

**San Diego County Orchid
Society Newsletter
Volume 287:
April 2023**

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Plants in the San Diego Botanic Garden's
World of Orchids Show

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President's Message

Text by Debby Halliday, President

Happy Spring! It is actually here, although with all the cold and wet weather it still feels pretty wintery. I do see lots of new shoots and roots, so at least the daylight says it's spring.

We enjoyed an interesting talk about the orchids of Hong Kong at our March meeting. There were a remarkable number, especially considering how densely developed Hong Kong is. Pam and I talked about the upcoming Spring Show and how you can participate. I'm going to talk about it again, as it is the main event coming up in April!



Cym. Hazel Faye 'Shocking' AM/AOS
Debby Halliday

The first item is a change in plan for the club display. It appears that Newport Harbor will not be putting in a display, so we have decided to do a normal, tabletop, competitive club display. We will reserve the stage for a podium to feature the Best in Show orchid plus posters of our upcoming shows. We will be looking for ideas and plant donations for the club display. We have risers we can use, and the Hoffmaster's fountain. Please consider helping out! It's creative and fun.

Speaking of tabletop displays – if you have not registered yet and would like to do one, the April meeting is your last chance to reserve your place. We still have room if you are interested. Remember the section has classes for cut flowers, art, and orchid themed crafts as well as orchid displays. We want to have a beautiful display room for all our AOS visitors. You can get the registration form from SDOrchids.com or pick one up at the meeting.

Member sales – if you want to participate in member sales, we would love to have you, but you need to register. Again, you can find the registration form and rules on the website. We will also have registration forms at the meeting. We have picked up a few new vendors so our patio will be nice and busy.

Conservation – please plan to bring your divisions for conservation to sell. This show can really make a difference to the conservation fund.

Volunteering – the Spring Show cannot happen without volunteers. We still need helpers in all categories. If you don't know what to do, someone will teach you. Even



Coelogyne mossiae
Debby Halliday

being a cashier is super easy with our Square system and a very clear manual. We will outline the volunteer positions again at the meeting. It is easy to [sign up on the website under Volunteer](#). We will give you free lunch before or after your shift. You will also earn a volunteer reward coupon for every day you work. Being part of the show is a great way to get to know other members and interact with the public.

Prep your plants for exhibit – we will need lots of plants to make a good show. The Spring Show has so many special awards and it is really exciting to win one. We have a wealth of good growers in our club. It always makes me proud to see what we have on display.

Busy month ahead. Let's have a great show!

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General Meeting, April 4th, in person at Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Room 101, and Simulcast on Zoom; 7:30 PM.

Gilberto Castro: Orchids and Other Things in the Brazilian Amazon

Text by Gilberto Castro, Speaker, with additions by David Vandebroek, First VP

SDCOS is thrilled to welcome the very experienced Gilberto Castro to our society to talk to us about his life and travels in a talk we're calling "Orchids and Other Things in the Brazilian Amazon".

Gilberto Castro is a Brazilian born in Rio de Janeiro on April 8, 1949. He lived in the US from 1965 to 1966, spending his junior year at Benson High School, in Omaha Nebraska. He graduated with a degree in



Natural History from the "Instituto de Biologia", of the "Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro", in 1972, and from the "Faculdade de Educação" of the "Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro", in 1973.

Gilberto has a wide experience in the Amazon, where he has traveled since 1975, and where, over the last 47 years, he has guided a number of different expeditions. He guided his good friend, Margaret Mee, the famous British Botanical Illustrator that discovered and documented in watercolors several new orchids in the Brazilian Amazon, on the last of her 15 journeys to the Amazon in 1988.

Additionally, he has guided three underwater filming trips for the Discovery Channel, 17 trips for the Margaret Mee Foundation, five trips for Kew Gardens of London for Professor Guillean T. Prance, at the time Director of Kew, 39 scientific illustration trips with illustrator Dulce Nascimento, participated on the filming of the great "big screen" documentary Margaret Mee and the



Moon Flower, and since 2015 has guided five trips for The Orchid Conservation Alliance (OCA), in Rio Negro and some tributaries.

He was part of a five-person team to go to the top of the Eldorado waterfall in 2014 and, in 2015, he was on the first team ever to reach the bottom of the Eldorado waterfall, the highest waterfall in the Brazilian Amazon. He has also been involved in countless eco-tours in the area and in the Pantanal (the wetlands on Midwest Brazil), that he crossed in off-road vehicles more than 20 times on



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the 140-mile trek from east to west, and once on a solo crossing on foot on a west to east trek.

Of his more adventuresome trips he participated in four editions of the Camel Trophy, Off Road Expeditions: Madagascar in 1987, Brazil in 1989, Siberia in the old Soviet Union in 1990, and from Manaus to Georgetown in British Guiana in 1992.

While all this traveling and fun was happening, he also started a business, sold it after 21 years, then did some computer programming for a small company, in DOS



based dBase program (some of it is still being used), and managed for some 20 years a sports fishing operation in the Amazon.

Since 2006 when he built his houseboat “Otter”, he has run most of his expeditions on the “Otter” as the 5 trips for the OCA.

This promises to be a very interesting talk and we hope to see you there!

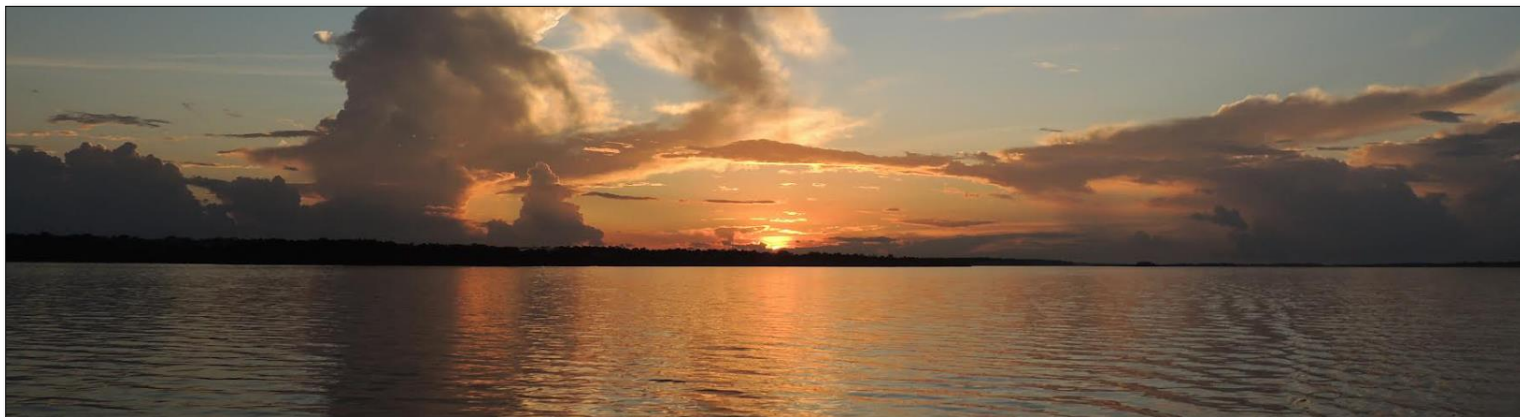
You are also invited to **join us for dinner** at the Prado Restaurant at 5:45pm. Please send me a text or email by **Friday, March 31,**




if you want to come. (firstvp@sdorchids.com). As always, dinner is on you, but the conversation is free. This is a wonderful way to get to know our very interesting speakers on a more personal basis.

The opportunity table will be provided by Peter Lin of Diamond Orchids who always provides wonderful plants, so also come prepared to buy some tickets or cash in your volunteer coupons!

Photos from Gilberto Castro





ORCHIDS of the EARTH
San Diego County Orchid Society Show and Sale
April 21-23, 2023

Balboa Park's Casa del Prado
Room 101 and Patios
San Diego, California 92101
Free Parking

Latest Event Details at
sdorchids.com

Friday 3:00-7:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Free Admission

SDCOS Spring Show

Text David Vandebroek, First VP

It's time! Our long-awaited Spring Show is just a couple weeks away! As usual, this show will be our largest production of the year – we will need plants and people in order to pull it off. If you can contribute either, please consider it!

Our volunteer signup sheet can be found on the website here:

<https://www.sdorchids.com/VolunteerLinks.html>

This year, the American Orchid Society will also be having their spring members' meeting in San Diego, so people will be coming from around the country for that – the more of our members' plants we have either displayed individually or as part of displays, the better showing we'll be able to have for all of our guests!

Looking forward to seeing you there :)

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Culture Class, April 4, 6:30 PM

Culture class will be held at 6:30 as usual, before the General Meeting. Culture class generally focuses on growing tips for newer growers.

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Ophrys speculum
David Vandebroek



Wils. Hilda Plumtree 'Purple Wings'
Debby Halliday

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~ 2 discount guest coupons good toward admission.

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Or call toll free 877.3 MEMBER

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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**Judging at the San Diego Judging Center
(Casa del Prado, Balboa Park),
March 2023, 6:30 PM.**

Text and photos by Phyllis Prestia

There were 10 orchids presented for judging.
Three were awarded.

[1] *Cattleya intermedia* f. *orlata-aquinii*
'Arnie's Best' AM/AOS
Exhibited by Arnold Gum
Awarded AM, 86 points



[2] *Ophrys tenthredinifera* 'Cassandra'
HCC/AOS
Exhibited by David Brown
Awarded HCC 78 points



[3] *Bulbophyllum echinolabium* 'Bravo
Orchids' AM/AOS
Exhibited by Bill Tse
Awarded AM, 87 points



Please remember: judging starts promptly at
6:30, so please have your plants in before
then.

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San Diego Botanic Garden World of Orchids Show

Text by Debby Halliday, President

The orchid show at the SDBG is currently in its 3rd week of five and it looks wonderful. We are now up to 233 plants on display from SDCOS and POS members. 25 growers have participated so far. Thanks to Ashley Grable's help, the whole process is going very smoothly. If you have not had a chance, you should definitely go see it. (And if you want to bring something in – let me or Ashley know!)

This show is unique in being staged in a state-of-the-art greenhouse with hanging gardens helping to complement our plants.



The SDBG volunteers dress every pot with melaleuca bark or specially made jardinières and moss, so it all looks very natural. The design is another original creation by Rene Van Rems who is so talented at showing off our beauties. Seeing all the flowers in natural sunlight is a rare treat, allowing everyone to really appreciate the colors. Having the show in a greenhouse also means that our plants can safely stay as long as the blooms are fresh.

The management of the show is a carefully organized process. Ashley sends a registration form to anyone who wants to participate. It needs to be turned in via email by Sunday evening. Ashley uploads the lists to a spreadsheet and assigns each plant a number. She then sends the names and numbers to SDBG by early Monday. They make up laminated name labels for each entry. On Monday afternoon, Debby goes around the display and notes which plants are ready to leave or need grooming. She sends out pickup notices on Monday evening and the plants get pulled out and “undressed” early the next morning. Every Tuesday we have changeover day while the gardens are closed when members can bring in new plants and pick up the ones that have been pulled. When they arrive at the gardens, they receive an envelope with ID number tags and name labels for each of their orchids. Once the plants are tagged and ready, we hand them off to the Garden team and they take it from there. It's amazing how well it all works.

Five weeks of orchid shows is challenging, but the upside is your plant has chances to make the show. It's really nice to know that if

that bud just barely misses one week, it will be perfect when the next week comes around. The show is very popular with the public and it is fun to see everyone marveling over our collections.

SDCOS has also been selling at the Orchid Marketplace which runs on the weekends during the show. We have had member sales on March 10-11 and 24-26, and conservation sales March 17-19 all supported and ably managed by Myra DeTate. The sales have gone well and have benefited the club. POS is having a plant sale March 31–April 2, so there are lots of shopping opportunities.

On our third year of this show, it is pleasing to see so many people taking part again. It is quite a unique event and I feel it is very good for our hobby to have such an amazing orchid exhibition for the public. Thank you all!






Vanda coerulea
Debby Halliday

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David Vandebroek

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Orchid Dates to Remember:

April 1
SDCOS Species Group Meeting
Socialization 8:30 AM, meeting 9:00 AM
First Saturday of the month
firstvp@sdorchids.com

April 4
SDCOS General Meeting
Culture Class: 6:30 PM; Program: 7:30 PM
First Tuesday of the month
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

Also broadcast via Zoom; meeting link to be emailed to members prior to meeting. For a nonmember to request a meeting invite, email president@sdorchids.com

April 4
AOS San Diego Judging Center
6:30 PM, first Tuesday of the month
Registration starts at 6 PM
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 104

April 5
Palomar Orchid Society Meeting
Society business at 6:30 PM; main program at 7:00 PM
First Wednesday of the month
Carlsbad City Library
1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad, CA 92011

April 6
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 11 – April 9
World of Orchids
<https://sdbg.org/world-of-orchids/>

April 15 - 16
Coronado Flower Show
<https://coronadoflowershow.com/>

April 21 - 23
SDCOS Spring Show
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Details on Page 5

Board and General Meeting Minutes

The SDCOS Board meeting minutes can be found at:
<http://sdorchids.com/Minutes.html>



Ludochilus 'Sea Turtle'
David Vandebroek



Orchid Conservation Alliance

Conserving Orchids by Conserving Orchid Habitat

The OCA conserves orchids by funding habitat preservation. Since inception in 2005 we have helped with the purchase of over 3000 acres of orchid habitat, protecting hundreds of orchid species in Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia. Many species of rare birds, trees, frogs, mammals also find refuge in these reserves.



Dracula gigas (L), *D. trigonopetala* (R)
Dracula Reserve, Ecuador



Dracula lemurella (L), *Lepanthes escifera* (R)
La Selva de Ventanas Reserve, Colombia

We hope you will join us in promoting this important work. We invite you to become a member of the OCA, to make a donation, to take a trip with us to see Orchids in the Wild®, and to purchase merchandise through our website. Since we have no paid staff, all proceeds support orchid conservation. The OCA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

For more information: www.orchidconservationalliance.org

2022-2023 SDCOS Officers	
President	Debby Halliday
First Vice President	David Vandebroek
Second Vice President	Ashley Grable
Secretary	Jack Schaefer
Treasurer	Myra DeTate
Director at Large, to 2023	Sima Perkins
Director at Large, to 2024	Carey McCoy
Director at Large, to 2025	Stewart Walton
Past President	Kay Klausung

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From the Editor:

Hi everyone,

It's spring! Plants are waking up and in a little need of care and display – happily, we have *tons* of opportunities for display – with the SDBG show, our own Spring Show, and the Del Mar Show, we have lots of opportunities to get our lovely plants out in the public eye – hope you're able to get your orchids the attention they deserve!

As for the other, as plants wake up and start putting out new roots, it may be time to consider extra care and perhaps a repot. I admit, I'm ... not necessarily on top of that one... But now's our chance!

It's been called out elsewhere, but please consider contributing plants or time or both to our upcoming Spring Show – the more flowers we have, the better! Hope to see you there :)

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

San Diego County Orchid Society
P.O. Box 161020
San Diego, CA 92176

