

**San Diego County Orchid  
Society Newsletter  
Volume 289:  
June 2023**

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*Ansellia africana alba*  
Plant by Debby Halliday

# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – June 2023

## President's Message

Text by Debby Halliday, President

May gray, June gloom, but plenty of orchids in bloom! It's repotting time in earnest now with lots of new roots popping out all over the place. In a brief pause after all the shows, it's been nice to get back into the greenhouse.

We all enjoyed a great feast and celebration in May. Our thanks to Ann Tuskes for all the wonderful pictures of the show. Everyone really enjoyed her presentation. Carey McCoy made sure the whole project ran smoothly. David, our 1<sup>st</sup> VP, chose tasty entrée's, even though he was in Japan for the event itself. The potluck offerings were also outstanding! Thank you everyone.

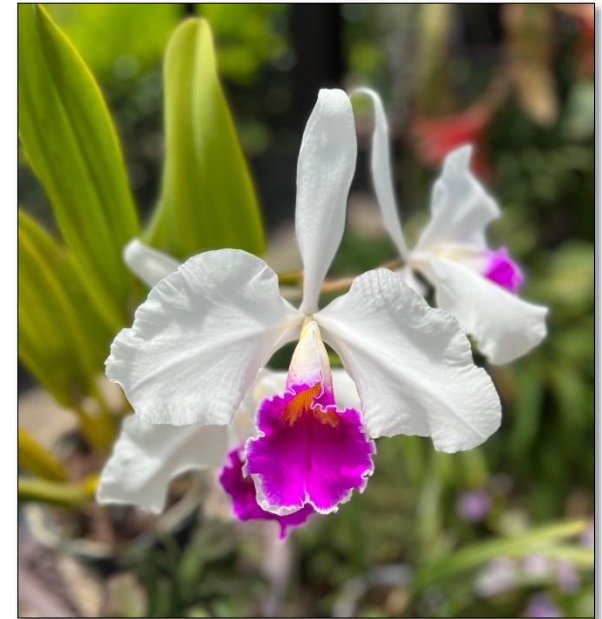
Top of the agenda for the June meeting is election of officers for the coming year. I will not be standing for President again as I am termed out. Three years went by very fast. I'll remain on the board as Past President for a few more years, so I'll still be around. David Vandebroek, our First VP, will be running for President and Ashley Grable is willing to be our new First VP. Myra Detate has offered to stay on as Treasurer. As I noted in my email blast, Jack Schaefer, our Secretary, has chosen to step away from his leadership positions after many years of service to our club. I am very grateful to announce that we have some new people willing to join the board.

Maria Gray has volunteered for the position of Secretary. She has been a member of our club since 2019. Before retirement she was Secretary to the board of directors of a large

public company. Nate La Breche has volunteered for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. He is a new member and served as a cashier at our recent spring show. He has been an active volunteer with the San Diego River Park Foundation and HandsOn San Diego since 2018. I am excited to have new people wanting to join the board. I look forward to getting to know them both and am grateful on the part of the club for their willingness to become more involved. See the full list of nominees in this newsletter. Our thanks to all the returning board members who are remaining or stepping up to fill new positions.

I believe we are at a transition point, where some of the historically active members are wanting to step back a little, and newer more energetic members will be needed to step into not only board positions, but leading volunteer positions as well. We have heard from some members already, and I urge you to consider becoming more engaged in the club activities. It is by working together that we really get to know one another. It's where a lot of the fun and satisfaction comes from. This is a vibrant club full of interesting people and excellent orchid growers.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday, June 6. We have good speakers planned and this is your chance to meet and vote for our new board members. Please come!



Lc. Stonehouse  
Debby Halliday



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Bring this invitation for a raffle ticket!

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## San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – June 2023

**General Meeting, June 6th, in person at Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Room 101, Room 101 and Simulcast on Zoom; 7:30 PM.**

**Jack Zhu: The Form and Color of Asian Cymbidium**

**Text by Jack Zhu, speaker, with context by David Vandebroek, First VP**

This month SDCOS is excited to welcome Jack Zhu to speak to our society for the first time.

Jack Zhu is an orchid hobbyist from the Los Angeles area in California. He grows many varieties of orchids, focusing on Asian cymbidiums. He is also very interested in the culture and history of Asian cymbidium.

Jack is currently an Associate Judge in the AOS Pacific South Judging Region and has more than twenty AOS awards for Asian cymbidium.

Jack will be giving us his talk: The Form and Color of Asian Cymbidium. During the talk,



Jack will give a brief introduction of the Asian cymbidium history as well as the main species typically accepted in the Asian cymbidium culture. Then, Jack will go into details about the various flower forms and colors of several Asian cymbidium. Finally, Jack will give us a sneak peak into another talk he is currently working on: The Leaf Variegation of Asian Cymbidium.

This promises to be a very interesting talk on a subject we don't often get to hear about! Jack will also be supplying this month's opportunity table with a variety of plants from his collection – come prepared to buy some tickets!

Finally, 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, June 2, if you want to come. ([firstvp@sdorchids.com](mailto: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 – if you haven't been to one yet, this is a great time to start!

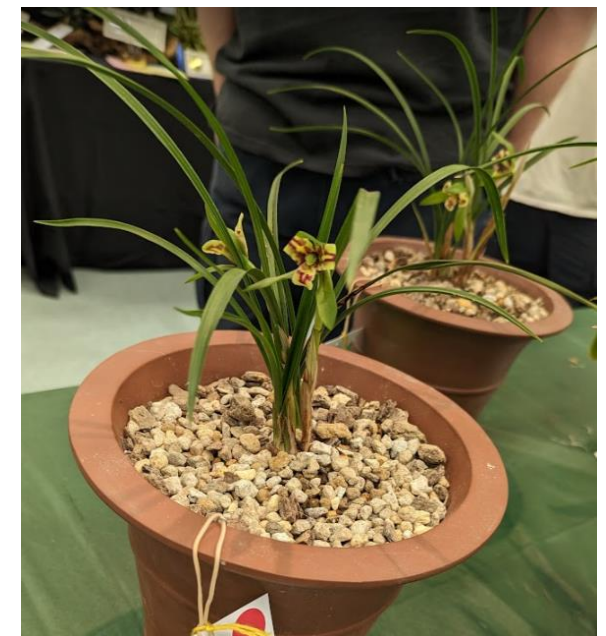
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**Culture Class, June 6th, 6:30 PM**  
**Speaker: TBD**

We will have Culture Class before the general meeting as usual.



*C. warsewiczii* 'Michael' AM/AOS  
Debby Halliday



*Cym. goeringii* 'Xiao Yuan Bao'  
Jack Zhu

# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – June 2023

## CA Native Orchid Hike?

Text by David Vandebroek, First VP

Interested in going on a hike up near Julian to check out the native orchids of southern California? Nico and I are looking at dates, times, and locations to try to find *Piperia*, *Corallorhiza*, and *Epipactis* orchids. Sightings not guaranteed, but last time we found *Piperia* and *Epipactis gigantea*.

The hike will be sometime in late June or early – mid July. There will only be about 1 – 1.5 weeks of heads up, as we check weather and things. If you want to be notified, please email [firstvp@sdorchids.com](mailto:firstvp@sdorchids.com) to get on the list!



Sarc. Kulnura Spice 'Mmmmm' x  
Bunyip 'Barrita'  
David Vandebroek

## Orchid Care Request

Text by David Vandebroek, First VP

A member wrote in with the following request:

“I have quite a few orchid plants that I used to take care of as a hobby, now that I am very busy with other work and don't have time to care and re-pot them.

“Do you know anyone or service gardener that does house calls to re-pot and take care of all my orchids (see pictures) and may come once every few weeks to care for them that you can refer to me.”

If you are interested in learning more about this, please contact [firstvp@sdorchids.com](mailto:firstvp@sdorchids.com) and I will put you in contact with this member. He lives just north of the Miramar air base.

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Or call toll free 877.3 MEMBER

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 2023

## Orchid Repotting Workshop and Potluck Lunch – Saturday, June 10

Text by Ashley Grable, Second VP

Is your orchid root-bound or growing out of its pot? Is the medium in your orchid pot breaking down? If you answered yes to one of these questions, this repotting workshop is for you!

- When: Saturday, June 10; workshop starts at 10 am, potluck lunch starts at 12 noon
- Organized by: Ashley Grable (secondvp@sorchids.com; 619-727-8994)
- Hosted by: Ben and Susie Machado (Ben cell: 619-660-9870 / home: 619-660-9870)
- Where: 4044 Calavo Drive, La Mesa, CA

SIGN UP by **June 9** at:

<https://volunteersignup.org/AL9JB>.

Join fellow SDCOS members for a fun and friendly Saturday of repotting orchids together and sharing food. The morning will kick off at 10 AM with an informal meet and greet, followed by a presentation about when and how to repot orchids by the organizer, Ashley Grable. Participants can bring orchids with them to repot with hands-on support and assistance from fellow SDCOS members. Participants can use potting materials provided by Ben's business, Calavo Gardens, which also provides the supplies SDCOS sells at shows. The group will break for a potluck lunch around 12 noon. Participants are encouraged to sign up for a dish they will bring through the link above.

We look forward to seeing you for our June repotting workshop!

- Potluck Lunch: Participants are encouraged to bring a dish (appetizer, salad, side dish, protein, or dessert). The society will provide coffee in the morning, beverages for lunch, and plates, cups, and utensils.
- Suggested Donation: To cover the cost of the new pot, fresh mix, and miscellaneous materials and supplies used in repotting, we suggest a donation of \$5 each for small plants, and a donation of \$10 for each large plants, such as a Cymbidium.
- Supplies and Materials: Ben's business, Calavo Gardens, will have additional potting materials and supplies available for purchase to take home for future repotting. Cash, check, and card are accepted.

An email with directions, parking information, and other details will be sent on June 9 to all who have registered.



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The image shows a book cover for 'The Complete Writings of Kate Sessions in California Gardens' and a newspaper clipping. The book cover features a photograph of a woman in a long dress standing in a garden. The newspaper clipping is titled 'The Future Loner?' and 'Arrival of a New Flower'.

Previous Potting Workshop Pictures

# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – June 2023

## 2023 – 2024 Board of Directors Election Text by Dave Hoffmaster, Nominating Committee Chair

We will have an election at the beginning of the June 2023 general meeting to elect the Board of Directors for the 2023 – 2024 season. There have been two changes to the proposed slate of officers so we need to publish the list again. The revised slate includes the following names and positions:

### 2023-2024 Proposed Officers

President	David Vandebroek
First Vice President	Ashley Grable
Second Vice President	Nate La Breche
Secretary	Maria Gray
Treasurer	Myra DeTate
Director at Large, to 2026	Sima Perkins

Stewart Walton and Carey McCoy will continue as Directors and Debby Halliday will continue on the Board as the Past President.

The election will take place at the start of our general meeting on June 6th so please plan to attend. We need as many members as possible to cast their votes.

The Nominating Committee is comprised of Dave Hoffmaster, Chair, and the following members: Tom Biggart, Pam Peters, Bill Loy and Nancy Walters.



*Guaranthe skinneri*  
Debby Halliday

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**Orchid Sale**

**Saturday, June 10th, 10am–2pm**  
**Carlsbad City (Dove) Library**  
**1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad, CA 92011**  
Text by Alex Nadzen, POS Co-President

The Palomar Orchid Society, a non-profit organization, is holding an orchid sale on Saturday, June 10th from 10 AM – 2 PM at the Carlsbad City (Dove) Library located at 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad, CA 92011.

The society will be selling orchids from local growers, Sunset Valley Orchids, Cal Orchid, Hawaiian growers and from our member donations. Orchid enthusiasts will be able to purchase blooming and non-blooming orchids at good prices for their collections. Proceeds from the sale will go towards society expenses for promoting the understanding and cultivation of both hybrid and species orchids. Our mission is to promote interest in the appreciation of orchids and to provide an opportunity for their display and the exchange and dissemination of information relating to their culture. All are welcome to the sale and to join our society for orchid fun and learning.

Keep up to date with POS News and Events at <http://www.palomarorchid.org/>

# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – June 2023

## A Brief Trip to Japan

Text by David Vandebroek, 1<sup>st</sup> VP

Imagine being in a room surrounded by a mesmerizing display of vibrant orchids, each with its unique charm and grace – but with one special twist: none of the orchids on display at this show were in bloom! That was my experience earlier this month when I embarked on an unforgettable journey to Japan, where I had the incredible opportunity to attend the Japan Fūkiran Society's annual *Neofinetia falcata* show in Hamamatsu.

*Neofinetia falcata* (or, if you're a progressive heretic who believes what the taxonomists say and actually moves on with the times, *Vanda falcata*) is commonly called "furan" or "wind orchid" in Japan. Registered varieties get the upgraded name "Fūkiran", which roughly translates to "Orchid of the Rich and Noble" or perhaps "Orchids That Will Bring Wealth". The Japan Fūkiran Society annually ranks these orchids in a published listing known as the Meikan Chart; presently, there are around 300 registered Fūkiran varieties.

富貴蘭銘鑑  
令和二年度撰 第七十号 日本富貴蘭會

大江丸錦	錦天至	金剛堂	富貴殿	錦黃殿	建國殿	花觀月	白牡丹	潮東錦	全牡丹
翠扇	翠寶	翠寶	翠寶	翠寶	翠寶	翠寶	翠寶	翠寶	翠寶
慶賀	慶賀	慶賀	慶賀	慶賀	慶賀	慶賀	慶賀	慶賀	慶賀
慶賀	慶賀	慶賀	慶賀	慶賀	慶賀	慶賀	慶賀	慶賀	慶賀

Meikan ranking chart



This year's show winner

What sets these orchids and their shows apart is that they are meant to be appreciated when they are not in bloom. Unlike traditional orchid displays that focus on the blossoms, Fūkiran enthusiasts find beauty in the leaves, roots, and unique characteristics of the plants. The wild-type wind orchid resembles a typical vanda, with all-green, pointed leaves and green root tips. However, natural mutations have led to changes in plant morphology, and any deviation from the wild-type is eagerly collected and appreciated. Leaf shape, variegation, root color, and tsuke (the shape of the ridge where the leaf joins the rest of the plant) are the four main factors that enthusiasts look for when evaluating these remarkable orchids.

One of the fascinating aspects of Fūkiran is their limited availability. Since very few types of mutations reliably breed true through seed propagation (which only became available in the recent past), obtaining these prized varieties has traditionally relied on plant division or wild collection. The fact that over a few hundred years of collection has only resulted in ~300 recognized varieties speaks to the rarity of these mutations.

In addition to the orchids themselves, the judges in these shows also evaluate the pots in which the plants are displayed and the quality, shape, and size of the moss ball that cradles the orchids. Fancy pots, priced as low as \$100 and ranging into the thousands, become an integral part of the judging criteria. Without the right pot, even the most splendid orchid may find it difficult to win in these shows.

The Fūkiran show spanned two eventful days. On the first day, participants registered their plants, enjoyed a bento box lunch, witnessed the judging process, and took part in a charity auction. The second day featured



Some winning plants – the prizes for winning are pots, displayed next to the entries.





Members gearing up for the Auction

the presentation of awards, another bento lunch, and a second, highly exciting auction. Although participating in the auctions was a bit nerve-wracking, especially since everything was conducted in Japanese (a language I don't speak), I was able to participate; it was a thrilling experience. Some of the orchids at the second auction fetched staggering prices, surpassing \$3,000 USD for a single small plant - a testament to the allure and value placed on these exquisite wind orchids..

I could spend countless pages about my trip and the historical significance of these plants in Japan, or discuss the new breeding efforts



Judges evaluating plants

taking place in Korea, or give more details about how these plants are judged. However, I'll leave some of those fascinating details for our speaker for August, Satomi Kasahara.

Satomi, who hails from Japan and now resides in

Santa Barbara, has an intimate connection to the world of Neos through her father's involvement on the board of the Japan Fūkiran Society. Both Satomi and her brother, Daisuke, who I met on this trip, are involved in the cultivation and distribution of Neos, with Satomi selling them in the US and her brother in Japan.

As a final thought, I suppose I should concede that these plants, whose beautiful leaves and roots can be appreciated year around (if you, like me, trick yourself into finding those things interesting), also have admittedly lovely, fragrant, often long-lasting flowers – for those of you that care about such things. The plants themselves are also fairly hardy and can easily be grown in San Diego County.

My journey to Japan was an amazing experience filled with fun, warm-hearted people. I hope to return someday to continue exploring the fascinating world of these beautiful orchids.

I would also like to thank Peter Lin and Carol Beule, who helped me prepare for the trip and provided valuable context to me while I was there, as well as Kioshige Negi, a Japanese grower who hosts Peter and Carol, who was invaluable in helping to translate the Japanese for us.



Some winning plants



Pots presented for judging



Some Differences Between Types of Plants. Not shown: all the variegation types



Wild type: a “normal” plant



Needle Leaf variety



Bean leaf with “standard” green root tips



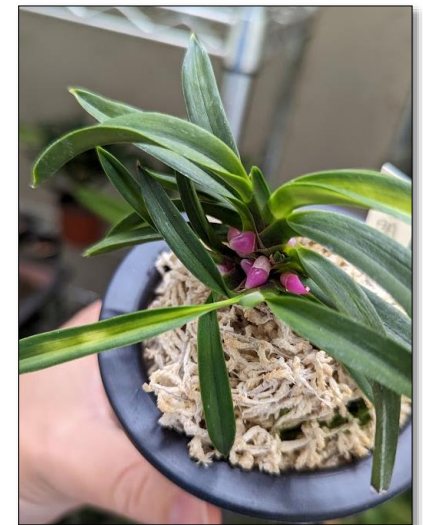
Tsuki: moon shaped. Notice where the leaf joins the plant there’s a crescent ridge.



Tsuki: mountain shape, the rarest



Mud root tips (also common)



Ruby root tips, the most rare

# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – June 2023

## Orchid Dates to Remember:

June 1  
**SDCOS Board Meeting**  
First Thursday of the month, 7 PM  
Zoom; for an SDCOS member to request a meeting invite, email [president@sdorchids.com](mailto:president@sdorchids.com)

June 3  
**SDCOS Species Group Meeting**  
Socialization 8:30 AM, meeting 9:00 AM  
First Saturday of the month  
[firstvp@sdorchids.com](mailto:firstvp@sdorchids.com)

June 3  
**SVO Open House**  
9 AM – 4 PM  
<http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/>

June 6  
**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](mailto:president@sdorchids.com)

June 6  
**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

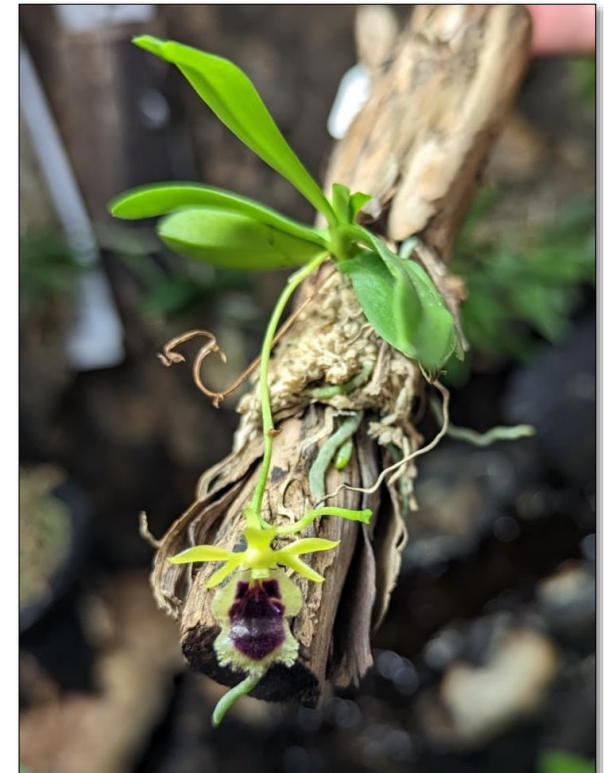
June 7  
**Palomar Orchid Society Meeting**  
Society business at 6:30 PM; main program at 7:00 PM  
First Wednesday of the month  
Carlsbad City Library  
1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad, CA 92011

June 16 - 18  
**Andy's Orchids Open House**  
10 AM – 4 PM  
<https://andysorchids.com/>

July 15  
**American Fūkiran Society Annual Meeting and Sale**  
Hosted by Cal-Orchid in Santa Barbara

## **Board and General Meeting Minutes**

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



*Haraella odorata*  
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.

				
<small>Dracula gigas (L), D. trigonopetala (R) Dracula Reserve, Ecuador</small>			<small>Dracula lemurella (L), Lepanthes escifera (R) La Selva de Ventanas Reserve, Colombia</small>	

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](http://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 Klausning

1st Class  
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**From the Editor:**

Hi everyone,

I'm back from Japan! I was sorry to miss the banquet in person, but I enjoyed attending virtually :) Hope my many pictures weren't too much for you in this Newsletter, but I thought it was a very fun experience. If you don't have any neos, you should definitely consider growing some neos! They're resilient, work well in San Diego, and, if you care about these things, have fragrant, beautiful flowers... which I now realize I included no pictures of in this issue... well, in a couple months the NL will be full of them :)

If you haven't considered repotting yet, it's time! We're having the potting workshop in ~10 days, on June 10 – see the article on page 5 for details – if you think you could use some help, this workshop is for you! If you're an experienced member who thinks you could give some help, this workshop is also for you! Come one, come all – potting workshops are a very fun way to socialize with other club members.

Last, as usual, if anyone has articles they wish to submit to the monthly newsletter, please continue to send contributions to me at [SDCOSNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto: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

