



**San Diego County Orchid
Society Newsletter
Volume 240:
March 2019**

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Dendrobium Regal Vista 'Margaret Scott'
Plant by Neal Grant, photo by Arnold Gum

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General Meeting, March 5th, 7:30 pm Peter Tobias: Orchids in the Wild in Colombia and Chiapas

Text by Debby Halliday, First VP

We are pleased to welcome back Peter Tobias to give us a tour of Orchids in the Wild in Colombia and Chiapas and to update us on the work of the Orchid Conservation Alliance.

Peter is President and one of three co-founders of the Orchid Conservation Alliance. The goal of the OCA is to mobilize the orchid growing community to preserve wild orchid habitat. Many orchids, as with other flora and fauna, are in danger of extinction due to human created impacts on their environment. These impacts are due to collection, logging, agriculture, and many other forms of habitat destruction. The OCA raises funds from donations, sales, and



ecotourism to purchase and protect orchid rich habitat.

At present the OCA supports reserves in Ecuador, Brazil, and Colombia. Peter's talk will briefly describe the goals and methods of the OCA, focusing primarily on the Selva de Ventanas reserve in Colombia, and then show pictures from one of the OCA's recent tours to Chiapas, Mexico.

Peter started growing orchids on a Chicago windowsill in the mid - 1970's with a white phalaenopsis. His interest grew when a friend helped him to import some plants from India and Brazil so that he got a sense of the variety of orchids out there. He discovered that an ornithocephalus or a dendrochilum is a lot different from a phalaenopsis. Ever since then he has enjoyed collecting and trying to grow odd species. Orchid growing became a lot easier when he moved to Southern California in 1980 and joined the San Diego County Orchid Society. Most of the plants in his collection are now grown outdoors.

To me, the most unique aspect of Peter's collection is that he grows many orchids in his avocado trees. If you were thinking that growing in trees couldn't work in San Diego county, you're in for a surprise. Many different orchids grow, thrive and bloom in Peter's trees. This promises to be an interesting and inspiring talk. Don't miss it!

If you want to have dinner with Peter and Kay before the meeting, please let me know. I will be involved with the culture class, but you will still be welcome at dinner.

Virus Testing Service Notification

Text by Debby Halliday, First VP

We are still offering a Virus Testing Service at our SDCOS regular meetings. The charge is only \$6 to cover the cost of the kit. Debby Halliday or another experienced member will be happy to virus test any plant you are concerned about.

Please email Debby at FirstVP@sdorchids.com if you plan to bring in a plant. We'll arrange to have kits there to help you.

If you only have a few plants to test or don't feel comfortable doing your own testing, this service is for you.

REMEMBER – The Doctor is In at our meetings. If you are worried about a plant, put it in a bag and bring it in. We'll have a look and do our best to advise you.

Board and General Meeting Minutes

The SDCOS Board meeting minutes for February can be found on our website at: http://sdorchids.com/minutes/2019_02.pdf?page=1#view=FitB

Additionally, General Meeting minutes can be found on our website at: <http://sdorchids.com/Minutes.html>

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People's Choice Award Closest Ever

Text by Debby Halliday, First VP

At our park shows we enjoy having our guests vote for their favorite plant in the show. The winner gets a nice trophy and ribbon, but the real reason for the award is to slow people down and make them look at the plants closely. It worked beautifully again, and we had a lot of participation.

721 votes were cast – the most ever.

134 plants received at least one vote – another record.

32 exhibitors received votes for their plants – great participation by our members.

The winner was C. Drumbeat, exhibited by Bruce Berg with 46 votes. In second place was *Ascda Kulwadee Fragrance #27* exhibited by Ken Campbell with 44 votes. Congratulations to you both! They were impressive plants.

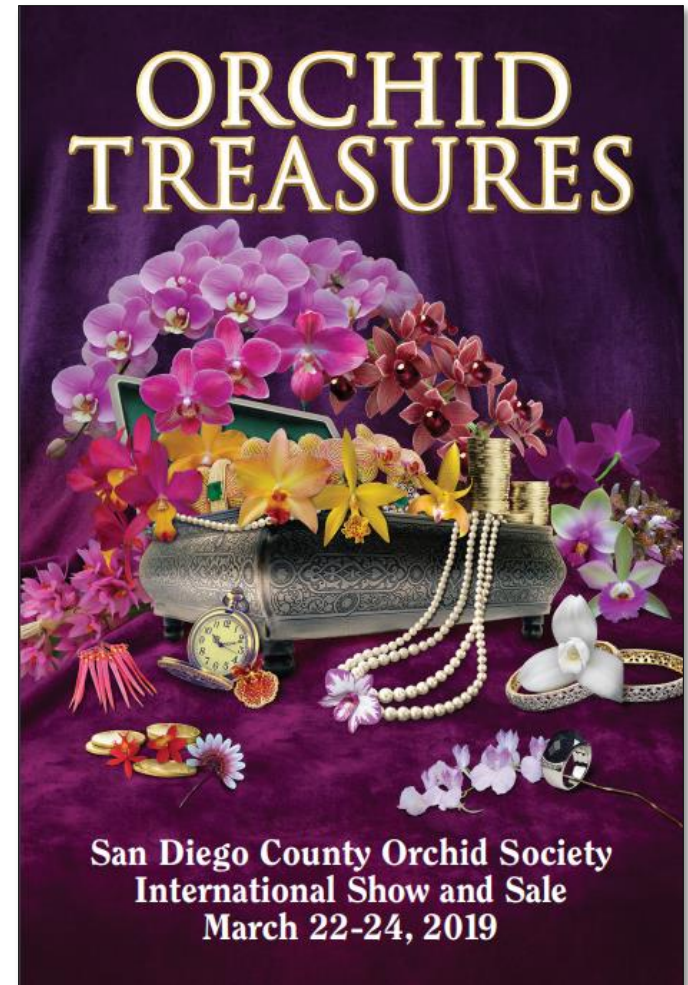
We also ask on the ballot how people heard about our show. By far the most important driver is our signs in the park. Over 60% came in because they saw the signs. It is a big job to put out and take in the signs, but it is critically important to the success of our park shows. Please consider assisting with this task at our next park show. Many people also listed orchid shows and bookmarks, invitation from a friend, on-line calendars, and social media as the main ways they heard about our show.

We now have the big spring show coming up in March. We don't do People's Choice there, but we do need to get the word out. Please pass out postcards to your friends,

post a flyer in your favorite coffee shop, and like and share our postings on social media. And most important – groom your lovely blooming orchids and bring them in to share with the public! We need you.



C. Drumbeat – Bruce Berg



Ascda. Kulwadee Fragrance #27 – Ken Campbell

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Culture Class, March 5th, 6:30 pm **Debby Halliday and Pam Peters: *Spring Show Judging and Changes to the Schedule***

Text by John Oswalt

This month's culture class presenters will be our Spring Show Judging Coordinator, Pam Peters, and Spring Show Chair, Debby Halliday. Please join us to learn how simple it is to enter your plants for judging and experience the thrill of seeing your orchids on display; perhaps with a winning ribbon!

We urge members to submit orchid plants for judging at all of our shows. The Spring Show is our biggest of the year and is the perfect opportunity to submit some of your favorite plants, even if you have never done this before! Pam and Debby will make the process simple for you by helping you determine in which section & class your plant belongs for the judging process. For this big show, your plants may be judged by the [American Orchid Society \(AOS\)](#) or the [Cymbidium Society of America \(CSA\)](#), in addition to the San Diego County Orchid Society. Pam and Debby will also share their tips for making your orchids look their best for judging. Even if you do not submit plants in this show, you will find this class interesting to hear cultural tips for displaying your plants and also learn more about the judging process.

You may also want to consider creating a small exhibit which can be a fun and creative aspect of the spring show. Debby will also give an overview of some of the exhibits from previous shows and talk about how to plan and create an exhibit. We have

a section for small displays - 4 x 4 ft. and 2 x 2 ft. which are easy to make and add a lot of interest to our show.

Please join us for this enlightening Culture Class which starts at 6:30 pm... Hope to see you there!

Culture Tips: Bark Potting Mixes

Text by Bruce Berg

There is no perfect potting mix for all orchids. We use potting mixes for several purposes. First, they hold the plants in the pots; second, they protect the roots and keep them moist while allowing air to circulate around the roots and aid in keeping the plant healthy. Our goal is to give the roots an environment as close to living on a tree branch in the tropics as we can. Probably the number one reason our orchids die is that the roots cannot breathe when the mix deteriorates and smothers them with gooey muck. This article addresses bark mixtures. I do not feel qualified to give advice on the use of sphagnum or terrestrial mixes; maybe in a future article I will.

What kinds of materials are used for potting mixes? Here is a subject where you can have fun doing some experimenting, researching, and talking to other growers. There are many possibilities ranging from the commonly used materials like tree bark, sphagnum moss, perlite, charcoal, clay pellets (aliflor), coconut chips to more exotic materials, where you can use your imagination. Santa Barbara Orchid Estate uses gravel to up-pot their plants. This works well, although it makes the pot

heavy and requires a lot of watering. Charlie Fouquette tells a story of a grower who planted in broken pieces of glass and still had good results. Most of us have at one time acquired an orchid that came in sphagnum moss. Plants can be transitioned to bark, although I'd recommend using a fine bark the first year after repotting.

Bark Types: The most inexpensive bark that is suitable for repotting is "Sequoia" bark. It will usually last for two to three years in the pot before starting to decompose. I have found that many of my Cattleyas have grown over the edge of their pots by the end of this period anyway, so this bark works fine for these plants for me.

Moving up in price, you will find Orchidata Bark and Kiwi Bark. These are New Zealand pine barks and will last much longer and are much cleaner (less dust) than Sequoia Bark. They have been dried and aged and tend to be easier to moisten. These are ideal for slower spreading plants such as the Oncidiums and Encyclias.



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Bark mixes: Typically orchid bark comes in three sizes: small, medium, and large. If you can, screen the bark using two screen sizes: one size to separate out >1/2" bark and the second <1/8" bark. This will give you some really big chunks that are good for top dressing a pot for a show display, and more importantly it removes the dust and the really fine stuff that decomposes first when you start watering your plants. In addition to bark, you will want to add in perlite. Use the large size. Ben Machado sells a good coarse grade material. He also has the kiwi bark, as does Sunset Valley Orchids. I also like to add in agricultural grade charcoal, based on results that Alex Nadzan has documented. If you use coconut chips for Cymbidiums, the literature recommends that you flush them with fresh water several times. I was told years ago to flush until you can get the tds reading of the water that you soak the chips in below 1000 or less. The coconuts are transported in rafts immersed in salt water and the salts need to be flushed out before being used.

General guidelines: If you haven't done it yet, now is a good time to virus test your plant before investing time and effort to repot it.

These guidelines are flexible and are a starting point. Try something and observe the plant over a growing season. If it doesn't work, try adjusting your mix. Talk to someone who is growing a plant like yours and see what mix they are using. Clean off the old roots and use a new pot sized for the new plant, trimming off dead roots and spraying them with Physan before putting them in the new pot.

All bark should be wetted before being used to pot your plants. In addition to using good water to wet the bark, I like to add Physan 20 to the mix to help act as a wetting agent. I also spray the roots with a vitamin B-12 spray to encourage root growth. As a general practice, you want a mix that is sized to work with the type of plant you are potting. Smaller roots stay moister with smaller size mixes, larger coarser roots generally do better with larger size bark. The pot size also matters, with smaller size bark more suitable to small pots and larger bark for larger pots, where small bark might hold too much water. I have several plastic storage bins with tight lids that I use to mix up batches of potting mix of different proportions. After mixing them up, I soak each mixture in water plus Physan 20 at about 2 tsp per gallon. It acts as a wetting agent and will keep the mix fresh if you store it. After draining, I put the medium into the sealed container and mark it with blue tape showing the proportions so that I'll know what's in it when starting to repot a new plant.

The next step is to figure out the proportions. This is what I use.

Small rooted plants, seedlings 1st year out of compots, Oncidiums, and small Cymbidiums: 5 parts small bark, 1 part perlite, 1 part charcoal. For 4 - 6" pots containing Catts, 4 part medium bark, 1 part perlite, 1 part charcoal. For large Catts 4 parts large bark, 1 part perlite, 1 part charcoal. For Larger Cymbidiums, 4 parts medium coconut chips, 1 part perlite, 1 part charcoal (or use tree bark if you do not have coconut).

Good luck with your repotting and remember that your society hosts repotting workshops periodically where you can bring your plants in for hands on help with learning how to repot. We also have culture classes every month at our monthly meetings where you can learn a variety of topics about orchid culture.

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January Show at the Park

Text by Dave Hoffmaster

We had another great show in Balboa Park last month. Yes, it was January, but despite that it was warm, sunny, and the park was full of visitors. The show was well attended and there was quite a showing of orchids from Cattleyas and Cymbidiums to a stunning array of species plants. I cannot portray all the beautiful flowers we had in the limited space of this article.

Of course, we cannot put on a show like this without our volunteers and I would like to thank all those that lent a hand. It starts with set up on Friday and ends with take down Sunday afternoon. I want to say thanks to Bob Clark, Myra DeTate, Betty Kelepecz, Carol Kerr, Tom Ketelaar, Kay Klausing, Carey McCoy, George Pflaum, Mike Waugh, and Stanley Wilson for their help with this part. It is a lot of work and your efforts are appreciated.

Additional thanks go out to Debby Halliday and Jerry Spencer for taking care of plant registration Friday evening and Saturday morning. We filled the room with plants so I

know they were busy. Thanks also for all the people that helped with judging on Saturday.

Running a show like this would not be possible without all our other volunteers. This involves a number of tasks from running the cash register, providing security and manning the plant hotel. A special thanks goes to Cheryl Adams, Christy Albon, Ivan Allen, Carol and Bruce Berg, Rachel Burns, Laura Caufield, Shirley Hall, Laurence Lhoest, April and Gary Louis, John Oswalt, Renate Schmidt, Minta Taylor, Nancy Walters, and Sue Waugh for helping put on this show.

One last thank you is due to those who helped provide lunch each day to the volunteers. Felisa Acantilado and Anita Spencer both make a killer pancit that makes it all worthwhile. If you have never had their pancit, you might want to volunteer in July just to get a taste.



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January Show at the Park, cont.

Congratulations to Tom Biggart and his *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon. Tom won both the Best of Show Trophy and the Forrest Robinson Cultural award with this orchid. It is an exceptionally well grown orchid and worthy of the awards.



Bruce Berg won the People's Choice Award with his *Cattleya* Drumbeat. This award is determined by the people who attend the show and vote for their favorite orchid. This orchid was quite stunning and caught lots of people's eyes.



President's Message

Text by Kay Klausing, President, SDCOS

Dear SDCOS Members,

Our spring show is coming up fast! The theme this year is "Orchid Treasures" – with spring being the peak blooming season for orchids in Southern California, it should be easy to do justice to the theme of the show.

We will need all the blooming orchids we can get, so please bring in your blooming plants – either to be displayed individually or as part of your own or the society's display.

We also still need quite a few volunteers so please sign up for the open positions at the March General meeting or on our website (<http://www.sdorchids.com/VolunteerLinks.html>) – this show can't be done without membership participation!

The show program is as usual: Set-up is on Thursday, plant registration is on Thursday afternoon and Friday early morning, judging is Friday late morning and the show opens to the public at 3 pm. There will be talks on Saturday and Sunday – please see the schedule and further details on our website. The show will close at 4 pm Sunday and we need volunteers for teardown and unloading of materials at the garage after that.

See you all at the General Meeting!

Orchid Advisory Home Tour

Text by Nancy Walters

We are trying something new!

Have you ever just wanted some advice on orchids in your home environment? We are trying out an idea called "Orchid Advisory Home Tour".

An experienced grower and 5-6 members would tour each member's homes/gardens and share advice and experiences that would help you have more success with your orchids. You would be able to ask questions about your orchids specifically. You would have the opportunity to get to know other members in a smaller setting. We would stop for lunch or have snacks along the way. We would spend about 20-30 min in each home. The members selected would be by geographical area. There would be a \$20.00 donation to the experienced advisor.

The first event would be held this summer. We will try to group the tours by area, depending on the interest level. I will contact each participant to let you know specific plans. Right now, we just need to start a list of those who might be interested in participating!

PLEASE CONTACT ME if you think this is something you might consider.

nancywalters@cox.net

I look forward to hearing from you!

Show Winners, January 2019			
Sec	Award	Orchid	Winner
	James & Lise Wright Best of Show	<i>Dendrobium</i> Hilda Poxon	Tom Biggart
	Forrest Robinson Cultural Award	<i>Dendrobium</i> Hilda Poxon	Tom Biggart
	People's Choice Award	<i>Cattleya</i> Drumbeat	Bruce Berg
1	Cymbidium Standard Hybrid	<i>Cym.</i> Red Beauty 'Evening Star'	Anita & Jerry Spencer
2	Cymbidium Hybrid Miniature	<i>Cym.</i> Pink Hybrid	Debby Halliday
3	Cymbidium Hybrid Pendulous	<i>Cym.</i> Nella 'Baby Doll Falls'	Mary Jane Ning
4	Cattleya Alliance Standard	<i>Laelia</i> Splendid King 'Bonnie Lass'	Tom Biggart
5	Cattleya Alliance Compact	<i>Bc.</i> Maikai 'Mayumi'	Bruce Berg
6	Cattleya Alliance Miniature	No Entries	-
7	Paphiopedilum Hybrid	<i>Paph.</i> Motoo Kimura	Betty Kelepecz
8	Phragmipedium Hybrid	No Entries	-
9	Oncidium Alliance Hybrid	<i>Tolumnia</i> Pretty in Pink	Debby Halliday
10	Dendrobium Hybrids	<i>Den.</i> Avril's Gold 'Ray'	Felisa Acantilado
11	Vandaceous Alliance	<i>Ascda.</i> Kulwadee Fragrance #27	Ken Campbell
12	Hybrids of Other Genera	<i>Epc.</i> Volcano Trick 'Fireball'	Anita & Jerry Spencer
13	Phalaenopsis Alliance	<i>Phal.</i> Princess Diana	Felisa Acantilado
14	Specimen Plants	<i>Dendrobium</i> Hilda Poxon	Tom Biggart
15	Species over 6" tall	<i>Maxillaria sanguinea</i>	Debby Halliday
16	Species under 6" tall	<i>Dinema polybulbon</i>	Debby Halliday
17	Displays	Tree with Species Orchids	Bill Loy

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Newport Harbor Orchid Society Show

Text by Dave Hoffmaster

The Newport Harbor Orchid Society hosted Orchid Mania, an orchid show and sale at the Westminster Mall up in Orange County. It is their big event of the year and it is held just before Valentine's Day so you can pick out an orchid for that special someone in your life. It attracts a number of vendors including some from San Diego such as Andy's, Casa de las Orquideas, LICO, and Sunset Valley Orchids to the mall. Vendors set up booths through the mall and passersby can shop at their leisure. It is one of the bigger shows in southern California and well worth the drive up there.

The show also features a number of exhibits set up by local orchid societies and vendors. Jack Schaefer and I ventured up there with a load of orchids for a display. The effort payed off as our orchid society took second place due in large part to all the beautiful orchids we had. I want to thank Bruce Berg, Tom Biggart, Debby Halliday, Betty Kelepecz, Kay Klausing, Alex Nadzan, Renate Schmidt, Anita & Jerry Spencer, and Sue Waugh for loaning us their plants so we could put it all together.



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From the Membership Desk

Text by Bob Clark, Membership Chair

Please welcome our new members:
Sharon Crockett, Yesenia English,
Jamie Kammann, Kathy Luntkowski, and
Laura Stilwell.

Spring Show Schedule for Plant Registration

Text by Pam Peters

The Spring Show Schedule for plant registration is available on the SDCOS website at <http://www.sdorchids.com/SpringShowSchedule2019.html>. There are 17 Sections broken down by plant category (species and hybrids). There are separate sections for Open (Commercial) and Amateur. Open Sections are listed as whole numbers such as "1" and Amateur Sections end in "01" (i.e., 101).

Entrants must have grown the orchids for six months. At registration, if pests or bugs are found in a plant, you will be asked to get the plant rid of all pests before the plant can be registered and put in the show. If a plant is found with bugs during the show, it will be removed at the discretion of the judging chair.

All participants are requested to bring your plants to the registration table to ensure they are entered in the proper Section and Class. We will have members to show you where to place your plants on the tables. Registration times are Thursday Mar 21

from 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM and Friday Mar 22
from 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM.

There are a number of cash awards that will be given. They are listed on the above website. Scroll down past the Sections to "Awards for Flowers and Displays."

We will have many out of town guests at our show. We want to show them that the San Diego County Orchid Society members are fantastic growers. Please enter your plants for judging, and, if you have extra, lend them to our Society display booth.



Annual Orchid Auction
April 10, 2019

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San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – March 2019

Judging at the SDCOS January Show in
the Park, San Diego Judging Center
(Casa del Prado, Balboa Park),
January 2019.

Text and photos by Phyllis Prestia.

There were five orchids presented for
judging. Two were awarded:

[1] *Amsellia* minor 'Windflower' AM/AOS
Exhibited by Betty Kelopecz
Awarded AM/AOS 80 points

[2] *Den.* Hilda Poxon 'Joan Mickelson'
CCM/AOS
Exhibited by Tom Biggert
Awarded CCM/AOS 86 points



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Judging at the San Diego Judging Center (Casa del Prado, Balboa Park), February 2018

Text by Phyllis Prestia, photos by Arnold Gum

There were five orchids presented for judging. Three were awarded:

[1] *Paph wilhelminiae* 'Egger' AM/AOS
Exhibited by David Brown
Awarded AM/AOS 82 points

[2] *Paph.* Unregistered (Macabre x venustum) 'Royal Basin' HCC/AOS
Exhibited by Arthur Pinkers
Awarded HCC/AOS 78 points

[3] *Dendrobium* Regal Vista 'Margaret Scott' AM/AOS
Exhibited by Neal Grant
Awarded AM/AOS 80 points



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Orchid Dates to Remember:

March 2nd

SDCOS Species Group Meeting

Breakfast 8:30 am, meeting 9:00 am

First Saturday of the month

Paul or Ann Tuskes, (858) 274-5829

March 5th

SDCOS March Meeting

Culture class at 6:30; program at 7:30

First Tuesday of the month

Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

March 6th

Palomar Orchid Society Meeting

Culture class at 6:30 pm; program at 7:00 pm

First Wednesday of the month

Lake San Marcos Pavilion

331105 La Bonita Dr, San Marcos, CA 92078

March 7th

SDCOS Board Meeting

First Thursday of the month

Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 104

March 15th

San Diego Zoo's Orchid Odyssey

10:00 am – 2:00 pm (orchid space is open)

Third Friday of the month

Janette Gerrity (619) 231-1515 ext. 4306

March 20th

Cymbidium Society Meeting

Meeting at 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Third Wednesday of month

111 Richmar Avenue San Marcos, 92069

aaallen@cox.net or (760) 533-4975

March 22-24th

SDCOS Spring show: Orchid Treasures!

Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio S,

San Diego, CA 92108

March 22-24th

Andy's Orchids Open House

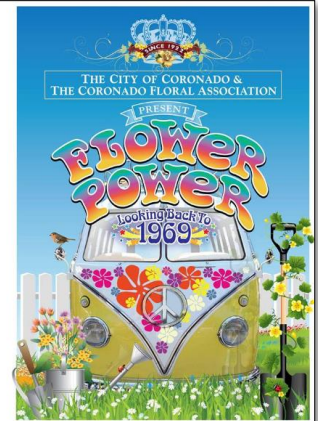
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From the Editor:

Hello everyone,

As Kay points out in his message (Page 7), we still need a lot of volunteers for the Spring show in a few weeks. Some shifts are fairly short – only a couple hours; it's *almost* on your way, since I know you'll all be checking out the show anyway! Just sign up for a quick volunteer shift before or after your visit!

The sign-up link is here:

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

Please do sign up on the website so we know how many people to expect :)

As always, if you have contributions, please let me know at SDCOSNewsletter@gmail.com by the **15th** of the month; I'm always looking for more things to include, and welcome contributions.

I hope you've all been enjoying this rain; best of luck growing!

David Vandenbroek