

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

May 2013

#### **A Monthly Publication**

#### **President Message**

Alex Nadzan remarks that we need to begin planning for the July transition of the meeting to Lake San Marcos and the auction in August.

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#### **May To Do List**

The fourth installment of our monthly feature, a To Do list tailored for growing orchids in Southern California Page 2



#### Gems from the Last Meeting

Harry Phillips gave an entertaining and informative presentation on various orchid culture aspects.

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#### **Calendar of Events**

POS Caravan to Don Rosenstock's Home in June and the POS Annual Orchid Auction in August are our next big events.

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May Meeting • Wednesday, May 1, 2013 • 6:30 pm

## Miki Batchman

# Patterned and Peloric Cymbidiums

We are pleased to welcome Miki Batchman as our speaker for May. Miki and her brother Karl took over responsibility for Casa de las Orquideas in 2011, which was founded by their father, the late Loren Batchman in 1976. As many of you know, Casa de las Orquideas is a small family-owned orchid nursery specializing in cool-growing genera such as cymbidiums and zygopetalums, located in the



Cym. Arts 'Berts Delight' HCC/AOS B/CSA



Cym. Isle "Flamingo"

coastal Solana Beach. Miki Batchman has been doing the lab work for the business, as well as display design, for several years, while Karl has managed the general aspects of the nursery. Miki will be speaking about patterened and peloric cymbidiums, which is a specialty of the nursery as a result of her father's extensive hybridizing efforts. It should be a

very interesting talk. She also will provide plants for the opportunity table.



Cym. Pepper's Fire "Fiesta" AD/CSA



Cvm. Rocky Creek "Gotcha" AM/AOS B/CSA

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May represents the height of the Spring orchid blooming and growing season as a result of warmer weather, longer days and increased light intensity. It is one of my favorite times of the year in spite of all the work involved in watering, fertilizing, and repotting my collection.

Although it is only May, we need to begin planning for our upcoming annual auction on August 3. At the May meeting, I will solicit volunteers to start the planning process and ask that someone to step forward to head up the committee. We should review some of the shortcomings of our last auction and address the several suggestions we received for improvements so it will run even smoother and be more successful than last year. I already have recruited my granddaughter, Alexa, to assist, since she previously trained and was a big help at the Cymbidium Society's auction earlier this year. Everyone can begin participating now by making a few divisions of your overgrown plants or identifying extra plants that you might be willing to part with. I have a section set aside in my shade house for such plants.

In addition, we need to plan for the transition of our meetings to Lake San Marcos beginning with the July meeting. Accordingly, mid May to address our needs for this move.



This month's speaker is Miki Batchman of Casa de las Orquideas, who will talk on "Patterned and Peloric Cymbidiums". Miki is Loren Batchman's daughter, who along with her brother, Karl, took over management of the nursery following Loren's untimely passing. She will present some of the most current novel cymbidiums developed by Loren and also provide plants for the opportunity table, which should be a very nice one. We are looking forward to her talk.

Wishing everyone a successful growing season and fun Spring!



Alex Nadzan President, POS

## May To Do List

## General

- Increases in day length and drastic changes in light levels this month may require repositioning of plants to avoid overexposure to sun. Although cattleyas, dendrobiums and cymbidiums thrive in high light levels, phalaenopisis, miltonopsis, masdevallias and other lower light plants can easily burn. For most orchids, one wants to have light grassy green leaves. Dark green leaves suggest too little light, while yellow colored or red tinted leaves usually indicate too much light.
- Increasing winds result in additional dust build up on your orchid leaves.
   This provides the perfect environment for harboring mites. Treat accordingly.
- As your flower spikes grow taller avoid changing the orchids orientation to the light to avoid flowers being twisted on the stems. For paphs, do not stake to early or the stems will not be as strong and flower will be in "nodding" position.



- May should be the height of growth and repotting season as new roots emerge from pseudobulbs or fans. Try to repot when roots are small and just beginning to emerge in order to minimize damage to soft tissues and avoid transplant shock, giving plants a head start in the growing season.
- Repot when orchids have begun to over grow their pots and/or when media has started to break down. Also consider repotting plants that have been in pots for 2 or more years and are existing, but not thriving. Repotting can revitalize and provide new vigor to such plants.
- The repotting process can be overwhelming so set aside plants and repot a few every day to ease the process.
- As you repot and divide your plants, set aside any extra divisions for the upcoming auction in August. It will prevent overcrowding of your benches and make someone else happy to get a piece of your prized plant.
- Follow good hygiene practices as outlined last month to minimize transmission of pests and viruses.
- During warm weather, pests and diseases can proliferate very quickly and spread throughout the collection. Carefully inspect plants and treat early to minimize spread.

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## Membership News

April meeting's speaker was Harry Phillips of Andy's Orchids. Harry spoke on various culture conditions and the reality versus expectations of orchid growing. The meeting was attended by 36 members and one guest.

2013 POS membership roster is now available email Cathy Belt at cjdelmas@juno.com for your roster. A few memberships rosters will

be available at May meeting. If you do not have an email address, call Cathy to request your membership roster be mailed to you.

We recently changed our PO Box address. Please send any postal mail to Palomar Orchid Society, PO Box 130774, Carlsbad CA 92013.

## General Meeting Information

The Palomar Orchid Society regularly meets the FIRST WEDNESDAY of every month at

the <u>Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320 Monroe,</u> <u>Carlsbad</u>.

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. Meetings start promptly at 6:30 pm.

## **Upcoming Events**

#### May 1, 2013

POS General Meeting www.palomarorchid.org

#### May 4, 2013

Granite Hills Orchids Spring Fling www.granitehillsorchids.com

#### May 7, 2013

Orchid Judging Center Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

SDCOS General Meeting www.sdorchids.com

#### May 15, 2013

SDCCS General Meeting

#### May 16, 2013

San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists Annual Auction www.sgvoh.org

#### May 17, 2013

San Diego Zoo Orchid Odyssee events.sandiegozoo.org

### May 18, 2013

Casa de las Orquideas Annual Seedling Sale www.orquideas.com

#### June 2, 2013

POS Caravan Don Rosentstock's Home www.palomarorchid.org

#### June 4, 2013

Orchid Judging Center Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

SDCOS General Meeting www.sdorchids.com

#### June 5, 2013

POS General Meeting www.palomarorchid.org

**June 19, 2013** 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

#### **San Diego Cymbidium Society**

Regular meetings 3rd Wednesday of each month, September-June, 7pm, San Diego Botanic Garden, Ecke Building, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024 Bill Wong (760) 931-0502 billtcwong@att.net



9 am to 4 pm May 18, 2013 in person only!

170 S. Nardo Ave. Solana Beach, CA 92075 858.755.7572 www.orquideas.com casa@orquideas.com







## Caravan: Don Rosenstock's Home

Join us for a visit of Don Rosenstock's home on Sunday, June 2, 2013 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Don grows numerous *Cattleyas*, *Dendrobiums* and *Laelias* in his greenhouse, including plants he has collected during his world travels. You will enjoy seeing his tropical garden, the large koi pond, and the Japanese garden at the back of the property. From there, you can enjoy an unobstructed view of nearby mountains. Don will have orchids and other



blooming plants (beautiful *Phalangias* and *Bromeliads* as well as *Cycads*) and some orchid cuttings for sale. You are invited to bring snacks to share. We will meet near his home to carpool in. Sign up at the meeting or call Cher at (760) 599-0245 or Sandi at (760) 918-2408 to let us know if you plan to attend.



## May To Do List cont.

- Cautiously use any pesticide, fungicide or chemical. Always use the lowest prescribed dose and avoid spraying flowers and buds. Recommended dosing for orchids can sometimes be found on the manufacturer's website or on various orchid forums (such as <u>The Orchid Source</u>)
- More details on specific genera can be found on the <u>AOS website</u>

## Indoors and Greenhouse

- Address higher light levels by adding shade cloth or painting with shading compound to avoid burning sensitive plants.
- Continue to provide good air circulation for indoor plants to discourage diseases and pests such as mealy bugs.
   Treat early to avoid spreading to other plants.
- Increase watering and fertilizer to accommodate the growth spurt during
  this period. 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.
- If you grow your plants inside and have outdoor growing space, move your plants outside for the warm season. Do this especially if your plants are crowded together or your hanging plants drip on the plants below when you water. The humidity and larger temperature differential between day





and night are beneficial for your plants.

#### Outdoors

- Continue to monitor and control snails, slugs and pests during warm weather.
   They can do considerable damage to plants in short order.
- Cattleyas, oncidiums, and dendrobiums should be in full bloom and/or producing new root and bulb growth.
   Increase watering frequency and fertil-

- izer as new growth is observed and repot as appropriate.
- Neofinetias can be repotted at this time especially if they are maintained in sphagnum moss.
- Repot cymbidiums now if they need it after they bloom. You should keep at least 3 growing pseudobulbs and no more than 2 back bulbs per pot.
- Catasetums are coming out of their dry winter rest. New roots should be 3-5 inches long before beginning to water.
   Once you start to water and fertilize, do so regularly as growth will be very rapid all summer. More details on culture can be found on <u>Fred Clarke's</u> website.

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 <a href="mailto:newsletter@palomarorchid.org">newsletter@palomarorchid.org</a>!



#### The Editor's Corner



During a trip to the East coast a couple of weeks ago, I was again reminded about how lucky we are weatherwise here in Southern California. The trees in New England were still completely bare, there was nary a bird to be heard, and only in some protected spots did I see daffodils or crocuses in bloom. That said, on one of the nicer days during my short stay, it very much felt like the buds on the magnolia trees were bursting as I was watching them. By now, things probably are getting into full swing there as well as they are on our orchid benches and in the

greenhouses.

Apropos, did anyone else notice the increasing length of the monthly To Do lists? To my shame, I have to admit that I haven't repotted a single plant yet. I am probably only half-way through the March list and it is almost May. Being a procrastinator will eventually come back to bite me, I know, but I will worry about that later. This weekend, for sure!

As always, any and all contributions to the newsletter or website are very welcome. Please email them to <a href="mailto:newsletter@palomarorchid.org">newsletter@palomarorchid.org</a>. Submission deadline is the 15th of each month.

Happy Growing!

## **POS Officers**

Alex Nadzan — President
John Kidwell — 1st Vice President/Programs
Terri Lofthouse — 2nd Vice President/Raffle
Cathy Belt — 3rd Vice President/Membership
Sandi Sandquist — Secretary
Vidya Sirsi — Treasurer
Merle Robboy, Renate Schmidt,

Warren Stehle — 2nd Year Trustees Carl Lofthouse, Elf Mitton, Vidya Sirsi — 1st Year Trustees Helge Weissig — Newsletter & Website Editor

### Contact Us

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POS News

newsletter@palomarorchid.org

#### Website

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

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