert, as well as members of the San Diego County Orchid Society, are on hand to answer questions during this "open house."

The orchid greenhouse is located on the path just west of the African Kopje's meerkats.

**Please note:** There are no Botanical Bus Tours offered on Sunday Orchid Odyssey days.

# SAN DIEGO ZOO





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

Next Meeting:  
March 2



## 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 March 2, 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](mailto: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.