

**San Diego County Orchid  
Society Newsletter  
Volume 318:  
December 2025**

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*Masdevallia brachyura*  
Dave Rimlinger

# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – December 2025

## Open Volunteer Positions

David Vandenbroek, President

SDCOS currently needs to fill the following volunteer positions. Please contact [president@sdorchids.com](mailto:president@sdorchids.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.

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### President's Message

David Vandenbroek, President

Happy Holidays everyone! With Thanksgiving around the corner, our holiday party coming up in 2 weeks, and then Christmas and New Year's following on their heels, we're somehow already near the end of 2026! The year flew by. It's been great being a part of the society with all of you, and I'm thankful for the support, both present and past, of everyone who helps make this society function – we've got a pretty good thing going here.

As part of that, we'll be convening the nominating committee soon to look for our next batch of officers to start their terms in July. As you know, we don't have a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and I'm termed out after my 3 years are up in June – this means **the board will be missing a president and both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> VPs** – the 3 positions responsible for running most of the meeting side of the business. If anyone is interested, please let me know.

If you are interested in either of the VP roles for a trial couple months to finish out the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year, that can be arranged as well.

Of course, we also have all the roles listed to the left as well.

On a more fun note, we have our holiday party coming up in just 1.5 weeks! If you haven't filled out the gift plant signup yet, please do it immediately – before finishing reading this article! We need responses before Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> so Juan can get the plants from our vendors (thanks Juan!) Here is the link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1OjA2J47JGEUvt0hz1H91pTtyf9nsu-9qfbSl4wXn6OU/edit>

More details on the holiday party are on the next page, including the link to sign up for what kind of dish you're bringing (<https://volunteersignup.org/HXAAH>), so I won't repeat that all here.

I'd also like to thank Todd Ruth for his contribution to this month's NL – our NL used to have many interesting articles from members, and I'd love to have more contributions – if you think of anything, please send it on over to [SDCOSNewslettwe@gmail.com](mailto:SDCOSNewslettwe@gmail.com)

It really has been a great year – looking forward to another year of orchids with you all!

David

XXX  
Name

# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – December 2025

## SDCOS Annual Holiday Banquet

**Tuesday, December 2**

**Appetizers: 6 PM**

**Zoom / Awards: 7 PM**

It's that time of year! Our December meeting will be the annual SDCOS holiday party!

Every December, in lieu of our typical meeting, we hold our holiday banquet, open to members (one guest each, max), but not to the public. We invite you to celebrate 2025 with a potluck dinner, a presentation of the year's awarded plants, a gift plant giveaway (for members only), and an orchid exchange (participation optional). This in-person event is held in our usual meeting room, Casa del Prado, Room 101. The presentation will be simulcast on Zoom.

### **The holiday party starts earlier than typical meetings.**

6:00 pm – Appetizers

6:30 pm – Main course

7:00 pm – Presentation

After: Orchid exchange, Gift Plant Raffle

The holiday banquet does not include a culture class or a plant raffle/opportunity table, but there are free gift plants for members who register by the deadline; see details below. Because there is no plant forum, members are encouraged to bring a decorative plant in bloom to showcase as a centerpiece at their banquet table.

Potluck dinner: Appetizers at 6 PM; main course at 6:30 PM. SDCOS provides the main courses (ham and turkey), as well as soda, coffee, tea, plates, cups, and utensils. Members are asked to bring a dish and

serving spoon for the potluck or to assist with the party setup beginning at 4:30 pm. Members may bring their own alcoholic beverages. Please sign up through this link so other members will know what is needed most (we're trying to get a balance of Mains, sides, apps, desserts)

<https://volunteersignup.org/HXAAH>

Main presentation: Our speaker will provide an overview of the American Orchid Society (AOS) awards given to SDCOS member plants during the calendar year, complete with photos.

Orchid exchange: Participation is optional. To take part, bring in an orchid in bloom, clearly marked with your name, and place it on the exchange table. Dress up your plant to have the best chance at securing your first-choice take-home plant! Participants make their selection immediately after the plant they contributed is chosen, so the members who bring the most attractive plants often get to choose their take-home plants first.

Holiday gift plant: SDCOS members who register by **November 24** will receive a free gift plant at the annual holiday party! This year, we will purchase a selection of plants from Andy's Orchids, El Jardin Tropical, and Sunset Valley Orchids. **Members who do not register by the deadline are not guaranteed a free gift plant.** Late registrants will be permitted to choose only from the gift plants that remain at the end, if any. Non-members are not eligible to receive gift plants.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1OjA2J47JGEUvt0hz1H91pTtyf9nsu-9gfbSI4wXn6OU/edit>

If you have questions or changes to your registration, please e-mail [info@sdorchids.com](mailto:info@sdorchids.com).

We look forward to celebrating 2025 with you!



2024 Holiday Party pictures

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Judging at the San Diego Judging Center  
(Casa del Prado, Balboa Park),  
November 2025, 6:30 PM.  
Text and photos by Jeanie Anderson

There were 10 orchids presented for judging.  
Six (6) were awarded.

[1] *Masdevallia* John Tomaschke 'Sherry'  
AM/AOS

Exhibited by Tim Culbertson  
Awarded Award of Merit, 80 points



[2] *Paphiopedilum gratrixianum*, species  
AM/AOS

Exhibited by Tim Culbertson  
Awarded Award of Merit, 85 points



[3] *Paphiopedilum villosum* 'O'side's Sunlight', species  
AM/AOS

Exhibited by Tim Culbertson  
Awarded Award of Merit, 88 points



[4] *Catamodes* Double Dragon 'SVO Black Gold'  
FCC/AOS

Exhibited by Fred Clarke  
Awarded First Class Certificate, 91 points



[5] *Catasetum* Diana's Dots 'By Far the Best'  
FCC/AOS

Exhibited by Fred Clarke  
Awarded First Class Certificate, 91 points

[6] *Catasetum* AA Orquideas 'Dark Lips& Freckles', species  
FCC/AOS

Exhibited by Fred Clarke  
Awarded First Class Certificate, 90 points

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4



5



6



# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – December 2025

## Regreening Petals in *Polychilos*

Text and photos by Todd Ruth

The petals of most flowers, including orchids, irreversibly progress toward death in a process known as flower senescence. The flowers fade and wilt. The process is accelerated upon pollination, often by increased levels of ethylene or abscisic acid. A less well understood process is the regreening that occurs in some members of the *Polychilos* subgenus of *Phalaenopsis*. *Polychilos* are unique among orchids in having this process.

Upon pollination, the flower is no longer needed to attract pollinators. With senescence, the plant absorbs material from dying cells and recycles them in other parts of the plant. (See photo of a withered flower at the tip of a seed pod.) With regreening, the sepals and petals are repurposed to act as leaves, providing energy to the plant. The flowers initially fade, but then the aging process is reversed. More chlorophyll is produced and the tissue thickens. (See photo of a flower with green sepals and green non-labellum petals. Only the labellum – where a pollinator would land – has withered.)

Both pods pictured are from supermarket hybrids. The withered flower is a *Phal.* Anmio Yellow Bat x Charming Little Gold. By ancestry, it is approximately half *Polychilos*. The green flower is a *Phal.* Ten Sides Jia Zhen. By ancestry, it is approximately one quarter *Polychilos*. So, these plants also demonstrate the complexities of breeding.



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*Dendrobium treacherianum*  
Roberta Fox



*Bulbophyllum fascinator semialba*  
Betty Kelepecz



*Trisetella-hoeijeri*  
Betty Kelepecz



*Trichoglottis biglandulosa*  
Roberta Fox

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# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – December 2025

## Orchid Dates to Remember:

December 2

**SDCOS Holiday Party**

**6 PM**

See details on page 3

December 3

**Palomar Orchid Society Meeting**

Holiday Party

Details on their website:

<http://www.palomarorchid.org/>

Note: in 2026 the POS meeting location will

change to the following address:

Pine Avenue Community Center

3209 Harding St

Carlsbad, CA 92008

December 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)

December 6

**SDCOS Species Study Group Meeting**

Socializing 8:30 AM, meeting 9:00 AM

First Saturday of the month

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

January 24 - 25

**SDCOS January Show**

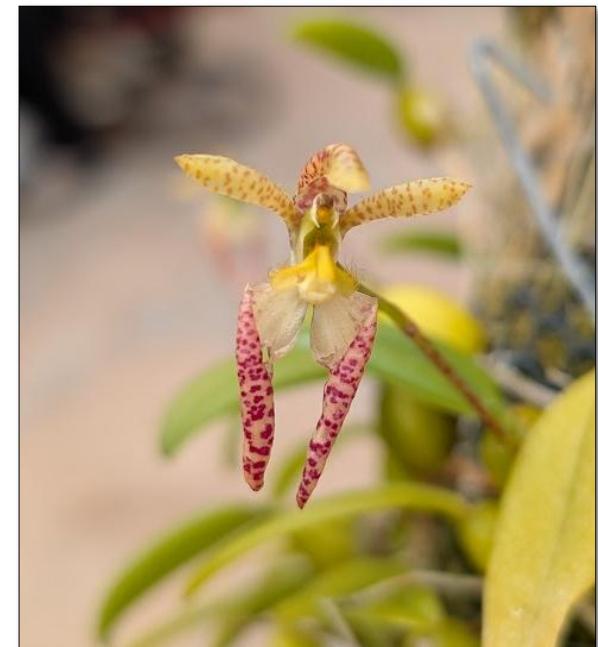
## **Board and General Meeting Minutes**

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

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

### **2025-2026 Officers**

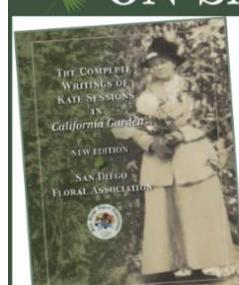
President	David Vandenbroek
First Vice President	<i>Vacant</i>
Second Vice President	<i>Vacant</i>
Secretary	Nate La Breche
Treasurer	Myra DeTate
Director at Large, to 2026	Sima Perkins
Director at Large, to 2027	Paolo Garcia
Director-at-Large, to 2028	Barbara Mc Cubbin
Past President	Debby Halliday



*Bulbophyllum lasiochilum*

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**OCA** 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 Reserve, Ecuador



*Dracula lemurella* (L), *Lepanthes esclfera* (R)  
La Selva de Ventanas Reserve, Colombia



*Lepanthes esclfera* (R)  
La Selva de Ventanas Reserve, Colombia

*Dracula lemurella* (L), *Lepanthes esclfera* (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](http://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](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 Vandenbroek  
SDCOS Newsletter Editor

1st Class  
Postage  
Required

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

