



# 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.

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

A Monthly Publication

February 2014



**February To Do List**

As temperatures fluctuate widely and some orchids are confused by the unseasonably warm temperatures, it is important to stay on top of all orchid chores.  
**Page 2**

**Gems from the Last Meeting**

Dan Newman provided a fascinating overview of the genus *Dendrobium* and many members brought in plants for Show and Tell.  
**Page 3**

**Please Renew Your Membership!**

A quick note about membership renewal. Your support of the society is greatly appreciated!  
**Page 4**

**Calendar of Events**

The winter show season is now in full swing! Upcoming events are listed, as always, on the last page.  
**Page 6**



February Meeting • Wednesday, February 5, 2014 • 6:30 pm



*Sandra Tillisch Svoboda*

**Breeding with Recently Described Paphiopedilums from Vietnam**

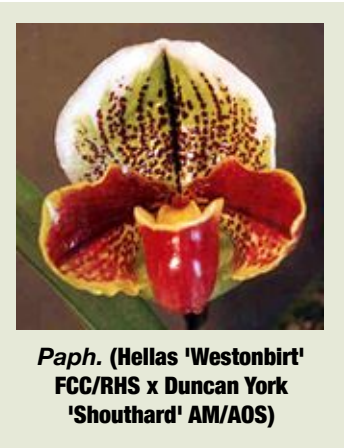
We are pleased to welcome Sandra Tillisch Svoboda, current President of the American Orchid Society, who will be speaking on "Breeding with Recently Described Paphiopedilums from Vietnam".

Sandra's visit is jointly hosted by the Palomar and the San Diego County Orchid Societies. Accordingly, she will present a talk on Tuesday, February 4 to the San Diego Society on "The Orchids of Bhutan" for those of you who are interested in that topic. This month's plant table will be provided by Casa de las Orquideas.

Growing up in Minnesota, Sandra's only exposure to orchids was that prom corsage. After graduating with a degree in nursing, she moved to California and ended up in Santa Barbara. She began her orchid life as a pot washer for her husband Al and became fascinated with the history of her husband's complex paph collection, which included many of the oldies like Paph. F.C. Puddle. Al's knowl-



**Paph. tranlienianum**



**Paph. (Hellas 'Westonbirt') FCC/RHS x Duncan York 'Shouthard' AM/AOS)**

edge, love, and enthusiasm for orchids were contagious and when they built a second greenhouse, she decided it would be hers and that was the moment that orchids became an important part of her life.

Sandra serves as President of the American Orchid Society. She is an accredited judge in both the American Orchid Society and the Cymbidium Society of America judging systems and is treasurer of the AOS Pacific South Judging Center. She is the present Editor in Chief of the Orchid Digest. She was president of the Cymbid-

continued on page 4

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*It is hard to believe it is February and we are still experiencing Spring-like weather, while most of the country is freezing. That is the 'price we pay' for living in Southern California. Although our plants are savoring the warm weather, many growers are confused on how to deal with these unusual conditions. We had lots of inputs from our experts on how to manage your plants under these unseasonably warm conditions and those recommendations are provided in the accompanying To Do list.*

*We are all looking forward to the multitude of shows scheduled for the next two months that should allow us to supplement our ever-growing orchid collections. These include the Newport Harbor Orchid Expo on February 7-9 at the Westminster Mall, Orange County, the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, March 14-16, and our own San Diego County Orchid Society's Annual Show on March 21-23. I am looking forward to attending all of them, time and funds permitting.*

*We are continuing to seek volunteers for putting together another display at the San Diego Show, since we have had previous successes in receiving awards for our displays. More important than the awards is the opportunity to show the public the high quality plants we grow and encourage others to do the same by joining our society. We also are beginning to plan for our upcoming auction on May 17 and I encourage all members to participate in some way to support our only fund raising event of the year. It is important for our society as it funds all of our speakers, opportunity tables and related activities throughout the year. I will have sign up sheets at the February meeting and encourage members to participate in these two events.*

*We are fortunate to have as our February speaker, Sandra Tillisch Svoboda, current President of the American Orchid Society, who will give a presentation on 'Breeding with Recently Described Paphiopedilums from Vietnam'. This should be an interesting talk on developments in the hybridization of more recently discovered paphiopedilums from Vietnam. Sandra's visit is supported jointly by POS and SDCOS, thus she will*

*talk to the SDCOS on 'The Orchids of Bhutan' on Tuesday, February 4 in Balboa Park. As always, POS members are welcome to attend that presentation as well.*

*In closing, I always encourage input from our members at any time via [email](#), phone (760-753-6280) or in person. Feel free to contact me, as the board and I are here to serve you.*

*Happy Growing,*



*Alex Nadzan  
President, POS  
(760) 753-6280  
[anadzan@mac.com](mailto:anadzan@mac.com)*

## Orchid To Do List for February

### General

- The unusually warm days and mild night temperatures in January have created some confusion for both orchids and growers: the orchids believe that it is spring already and we growers may not know what to do under these unusual conditions. As often, what to do depends on the climate and microclimates you are growing in.
- In general, most orchids should still be kept fairly dry in winter even during warm periods. If you grow on the coast near the ocean, humidity is usually higher so occasional misting (with pure water, if available) or light watering in extended periods of warm or Santa Ana conditions may be warranted. If you grow further from the ocean, where orchids experience even warmer temps and low humidity and are openly exposed to Santa Ana winds, then you may need to mist and water more often to avoid dehydration, but avoid watering excessively. Too much water will encourage

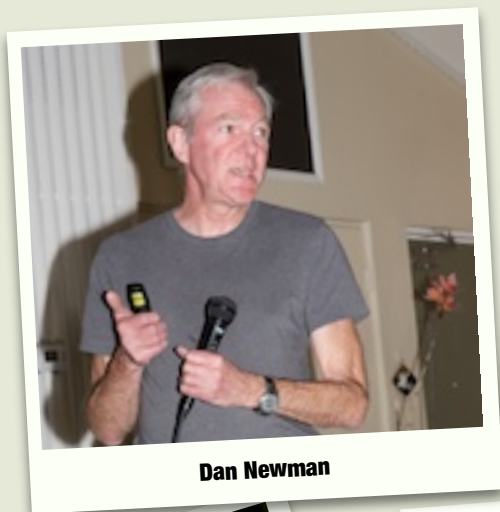
plants to send out new growths, which will not fare well when the weather turns cold again.

- When you do water, do so in the morning and avoid wetting buds and flowers to minimize botrytis (fungal) spotting. Also keep tabs on the ten day weather forecasts and avoid watering if cooler and/or wet weather is predicted. One wants to make sure orchids are kept on the dry side to allow them to tolerate the cold winter nights we tend to experience in Southern California. If February brings more normal, cooler weather than January, cut back on water and avoid fertilizing as cooler days and nights prevail.
- Maintain cold-sensitive, warm growing orchids (phals, paphs, toolumnias, most vandas and warm growing dendrobiums and cattleyas such as violacea, dowiana and their hybrids) inside or in a greenhouse to protect them from night temperatures below 50o; however, watch under leaves for spider mites and other pests that flourish under dry, less humid conditions. An excellent article on 'Cold Tolerance of Orchids' by Sue Bottom of the St. Augustine Orchid Society can be found [on their website](#).
- Separate cold loving orchids, including odontoglossums, miltonias, pleurothallids, masdevallias, draculas, from orchids that need a drier winter rest (many encyclias, deciduous dendrobi-

continued on page 5



# Gems From The Last Meeting



**Dan Newman**



**Alex Nadzan**



**Lc. Persepolis Splendor – Anita Spencer**



**S/c. Fire Magic 'Solar Flare' – Merle Robboy**



**Ceratocentron fessellii – Nico Goosens**



**Eplc. Volcano Trick 'Fireball' Anita Spencer**



**Den. Enobi Purple Anita Spencer**



**Cleisocentron merrillianum Nico Goosens**



**L. anceps 'Santa Barbara Sunset Showtime' Janice Krause**

Photos by Helge Weissig - full album at [www.palomarorchid.org](http://www.palomarorchid.org)

## General Meeting Information

The Palomar Orchid Society regularly meets the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of every month at the Pavilion 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 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 pavilion will be on the left and there is parking in front of the pavilion.

# January Judging Report

There were 6 orchids presented for judging, 2 were awarded.



***C. trianae* 'Kimberly Burzell'**  
 Exhibited by Linden Burzell  
 Awarded HCC/AOS 75 points



***Cahuzacara (Pot.) Dogashima***  
**Paradise 'Strawberry'**  
 Exhibited by Debbie Halliday  
 Awarded HCC/AOS 79 points

Text and photo by Phyllis S. Prestia Ed.D.

# Judging Sessions

- The Pacific South Judging Center conducts each month three judging sessions in the Los Angeles and San Diego area. Locally, the sessions are held in Balboa Park, Casa del Prado in room 104 on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6 pm.
- Visitors, with or without plants, are welcome anytime. If a member of the POS wishes to have flowering plants judged at one of these sessions but is unable to take the plants to the judging facility, please contact Paul Tuskes at (858) 274 5829

## Tillisch Svoboda cont.

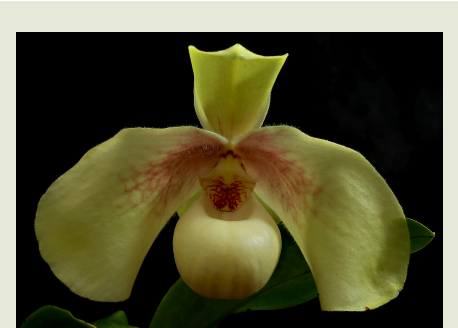
ium Society of American and co-chair of the annual Cymbidium Society Congress. Locally, she has served on the boards and been president of the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara and the local branch of the Cymbidium Society. Sandra served on the board of the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show and, for several years, was the show manager of this prestigious show, one of the largest in the nation.

Besides the plants themselves and the never-ending opportunity to learn about them, Sandra loves being involved in the orchid world because it offers an opportunity to meet and work with so many

amazing and fascinating people.

## Please Renew Today!

The cost of delivering the newsletter via US mail is significant each month. If you have not paid your 2014 dues and receive the newsletter via US mail, this is your last issue. Please mail your 2014 dues to Sandi Sandquist, 6408 Crossbill Court, Carlsbad, CA 92011 or bring it to the meeting. If you have any questions, please call Sandi at (760) 918 2408.



***Paph. hangianum***

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY A SYMPHONY OF ORCHIDS 2014 Show and Sale



**MARCH 21-23, 2014**  
 Friday 3pm-7pm Saturday 9am-6pm Sunday 10am-4pm

<b>Scottish Rite Center</b> 1895 Camino Del Rio South San Diego, CA 92108	<b>Admission: \$7</b> Weekend Pass: \$10 Children under 12: Free Free Parking	<b>Information:</b> <a href="http://www.sdorchids.com">www.sdorchids.com</a> <b>Contact:</b> (760) 529-2947
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## February To Do List *cont.*

- ums, catasetinae and some terrestrials) so they can be freely watered and fertilized to allow growth but also avoid overwatering and protect them from freezing temps. Take this opportunity to divide or repot these cool growers during their winter growth period to encourage new growth and avoid the stress of repotting during the warm season.
- Winter blooming cattleyas and cymbidiums should be in bud or full bloom. Provide adequate water and weak fertilizer, but do so in the mornings so plants dry out before nightfall. Avoid wetting buds and blooms to minimize fungal spotting. Stake cymbidium spikes to guide inflorescences for support of buds and blooms.
  - Maintain good hygiene practices to minimize transmission of pests and viruses. Practice careful watering and remove problem plants and debris from the healthy collection. Old dying leaves even on healthy plants will succumb to diseases and decay so keep your growing area picked up.
  - Watch for fungus, bacterial rot and cold burn in cold and wet weather. Remove infected tissues and treat accordingly. Diligently check pseudobulbs and canes for discoloration and firmness. Though some change is normal, it can also be indicative of black rot. If any pseudobulbs or canes are soft, mushy, and possibly exuding dark fluid, isolate and treat. An excellent article to read "Is There a Fungus Among Us?" (A.O.S. Orchids Magazine, Aug. 2012) or refer [to the AOS website](#).
  - Many paphs will be coming into bloom at this time. These terrestrial orchids should be kept on the warmer side and not be allowed to completely dry out due to their sensitive hairy roots. Although they grow all year long, paphs grow more slowly in winter but can be repotted at this time if warranted, since they are one of the few orchids that can

be repotted at almost any time and benefit from it every 1-2 years. Repotting should be done more carefully at this time to avoid plant damage, particularly to roots that are needed for quick recovery. After repotting, observe plants carefully to detect and intercept disease damage.

- Spring show season is beginning so be sure to stake and groom your plants to have them look their best for judging. When staking, be sure to not restrict the new soft growth tips. Permit growths to expand naturally and tie securely at the bottom and then further up when stems start to harden. Spikes and flower can be encouraged to open sooner by increasing the ambient temperatures and allowing enough time for the flowers to mature fully.
- More details on specific genera for January and February are available on [the AOS website](#).

## Indoors and Greenhouse

- Carefully monitor greenhouse temperatures and check that circulating fans, automatic vents, humidifiers and heaters are in good working order.
- Use a humidifier or mister to keep humidity up due to heavier use of fans and heaters in winter. In absence of a humidifier, wet down floor to increase humidity: however, avoid puddles of standing water and maintain good hygiene by keeping floors clean.
- Continue to provide good air circulation for indoor plants to discourage diseases and pests such as mealy bugs and scale. Be sure to check all edges of the pot and neighboring pots. Pests, especially mealy bugs also can be found on the bottom of pots. Treat early to avoid spreading to other plants.
- Cut back on watering and frequency of fertilizing in winter. Err on the side of under fertilizing as active growth is at a minimum and excess fertilizer is unnecessary. This will minimize root damage and growth of soft tissues.

## Outdoors

- Continue to monitor and control snails, slugs and other pests as cooler wet weather will bring them out. They can do considerable damage to plants in short order.
- Try not to use water that is much cooler than the plants as their tissues can be shocked. Watering early in the day will facilitate that and allow plants to dry before nightfall in order to minimize bacterial and fungal diseases.
- Most cymbidiums are now in spike or bloom and may be starting to produce new growths. They should be kept on the dry side, but do not allow them to completely dry out. If you are using a lower nitrogen fertilizer, consider increasing the nitrogen content (20-20-20 or 30-10-10) and the frequency of fertilizing as you see new growths emerging. Stake spikes early to train them to grow upright while the spikes are flexible.
- Overgrown cymbidiums should be repotted and divided after old blooms drop off or for plants where the old media has begun to break down. An excellent source of info on repotting, including pictures, can be found [on the Casa de las Orquideas website](#).
- Members of the Catasetinae family (catasetums, clowesia, cynoches, and mormodes) are now in their dormant period as evidenced by the yellowing and loss of leaves. Note that some actually initiate spikes at the outset or during their dormant period. Eliminate water and fertilizer altogether until spring when new roots are 3-5" long, then water and fertilize heavily as recommended by Fred Clarke [on his website](#).
- Most phalaenopsis are very sensitive to cold and should be inside your home or in a greenhouse and in spike or in bloom. Stake spikes early to train them to grow upright for optimal display of blooms.

## The Editor's Corner



How about the nice summer we have been having this January? No wonder some of our plants are confused! Here is hoping that tomorrow doesn't bring an arctic cold snap from some polar vortex taking a brief vacation on the West coast!

We joke, but climate change is real and more likely than not will bring more unstable, unusual, and extreme weather conditions like we have had across the entire continent these past weeks. How will this affect our yards or the natural habitat of the orchids we all love and cherish? What can we do to turn things around?

The EPA [has a list of 10 easy steps to take](#) around the home to reduce ones carbon footprint. None will do a whole lot, but if everyone does just a small bit, we might yet have a chance. On top, some of those actually save money: since we installed solar panels on our roof, for example, our electricity bill has dropped to five dollars and change (SDG&E's fee for being on the grid).

This message brought to you by your resident orchid tree hugger.

As always, any and all contributions to the newsletter or website are very welcome. Please email them to [newsletter@palomarorchid.org](mailto:newsletter@palomarorchid.org). Submission deadline is the 15th of each month.

Happy Growing!

## POS Officers

- Alex Nadzan — President**
- Renate Schmidt — 1st Vice President/Programs**
- Terri Lofthouse**  
  - & Donna Steinbrenner — 2nd Vice President/Raffle**
- Sandi Sanquist**  
  - & Cher Whelan — 3rd Vice President/Membership**
- Anne Gold — Secretary**
- Vidya Sirsi — Treasurer**
- Carl Lofthouse, Elf Mitton, & Lena Shiroma — 2nd Year Trustees**
- Lisa Humphreys, James Mickelson,**  
  - & Merle Robboy — 1st Year Trustees**
- Maryanne Kind & Allie Tran — Publicity**
- Helge Weissig — Newsletter & Website Editor**

## Contact Us

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**Carlsbad CA 92013**

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**WWW**  
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[www.facebook.com/palomarorchid](http://www.facebook.com/palomarorchid)  
[www.flickr.com/groups/palomarorchid/](http://www.flickr.com/groups/palomarorchid/)

## Upcoming Events

**February 4, 2014**  
 Orchid Judging Center  
 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

SDCOS General Meeting  
[www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com)

**February 5, 2014**  
 POS General Meeting  
 Sandra Tillisch Svoboda  
 Pavilion at Lake San Marcos  
[www.palomarorchid.org](http://www.palomarorchid.org)

**February 7-9, 2014**  
 Newport Harbor Orchid Expo  
 Westminster Mall, Westminster  
[www.nhosinfo.org](http://www.nhosinfo.org)

**February 19, 2014**  
 SDCCS General Meeting

**March 1, 2014**  
 Orchid Judging Center  
 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

SDCOS General Meeting  
[www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com)

**March 2, 2014**  
 POS General Meeting  
 Fred Clarke  
 Pavilion at Lake San Marcos  
[www.palomarorchid.org](http://www.palomarorchid.org)

**March 14-16, 2014**  
 69th Santa Barbara International  
 Orchid Show  
 Santa Barbara  
[www.sborchidshow.com](http://www.sborchidshow.com)

**March 19, 2014**  
 SDCCS General Meeting

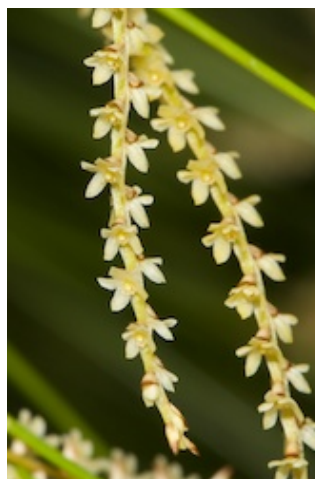
**March 21-23, 2014**  
 A Symphony of Orchids  
 SDCOS 2014 Show and Sale  
 Scottish Rite Center, San Diego  
[www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com)

**April 2, 2014**  
 Orchid Judging Center  
 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

SDCOS General Meeting  
[www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com)

**April 3, 2014**  
 POS General Meeting  
 Culture Class Panel of Growers  
 Pavilion at Lake San Marcos  
[www.palomarorchid.org](http://www.palomarorchid.org)

**April 17, 2014**  
 SDCCS General Meeting



## Other Orchid Societies' Meetings

**San Diego County Orchid Society**  
 Meets First Tuesday of each month at  
 7:30 pm in Room 101 in the Casa del  
 Prado of Balboa Park in San Diego  
 Bob Clark (858) 270-8352  
[membership@sdorchids.com](mailto:membership@sdorchids.com)

**San Diego Cymbidium Society**  
 Regular meetings 3rd Wednesday of  
 each month, September-June, 7pm,  
 Pavilion at Lake San Marcos  
 1105 La Bonita Dr.  
 San Marcos, CA 92078  
 Bill Wong (760) 931-0502  
[billtcwong@att.net](mailto:billtcwong@att.net)