

**San Diego County Orchid  
Society Newsletter  
Volume 297:  
February 2024**

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*Angraecum sesquipedale* 'Star Shine' FCC/AOS  
By Debby Halliday  
and Orchid Pollinators Display by Nico Goossens

# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – February 2024

## President's Message

David Vandebroek, President

New Year New Show – thanks to everyone who participated at our January show last week, either by volunteering, bringing in plants, or both! It was a great success, raised money for our club, and helped share these lovely plants with passersby in Balboa Park. Truly worthwhile. See more about it in Debby's article on Page 5.

Speaking of shows, as our orchids start waking up for the year, we've got a couple shows coming up! We plan to participate in the SDBG show this year, and we've got our own Spring Show scheduled for April 19 – 21, already just over 2 months away! Expect more info on these in the coming newsletter and meetings, but you know the drill: volunteers and plants! We'll take them all!

Hope you and yours are doing well and have weathered the massive rains these past couple of weeks. Hope to see you at the meeting on Tuesday!

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

**Donna Ballard: The Difference between Orchid Seedlings and Meristem Clones**

**Text by Donna Ballard and Ashley Grable, First VP**

Donna Ballard is a native Californian and an Accredited American Orchid Society Judge. After over 30 years of loving, caring for and studying plants, she became a professional interior houseplant maintenance technician, work that she continued until four years ago. She has since retired and works as a part time volunteer at the Huntington Botanical Gardens Thornton Estate Orchid Conservatory in San Marino, CA.

She currently has approximately 460 sq feet of greenhouse, shade house and interior growing areas where she has over 1300 *Cattleyas*, *Paphiopedilums*, *Cymbidiums*, *Dendrobiums*, *Sarcochilus*, miniature *Vanda*, and novelty *Phalaenopsis* orchids as well as several other genera.

As February's main speaker, Carol will present "The Difference between Orchid Seedlings and Meristem Clones". Her talk will address how orchid seed is sown, how much time different species require from seed germination to blooming size, and how sowing from seed differs from meristem cloning and stem propagation. She will also discuss the methods through which all three types of orchid propagation are carried done and why they are chosen. Carol's presentation will include many photos.

Request: If any SDCOS member has a flask of seedlings that Carol could borrow, she would also like to include a demonstration of how the deflasking process is done. Please email if [1stVP@sdorchids.com](mailto:1stVP@sdorchids.com) if you can provide a seedling flask.

*SDCOS members are invited to join, at their own expense, **dinner with the main speaker** on the evening of the presentation. To secure your seat, email [1stVP@sdorchids.com](mailto:1stVP@sdorchids.com) by Monday, February 5. Please arrive at the restaurant – [The Prado at Balboa Park](#) (1549 El Prado, Suite 12) – prior to the 5:45 pm reservation, so the table may be seated on time.*

*The February **plant opportunity table** will include a variety of orchids from [El Jardin Tropical](#). Want a chance to take home a plant from the opportunity table? Participate in the meeting's plant raffles by 1) picking up a free raffle ticket (one per person) at the meeting's welcome table; 2) redeeming your volunteer reward coupons for chances to win; 3) exhibiting your orchid in bloom on the meeting's show-and-tell table in exchange for a raffle entry; and/or 4) purchasing raffle tickets.*



*Brassavola cordata*  
Kay Klausing

# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – February 2024

**Culture Class, DATE, 6:30 PM**  
**Nate La Breche: Orchid Roots**  
**Nate La Breche, Second VP**

Nate La Breche is the second VP of the SDCOS. He started growing orchids in January of 2023 in his apartment using a grow tent along with shelves and LED lighting. His presentation will focus on the roots of orchids. Specific topics include root structure, functions, appearance, and health issues.



*Vanda coerulea*  
People's Choice Award  
Debby Halliday



*Paphiopedilum Hsinying Alien*  
Debby Halliday

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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

# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – February 2024

**Judging at the San Diego Judging Center  
(Casa del Prado, Balboa Park),  
January 2024, 6:30 PM.  
Text and photos by Phyllis Prestia**

There were 12 orchids presented for judging.  
Five were awarded.

[1] *Bct.* Mai Lin 'Normandy' HCC/AOS  
Exhibited by Steward Walton  
Awarded HCC, 77 points

[2] *Ctsm.* Tommy Bednar 'SVO' AM/AOS  
Exhibited by Fred Clarke  
Awarded AM, 86 points

[3] *Den.* Ruben Colmenares 'Regal Hilda'  
HCC/AOS  
Exhibited by Fred Clarke  
Awarded HCC, 79 points

[4] *Ctmds.* Darkonium 'Black Element'  
AM/AOS  
Exhibited by Fred Clarke  
Awarded AM, 86 points

[5] *Mormodes* Solar Flare 'SVO' AM/AOS  
Exhibited by Fred Clarke  
Awarded AM, 86 points

Please remember judging starts at 6:30



# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – February 2024

## Winter Show Report Debby Halliday, Show Chair

We put on a very beautiful and well attended Winter Show in the Park. Well done everyone! The weather was perfect and sunny which helped to bring many people to the park. Our vendor area was full and busy, especially on Saturday when a few vendors even sold out and went home early. The show room was constantly active with happy visitors voting for their favorite orchids. Our greeters made sure everyone got a ballot!

We had a great selection of 168 plants on display. Our species areas were filled with intriguing and unusual orchids, much to the



*Trisetella pachycaudata* 'Windflower' CHM/AOS  
Betty Kelepecz

amazement of our visitors. We had a great showing of Cattleyas in all sizes, and many lovely Cymbidiums, plus a broad and varied selection of other hybrids. Thank you to the following members and growers who brought in plants:

Carol & Bruce Berg, Tom Biggart, Ken Campbell, Michael Chanco, Debby Halliday, Lisa Humphreys, Betty Kelepecz, Carol Kerr, Kay Klausing, Nate La Breche, Ben & Susie Machado, Alex Nadzan, Tom Osborn, Pam Peters, Phyllis Prestia, Dr. Barry Reder, Dave Rimlinger, Anita & Jerry Spencer, Min Teng, and Stewart Walton.

Best of Show went to Debby Halliday's specimen *Angraecum sesquipedale* 'Star Shine' FCC/AOS, which was accompanied by a very informative pollinator display by Nico Goossens. The Forrest Robinson Cultural Trophy went to a hanging *Brassavola cordata* from Kay Klausing that was covered with blooms. Betty Kelepecz won the Siv Garrod Most Unusual Species prize for her tiny and wonderful *Trisetella pachycaudata* 'Windflower' CHM/AOS. The winner of our People's Choice award was a beautiful blue *Vanda coerulea* from Debby Halliday. Interesting that all our winners this time were species. We had many worthy Best of Section winners. The full list is available elsewhere in the newsletter. There were so many blue ribbon plants on display. The quality of growing in our club always fills me with pleasure and pride.

Of course, this show doesn't happen without a lot of help from volunteers. A shout out to our leaders – **George Pflaum** for managing our setup & tear down which was very efficient and earned compliments from our



visitors and vendors. **Myra Detate** who ran a highly professional cashier and plant hotel operation. Judging & registration went smoothly and accurately thanks to the efforts of **Pam Peters** who always oversees our registration and judging and makes sure we have enough judges and ribbons to reward our exhibitors. **Nancy Walters** set up and managed a very engaging Kid's Corner with fun activities for children so their parents could enjoy the show. **Betty Kelepecz** and **Ron Kaufmann** do the hard work of soliciting plants and managing the conservation sales. **Bob Clark**, our membership chairman sent out the many email blasts and made sure our visitors had information about joining at the SDCOS table. **Dave Hoffmaster** managed the recruiting and rewarding of volunteers.

We were also able to present 6 free orchid growing classes thanks to our volunteer instructors. To everyone who went to the garage, helped with set-up and teardown, sold conservation plants, ran a cash register, helped with judging and registration, worked security, and generally showed up for this show – thank you! You did great work. You should be proud.



SDCOS January 2024  
Show Pictures



## San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – February 2024

Show Winners, January 2024			
Sec	Award	Orchid	Winner
	James & Lise Wright Best of Show	<i>Angraecum sesquipedale</i> 'Star Shine' FCC/AOS	Debby Halliday
	Forrest Robinson Cultural Award	<i>Brassavola cordata</i>	Kay Klausung
	Siv Garrod Most Unusual Species	<i>Trisetella pachycaudata</i> 'Windflower' CHM/AOS	Betty Kelepecz
	People's Choice Award	<i>Vanda coerulea</i>	Debby Halliday
1	Cymbidium Standard Hybrid	<i>Cym.</i> Valley Zenith 'Erin Spring' x <i>Cym.</i> Erin Mist 'Emerald'	Alex Nadzan
2	Cymbidium Hybrid Miniature	<i>Cymbidium</i> Sweet & Savvy	Jerry & Anita Spencer
3	Cymbidium Hybrid Pendulous	<i>Cymbidium</i> Dr. Len	Jerry & Anita Spencer
4	Cattleya Alliance Standard	<i>Cattleya amethystoglossa</i> x <i>Laelia superbiens</i>	Tom Biggart
5	Cattleya Alliance Compact	<i>Cattleya</i> Katherine Clarkson	Jerry & Anita Spencer
6	Cattleya Alliance Miniature	<i>Slc.</i> Mini Fantasy	Ken Campbell
7	Paphiopedilum Hybrid	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hsinying Alien	Debby Halliday
8	Phragmipedium Hybrid	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Grouville	Debby Halliday
9	Oncidium Alliance Hybrid	<i>Oncostele</i> Midnight Miracles	Pam Peters
10	Dendrobium Hybrids	<i>Dendrobium</i> Australian Tiger	Jerry & Anita Spencer
11	Vandaceous Alliance	No Entries	-
12	Hybrids of Other Genera	<i>Epicatt</i> Rene Marques 'Flame Thrower'	Debby Halliday
13	Phalaenopsis Alliance	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Chiada Francis 'Picotee'	Debby Halliday
14	Specimen Plants	<i>Angraecum sesquipedale</i> 'Star Shine' FCC/AOS	Debby Halliday
15	Large Species: Angraecum - Masdevallia	<i>Dendrochilum cootesii</i>	Debby Halliday
16	Large Species: Maxillaria - Zygopetalum	<i>Schomburgkia galeottiana</i>	Ben & Susie Machado
17	Small Species: Angraecum - Masdevallia	<i>Dendrobium vexillarius</i> v. <i>microblepharum</i>	Dave Rimlinger
18	Small Species: Maxillaria - Zygopetalum	<i>Mediocalcar decoratum</i>	Betty Kelepecz
19	Small Displays 4' x 4' or less	Orchid Pollinators	Nico Goossens

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The image shows a book cover on the left titled 'THE COMPLETE WRITINGS OF KATE SESSIONS IN THE CALIFORNIA LANDS NEW EDITION SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION'. To the right is a page from the book with the heading '1927' and sub-headings 'The Picture Lovers' and 'Arrival of a New Flower'. There are small photographs on the page.

*Gastrochilus acutifolius*

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# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – February 2024

## Orchid Dates to Remember:

February 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)

February 3

### **SDCOS Species Group Meeting**

Socializing 8:30 AM, meeting 9:00 AM

First Saturday of the month

[president@sdorchids.com](mailto:president@sdorchids.com)

February 6

### **Main Speaker Dinner\*: 5:45 PM**

\*See Main Speaker article for details.

February 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)

February 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

February 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

March 8 – 10

### **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show**

9 AM – 5 PM

<https://sborchidshow.com/>

April 19 – 21

### **SDCOS Spring Show**

Balboa Park

Details coming soon!

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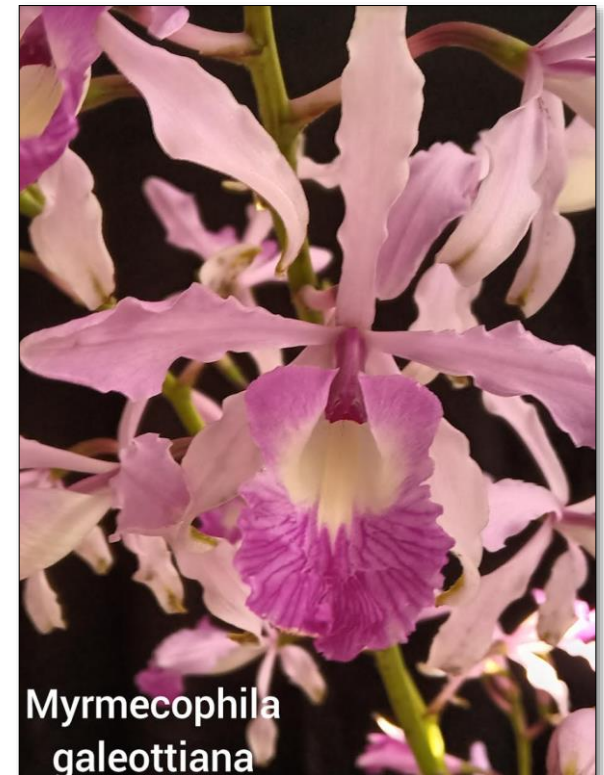
## **Board and General Meeting Minutes**

The SDCOS Board meeting minutes are available to members upon request.

[president@sdorchids.com](mailto:president@sdorchids.com)

### **2023-2024 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 2024	Carey McCoy
Director at Large, to 2025	Stewart Walton
Director at Large, to 2026	Sima Perkins
Past President	Debby Halliday



**Myrmecophila  
galeottiana**

Ben Machado



**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 lemurella* (L), *Lepanthes escifera* (R)  
Dracula Reserve, Ecuador 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](http://www.orchidconservationalliance.org)

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## SDCOS Newsletter Notes

SDCOS welcomes newsletter contributions of articles and pictures from members.

To be included in the next issue, contributions should be sent to [SDCOSNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:SDCOSNewsletter@gmail.com) by end of day on the **second Friday of the month**.

Contributions that come in after the deadline can still be included in the following issue, so don't let missing the deadline stop you from sending things in.

For contributions of pictures, please include the correct, full name of the orchid being shown in the email text. Also, please do not submit more than 3 pictures per month (unless they're really good...). I will not be able to use every picture, but having a small library to choose from is helpful.

All the best,

David Vandebroek  
SDCOS Newsletter Editor

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

