



**San Diego County Orchid
Society Newsletter
Volume 262:
March 2021**

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Ophrys cretica var. *Ariadne*
Roberta Fox

San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – March 2021

President's Message

Text by Debby Halliday, President

It's almost March. Spring will be here before we know it. At our February meeting we had a very interesting presentation from Dr. Courtney Hackney on the origins of American cattleya hybrids. He joined us direct from Florida thanks to the wonders of Zoom. I realized I had just taken for granted the dazzling array of cattleyas we enjoy today and loved learning how they all came about. We had a good group of about 58 people and a beautiful orchid forum. Thank you for participating!

Kay Klausung gave an excellent in-depth culture class on pests and pest control. It led to a lively discussion afterwards, which really made me appreciate what is possible in the online format. Please remember, if you have expertise you can share and are willing to give a bit of your time, we always need speakers for culture class. Thank you to those who have already presented or contacted me. You help make this a great club!

With the continued success of the vaccination program in San Diego, it's feeling more and more likely that we will get back to in-person meetings and activities before much longer. That has increased the urgency of filling some of our committee positions that have not been active during this virtual year. We need your help. If you have a little time to give to your society, it will be greatly appreciated. Remember, the best way to really feel a part of things is to join the volunteer team. Here is what we need:

Park Show Co-Chairman – Dave Hoffmaster is willing to continue to lend his expertise and help with booking the vendors. He needs a co-chair to manage the physical logistics of setting up and taking down the show (with helpers of course). If you are fit and organized, we need you! There will be no more than two Park Shows this year – the last weekend of July and the last weekend of October.

Volunteer Coordinator – Carol Berg will train a new person but can no longer fill the position. This is a very important job as it takes many volunteers to put on our shows, and they need to be signed up and kept informed. It is quite automated, so anyone can do it with a little training. Also, it is busy leading up to shows, and then pretty quiet.

Nominating Committee Chairman – In June every year we need to elect officers for the board. The Nominating committee is composed of 5 members, who in turn come up with a slate of candidates. The main empty board position that needs to be filled is Second VP. Starting early makes a difference, so please consider helping out.

If you are able to serve in any of these positions, please contact me at president@sdorchids.com. Your club works because the members make it work. Join the volunteer team!

We will be having a plant forum in March. Just attach your images to an email and send them to president@sdorchids.com along with the information below. Please note, if you send me a Power Point presentation, that's great and easy to use. Putting your

data into Word is actually more difficult to work with than if you just put your images and information directly into an email message.

Only 4 plants per person but you can send multiple pictures of the same plant.

Plant Name

Species or Hybrid

If Hybrid - Parentage if you know it.

If Species - What country is it from?

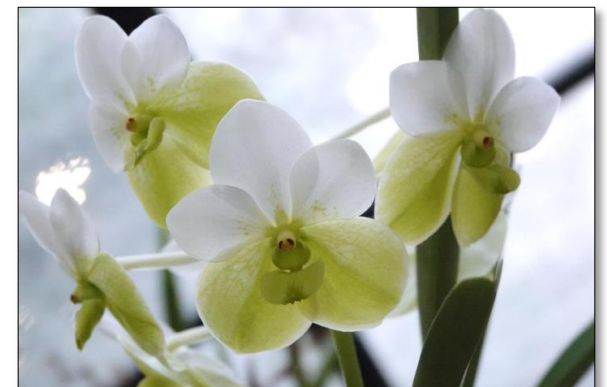
How you grow it – Greenhouse, Shadehouse, Balcony, Etc.

Any comments

Please have your pictures to me by Sunday, Feb 28 latest.

Last, we have been invited to participate in the grand opening celebration of the new conservatory at San Diego Botanic Gardens with a month-long **orchid show** in April! See my article for details.

Enjoy your flowers. Spring is on the way!



Vanda rothschildiana alba
Bruce Hubbard

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General Meeting, March 2, 7:30 PM

Meeting to be held via Zoom; details will be emailed to the membership before the meeting.

David Haelterman: The Genus Maxillaria in Colombia

Text by Stewart Walton, 1st VP

This month we will hear from David Haelterman about Maxillarias from Colombia. David has lived in Cali for 6 years, exploring the region as an orchid enthusiast and educator. Cali is a major metropolis, sitting in the Valle del Cauca, just to the East of the Farallones de Cauda, a very bio-diverse coastal mountain range.

He worked as an agronomist in his native Belgium, developing urban agriculture projects with schools and encouraging biodiversity through ecologically productive small-scale parcels. In Colombia, he explores the mountains, leads tours, gives lectures, and photographs especially the orchids of the region. Looking at his photo records, he seems to spend most of his time in the mountains.



In parallel to these professional activities, he has been passionate about orchids for more than 25 years, growing many genera such as Cattleya, Masdevallia, Restrepia, Odontoglossum, Kefersteinia, Pescatoria, Eriopsis, and Stanhopea, as well as Maxillaria, in which he is particularly specialized. His center of interest is especially focused on orchid taxonomy, their biogeography, and their conservation in the wild.

David has a presence on Facebook with many photographs and his photography is also accessible on Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/58798926@N07/albums/72157635079411620>



Maxillaria luteograndiflora, in situ during a botanical and ornithological exploration in Farallones de Cali National Park



Maxillaria platyloba



Maxillaria crispiloba, described by Pascal Sauvétre in 2012 but often confused and sold as *Maxillaria fucata* from which it is clearly different. The same species but two color varieties. Colombia .

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Culture Class, March 3, 7:30 PM
Debby Halliday: Opportunity Knocks! San Diego Botanic Garden Orchid Show
Text by Debby Halliday, President

The San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas is staging an orchid exhibition in their new Conservatory from Friday, April 2, through Sunday, May 2. They have invited us to participate. With no orchid shows on the horizon this spring, your board members agreed that this sounds like a fun chance to share our orchids with the public again.

The Conservatory is a beautiful, state-of-the-art greenhouse with a cement floor, humidity control, shading, ventilation, and security. The exhibition runs for a month, but we will have an opportunity every Tuesday to change out the plants, as necessary.

The garden staff will be designing and installing the exhibition, we will just be lending our plants.

Instead of our culture class on Wednesday, March 3, at 7:30, I will be going over the details of participating in this show with anyone who is interested. I'll also be offering tips on grooming and prepping your plants to look their very best. You do not need to be an expert to participate. If you expect to have one plant or many plants, we would love to have you. Sharing our beauties with the world is one of the great pleasures of orchid growing. Take advantage of this opportunity!



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Biological Pest Control

Debby Halliday with Scott McGregor

I recently asked Scott McGregor to share some of his biological pest control strategies. He is an excellent grower who is dedicated to maintaining a (mostly) pesticide free environment for his orchids. Here are his comments.

“As promised, here’s some more info on beneficial bugs/etc. The two that I mostly rely on are Lacewings (cheap, eat everything, and can be ordered as eggs, larvae, or adults), and Minute Pirate Bugs (more expensive but easier to establish an ongoing presence, especially good with thrips, but also eat red spider mites, mealy bugs, aphids, etc.). There are lots of sources for these on the web, such as:

<https://www.evergreengrowers.com/minute-pirate-bug-orius-insidiosus-group-oriu.html>.

I replenish my population every year or two



in the spring and put any extras in the garden. I buy Lacewing larvae occasionally if I’m seeing a lot of aphids or want to clear out spider mites on e.g. Sobralias. I see an occasional thrip, but the population stays small and they don’t do any noticeable damage to my flowers.

I don’t spray any insecticides or fungicides in my growing area, which allows me to keep tree frogs and a Chameleon (pic of Jeffrey below). The tree frogs eat slugs and random spiders/crickets/etc.) and the Chameleon is mostly fed by me, although he catches random flies and other bugs. Alas, he does seem to like to occasionally eat yellow *Oncidium* buds though!

I spread decollate snails in my garden around the orchid growing area. They have established and are a natural predator of brown snails, which used to decimate both my garden and orchids. Now I only see a brown snail occasionally.

The one pest I haven’t been successful controlling is scale. Usually by the time I notice it on a plant, it is a diving catch to save the plant, so I’m not willing to allow a few weeks for a natural predator to do the job. For scale, I treat just the affected plant with a drench of Safari, which I find to be highly effective and, as a systemic insecticide, it

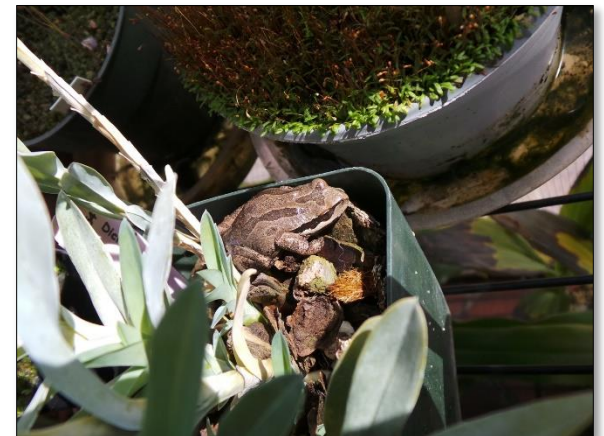
gets them all with one dose. By only treating the affected plant I do increase the risk that the scale crawlers may have spread, but I think my resident *Orius insidiosus* population probably gets most of those.

I think I’ve got a good balance – some occasional pests but very few chemicals, a population of natural predators, and some fun creatures who share the orchid growing space.”

While you may want to pass on the chameleon, there are useful strategies here for many of us.

You may find reports of Pirate Bugs biting on the internet. Scott reports that they can bite if you let them walk on you, but they mainly disappear into the plants and don’t bother anybody.

Happy hunting!



A Baja Tree Frog sitting in a pot of Dichaea.

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Speaker Review

Text by Stewart Walton, 1st VP

Our last speaker was Courtney Hackney, who educated us on the history of orchid hybridizing in the US. The days of big floofy corsages are gone, but today's hybridizers stand on those early pioneers' shoulders. Who knew that the peloric flowers in current Cattleyas stem from a *C. intermedia*? Or that clear yellows were only developed when the yellow rupicolous *Laelia flava* (now *Cattleya*) was used? Courtney is offering us a discount on his book, *American Cattleyas*, at \$50. Contact him at Hackneau@comcast.net If you are interested.



Andy's Orchids 2021 Winter Open House

February 26th -28th, 2021, 10am to 4pm
734 Ocean View Ave. Encinitas, CA.
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'Marble Queen'
Debby Halliday

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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.



Trichoceros antennifer
Rachel Burns



Laelia anceps (Newberry Princess x
Mendenhall)
Tom Biggart



Pleurothallis leptotifolia
Scott McGregor

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Orchid Dates to Remember:

February 26th – 28th

Andy's Orchids Open House

Details on Page 6

March 2nd

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

March 3rd

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

March 4th

SDCOS Board Meeting

First Thursday of the month, 7 PM

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

president@sdorchids.com

March 6th

SDCOS Species Group Meeting

Socialization 8:45 AM, meeting 9:00 AM

First Saturday of the month

secretary@sdorchids.com

April 2nd – May 2nd

San Diego Botanic Garden Orchid Exhibition

Details coming soon.

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Trisetella species (possibly escobarii?)
Betty Kelepecz

From the Editor:

Hello everyone,

I hope you all are keeping well. I'm definitely feeling grateful to live in San Diego this month; I have clients and coworkers across the country – including several in Texas – and it's astounding to me that we're sitting in the low 70's while the country freezes... Definitely a fan of SD...

... partially because my outside plants are in spike! I didn't tell them there was no Spring Show this year, but it looks like they're getting ready anyway :) Love that we can at least share pictures through Plant Forum, so thanks Debby for running that and to everyone for contributing!

If anyone has articles that 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**.

Stay Warm,

David Vandebroek
SDCOS Newsletter Editor

1st Class
Postage
Required

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