



**San Diego County Orchid  
Society Newsletter  
Volume 253:  
June 2020**

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*Laelia 'Wallbrnn'*  
Bruce Berg

# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – June 2020

## A Note from the Editor

Hello everyone,

I'd like to apologize for the recent lack in official SDCOS newsletters. During this pandemic there have been many fewer articles to post (no Speaker articles), which was definitely a contributing factor, but another major contributor was simply pandemic-related issues; I've just fallen behind on all my orchid responsibilities.

I hope and plan to be back at this full speed going forward, regardless of if we have articles to post – I can at least make sure there are some pretty orchid pictures for everyone to share.

It may be some time before the society can meet in person again, but I want to be sure we can all stay connected and that our Society doesn't fall apart because of this. I hope many of you are able to come to our Zoom meeting this week (... maybe "today" depending on when I finish this newsletter...) – I hear the speaker is great.

Lastly, in this edition are articles that have been given to me over the past ~3 months. Some information may be a bit late, and I've omitted articles that are clearly out of date. Please bear with me/us as we catch up here.

I hope you all are staying well in these crazy times and that your orchids are staying well too.

All the best,

David Vandebroek

## President's Message

Text by Kay Klausing

Dear SDCOS Members,

I hope my message finds you well.

The Board decided to have the June meeting as a virtual meeting using Zoom. We had our board meeting last month this way and, after a few glitches, it worked quite well. We signed up for the paid version that supports our general meeting attendance and duration. Please see Debby's article for more details.

With the current situation it looks like we will have to vote for a new board virtually this year so we need at least 50 people attending our virtual meeting.

California is slowly coming back out of the lockdown. We will watch the situation and decide what to do with our July meeting and the Summer show in the park.

I hope you use the lockdown time without distraction to make major advances on your spring repotting which is ideally completed by now. But June is still a good month to catch up before the summer heat comes so that the plants have time to establish their new root system to resupply the water they lose to transpiration.

As dire as the current situation seems, at least we have our orchids to help us cope with these tough times.

Happy growing!

## Annual Meeting Tuesday, 6/2, at 7:30 PM via Zoom

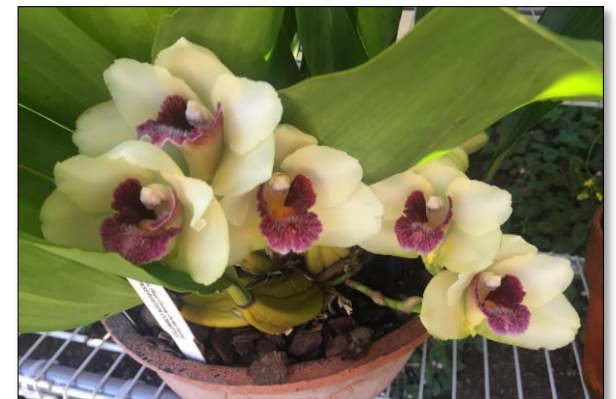
Hello everyone,

Please remember we are having our annual meeting Tuesday, 6/2, using Zoom videoconferencing. It is important that we have enough members present to vote in our next year's Board of Directors. Please look for Bob's email from May 27<sup>th</sup> to find the meeting invite as well as how to download and install Zoom.

The nominated BoD are

President:	Debby Halliday
1st Vice President:	Stewart Walton
2nd Vice President:	NONE
Secretary:	David Vandebroek
Treasurer:	Myra de Tate
Director-at-Large:	Sima Perkins

Following the vote we will hear from Jaspreet Kaur (see article on next page)



*Bifrenaria harrisoniae* 'Herbrita' AM/AOS  
Betty Kelepecz



# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – June 2020

**Main Speaker on June 02, 2020 -  
Jaspreet Kaur – The Role of Microbes in  
Orchid Population Ecology**  
Text by Debby Halliday

Our first ever virtual meeting presenter will be Jaspreet Kaur. She is a recipient of one of our SDCOS Conservation Committee research grants. We thought it would be nice to hear from a grantee about their work.

Dr. Kaur earned her PhD from Texas Tech University in 2018. She is currently working as a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Plant and Soil Science at the University. Her research interests include understanding the role of plant-microbe interactions in the distribution of plant species.

The work we have supported concerns studies of a native California species – *Platanthera cooperi* – in Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange, and San Diego counties, and another species, *P. praeclara*, native to the tallgrass prairie ecosystem. Specifically, she is looking at the mycorrhizal fungus in the soil and in roots to see whether orchid populations of different sizes also host different types of microbial communities. We will learn more about orchid research and the efforts being made to understand what factors are important for the continued success of our threatened orchid species.

We hope you will Zoom in and join us. It is always interesting and worthwhile to learn more about our native orchids and how we can nurture and preserve them.



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## San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – June 2020

### Judging at the San Diego Judging Center (Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park), March, 2020.

Text and photos by Phyllis Prestia

There were 8 orchids presented for judging.  
One was awarded.

Lyc. Alan Salzman 'Windflower' AM/AOS

Exhibited by Betty Kelopecz

Awarded AM/AOS 83 points



### From the Membership Desk

Please welcome our newest member, Delio Ladrón de Guevara.

If your name, address, email address, or phone number has changed recently please notify Membership at a meeting, orchid show, or email Bob at [membership@sdorchids.com](mailto:membership@sdorchids.com).

### World Famous San Diego Zoo

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Visit our website:

[www.sandiegozoo.org](http://www.sandiegozoo.org)

Your membership supports our plant and animal collections and includes a monthly visit to our Orchid Odyssey on the third Friday of each month from 10am until 2pm.



# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – June 2020

## Spring Show is Cancelled for 2020.

Text by Debby Halliday

We are so sad to announce that the Spring Show had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 restrictions in our county and our concerns for everyone's welfare. We are very relieved that the Scottish Rite Center graciously refunded our entire rental fee, so our losses will not be too bad. We are so grateful to our show committee for the hours they have put in. We also feel for our vendors who will be hurt by not having this sales venue for their plants. Please go on line and order plants if you have some space. For those of you who have been working on your displays – all is not lost. Pack up your supplies carefully, as we will be doing Orchid Magic again in 2021. We have a contract with Scottish Rite and hopefully, we'll actually get to have our show next year.

We are all be looking at our beautiful plants and regretting that they missed their public outing. Why not take pictures of your gorgeous blooms and tweet them out - be sure to mention @SDOrchids, or post them to our SDCOS Group page on Facebook so everyone can enjoy them.

July will be here before we know it with warmer weather, hopefully a healthier environment, and we can hope for the Summer Show in the Park on July 25-26, if restrictions are lifted.

In the meantime, chin up, nod and smile, wash your hands. This too shall pass!

[Editor's Note: this article was submitted March 13<sup>th</sup>]







## County Fair Cancelled This Year By Bruce Berg

Betty Patterson notified me that the fair will be shut down this year. Earlier this week, we discussed options for what happens to the entry fees that we may have already paid. There are now two options dependent on what the management decides. First is that they will refund our entry fees. Second is that they will roll over the fees paid to next year. I think that Betty is working out a lot of other contract issues now and will get back to us when she can. I'd suggest we wait awhile and then I'll contact her again around the end of the month to see what's up.

Editor's note: this was submitted 4/17, some information may be out of date.



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### Egg Shells for Orchids

by Anu Dharmani

Originally published in BellaOnline

Posted by Alex Maximiano 4 months ago

Submitted to SDCOS by Bruce Berg

Have you tried eggshells as fertilizer for your orchids? It is common knowledge that eggshells, when crushed and added to rose plants, can induce bigger flowers. However, recently Anu found out that if the whole egg is beaten along with its shell that not only the size of the flower increases but it also enhances the production of scent.

#### *How to fertilize with eggshell*

Orchids can also benefit from powdered eggshells fertilizer. Here shells can be saved and crushed, powdered eggshells can be added to orchid growth medium. Another way to fertilize with eggshell is to boil about 5 to 8 shells in 2 to 3 liters of water. Use this water after it cools down when watering your orchids.

Anu has used rotten/bad eggs also to fertilize his plants. The eggs need to be beaten thoroughly and add only half a spoonful. It works best for ground orchids where the orchids are growing in soil. In case of porous growth medium dilution with water is highly recommended and even after a dilution use only a very small amount. This is so because when fertilizing with eggs or with eggshells we need to take some precautions.

Eggs have strong smells, especially if they are rotten or have turned bad. He found out the hard way that adding eggshell that are not crushed properly can invite birds, like crows, to plunder the growth medium. Pets

will also dig up to extract the shells. So crushing these into a fine powder is a good idea. Further, it is better to dig a small trench in the soil around the orchid (terrestrial ones) and after adding the egg or eggshell cover it with the soil that was removed. This will hide the smell of the egg. Hopefully, if done properly this will work though for some of our ground orchids and other plants it did not work as our pet dog dug out some of the eggs even after this! If eggs/shells are added to a porous growth medium then the smell is more likely to attract ravagers like birds and pets. So adding in small quantities will help.

As a note, many years ago, Charley Fouquette told me that crushed oyster shells would work the same and could be purchased at feed stores where they are sold as chicken feed supplement. When your wife is out of the house, you can use your blender to crush the oyster shells into a powder and proceed as describer in this article. Be sure to clean up the blender afterwards!

Another note; [Alex Maximiano](#) developed OrchidWiz which has a lot of good information for orchidists A long time ago our species group visited a member's home where they hung eggshells from their cymbidiums and explained that this was a cultural method that was practiced in their homeland, but I do not remember the specifics.

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In lieu of Sunset Valley Orchids Spring Open House (and delicious tacos) we will be hosting an online sale from our website, [www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com) or please call us at (760) 310-0778

**This sale will run 4 days from: Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> thru Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>**

This “In lieu of Spring Open House sale” is a great opportunity to add to your collection. It’s almost as good if you were here attending the open house in person! All plants listed on the web site will receive at least 20% off, in addition to the existing discount schedule and the AOS member discount! Take a look at how the discount schedule can be applied:

The special voucher code is **SVO**. When you check out, type this into the voucher code box on the shopping cart page and click 'RECALCULATE' to apply the discount.

Are you an American Orchid Society member? If you are, I'll give you an additional 5% discount. Just include your AOS member number in the “note section” during check out.

Dollars Purchased	In lieu of Open House Discount	Existing Discount Schedule	*AOS Members Discount	Total Discount
\$1 - \$150	20%	0%	5%	25%
\$151 - \$400	20%	5%	5%	30%
\$401 - \$700	20%	10%	5%	35%
\$701 - \$1000	20%	15%	5%	40%
\$1001 - \$1300	20%	20%	5%	45%

\*AOS discount will be deducted prior to charging your card, this discount will not show in the shopping cart.

This year’s three-inch Cattleya hybrids have been the best crop we’ve ever grown. All of them are growing well and will need to be potted up into 4” pots within the next year. Don’t forget to check out the Australian Dendrobiums and Sarcochilus. These are really exciting, and if you haven’t tried them yet, they’re worth investigating.

I hope you’ve been safe in these challenging times, and having a chance to spend more quality time with your orchids!

Your support as friends and customers is truly appreciated, Good growing!

Fred Clarke and Carlos Lopez  
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