



SCOS

January 5th Meeting Happy New Year!



Our speaker this month is Dennis Olivas. Dennis will be speaking on "New Breeding in Vandacious Orchids". See Dennis' Bio on page 2.

Dinner with the Speaker:

Dinner will be at Chinese Village on Capitola Rd., Capitola at 5:30. . Everyone is welcome. If possible, email Vicky Smith at orchids@cruzio.com by Thursday, January 4th if you are interested in attending, or just show up.

The **Opportunity Table** will be provided by Dennis Olivas.

Refreshments for this month to be provided by:

Cheri Wagner, Vicky Smith, Marnie Goodfriend, Linda Locatelli, Lillian Taft. Thank you!

2018 Membership Dues

It's time to think about renewing memberships or joining the society for 2018. A membership form can be found on page 7. Bring it to the meeting or mail it in. Details are on the form.

Election Results

Come January a few changes will be noticed within the Board. The election was held at the December meeting and the slate accepted as presented. The Board of Directors is pretty much the same with the addition of two new directors! Terry Whettam and Rolla Grace. Bridget is leaving the Board and we'd like to thank her for the many contributions she has made to the society as a Director.

2018 Show and Sale

Save the dates. Friday, March 2 – Saturday March 3! We are hoping to be doing the event at Cabrillo College this year! We are planning to run things a bit differently. Details will be forthcoming in the next meeting and future newsletters.

Board Members

President: Open
Vice President: Vicky Smith
Treasurer: Lillian Derrigan
Secretary: Bruce Hill
Directors: Scott Collins,
Lucy Ferneyhough, Terry Whettam,
Rolla Grace

Newsletter Editor: Cheri Wagner
Webmaster: Cheri Wagner
Librarian: Gordon Lion
Membership Chair: Linda Locatelli
Publicity Chair: Lucy Ferneyhough
Refreshment Committee: Bruce Hill
PO Box 1405, Santa Cruz 95061

Website:

www.santacruzorchidsociety.org



[Visit our facebook page](#)

About Our Speaker



Dennis Olivas was born on the island of Kauai, Hawaii. As a lad he helped his mom grow her orchids and got hooked. He joined the Future Farmers of America and his project was raising and selling orchids. In 1980 he moved to the mainland and swore off the orchid family but not for long as he was introduced to Rod McLellan's 'Acres of Orchids'. First he filled his home with upwards of 6,000 plants. Later he leased greenhouse space for his collection. A glutton for punishment he continued to add to his collection, overflowing the 3,000 sq. ft. greenhouse in Half Moon Bay. Currently his greenhouse (D&D Flowers) is in Daly City.

Dennis has been President of Peninsula Orchid Society, San Francisco Orchid Society, Diablo View Orchid Society, and the Santa Cruz Orchid Society. He is an accredited judge of the American Orchid Society. Dennis belongs to over 14 orchid societies and tries to assist them whenever possible.

Member News

It is with great sadness that we report that Stella Roccaforte passed away on December 7. She was 91. She and her husband Mike were heavily involved in the society's inception and continued their support for many years. They lived in San Francisco and came to Santa Cruz every month for meetings. The magnitude of what Stella and Mike Roccaforte contributed to the Santa Cruz Orchid Society throughout their many years of service can't be fully understood, even by those of us who knew them the longest. They were members of nearly all of the Bay Area societies and contributed their time equally to all of them. They both served as President, Vice President, and directors of the Santa Cruz Orchid Society for multiple terms. They were incredibly generous with their time, knowledge and plants, particularly with novice orchid growers. Stella completely ran the sales for many of the local societies annual Show and Sales. This is a considerable undertaking even for one society! They were always first to any function and last to leave. Mike was the creator of the Wheel of Fortune that we played at the Holiday party earlier this month.

Linda Locatelli recalls that they had an amazing home with greenhouses integrated into part of their home on several levels. Mike was a creative plumber and devised a watering-drainage system for the multi-level greenhouse. They grew many classic species not readily available now. Linda still has many of them, bought when she first joined the society years ago. Stella and Mike will be greatly missed by the orchid community.

Upcoming Events

January 5, 2018: SCOS General Meeting. Dennis Olivas will be speaking on "New Breeding in Vandacious Orchids".

January 19, 2018. Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers Annual Collector's Auction.
Preview 6:30PM. Auction starts at 7:00PM. San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA.
For info contact: Richard Mangan at <mailto:mangasz@att.net>

February 2, 2018: SCOS General Meeting.

February 22 - 25, 2018: San Francisco Orchid Society's 66th Annual Pacific Orchid Exposition (POE)
"Curiouser and Curiouser - Orchids in Wonderland"

Thurs Feb 22nd @ 6pm: Gala Preview Night "Mad Hatter" Party

Fri - Sun Feb 23rd-25th: General Show and Sale.

Location: Hall of Flowers (County Fair Building) in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

More information and advance tickets sales to come; stay tuned! <http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org>

March 2-3, 2018: Santa Cruz Orchid Society Show and Sale

March 9-11, 2018: 73rd Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. Hours: Open 9am - 5pm each day
Earl Warren Show Grounds: Highway 101 and Las Positas Road. Santa Barbara, CA 93160
Contact information: <https://sborchidshow.com/> e-mail: <mailto:sborchidshow@gmail.com>.

April 22-23, 2018: Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers Show & Sale.
1400 Roosevelt Avenue, Redwood City, CA.
Set-Up and Plant entry Friday 10AM - 6PM; CSA and AOS judging at 7PM.
Show and Sale open to the public Saturday and Sunday 10AM to 4PM.
For information contact Sylvia Darr, Show Chair <mailto:syldarr@gmail.com>

AOS corner

Visit this link to view prerecorded webinars available to everyone (including nonmembers) at
<http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

Orchid Education (reprinted by permission from the AOS)

Edema

Text by Sue Bottom/Pictures by Terry Bottom

What are those strange blisters?

WHEN I FIRST noticed those corky blisters on the leaves of my orchids, I thought it was some kind of aberrant scale. I tried scratching them off and even tried excising them with an X-Acto knife, though of course it wasn't scale at all. The culprit was edema, also known as oedema; swelling caused by excess fluids.

In orchids, this swelling is caused by improper watering, when the roots absorb more water than can be transpired by the leaves. Typically this happens during the cooler months in late winter and early spring, especially during extended periods of cool, cloudy weather. If you water on a gray day when the plant is not actively growing or you water late in the day on a day when the nighttime temperatures turn cool, edema blisters may form. The excess water absorbed by the plant causes a swelling of plant cells that produces a blister on the leaf.



Sue Bottom

Proper watering is the key to preventing edema blisters from forming. During the warm growing season when plants are in active growth and the nighttime temperatures are warm, you can water your plants with wild abandon. You can water in the morning, the afternoon or at night. In fact, when the humidity is very low, many orchid growers find it difficult to properly hydrate their orchids because they dry out so quickly.

Some selectively water in the evenings after the sun has set so their plants will stay wet overnight and soak up water. Fertilizer shouldn't be applied in the evening hours. Darkness, plus water plus nutrients is a formula for fungal and bacterial growth. Most orchids grow in a nutrient-poor environment so even though the plants may be wet at night from heavy dews and rain, there is insufficient food to fuel rots and the like in nature. If you decide a night time watering regime is right for you, water at dusk and then apply your fertilizer in the early morning.

My go-to guy, Courtney Hackney, recommends nighttime watering during periods of low humidity and warm nighttime temperatures and notes some of the additional benefits from this approach.



1



2



3

Your plants will be well hydrated so you will not have to worry about fertilizer toxicity. The roots will be ready to take up fertilizer as their surface condition has changed from hard and stiff to soft and pliable. If you live in an area with hard water, salts that accumulate in the medium, pots and roots will become soluble overnight, allowing them to be flushed out the next morning while fertilizing. Once the humidity rises or nighttime temperatures drop below the 65–70 F (18–21 C) range, you should resume the more conventional morning watering regime.

Watering during the cooler months is quite different than during the main

- [1] This bifoliate cattleya has just developed edema. The blisters are always raised. Sunken spots would be suggestive of a bacterial infection causing a collapse of the cells. Sometimes edema is mistaken for scale, though scale can easily be rubbed off with alcohol and a cotton swab.
- [2] The edema on this cattleya leaf shows the blistering from the swollen plant cells.
- [3] In severe cases, the raised blisters can coalesce as on these cattleya leaves. Though they are unsightly, the blisters do not spread or otherwise damage the plant.

Orchid Education (page 2)



growing season. Many orchids go through a winter resting period and some an outright dormancy, so the orchid's need for water and fertilizer is at a minimum. Your frequency of watering will be perhaps a quarter or a half of your summertime watering frequency. Water early in the morning, finishing before noon or so. Do not water on gray or rainy days, even if it is your "scheduled" watering day.

Orchid growers spend a lot of time worrying about different pests and diseases that might be afflicting their plants. I have come to believe that there are more physiological and cultural issues that cause problems with your orchids than those caused by pests and diseases. If you have access to the AOS Guide on Orchid Pests and Diseases, read or reread Tom Sheehan's discussion on physiological disorders caused by improper watering, light, nutrition, potting faults and other conditions (Sheehan 2002). His comments are as true today as the day they were written.

Additional Reading

Cating, R.A., Palmtree, A.J., Stiles, C.M., Harmon, P.F. and Davison, D.A. 2014. *Physiological Disorders of Orchids: Oedema*. University of Florida, IFAS Extension, Plant Pathology Department, PP244, Revised April 2014. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp164>. Accessed July 16, 2015.

Sheehan, T.J. 2002. Physiological Disorders of Orchids. p. 4-21. In: *Orchid Pests and Diseases*, Revised Edition, T.J. Watson editor. American Orchid Society, Delray Beach, Florida.

— *Sue Bottom started growing orchids in Houston in the mid-1990s after her husband Terry built her first greenhouse. They settled into St. Augustine, Florida, Sue with her orchids and Terry with his camera and are active in the St.*



Augustine Orchid Society, maintaining the society's website and publishing its monthly newsletter. Sue is also a member of the AOS Editorial Board (sbottom15@hotmail.com).

- [4] This phalaenopsis leaf recently developed edema, showing translucent blisters with green tissue underneath. Other edemas have a section in the middle with a corky appearance (the blue spotting is the residual copper fungicide spray).
- [5] The raised blisters are clearly displayed on this phalaenopsis leaf. Some of them are translucent, and some have taken on a corky appearance (image sent to www.staugorchidsociety.org for diagnosis).
- [6-7] Edema can also be expressed on flower segments, as on this cattleya. In fact, edema can form on upper or lower leaf surfaces, stems, sepals or petals.

Holiday Potluck



Wheel of Fortune



2018 SANTA CRUZ ORCHID SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Date: _____

Member Name(s): _____

New member _____ Renewal _____

Email Address(es) _____ → (For newsletter)

Email Address(es) _____ → (For newsletter)

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Individual SCOS Membership (\$20) : _____

Household SCOS Membership (\$25): _____

It is OK to share my email address with SCOS members. ☐

Please turn this form in with your membership dues (checks payable to SCOS) at the meeting to Lillian Derrigan or mail this form with your dues included to **SCOS, PO Box 1405, Santa Cruz, CA 95061**