

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

February 2022

#### **A Monthly Publication**



Attending the February Meeting via Zoom For those unable to attend in person, we will provide a Zoom link Page 1

**SDCOS Spring Show** Our society has been invited to participate by entering an orchid display as we have done in previous years. **Page 3** 

February To-Do List In general, most orchids should still be kept fairly dry in winter even during warm periods. Check the to-do list for specific tips! Page 4 **Calendar of Events** Several of the regular shows are planned again for early 2022 but some have been cancelled. See our calendar for details. **Page 6** 



#### Monthly Meeting • Wednesday, February 2, 2022 • 6:30 pm



# Alex Nadzan & Jerry Spencer

Orchid Culture – Tips on Preparation for the 2022 Growing Season and Cymbidium Culture and Repotting

Some of our members have been asking

recently about cultural issues so we would like devote this meeting to orchid culture and address maintaining your orchids in late winter and transitioning to early spring as well as tips on how to prepare for the upcoming growing season. Since we are now into cymbidium flowering season, we also will review aspects on growing, dividing and repotting of these beautiful and easy to grow orchids that are ideally suited for our Southern California climate. The meeting will be an in-person meeting and will be available on Zoom for those who can't



Cym. Culpaulin 'Ice Green' Alba



Cym. Little Big Horn

attend or are uncomfortable attending at this time. All in-person attendees must be vaccinated and boosted and wear a mask during the meeting. To maintain safety of attendees, we will not have food or drink but members can bring their own water if desired.

Our first culture meeting of this year will feature two of our very experienced growers, Alex Nadzan and Jerry Spencer. Alex has successfully grown orchids out-

### PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

# *Greetings to all POS Members and Friends,*

As we get into the new year, things are still unsettled as far as COVID is concerned. We are still not out of the woods, but there may be improvements ahead. We do not attempt to make our Newsletter an authoritative document on COVID as there is much written in the press and there are differences of opinion from various experts. Last week, the SD County Public Health Officer's new modeling shows we are approaching the peak of omicron infections in SD County. If that holds true, that is good news for all of us in the near future.



In January, to be extra cautious, we cancelled our in-person meeting and went with a Zoom format instead because of concerns about the rapid spread of the omicron variant. At least 20 members attended our zoom meeting and experienced a very outstanding talk by Betty Kelepecz on her orchid trip to Papua New Guinea. Besides covering the orchids in this region, Betty also talked about fascinating culture of the natives and fauna.

Last month, the SD County Orchid Society (SDCOS) also cancelled its January meeting; however, for this month both societies have decided to have in-person meetings and zoom the meeting for those who are unable or uncomfortable with attending in person. The SDCOS also decided to go ahead with their Spring Orchid Show on March 18-20 at the Scottish Rite Events Facility so please mark your calendars as it is always a great event.

We believe the benefits of meeting in-person outweigh the risks. Our POS audience is comprised primarily of seniors who are vaccinated and boosted. We also tend to be more cautious than the public at large. Some of our members prefer meeting inperson and enjoying the social interactions and discussions that can't be replicated with Zoom. By having an in-person meeting and joint Zoom presentation, we will be satisfying both groups. It's interesting to note that we have not been made aware of very many (if any) of our members who have contracted COVID!! Maybe a spouse or two, but few members.

For our February meeting, the Board agreed to forego refreshments, no food and no drinks. Therefore, there will be no need to unmask during the meeting. We also plan to space the chairs a bit further apart. Masks will be mandatory as required by the City of Carlsbad.

Alex has volunteered to be the February speaker. He will give a Culture presentation that should be beneficial to many of our newer members and some of our longtime members who can benefit from a refresher course. It seems that during the past few meetings many of you have approached Alex and others with culture questions. Jerry Spencer will give a demo on repotting and dividing cymbidiums as they are usually the first ones to be repotted early in the year. Our plant table will be provided by SVO. Fred Clark generously donated many cattleya plants to POS. Thank you, Fred.

As mentioned last month, POS has been invited to enter a display in the SDCOS Spring Show that will be held at the Scottish Rites Center again. We decided that we can only participate if we have enough volunteers to help in the planning and execution of the display. If you can and want to participate, be sure to let Alex or Bill know ASAP or at the February meeting. We will have a signup sheet at the meeting. If we don't get enough interest, we will forego the display.

As we are now into 2022, please renew your POS Membership or join if you have not already done so. These fees are minimal but are important and help cover the speaker fees, opportunity table, meeting room expense and other operating expenses. Mail renewals to POS, P.O. Box 130774, Carlsbad CA 92013 or renew online.

Please refer to the POS website or AOS website for orchid culture tips for this time of the year. One of the primary pests we have during December, January and February are snails and slugs. They can do lots of damage to our orchid collection, so be on the lookout. The most environmentally friendly eradication method is to hand pick and crush them. Some people are even known to go out at night with flashlights looking for them. For the rest of us, snail baits, such as Sluggo and 'That's It', are our chemicals of choice.

We hope our members and friends remain healthy, upbeat and optimistic about the future. 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 or e-mail them at president@palomarorchid.org.

Alex Nadzan and Bill Wong Co-Presidents, POS



# Culture Tips cont.

doors for many years in Southern California. He will discuss end of winter maintenance of your orchids and prep for the upcoming growing and repotting season that should help both beginners and more seasoned growers prepare for the busiest part of our growing season. He will provide some tips and valuable sources of information and supplies.

Anita and Jerry Spencer are expert growers of award-winning cymbidiums displayed at our local shows as well as at our meeting show-and-tells. They have many years of experience growing these popular plants and Jerry will give a demo on repotting/dividing cymbidiums that should aid all attendees in their efforts for maintain-



Cym. Tanto's Target

ing and blooming cymbidiums.

Alex and Jerry will address any questions you may have so bring your questions to the meeting This should be a very interesting and educational session for all who want to get a head start on the upcoming orchid growing season.



Cym. Teresa Patterson 'Pink Passion' HCC/CSA

Finally, the plant table this month will consist of orchids donated to the society by Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids. It will be a robust table so everyone that purchases tickets will be able to get at least one plant.

### SDCOS Spring Show and Request for Volunteers for POS Display

Our society has been invited to participate by entering an orchid display as we have done in previous years.

The SDCOS Spring Show 'Orchid Magic' will be held at the Scottish Rites Events Center between March 18-20, 2022 rather than over Easter weekend at the location mentioned at our previous meetings. The Scottish Rites Events Center has had a change in plans and is now available and accepting booking for the 2022 and, possibly, for 2023.

We have tentatively indicated that we will participate as long as we have enough members to volunteer for the event. We have had a lot of fun coming up with creative ideas for our past displays that have won several awards so we would like to invite our members to volunteer to plan for our 2022 display. If you would like to volunteer in the planning, set up/take down or providing blooming plants, please contact Bill Wong or Alex Nadzan to participate. We also will circulate a signup sheet at the February meeting.



### General Meeting Information

The Palomar Orchid Society regularly meets the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of every month at the <u>George and Patricia Gowland Meeting</u> <u>Room located in the Carlsbad City Library</u> on Dove Lane, just off El Camino Real in southern Carlsbad. The address is <u>1775 Dove Lane</u>, <u>Carlsbad, CA 92011</u>. Traveling South on I-5, take the Poinsettia Ln. exit and travel east to El Camino Real. Turn right on El Camino Real and turn right again on Dove Lane.

If traveling North on I-5, take the La Costa Ave. exit and travel east to El Camino Real. Turn left on Dove Lane (first traffic light after Aviara Pkwy.) Traveling West on S-78, take the San Marcos Blvd. exit and travel west, continuing on Palomar Airport Rd.. Turn left on El Camino Real and then turn right on Dove Lane.

The Dove library will be on your left and there is a large, well-lit parking lot. The Gowland Meeting Room is located on the right hand side of the main entrance.

# February Orchid To-Do List

# The full list of to-do items is published for every month on the <u>Palomar Orchid Society</u> website.

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. Keep tabs on the ten day weather forecasts and avoid watering if cooler and/or wet weather is predicted. Orchids should be kept on the dry side to allow them to tolerate the cold winter nights we experience in Southern California. If February brings colder weather, cut back on water and avoid fertilizing.

Maintain cold-sensitive, warm growing orchids (phals, paphs, tolumnias, 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 50 °F. 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 <u>on their website</u>.

Separate cold loving orchids, including odontoglossums, miltonias, pleurothallids, masdevallias, draculas, from orchids that need a drier winter rest (many encyclias, deciduous dendrobiums, 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 psuedobulbs 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 <u>AOS website</u>.

Many paphs will be coming into bloom at this time. These terrestrial orchids should 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 win-

> ter 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 <u>AOS website</u>. Additional details for indoor/greenhouse and outdoors growing are available on the <u>Palomar</u> <u>Orchid Society February to-do list</u> <u>website</u>.



Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Balboa Park's Casa del Prado, Room 101 Near the Natural History Museum

Free Admission



# Orchid Show & Sale March 19 - 20 10 am - 4 pm

# PALOS VERDES ART CENTER 5504 Crestridge Road

Rancho Palos Verdes CA 90275 Admission: \$5 Adults Chidren under 12: Free Free Parking

See award winning orchids Buy direct from commercial growers

For complete show information and map:

www.southbayorchidsociety.com/Show/index.html



## San Diego County Orchid Society Show and Sale • March 2022

# NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY ORCHID EXPO & SALE 2022





February 11, 12 & 13 Westminster Mall Orange County, CA

Sati

aturday: 11am - 8pm Inday: 12pm - 6pm Located on 2nd Floor

(near Penney's Wing)

Free Admission & Parking www.nhosinfo.org

### 2022 POS Officers

Alex Nadzan & Bill Wong — Co-President Alex Nadzan & Tom Wisniewski — Co-1st Vice President/Programs Jerry Spahn — 2nd Vice President/Raffle Trudy Ibbetson — 3rd Vice President/Membership Maryann Kind — Secretary Vidya Sirsi — Treasurer Judy Dyer, Debra Funakoshi, Stewart Walton — 2nd Year Trustees Steve Redmond, Suzi Sandore, Cher Whelan — 1st Year Trustees Helge Weissig — Website & Newsletter Editor Debra Funakoshi — FaceBook Editor

# Contact Us

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Email newsletter@palomarorchid.org

#### www

www.palomarorchid.org www.facebook.com/palomarorchid www.flickr.com/groups/palomarorchid/



# Upcoming Events

**February 1, 2022** AOS Orchid Judging Casa del Prado, Balboa Park aos.org

SDCOS General Meeting Casa del Prado, Balboa Park sdorchids.com

**February 2, 2022** POS General Meeting Gowland Meeting Room Dove Library, Carlsbad palomarorchid.org

February 5, 2022 SDCOS Species Meeting David Vanden 4davidv@gmail.com

**February 18, 2022** Orchid Odyssey San Diego Zoo <u>sandiegozoo.org</u> March 1, 2022 AOS Orchid Judging Casa del Prado, Balboa Park aos.org

SDCOS General Meeting Casa del Prado, Balboa Park sdorchids.com

March 2, 2022 POS General Meeting Gowland Meeting Room Dove Library, Carlsbad palomarorchid.org

March 5, 2022 SDCOS Species Meeting David Vanden 4davidv@gmail.com

March 18, 2022 Orchid Odyssey San Diego Zoo sandiegozoo.org

March 18 - 20, 2022 Orchid Magic SDCOS's International Spring Show and Sale Scottish Rite Center, San Diego sdorchids.com

March 19 & 20, 2022 Orchid Show & Sale South Bay Orchid Society Palos Verdes Art Center southbayorchidsociety.com

April 2, 2022 SDCOS Species Meeting David Vanden 4davidv@gmail.com

April 5, 2022 AOS Orchid Judging Casa del Prado, Balboa Park aos.org

SDCOS General Meeting Casa del Prado, Balboa Park sdorchids.com

April 6, 2022 POS General Meeting Gowland Meeting Room Dove Library, Carlsbad palomarorchid.org

April 15, 2022 Orchid Odyssey San Diego Zoo sandiegozoo.org



### Our Sister Society's Meetings

The 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 Meetings are still being held online for now sdorchids.com