



# Sonoma County Orchid Society

## November 2011

A California Non-Profit 501 (c) (3) Corporation

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### The November Skill Session

At 6:45 P.M., near the stage, Richard Lindberg will discuss growing Cattleyas in sphagnum moss. Conventional wisdom says that Cattleyas and Laelias are to be potted in a quick drying medium. However, they can be successfully grown in sphagnum moss. Come early to the November meeting to learn how.

We're pleased to have as our speaker this month ADAM ANDERSON on Exploring for Orchids in Borneo.

Adam recently returned from his second trip to Borneo. The excerpts from the bio which follows was written by Sandra Merlo of the Marin Orchid Society, when Adam spoke to them in January of this year on his first trip to Borneo.



Learn the orchids Adam discovered on this second trip and see Nepenthes (not orchids) in their native habitat.

“Who knew that locating orchids in the steaming jungles of Borneo would involve hiking up and up and (occasionally) down steep trails, even at night, hoping to see some of the elusive Paphiopedilums in their native habitats, while taking care not to injure any of the orchids growing in the National Park. Would he encounter a perfect specimen of Paphiopedilum sandierianum, with petals purportedly a meter long? Said to be the “Holy Grail” of orchids, it was discovered in 1885, then not seen again until 1978! Did this MOS member and daring adventurer survive the humidity and temperatures? Yes and yes...and he will share his adventures....”

“Borneo, the world’s third largest island, is home to a wide variety of orchid habitats, including lowland dipterocarp rainforests of Mulu as well as the mountain cloud forests of Mount Kinabalu. Orchids are not the only thing to see in Borneo. Markets abound and restaurants and shops are often open-air, providing excellent photo opportunities.

When not in remote locations hunting for orchids, Adam cares for plants in his two greenhouses in Novato.”

Speaker Dinner: There will be no Speaker Dinner this month.

Opportunity Table: **BROOKSIDE ORCHIDS**

## Bring a plant to Show & Tell!

You'll receive a chance to win the "Three Month Plant".

When you bring in your plant (or plants) to share, fill out the card with your name and drop it in the cup.



### ORCHID LINKS

American Orchid Society  
<http://www.aos.org/>

Orchid Photos  
[www.orchidworks.com](http://www.orchidworks.com)

Native Orchids of California  
[www.flowershots.net/native%20orchids\\_California.html](http://www.flowershots.net/native%20orchids_California.html)

Online Orchid Forums on Various Topics  
<http://www.orchidboard.com/>

Orchids on the Web  
<http://www.orchidwire.com>

## 🌀 President's Corner

Hello everyone. Here we are, heading into the holidays and then gearing up for our Annual Show and Sale in February. We all have busy times ahead of us, but time spent with family and friends is what makes this a very special time of year. I want to wish all of you a lovely Thanksgiving.

Although I mentioned this at the October meeting, for those of you who missed that meeting, we now have a new Newsletter Editor! Pat Gentry graciously stepped up and offered her help. This is Pat's first newsletter. Thank you Pat, we're REALLY glad to have you on the Board.

Another piece of great news, Lynne Murrell has again offered to chair our Annual Show and Sale. This is a huge responsibility and I want Lynne to know that we're all here to volunteer and help her make our 2012 Show a huge success. Thank you, Lynne! See the Show and Sale notice in this newsletter.

Remember to vote for your choice of recipient(s) for the 2011 Marie Waskow Award. Our Society has many deserving people who have not yet been recognized. The ballot is again printed in this newsletter. You may drop it in the "Marie Waskow Award" box at the next meeting or email to [artwork@copyshopandprinting.com](mailto:artwork@copyshopandprinting.com)

I hope to see many of you at the Holiday Party on December 13. Remember to bring your checkbook to the meeting if you plan to attend and have not already signed up and paid. Legends is a very nice venue and served a great meal last year. Also, remember the gift exchange (optional) – bring a gift wrapped orchid or something orchid related. See the holiday flyer in this newsletter for details.

My best,  
*Kathie Hile*

Our January speaker is **Dr. Nick Burnett**, an accredited AOS Judge. Dr. Burnett will have a presentation on how best to show your orchids. More information to follow in our December newsletter. Dr. Burnett will provide our opportunity table.

## Board Highlights

Oct. 27, 2011

Treasurer, Ann Possinger reports \$18,259.99 in the bank. YTD income is \$2037.07. The subscription to AQ Plus has been renewed for the society.

SCOS will participate in the Heirloom Festival again next year, it is scheduled.

Gerry Smith and Susan Anderson will get a Bus Trip organized for next April. The Smith's will again host the Repotting Party in May, most likely Saturday the 19th.

The Show Committee met and chose a theme: "Orchids Go Country," with Smitty designing the display. Show posters and postcards will be printed soon. Next Show meeting is November 17 at the Rathbun's home.

Be sure and sign up and pay for the Holiday Dinner at Legends. See Charlene Shaw by November 30. December 2 is the last day to cancel and receive a refund. Door prize plants by Tom Perlite of Golden Gate Orchids.

Nominating committee needs to begin looking for a new President and VP to start in July 2012.

Contact a board member if you'd like to volunteer. If we don't fill these positions we won't have a society.

Next Board Meeting is at Kathie Hile's on November 15.

Thanks to Pat Gentry for stepping in as Newsletter editor!

## Oct. 11 Email To the Sonoma County Orchid Society

I'm Rob Gordon, Bob Gordon's son. As you may know, between 1986 and 1994, Bob wrote five orchid books, concentrating on phalaenopsis. He traveled the US, Canada, England, and Australia doing speaking tours until 2005. He passed away in September of 2011, leaving behind a vast legacy of knowledge.

I have a number of books that I'd like to put into grower's hands. (See below for titles and descriptions.) I'm contacting AOS chapters throughout the US offering his books at deeply discounted prices. His website prices from 2008 were:

Beginner in 2008—\$10, now \$5  
Culture in 2008—\$20, now \$10  
Seedling in 2008—\$18, now \$10  
Survey in 2008—\$25, now \$15  
Writing in 2008—\$3.50, now \$2

Shipping charges —UPS Ground or USPS Priority.

If you have questions or would like to order some books, please email back. I'll need some lead time to fill the orders, but will attempt to get the books out within four weeks of order.

Thanks,

Rob

rgordon93@sbcglobal.net

## CLASSIFIED

The Society still has both small and medium sized Rexius Bark available in 2 cu. ft. bags at a cost of \$15/bag plus tax.

Jim and Kris Foster have medium and large perlite, charcoal and New Zealand sphagnum moss available for sale. Contact them for prices at 707-762-7124.

Don't forget, **Marni Turkel** is closing out stock at her pottery studio.

All 1st and 2nd quality work will be discounted 30%.

Her studio is open on Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and by appointment at other times, at least through November 19 and possibly longer. Located at 2080 Llano Road, Suite 1B, Santa Rosa.

Telephone: (707) 328-5973



**Advertise your items for sale or trade in the empty box above!**

## Thank You!

A big thank you to Judy Carney for generously hosting Jason Fischer in her home. Jason arrived at the Oakland airport and connected with Judy before the speaker dinner. He then spent the night at Judy and Frank's home. I'm sure it was a treat for Jason to spend time with Judy and visit her greenhouses. Thank you Judy!

A round of applause to Linda and Darrel Eggleston for their October open house. A great number of cattleyas and cattleya-related orchids were in full bloom and it seemed that those not blooming were in bud. Linda does a great job and has many specimen plants. All of her plants are numbered on their labels and pictured in a binder. A great way to catalog! Also, Linda gave away bare root divisions. Finally, you should see their beautiful home (all built by them, alone) and spectacular view. Thank you Linda and Darrel!

Also, thank you to Cynthia Battershall for her orchid sale. I imagine, all in all, she had a few hundred divisions for sale, of some very special orchids. I sure purchased some wonderful things. Thank you Cynthia! Hope you have some left-overs for our February Show.



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Like to Host an Open Greenhouse?

Contact Kathie Hile  
president@sonomaorchids.com

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## Membership News from Larry Mead

New Membership list were E-Mailed out and if you found that there is a mistake in contact info please let me know so we can up date data. Welcome to new member Rosalie Wright and returning members Josie Lee, and Richard Lindberg.

Is your SCOS Membership current?

If unsure, ask Larry Mead at [membership@sonomaorchids.com](mailto:membership@sonomaorchids.com). Together, we share our love of and passion for orchids. We have the opportunity to learn from our knowledgeable speakers, we visit member greenhouses and learn new ways to grow and utilize our existing space (which is always too small), our annual bus trip provides an opportunity to visit vendors we might not otherwise see, we share our plants and bring home many new divisions at our annual repotting party, which are just a few of our annual activities. Please, renew your membership today. We need you, so that we may continue to expand our knowledge and activities.

Also, remember that we offer gift memberships, which would be a great idea for that special friend or relative who also loves orchids. Just complete the form available at the membership table and Larry will send you a gift certificate to pass on to your gift recipient.

Finally, if you are not getting email notifications from us about SCOS functions and newsletters, please contact us with your correct email information using the above link so we can update our distribution list.

## OPEN GREENHOUSE AT THE RATHBUN'S SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13 • 11 AM-3 PM

Come join Kathy and Earl and enjoy the 15' x 30' greenhouse which they built themselves as well as their indoor sunroom which was designed for orchid growing. November should have a number of things in bloom for you to enjoy. Their address is 1920 Grace Dr., Santa Rosa. The phone is 707-528-1671.

### PLEASE ENTER BACKYARD FROM JAMES AVE BY THE DRIVEWAY.

Directions: From Hwy 101 – take the College Ave. off ramp and go east on College Ave. Turn left on North St. then right on Pacific Ave. which becomes Bryden Lane. Then left on Grace Drive. 1920 is one block up, on the right, at the corner of Grace and James.

From Hwy 12 – From the west take Hwy 101 and follow the above directions. From the east take Hwy 12 into Santa Rosa. At Farmers Lane continue straight on Fourth St. Turn right on Bryden Lane and then right onto Grace. 1920 is one block on the right at the corner of Grace and James.

## November Meeting Refreshments Mc - Sm...it's your turn!

## NOVEMBER CHECKLIST

(Reprinted with permission of the AOS)

### **Aeranges**

Many species of this popular genus prefer to be kept much drier during the winter months when they are not in active growth. You can determine this by watching the root tips. Generally, the following species do better if mounted, which allows them to be on the dry side: *mystacidii*, *verdickii*, *luteo-alba*, *distincta* and *punctata*.

### **Calanthe**

The tropical hybrids derived from *Calanthe vestita* will be at their peak. Plants should have been dried off some and be totally leafless now. Flower spikes are up, and remember, flowers will resist spotting from botrytis if kept in drier conditions. Enjoy these flowers that last many weeks.

### **Catasetum**

It's natural for these orchids to begin regressing. The leaves will start to degenerate, a signal the flowering season is about to begin. Reduce watering to compensate for lack of active growth.

### **Cattleya**

Almost all potting should have been completed by this month. The summer's growth is mostly finished, and sheaths that will flower from winter through April and May are set. Older sheaths on spring-flowering cattleyas, which may have been present since July, will begin to senesce and turn yellow. When this happens, gently remove the sheath to prevent condensation from forming inside that will kill any buds present. The growth should still flower in its time, but the developing spike will need additional support that would have been supplied by the sheath. Watering and fertilizing will be needed less frequently, and temperatures can be decreased. Lengthening nights and cooler temperatures are what trigger winter and spring bloomers to spike.

### **Cymbidium**

During this month, many early blooming cymbidiums will start to bloom. These will have such grexes in their background as *Cymbidium Peter Pan*, *Cymbidium Solana Beach* and *Cymbidium Red Beauty*. Be diligent with the staking so that your plant will look its best when in flower. Watch for slugs and snails and bait as necessary. By now, only low doses of nitrogen are needed.

### **Dendrobium**

Australian Types: Plants will have hardened off their growths by now and soon will be showing spikes. Hybrids derived from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* grow and flower best if kept much cooler in late autumn and winter. Keep plants in bright light and switch to a fertilizer with less nitrogen.

(Continued on P. 6)

## **Lycaste**

Pseudobulbs should be fully formed now. The leaves will begin to degenerate on the deciduous varieties, but don't be concerned; they will soon just drop off. Taper off on the water to prevent edema, a bursting of the cell walls (blistering). Keep plants in a bright but airy location as the flower spikes develop.

## **Odontoglossum**

Although we can see flowers at almost any time of year within this group, now begins a time when potting can be tackled. Since the hot days of summer are finished, the plants will not be stressed while establishing new roots. If your plant has made a healthy pseudobulb but has no indication of flowering, or if you see the first sign of new growth, go ahead and repot. Each plant will choose its own time to be processed but you should make an effort to work all of them at least once a year.

## **Paphiopedilum**

Paphiopedilums can be potted almost year-round. Examine those that flower in the summer and pot as necessary. November is when the "standards" – sometimes called "toads" – begin to show their bloom sheaths and spikes in earnest. Be especially careful not to allow any water to lodge in the leaf axil, as this can lead to spike rot. Also, do not allow hot spells to damage the sheaths. If the weather is quite warm, spikes can develop almost too rapidly and require staking. Watch water needs carefully as weather cools, to avoid root loss during the winter. While paphs. never like to dry out entirely, this month marks the beginning of the time when growth, and, hence, water needs slow down dramatically. Observe your plants and do not water if they are not at least partially drying out. The same goes for fertilizer. Paphs. are generally light feeders, with the exception of the strap-leaved types, so fertilizer can be drastically reduced now.

## **Phalaenopsis**

All repotting should be completed by now. The shortening days and cooling temperatures signal plants to begin flower-spike production. Any that can be expected to flower by Christmas will be 50 percent developed and need staking. Spike initiation for the main spring bloom is at its heaviest.

## **Vandaceous genera**

A few ascocendas are blooming. However, this is the time to think more about what your plants will need to grow strongly during the upcoming winter months. Make sure the plants are positioned so they receive as much light as they need during these shorter days.

## **Masdevallia and other Pleurothallids**

Most will be recuperating from the summer heat. Let them strengthen and show signs of active new growth before repotting or dividing. The next few months show plant resurgence and lush new growth. Wait until the new year to increase nitrogen.



**Sonoma County Orchid Society**  
invites you to our  
**Annual Spring Show and Sale**

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# Orchids Go Country

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**February 4-5, 2012**  
**Sat 10am - 5pm**  
**Sun 10am - 4pm**  
**Admission \$8**

**Santa Rosa Veterans Building**  
 1351 Maple Ave, Santa Rosa, CA  
 (across from the Fairgrounds)

[www.sonomaorchids.com](http://www.sonomaorchids.com)

Art © 1994 Linda Edwards

## AOS Orchid Judging & Results

The AOS's judging system is comprised of 35 Centers throughout the United States and Canada. These Centers provide opportunities to have plants judged on specified monthly dates. The Centers also provide judging service to AOS-sanctioned shows here and abroad. Center activities are open to visitors who wish to see the judging process in operation or bring their plants to be evaluated. Meeting dates, times, places and contact information are published each month in Orchids magazine as well as on AOS Events listing. Orchid plants may be submitted for judging using the following guidelines.

All orchid plants or cut flowers submitted at a monthly judging session are candidates for an award. Plants must be entered in the most presentable condition possible.

The organization publishes a monthly magazine, *Orchids* (formerly AOS Bulletin), as well as a website: <http://www.aos.org>

### 2012 Committee Chairs = SCOS Feb (3), 4 - 5, 2012

Show Chair	Lynne Murrell	415 847-0987	<a href="mailto:lmurrell@matson.com">lmurrell@matson.com</a>
Admissions & Tickets	<b>vacant</b>	707 935-0721	
Printed media	Earl & Kathy Rathbun	707 528-1671	<a href="mailto:rathbun@sonic.net">rathbun@sonic.net</a>
Boutique booth	Kathie Hile	707 585-1912	<a href="mailto:jph.kah@gmail.com">jph.kah@gmail.com</a>
Clerking for Judging	Becky Jackson	707 584-1386	<a href="mailto:dbjacksons@earthlink.net">dbjacksons@earthlink.net</a>
Docent Tours	Judy Carney	707 778-1295	<a href="mailto:ajcarney@sonic.net">ajcarney@sonic.net</a>
Facility Coordinator	Lynne Murrell	415 847-0987	<a href="mailto:lmurrell@matson.com">lmurrell@matson.com</a>
Membership & Plant Doctor	<b>vacant</b>	707 324-9203	
Pasta Party (Sat. pm)	Susan Anderson	707 762-2917	<a href="mailto:artwork@copyshopandprinting.com">artwork@copyshopandprinting.com</a>
Plant Hotel	Mariann Hopkins	707 829-1043	<a href="mailto:richardhopkins7990@comcast.net">richardhopkins7990@comcast.net</a>
SCOS Display	Smitty & Gerry Smith	707 795-0235	<a href="mailto:jagmsmith@yahoo.com">jagmsmith@yahoo.com</a>
Security	Deborah Large & Dianne DeSalvo	707 539-1669 707 538-1585	<a href="mailto:large@sonic.net">large@sonic.net</a> <a href="mailto:sdrmm@sbcglobal.net">sdrmm@sbcglobal.net</a>
Set Up / Take Down	Larry Mead	707 539-5316	<a href="mailto:lrn9@sbcglobal.net">lrn9@sbcglobal.net</a>
Skill Sessions	<b>vacant</b>	707 585-1912	
Society Plant Sales	Earl & Kathy Rathbun	707 528-1671	<a href="mailto:rathbun@sonic.net">rathbun@sonic.net</a>
Trophies	Josie Lee	707 526-5239	<a href="mailto:leej@sonic.net">leej@sonic.net</a>
Vendor / Contracts	Linda Eggleston	707 887-2412	<a href="mailto:eggl@sonic.net">eggl@sonic.net</a>
Vendor Hospitality	Susan Fletcher & Fern Wilson	707 585-2389	<a href="mailto:smfsfo@gmail.com">smfsfo@gmail.com</a>
Volunteer Center	Ann Possinger	707 538-4101	<a href="mailto:apossinger@comcast.net">apossinger@comcast.net</a>
Volunteer Coordinator	Gerry Smith	707 795-0235	<a href="mailto:jagmsmith@yahoo.com">jagmsmith@yahoo.com</a>



**Sonoma County Orchid Society**  
**Holiday Party**

**When:** **Tuesday, December 13, 2011**  
 6:00 PM Cocktails  
 7:00 PM Dinner

**Where:** Legends at Bennett Valley Golf Course  
 3328 Yulupa Avenue  
 Santa Rosa, CA 95405

**Price:** \$33.00 per person, payable in advance

**Buffet Dinner:** Choice of grilled chicken with tomatoes/artichokes, marinated tri tip in burgundy mushroom sauce, and Penne ala Pesto. All entrees include Mediterranean salad, fresh vegetables, rolls, cheesecake medley or chocolate mousse torte with raspberry coulis, coffee & tea.

Voluntary gift exchange with orchid related gifts \$25 limit.

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**RESERVATIONS**

Mail this form back with your dinner selection and your check by  
 November 30, 2011. No Cancellations after December 2, 2011.

**Circle One**

**Chicken**

**Tri Tip**

**Pasta**

Send check – Payable to SCOS for \$33.00 per person. No reservation is created until your check is received and no refunds after December 2, 2011!!

Please mail checks to:

Charlene Shaw  
 5514 Rainbow Circle  
 Santa Rosa, CA 95409

## 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. This is 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. The Award will be presented at the Holiday Party. Past recipients of the award are:

1988	Harold Levenson	2000	Jim Kennedy
1989	Yosh and Shiz Sugioka	2001	Jim Butts
1990	Austin and Judy Carney	2002	Bob and Juanita Breckwoldt
1991	Jim Hamilton	2003	Paul Matsushita
1992	Lowman Whittenburg	2004	Patty Connick
1993	Robert and Claudia Pike	2005	Susan Anderson
1994	Kevin Smith	2006	Garry Baker
1995	Earl Rathbun	2007	Linda Eggleston
1996	Marilyn Bucher	2008	Jim and Kris Foster
1997	Marilyn Dailey	2009	Ted Pruden
1998	Mitch and Gail McAlpin	2010	Jerry and Gerry Smith
1999	Sam and Juanita Spencer		

## BALLOT

***2011 Marie Waskow Award***  
**My vote for the 2011 Marie Waskow Award is:**

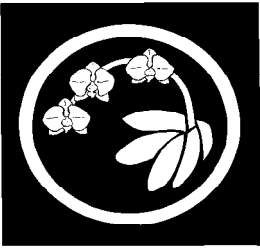
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***Remember that ALL members can vote for this honor, not just one vote per household.***

You may turn in your ballot at the November meeting. If you are unable to attend the November meeting, please email your ballot to Susan Anderson at [artwork@copyshopandprinting.com](mailto:artwork@copyshopandprinting.com), or mail it to her at 1883 Adobe Creek Dr. Petaluma, CA 94954 by November 15, 2011.

***All ballots must be received by November 15th in order to be counted.***

The winner will be announced and the award presented at the Holiday Party on December 13th.



*Sonoma County  
Orchid Society*

SCOS ORCHID NEWS  
P.O. Box 11195  
Santa Rosa, CA 95406

Address Correction Requested

We're on the Web!

<http://www.sonomaorchids.com>

## 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 25% 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 at 6:45 at the front of the meeting room. The subject will be announced in the newsletter and a sign will be posted at the meeting. Announcements followed by Show and Tell begin at 7:00 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.