

# SCVOS

Established 1951

Newsletter – January 2004

The Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society is a non-profit organization that meets the first Wednesday of each month at the American Legion Hall, 1504 Minnesota Avenue, in the Willow Glen neighborhood of San Jose, California. The usual meeting starts at 7:30 pm. The schmoozing starts at about 7:00 pm.

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## Upcoming Meetings

January 7, 2004

General Meeting

Refreshments for Jan's meeting: Please contact Marie Lofton at 629-0264 or email to [smlofton@pacbell.net](mailto:smlofton@pacbell.net) if you want to bring something ... **Remember, you get a free plant ticket when you bring food!**

## “Outdoor Orchids”

Our speaker for January will be Leo Kusber of Lion's Den Orchids. He will be speaking on outdoor orchids. His fascination with Zygos and intergeneric zygos is evident by the large variety available at Lion Den. Propetalum Matthina an intergeneric zygo:



Look for the article on Zygopetalum culture under "Back to Basics" in the March, 1998, issue of the AOS Bulletin "ORCHIDS".

They also have a high quality flasking service for seed, green pod and Phaleanopsis for the commercial market and stem propagation. Check out their website at: [Lion's Den Orchids](http://www.lionsdenorchids.com)

## SCVOS Holiday Dinner

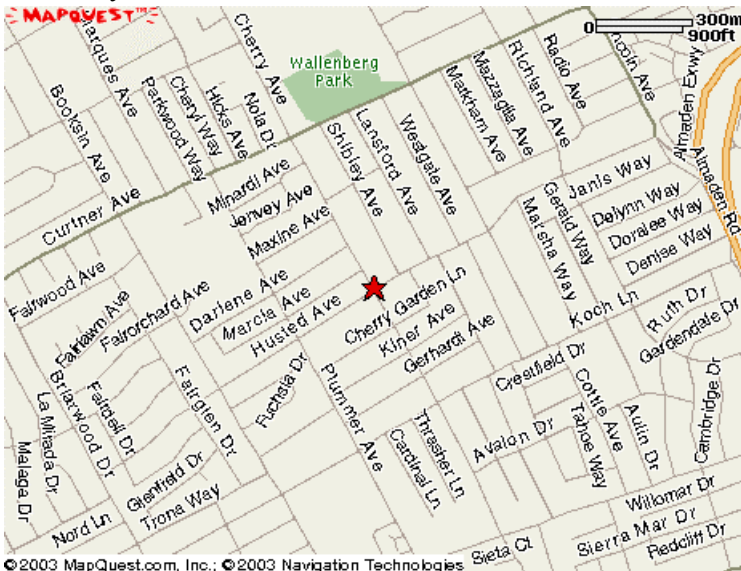
The dinner was at the Blue Pheasant in Cupertino belen.jpg this year and was quite good. Each member received a small orchid and there were some outrageously beautiful plants given out to several of the society volunteers including secretary, ticket sales, membership coordinators, librarian, and many others.....a good incentive for the next group of volunteers for this year.



Two volunteers and their plants: Librarian and Ticket sales: Taik and Belen

## Next Board meeting is the 3rd Wed of January:

at the home of Dave Riches, 1451 Husted Ave San Jose, CA 95125-4751 between Curtner and Hillsdale and near Cherry Avenue in Willow Glen.



All members are welcome Come along and help us make those **important** decisions!! Give Dave a call so he can be sure there are enough chairs (445-0388).

## Shows and Sales Locally:

**Jan 3-4, 2004** 10AM-5PM, Peninsula Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale "Carnival of Orchids". At Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave. Redwood City. For more info call Rene Biggs at 650-593-4793 or go to <http://penorchidsoc.org>.

**Feb. 7-8** Santa Cruz Orchid Society Soquel High School, 401 Old San Jose Rd., Soquel Contact: Cheryl Wagner @ (831) 457-8393  
<http://members.cruzio.com/~sirleen/>

**February 19-22** San Francisco Orchid Society 52<sup>nd</sup> Pacific Orchid Exposition, "the Art of Orchids", Festival Pavilion at Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA . Thursday Preview Night, 6:30 to 10PM , Friday 10AM to 6PM, Sat 9AM-6PM and Sunday 10AM – 5PM). For more info :  
<http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org>.

**Mar. 6-7** Sonoma Co. Orchid Society Veterans Bldg.-Hwy 12,Santa Rosa  
<http://www.sonic.net/scorchid/show.htm>

**Mar. 12-14** Malihini. Orchid Society Vallco Fashion Park, Cupertino <http://www.malihini.org/>

**Mar. 19-21** Santa Barbara International Orchid Show Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara  
<http://www.sborchidshow.com/>

**Mar. 26-28** San Diego County Orchid Society Scottish Rite Temple, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego Contact: Ivan Harrison @ (619) 448-3312 or phragmania@cox.net  
For the A.O.S. Calendar of Events (U.S. and International) checkout <http://orchidweb.org/events.html>

## Happy New Year!

Another year has almost passed.....Members are encouraged to pay their dues to the membership coordinator any time. The calendar year is also the membership year, so renew in Dec or January. In order to continue your newsletter you must pay by the March meeting.

## Upcoming Events

January: Our January meeting has a speaker on outdoor orchids, particularly zygos.... See more details above.

August: Alan Koch will be our speaker. There are a number of topics under discussion...More next newsletter.

Throughout the year: Gardening classes from Gamble Gardens.

### Help wanted

**Articles for the newsletter:** If you would like to contribute a small article please do so by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Editor reserves right to change, shorten, etc. Let your compadres know what helped you most....

**Speakers:** We can always use help with finding great speakers, so let one of the board members know --who and why they should talk.

**Web Editor:** Is there someone who could add a web page on our SCVOS site? If you want to do this let me know.

### Things for Sale

**At the SCVOS meeting: Plant Sales Begin at 7 PM.** All plants brought for sale by members must be properly labeled, priced (in even dollar amounts) and free of disease. 10% of the sale price will go to the club; the remainder goes to the individual seller. Label each sale plant and provide a summary sheet of your sale plants to Lothar Schicker at the close of the meeting.

## January/February Orchid Checklist

(from the AOS website; written by Ned Nash and James Rose)

**Cattleya:** Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

**Cymbidium:** We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

**Lycaste:** The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

**Paphiopedilum:** The standard Paphiopedilum insigne-derived hybrids, which are called "bulldogs" and "toads" are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

**Phalaenopsis:** Now is the peak of spike development, with first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned-up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at shows and sales.

**Zygopetalum** For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.