

# Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society

Established 1951

## September 2006 SCVOS Newsletter



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

### Speaker Notes and News

September is upon us, and with it comes the beginning of a South American odyssey for SCVOS speakers. This month, welcome **Eric Christenson** as our speaker.



Dr. Christenson is a research taxonomist with strong interests in the Aeridinae (Sarcantinae), neotropical floristics, and the conservation of horticultural plants. He authored a monograph of Phalaenopsis for the International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA) in 2001. He has done field work in both Guyana and French Guiana and authored the orchid treatment for the Vascular Flora of Central French Guiana. He is also actively assisting David Bennett of Lima, Peru, with a modern inventory of **Peruvian orchids, about which he will speak**. To date they have published 800 illustrations as Icones Orchidacearum Peruvianarum, including more than 150 new distribution records and more than 100 new species from Peru. His bilingual Florula Machu Picchu: Orchids was published in 2003. His current work in Peru can be read about at: [www.andesamazon.org](http://www.andesamazon.org). Dr. Christenson is known for his articles that attempt to bridge the gap between taxonomy and horticulture as well as his in-depth book reviews. He is a strong advocate for orchid conservation, particularly ex situ propagation, and actively works with commercial growers to that end.

So you feel like your orchid growing is going extremely well? Could you be improving on any of your cultural conditions? Could you be learning more about other genera (see last month's discussion)? Have you tried any of the following?

- Develop a potting mixture and pot five plants in it.
- Make a cross by pollinating an orchid and flasking the seed.
- Build a greenhouse or growing area other than a windowsill.
- Spend time helping other SCVOS members solve their orchid problems.
- Invest \$100 in your orchid hobby to increase your growing ability (e.g. fluorescent lights, fertilizers, flasks, compots, or plants).

These are pretty major steps, steps commonly experienced by those truly "addicted"...Can you count yourself among these "privileged" few? In any event, although the last item on the list for this month sounds like a bear, give it some real thought: to become a better grower does in fact take time, effort, and an investment on your part. Think of the people in our society who fit this mold, and recall the beautiful plants they bring to show and tell, and think about doing the same!! If you have ways that help you become a better grower, share some of those tactics with others, or with [me](#) and I'll make sure to include them in the newsletter.



**Refreshments Announcement:** Sylvia Grossman, Angelic Nyugen, and Marie Lofton are scheduled to bring refreshments this month. Thanks for volunteering!

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## 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

**October:** Ivan Portilla

Ivan Portilla is the co-owner of Ecuagenera, Inc., and responsible for the propagation and dissemination of rare and horticulturally interesting Ecuadorean orchids. He will speak on **The Orchids of Ecuador** and will be bringing lots of plants. Have a look at the attached list (e-mail only) to pre-order.

## 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](mailto:paphman@gmail.com).

## Messages from the President

**Save The Date:** More details will follow, but please save the following date of **December 9** for our Holiday Party.

## Recent and Upcoming Events

Well last month was the Annual Bus Tour, and what a spectacular experience for those involved. Rave reviews have poured in from those from whom I've heard, especially in regards to the sheer size of **Matsui's Orchids** in Salinas, the first stop on the tour. Although due to the fickleness seemingly inherent to many orchid growers, members were not able to purchase plants right then and there, the opportunity to visit an establishment that produces over 50% of the orchids sold in California and over 25% of those sold in the United States must have been a pleasure. I wish I could have gone; noting the cultural conditions and the greenhouse structures and controls must have been a treat, and a true way to become a better grower. Visiting greenhouses and noticing how things work (ventilation, air movement, watering, repotting,

seedling care, flasking, light and temperature conditions, for example) is a **free** way of finding out many of the "secrets" of professional growers.



Some views of Matsui's, the first overlooking the adult, blooming phal section, the next overlooking the seedling and flask areas. Look at those happy faces...There are over an acre of phal seedlings in this shot alone!!



In addition to Matsui's, members visited the greenhouses of **Bay Breeze Orchids**, where they found many cattleyas to their liking. Indeed, the society usually purchases its wholesale cattleyas for the show at Bay Breeze because of their excellent plants.



Buying plants at Baybreeze Orchids....such beautiful clean neat greenhouses!! Note the overhead irrigation...

The last stop on the bus tour was at **Maplethorpe Orchids**, a tradition for many years among growers at our society. George Stagi, owner of Maplethorpe, recently thanked society members for stopping by: "It was great to have the SCVOS come to my place; they sure like their plants." Overall, it appears that the bus tour was a great success, and many thanks to **Sylvia Grossman** for her hard work and dedication to the society for this year's event and for those of the past two years. Many thanks to those who participated. If you took pictures, and would like me to include them in the newsletter or archives, please [email me](#). Unfortunately, Sylvia is giving up the bus tour reins; under new leadership, the rumor is that the society will tackle the Sierra Nevadas and go out East on next year's tour.

**Website change!!** The website has been updated with SCVOS 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Show pictures, of both plants and people. Please hold your cursor over the image to see the name of the plant and its grower, and click on the image for a much larger picture. As usual, if you have additional pictures or suggestions, please email your [website editor](#), and for further information, visit the website at:

<http://www.santaclaravalleyorchidsociety.org>

**D & D Flowers** Fall Open House will occur on September 23rd and 24th, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Half Moon Bay. New for this sale will be offerings from the Kajikawa and Ayers Cymbidium Collections, as well as the usual great prices on original divisions of Cattleyas, Oncidiums, Cymbidiums, Paphiopedilums, Phragmipediums and many more genera. Please bring your own boxes. Really good deals...priced to sell for cash or checks, but no credit cards.

Please note that D & D Flowers Greenhouse is open to the public only during their Spring and Fall Open Houses.

The greenhouse is located 1/3 mile east of Main Street on Hwy 92. Just east of Spanish Village is a house and wood pile yard. Turn onto the street between the house and the wood pile yard and go over the bridge. The greenhouse is on the right. If you have questions or need directions please call Dennis Olivas at (925) 060-1246. We currently do not have a list of what there is available but there are thousands of plants priced from \$5 and up.

We received these two announcements from The Orchid Forum of Sacramento and Diablo View Orchid Society about interesting fall shows to attend:

1. Each year, we hold a Fall show and sale that is free to the public and we are trying to reach Northern California and Nevada orchid groups with the information about our show.

The theme for the show this year is educational in nature. Our theme is growing orchids in Sacramento; however, the show is about educating the public about orchids. We will have several guest lecturers that will talk about growing orchids, demonstrate repotting techniques, and sharing cultural tips. In addition to hundreds of beautiful flowers, there will be several displays of orchids in their natural settings and educational exhibits. We will also have 4 or 5 Northern California vendors that will be selling orchids at our show.

Thank you for getting the word out,

Jay Klock  
Secretary  
Orchid Forum of Sacramento

2. The Diablo View Orchid Society is having their annual fall show and sale on October 14 & 15, 2006. Public hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on October 14<sup>th</sup> and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Please join us at the Pleasant Hill Community Center. The address is 320 Civic Drive in Pleasant Hill, CA. The community center is about 1 mile west of the Sun Valley Mall off the right hand side of Taylor Blvd. Fliers with map to the event will be available at most orchid society general meetings. Also, you may print a flyer and map from the society's webpage at [www.diablowivos.org](http://www.diablowivos.org). For further questions, please contact Dennis Olivas at 925-969-1246 or e-mail at [d.olivas@comcast.net](mailto:d.olivas@comcast.net).

## Upcoming Events

Sep 23-24: Orchid Forum of Sacramento Show, 1/3 Mile off Rte. 92 in Spanish Village.  
Contact: Dennis Olivas  
(925) 969-1246  
[d.olivas@comcast.net](mailto:d.olivas@comcast.net)

Sep 16-17: D & D Flowers Annual Open House, Sacramento Garden and Arts Center.  
Contact: Jay Klock  
[jklock@pacbell.net](mailto:jklock@pacbell.net)

Oct 14: California Orchids Spring Sale, 515 Aspen Rd, Bolinas.  
Contact: Mary Nisbet  
[www.californiaorchids.com](http://www.californiaorchids.com)  
**See Flier Below!!**

Oct 14-15: Diablo View Orchid Society Fall Show, Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Dr., Pleasant Hill.  
Contact: Dennis Olivas  
(925) 969-1246  
[d.olivas@comcast.net](mailto:d.olivas@comcast.net)  
**See Flier Below!!**

## Board Meeting

The September 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](mailto:thydebailey@yahoo.com) so that a chair may be set up for you.

## 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](mailto:kbellwolf@aol.com)  
Bruce Davidson, Vice President (408) 623-0413  
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Jim Griffin, Past President (408) 395-3888  
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### *Directors for 2006*

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### *2007 Auction Chair*

Ed Nazzal (408) 268-3573  
[paphman@gmail.com](mailto:paphman@gmail.com)

### *Membership*

Marvin Bell (408) 229-2747  
[marvskis@aol.com](mailto:marvskis@aol.com)

### *Website*

Vacant for now...anyone want to volunteer?

### *Database*

Ed Nazzal (408) 268-3573  
[paphman@gmail.com](mailto:paphman@gmail.com)

### *Newsletter*

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*Hospitality*

Haryl Pascal (650) 619-3537  
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*Plant Opportunity Tickets*

Dave and Ofelia Woodfill (408) 248-5983  
[ofiew@comcast.net](mailto:ofiew@comcast.net)

*Kitchen Crew*

Murrae & Ignacio Moreno (408) 629-0347

*2007 Show and Sale*

Tim Culbertson, Co-Chair (301) 641-2556  
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[epigarden@yahoo.com](mailto:epigarden@yahoo.com)

*Show Publicity*

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

*Bus Tour*

*Greenhouse Tour*

Doug Pulley (408) 354-1412  
[dpulley1@comcast.net](mailto:dpulley1@comcast.net)

*Holiday Dinner*

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*AOS Representative*

Tim Culbertson (301) 641-2556  
[timc@harker.org](mailto:timc@harker.org)

**Some Orchids from the Raymond Burr Estate**



This month's letterhead candidate, Blc. Norman's Bay 'Zephyr' in bloom during February of last year in Healdsburg, CA.

**Recent AOS Awards**

From the AOS Pacific Central Judging Center  
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Cynorkis purpuracens 'Saint Germaine's Blessing'  
species  
HCC 78  
Awarded August 1 2006 at SFOS Meeting  
Exhibited by Walter M. Shinn



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. Awards from August judging in Oakland will appear in next month's newsletter

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# ***You Can Grow Orchids in Sacramento!***

Orchid Forum of Sacramento  
Annual Show and Sale

***September 16 and 17, 2006***  
***Saturday 10:30–5:30, Sunday 10:00–4:00***

Sacramento Garden & Arts Center  
3330 McKinley Blvd.  
***Sacramento, CA 95816***



**The annual flower show and plant sale  
features extensive displays of orchids in natural settings and  
useful information to help you grow orchids successfully.**

**Free parking & admission. Orchid lectures and demonstrations.  
Award winning orchid vendors and plant sales.**

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**California Orchids Spring Sale**  
**Saturday October 14**  
**9am - 4pm**

We'll have a great variety of healthy Species and Hybrids for sale!  
Special sale prices on many items!  
Supplies, Books  
Seedling to Specimen sizes  
(415) 868-0203  
[www.californiaorchids.com](http://www.californiaorchids.com)

**HOW TO GET CALIFORNIA ORCHIDS**

515 Aspen Rd  
Bolinas, Ca 94924

From San Francisco go north across the Golden Gate Bridge.

Follow all signs to Stinson Beach; you will be traveling along Hwy 1 going North for about 35 minutes after you get off the freeway. Go thru Stinson Beach and continue north for about 5 miles. The Bolinas Lagoon will be on your left.

Pass the Audubon Canyon Ranch and you have about a mile still to go. Take the first left that you can at the end of the Lagoon. There is an intersection sign (but it doesn't say Bolinas) and an emergency phone on the corner

Go to the Yield sign and take a Left.

Go to the Stop sign and take a Left. The Bolinas Nursery is on your left.

Go to the Stop sign and take a Right. This is Mesa Rd.

Drive up the hill and pass the Fire Station. Take the first left (Overlook Rd.) Then take the first right (Poplar) and the first right again (Aspen). We are on the corner of Poplar and Aspen. Come in the metal gate/concrete drive and find us.

From the Richmond Bridge or San Rafael take Sir Francis Drake Blvd. all the way to Hwy. 1 which is the town of Olema. Turn left and continue south on Hwy 1 for 10-15 minutes. Take a right onto Horseshoe Hill Road. (If you get to the Bolinas Lagoon you have gone too far.) Go straight thru the first stop sign and continue to the second stop, Mesa Rd. the follow the directions above.

From the 2AM CLUB in Mill Valley go up the hill and keep going up on the main road until you come to the top of the hill. It is a 4-way intersection. Straight takes you to Muir Woods, but go right to the Mountain Home Inn and over Mount Tam by way of the Panoramic Hwy, eventually dropping down onto Hwy 1 at Stinson Beach. Turn right to Stinson Beach and follow the directions above.