



# Palomar Orchid Society

## Dates to Remember:

- **March 2, Wednesday**  
**POS General Meeting**
- March 4-6, 2001  
Pacific Orchid Exposition  
San Francisco
- March 5-6, 2001  
South Bay Orchid Society Show  
Torrance
- March 11-13  
Santa Barbara Show
- March 25-27, 2001  
San Diego Show

## March Meeting - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 2

Dr. Merle Robboy, POS Member

“A Sensate Visit to Guatemala”

According to Webster’s dictionary, the meaning of *sensate* is “relating to through the senses.” This month Dr. Merle Robboy will take us on a trip to Guatemala to learn about the country and the orchids that are found there. This will not be the usual type of presentation. Our senses will be awed by the beauty of both countryside and flowers.

It is so fortunate to have Merle as a member of our society. His knowledge and experience is a great resource for all our members. Dr. Merle Robboy is not only well-known within our own society, but he is a noted hobbyist known throughout Southern California!

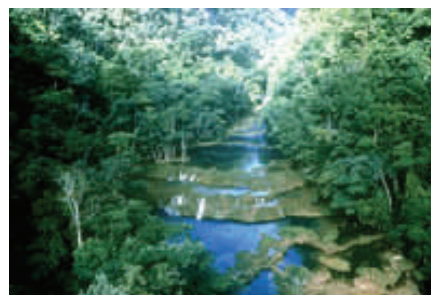


Dr. Robboy speaking about one of his orchids.

A practicing gynecologist, Dr. Robboy is known in the Southern California orchid community both as an orchid lecturer for the American Orchid Society (AOS) and for his encyclopedic knowledge of orchids. A former president of the Newport Harbor Orchid Society and the Southern California Species Society, Dr. Robboy has been growing orchids for over thirty years.

His extensive orchid collection comprises approximately 1500 plants and reflects his strong interest in orchid species. He has traveled and viewed orchids in the wild in Central and South America. In addition to orchids, Dr. Robboy has a wide interest in other tropical plant types and serves as a judge in the American Dahlia Society.

The last time Merle spoke he took us to Costa Rica. This time we get to visit Guatemala. This is a great presentation that you don’t want to miss!

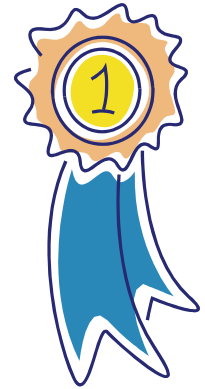


### The National Flower of Guatemala “Monja Blanca”

The “Monja Blanca” or White Nun Orchid (*Lycaste skinneri* var. *alba*) was designated the national flower of Costa Rica by General Jorge I on February 11, 1934. The white flower symbolizes beauty, peace, and art.

When the Monja Blanca was designated the national flower, everyone wanted one, and the flower soon became very rare in the wild. Although there are a few places outside of Guatemala where it has been commercialized, it is not allowed to be commercialized in Guatemala itself.

## March Culture Class 6:30 pm Preparing Orchids for a Show By Renate Schmidt



It's show time in the Orchid World and many of us would like to put our orchids in a display or take them for judging. How do you do this? What do you need to do to prepare your plant for judging?

Our own member and AOS judge, Renate Schmidt, will be taking you through the steps to prepare your orchids for use in a display or for judging in a show. Learn from someone who knows! Be at this Culture Class at 6:30 sharp!

For each petal on the  
shamrock  
This brings a wish your  
way -  
Good health, good luck,  
and happiness  
For today and every day

-author unknown

*Did you know.....*

*That every newsletter printed and sent by mail costs the society up \$2.00? These costs add up fast!*

*Please, if you have an email address, receive your newsletter via email. Let Sandi or Renee know your email address and you will help the society's general fund. Thank you.*



**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



May your blessings  
outnumber  
The shamrocks that  
grow,  
And may trouble  
avoid you  
Wherever you go.

-Irish Blessing

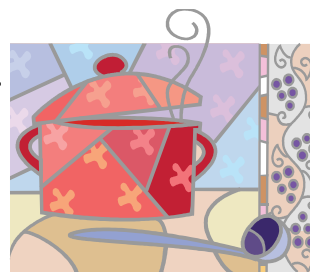
*From the  
Refreshment Committee:*

Remember: All members with last names beginning with **L, M, N, O and P** share at break time!

We appreciate everyone's effort in supplying our meeting with goodies.

It makes for a great meeting all around!

Thank you!



# WELCOME

We welcome 3 new members  
to our society:

**Pamela Palisoul  
Carolyn Greenbaum  
Mary Josepho**

**We are so glad you have  
joined us!**

## President's Message

Dear Board and POS Members,

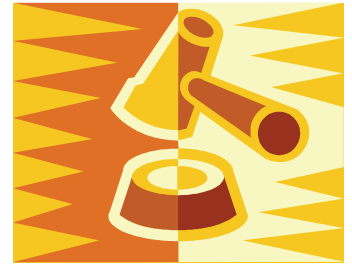
Desperate plea! Renate Schmidt and I are asking board and all general members who have some time to help out to be on the POS Display Committee for the San Diego show at the end of March. Some folks came to mind including Cher, Janet and Pat Schmidt. Could the three of you please help out on this committee? It will not be rocket science, and no experience is needed, just some creative ideas and enthusiasm, which we are in need of fast.

Also, any POS member who is willing to help out, please contact me or Renate Schmidt. We will set up a short committee meeting at Renate's house to discuss the design of the display.

We had one generous volunteer to do leg work and provide a van transport. Anyone else who can help with setup and transport please let us know soon.

There are 5 weeks left from the date to prepare a

display for the show which will be the last weekend March. The theme is something to do with "magic" and "orchids".



Also, any members anticipating blooms around the mid or end of March, please keep the display in mind. We need anything anyone can muster to put into our display. We want to wow the crowd with our display and be well-represented as an orchid society. You may contact me (760) 604-4687 or Renate Schmidt if you have plants to put into the display. We will arrange for a central location to drop off plants for the display to be announced.

I will mention this again at the March meeting.

Happy Growing!

Gil Ho



Did you know.....?

.....that we have supplies available in small quantities for members to purchase at each meeting.....

We understand that sometimes all you need is a small bag or a small quantity of something, but when you try to buy it, all you can find are large to huge size products! So, to help out our members, we have available at each meeting small quantities of fertilizer, bark, 4 inch pots, and plant labels.

We pass on the large quantity prices to you, so check it out -- it may be just what you need! Available at each meeting.

To the POS members from the Newsletter Editor:

I would like to apologize for the delay in getting out the newsletter the past couple of months. My mother-in-law has been very ill and I have been her caregiver for the past two months. She has taken a turn for the worse and was put into ICU this week.

I just want everyone to know the delay is not the fault of Sandi, Renate, Gil, or anyone else. They are doing their job. Thank you,

Melana Davison

**March/April Checklist**  
**from the American Orchid Society**  
*...by Ned Nash and James Rose*



American Orchid Society  
 Education. Conservation. Research.

### **Cattleya**

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

### **Cymbidium**

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

### **Dendrobium (Australian)**

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group -- bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* -- is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

### **Paphiopedilum**

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

### Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

### Pleurothallids

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

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## The Benefits Of AOS Membership

Whether a beginner or an expert orchid grower, you will find membership in the American Orchid Society a truly rewarding experience. You'll join over 16,000 others worldwide who share a passion for orchids, as well as furthering conservation and research efforts for these wondrous plants. And you'll enjoy a wealth of

- Monthly subscription to Orchids magazine
- Free and discounted admission to [more than 200 botanical gardens and arboreta](#)
- Receive the annual Orchid Source Directory detailing orchid suppliers worldwide
- Access to online orchid information and features available only to our members at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)
- 10% discount on purchases in the Orchid Emporium or on-line at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)
- Discount on back issues of Orchids magazine and on American Orchid Society published books
- Reduced processing fees for American Orchid Society judged plant and flower awards

See our AOS Representative, Gil Ho, for more information on how to join!



American Orchid Society  
Education. Conservation. Research.

# Upcoming Events

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 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



## Orchids at The Flower Fields®

April 22-24, 2011

### Orchids at The Flower Fields®

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

A unique orchid shopping experience with millions of ranunculus blooms as a backdrop. There will be over 20 vendors with orchids from around the world, thousands of plants for sale! Musical entertainment by Glancing Love, a musical fusion of gypsy, Celtic, and new world.

General Admission, \$10, Seniors, \$9,  
Children 3-10 years, \$5

## SAN DIEGO ZOO

### Orchid Odyssey

Third Friday of each month (March 18 this month)  
First Sunday of March, June, September, and December

*The Orchid Greenhouse is open on a Sunday this month -  
Sunday, March 6! Go see it!*

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.



66<sup>TH</sup> SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL

# Orchid Show

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



MARCH 11-13  
2011 9 AM - 5 PM

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](http://WWW.SBORCHIDSHOW.COM)



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

Next Meeting:  
Wednesday,  
April 6



## 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 April 6, 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

**Quail Gardens Botanical Gardens Judging Center:** First Monday each month, 7:00 pm. Encinitas. Bring plants in to be judged.