

**San Diego County Orchid  
Society Newsletter  
Volume 299:  
April 2024**

**Table of Contents**

President's Message	Page 2
General Meeting	Page 3
Culture Class	Page 4
Spring Show: Orchids of the Earth	Page 6
SDBG World of Orchids Show	Page 7
Judging Report	Page 8
Board and Meeting Minutes	Page 9
Orchid Dates to Remember	Page 9



*Caladenia Harlequin (Cald. flava x Cald. latifolia)*  
Roberta Fox

# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – April 2024

## President's Message

David Vandebroek, President

Hi everyone, hope you and your flowers managed to stay dry through this weekend's rain, so close to our Spring Show! Debby has an article on Page 5 with some instructions and reminders, and Tom is still looking for volunteers (you can [sign up here](#)), so check it out – it should be great! As always, member's plants make the show; if you're on the fence about bringing something in, I say give it a try!


We also have the SDBG World of Orchids show coming up, so check out the article on Page 5 about that.

Last, I'd just like to remind everyone that May will be our annual Spring Banquet! We'll have more information in the next newsletter, but it's not too early to make sure you can attend that meeting in person :)

Looking forward to seeing you at the show! (And, hopefully, at the general meeting next week.)



Neofinetia hybrid, Benishibuki Honoka  
David Vandebroek



**ORCHIDS of the EARTH**  
San Diego County Orchid Society Show and Sale  
April 19-21, 2024

Balboa Park's Casa del Prado  
Room 101 and Patio  
San Diego, California 92101  
*Free Admission*

*Latest Event Details at*  
**[sdorchids.com](http://sdorchids.com)**

Friday 12:00-7:00 p.m.  
*Early bird sales start at 10 a.m.*  
Saturday 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



## San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – April 2024

**General Meeting, April 2, in person at Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Room 101, Room 101 and on Zoom; 7:30 PM.**

**Ron Midgett: “Green With Envy: Green *Cattleyas*—Origins”**

Ron Midgett and Ashley Grable, First VP

Ron Midgett began growing orchids in 1969 in the orchid-rich environment of Southern California. Since then, he has grown orchids in many different regions of the US and in the Caribbean for 3 years. Currently, he resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is a breeder with an emphasis on *Cattleyas*, *Paphiopedilums*, and *Oncidinae*. Several cultivars from his crosses have received AOS awards.

In 1990, Ron founded the New England Orchid Company in Franklin, MA. In 2003, he moved his orchid business to New Jersey and changed the name to New Earth Orchid Co., aka [New Earth Orchids](#). In 2010, New Earth Orchids moved to Santa Fe, NM.

In addition to Ron’s activities in the orchid business, he has been very active in the local



orchid societies wherever he lived. This includes serving as an officer, chairing orchid shows, and running the New England Orchid Fair for 3 years. Before leaving New Jersey, Ron founded the Jersey Highlands Orchid Society.

Ron is an accredited AOS judge currently serving in the Rocky Mountain Region. He has served as chairperson for AOS judging for the 2011 and 2012 New Mexico Orchid Guild Shows. In 2011, Ron was invited to participate in judging the Taiwan International Orchid Show.

Ron has authored articles published in Orchids and most recently in the Orchid Digest. He was given the prestigious Ernest Heatherington award from the Orchid Digest for his article, “Beyond Sc. Beaufort—A 25 Year Odyssey in *Cattleya* Breeding”. Ron feels a special honor in receiving this award because Ernest was one of his first mentors.

Ron has spoken in many venues across the country. He has twice been an invited speaker to the prestigious Cattleya Symposium held each summer in Florida. He has done speaking tours in New England, Central Florida, Mid-Florida, California, and The Texas Circuit. He last spoke to SDCOS in February 2016.

Ron’s April 2024 presentation to SDCOS is entitled “Green With Envy: Green *Cattleyas*—Origins”. Most of us associate green *Cattleyas* with *Rhyncholaelia* (*Brassavola*) *digbyana*. While *B. digbyana* is an important player in the search for good green *Cattleyas*, it is not the only major player in the development of good green

*Cattleyas*. There are greens with no *B. digbyana* in their parentage, such as *Laeliocattleya Atalanta Lane*, shown in the adjacent photo. Ron’s talk will discuss the contributions of the five major species, including *digbyana*, and those of two of the minor actors.



*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@sdoorchids.com](mailto:1stvp@sdoorchids.com) no later than Monday, April 1. 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.*

### **Plant Opportunity Table**

April’s main speaker, Ron Midgett, will provide the plants for the opportunity table. 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.

Ron will also have plants available for purchase at the April meeting.

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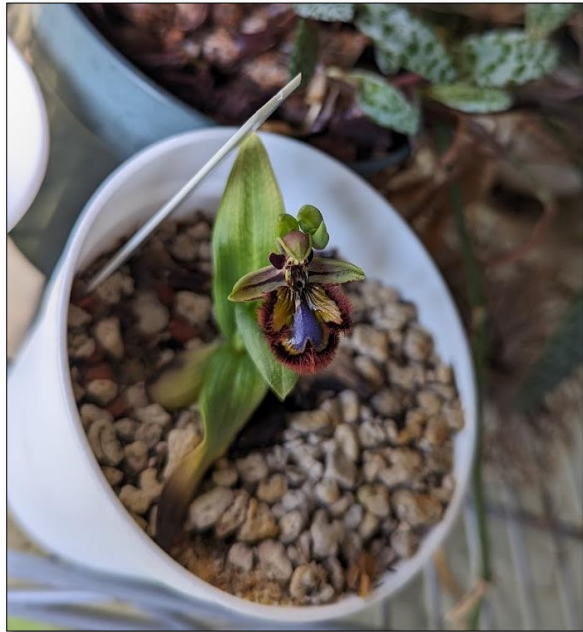
**Culture Class, April 2, 6:30 PM**

**Nate La Breche: Orchid Tags and Online Information Sources**

**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 following:

1. Interpretation of orchid tags, including an overview of horticultural abbreviations and hybridizing nomenclature.
2. Informative online resources to learn about the plants in your collection.



*Ophrys speculum*  
David Vandebroek



*Den. spectabilis* f. *alba*  
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.

**DUAL MEMBERSHIP** (for two adults in the same household)

Yearly rate \$174.

Renewal Rate \$159.

**SINGLE MEMBERSHIP** (for one adult)

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Renewal rate \$102.

~ A year of **FREE UNLIMITED ADMISSION** to both the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park.

~ 2 discount guest coupons good toward admission.

~ A One Year Subscription to **ZOONOOZ**.

~ Free Zoo Skyfari.

Prices & benefits subject to change.

For more information, call 619.231.0251

Or call toll free 877.3 MEMBER

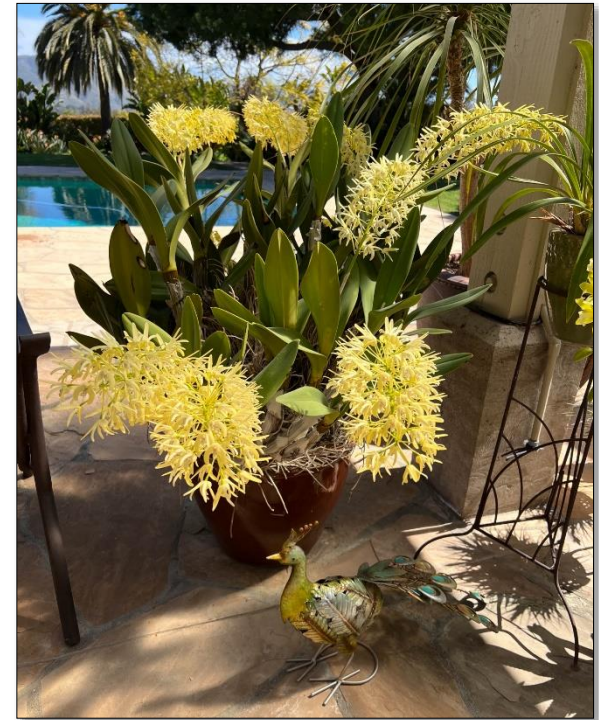
Visit our website: [www.sandiegozoo.org](http://www.sandiegozoo.org)

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.





*Dendrobium kingianum* Super Dark  
David Vandebroek



*Den. Speciosum* 'Golden Arches'  
Debby Halliday

### Casa de las Orquideas

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# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – April 2024

## Orchids of the Earth – This month!

Debby Halliday, Show Chair

It's almost here. Our spring show is right around the corner. We will need volunteers to make it a success. Thank you to all who have signed up already. We are short in some key areas:

Plant hotel minders for Room 101.

Cashiers – we have two locations this year.

Security – we have extra exits to monitor with Patio A also occupied.

None of these jobs are difficult and you get to interact with the public, which can be quite enjoyable.

There will be sign-up sheets at the meeting on April 2, or you can [sign up on the website](#). On the home page, scroll down to the Volunteer Sign up button and choose your slot. You earn a volunteer reward coupon for each day you work, and you get free lunch!

We will also have copies of our beautiful poster available if you want to put a few around your neighborhood, and we have new bookmarks. Be sure to take some and give them to your friends.

Don't forget to bring in your plants to display! We'll be sending out pre-registration information about a week before the show. Thursday, April 18, from 3 – 7 and Friday, April 19, from 8 – 9 am are the drop-off times. If you have plants to donate to conservation, you can bring them in at the same time.

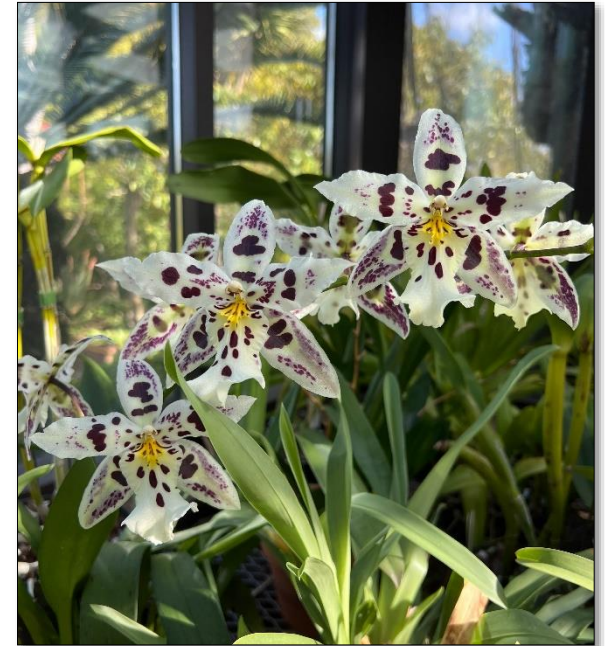
Together we can make this a wonderful event!



*Phal. schilleriana*  
Debby Halliday



*Epidendrum* Glacier Peak  
David Vandenbroek



*Braea* Tropic Lily 'Hilo Space Ship'  
Debby Halliday

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# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – April 2024

## San Diego Botanic Garden - World of Orchids

Debby Halliday, Show Chair

Mark your calendar! The next big orchid event after our show is the month-long orchid showcase at the San Diego Botanic Garden Conservatory, May 4 – 27. SDCOS and the Palomar Orchid Society have supported this event with our blooming plants for the last several years. It is a great opportunity to show off that flower that just missed the SDCOS show. The cool part is that it runs for 4 weeks, so you have lots of chances to bring in your plants at their best.

The show is created by Rene Van Rems, an expert floral designer who does an amazing job. The show is staged in the beautiful Dickinson Family Education Conservatory at the gardens. It is a state-of-the-art greenhouse and gives us a rare opportunity to display our orchid flowers in natural light. The show is open Wednesday – Monday each week and is very popular with the public. Here is how it works.

Each week we send out registration forms to everyone who has either participated before or lets me know that they would like to take part. Email [debhallid@gmail.com](mailto:debhallid@gmail.com).

You fill out the form with the plants you plan to bring that week and email it back. We will assign you a drop off time to bring your plants to the garden. The first week this will be on Wednesday, May 1. The following weeks it will be on a Tuesday. When you bring in your plants, we will give you a number for each plant and a label, made up by the garden.

You tag the plants and hand them off to the garden crew for placement in the display.

Your plants will remain on display and be cared for by Garden staff until the flowers start to fade. Alex Nadzan or I will look at the plants every Monday and pull out those that need to go home. We will send you a pick-up list and you can get your plants on the next drop-off day. The others will remain for as long as they look nice. We keep a careful inventory of the plants in the show and make sure you get everything back at the end. As a thank you, the Garden gives all participants a free annual membership.

In addition to the show itself there is an Orchid Marketplace on each weekend of the show. The garden provides tents and tables near the conservatory. SDCOS will be having member sales on the first and third weekends and conservation sales on the second weekend. Palomar will be selling plants on the final weekend. Myra DeTate, our treasurer, manages the member sales weekends. Please let her know if you want to participate. We ask that you volunteer some time if you are planning to sell plants. She can also use some extra volunteers. SDCOS earns its usual 15% commission and all conservation proceeds go into our grants fund.

This is a world class orchid show and it's satisfying to be part of it. I hope you'll join the fun!

World of Orchids 2023 Photos



# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – April 2024

**Judging at the San Diego Judging Center  
(Casa del Prado, Balboa Park),  
March 2024, 6:30 PM.**

Text by Betty Kelepecz, Photos by Arnold Gum

There were eight orchids presented for judging. Four awards were given.

[1] *Dendrobium* Australian Robbie McGinnis  
'Lyn's Surprise' AM/AOS  
Exhibited by George Pflaum  
Awarded AM, 83 points

[2] *Pleurothallis glossopogon* 'Windflower'  
AM/AOS  
Exhibited by Betty Kelepecz  
Awarded AM, 83 points

[3] *Miltonia kayasimae* 'Arnie' HCC/AOS  
Exhibited by Arnold Gum  
Awarded HCC, 78 points

[4] *Cattleya* Minipet 'Jo's Obsession'  
AM/AOS  
Exhibited by Jane Wesley Brooks  
Awarded AM, 82 points

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





# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – April 2024

## Orchid Dates to Remember:

April 2  
**Main Speaker Dinner\*: 5:45 PM**  
\*See Main Speaker article for details.

April 2  
**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)

April 2  
**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 3  
**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 4  
**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)

April 6  
**SDCOS Species Group Meeting**  
Socializing 8:30 AM, meeting 9:00 AM  
First Saturday of the month  
[president@sdorchids.com](mailto:president@sdorchids.com)

April 19-21  
**SDCOS Spring Show**  
Balboa Park  
<https://sdorchids.com/our-shows/>

May 4-17  
**SDBG World of Orchids Show**  
More details on Page 7 of this newsletter.

## Board and General Meeting Minutes

The SDCOS Board meeting minutes are available to members upon request.  
[president@sdorchids.com](mailto:president@sdorchids.com)



**Orchid Conservation Alliance**

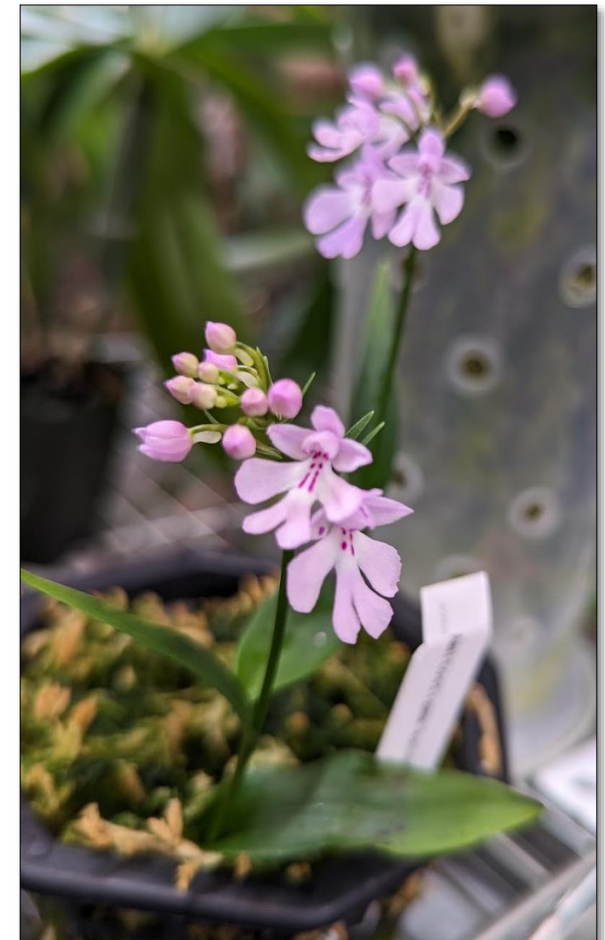
**Conserving Orchids by Conserving Orchid Habitat**

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</small>	 <small>Dracula</small>	 <small>Ventanas</small>	 <small>Ventanas</small>
<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)



*Amitostigma keiskei*  
David Vandebroek

## 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

1st Class  
Postage  
Required

## 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

