

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**

#### **Board Elections**

The annual election of the POS Board is scheduled for the November General meeting. All members in good standing are invited to cast their ballots

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#### Caravan

This year's last caravan will be a visit to Don Rosentstock's home.

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#### **Masdevallia Culture**

Masdevallias are best known for their showy flowers consisting of sepals fused into a tubelike structure. Their origins in cool, damp environments make them an excellent choice for cool or coastal climates.

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#### **Judging Report**



Results from the monthly judging sessions at the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park

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#### November 2011

#### 15th San Diego International Orchid Fair

Several POS members won first prizes and the Best in Show award went to Anita Spencer!

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Gem's from the last

Have a look at some of

members, a snap-shot

or two of our speakers,

and a short wrap-up of

the beautiful plants

brought in by our

the meeting

Page 6

meeting



#### November Meeting • Wednesday, November 2, 2011 • 7 pm



### The Orchids of the Machu Picchu Sanctuary in Peru

Betty P. Kelepecz

Betty has been an orchid hobbyist in Southern California for going on 30 years. She has grown orchids in Long Beach and Huntington Beach, and, since 2003, in the Point Loma area of San Diego. Betty

started raising orchids in the early 1980's when her husband and co-orchid grower Steve brought home a discarded cutting/ keiki of a red Epidendrum he found in a trash bin in the alley beside their home in Long Beach. He planted the unimpressive and bloomless cutting on a mosscovered rock and confidently predicted that it would bloom beautifully in no time. When the Epidendrum actually did bloom and, in fact, never since has stopped blooming, the disbelieving Betty became an orchid enthusiast and both of their collection of orchids has since grown with the unwavering passion so often accompanying that first orchid discovery.

Betty and Steve grow a large selection of predominantly species orchids. Their more than 800 plants grow outside, in a small greenhouse, and in a recently constructed shade structure. Betty enjoys the challenge of replicating the demanding environments required by species orchids and particularly enjoys the challenge of growing Pleurothallids. Over the last few years she has become a successful *Masdevallia* and *Dracula* grower.

Betty began growing Pleurothallids after she joined the San Diego County Orchid Society in 2005 when she was informed by several members that her home in Point Loma was a good environment for growing her favorite but not yet successfully grown orchid, *Masdevallia veitchiana*. She was also encouraged to join the Society's Species Group.

As a result, Betty began growing *Masdevallias* outside in her yard, under a small

continued on page 4



Masdevallia ignea 'Windflower'
This beautiful specimen grown by Betty
Kelpecz received an AM-AOS award.

It's all about Orchids!

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#### President's Message

Well folks, summer has passed, and we're now into the fall and winter holiday season again. Hope everyone is having a wonderful and safe Halloween time and great orchid growing. Now on to business...as was mentioned at the last meeting in October, we have two voting activities coming up. First, if you haven't put in a nomination for Member of the Year for 2011, please do so promptly by email or phone to myself or to Sandi Sandquist. The Member of the Year will be announced at the holiday party in December. Also, I want to put out a personal plea to all members to please consider a position on the board. We still have several vacancies that need to be filled and the tasks have been compartmentalized to limit the time commitment for each. Please discuss with our nominating committee members, Helge Weissig and Elf Mitton if you have questions about the positions or would like to volunteer for a position.

Also, I want to announce the transition of Newsletter Editor from Melana Davison to Helge Weissig. The board wishes to thank Melana for her years of dedication and service to POS in holding this position and for her excellent, informative and colorful newsletters. We wish her and Jim Davison the best in life, family and orchid growing, and please visit us anytime. And thanks to Helge Weissig for assuming the role of Newsletter Editor.

Hope to see you at the next meeting! Happy Growing!

Gil Ho President, POS

## Caravan: Don Rosenstock's Home

Join us for a visit of Don Rosenstock's home on Saturday, November 19, 2011.

For our last caravan of the year, we will go to Don Rosenstock's home in Valley Center. He grows numerous *Cattleyas* and *Dendrobiums* 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 also have plants for sale. Call Debra at (760) 726-7763 and let her know if you plan to attend.

This is a visit you won't want to miss!

#### **Board Elections**

With All Hallows soon behind us, it has also become time again to elect the Officers of the society as stipulated by the by-laws. Accordingly, a nominating committee was appointed by our President Gil Ho at the October general meeting.

The nominating committee members for the 2012 board elections are Elf Mitton and Helge Weissig. For most of the positions mandated by the bylaws, the current office holders have agreed to serve another year if elected: President (Gilbert Ho), First Vice President (Alex Nazdan), Second Vice President (Debra Funakoshi), Third Vice President (Renee Daly), Treasurer (Christina Hsing), Secretary (Lena Shiroma), and one of three trustees to be elected (Merle Robboy). This leaves the two additional Trustee positions to fill. Renate Schmidt has graciously agreed to continue to serve as trustee if elected and any additional candidates will be announced at the meet-

Due to the shortened time table, we will also be looking for nominations from the floor for all positions at the general meeting. Trustee duties are typically fairly light, but the other officers are looking to them for help with their responsibilities. Particularly, Renee will need help with membership, Alex with coordinating the speakers and raffle donations, and Lena with correspondence (for example sending out Thank You notes). In addition, there are the du-

ties that would fall to the positions of event coordinator (volunteer sign-up sheets for fairs, events, and help with the holiday dinner) and publicity (sending ads for events and general advertising).

#### Member of the Year Award

The Member of the Year Award will be voted on at the next meeting.

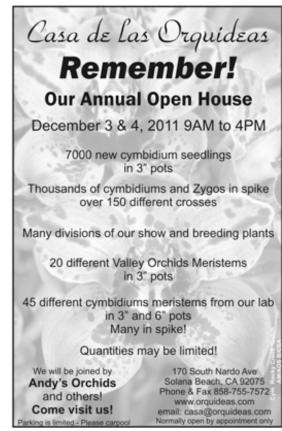
Each year we honor the member that

made the greatest current contribution to the success of Palomar Orchid Society. At our upcoming meeting in November we



will be placing our votes for this honor. All current members are eligible except for last year's winner -- Sandi Sandquist.

Ballots will be available for voting at the November meeting. Please come to the meeting to vote for the Outstanding Member of the Year. The winner will be announced and the award will be presented at the Holiday Party in December.





Masdevallia Culture

The following is the Masdevallia web culture sheet available at www.aos.org. Most Pleurothallids require similar conditions.

Masdevallia is a genus of some 350 species usually from cool, misty mountains of the New World Tropics. Masdevallias are best known for their showy flowers consisting of sepals fused into a tubelike structure. Their origins in cool, damp environments make them an excellent choice for cool or coastal climates. Most species and hybrids are compact enough so that they can be easily accommodated on windowsills or under lights.

**Light** should be like that given for *Phalaenopsis* and *Paphiopedilums* —1,000 to 1,500 foot-

candles. *Masdevallias* can be kept in light intensities up to 2,500 foot-candles if the growing area can be kept cool. Plants grow well under standard fluorescent fixtures and can be summered outside in shade. In the home, place in an east or shaded south window or under artificial lights.

Temperatures should be cool to intermediate. The plants will grow slowly and eventually expire if temperatures remain high for long periods. Cool evenings help reduce heat stress during the day. Nights of 55 to 60 F are ideal; day temperatures should be 65 to 75 F. Evaporative cooling pads or humidifiers are useful in maintaining these conditions. Avoid day temperatures higher than 80 F.

Water is critical for these plants because they have minimal water-storage tissue. Roots should be allowed to become almost dry before watering again; if drainage is adequate, constantly moist roots are fine. Good-quality water low in dissolved solids is imperative for success.

Humidity is an important factor in the successful culture of *Masdevallias*. The ideal range is 60 to 80 percent. In the home, set the plants on trays of gravel partially filled with water. In the greenhouse or enclosed growing area, humidity can be increased by use of a humidifier, while evaporative coolers help raise humidity and lower temperatures. If plants are summered outdoors, automatic misters under the benches are recommended as is more frequent soaking.

**Fertilize** regularly with a dilute solution while plants are actively growing. Applications of 30-10-10-type formulations twice a month are ideal for plants in a bark-based medium. A 20-20-20-type formulation should be used for plants in other media. If weather is overcast, applications once a month are sufficient.

**Potting** is best done in the winter or early spring, before the heat of summer arrives or as new roots are produced. Plants must be repotted frequently, every one to two years, before the potting mix decomposes. A fine-grade potting medium, such as fine fir bark or tree-fern fiber, is often used with plastic pots. Sphagnum moss is also used, especially for establishing plants. The plant should be positioned in the pot so that the newest growth is farthest from the edge of the container, allowing the maximum number of new growths without crowding the vessel. Plants growing in many directions may be positioned in the center of the pot. Spread the roots over a cone of potting medium and fill in around the roots with potting medium to the junction of the roots and the plant. Firm the medium around the roots.

> Keep humidity high and the potting medium slightly dry until new roots form.



Epi. ciliare 'Greenstar'

**Exhibited by Peter Philan** 

### October Judging Report

There were 2 orchids presented for judging and one was awarded.



Concerning Judging Sessions

The Pacific South Judging Center conducts each month three judging sessions in the Los Angeles and San Diego area. They are:

#### San Diego

Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104 1st Tuesday of the month at 6 pm

#### San Marino

**Huntington Botanical Gardens** 2nd Saturday of the month at 10 am

#### **Long Beach**

Whaley Park 4th Saturday of the month at 7 pm

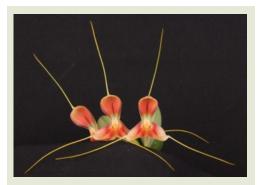
Visitors, with or without plants, are welcome anytime. If a member of the POS wishes to have flowering plants judged at one of these sessions but is unable to take the plants to the judging facility, please contact one of the following AOS judges:

- Rohrl, Helmut (La Jolla) (858) 452-0976
- Tuskes, Ann and Paul (Clairemont) (858) 274-5829

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

#### Betty P. Kelepecz cont.

overhang that partially shaded the side patio area of the house. This particular location has become a perfect microclimate for shade-loving, cool-growing orchids and Betty's Masdevallia collection has since grown to 150 plants, almost all of them species. In addition, she grows more than 60 species of Draculas and several of her Masdevallias and Draculas have been awarded American Orchid Society awards.



Masd. xanthina 'Windflower', AM AOS 82pts



**Oncidium Twinkle - Betty's plant has won** several awards, the latest at the SDCOS Winter Show in January. This cross will grow outdoors year-round in many areas.

In recent years, Betty has established a small but quite functional orchid flasking lab in her home where she has been hobby flasking and raising predominantly species orchids for about three years.

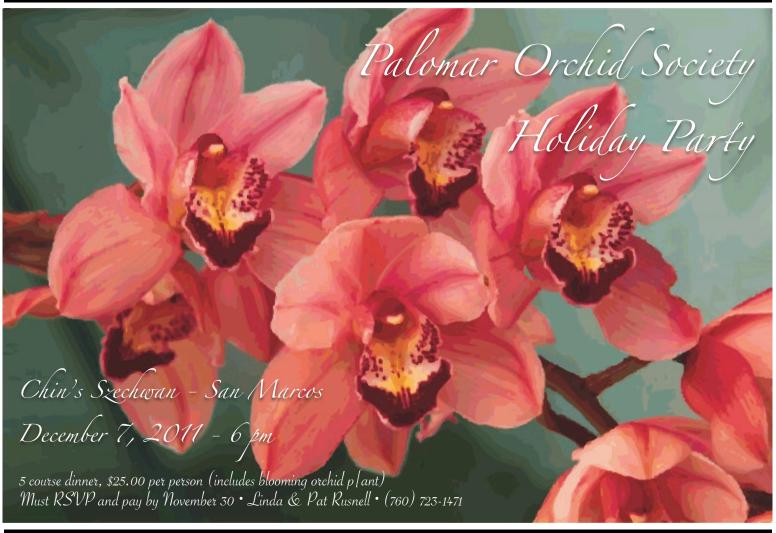
Betty's talk will be a combination travel log/orchid talk about the orchids of the Machu Picchu sanctuary in Peru where many of her favorite orchids are endemic. Betty will also conduct this month's culture class starting at 6:30 pm. She will speak about growing Masdevallias and Draculas and other cool-growing Pleurothallids.



Betty's Dracula bella 'Windflower', another **AM AOS awarded plant** 

plant photos by Betty and Steve Kelepecz

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY



#### Dear POS Members:



It has been my honor and pleasure to have prepared the newsletter for POS for over ten years. Jim and I have fond memories of our time on the Board and as active mem-

bers in the society. And doing the newsletter for the past five years from Miami, we kept in touch with all the goings on of the society even from afar.

The time has now come to turn over this duty to Helge. And it is obvious by this

issue, he is a fine choice to carry on the high standards that you have come to expect in a newsletter.

I would like to thank Sandi Sandquist for always making sure everyone turned in their appointed articles to me, Renate and Alex for supplying speaker info, Renee for keeping me informed with new members and refreshment duties, Gil for his President's message each month, Debra for her wonderful photography talents, and Phyllis for monthly judging center photos and info. These people faithfully supplied information I needed to pull the newsletter together.

It is sad to let something go that I have been involved with for such a long time,

but a new chapter in our orchid life is requiring more time from us. We were recently promoted to AOS Probationary Judges, and as such, expect to do more traveling to orchid shows, especially internationally. We will be judging our first out of country orchid show in Coban, Guatemala at the end of November and are very excited about this new adventure.

Our door in Miami is open to any Palomar member, so please let us know if you are in the area. Thank you all for being such wonderful orchid friends!

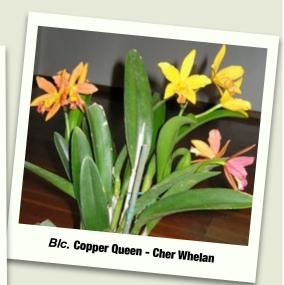
Melana Davison

### Gem's From The Last Meeting





C. bowringiana var. coerulea 'Blue Angel' AM/AOS - Alex Nadzan









**Culture Class speaker, Peter Ngyen** 



Photos by Debra Funakoshi

#### Meeting Wrap-up

Mary Gerritsen presented a very engaging travel report from her 2009 trip to the states of Sabah and Sarawak on Borneo. Her presentation followed a culture class by Peter Ngyen, who spoke about his success growing Cattleyas and almost all his other orchids in a medium made up of four parts charcoal, four parts perlite, and one part peat moss. Many thanks to both speakers!

A warm welcome also to our guest Carol Ann Dentz who attended the meeting.

#### General Meeting Information

The Palomar Orchid Society meets the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of every month at the <u>Carlsbad</u> 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. Culture Class starts at 6:30 pm. The regular meeting begins

at 7:00 pm. The next regular meeting will be on January 4, 2012. The annual dinner and installation of the POS officers will be held December 7, 2011.



Angraecum Longiscott 'Lea' AM/AOS -Jerry Spencer

Best of Section Orchid Specimen; Best Ama teur Cultural Award; First place, Orchid Specimen Plants



C. Chocolate Drop 'Volcano Queen' -Alex Nadzan First place, Cattleya Alliance Hybrids - Compact Cattleya Hybrids



Phyllis Prestia, Anita Spencer, Elf Mitton and Gil Ho manning the POS booth

### San Diego International Orchid Fair



Ansellia africana 'Waunakee' AM/AOS -Loren Batchman First place, Orchid Specimen Plants



C. Laurie Lynn Westenberger -Phyllis Prestia First place, Cattleya Alliance Hybrids -Standard Cattleya Hybrids



Sophronitis perrinii 'Nitz' - Anita Spencer Best of Show; Best of Section - Orchid Species; First place, Orchid Species



B/c. Greenwich 'Elmhurst' AM/AOS -Lena Shiroma First place, Cattleya Alliance Hybrids -Compact Cattleya Hybrids



C. Caudebec -Jerry & Anita Spencer First place, Cattleya Alliance Hybrids -Standard Cattleya Hybrids



Photos by Debra Funakoshi

# **Palomar Orchid Society**

### **Membership Application/Renewal**

2012



Last		First		Middle	
Stree	et				
City		s	tate	ZIP	
Phone			E-Mail Address  You will receive our monthly newsletter and other information. We will not share your e-mail address with anyone!		
	Individual Membership	\$ <u>20.00</u>	will flot share	your e-mail address with a	lyone:
	Family Membership	\$ <u>25.00</u>			
	General Fund	\$	Additional Family Member Names		
	Speaker Fund	\$	Additional Family Member Names		
	Name Badge (\$6.50 ea.)	\$			
	Other:	\$	\$		
	Please specify		<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b> Make checks payable to <b>Palomar Orchid Society</b>		
Bring completed form and check to a meeting or mail to:  Renee Daly c/o Palomar Orchid Society 5210 Frost Avenue Carlsbad, CA 92010				based on the calendar December 31 and are basis for new member	wable annually. Dues are year January 1 through pro-rated on a quarterly s. When joining between r, please add the full dues
Do not write in this section - Official Use ONLY					Orchid Fair Flower Fields
Amount enclosed			_ Cash	Check	Auction
Date received			_		Referral Newsletter Other

#### Miscellaneous

#### Holiday Party Reminder

Please make sure to bring your check book and sign-up for the Holiday party at the November meeting. The deadline for RSVP and payment is November 30. No tickets will be sold at the door! The perperson price of \$25 includes a 5 course dinner at Chin's Szechwan in San Marcos on December 7 starting at 6 pm as well a blooming orchid plant. Come and have good food and good times!

#### A New Format for "Show and Tell"

Starting with the November General Meeting, Merle Robboy will be conducting the "Show and Tell" before the plant table raffle. His knowledge and long years of experience growing a large variety of orchids will make this a very educational and entertaining part of the meeting! In addition, the main speaker will be asked to award a "Best in Show" ribbon to the plant showing the highest degree of horticultural care.

#### POS Online News

The new website has been up and running smoothly for a couple of months now. Many thanks to Debra Funakoshi, Sandi Sandquist, and Gil Ho for their content contributions. If you have not visited www.palomarorchid.org lately, come by for a visit. In addition to a new look there have been a few other changes. For example, the site now allows for comments and user-contributed content and we are looking to add more in the future!

Recently, the online presence for the society was expanded with the addition of a FaceBook page and a flickr group. If you use either site, come and find us. There are prominent links on the website to both social media sites. Once you 'like' us on FaceBook, you will receive notifications of website updates automatically. And if you enjoy taking pictures of orchids, please contribute them to our flickr



group from where they will be featured on the POS website.

#### Member Caravans

The idea has been brought up a few times before: why not organize caravans to POS member's homes to learn how they are growing their orchids, to get to know your fellow society members better, and to share a relaxing weekend afternoon? If you are interested in participating and/or hosting such an event, please contact Debra Funakoshi.

#### **Upcoming Events**

#### November 1, 2011

SDCOS General Meeting www.sdorchids.com

#### November 2, 2011

POS General Meeting www.palomarorchid.org

#### November 4-6, 2011

Cal-Orchid Open House www.calorchid.com

#### November 5-6, 2011

53rd Annual Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Fall Open House www.sborchid.com

#### **November 7, 2011**

Monthly Orchid Judging Center Casa del Prado, Balboa Park Helmut Rohrl (858) 452-0976

#### November 16, 2011

San Diego Cymbidium Society General Meeting www.cymbidium.org/branch.html

#### November 19, 2011

Debra Funakoshi (760) 726-7763

#### November 26-27, 2011

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Fall Show and Sale www.orchidsb.net

#### December 3 & 4, 2011

Casa de las Orquideas Annual Open House www.orquideas.com

Rudvalis Orchids Open House www.rudvallisorchids.com

Sunset Valley Orchids Open House www.sunsetvallevorchids.com

#### **December 4, 2011**

Orchid Odyssey at the Zoo events.sandiegozoo.org

#### **December 7, 2011**

POS Holiday Dinner Party Caravan: Don Rosenstock's home Chin's Szechwan, San Marcos RSVP by November 30 Pat & Linda Rusnell (760) 723-1471 patandlinda@hotmail.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 bclark@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 Phyllis Prestia (760) 732-0055 orchldy2@mac.com

#### The Editor's Corner



It is somewhat fitting that this is the first edition of the *POS News* edited by yours truly as the Pleurothallid family has become a rapidly growing part of my own orchid collection of late, as paltry as that collection still is. As such, I am very much looking forward to Betty Kelepecz's presentation at this month's meeting.

Since joining POS last year, I have learned much from the culture classes and excellent speakers. Although I have owned orchids for several years, I am only recently

starting to become more confident in calling my hobby 'orchid growing' (as opposed to the previously much more appropriate 'orchid purchasing and slowly killing'). I am particularly drawn to fragrant plants and the challenges of growing different species in the backyard of my Carlsbad home.

In taking over the responsibilities for the monthly *POS News* from Melana Davison, I obviously am attempting to fill some very large shoes: Melana has been at this for more than 10 years and her dedication, skill, and orchid-knowledge showed in every edition. I am humbled to continue her work and I know I will need take her up on her kind offer to help in the months to come. Your own comments and suggestions are of course very much welcome and I invite you to either track me down at the meetings or send them to <a href="mailto:newsletter@palomarorchid.org">newsletter@palomarorchid.org</a>.

#### **POS Officers**

Gil Ho — President

Alex Nazdan & Renate Schmidt — 1st Vice President
Debra Funakoshi — 2nd Vice President
Renee Daly & Sandi Sandquist — 3rd Vice President
Lena Shiroma — Secretary
Christina Hsing — Treasurer
Jerry Goode, Merle Robboy, Warren Stehle — 2nd Year Trustees

Janet Lomba, Pat Schmidt, Cher Whelan — 1st Year Trustees

#### Contact Us

Palomar Orchid Society 5210 Frost Ave Carlsbad, CA 92008

**POS News** 

newsletter@palomarorchid.org

#### Website

www.palomarorchid.org www.facebook.com/palomarorchid

**POS News - Palomar Orchid Society** 





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