

**San Diego County Orchid  
Society Newsletter  
Volume 321:  
March 2026**

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*Angraecum sesquipedale*  
Best of Show - James & Lise Wright Award, January 2026  
Debby Halliday

## SDCOS Needs a New Newsletter Editor!

Hi everyone, since picking up the newsletter in June of 2018, I've been happy to assemble the newsletter and share everyone's beautiful orchids with the society. It is, however, time for me to step back from the role.

If you're interested or willing to take this on, please email me at  
[President@SDOrchids.com](mailto:President@SDOrchids.com)

I am willing to stay on through July, after which I will be stepping back. I'm happy to give any training and help transition the new newsletter editor into the role.

The NL Editor primarily collects the President's message, Main Speaker Bio, Culture Class Speaker Bio, Judging and Show pictures, and adds them to the NL template in Word and sends it out.

The new editor, like I did when I first took over, will have nearly infinite freedom in how they want to make the newsletter, so don't feel the need to perfectly reproduce what I've been doing.

Thanks for considering taking on this role!

... Also, the nominating committee is looking for people to fill the following roles for the 2026/27 year which starts at the

June election:

President

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – March 2026

## Open Volunteer Positions

David Vandebroek, President

SDCOS currently needs to fill the following volunteer positions. Please contact [president@sdcos.org](mailto:president@sdcos.org) 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

### 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. Thanks to Nora and Todd for stepping in to help with this role! We still would like 1 or 2 more people to be on this team so that the responsibility can be shared even further. With so many on the team now, it's not that big a commitment.

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

## Volunteer Updates!

This “we need help” article has been here a while; thanks to the people who have stepped in to take some of this work!

Peter Tobias and John Snyder will be stepping in to officially serve as 2nd VP

Todd and Barb have stepped up to be part of the AV team, learning how to get Zoom and the projector/speakers

Alice has volunteered to help our webmaster

I really appreciate everyone stepping in to help fill these roles!

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SDCOS 2026 January Show

# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – March 2026

## President's Message

David Vandebroek, President

Hi everyone, I hope you and your orchids are surviving this heatwave! 90 in February isn't something I thought I'd experience...

I'd first like to thank the nominating committee for all the work they've been putting in to fill out the board - there have been several meetings and people contacted so far, but the search continues, especially for President and 1<sup>st</sup> VP. If anyone has ideas, please let me know.

Next, I'd like once again thank the people who volunteered at and brought plants to our January show a few weeks ago - it was a huge success! And apologies to those who sent me articles and pictures that didn't make the last newsletter - everything show-related will be here!

A note: in the last week I randomly ran into 2 people out in the world that I had met at our previous shows - "you look familiar - you're that orchid guy! We were walking through the park and just swung in and it was amazing!" I have to say: that kind of made my day - and twice in a week? Our shows are reaching people out in the community, and I really want to thank all the members and volunteers who make them happen. I know the society is always asking for volunteers and for help, but I think it's worth it to spread the joy these plants bring us around the community. To that end... let's consider starting to groom/train/stake our plants for the April show! If you are someone who hasn't brought something before, our Spring Show is a great place to start - we'll pack the room with flowers!

Last, we have some changes to our spring show, so please be sure to read that article.

Our amazing speaker Ron Parsons will be participating in the speaker's dinner (which I, tragically, won't be able to attend since I'm giving the culture class) - not to talk you out of listening to me, but the speaker's dinners are a really great way to meet people out in the orchid community and have a chance to chat - I highly recommend trying one out if you haven't.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting!

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Email: [casa@orquideas.com](mailto:casa@orquideas.com)



Dendrobium Rainbow Sun  
Forrest Robinson Cultural Award  
Jerry & Anita Spencer

## San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – March 2026

**General Meeting, March 3, in person at Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Room 101, and on Zoom; 7:30 PM.**

**Ron Parsons: Colombia, Otra vez!**  
Ron Parsons

Colombia is an incredibly beautiful country that vies with Ecuador for the highest number of orchid species, not to mention the overall vast natural diversity of plants and animals. On my second trip there I visited the Medellín area again where I was able to visit mid-elevation natural areas as well as a couple prominent orchid nurseries. I then flew to Popoyan to explore the areas around there as well as Pasto in the southwest of the country. Much of the region is cloud forests and sub-paramo, an exquisitely rich area for orchids. I highly recommend visiting Colombia at least once, if not numerous times!

### *About Ron:*

Ron Parsons has been growing orchids for more than 50 years and has been interested in the species for most of that time. He loves to photograph orchids and other flowers whenever possible. Ron has more than 124,000 digital images, most of which are of orchids, and still retains a slide library that exceeds 100,000 botanical images. He has given more than 500 talks on various botanical topics and has more than 7000 published photos. Ron has co-authored five books on botanical subjects, all with Mary E. Gerritsen. The first two, published by Timber Press, are *Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World* and *Calochortus, Mariposa Lilies and their Relatives*. Their third book, a two-volume set, *A Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species* was published by Redfern

Natural History Productions in January 2014. In 2019 *The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture* was released and is on its third printing. The fifth book, a much-revised second edition of *A Compendium of Miniature Orchids Species*, was released in October 2021. It is now a four-volume set with 3100 photos (1800 are new), including those of more than 500 species not in the first edition.

### *About the meeting:*

Ron will be attending the usual Speaker's Dinner held before the general meeting. This gives members the chance to talk with and connect with our speakers – and other society members – around a dinner table. Dinner is at The Prado at 5:45; meet in room 101 at 5:30 if you want to walk over together. Please RSVP to the President by Sunday night to be included in the RSVP. Forget to RSVP? No worries! There are almost always more spots in the restaurant, come and take your chances.

Andy Phillips, from Andy's Orchids, will be providing the plant opportunity table for this month's meeting.



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# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – March 2026

**Culture Class, March 3, 6:30 PM**

**David Vandebroek: How SDCOS Thrives: The People and Structure Behind Our Society**

David Vandebroek, President

This month I (David) will be giving a brief talk about how the society works. Since I've been a member, I've never had this all explained to me. Normally we pick things up in bits and pieces by observation, but a number of responses in the recent Survey of Members indicated that many people didn't know anything about the running of the society. They said because of that, they didn't know where to help out.

Our society is fairly simple, but we have a lot of moving parts and unsung heroes supporting us, allowing us to have snacks and plant raffles, get membership badges, add things to the website, interface with Balboa Park to get our room reserved and set up each month / show.

In my short presentation, I'll go through the organization of the society, what many of the committees and roles are, and how we all come together to make SDCOS live.

This is not going to be a "beg for volunteers" presentation, but a real look at our society. My goal is to only say "if anything looks like a match, lmk!" once at the end... but I'll probably mention it ~3 times... apologies in advance

Hope to see you all there, newcomers and veterans alike.

**Spring Show 2026 – Orchids of the Earth**  
Debby Halliday, Show Chair

The 2026 Spring Show will be coming up in April. The show committee has been discussing ways to make sure the show really meets the club's needs. One big issue for this show is the length, 3 days, and the resulting increased need for volunteer hours. We would like to try a 2-day show instead this year and see how it goes. The dates would then be April 18 – 19 with registration and setup April 17.

We have Patio A reserved and could use it if we want to. We are polling the vendors to see how many plan to come, how much space they want, and what their preferences are as to indoors or outdoors. Moving some of the vendors onto the patio requires rental tents and another cashier station, so we need to be sure there is sufficient interest to justify it. SVO has declined our invitation, as they are short staffed for attending shows at the moment. Sorella is also no longer attending our shows. There is usually a lot of material available to sell in April, so the extra space may still be needed. It's a balancing act for sure! Watch for updates.

No matter what happens, this will be a beautiful show! We always have many flowers to display in the spring. Be sure to stake and tend your plants. We look forward to showcasing your efforts!



**Orange County Orchid Society**  
**ANNUAL ORCHID AUCTION**

EVERYONE WELCOME!  
FREE ADMISSION!  
**Wednesday**  
**April 15, 2026**  
**6:00pm Preview & Refreshments**  
**7:00pm Auction Begins**

Cymbidiums Cattleyas Phalaenopsis  
Dendrobiums Oncidiums Species  
*And more!*

Yorba Linda Community Center  
4501 Casa Loma Ave, Room C, Yorba Linda, CA  
If you have any questions, please contact  
Sharon Rockwell at  
srockwell@writeme.com  
Visit [www.ocos.net](http://www.ocos.net) for  
sale catalog on April 12, 2026



*Potinara* Jump for Joy 'Whoopee' x *Lc.* Winter Joy 'Fred'  
People's Choice Award  
Juan Bonilla



*Catasetum ivanae*  
Siv Garrod Most Unusual Species Award  
Rachael Burns

## San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – March 2026

Show Winners January 2026			
Sec	Award	Orchid	Winner
	Best of Show - James & Lise Wright Award	<i>Angraecum sesquipedale</i>	Debby Halliday
	Forrest Robinson Cultural Award	<i>Dendrobium</i> Rainbow Sun	Jerry & Anita Spencer
	Siv Garrod Most Unusual Species Award	<i>Catasetum ivanae</i>	Rachael Burns
	People's Choice Award	<i>Potinara</i> Jump for Joy 'Whoopee' x <i>Lc.</i> Winter Joy 'Fred'	Juan Bonilla
1	Cymbidium Standard Hybrid	<i>Cymbidium</i> Hybrid Pale Green	Vichban Ngyuen
2	Cymbidium Hybrid Miniature	<i>Cymbidium</i> Freeling 'Green Ice'	Jerry & Anita Spencer
3	Cymbidium Hybrid Pendulous	<i>Cymbidium</i> Len Pepper	Jerry & Anita Spencer
4	Cattleya Alliance Standard	<i>Potinara</i> Jump for Joy 'Whoopee' x <i>Lc.</i> Winter Joy 'Fred'	Juan Bonilla
5	Cattleya Alliance Compact	<i>Potinara</i> Patsy Lee Rader ( <i>Potinara</i> Star Fire 'Ruben's Red' x <i>Slc.</i> Rockette 'Little Rock')	George Pflaum
6	Cattleya Alliance Miniature	<i>no entries</i>	-
7	Paphiopedilum Hybrid	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Frank Zettle 'Shane'	Debby Halliday
8	Phragmipedium Hybrid	<i>Phragmipedium</i> x <i>richteri</i> 'Silver Valley' HCC/AOS	Debby Halliday
9	Oncidium Alliance Hybrid	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Bleuana 'Shawnee' AM/AOS	Debby Halliday
10	Dendrobium Hybrids	<i>Dendrobium</i> Anne's Rainbow Surprise	Jerry & Anita Spencer
11	Vandaceous Alliance	<i>Vanda</i> Santa Barbara Fizz	George Pflaum
12	Hybrids of Other Genera	<i>Epidendrum</i> Hybrid 'Magenta Stars'	Pam Peters
13	Phalaenopsis Alliance	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Hybrid 'Orange Sunset'	Debby Halliday
14	Specimen Plants	<i>Angraecum sesquipedale</i>	Debby Halliday
15	Large Species: Angraecum - Masdevallia	<i>Angraecum sesquipedale</i>	Jane Wesley Brooks
16	Large Species: Maxillaria - Zygopetalum	<i>Bonatea speciosa</i>	Jerry & Anita Spencer
17	Small Species: Angraecum - Masdevallia	<i>Dinema polybulbon</i>	Jane Wesley Brooks
18	Small Species: Maxillaria - Zygopetalum	<i>Mediocalcar decoratum</i>	Betty Kelepecz
19	Small Displays	<i>Micro-Miniature Orchid Display</i>	Paolo Garcia
23	Orchids Grown for Foliage	<i>Ludisia discolor</i>	Nico Goossens

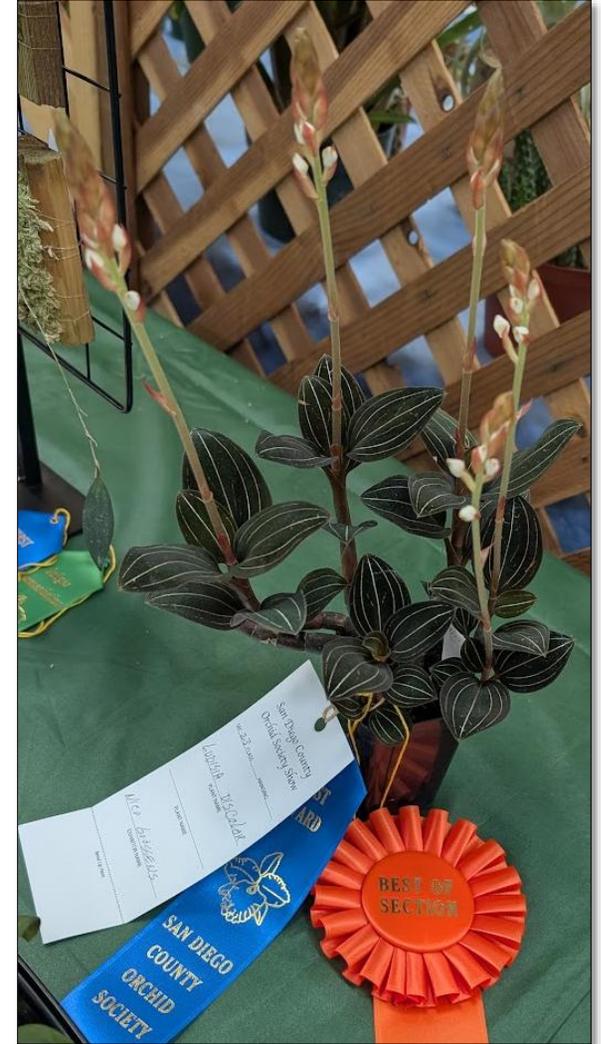
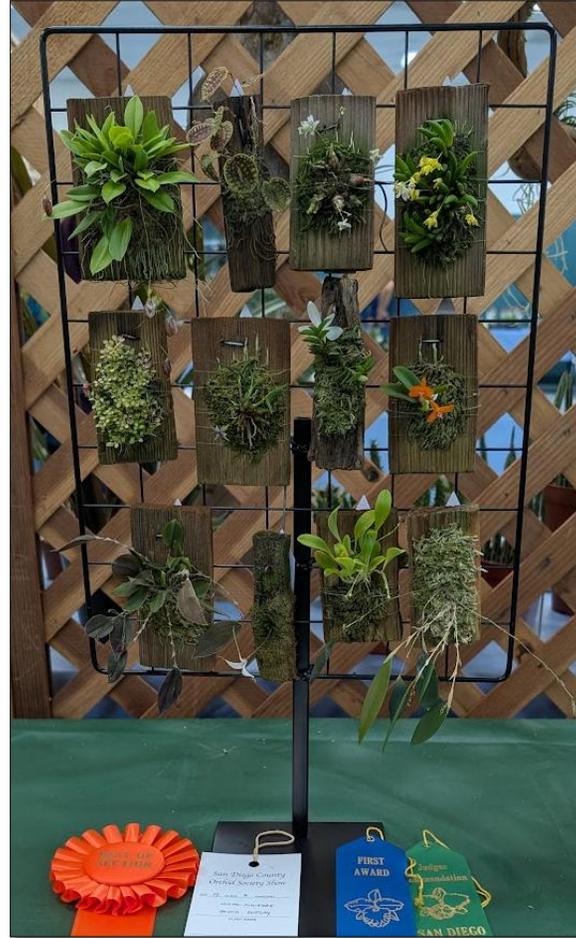


January 2026 Section Winners





January 2026 Section Winners



January 2026 Section Winners

# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – March 2026

## Scam alert

David Vandebroek, President

Dear SDCOS members, someone has gotten a hold of information and personal emails of some SDCOS and POS people. Thile the public facing President email account gets many scams/week, I've recently gotten a couple to my personal account using private data.

This could be a member of one of the societies, or the result of one of our members' accounts getting accessed/hacked and society information getting leaked that way. Scam tech has advanced a long way with the advent of generative AI and AI tools.

With our members' information out there, we need to all be alert for the potential of scams targeting us. Please be sure to check all emails for authenticity, don't send money to fellow members without verifying things with them first, and don't click suspicious links.

Above all: slow down. If something seems suspicious, pause a moment to think about it. Scammers often use a false sense of urgency to get you to act before thinking thoroughly

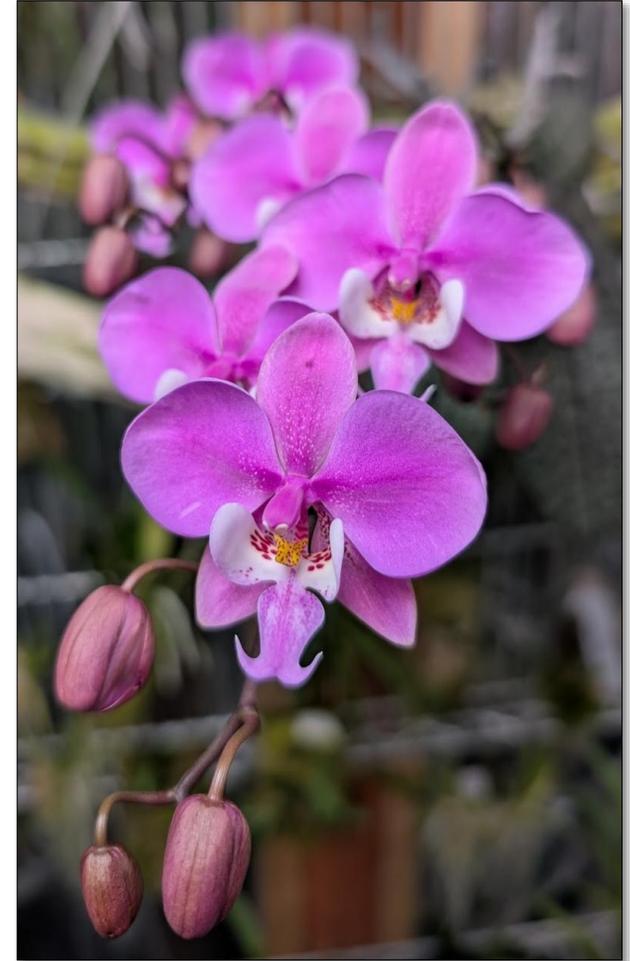
It's a bit of a crazy world out there; be sure to travel through it safely.

## People Who Brought Plants in for Display at the January Show

Pam Peters, Judging Chair

At the January Show, we had more people bring plants in for display than any other previous show! We would like to thank those people who shared their beautiful orchids:

Jeanie Anderson, Daniel Bellem, Juan Bonilla, Jane Wesley Brooks, Rachel Burns, Bob Clark, Myra DeTate, Saul Flores, Natalia Gaidarenko, Paolo Garcia, Linda Gardner, Nico Goossens, Debby Halliday, Sean Hogan, Lisa Humphreys, Betty Kelepecz, Kay Klausing, Barbara McCubbin, Grady Michell, Alex Nadzan, Bichvan Nguyen, Keith Nguyen, Mary Jane Ning, Tom Osborn, Sima Perkins, Pam Peters, George Pflaum, Dave Rimlinger, Anna Seitz, John Snyder, Jerry and Anita Spencer, Min Teng, Nancy Walters, Stewart Walton, Jaclyn Young, Jack Zhu



*Phal schilleriana*  
David Vandebroek



*Ophrys argolica*  
Roberta Fox

# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – March 2026

## San Diego Botanic Garden’s World of Orchids Show 2026

Alex Nadzan, POS President and World of Orchids Coordinator

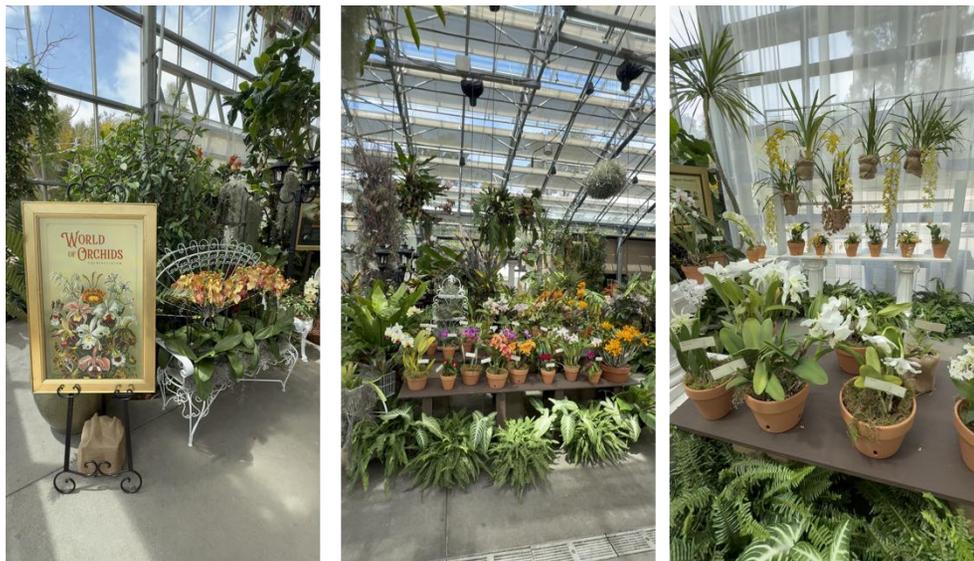
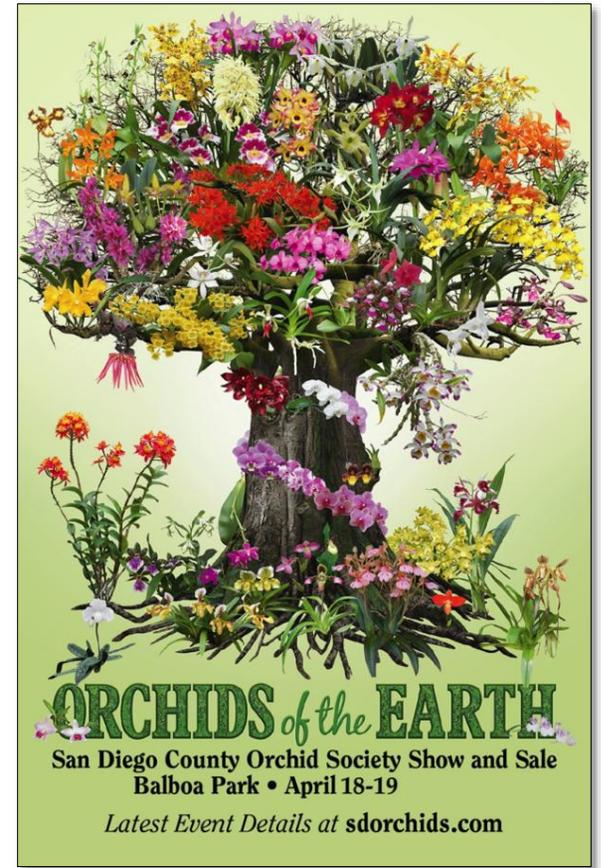
The 2026 World of Orchids Show is in the active planning stages, and our members should save the month of May to participate again this year. Alex and Barry have been in discussions with the new Director of Horticulture at the San Diego Botanic Garden, Juan Solomon, regarding the show specifics.

The show’s theme this year will be ‘Orchids in the Wild’. Our initial submission of society orchids will be provided to the garden staff on April 28 or 29 with the show running from May 1st to June 1st. Juan Solomon is in the process of hiring a project supervisor who will oversee the logistics for orchids entering and leaving the show and will manage the plant registration forms, labeling and related

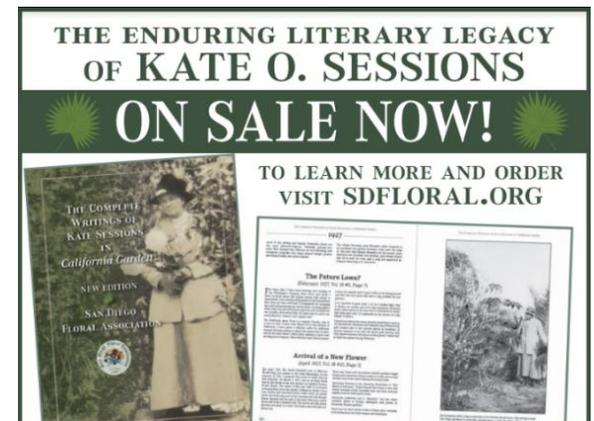
matters. Luis Palacios, who has worked with us on orchid care for the past 3 years, will be in charge of caring for our orchids throughout the run of the show.

Similar to last year, plant registration forms will be due on Sundays with drop-offs and pickups on Tuesdays. There will be vendor sales on weekends.

As in previous years, society members who loan their orchids for the show will receive a complimentary one year membership to the garden. Alex Nadzan will serve as the liaison for POS and SDCOS and will work closely with the WOS staff to make this another successful year for SDBG, our two orchid societies, and the general public. Please mark your calendars for these dates as more details will be forthcoming at our regular society meetings and in the April Newsletters. Any questions should be directed to Alex Nadzan.



Some Highlights from the 2025 World of Orchids Show at SDBG



# San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – March 2026

## Orchid Dates to Remember:

March 3  
**Main Speaker Dinner\*: 5:45 PM**  
\*See Main Speaker article for details.

March 3  
**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)

March 3  
**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

March 4  
**Palomar Orchid Society Meeting**  
Society business at 4 PM; main program at 5  
First Wednesday of the month  
Pine Avenue Community Center  
3209 Harding St  
Carlsbad, CA 92008

March 5  
**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)

March 7  
**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)

March 20-22  
**Santa Barbara International Orchid Show**  
9 AM - 6 PM

April 15  
**Orange County Orchid Society Auction**  
6 PM Preview and Refreshments  
7 PM Auction Begins  
4501 Casa Loma Ave, Room C, Yorba Linda  
[www.ocos.net](http://www.ocos.net)

April 18 - 19  
**SDCOS Spring Show**  
Set up and plant registration on Friday,  
April 17

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## 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 Vandebroek
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

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### 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 lemurella* (L), *Lepanthes escifera* (R)  
Dracula Reserve, Ecuador 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 Vandebroek  
SDCOS Newsletter Editor

1st Class  
Postage  
Required

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

