



# 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**

**January 2014**



**Orchid Digest's Diamond Award**

*Congratulations to Merle Robboy, MD., for receiving the Orchid Digest Diamond Award of Excellence.*  
**Page 2**

**January To Do List**

*The winter months bring some challenges to both outdoor and indoor growers. The list should help to adapt growing conditions accordingly.*  
**Page 2**

**Holiday Party Pictures**

*Many thanks to Elf Mitton and James Mickelson for putting together a feast again at Chin's. Congratulations to the new board and awardees.*  
**Page 3**

**Calendar of Events**

*The winter show season starts this month! Upcoming events are listed, as always, on the last page.*  
**Page 6**



**January Meeting • Wednesday, January 8, 2014 • 6:30 pm**

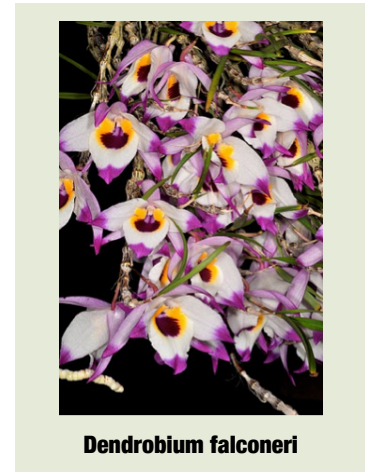


*Dan Newman*

**Dendrobiums: Jewels of Gondwana**

We are pleased to welcome Dan Newman of Hanging Gardens, Pacifica, CA, who will be speaking to us on 'Dendrobiums: Jewels of Gondwana'. The genus Dendrobium is one of the largest and most complex orchid genera of Asia, Australia, and

the Pacific, encompassing a great number of horticultural gems among its 1000-plus species. People often ask how to grow Dendrobiums. There is no simple answer for such a diverse group of plants, occurring in habitats ranging from the monsoonal foothills of the high Himalayas to the perpetually cool alpine grasslands and steamy lowland swamps of equatorial New Guinea, and from the tropical forests of remote Pacific islands to the temperate, seasonal regions of southern Australia. Dan's talk will focus on several popular sections of the genus, starting in the Himalayas and Southeast Asia and working southward to New Guinea and the Pacific, with photos of representative species and discussion of their culture in the context of the habitats where they



**Dendrobium falconeri**

originate. The goal of this presentation is to encourage interest in these fascinating orchids and provide useful information about their cultivation. Dan will be providing the plant opportunity table and also will be giving a talk on 'Miniature Orchids' to the San Diego Society on Tuesday, January 7 at 7:00 pm should you desire to take in both of his talks.



**Dendrobium wattii**

Dan first got interested in orchids as a teenager, following a visit to the greenhouse at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Southern California, where he grew up. After reading an article in Sunset magazine and devouring the few or-

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the POS board, I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year! So far, we have had a relatively mild fall and early winter and hope it remains so until spring, even though this is probably wishful thinking. However, if the weather turns cold, we can look forward to several early orchid shows to heat up our enthusiasm for orchids, including the upcoming San Diego County Orchid Society's Winter Show and Sale in Balboa Park on January 25-26, the Newport Harbor Orchid Expo on February 7-9 at the Westminster Mall, Orange County, and the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, March 14-16, followed by the San Diego County Orchid Society's Annual Show on March 21-23.

I trust everyone who attended the Holiday Party on Dec. 4 had a good time. I know all of the individuals at our table did. The food was especially good this year and two of our members were honored with awards. Congratulations to Maryanne Kind for receiving the POS Member of the Year Award and to Merle Robboy for the Orchid Digest Diamond Award of Excellence. Both individuals are very well-deserving of their respective awards. Also, many thanks goes to Elf Mitton and Betty Meredith who assisted in collecting monies for the party and Elf Mitton and James Michelson who greeted members and helped with distributing the plants.

I am looking forward to meeting with the new board in January to discuss plans for 2014, including several member activities and our auction that will occur earlier this year on May 17. We hope to encourage our established and new members to participate in several of these activities, particularly the auction which is our only fund raising event for the year.

Our first meeting of the year will occur on Wednesday, January 8 rather than on New Years' Day. The speaker will be Dan Newman of 'Hanging Gardens', Pacifica, CA, who will talk on 'Dendrobiums: Jewels of Gondwana'. The topic is a challenging one as there are over 1000 dendrobium species, many of which are widely distributed geographically and have drastically different cultural needs. Dan will describe several

different species and address their cultural requirements, which should be very helpful to all of us on how to deal with our more sensitive, non-Aussie dendrobiums. Dan's visit is supported jointly by POS and SDCOS, thus he will speak to the SDCOS on 'Miniature Orchids' on Tuesday, January 7 in Balboa Park. POS members are welcome to attend that presentation as well.

In closing, I always welcome input from our members at any time via email, phone, or in person. Feel free to contact me, as I am here to serve you.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year and another Successful Growing Season,



Alex Nadzan  
President, POS  
(760) 753-6280  
anadzan@mac.com

## Merle Robboy to receive Orchid Digest's Diamond Award of Excellence

Congratulations to Merle Robboy, MD., for receiving the Orchid Digest Diamond Award of Excellence at our Holiday Party in December.

Dr. Robboy's award will be published internationally in the first 2014 issue (Jan, Feb, Mar) of Orchid Digest Magazine. The award will read as follows:

*'The Palomar Orchid Society is delighted to present the Orchid Digest Diamond Award of Excellence to Merle Robboy, M.D.*

*Merle has been a dedicated, outstanding member of our society for several years and has served over the last two years as one of our most valued trustees. Merle has contributed to our society in many other ways. He has readily devoted his time and vast knowledge of orchids to novices and experienced members alike. He has narrated our monthly Show and*

*Tell sessions, providing insights into the origins and backgrounds of the orchids he and fellow members bring in to display. Merle also has given several orchid lectures to our society, served as an expert auctioneer for our annual fundraising auctions, and eagerly participated in our society booths for local orchid shows.*

*We are very fortunate to have Merle as a member of our society and look forward to his continued contributions to our societies activities.'*

## Orchid To Do List for January

### General

- Short days and cold nights in January will keep most of your orchids in a semi-dormant growth state but Fall/Winter blooming orchids will initiate spikes at this time. Watch them very carefully and cut back on water and fertilizer as cooler days and nights prevail.
- Protect your outdoor orchids from winter rains. Keeping them on the dryer side will allow them to tolerate the cold winter nights we tend to experience in Southern California. Water and fertilize sparingly during winter warm spells.
- As watering and fertilizing practices diminish for winter, be sure to leach your plants thoroughly. Make your last thorough watering a leaching process in order to address 'salt built up' issues before diminished watering starts. Roots should readily be able to absorb the little water and nutrients that they may get during this period. Roots heavily encrusted with excess minerals are not able to absorb the ones they need and may develop deficiencies or even excess toxic levels during dryer conditions.
- Keep cold-sensitive, warm growing orchids (phals, paphs, toolumnias, most

continued on page 5

# Holiday Party Pictures



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.

# December Judging Report

There were 6 orchids presented for judging, 4 were awarded.

# Judging Sessions

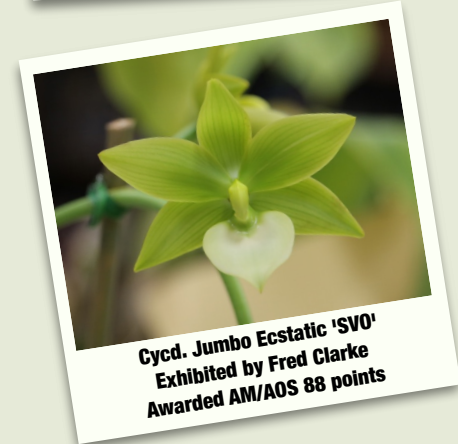
- The Pacific South Judging Center conducts each month three judging sessions in the Los Angeles and San Diego area. Locally, the sessions are held in Balboa Park, Casa del Prado in room 104 on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6 pm.
- Visitors, with or without plants, are welcome anytime. If a member 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



**Fdk. After Midnight  
'SVO Dark Beauty'  
Exhibited by Fred Clarke  
Awarded FCC/AOS 91 points**



**Fdk. Enter Night 'SVO'  
Exhibited by Fred Clarke  
Awarded AM/AOS 88 points**



**Cycd. Jumbo Ecstatic 'SVO'  
Exhibited by Fred Clarke  
Awarded AM/AOS 88 points**



**Den. erliflorum 'Wonderful Willie'  
Exhibited by Helen Pfister  
Awarded CCM/AOS 85 points**



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

## Dan Newman *cont.*

chid books available at the local public library, he mustered the resources to order three species orchid plants from Orchids by Hausermann in Illinois: *Brassavola cucullata*, *Brassia gireoudiana*, and *Paphiopedilum venustum*, whose exotic shapes and markings in one of the books' illustrations had captivated him. Unfortunately, conditions in his childhood bedroom were not ideal (there may also have been issues with consistency of care), and those early subjects soon made the ultimate sacrifice, providing an early lesson in how not to grow orchids.

On a vacation to Hawaii some twelve years later, in 1982, Dan bought a tiny

*Dendrobium* hybrid seedling at a lei stand in the Honolulu Airport. The bright San Francisco apartment where he was living by then turned out to be a much better environment for orchids, and when the little *Dendrobium* grew into an impressive blooming specimen, he was hooked! By 1996 he had 350 orchids in the same one-bedroom apartment. That year he moved his plants to a rented commercial greenhouse in San Francisco. He acquired the large species collection of his friend and orchid mentor, Walter Teague, and his hobby evolved into his nursery, Hanging Gardens. Dan started growing orchids full-time in 2000, and moved to a larger greenhouse in Pacifica, on the coast a

few miles south of San Francisco, a few years later. He currently has 12,000 to 15,000 plants, mostly cool to intermediate growers (true warm growers are difficult in the cool coastal climate, but he tries to push the envelope as far as it will go!). His collection includes a few hybrids but is mostly made up of species, his first love.

Dan joined the San Francisco Orchid Society in 1987, and served as its president in 1996/97. In recent years, he has spoken on a variety of topics to horticultural groups in California and elsewhere.

## January To Do List *cont.*

- 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. An excellent article on 'Cold Tolerance of Orchids' by Sue Bottom of the St. Augustine Orchid Society can be found [in their October Newsletter \(pgs. 9-11\)](#)
- Cold loving orchids, including odontoglossums, miltonias, pleurothallids, masdevallias, draculas, will thrive in cool weather and respond by initiating growth so continue to water and fertilize them during this period but also protect from freezing temps. Take this opportunity to divide or repot them 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 by now. Provide adequate water and fertilizer, but do so in the mornings so plants dry out before nightfall. Stake cymbidium spikes to guide inflorescences for support of buds and blooms.
- Maintain good hygiene practices to minimize transmission of pests and viruses. Watch for fungus, bacterial rot and cold burn in cold and wet weather. Remove infected tissues and treat accordingly. More information on treating these disorders can be found on [the AOS website](#).
- More details on monthly checklist items for specific genera can be found 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.

- 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. Avoid over fertilizing to minimize root damage and growth of soft growths. Keep to one half to one fourth the recommended amount on the package.

## 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 so switch from high nitrogen fertilizer (30-10-10) to one with lower nitrogen relative to phosphorus and potassium (such as 20-10-20 or 18-8-17) to initiate and stimulate spike production instead of vegetative growth. Stake spikes early to train them to grow upright while the spikes are flexible. More information is available via the [AOS Cymbidium culture sheet](#).
- Most members of the Catasetinae family (catasetums, clowesia, cycnoches, 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. Cut back and eventually eliminate water and fertilizer until Spring when new roots are established 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 by now and spiking. Stake spikes early to train them to grow upright for optimal display of blooms.

*The monthly To Do list is a collaboration of several POS members. We appreciate any and all comments, suggestions, and feedback on our new feature. Please send them to [newsletter@palomarorchid.org](mailto:newsletter@palomarorchid.org)!*

**San Diego County Orchid Society**  
**Winter Show and Sale**

Casa del Prado Room 101  
 Free Admission  
 Saturday January 25th, 2014  
 noon until 5:00pm  
 Sunday January 26th, 2014  
 10:00 am until 4:00 pm  
[sdorchids.com](http://sdorchids.com)

## The Editor's Corner



So what are your 2014 New Year's Orchid Resolutions? Mine include watering my Masdevallia and Pleurothallis more consistently (EDD), finishing that growing area on the side of the house, learning more about hybridization techniques, and not buying so many plants again. Yes, I already know that I will break at least one of those.

Looking back at 2013, the society had a really good year, I believe. Under Alex's leadership, the general meeting became much more streamlined and we moved our meeting location to the Lake Pavilion without hiccups. The 2013 auction was a great financial success and our speakers were very well received. The new format of devoting a whole meeting to a culture class panel of expert growers seems to also be very popular and I am looking forward to future installments.

Last not least, I wish to again acknowledge Maryanne Kind, our 2013 Member of the Year, for her many contributions to the society, including the organization of the auction and the fabulous work she has been doing on publicity. Maryanne, you rock!

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, & Vidya Sirsi — 2nd Year Trustees**  
**Lisa Humphreys, James Mickelson,**  
 & **Merle Robboy — 1st Year Trustees**  
**Maryanne Kind & Allie Tran — Publicity**  
**Helge Weissig — Newsletter & Website Editor**

## Contact Us

**Palomar Orchid Society**  
**PO Box 130774**  
**Carlsbad CA 92013**

**Email**  
[newsletter@palomarorchid.org](mailto:newsletter@palomarorchid.org)

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

## Upcoming Events

**January 7, 2014**  
 Orchid Judging Center  
 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

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

**January 8, 2014**  
 POS General Meeting  
 Dan Newman  
 Pavilion at Lake San Marcos  
[www.palomarorchid.org](http://www.palomarorchid.org)

**January 15, 2014**  
 SDCCS General Meeting

**January 25 & 26, 2014**  
 SDCOS Winter Show and Sale  
 Balboa Park  
[www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com)

**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



## 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)