



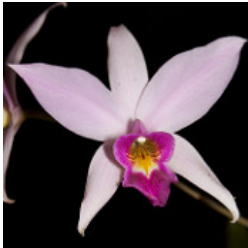
POS News

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

A Monthly Publication

January 2017

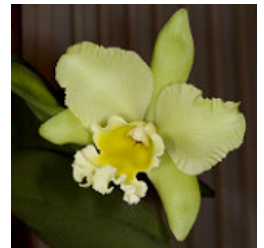


Vidya Sirsi Receives Orchid Digest Diamond Award
 Congratulations to Vidya Sirsi for receiving the Orchid Digest Diamond Award of Excellence
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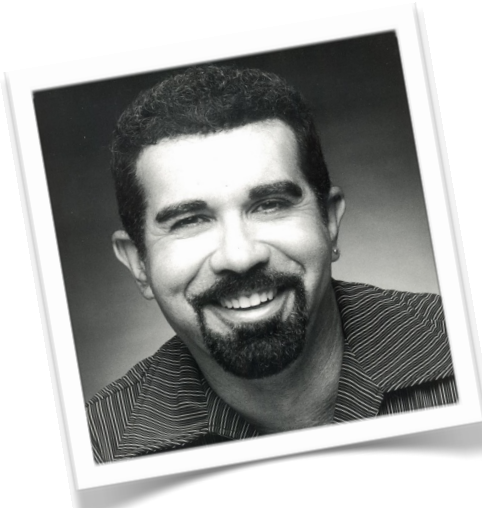
Gems from the Holiday Party
 Our Holiday Party at Chan's Chinese Restaurant in San Marcos was attended by many members and their spouses.
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Member of the Year
 Helge Weissig was presented with the 2016 POS Member of the Year Award for his contributions to the Society.
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Calendar of Events
 The last of this winter's shows and the first events of the spring are coming up soon. Mark your calendars!
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Monthly Meeting • Wednesday, January 4, 2017 • 6:30 pm



Thomas Mirinda

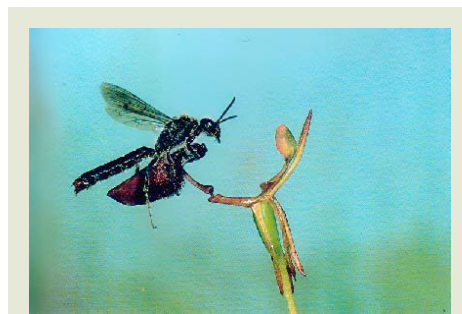
The Mysteries of Orchid Pollination

We are delighted to welcome Thomas Mirinda of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C., as our first speaker of 2017. Tom is a highly sought after orchid specialist who is very knowledgeable on many facets of orchid biology as well as on numerous classes of orchids. Tom's presentation will be focusing on the

various adaptations that orchids have developed as pollination strategies, including food, brood site, pollen, and mating deceptions, pseudo-copulation, co-evolution with pollinators, and other methods of species isolation.

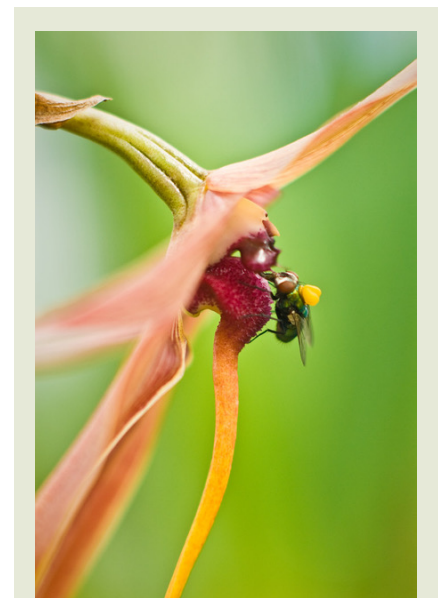
For the last 16 years, Tom has been the Orchid Collection Specialist at the Smithsonian Institution, caring for and curating an extremely diverse collection of orchid species and hybrids from all over the world. He has been active in developing and producing huge

Tom was trained originally as a Marine Biologist, but made the switch to plants and orchids in his late 20s while living in Hawaii. Since then he has worked with orchids at the NY Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden and an extensive private collection at Greentree Estate in Long Island. Tom was also the floor manager at the New York



Drakaea flower with wasp

educational exhibits using the collection plants and visited by hundreds of thousands of visitors.



A fly on a Bulbophyllum Flower

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PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

We hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas Holiday and want to wish you and your family a Happy New Year for 2017.

The POS ended 2016 with its annual Holiday Dinner at Chin's San Marcos. As usual, we enjoyed a wonderful meal and conversation. Each member took home a blooming orchid from one of our Hawaiian growers, Newman's Nursery. Many of our members look forward to this event. In fact, one member stated that she looks forward to the meal almost as much as the rest of the monthly programs.

At the dinner, the 2017 Board was introduced and the 2016 Board was recognized for their contributions during the year. We also awarded the Member of the Year Award and the Orchid Digest Diamond Award. The recipients and their contributions are described later in the Newsletter.

We anticipate and are planning to have an equally successful 2017 with interesting and excellent speakers from outside our area and local experts as well. With the larger number of newer members, some beginners, we will plan a Culture Class in March to help them advance their skills in repotting, watering, pest control, etc.

Learning also comes from Orchid Caravans to member's homes or Orchid Nurseries to hear and see what the experts do, so we will plan on one or two Caravans this year. We are seeking a volunteer to help coordinate these events.

As most of our members know, successful orchid growing is not an easy task. It requires us to be cognizant of the changes in growing conditions during the year. In the winter we do not need to water as frequently. On the other hand, this time of

the year means more slugs and snails to contend with. We also learn that some of the products we used to buy are no longer available. One of the more effective products that I have used for years, "That's It"

(metalddehyde), is no longer available in some or most stores. So we need to learn how to use different products.

Consult the American Orchid Society (AOS) website for great culture tips for this time of the year. This website is easy to navigate and has a section titled "Seasonal Orchid Care" with specific tips for January and February, March and April, etc. Also consult our own website for local monthly growing tips.

We suggest you also ask questions, before or after the meeting or during the break, to other experienced members if you have a specific question or problem. This is one of the best ways to learn.

As we have stated in previous newsletters and meetings, we need more member involvement and help in planning events, auctions, providing input, etc. So please do not hesitate getting more involved; your contributions are critical to maintaining a strong organization.

Finally, we continue to welcome input from our members at any time via email, phone or in person (anadzan@mac.com, 760-529-5814 or billtcwong@att.net, 760-931-0502). Feel free to contact either of us, as we are here to serve you.

Best wishes for the New Year,

Alex Nadzan and Bill Wong
Co-Presidents, POS

Please Renew Today!

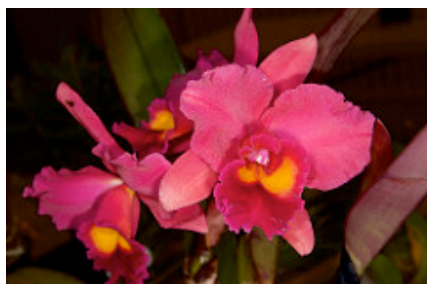
Your membership dues support the society's meetings and activities and are an essential contribution to POS. If you are a new member, please fill out [the membership form](#). All others,



please simply mail your 2017 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.

Vidya Sirsi Receives the Orchid Digest Diamond Award of Excellence

Congratulations to Vidya Sirsi for receiving the Orchid Digest Diamond Award of Excellence at our Holiday Party in December. Vidya also will receive a year's complementary subscription to Orchid Digest magazine from POS, which is a new addition to the award this year. The award announcement will be published internationally in one of the 2017 issues of Orchid Digest magazine and will read as follows: "The Palomar Orchid Society (POS) takes great honor and pleasure in announcing Vidya Sirsi as the 2016 recipient of the Orchid Digest Diamond Award of Excellence. Vidya has served as Treasurer of the POS for several years. Many, if not most of her contributions, are made behind the scenes, unnoticed by most members.



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Gems From The Holiday Party



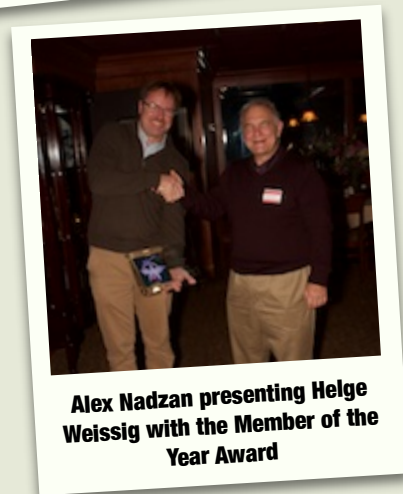
Phyllis Prestia & Alex Nadzan



Bill Wong presenting Vidya Sirsi with the Orchid Diamond Award



The 2017 POS Officers



Alex Nadzan presenting Helge Weissig with the Member of the Year Award

Full album at 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.

Tom Mirenda continued

International Orchid Show for many years during this period. For the last 11 years, Tom has contributed two columns each month for ORCHIDS magazine, the bulletin of the American Orchid Society, and he is developing a new book based on those writings.



Dichaea glauca

Tom travels frequently around the US and internationally, making presentations to diverse audiences, from scientists to the general public, about orchid ecology, pollination biology, and strategies for orchid conservation. He is passionate about seeking collaboration between the worlds of Botanic Gardens, the hobbyist community, commercial growers and scientists to work together toward the goal of protecting orchids and their habitats. Currently working on a project to coordinate and centralize North American orchid conservation efforts, Tom hopes to extend the influence to other parts of the world where orchids are imperiled.

Tom's visit is being co-hosted by POS and the SDCOS. Accordingly, he will speak on "Phalaenopsis Species, Ecology



Dracula flower with flies

Informs Culture!" on Tuesday, January 3 to SDCOS in Balboa Park. POS members are welcome to attend this talk as well.

Vidya Sirsi continued

She efficiently manages the Society's finances and ensures the financials are monitored and balanced. She handles all banking transactions for the Society. Vidya makes sure all expenditures are paid in a timely manner, including the payment of speaker fees and plant tables, reimbursements to members for expenses incurred and other expenditures as they occur. She can be seen at every meeting writing out checks to members and officers and speakers. Vidya is also one of the first members to volunteer for numerous POS activities including the planning and execution of



orchid displays for orchid shows. She actively participates in the POS Annual Orchid Auction and fills in for our membership chair when others are unavailable. Vidya interacts with both members and visitors at monthly meetings and is friendly and helpful to all. She is a true asset and valued member of our Society and we are pleased to honor her with the Orchid Digest Diamond Award of Excellence."



2016 Member of the Year Award

At the December Holiday Dinner, Helge Weissig was presented with the POS Member of the Year Award for his excellent service to the society over the past year. This is the second time Helge received the award, the first time being in 2012. Helge has been an essential member of the society serving as our Newsletter Editor, photographer and publisher for several years. He does an excellent job with it and our newsletter is considered as one of the best orchid society publications. Helge also regularly assists to set up at meetings and is our computer and video troubleshooting expert at meetings and for our auctions. He accomplishes this in addition to having a very busy work and family schedule, which he manages to balance well. We are very fortunate to have him in our society and POS is honored to have Helge Weissig as the 2016 Member of the Year.

December Judging Report

There were 3 orchids presented for judging, 2 were awarded.



Miltoniopsis Bleuana 'Shawnee'
Exhibited by Deborah Halliday
Awarded AM/AOS 80 points



**Rlc. San Diego Hot Spots x
Blc Sun Spots 'Arnie'**
Exhibited by Arnold Gum
Awarded HCC/AOS, 76 points

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

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

Orchids

Presented by the
San Diego County Orchid Society

January 28-29

Saturday Noon - 5 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

Free Admission

Show and Sale
in the Park



sdorchids.com
#SDOrchids

72nd SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW



Mystacidium cabense 'Carrie Chu' CCE-FCC/AOS

Orchid Mystique

Friday March 17 - Sunday March 19, 2017

The Editor's Corner



Tom Miranda's upcoming talk reminded me of the story of "Darwin's moth" (*Xanthopan morgani*) with its extremely long proboscis. Darwin, in 1862, had received a series of orchids from a British grower, which included an *Angraecum sesquipedale* in bloom. A truly amazed Darwin wrote to a friend about this flower's unusually long nectary "I have just received such a Box full from Mr Bateman with the astounding *Angraecum sesquipedalia* [sic] with a nectary a foot long. Good Heavens what insect can suck it?", and, a few days later, in a second letter he suggested "in Madagascar there must be moths with probosces capable of extension to a length of between ten and eleven inches [25.4–27.9cm]". It took 130 years to confirm this hypothesis when in 1992, *X. morgani* was observed feeding on *A. sesquipedale* in the wild. Not coincidentally, 'sesquipedale' is Latin for 1 1/2 feet.

Do you have any orchid related stories to share? Your comments, suggestions, and/or contributions to this newsletter are very much appreciated! Please email them to newsletter@palomarorchid.org.

Happy Growing!

2017 POS Officers

Alex Nadzan & Bill Wong — Co-President
Tom Wisniewski & Alex Nadzan — Co-1st Vice President/Programs
Marita Hoyt & Jerry Spahn — 2nd Vice President/Raffle
Sandi Sanquist — 3rd Vice President/Membership
Frank Vogel — Secretary
Vidya Sirsi — Treasurer
Lisa Humphreys, Maryanne Kind, & Carl Wood — 2nd Year Trustees
Susie Johnston, Suzie Sandore, & Cher Whelan — 1st Year Trustees
Frank Vogel — Publicity
Helge Weissig & Ivan Allen — Newsletter & Website Editors

Contact Us

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Carlsbad CA 92013

Email
newsletter@palomarorchid.org

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

Upcoming Events

January 3, 2017
 Orchid Judging Center
 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

SDCOS General Meeting
sdorchids.com

January 4, 2017
 POS General Meeting
 Pavilion at Lake San Marcos
palomarorchid.org

January 18, 2017
 SDCCS General Meeting
 Pavilion at Lake San Marcos

January 20, 2017
 Orchid Odyssey
 San Diego Zoo
sandiegozoo.org

January 28 & 29, 2017
 Winter Orchids In The Park
 San Diego County Orchid Society
sdorchids.com

February 1, 2016
 POS General Meeting
 Pavilion at Lake San Marcos
palomarorchid.org

February 7, 2016
 Orchid Judging Center
 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

SDCOS General Meeting
sdorchids.com

February 15, 2017
 SDCCS General Meeting
 Pavilion at Lake San Marcos

February 17, 2017
 Orchid Odyssey
 San Diego Zoo
sandiegozoo.org

March 1, 2016
 POS General Meeting
 Pavilion at Lake San Marcos
palomarorchid.org

March 7, 2016
 Orchid Judging Center
 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

SDCOS General Meeting
sdorchids.com

March 15, 2017
 SDCCS General Meeting
 Pavilion at Lake San Marcos

March 17, 2017
 Orchid Odyssey
 San Diego Zoo
sandiegozoo.org

March 17 - 19, 2017
 72nd Annual Santa Barbara
 International Orchid Show
sborchidshow.com

April 4, 2017
 Orchid Judging Center
 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

SDCOS General Meeting
sdorchids.com

April 5, 2017
 POS General Meeting
 Pavilion at Lake San Marcos
palomarorchid.org

April 19, 2017
 SDCCS General Meeting
 Pavilion at Lake San Marcos

April 21, 2017
 Orchid Odyssey
 San Diego Zoo
sandiegozoo.org

Orchid Auction
 South Bay Orchid Society
southbayorchidsociety.com

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

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

