



*Sonoma County  
Orchid Society*

# SCOS ORCHID NEWS

May 2000

## MAY EVENTS

- Meeting:**                    **MAY 9, 2000**                    **Tuesday**                    **7:00 p.m.**  
**Veterans Memorial Building**  
**1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa**  
**Dining Room-East side of building**
- Speaker:**                    **Thomas J. Sheehan**  
**Basics of Orchid Culture**
- Opportunity Table:**        **Carmela Orchids**
- Skill Session:**              **Earl Rathbun**  
**Potting Media**
- Plant Sales Volunteers:** **Sam Spencer**    **Susan Oehlschlage**    **Susan Anderson**  
(plan to be there at 6:30)
- Refreshments:**              **Jim Butts**                    **Juanita Spencer**    **Lucille Battison**  
**Judy Missakian**    **Patty Oku**    **Margarita Wonneberger**
- Open Greenhouse:**        **Dale Martin/Lynne Paulus**  
**May 7**    **Sunday**    **10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

### Book Orders

At the May meeting the Librarian will have order forms for an AOS book order. The Society will be ordering books for the Library and members may order books from the AOS book list (at 10% off the list price) for their own collections.

## MAY SPEAKER

The May speaker will be Thomas Sheehan presenting Basics of Orchid Culture. He will discuss the various environmental factors and their effects on orchid growth. He describes his presentation as “not scientific so all can understand”. Dr. Sheehan is Professor Emeritus, University of Florida, and former Chairman of the Department of Environmental Horticulture. He has done research on tissue culture and the effects of photoperiod, temperature, moisture, growth regulating compounds and nutrition on growth, flowering and post harvest physiology of floricultural crops. He continues to teach orchidology at the University. He has been a speaker at 11 World Orchid Conferences and is involved in many American Orchid Society activities. With his wife, Marion Sheehan, he coauthored Orchid Genera Illustrated, the longest running series in the AOS Bulletin now Orchids dating back to 1967. He has authored over 350 scientific and popular articles and books, the most recent being An Illustrated Survey of Orchid Genera (Timber Press—1995). We are privileged to have him include us in his speaking schedule. You may join the speaker for dinner at 5:15 p.m. at Kirin’s restaurant, 2700 Yulupa Ave. in Santa Rosa. Please call Jim Kennedy 823-1582 for reservations.

### Skill Session

This month’s skill session, starting at 7:00p.m., will be presented by Earl Rathbun on Potting Media. Learn what potting materials are available and what to use for various sizes and genera of orchids. The characteristics of media including their moisture holding qualities will be discussed.

### Opportunity Table

The Opportunity Table will come Carmela Orchids of Hawaii. There will be 40 orchids.

### Open Greenhouse

Dale Martin and Lynne Paulus will host an Open Greenhouse on Sunday, May 7.. See Upcoming Events section on page 4 for details.

### SCOS March Board Meeting Summary

Actions by the Board:

Reviewed and approved the minutes of the previous meeting.  
Reviewed the Spring Show report and discussed possible expenditures of money earned at the show. Purchase of library books will be discussed at the May meeting.  
Reviewed the next months programs, bus trip, potting party, auction.  
Nominating committee formed and volunteer sheets to be passed out at the April meeting.  
Need to provide reconciliation sheet for plants sales discussed.

Next Board Meeting:

**May 18, 2000 at 7:30 p.m.**

At the Rathbun’s, 1920 Grace Drive, Santa Rosa.

### NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jim Kennedy	Newsletter	Kathy & Earl Rathbun
Vice President	Bud Lockwood	Ways & Means	Tony Minnino
Secretary	Becky Jackson	Meetings	Rick Gooding
Treasurer	Jim Hamilton	Past President	Mitch McAlpin
Membership	Ursula Lancaster		

Nominations will also be accepted from the general membership at the May meeting. A vote will be taken at that time with the new Board to be installed at the June meeting

## Meet Your Fellow Members



Jim Hamilton, SCOS Treasurer, has been growing orchids since the early 70's. He received his first orchid, a Paphiopedilum, as a host gift.

Jim was born in Liechtenstein! His mother had gone to Europe to get his Grandmother out of Czechoslovakia before WWII started. They were able to get his Grandmother but were unable to return to the U.S. at that time. They ended up in southern France where they lived until Jim was 7, hence Jim is fluent in French.

Before his retirement, Jim was employed by the Social Security Administration as a Director of one of their departments. He lived with his partner, Ron Ehlers, in Marin on 8 steep acres. They ran out of buildable room on their lot and moved to Valley Ford in 1981, opening Petite Plaisance.

Jim also enjoys needlepoint, reading, and traveling. He also has done acrylic painting and piloted small airplanes. He is a past President of the San Francisco Orchid Society, a Trustee of the American Orchid Society, and a previous winner of the Marie Was-kow Award from SCOS.

Cynthia Rathkey, past President of SCOS, was born in Eugene, Oregon and moved to Sonoma County at age 4. She did her undergraduate work at Sonoma State and returned there to get her Nurse Practitioner training. She practices in Petaluma where she lives with her husband John.



Cynthia's first orchid was a Dendrobium given to her by a boyfriend in college. She joined the Orchid Forum in the early 80's but dropped out several years later. Subsequently she joined the SCOS and has enjoyed learning about orchids and has enjoyed the many friends that she has made in the organization.. She grows inside, in her extra bathroom which has a skylight and in an outside area for cymbidiums. She is considering adding grow light. She grows mostly Phalaenopsis, Dendrobiums, and Cymbidiums as well as a few other types of orchids.

Cynthia likes to garden, bird watch, hike and bicycle. She also loves to travel. In fact, in her early 20's she quit her job and traveled around South America for 6 months with a friend.

### SONOMA COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

The Sonoma County Orchid Society meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month. **Plant sales begin at 6:45 p.m. and ends when the speaker begins 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. Your members binder has additional information.

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.

