



**San Diego County Orchid
Society Newsletter
Volume 256:
September 2020**

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Encyclia dickinsoniana
Tom Biggart

San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – September 2020

President's Message

Text by Debby Halliday, President

Greetings to all our members and friends. It has been so gratifying to see all of your faces and hear your voices over Zoom. We have welcomed over 50 people at each of our recent meetings. Thank you for your continuing interest and enthusiasm. At the September meeting we have also invited members of the South Bay Orchid Society in Torrance to attend. Jack Schaefer discovered in their newsletter that they were unable to have meetings at the moment, and he urged them to join us. A really fun aspect of virtual meetings is the ability of guests and members who live out of our area to come and be part of our gathering.

We had great participation in the plant forum in August, with 54 plants to display. I think



C. Praetii (*C. guttata* x *Rhy. digbyana*)
Debby Halliday

that is about the maximum we can handle in the time available. I still urge you to send me images of four plants, but if we get too many, I may have to reduce the number per person we end up using. I will try to be very evenhanded and make sure everyone is fairly represented.

I realized last month that I needed to be clearer about the information I need and the format that works best. Receiving the images by email is perfect. For the information, please just list in your email the following points for each plant:

Plant Name

Species or Hybrid

If Hybrid - Parentage if you know it.

If Species - What country is it from?

How you grow it – Greenhouse, Shadehouse, Balcony, Etc.

Any comments

With this information in your email, I can just copy and paste into PowerPoint, and the whole process is very efficient. By the way, I just love seeing all the beautiful flowers everyone is producing. Please have your pictures to me by Friday, Aug 28, latest.

Even though we may be online-only for some time yet, I am confident that our club will survive and thrive until we can all be together in person again.

Keep enjoying your orchids and Mask Up when you go out!

Speaker Recap; SDCOS 8/4/20 General Meeting: *Cattleya Mossiae*, by Fred Clarke

Text by Stewart Walton, 1st VP

In last month's Zoom meeting, we took a virtual trip with Fred Clark to do some field research on Venezuela's national flower, *Cattleya mossiae*. Fred visited Venezuela before the political situation turned dire, so he was able to travel freely and talk to locals everywhere he went. He showed us how these plants grow in huge clumps on old trees: thirty blossoms around the trunk of a tree was not unusual. These plants grow from near Caracas up into the mountains to the southwest, from 2000 to 5000 feet. Although the native habitat is only a few hundred miles North of the equator, there is seasonal variation, and a dry winter from December till flowering seems to boost flower production. Thanks to Fred for an enjoyable tour.



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General Meeting, September 1st, 7:30 pm Meeting to be held via Zoom; details will be emailed to the membership before the meeting

Arnold Gum: *Cattleya skinneri*

Text by Stewart Walton

Arnold Gum is the presenter for our September 1st Zoom meeting and will speak on *Cattleya (Guarianthe) skinneri*, the national flower of Costa Rica, known as the Easter Orchid. Arnie is an AOS judge and familiar figure at our meetings and shows. He works as a patent attorney and was responsible for putting GPS in our smartphones when he worked at Qualcomm.

Arnie has been growing orchids since he was a child in Hawaii in the 70's. His father had a Dendrobium plant that had set a pod and Arnold got some help from Stanley Taba Orchid Nursery to flask the seeds. As a youth, he knew some of Hawaii's greatest orchid pioneers, including Ben Kodama, Tadao Kazumura, Isamu Ota, Richard Takafuji, Richard Takase, and Goodale Moir. That first flask and others led to thousands of plants as a youth, and a lifelong interest in orchids that has survived college, career, multiple moves, and six orchid societies. He has been an American Orchid Society judge for 30 years and has received over 85 awards. He serves as an official photographer for our Pacific South AOS judging panel and has presented at both Palomar and San Diego County Orchid Societies.

Arnold was recently honored to be invited to judge a *Cattleya skinneri* show in Costa Rica. Think about that for a moment. In our talk, he

will review the quality growth in recent *C. skinneri* line breeding and will look at one clone in particular: 'Angela' FCC. He says that the advancements in size, flower count, color, and form are amazing. He will show us slides of some of the plants that were awarded at the show, as well as pictures of the *C. skinneri* habitat.



Arnold gum (4th from the left) at Emmanuel Quesada's nursery, which specializes in *Guarianthe skinneri*



C. Summer Spot (C. Summer Stars x *C. aelandiae*)
Debby Halliday

World Famous San Diego Zoo

All memberships listed below are for zip codes 91900-92899 and include unlimited admission to the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park for one year.

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Visit our website:

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.

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Culture Class is Back

Wednesday, September 2nd at 7:30 PM
Regular Schedule will be Wednesday
after the General Meeting

Text by Debby Halliday, President

We had our first Zoom Culture Class on Wednesday, Aug 5th. The topic was Repotting Cattleyas presented by Debby Halliday. The full presentation, absent audio, can be found on our website. Our 35 attendees asked interesting questions and enjoyed their class.

Phyllis Prestia will give our next class on September 2nd. Her presentation is **Repotting and Growing Neofinetias**. It can be accessed through the same link as our



Neofinetia falcata Manjushage 曼珠沙華
(shima and tora)
Phyllis Prestia

general meetings and will also start at 7:30 PM. Phyllis is quite a specialist in these charming miniature Japanese vandas and grows them in the traditional Japanese way.

Phyllis started growing orchids when she retired as a middle school principal and moved from New Jersey to southern California. She currently serves as Trustee for the American Orchid Society and chair of their Education Committee. She is also an Accredited Judge for both the CSA and AOS, and frequently speaks to orchid societies. I am very much looking forward to her review of the special potting techniques used for these delightful orchids as well as her tips for successful growing.

We want to make this a regular monthly feature. If you could help by presenting on a topic you know about, we'd really appreciate it. Please contact Debby at president@sdorchids.com or Stewart Walton at firstvp@sdorchids.com if you are interested. The talk itself should be from 30-45 minutes long. Due to our virtual format, slides work really well, but whatever you want to try will be welcome. Share your knowledge!



Neofinetia falcata Kinkōnishiiki 金広錦
Phyllis Prestia

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From the Membership Desk

Text by Bob Clark, Membership Chair, and Debby Halliday, President

Please welcome our newest members: Jeremy Kill, Tom & Katy Waugh, Robin Street-Morris & Jerry Morris, Sally O'Neil & Ed Daniels, Bill McPike, and Gregory Corrales.

Thank you for joining our club during this strange and uncertain time. We look forward to one day having orchid shows and in person meetings again. On a personal note – Tom & Katy Waugh are joining us from Cupertino. Tom is my, Debby's, older brother!

SDCOS welcomes you all!

I, Bob, also have the following to convey to the members that have badges to pick up.

Membership has the following Name Badges. There are three ways you can get your badge, eventually.

- Pick them up at the next in-person Society event in Balboa Park.
- Pay shipping & US postage to get it shipped to you. \$4.00 covers bubble package & postage for one badge. Checks can be mailed to the Society's post office box. (Address is on the last page of this newsletter).
- Pick them up at my house in Northwest Clairemont. My address and phone are in Roster and can be gotten upon request.

SDCOS Name Badges at Membership as of 8/1/20

Last Name	First Name	#	Renew due
Beatty	Theresa	1	9-1-20
Borden	Dick	1	9-1-22
Caufield	Laura	1	2-1-21
Gardener	Linda	1	7-1-20
Goldberg	Lisa	3	4-1-21
Gray	Maria	1	8-1-21
Kienitz	Candy	1	6-1-21
Kimball	Edna	2	7-1-21
Kimball	Ken	2	7-1-21
Melchior	John	1	7-1-21
McCubbin	Barbara	1	2-1-21
McPike	Bill	1	5-1-21
Noyes	Katherine	1	11-12-20
Polis	Harry	1	8-1-20
Santiago	Gerardeen	1	2-1-21
Stiegler	Tony	1	3-1-21
Stika	Curt	1	9-1-20
Swann	Samantha	1	4-1-21
von Kamrath	Kimberly	4	5-1-21
Whaley	Kevin	1	8-20-22



Cattleya Jolly
Debby Halliday

Orchid Show and Sale
September 19 and 20

Orchids-R-Easy Classes All Weekend

Sales: Sat 9-5 & Sun 9-4
Show: Sat 11-5 & Sun 9-4
Location: South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes

Cancelled

- Buy direct from commercial growers
- See award winning orchids/displays
- All day demonstrations on orchid care and repotting
- Stroll the botanical gardens

Admission: Adults \$15 Seniors/Student w/ID \$11
Children 5-12 \$6
Free Parking

For all show information and map to gardens:
www.southbayorchidsociety.com

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Oncidiums

Text by Bruce Berg

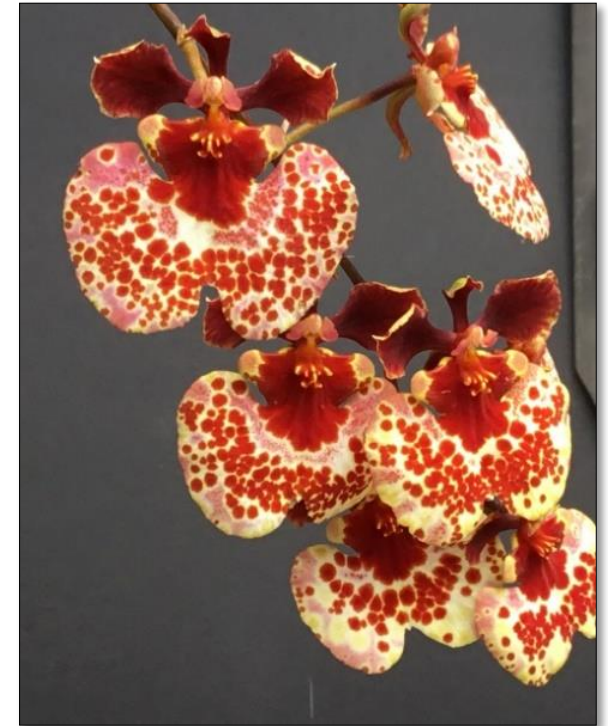
Oncidium “On-cid-ee-um” orchids are a good orchid to have in your collection. They do not need a lot of care and they come in many shapes and colors. In addition, at our shows the Oncidium “Sharry Baby” always draws a lot of attention, as it has a scent of chocolate. There are hundreds of Oncidium hybrids, so you will have an easy time finding a good variety to choose from. Also in the Oncidium family of plants are the tiny but beautiful Tolumnias, which are favorites of mine. My Tolumnias are all mounted.

Another showy Oncidium is Oncidium (aka Psychopsis) Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS. They resemble butterflies to most people, although mine does not show the characteristic “bug ears.” Be sure not to cut off the spikes on the plant after it blooms,

because the new blooms can arise from the tips of the old spikes.

Most of these showy orchids can be found at our orchid shows to purchase, or now with the pandemic they can be found online. If you are looking to buy one of these Oncidiums, as a start, I would recommend looking at the Akatsukaorchid.com website under their specialty orchids tab for Starter Orchids (young) as a good place to get good quality hybrids for a reasonable price. You could also search the web for Oncidium orchids for sale to find other sources. I like the tiny hanging Tolumnias for their delicate flowers and delicate spotting. I started my Tolumnia collection with plants from Charley Fouquette, Andy’s, and Rex Foster’s nurseries.

I mist my plants daily and use slow release fertilizer on them. The larger Oncidiums live in pots, and are treated like cattleyas.



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Andy's Orchids 2020 Fall Open House

Sept 18th -20th, 2020, 10am to 4pm

*734 Ocean View Ave. Encinitas, CA.
andysorchids.com*

*Three complete days to explore our
incredible collection of orchids*

Note: Bring this ad and receive a free plant on qualified purchases, Limit one per customer, must be a society member.

Participate in a Brazilian Virtual Orchid Show!

Text by Stewart Walton

Get your pictures ready. We have been asked to participate in an on-line Orchid Expo, sponsored by OrchidaRio in Rio de Janeiro. Only one other society is from outside Brazil, so it's quite an honor to be invited.

Photos should be of flowers/plants that are currently (or very recently) in bloom. This will not be a judged show, but because our seasons are reversed, you will have the opportunity to show off some fall-blooming plants that are out of season for our Brazilian hosts.

The following text is verbatim from the Brazilian sponsor:

- We ask a **maximum** of 5 photos per person; the total number of photos in exhibition per association will be of 100 plants;
- Photos need to have good quality, with the orchids well framed and in focus;
- Photos have to be sent without anything written on the images;
- Subtitles must be sent separately, with the name of the orchid, name of grower, where it is cultivated and name of photographer;
- We ask special attention to the correct spelling of the name of the plants;

Photos should be as good as you can make them, well exposed and framed, with an attractive background. Include a single text

document with the following information for up to 5 photos:

- Photo ID
- Plant name (as complete as possible including cultivar name and awards)
- Grower's name
- Photographer's name
- Where grown (indoors/outdoors/greenhouse), city.

Please make submissions to Debby Halliday (president@sdorchids.com) by September 15th to give her time to collate and submit them to OrchidaRio.

We'll see your plants in Rio!



Gongora armeniaca
Betty Kelepecz

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Orchid Dates to Remember:

September 1st

SDCOS and POS Joint General Meeting

7:30 PM

First Tuesday of the month

Zoom; invites sent to membership prior to meeting.

For a nonmember to request a meeting invite, email president@sdorchids.com

September 2nd

SDCOS and POS Joint Culture Class

7:30 PM

The Wednesday after the General Meeting

Zoom; invites sent to membership prior to meeting.

For a nonmember to request a meeting invite, email president@sdorchids.com

September 3rd

SDCOS Board Meeting

First Thursday of the month, 7 PM

Zoom; for an SDCOS member to request a meeting invite, email

president@sdorchids.com

September 5th

SDCOS Species Group Meeting

Socialization 8:45 AM, meeting 9:00 AM

First Saturday of the month

secretary@sdorchids.com

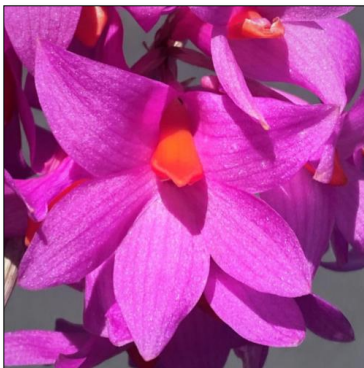
September 18th – 20th

Andy's Orchids Open House

Details on Page 7



Myrmecophila tibicinis
Dave Hoffmaster



Dendrobium glomeratum
Scott McGreggor



Brassavola cucullata
Rachael Burns



Dendrobium bensoniae
Roberta Fox

1st Class
Postage
Required

From the Editor:

Hello everyone,

I hope you all are keeping well. I've been very happy with how our remote meetings have been going – it's no replacement for getting to see you all in person, but it's been offering a welcome bit of connection in these physically distanced times. I'm especially looking forward to Phyllis's *Neofinetia falcata* culture class (Page 4) – I love those plants.

If anyone has articles they wish to submit to the monthly newsletter, please continue to send contributions to me at SDCOSNewsletter@gmail.com. Deadline for submissions is end of day on the **second Friday of the month**.

All the best,

David Vandebroek
SDCOS Newsletter Editor

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San Diego, CA 92176

