



*Sonoma County
Orchid Society*

SCOS ORCHID NEWS

July 2000

JULY EVENTS

- Meeting:** **July 11, 2000** **Tuesday** **7:00 p.m.**
Veterans Memorial Building
1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa
Dining Room-East side of building
- Speaker:** **Jose Esposito**
Culture of Phalaenopsis
- Opportunity Table:** **Soroa Orchids**
- Plant Sales Volunteers:** **Judy Missakian** **Lynne Paulus** **Dale Martin**
(plan to be there at 6:30)
- Refreshments:** **Susan Anderson** **Lisa Bathke** **Patti Stouffer**
Linda Hollywood **Jim Butts**
- Potting Party:** **July 22, 2000** **Saturday** **12:00-5:00 p.m.**
Christian Tonsberg

Help Wanted!!!!!!

Rick Gooding needs a co-chair to help with refreshments. Please call him.

Ursula Lancaster needs someone to take home and alphabetize the nametags. Please call her.

If your name is highlighted in yellow, this is your last newsletter!

JULY SPEAKER

The July speaker will be Jose Exposito from Florida speaking on Culture of Phalaenopsis. Jose started growing orchids 18 years ago just after his arrival from Cuba during the Mariel boatlift. His first passion was Cattleyas, but soon after he became more fascinated by phalaenopsis orchids. In 1985 he started Soroa Orchids starting with a 30 x 30 backyard area but soon moved to the present 3 acre location on the outskirts of Miami bordering the Everglades.

Soroa Orchids has built an impressive reputation for the breeding and cultivating beautiful phalaenopsis in the last 15 years. After the devastating blow of Hurricane Andrew, the nursery was redesigned to expand its inventory to grow a larger variety of orchid genera. Now it is one of the most diverse orchid nurseries in South Florida in a beautiful garden setting. Many national publications including Vogue magazine have written about Soroa Orchids and Soroa's orchid design graces some of Miami's top hotels and properties.

Jose is an AOS judge and continues to breed phalaenopsis. Lately, he has ventured into vanda-ceous hybridizing. His extensive travels take him to all points of the planet doing lectures and shows as well as escorting tours of orchid enthusiasts to exotic destinations like the one this October to Thailand and Malaysia. For many years he has been trying to make to the San Francisco area. The day is finally here. He promises not to behave and do only half the lecture in Spanish. Don't miss it!

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 at 823-1582 by Monday, July 10 for reservations.

Opportunity Table

The Opportunity Table will be provided by Soroa Orchids

Skill Session

There will not be a skill session this meeting.

SCOS June Board Meeting Summary

Actions by the Board-June Reviewed and approved the minutes of the previous meeting.
Reviewed and approved the treasurer's report.
The budget meeting will be held in July after the post show review in order to give the show chair time to make proposed show budget.
It was reported that the President now has checks in addition to the Treasurer. It was also noted that the bank has requested minutes in order to verify the officers for signing purposes.
Discussed the contract with the Veterans Building. It was voted to extend our event time from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. This will give the committee chair, who need to be in the building before our meeting a chance to do so for set-up. All appropriate members will be notified of the starting time and the requested not to go in before that time.
Discussed the library books and the positive response to the books.
Discussed the potting party and bark sale. Discussed options for next year.
Voted to continue having one dinner meeting for the incoming and outgoing board members in July each year.
Next Board Meeting: July 20, 2000 at 7:00 p.m.
at Jhanthong Banbua, 2400 Mendocino Ave. in Santa Rosa.
Call Jim Hamilton to RSVP at 876-3496 or e-mail at orchids@sonic.net

Meet Your Fellow Members



Christian Tonsberg, host of this year's Potting Party, was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. He first noticed orchids growing in his grandmother's yard as a child. He moved to the mainland in 1942 to attend college. He majored in education at San Francisco State. He taught school as well as being a vice-principal of a junior high school in Marin County. After he ended his career in teaching he went on to a second career as a contractor. He moved to Sebastopol in 1980.

Christian's first orchid was a species, *Cattleya trianae*. Species are still his favorites. In fact he says his collection is about 95% species. He has two greenhouses. The cool house has mostly maxilleras while the warm house has mostly vandas and other species.

Christian loves to travel. He takes 5-6 trips per year outside the U.S. especially to the tropics. While the trips previously were for collecting orchids, he now enjoys just looking at orchids in the wild. Inside the U.S. he travels to visit his 2 children and 5 grandchildren, located on the east coast. He also plays the piano and organ.

Christian received an HCM award from the AOS for his *Maxillaria tonsbergii*.



Kate Burroughs, a former editor of the SCOS News, grew up in Hayward. She attended college in Berkeley and then moved south to Santa Barbara. She moved to Santa Rosa in 1975 and later to Sebastopol where she lives. Kate and her husband, David Henry, own Harmony Farm Supply and Nursery in Sebastopol. David is the irrigation expert and Kate is the "bug lady", a fitting title for someone with a degree in entomology from Berkeley. It is through Kate that SCOS is able to buy bark to use for the Potting Party, Cymbidium Divisions at the Spring Show and for members personal supply. Thank you Kate.

Kate started growing orchids in the early 90's. Her mother grew cymbidiums and gave Kate 6 or 7 divisions, which Kate was unable to bloom. She knew her friend Cynthia Rathkey belonged to the Orchid Society so she came along to see if she could find out what she was doing wrong. She joined and now has a 12' x 16' greenhouse with about 400 orchids!

Kate and her husband are also soccer referees. Talk about a hard way to stay in shape! Just trying running up and down a soccer field, keeping up with high school athletes.

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.

