

NOVEMBER SPEAKER

Our speaker this month is Milton O. Carpenter, President of the American Orchid Society, speaking on "The New Oncidiinae Intergencies". He operates Everglades Orchids in Belle Glade, Florida, specializing in warmth tolerant Cymbidiums and Oncidium intergeneric hybrids. He has pursued a hybridizing program for over 30 years yielding more than 100 AOS awards. Attempting 10,000 hybrids, he has obtained about 2000 seed pods many of which did not produce viable seeds. His efforts, however, have led to 400 named hybrids. Persistence is the key leading to the reward when challenging the sterility barriers due to the different groups and genera within the Oncidiinae. Obtaining a compatible match is often difficult.

Mr. Carpenter is an active AOS President with the top priority during his tenure as President being getting the AOS into his new facilities. This has involved a vigorous fund raising program. A second focus is using information technology in the world of orchids so that any AOS member can obtain orchid information by connecting electronically with AOS headquarters. His third focus is making the AOS "more member-centered and member-directed".



SCOS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual SCOS Christmas party will be held on Tuesday, December 14 at the Cattlemens of Santa Rosa, 2400 Midway Drive (in Montgomery Village). Appetizers and a no host bar will begin at 6. Dinner will be served at 7. The cost is \$22.95 per person (includes tax and tip). The entrée choices will be Prime Rib, Salmon, or Veggie Pasta. Those who wish to participate in a gift exchange should bring an orchid related gift. A plant raffle and a slide presentation of the society's year will be part of the evenings festivities.

A sign up sheet will be circulated at the November meeting or you may send your check made out to SCOS (with choice of entrée for each person) to Marilyn Dailey by Dec.1, 1999. A reservation with payment is required to attend.

MESSAGE FROM THE SHOW CHAIR

Dear fellow members,

This year is going by so fast. It's hard to believe that our next spring show, "ORCHIDS- Jewels Of The Jungle" is only about four months away.

So.. it's time for you to be thinking about the time you will be able to give to make our next show another great event. Those of you that helped last year did a terrific job.

As announced at our last general meeting, the beneficiary of our opening preview night will be the Food For Thought Food Bank in Forestville.

The SCOS Board Of Directors is honored for this opportunity to help raise money through the sale of our preview night tickets for this very worthy organization.

If you are not familiar with the Food Bank, it's programs offer weekly food, vitamin and nutritional supplements, home delivered meals, nutritional counseling, and household items to over 425 clients living in Sonoma County. These programs are designed to improve the quality of life for both children and adults living with AIDS and disabling HIV. All Food Bank services including delivery are provided free of charge.

Remarkably, this very successful program exists through the dedicated efforts of its nearly four hundred volunteers.

Speaking of volunteers, I need committee "Leaders" to take charge in the following areas. As a "Leader" your role is to get and schedule other volunteers to help you during the show. I also ask that you save two hours of your time one evening a month for the next four months to attend our show meetings. When you think about it, two hours a month is not a lot of time, is it?

The available "Leader" positions are:

1. Hostess/Greeter - to greet visitors during the three days of the show.
2. Security
3. Signage - To check our beautiful existing signs for cleaning and to hang them during our set up day before the show.
4. Hospitality - To organize a team of volunteers to help in setting up food trays during preview night.

Please call me to offer your help or to get more information about these positions.

Thank you.

Tony Mininno

Meet Your New Board Members

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY



Our new Membership Secretary is Ursula Lancaster. Ursula joined our Society in March of 1999 at our Spring Show. She had seen one of our exhibits at Coddington and had purchased an orchid. However, like most of us, her first orchid didn't last very long. So she tried again and after purchasing a Vanda at last year's show she decided it was time to join our Society. Ursula lives in Forestville and grows under lights in her home using one of the Hydrofarm light systems. She has an area about nine feet long with shelving to hold her orchids. She loves Vandas but has a little of everything. What does she love best about our Society? She said the friendly non-competitive atmosphere has made her feel very welcome!

Director of Meetings



Our new Director of Meetings is Rick Gooding. Rick actually was a member of our Society a number of years ago but drifted away for a number of reasons. Last February he rejoined the Society and has been actively involved ever since. He was the Committee Chairman in charge of refreshments until he agreed to fill the Board position— Director of Meetings—that became available. Rick and his partner Frank Thomas live in Rohnert Park and have been raising orchids for 15-16 years. They grow in a greenhouse that they converted from a lath house. Rick said they grow a little of everything.

SCOS WEB PAGE

Check out the SCOS Web Page at <http://www.sonic.net/scorchid>. If you are receiving this newsletter in the mail and you would prefer to download it directly off the Web Page please contact us at rathbun@sonic.net and we will no longer send the newsletter through the mail.

MARIE WASKOW AWARD

Each year members of our Society vote to honor a member who has given outstanding service to the Sonoma County Orchid Society. Your vote should be cast for an individual or couple who exemplify the ideals of generosity and service to the organization in spreading the joy of growing orchids as practiced by Marie Waskow, a founding member of our Society. A ballot has been included in the newsletter and will be due at the end of the November meeting. **If you are unable to attend the November you may mail your ballot to Mitch McAlpin before the November meeting and ballots will be available at the November meeting.** The award will be presented at the Holiday Party on December 14. Past recipients of the award:

1988	Harold Levenson
1989	Yosh and Shiz Sugioka
1990	Austin and Judy Carney
1991	Jim Hamilton
1992	Lowman Whittenburg
1993	Robert and Claudia Pike
1994	Kevin Smith
1995	Earl Rathbun
1996	Marilyn Bucher
1997	Marilyn Dailey
1998	Mitch and Gail McAlpin

SONOMA COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

The Sonoma County Orchid Society meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Plant sales begin at 7:00 p.m. and end 10 minutes after the speaker finishes his/her presentation. The Society provides an opportunity for any member to sell plants or material (with a 20% commission to the Society). A reminder to all members that any plant material offered for sale at the Society meeting, must be run through the Society. Pre-arranged pick-up of plants or materials is OK and does not have to go through the Society. Plant owners assume all risk and responsibility for their property.

The skill session, when scheduled is held from 7:10 to 7:25 p.m. at the front of the room.

Announcements followed by Show and Tell begin at 7:30 p.m. The speaker will begin after Show and Tell (approximately 8:00 p.m.). Refreshments and opportunity plant drawings occur after the speaker's lecture.