

Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society

Established 1951

July 2006 SCVOS Newsletter

(please note that [links](#) in electronic copies are functional)



Speaker Notes and News

Blaize Hammel is a hobbyist who enjoys primarily small, cooler growing orchids. He is a particular fan of the genus *Restrepia*, which hails from mid to high elevations in the Andes mountains, and is a genus in the midst of a major revision. Although many of you may be familiar with *Restrepias* and other *Pleurothallidae* genera, Blaize has something that the rest of us unfortunately do not: lots of time!! Blaize is only 18 years of age, and has assembled a very impressive collection of cooler growing plants in a very short amount of time. In addition, he has had the opportunity to travel to many places and appreciate the orchids growing native in those locations. A few years ago, he went to France, home of many beautiful terrestrials, including several species of *Dactylorhiza*, *Orchis*, and the bee-orchids, *Ophrys* (which mimics a bumble bee in size and in fuzziness). His presentation about the orchids he found in France has been acclaimed by other societies, so this one should be a lot of fun. Please come by to enjoy some beautiful slides and an entertaining speaker.



[Dactylorhiza sambucina](#) growing in Canada; this genus prefers full sun exposure in wet meadows. *Dactylorhiza* and other terrestrials are on the forefront of new techniques in tissue culture ...this will offer the possibility of a true garden orchid.

We in the board have been considering ways to improve the mission of our society, that being a member should lead to being a better orchid grower. We've come up with a nice list of ways that this might be accomplished. Let us know what you think! Please consider any additional criteria and email [myself](#) or [Jim Griffin](#) for further information:

- Introduce yourself to 3 SCVOS members.
- Present a plant at Show and Tell Visit two orchid growers out of our region (e.g. Cal Orchid and SB Orchid Estate).
- Attend two other society meetings.
- Attend two non-SCVOS shows.
- Attend an AOS orchid judging session.
- Subscribe to two orchid journals (e.g. Orchid Digest, Orchids, CSA Journal).
- Purchase five books about orchids.
- Learn to take pictures of your orchids.
- Become more familiar with a new genus or alliance by growing at least five plants of the new genus.
- Participate in the annual auction or show by selling ten plants.
- Participate in the annual auction or show by purchasing ten plants.
- Attend a board meeting during the year as an observer.
- Accept a nomination and serve on the board for the year.

Remember, there are so many ways to be a better grower. You're surrounded by helpful and knowledgeable people at the society, so let us help you help yourselves!!

Also, please remember to wear your name badge that Kristina and Marvin Bell thoughtfully made for you so newer members and guests feel more comfortable and welcome knowing your name.

New Members

Welcome to the following new members for 2006:
Ilona Mueller, Rosie and Michael Fong.



Refreshments Announcement: Murrae and Ignacio Moreno are scheduled to bring refreshments this month. Thanks for volunteering!

Messages from the President

Save The Dates: More details will follow, but please save the following dates of **August 2** for our Annual Auction, **August 12** for our bus greenhouse tour, and **December 9** for our Holiday Party.

1. Thank you to Ofelia Woodfill's sister, **Maria**, for filling in at the raffle table in Dave's absence last month.
2. A special election was held last month to facilitate Bruce Davidson becoming Vice President and Kristina Bell to take the helm of our society. The regular election occurs in November. The VP is responsible for securing our speakers, oftentimes taking years to coordinate their appearance, and Bruce is presently working on the roster of speakers for your enjoyment and education in the future. Which leads me to say **THANK YOU** to Kristina for the past several years of bringing speakers from around the world to our monthly meetings. It has been an honor for me to volunteer for our society as your President, and the help of so many dedicated volunteers made my job so much easier. Please consider sometime in the future volunteering your time or plants or talents to our fine society; from the hall set-up / clean-up, refreshments, Board Members with opinions or suggestions, to assisting at the Show or organizing next year's bus tour (which Sylvia will walk you through using her knowledge and notes). The Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society is a premier organization, and your participation, in whatever ways possible, is vital to our continued success.

-**Tom Bailey**, Immediate Past President

Other News

If you are not getting your newsletter via email, please be sure to give your currently correct address to Ed Nazzal, paphman@gmail.com.

Eanghak Quach **still** has a 4' x 8' greenhouse for sale for \$400. It is new and still in the box. Please give him a call at 408-316-4320 if you're interested.

Members' Plant Sales

All plants brought for sale by members must be properly labeled, disease free, and priced in even dollar amounts. Ten percent of the sale price goes to the club treasurer, Dave Riches, before you leave. We rely on the honor system.

Future Speakers

August: Annual Auction

This is a change from previous newsletters! The SCVOS will forgo the presence of a speaker for the month of August, making up for learning with our real passion: **buying plants!!** The auction is probably the best time all year to get really nice plants for very reasonable prices; be sure to attend this one, as plants go fast and cheap!! Remember that for this event, there is no show and tell or scheduled refreshment time, as this meeting is more "free flow" than normally scheduled speakers.

Recent and Upcoming Events

The San Jose Airport Holiday Inn Express Orchid Show and Sale was a tremendous success! Thanks to all who participated, especially **Kreg Martin** and **Angelic Nguyen**, both of whom anchored the club's display (images of which will appear in a newsletter in the near future). Between Angelic's Cattleyas and Kreg's huge Dendrobiums, the display was a rowdy, crazy, but at the same time beautiful collage of our member's talents. Kreg took home the **Best in Show** trophy for a very well grown Tolunnia. Thanks also to those of you who participated in staffing the membership table, or helped out with the plant hotel or in being a host or hostess. The orchids were delightful, the food was excellent, the people were a blast; all together

a wonderful experience, and even your picky newsletter editor found something (actually three things) to buy!! Please be sure to congratulate **Bruce Davidson** on a job very well done indeed.

In another **Bruce Davidson**-related note, please welcome him aboard as our new VP, responsible for coordinating speakers and getting us properly educated by the finest speaking talent available in the world. As Bruce plans the upcoming year of speakers, he'd very much like your opinions and input; we are, after all, a society whose goal is to make **you**, our members, better orchid growers, and often you know what you need better than us stodgy board members do. Or you could be on the board yourselves....please? Unfortunately, with Bruce stepping up to VP and Kristina taking over as Pres, that means **Tom Bailey** will be stepping down due to come complications with other societies to which he has also pledged his time. I hope you will all join me in thanking Tom for a tremendous effort on his part to continue to "grow" our club...**Thanks Tom!!**

In upcoming news events, although the orchid show season is all done, our society has a very busy summer. In the next few months, we'll have our auction and bus tour, which have been planned and discussed and made ready all year for your enjoyment in the weeks to come. Our auction, handled by **Ed Nazzal**, with mystery guest auctioneers (oh please let one of them be **Dennis Olivas !!**), gives you the opportunity to pick up top-shelf plants for bottom-drawer prices. Yay!! Everyone loves a sale!! So get out your pocketbooks and come prepared to go home happy. As a sidenote, if you're interested in donating plants to the auction, please contact Ed (his [email](#) and phone are down below in the Contact Info section) so that we'll have a fairly accurate list of goodies before the event begins. As a reminder, the auction is held during our regular August meeting time, on the 2nd, so mark your calendars accordingly.

Additionally, on August 12th, our annual Bus Tour picks up an drives down to **Matsui Orchid Nursery**, the other horticultural hot-spot of the West Coast (the first being Eanghak's backyard...seriously, check it out). It isw unfathomable how exactly our tour director, **Sylvia Grossman** managed to get us in there, but you should all take advantage of this once-in-a-

lifetime opportunity. In case you don't already know, all the plants you find at places like Home Depot, OSH, Trader Joe's and so forth have their origins in sunny Salinas, and yes, you can go there and buy them at wholesale prices. Did I mention there are only 7 seats left on the trip? Better hurry up!! As if that isn't enough on its own, you'll then see the wonderful selection of Cymbidiums at **Bay Breeze Orchids** (cheap because they're not blooming right now) and all the great plants at **Maplethorpe** after that. Couple these nurseries with Wine Tasting at **Pessagno's** and the great company of our fellow members, and it's sure to be an unforgettable day. Only seven seats....better hurry....contact **Sylvia** by [email](#) or by the phone number listed below. Also, there is further information, including times and descriptions of venues on the flier below.

Board Meeting

The July board meeting will be held at the home of Tom Bailey beginning at 7:30 PM. For further information and [directions](#), please contact Tom Bailey by phone at (408) 997-1850 or by email at thydebailey@yahoo.com so that a chair may be set up for you.

Upcoming Events

Jul 1- ????? : Pleasant Valley Orchids Closing Sale, 10354 Reigl Road, Wilton
Contact: Rich Weymouth
(916) 687-8805
pvorich@frontiernet.net

Aug 12: **SCVOS** Annual Bus Greenhouse Tour: Visit **Matsui Orchids**, **Baybreeze Orchids**, and **Maplethorpe Orchids** on a wonderful trip to Santa Cruz and beyond; lunch at the award-winning Passagno Vinyards! **See Flier Below!**
Contact: Sylvia Grossman
(408) 266-6922
sylviag@cadence.com



SCVOS Board

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 meeting usually starts at 7:30 PM. The schmoozing starts at about 7:00 PM.

Officers for 2006

Kristina Bell, President (408) 229-2747
kbellwolf@aol.com
Bruce Davidson, Vice President (408) 623-0413
mbdavidson@sjcexpress.com
Sylvia Grossman, Secretary (408) 266-6922
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Tom Bailey, President (408) 997-1850
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Ed Nazzal (408) 268-3573
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Membership

Marvin Bell (408) 229-2747
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Website: www.scvos.com

Vacant for now....anyone want to volunteer?

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Kitchen Crew

Murrae & Ignacio Moreno (408) 629-0347

2006 Show and Sale

Tim Culbertson, Co-Chair (301) 641-2556
tinc@harker.org
Eanghak Quach, Co-Chair (408) 629-3794
epigarden@yahoo.com

Show Publicity

Jim Griffin, Past President (408) 395-3888
griffjim@aol.com

Bus Tour

Sylvia Grossman, Secretary (408) 266-6922
sylviag@cadence.com

Greenhouse Tour

Doug Pulley (408) 354-1412
dpulley1@comcast.net

Holiday Dinner

Cathi Contreras (408) 264-2120
ccontreras@stmartin.org

AOS Representative

Tim Culbertson (301) 641-2556
tinc@harker.org



Cypripedium calceolus, a native of France

Recent AOS Awards

From the [AOS Pacific Central Judging Center](#)
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Bulbophyllum frostii 'Ruby Slippers'
species
CCM 84
Awarded June 6 2006 at SFOS Meeting
Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids



Laelia purpurata 'Lillian Sparks'
species
AM 81
Awarded June 6 2006 at SFOS Meeting
Exhibited by Walter M. Shinn



Cleisocentron merrillianum 'Astrea'
species
CBR (prov)
Awarded June 6 2006 at SFOS Meeting
Exhibited by Walter M. Shinn



Lycaste unnamed hybrid '06-06-06'
(*Lyc. Rowland* x *Lyc. aromatica*)
HCC 77 (prov)
Awarded June 6 2006 at SFOS Meeting
Exhibited by Japheth Ko





OSC Judging for June will be included in the following newsletter.

AOS Judging occurs on the first Tuesday of the month at the County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park in association with the SFOS meeting, and on the third Wednesday of the month at the Lake Merritt Garden Center in Oakland in association with the OSC meeting.

Masdevallia Monarch 'Cow Hollow'
(Masd. macrura x Masd. veitchiana)
CCM 82
Awarded June 6 2006 at SFOS Meeting
Exhibited by Anna S. Chai



Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society

2006 Annual Bus Tour



The Santa Cruz Coast

Saturday August 12th 8:30 am – 5:15 pm

Come join us in this annual event where members tour several commercial greenhouses. Plants are available for purchase, and most greenhouses feature specials for SCVOS members. See rare and unusual orchids and purchase plants at great prices. This year's tour includes a wine tasting at the award-winning [Pessagno Vineyards](#). Bring your lunch and a beverage of choice (wine tasting is included).

Schedule

- Assemble 8:30 in the Light Rail parking lot on Minnesota.
- **Matsui Nursery**; Browse 70 acres of greenhouses at this renowned wholesaler.
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- **Pessagno Vineyards**; Bring a brown bag lunch, picnic tables will be available on the picturesque grounds. A wine tasting is included.
12:00 noon - 1:15 p.m.
- **Bay Breeze Nursery**; Browse and buy at discount prices: 5 greenhouses.
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
- **Maplethorpe Nurseries**; Special discounts for SCVOS members.
3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.
- Return to the Light Rail parking lot at approximately 5:15 p.m.

Tickets are \$25.

Come join in the fun. The previous two bus tours were an absolute blast.

Send checks (payable to SCVOS) to Sylvia Grossman, 967 El Rio Drive, San Jose, CA

Going out of business Sale

Pleasant Valley Orchids

**10354 Reigl Rd.
Wilton, CA 95693
916-687-8805**

pvorich@frontiernet.net

May 19 thru 28, 2006 10am – 5pm

It is with mixed emotions that we have decided to leave the orchid business. While we both enjoy our customers and friends, we aren't getting any younger. With over 3000 square feet of greenhouses and an estimated 15,000 plants, it is getting to be a bit much. OK that's the bad news, here's the good. Those 15,000 plants are going to be VERY reasonably priced. Those who went to the Bennett sale in October of 2004 know that Rich priced every plant and they were very reasonable. These will be as good or better.

We have a wide variety of genera both species and hybrids. Most will be available including many stud plants. We will keep a small number of plants for our own enjoyment and possibly some flasks for sale in the future.

We ask that there are no wholesale buyers (unless you want the whole business) until the 22nd of May as we would like the hobbyist to have first chance. That's how we got into orchids and want those who follow us to have a chance at extremely inexpensive plants.

If you can bring an empty box or two it will help expedite the sale. Call for directions, or see our out of date website www.pvorchids.elkgrove.net .