



Sonoma County Orchid Society Newsletter

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

Special points of interest

- Next Board meeting will be at the Smith's on September 21st.
- SCOS BBQ and Auction, September 25th.
- Open Greenhouse, October 17th hosted by Robert Benevides at Raymond Burr Vineyards in Healdsburg.

September, 2010

Meeting Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

Veteran's Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA

September Meeting

We are pleased to have **Glenn Keator, PhD** as our September speaker. Glenn will talk on California native orchids. Glenn grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and has worked as a free-lance botanist, teacher, field trip leader and writer for most of his life. He specializes in California native plants: their identification, ecology, uses, and culture in local gardens. Glenn teaches at several local institutions including Merritt College, San Francisco Botanical Gardens, Regional Parks Botanic Garden, College of Marin, and others. He has written several popular books: *Designing California Native Gardens*, *California Plant Families: West of the Sierran Crest and Deserts*, to name just two. Dr. Keator also made significant contributions to the writing of California's primary flora: "The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California".



Please plan to come to the meeting and meet Glenn. I understand that he is a fun and enthusiastic speaker. If you know anyone who would be interested in Glenn's talk on California native orchids, please invite them to the meeting.

Most native orchids are difficult, if not impossible, to grow outside their native habitats. Therefore, our September opportunity table will be provided by Hilo Orchid Farms. We hope to have an interesting array of blooming-size plants in bud or in flower.

The speaker's dinner will be at **CA' Bianca Ristorante Italiano, 835 2nd Street @ 5:30**. Come join us for excellent food and conversation. It's a great opportunity to meet and talk to Glenn. If you plan to come to dinner, please contact Kathie Hile at 707-585-1912 or email her at VicePresident@sonomaorchids.com no later than Monday, September 13th, so we can make reservations. Click here for [directions](#).

Notes from the Newsletter Editor

Hi folks, this month's newsletter is really full of information and I want to highlight a few things. New members, be sure and check out Judy Carney's letter on page 3. This is an opportunity of a lifetime to learn about orchids and orchid culture. Also plan on attending the BBQ and Auction. Right now we will be having many beautiful orchids to auction as well as donated wines from several different wineries including at least 2 tours/tastings going on the block. Our auctioneer this year will be Dennis Olivas so it should be great fun. Don't miss this opportunity to pick up some great bargains and support your Society. If you haven't paid your dues, now is the time to do it - see Smitty's note on page 2. I have also included a list of future speakers on page 9. And finally, I hear that the next open greenhouse will be hosted by Robert Benevides at the Raymond Burr Vineyards on October 17th - make sure this is on your calendar. 'Til next month. Jim

Inside this issue:

September Meeting	1
President's Corner	2
Membership	2
Beginner and New Member Corner	3-4
Win an Orchid	5
Show and Tell	5
Board Meeting Highlights	5
Thank-you	6
AOS Awards	6
Vice President Questionnaire	7
Board of Directors and Committee Chairs	8
Calendar	9
Refreshments	9
Future Speakers	9
BBQ and Auction	10
Sales and Events	11-13

President's Corner

Summer is drawing to a close. Kids and grandkids are back in school. Summer vacations are over. Days get shorter. Outdoor gardens start to slow their growth. Thank goodness our orchids continue to spike and bloom!

It was fantastic seeing both new friends and old friends at our last meeting! Kathie Hile has an excellent speaker scheduled for our September meeting. It is Glen Keator. He will talk about native orchids of California. We will have a fantastic opportunity table shipped to us from Hawaii.

On September 25th we are having our BIG ANNUAL FALL EVENT: The SCOS BBQ and AUCTION! Our Guest Auctioneer is Dennis Olivas. Get ready to be entertained! We will have an extraordinary array of fantastic orchids to bid on. Save up your money and get ready to bid high and bid often! SCOS welcomes any donations even if they are non-orchid related donations. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization so donations are tax deductible. It's time to get ready for this big day! Bring family and friends. There is always good food, lots of fun, and of course beautiful blooming ORCHIDS!

PLEASE send in your membership dues if you haven't already done so. Smitty Smith, our Membership Chair, has been working hard to get our membership numbers up. Each and every one of you is an important part of our orchid family. We have so many fun and exciting events to offer to our members. It's fun to get involved!

See you September 14th at the next meeting.

Reminder about the Silent Auction

We hope you are all getting your plants ready for the silent auction at the annual BBQ - no pests please! The society keeps 25% as a commission, and we ask that members donate 1 plant for every 4 they put in for sale, and that they limit their sale plants to 10. Donated non-plant items can also be placed in the silent auction. Remember that the plants must arrive by 11:00 AM or earlier. Thanks.

Smitty's Membership Notes

Membership : Current membership is at "73" compared to 132 paid members last year . If you have not yet paid your annual dues please do so . Letters will be sent out to members who have not paid their dues . We need your support . Thank You . Membership Chair Jerry Smith

Treasurer's Annual Report

Report from the treasurer presented at the August Meeting:

For the fiscal year ending 6/30/10, we had a net gain of \$1752 which is the good news. Our biggest fund raiser is the spring show which netted us \$2750. The BBQ & auction netted us \$1554. All other events are break even or cost the club a little money.

The budget for the new fiscal year ending 6/30/11 projects a loss of \$2200. At this rate we'll be out of business in 5.5 years if we don't make some changes. The poor economy is affecting us as well as others. Our membership keeps dropping. Many of the people who were really active members when I joined in 2000 are no longer members or are no longer active. Last year we had 120 members; so far this year we have 70. That means we have fewer members to keep the society running, to participate in and work at events, to buy raffle tickets at the meetings which help pay for the speakers.

Our monthly meetings are a big expense, but they are an important function of the SCOS. The room rent is \$135/night. Last year speaker charges ranged from \$100 - \$270. Then we buy the opportunity table plants (which I didn't know until I became the treasurer), and they range in price from \$160-\$200. We also take the speaker to dinner. And we have to pay for general liability insurance. That's why there's always a push for people to buy raffle tickets as that's how we help to pay for the plants. We never sell enough tickets to cover the cost of the plants.

The board is trying to reduce costs. We are looking at options to our usual monthly meeting. The ice cream social was the first change – it didn't cost near as much as a meeting with a speaker and it was a fun change. When we have members speak, such as Earl & Kathy, we spend less because they don't charge a fee – thank you Earl & Kathy – but we still purchase plants for the opportunity table. Another idea is to eliminate one of our monthly meetings – perhaps a month in which we have an event such as April when we have the bus trip or September when we have the BBQ & auction.

Our insurance costs went up by 42%. We have applied to join the Garden Clubs of America with the goal of getting lower costs through them.

So we need your help and ideas if we are going to survive and thrive. Fewer members means fewer people to do the work. So help us get new members and get existing members to attend meetings and events. If you are involved in other organizations, spread the word about the SCOS. Invite people to a meeting. We'd like your ideas and help – please see or email any member of the board.

Ann Possinger

Beginner's and New Member's Corner

Hello,

My name is Judy Carney and I've been growing orchids for almost 30 years. After all that time I am still as passionate and still sometimes feel like a newcomer to orchids. It always seems like there is more to learn and this now is a challenge.

I would like to start a small group of new members to meet and have the opportunity to ask questions, learn which plants may be successfully grown in their growing area, and some orchid basics.

The monthly meetings go by so fast and I remember going home and feeling excitement, taking on more than I might be able to manage and sometimes feeling left out and a little scared to come to the extra activities AND no one to share this with..

If you, or someone you know, has joined the society in the last 1-2 years, and are interested in a newcomers group that would meet several times in the next year please email me at ajcarney12@gmail.com or phone 707 479-5640. I think we'll have lots of orchid fun.

[Return to Page 1](#)

Beginner and New Member Corner contd.

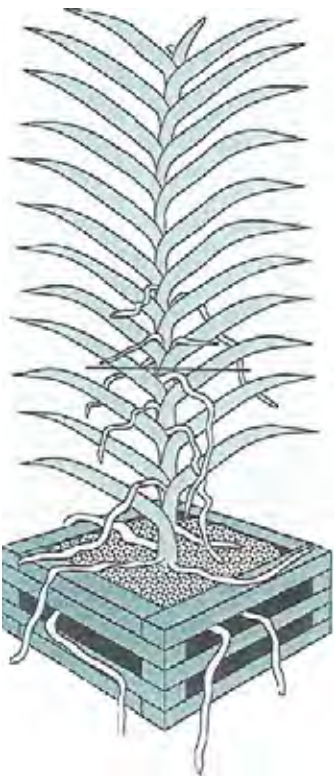
At the August meeting, Bob Richardson's comment about leggy vandas and ascocendas prompted me to share the following article from an old AOS Bulletin. Kathie Hile

The following is excerpted from an article in the August, 1992 issue of American Orchid Society Bulletin by Ed Wright and Bill Tippet, printed with permission from the AOS:

THE WACKERBACK METHOD FOR VANDAS

"A universal law dictates: The more you like a vanda flower, the less you'll like the growth habit. From early hybrids... onward, there has been nothing quite so intimidating to the hobbyist as gorgeous flowers on a specimen larger than the grower. We prune these plants in sheer self-defense and, slowly, we've developed a technique worth sharing. Called The Wackerback Method, it has proven successful on 70 to 80 percent of the vandas and about 50 percent of the ascocendas tested.

Vandas that become ungainly also develop lateral roots in addition to top growth. When a plant develops four or five strong lateral roots above a comfortable growing level (approximately 1 foot above the container's edge), it is a candidate for this method. Unless your weather is quite warm most of the year, follow this procedure in late spring or early summer only.



With a pair of sterile pruners, remove the top portion of the plant. Leave at least four strong roots on the severed top portion and at least 12 inches of growth above the rim of the container for the lower portion. Seal the freshly cut ends immediately. We like to use a hot soldering iron for this, but a torch flame will suffice if carefully applied. One commercial grower applies a paste of Difolatan and Super Thrive on freshly cut surfaces. Whatever method you choose, act immediately.



Remove the lower leaves from the freshly cut portion and pot this part. This is the less desirable part of the orchid. The older part of the plant is the one we want. Tidy the rooted plant, but do no more heavy pruning. Put in a growing area that receives plentiful humidity and slightly less light than is recommended for most mature vandas. Soon, you should see the breaking of multiple dormant "eyes" around the base of the main stem. The new growths resemble a ring of keikis and grow from the lower portion of the plant. These growths mature into a bushy clump that will not become rangy again for many years. Each of the new growths will bloom and the composite specimen will be a sight worth seeing as it matures into heavy bloom.

But what of the top cutting? It will continue growing, but it will develop just like the original plant. In time, it will become leggy and rangy and you can repeat The Wackerback Method. When you do, be sure to keep the bottom stub; that's where the quality display plant of the future will be found.

Win an Orchid

How can I win an orchid? Let me count the ways!

1. Bring a plant for Show and Tell and your name will be entered into a drawing held quarterly. This person gets 1st pick from the raffle table.
2. Bring a refreshment, or help with set up or take down and receive a raffle ticket for the first drawing of the Opportunity Table.
3. Wear your name tag and be entered into a drawing to win three raffle tickets.
4. Do a skill session and win \$5.00 worth of raffle tickets.

Show and Tell



Every time you bring a plant to Show and Tell, you will 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 box. A drawing will be held every three months.

Board Highlights

August 17, 2010

- ✦ Holiday Party being planned by Charlene Shaw and Ann Conger. They will book Legends at the Bennett Valley Golf Course.
- ✦ Speaker for Sept is Glenn Keator, October is Amy Chung-Jacobsen on *Laelia purpurata*. November speakers are Earl and Kathy Rathbun, and December is the Holiday Party.
- ✦ Treasurer Ann Possinger reports \$11,541.60 in the bank. A net loss this fiscal year is \$522.00 Ernesto's plant table brought in \$168 in raffle sales, the best in a long time.
- ✦ We've joined Garden Club of California in order to get a lower insurance next February.
- ✦ 62 membership applications were mailed to former members to get them to hopefully join.
- ✦ Bus Trip needs someone to chair it. Possible date in May 2011.
- ✦ BBQ Auction being planned for September 25 at Becky Jackson's. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the next meeting. Dennis Olivas will be auctioneer.

Next Board meeting Sept. 21 at the Smith's home.

AOS Awards for July

8/3/2010 - Pacific Central - San Francisco

Dendrobium laevifolium 'Sam's Choice', AM 81 species, Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids
Dendrobium laevifolium 'Golden Ray', HCC 76 species, Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids
Dendrobium victoriae-reginae 'Blue Halo', HCC 77 species, Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids

8/7/2010 - California Sierra Nevada - Sacramento

Dimorphorchis rossii 'Pickle's Delight', HCC 77 species, Exhibited by Ted Foin
Paphiopedilum S. Gratrix 'Blanc de Blanc', HCC 76 (Paph. belatulum x Paph. godefroyae), Exhibited by Dave Sorokowsky
Sarcochilus hilli 'Elizabeth Anne', CBR (prov), species, Exhibited by James Morris

8/16/2010 - Pacific Central - Oakland

Acineta superba 'Winston', AM 80 species, Exhibited by Amy and Ken Jacobsen
Bulbophyllum alaguense 'Gilbert', CCM 84 species, Exhibited by Carol Zoltowski
Dendrobium schneiderae 'Gilbert', HCC 75 species, Exhibited by Carol Zoltowski
Paphiopedilum Pacific Rainbow 'Vinho Verde', AM 80 (Paph. Rainbow Sky x Paph. Pacific Shamrock), Exhibited by Dave Sorokowsky [previous award HCC 76](#)
Dracula diabola 'Andina', HCC 79 species, Exhibited by George McRae

Pacific Central Judging Center: <http://www.aospacificcentral.org>

California Sierra Nevada Judging Center: <http://www.csnjc.org>

Thank You

Thank you to Linda and Darryl Eggleston for hosting an open greenhouse in August.

Thank you to Ann Conger for picking up donated plants and trying to revive them.

Thanks to Josie Lee for procuring the opportunity table for our September meeting.

Request from your Vice President

Quick Questionnaire

We would like our members' feedback on our August speaker, **Ernesto Sandoval**. We are attempting to find new and interesting speakers and not just recycle speakers that have provided presentations again and again over the years. The difficulty with any new speaker is that we do not know whether the speaker is good until they do speak and until we have your feedback. We want to provide speakers that you will find interesting, educational and which will help you in growing your orchids. You may send a response with or without your name.

Did you find Ernesto Sandoval interesting? Why or why not?

Would you like to have Ernesto speak again on another subject?

What are speaker subjects that would be of interest to you?

Do you personally know someone who could speak? If so, would you please provide contact information.

Is there a speaker you have heard in the past that you would like to hear again? If so, on what subject?

You may snail-mail to Kathie Hile, 4800 Pressley Road, Santa Rosa 95404; or email to VicePresident@sonomaorchids.com; or bring to the next meeting. There will be a folder on the membership table in which you may place your completed questionnaire. Thank you for your response.

2010/2011 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

BOARD of DIRECTORS

President	Susan Anderson	762-2917	President@sonomaorchids.com
Vice President	Kathleen Hile	585-1912	VicePresident@sonomaorchids.com
Secretary	Becky Jackson	584-1386	Secretary@sonomaorchids.com
Treasurer	Ann Possinger	538-4101	Treasurer@sonomaorchids.com
Membership	"Smitty" Smith	795-0235	Membership@sonomaorchids.com
Newsletter Editor	Jim Foster	762-7124	Newslettter@sonomaorchids.com
Ways & Means	Charles Peters	324-9203	WaysMeans@sonomaorchids.com
Meetings Director	Gerry Smith	795-0235	Meetings@sonomaorchids.com
Past President	Kris Foster	762-7124	PastPresident@sonomaorchids.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Meetings Setup	Bob Beckwoldt	415-479-2329	
Greeter	Marlene Spano	579-3260	Greeter@sonomaorchids.com
Librarian	Patty Connick	538-4245	Librarian@sonomaorchids.com
Opportunity Table	Ann Conger	823-0334	Optable1@sonomaorchids.com
	Charlene Shaw	537-8708	Optable2@sonomaorchids.com
Plant Sales	Marilyn Barquero	763-882	Plantsales1@sonomaorchids.com
	Mariann Hopkins	829-1043	Plantsales2@sonomaorchids.com
Refreshments	Kathy Fletcher	935-0721	Refreshments@sonomaorchids.com
Spring Show	Lynne Murrell	415-457-0836	Show@sonomaorchids.com
Bus Trip	Vacant		Bustrip@sonomaorchids.com
Holiday Party	Ann Conger	823-0334	Holidayparty@sonomaorchids.com
	Charlene Shaw	537-8708	Holidayparty@sonomaorchids.com
AOS/Orchid Digest	Patty Connick	538-4245	AOSrep@sonomaorchids.com
Webmaster	Richard Lindberg	226-2775	Webmaster@sonomaorchids.com

September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 <i>SCOS Meeting</i>	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 <i>Board Meeting</i>	22	23	24 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	25 <i>BBQ and Auction</i>
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 <i>SCOS Meeting</i>	13	14	15	16
17 <i>Open Greenhouse</i>	18	19 <i>Board Meeting</i>	20	21	22	23
24	25 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Upcoming Events

- **September 11th – 12th** San Francisco Orchid Society's Fall Sale, 2010 Orchids in the Park Gallery, SF County Fair Building (Hall of Flowers); For more information: www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
- **September 18th**, California Orchids Fall Sale, 9am to 4pm. [See Page 12.](#)
- **September 25th**, Coastal Valley Orchid Society's Fourth Annual 2010 Orchid Expo; Grossman Gallery of the Lompoc Public Library; Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm. [See page 13.](#)
- **September 25th**, SCOS BBQ and Auction.
- **October 17th**, Open Greenhouse at Raymond Burr Vineyards, 10am - 3pm.

Refreshments for June

A - Ca

The Society is asking that the members with their last name beginning with A-Ca bring refreshments to the meeting. Snacks such as fresh fruit, crackers & cheese, cookies, cakes or any other snack is welcome. Anyone can bring refreshments.

Don't forget to get your raffle ticket for bringing something to share.

Future Speakers

<u>Month</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Subject</u>
September	Glenn Keator	California Native Orchids
October	Amy Chung-Jacobsen	Laelia purpurata
November	Earl and Kathy Rathbun	Orchids and the Land of the Thunder Dragon

Sonoma County Orchid Society Annual Barbecue and Auction



Saturday, September 25, 2010

1451 Keiser Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA

Silent Auction, Tri-tip or Chicken BBQ, followed by a Live Auction

Arrive at 11:00; Lunch at 12:30; Live Auction at 2:00; Ends at 5:00

Silent Auction Plants must arrive by 11:00

\$6.00 per person in advance, bring a potluck side dish to share

Donations are appreciated

Parking is available at 1411 Keiser Ave. (2 doors west of Becky's)

Sign-up at the meeting or call Becky Jackson for reservations at

707-584-1386

San Francisco Orchid Society presents
Orchids in the Park
Sale and Exhibition

Saturday & Sunday
September 11 & 12, 2010
10 am - 5 pm

Gallery, San Francisco
County Fair Building
9th Avenue & Lincoln Way
San Francisco

Demonstrations,
Lectures, Raffle

Admission: \$3.00
(Children under 14 are free)

(415) 665-2468

www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
A California Non-profit 501(c)3 Corporation



California Orchids Fall Sale!

Saturday, September 18th
9am - 4pm



Many Varieties of Orchids....
Small to Very Large specimens
In and Out of Flower
Cool, Intermediate, and Warm growers.
Repotting Materials
Sound Advice

Come see our 17 ft orchid logs..they look great!
California Orchids

515 Aspen Rd.
Bolinas, California 94924
415-868-0203

info@californiaorchids.com

See our web page
www.californiaorchids.com



2010

Coastal Valley Orchid Society
Of Lompoc
Proudly Presents the Fourth Annual

Orchid Expo & Sale

This Year's Theme

'Orchids 101'

Saturday, September 25, 2010

10 a.m. ~ 4 p.m.

Lompoc Public Library

The Grossman Gallery

Come see surrounding Central Coast Orchid Society displays, local grower displays, how to grow outdoors, on a window sill, and in a greenhouse and learn about the Wonderful World of Orchids

Orchids for Sale by Central Coast Orchid Nurseries & Societies

**Potting and mounting demonstration
12 p.m. and 2 p.m.**

Orchid Artwork on display

Accredited judges from the prestigious American Orchid Society (AOS) will be judging orchids beginning at 12 p.m. and the public is invited to observe the entire judging process!

Admission is FREE!

www.coastalvalleyorchidsociety.com

**For more information contact Phil Rietz at 805-736-3020, Eileen Whitty at 805-733-2073,
or Van Bivans at 805-735-4541**



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 **7:00** 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 7:30 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.