



**San Diego County Orchid
Society Newsletter
Volume 241:
April 2019**

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Haraella odorata
Plant and photo by David Vandenbroek

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General Meeting, April 2nd, 7:30 pm
Phyllis Prestia: Wild Orchids of France
Text by Debby Halliday, First VP

We are very pleased to welcome back Phyllis Prestia as our April speaker. She will be talking about the wild orchids of France. This educational presentation is a trip through the woods, meadows, and spectacular gorges of France in search of the spectacular and often elusive native terrestrial orchids. Having trekked extensively in France over the last five years, Phyllis will present several genera through photos taken in situ of the habitats where they grow and are being conserved in the wild. Both species and natural hybrids will be included. The beauty of the landscapes and these gorgeous orchids will be memorable.



Dr. Phyllis Prestia

Phyllis S. Prestia is an orchid enthusiast, collector, and grower. Her latest passion is the native orchids of Europe. She has traveled extensively in France collecting photographs and sharing conservation efforts with local French orchid societies. Back home in California she grows these extraordinary orchids, which are presently getting ready to bloom.

She is also an avid supporter of the World Orchid Conferences. In conjunction with the WOC's, she has trekked the rainforests of Madagascar and the islands of the Galapagos.

In her orchid life, she is an Assistant Editor of *Orchid Digest* magazine and serves as Trustee for the American Orchid Society. She has been the President of the San Diego County Cymbidium Society and is the current President of the Cymbidium Society of America. Further, she is an Accredited Judge for both the Cymbidium Society of America and the American Orchid Society.

In addition to her dissertation, her orchid publications include "Best Practices in Culture of *Catasetum*, *Clowesia*, *Cycnoches*, *Mormodes* and Their Hybrids," *Orchid Digest* Volume 80, no.4., "The First World Slipper Orchid Conference," *Orchid Digest* Volume 79, No.2., "Growing Australian *Dendrobiums*: An Interview with Fred Clarke," and "Red Hot Heatwave: New *Cattleya* Breeding at Sunset Valley Orchids," *Orchid Digest* Volume 80, no. 3.

In a previous life, she served children as an educator and middle school Principal. She received a Doctorate of Education at Rutgers

University, where she also served as instructor in the graduate education program. Originally from New Jersey, she moved to California with her husband to retire in the sunny San Diego area and grow orchids.

I travelled with Phyllis in France last year pursuing these very orchids. Her energy, knowledge and dedication to getting the perfect photo were very impressive. You will enjoy this talk!

Repotting Workshop Reminder
Text by Bruce Berg

This is a friendly reminder of the upcoming repotting workshop being hosted by the Society at our house on Saturday the 13th of April for members who wish to have a hands-on experience and help repotting your orchids with help by some of our experienced members. Our address is 9228 Maranda Drive in Santee. We also will try to have one table set up for demonstrating how to mount orchids.

We have a sign-up link on our web-site under the "volunteers" link, however, as of 3/14, no one has signed up yet. In the past we usually have about 25 attendees, We normally have a potluck starting about 10 AM with a brief presentation, followed by the actual repotting. We have materials furnished by Ben Machado. We ask for donations of \$5 for smaller plants which covers new pots, fresh mix and miscellaneous materials and supplies used in repotting. For Cymbidiums, we ask for a \$10 donation.

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Spring Show Update

Text by Debby Halliday

Only a few days until the Orchid Treasures Spring Show! Everyone on the show committee is working hard to be sure their piece of the project is ready on time. The programs have gone to the printer. All the sales and exhibit spaces are filled. The judges are in place and ready to go. The supplies are ordered and our volunteer spaces are filling up – although we could still use more. We have been advertising on calendars, in magazines, and on Facebook. We've also been doing some live outreach.

On Thursday, Debby Halliday, show chair, was on the KUSI morning show talking about our show and sharing some of her orchids. Here is the link if you want to see:

<https://www.kusi.com/san-diego-county-orchid-society-orchard-treasures-spring-show/>.

On Saturday, we hosted a display at the Master Gardener Spring Seminar and Marketplace. Debby Halliday, Scott LaBoeuf, and Bob Clark greeted people, answered questions, and handed out lots of postcards. There was an orchid seminar this year, which helped to generate more interest in our show. Lico Orchids was also there selling plants and assisted in giving out postcards and bookmarks. The response was excellent and we are hopeful that some new gardeners will come to our show.

Carol Kerr arranged to have a table at Mission Valley Shopping Center advertising our show. Several members helped her in this effort.

We are excited about the show and have been working hard to make it a success. You are tired of hearing it, but please bring your plants and make yourself available for a few volunteer hours to make this our best spring show ever!

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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!

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President's Message

Text by Kay Klausing, President, SDCOS

Dear SDCOS Members,

Our big spring show is coming up this weekend! A big "Thank you" to all the volunteers who are currently signed up and to the show committee, who have been working continuously to get this show off the ground. As usual, our show depends heavily on our volunteers – if you haven't signed up to help, please sign up for a shift on our website – we can use every person we get.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the show. Happy growing!

Kay Klausing
SDCOS President

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

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

Text by Phyllis Prestia, photo by Arnold Gum

There were 10 orchids presented for judging.
One was awarded:

Ophrys sphegodes ssp. *mammosa* var. *helanae* 'Dispenzari' HCC/AOS
Exhibited by David Brown
Awarded HCC/AOS, 77 points



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Culture Class, April 2nd, 6:30 pm

Peter Tobias: *Orchid Flowers - Pollen and Pollinators*

Text by John Oswalt

Ever wonder how pollination occurs? They say every orchid flower is perfectly designed for their pollinator. But how does nature match each flower with its pollinator? And how does the pollen get transferred between flowers? This is an amazing process that nature controls.

Orchids don't have pollen that will float through the air like grass or fall on your table like lilies. Their pollen, which is very small and sticky, is all contained in a "pollen packet" that is intended to get stuck on a bug or another pollinator in order to be transported to another orchid plant. This packet doesn't travel through the air and into people's noses, so allergies are not an issue with orchids. If you have plant allergies, you can still go to an orchid show, sniff the blooms, and have no worries!

Orchid plants rely on enticement and reward to lure their pollinators. They typically have exclusive relationships with their pollinators. These are usually bees, wasps, and flies, but many orchids also utilize moths, butterflies, fungus gnats, or birds to cross-pollinate their flowers. It has been estimated that about 60 percent of the orchid family is pollinated by wasps and bees, (essentially pollen-collecting wasps), (van der Pijl and Dodson 1966).

Orchids also regulate their bloom time to increase the likelihood of successful pollination. Some orchids flower only once or

twice each year at very specific times. Others have flowers opening so frequently during the course of the year that they are almost constantly in bloom. By contrast, species with short bloom periods would seem to be at a severe disadvantage. Orchids in the New World genus *Sobralia*, whose flowers typically are open for no more than one day, solve this problem by relying on a group temperature signal to achieve simultaneous bloom. Several days after a trigger temperature is reached, all the individual plants in a given population flower at the same time.

Please join us for this enlightening Culture Class, "Orchid Flowers - Pollen and Pollinators", which starts at 6:30 pm. Peter Tobias will share more insight to this orchid pollination process and show us some video of the pollen transfer process. Hope to see you there!



Camping Trip Wrap-up

Text by Bruce Berg

Contrary to the predictions of rainy conditions in the deserts by our local "weather guessers," we had pretty good weather. Sunny with windy conditions at night. Unfortunately, we were too early to see the *Epipactis gigantea* in bloom due to the late cold spring weather. I think that they will be in bloom in about 3 weeks. Likewise, the desert bloom of native blooming wildflowers was not quite ready. The folks who hiked to see the *Epipactis* only found the first few wildflowers in bloom. The bloom was about 2 weeks from beginning. Watch the news for reports of when the bloom actually starts.

The campout, which was the weekend of March 1st, was fun with lots of good food and companionship from the usual "cast of suspects," as they would say in "Casablanca." We did have some new visitors though. Bruce and Carol invited their friends Debra and Mike from Phoenix; Carol invited Willie and his friend Kathy; Nico invited his friends Kathy and Sandy. Nico led the nature hike, informing the participants of all the varied plants and their adaptations to our desert environment. At our picnic meals, we discussed options for future campouts in the Cuyamaca Mountains or Mt Palomar to search for different native orchids. If you are interested, watch the newsletter for future announcements.



ORCHID AUCTION
MAY 16, 2018
Preview—6 PM
Begins—7 PM
Free Admission & Parking
Presented by:
San Gabriel Valley
Orchid Hobbyists
at the L.A. County
Arboretum
www.sgvo.org



San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists
L. A. County Arboretum & Botanic Garden
301 N. Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91066

Regular meetings are held on the
Third Thursday each month.
Plant Judging at 7:00 PM
Speaker at 7:30 PM

Annual Membership \$20.00
Refreshments, silent auction, plant
opportunity table. For more Information,
Please visit our Website:
www.sgvo.org
*Auction will be held in
Ayres Hall at the
Arboretum*



From the Membership Desk
Text by Bob Clark, Membership Chair

Please welcome our new members Delio Landron de Guevara & Fernando Bravo Solis, Greta Kennedy, and Roberta Fox.

Board and General Meeting Minutes

The SDCOS Board meeting minutes for March can be found on our website at:
http://sdorchids.com/minutes/2019_03.pdf?page=1#view=FitB

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



Annual Orchid Auction
April 10, 2019
Garden Grove Masonic Lodge
11270 Acacia Pkwy GG 92840
Preview - 6:30 pm Auction - 7:00 pm
Free: Parking - Admission - Refreshments
www.coolorchids.org



Caucaea nubigena

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Growing Tolumnias

Text by Bruce Berg

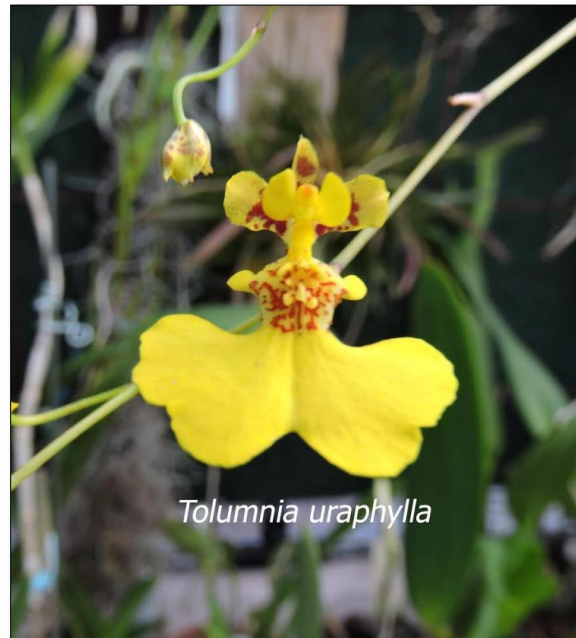
One of my favorite orchids to grow are the Tolumnias. My first Tolumnia came from a basket that I bought from Tom Osborn that had a *Renanthera* (since died), a *Tolumnia urophylla* and a *T. sylvestris*, both of which are both alive and growing like weeds. Several years ago, when Billy Baker was selling crosses that he had made, I acquired several of his plants that have been doing well for me. I know that Alex Nadzen and Debby Halliday have collections of Tolumnias that have some spectacular plants and you'll occasionally see them at our shows with blue ribbons. One of the best things that I like about these plants is that "they grow like weeds."

Tolumnias belong to a group of oncidiums called equitant oncidiums that come from the Caribbean Islands. I live in Santee where the high temperatures in summer reach the high 90s. In winter, I get a week or so where temperatures drop below freezing. For an experiment this winter, I left several plants of *Tol. sylvestre* and *Tol. urophylla* outside. I only lost one plant and that may have been a case of no water getting to the plant. The others survived and are growing! I usually bring all my Tolumnias into my greenhouse for the winter where the winter low temp does not drop below 50 degrees. Most of them are in bloom now!

I take the rest of my collection outdoors when the nighttime temperatures are above 50 degrees.

I mist them with rainwater daily and keep them where they get a breeze. They get fertilized weekly with Growmore fertilizer (half strength) plus a little bit of vitamin B1. I grow my Tolumnias mounted on cut branches or in small clay pots. Occasionally the flowering inflorescences will grow keikies where flowers have grown. I let these keikies grow until they have roots showing, at which time, I can cut them off and attach them onto new mounts.

I will have several of these plants available at our repotting workshop on April 13th (see the article on page 2) for any members who wish to try to mount and grow these little gems.



Tolumnia urophylla

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)

Yearly rate \$112.

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**.

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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

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.



ORCHID TREASURES

Show and Sale • March 22-24, 2019

Scottish Rite Event Center Mission Valley, San Diego <i>Free Parking</i>	Friday 3-7 Saturday 9-6 Sunday 10-4	Admission \$10 Weekend Pass \$12 Children under 12 Free	<i>More information and discounts at sdorchids.com/ot</i>
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San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – April 2019

Orchid Dates to Remember:

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
10 am – 4 pm
734 Ocean View Ave, Encinitas, CA
(760) 436-4239

April 2nd

SDCOS April Meeting
Culture class at 6:30; program at 7:30
First Tuesday of the month
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101

April 3rd

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

April 4th

SDCOS Board Meeting
First Thursday of the month
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 104

April 6th

SDCOS Species Group Meeting
Breakfast 8:30 am, meeting 9:00 am
First Saturday of the month
Paul or Ann Tuskes, (858) 274-5829

April 13-14

Coronado Flower Show: Flower Power
April 13th-14th
601 Orange Ave, Coronado, CA

April 19th

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

April 17th

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



THE CITY OF CORONADO & THE CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
PRESENT
Flower Power
Looking Back to 1969

April 13-14
2019

Spreckels Park
601 Orange Avenue
Coronado, CA
coronadoflowershow.com

The advertisement features a vibrant illustration of a yellow and white vintage Volkswagen van decorated with colorful flowers and a sign that says 'Looking Back to 1969'. The van is parked on a grassy area with a white picket fence and a tree in the background. The text is arranged in a clean, modern font, with the event name 'Flower Power' in a large, stylized, multi-colored font.



2019 March
22, 23, 24
10am - 4pm

734 Ocean View Ave.
Encinitas, CA.
Phone (760) 436-4239

**SPRING
OPEN
HOUSE**

Andy's Orchids

The advertisement is a colorful collage of orchid photos. It features a central pink box with the event details: '2019 March 22, 23, 24 10am - 4pm'. Below this is a teal box with the address: '734 Ocean View Ave. Encinitas, CA. Phone (760) 436-4239'. The main title 'SPRING OPEN HOUSE' is written in large, bold, multi-colored letters. At the bottom, the logo for 'Andy's Orchids' is displayed in a cursive font with a butterfly icon. The background is a mix of various orchid species, including a pink one, a yellow one, and a white one.

From the Editor:

Hello everyone,

I hope you all are doing well and that you're gearing up for a *great* spring show. I've been cc'd on the committee emails and know that we've got something fantastic in store for this weekend – you should be sure to make it!

Spring is the time much of our collections are coming in bloom – I hope you all are starting to get a few great flowers: the rewards of the last year of good culture and love for our plants! ... Ok, I only have two things in spike... I might have to count on next year's blooms... regardless, I'm stoked to see what everyone brings to this year's spring show!

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 Vandebroek
SDCOS Newsletter Editor

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

San Diego County Orchid Society
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