

**San Diego County Orchid
Society Newsletter
Volume 315:
September 2025**

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Bulbophyllum sp
Lisa Humphries

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Open Volunteer Positions

David Vandebroek, President

SDCOS currently needs to fill the following volunteer positions. Please contact president@sdcorchids.com if you are willing to consider any of them.

1st Vice President

- Primarily in charge of finding and managing main speakers and getting plants for the plant table

2nd Vice President

- Primarily in charge of finding and managing culture class speakers and arranging a once- or twice-yearly repotting workshop

Webmaster

- In charge of things related to the website – updating show posters, posting volunteer links, general maintenance and possible improvements

Newsletter Editor

- Get articles and pictures for the newsletter and make the newsletter (I just use Word)

Membership Chair Apprentice

- Follow our membership chair, Bob Clark, as he performs membership tasks like keeping a roster of members, setting up the membership booth especially at Shows, and sending the monthly email to members, with the intent of taking over as membership chair sometime in 2025ish

AV Team Member

- Every month we need someone to set up and run Zoom for our meetings. We only have 1 person who does this now, which leaves us in a lurch if he ever has vacation or can't make it. We want a

team of ~3 people to share this responsibility, each taking a couple months / year of being in charge. This job is easy to learn, and Jack can teach you everything you need to help.

Any of these roles can be taken on a trial basis. Please consider stepping into one.



Oncidium Sherry Baby
David Vandebroek



President's Message

David Vandebroek, President

As we get into the really hot part of summer, I hope you and your plants are finding a way to keep cool!

We do still need some long-term positions filled, so please look to the left and see if there's anything that you'd be willing to take on.

Please note, as stated in the speaker article, our main speaker will be bringing plants for sale, as well as for the opportunity table.

The board is also conducting a **membership survey** – we need all the responses we can get in order to get the best picture of what the current group of members wants from the society. The survey is expected to take **13 minutes**. Please please please fill it out. Thanks!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z2M9VKP>

Otherwise, it's a pretty quiet time for the society. I hope you're all keeping well and look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meeting!



Betty Kelepecz

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

Dr. Mitchell Schneider: Kaleidoscope of Colors: Art Shade Cattleyas and Breeding with Cattleya Horace 'Maxima' AM/AOS
Mitchell Schneider and Ashley Grable

Mitch Schneider's interest in orchids started young in his teenage years. He started growing orchids after seeing the orchid mania display in his hometown at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens. During his Ph.D. studies, Mitch worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, when he met Dr. Ron Midgett, who has been breeding orchids for over 55 years. Mitch learned the art of breeding orchids from Ron. When Ron started considering retirement, Mitch became a co-owner of [New Earth Orchids](#), and relocated operations from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to Half Moon Bay, CA, while at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. Eventually Mitch relocated the greenhouse to Encinitas, CA, after moving to Southern California to continue his research in medical accelerators at a private company.



Mitch's primary interests in breeding orchids are in the Cattleya Alliance, Oncidium Alliance, and Zygopetalum Alliance. Mitchell has continued Ron's work of producing compact, novelty-size Cattleyas, with

plants no taller than 18 inches and flowers of five to six inches in natural spread. He continues to breed these in a wide variety of color forms, including large, full segmented cerulean, green with a white lip, spots and stripes, and his favorite, the art shade lines. "Art shade" *Cattleyas* are noted for their wide range of uncommon color shades and patterns, resulting from complex hybridization. Please see below for a description of his talk about art shade *Cattleyas*, "Kaleidoscope of Colors", which he will present to SDCOS on September 2.

Mitchell has also started breeding to reintroduce high-quality, warmth-tolerant *Odontoglossum* with the assistance of Bob Hamilton. He is also working with a consortium of breeders to pioneer inter-generic *Zygopetalum* with full spectrum colors.

Prior to relocating to Southern California, Mitch was the San Francisco Orchid Society Vice President and served on the show committee. He now works closely with the Orange County Orchid Society, where he is in charge of the judging committee. Mitch was an American Orchid Society student judge before leaving the organization to continue to build an actually inclusive organization. Mitch strives to encourage younger orchid growers to become more involved and to help partner them with experienced members to share their love of orchids, and to learn from each other. He hopes to build a community that is cross-generational, multinational, and accepting of all persons.



In his presentation, "[Kaleidoscope of Colors](#)", Mitch will discuss some history of early lavender *Cattleya* breeding. The main part of his talk will then focus on C. Horace 'Maxima' AM/AOS and the offspring resulting from breeding it to yellow or art shade parents. For example, when bred to a strong yellow, it gives a wide range of colors, including lavender, yellow, watermelon, fuchsia, burn orange, and cream. These crosses have concisely well-formed flowers. The plant and flower size vary, depending on the other parent. A bonus of the progeny from C. Horace 'Maxima' AM/AOS is their easy-to-grow culture.

Speaker Dinner: 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 president@sdorchids.com by Monday, September 1. Please arrive at the restaurant

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– [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.

Opportunity Table: Our main speaker, Mitch Schneider, will furnish the plants for September's opportunity table, which will include a selection of art shade Cattleyas. Want a chance to take home an orchid from the meeting? Participate in the opportunity table 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.



Speaker Plant Sales: In addition to providing the September opportunity table, Mitch will also have plants for sale at September's meeting, including some large divisions from Ron Midgett's collection, some of which are first-time releases.

Culture Class, September 2, 6:30 PM John Snyder: Mounting Orchids

John will be talking to us about how to mount orchids, as well as giving a brief talk about the implications of mounting, possible mounts, and how best to grow mounted orchids.

August Culture Class Recap Pam Peters

Paolo Garcia presented the August Culture Class, where he discussed the care and culture of growing Miniature Orchids. Most of Paolo's orchid collection grow indoors in an Ikea cabinet outfitted to mimic a jungle environment for hot growing orchids. He uses computer fans for ventilation and LED lights which provide light but prevent his plants from burning.

Paolo also has an outdoor screened-in area for plants that are intermediate growers. For both areas he uses RO/DI water with MSU fertilizer and Kelpak seaweed. His pictures showed how happy his plants are. We have seen many displayed at our shows as well. Thank you, Paolo, for such an interesting and educational presentation.



Cattleya Gaudii
Min Teng

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and the
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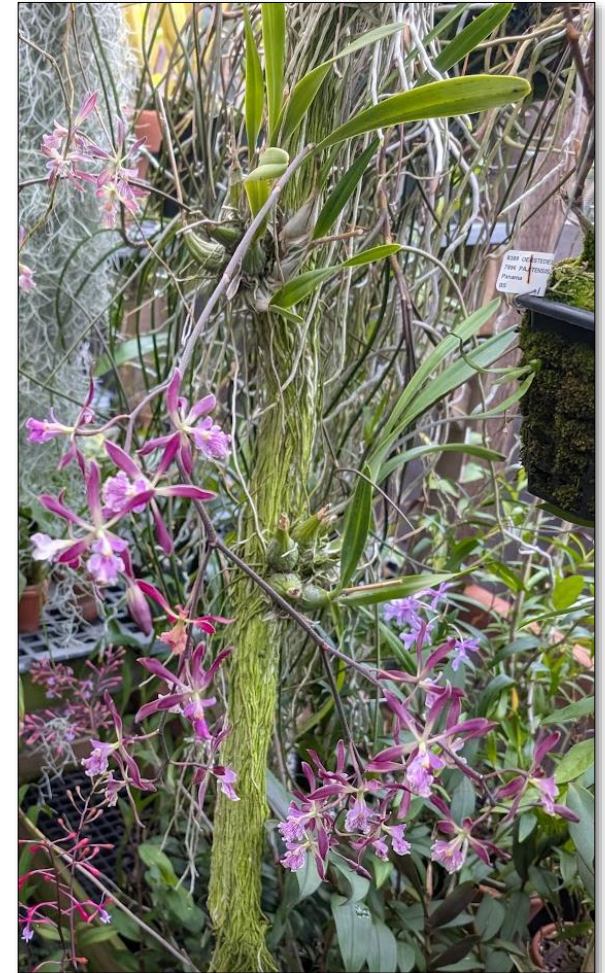
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John Snyder

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Orchid Dates to Remember:

September 2

Main Speaker Dinner*: 5:45 PM

*See Main Speaker article for details.

September 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

September 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

September 3

Palomar Orchid Society Meeting

Society business at 4 PM; main program at 5

First Wednesday of the month

Carlsbad City Library

1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad, CA 92011

September 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

September 6

SDCOS Species Study Group Meeting

Socializing 8:30 AM, meeting 9:00 AM

First Saturday of the month

September 26-28

Fascination of Orchids: Festival of Orchids and Exotic Plants

10 AM - 4 PM

1801 E. Chestnut Ave, Santa Ana 92701

More details at fascinationoforchids.com

October 25 - 26

SDCOS Fall Show

Board and General Meeting Minutes

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

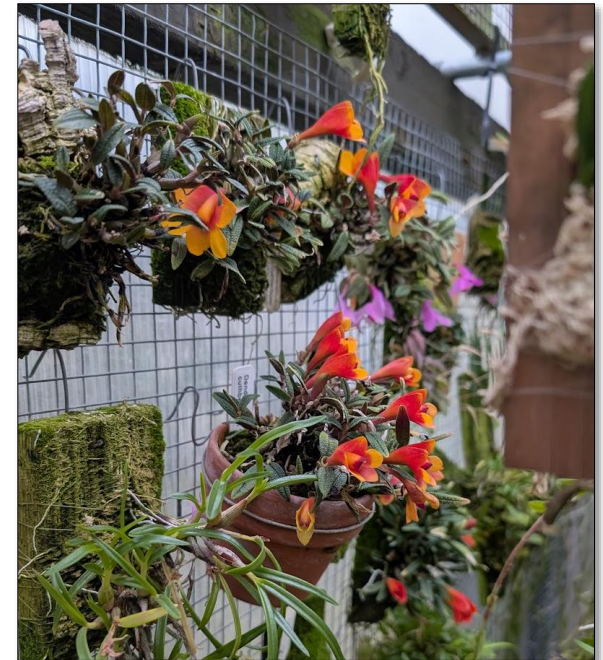
president@sdorchids.com



Epidendrum hybrid
Cal Orchid

2025-2026 Officers

President	David Vandenbroek
First Vice President	<i>Vacant</i>
Second Vice President	<i>Vacant</i>
Secretary	Nate La Breche
Treasurer	Myra DeTate
Director at Large, to 2026	Sima Perkins
Director at Large, to 2027	Paolo Garcia
Director-at-Large, to 2028	Barbara Mc Cubbin
Past President	Debby Halliday



Dendrobium cuthbertsonii
John Snyder



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. trigonopetalata* (R)
Dracula Reserve, Ecuador

Dracula lemurella (L), *Lepanthes escifera* (R)
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

SDCOS Newsletter Notes

SDCOS is looking for a new Newsletter Editor. If you are willing to consider or try out the position, please email me!

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 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 Vandenbroek
SDCOS Newsletter Editor

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Required

San Diego County Orchid Society
P.O. Box 161020
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