

**San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter
Volume 323:
May 2026**

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Sarcochilus hartmannii
Best of Show
Tom Biggart

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President's Message

David Vandebroek, President

Great Spring Show, everyone!

Thanks so much to everyone who brought in plants! We had 4 more than last year, and an absolutely stunning display. We really showed up for this how. Nice job.

Thanks as well, as always, to our wonderful volunteers, without whom these shows - and the society - wouldn't exist. I especially want to call out the members of the Show Committee and our Volunteer Coordinator, who took on the planning and organization of the show. Great job.

Good news: after a LOT of work from the Nominating Committee, we have candidates for all the Board positions! Huge, huge thanks to the members of that committee for the regular meetings and tons of phone calls, as well as everyone who stepped up to be on next year's board. The slate is posted later in this NL, and we will vote on it at the June Election/Banquet.

Related: this is an early reminder that in June, like in December, we will be having a potluck banquet in lieu of a regular meeting. The meeting will start at 6 PM instead of the usual, later time. Sometime between now and then we hope to have a "what vendor would you like a gift plant from" survey. Keep your eyes out for that. More information on that will be available in the next newsletter.

And speaking of newsletters: we have a new editor! Starting with this issue, Alex will be taking over as NL editor. I have appreciated the chance to serve the society as NL editor for these past ~8 years, and am happy to be

passing that torch on. Going forward, article and picture submissions should still be sent to the newsletter inbox, sdcosnewsletter@gmail.com

Once again, thank you to all our members for the volunteer work you're all doing - we're all needed to help make our society run! I won't be able to attend the May meeting, but I look forward to celebrating with you all in June!



**Vista Garden Club's
90th FLOWER SHOW**
Jim Porter Recreation Center, Brengle Terrace Park

**Saturday, May 2nd
2:00 pm – 5 pm**
**Sunday, May 3rd
10 am – 4 pm**

**Plant Sale and
Garden Art Boutique**
Saturday, noon – 5 pm
Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm
IT'S FREE!

**Garden
Magic**

The poster features a vibrant illustration of various flowers including orange, purple, and yellow blooms, with a central image of a wand emitting a bright spark.

From the Editor

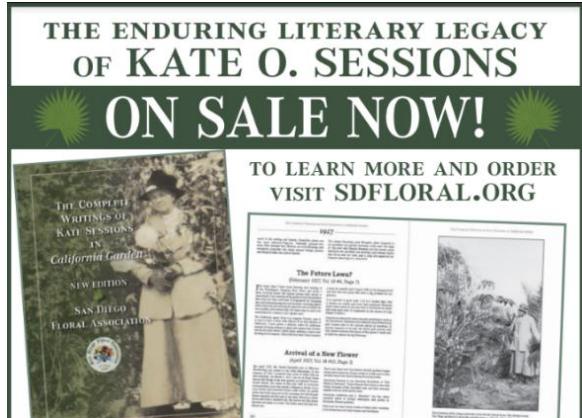
Hello Everyone,

This is my first month of volunteering as your new newsletter editor. I am looking forward to contributing to the society. For those of you who don't know me, I am relatively new to SDCOS having joined this past September. Before then I was up in the San Francisco Bay area and a member of the Peninsula Orchid Society. My plants have definitely been enjoying the warmer weather down here. My orchids mostly include *Cattleya* hybrids and relatives. In addition to orchids, I grow carnivorous plants and other botanical oddities. Feel free to introduce yourself at the next meeting!

As always, if you have any ideas, SDCOS welcomes newsletter contributions of from members at SDCOSNewsletter@gmail.com by end of the **second Friday of the month**.

All the best,

Alex Cain
SDCOS Newsletter Editor



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The advertisement shows the book cover on the left and an open book on the right. The book cover is titled 'THE COMPLETE WRITINGS OF KATE O. SESSIONS IN CALIFORNIA GARDENS' and is a new edition from the San Diego Floral Association. The open book shows a page with the title 'The Fetus Louse?' and another page with a photograph of a woman in a garden.

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General Meeting, May 5, in person at Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Room 101, and on Zoom; 7:30 PM.

Arthur Pinkers: *Oncidium*s



Arthur Pinkers has been an orchid enthusiast since the age of sixteen, when he acquired a plant of *Slc. Glittering Jewel* (*Sl. Gratixiae* x *Slc. Hermes*), which infected him with the orchid bug. His forty plus years of experience growing orchids started in the Pacific Northwest with a green house to fend off the cold, rainy days. In 2004 a job change forced him to move to Santa Clarita, California, where the conditions are extreme for growing orchids.

Growing up in the Seattle area, Arthur attended Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington, graduating with a B.S. in Chemistry and Biology. He worked for many years as a chemist, and had the fortune of having his dream job as the Lab Director for Beall Orchid Company until shortly before its close in 1990. Despite not having a current career working with orchids, Arthur has taken an active role in the orchid community. He has been an Accredited

Orchid Judge for over twenty years, served in most executive positions on the Board of the Northwest Orchid Society, including serving as President from 1988 to 1989, President of the San Fernando Valley Orchid Society 2016 to present. He was the center photographer for the Pacific Northwest Judging region 1993 - 2004. Currently, Arthur serves as the Awards Director for the Pacific South Judging Center and one of the photographers for the Pacific South Judging Center. Though he has an interest in a wide variety of orchids, botanicals are a special draw to him for their diversity and charm.

Arthur has been married to his wife, Margie, for over twenty-nine years, and has two adult children and a Granddaughter and Grandson. While they have not inherited his love for growing orchids, his family enjoys the beauty and wild aromas his backyard jungle brings to their home, a respite from the desert landscape around them.

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 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

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Culture Class, May 5, 6:30 PM
Ben Machado:
The Tools I Use With Orchids
Second VP

Before retiring from Federal Civil Service in 2001 Ben Machado discovered orchids and SDCOS. So everything he learned about orchids came from SDCOS and the members. He lives in Eastern La Mesa where temperature norms are somewhat higher than the San Diego Coastline. Therefore, his collection is mostly *Cattleyas*, specializing in *Schomburgkias*. Over the years he has seen and experienced a wide variety related to orchid care. He will share some of his knowledge about tools and equipment related to orchid care. He also provides orchid supplies through his company, Calavo Gardens.

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Open Volunteer Positions

David Vandebroek, President

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

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 2026ish

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.

These roles can be taken on a trial basis. Please consider stepping into one.

Renee & Margin Gerber Award

Pam Peters, Judging Chair

The April 2026 AOS *Orchids* magazine listed the 2024 Orchid Awards Championship for the best awarded orchid in each of the 25 AOS Special Award Categories from all the 2024 awards given. The Renee & Marvin Gerber Award is given to the most outstanding hybrid with a *Brassavola* as a

parent: *Brassocattleya* Gulfshore's Beauty 'Green Gem' (syn. Carnival Kids) AM-AOS, CCM/AOS was awarded October 26, 2024 to George Pflaum. His orchid also won Best of Show and the Forrest Robinson Culture Award at the SDCOS Fall Show that day. Congratulations George!



Brassocattleya Gulfshore's Beauty 'Green Gem' (syn. Carnival Kids)

Award: Renee & Marvin Gerber Award
George Pflaum

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

April 7, 2026

Jeanie Anderson

There were 2 orchids presented for judging. One (1) was awarded.

Awarded Award of Merit, 83 Points



Cattleya intermedia perlorica marginata
'Courtland'

Award: AM/AOS

Exhibited by Tom Osborn

Please remember: judging starts promptly at 6:30, so please have your plants in before then.

Editor's note: The AOS judging report from the Spring Show will be included in next month's newsletter.

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Show Winners January 2026			
Sec	Award	Orchid	Winner
	Best of Show - James & Lise Wright Award	<i>Sarcochilus hartmannii</i>	Tom Biggart
	Forrest Robinson Cultural Award	<i>Vanda</i> Hybrid 'Deep Purple'	Tom Osborn
	Siv Garrod Most Unusual Species Award	<i>Bulbophyllum treschii</i>	Rachel Burns
	People's Choice Award	<i>Vanda coerulea</i>	Debby Halliday
1	Cymbidium Standard Hybrid	<i>Cymbidium</i> Panalatinga	Jerry & Anita Spencer
2	Cymbidium Hybrid Miniature	<i>Cymbidium</i> Lemon Drop	Jerry & Anita Spencer
3	Cymbidium Hybrid Pendulous	<i>Cymbidium</i> Cricket	Debby Halliday
4	Cattleya Alliance Standard	<i>Lc.</i> Naranja en Flor (Trick or Treat 'Orange Beauty' x Spring Fires)	George Pflaum
5	Cattleya Alliance Compact	<i>Lc.</i> Hot Sauce 'Stella'	George Pflaum
6	Cattleya Alliance Miniature	<i>Sc.</i> Seagulls 'Tiny Tim'	Alex Nadzan
7	Paphiopedilum Hybrid	<i>Paphiopedilum kolopakingii h.v. topperi</i>	Saul Flores
8	Phragmipedium Hybrid	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Hybrid	Jane Wesley Brooks
9	Oncidium Alliance Hybrid	<i>Tolumnia</i> Jairak Flyer 'Spotty'	Jane Wesley Brooks
10	Dendrobium Hybrids	<i>Dendrobium</i> Nestor	Debby Halliday
11	Vandaceous Alliance	<i>Vanda</i> Hybrid 'Deep Purple'	Tom Osborn
12	Hybrids of Other Genera	<i>Masdevallia</i> Prince Charming (<i>angulata</i> x <i>veitchiana</i>)	Dave Rimlinger
13	Phalaenopsis Alliance	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Pink Peloric	Debby Halliday
14	Specimen Plants	<i>Sarcochilus hartmannii</i>	Tom Biggart
15	Large Species: Angraecum - Masdevallia	<i>Cattleya mossiae f. coerulea</i>	Rachel Burns
16	Large Species: Maxillaria - Zygopetalum	<i>Phragmipedium humboltii</i> 'Fortuna'	Jane Wesley Brooks
17	Small Species: Angraecum - Masdevallia	<i>Laelia sincorana</i>	Kay Klausing
18	Small Species: Maxillaria - Zygopetalum	<i>Phalaenopsis honghenensis</i>	Jack Li
19	Small Displays	<i>Paphiopedilum delenatii</i> display	Kay Klausing

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People Who Brought Plants & Displays for the April Show Pam Peters, Judging Chair

At the April Spring Show, 37 people brought in a total of 235 plants and 7 displays: Jeanie Anderson, Tom Biggart, Juan Bonilla, Jane Wesley Brooks, David Brown, Rachel Burns, Julia Chimento (Displays), Saul Flores, Paolo Garcia, Wendy Garnica, Victor Gonzales, Nico Goossens (Display), Natalia Guidarenko, Debby Hallidy, Rafael Jaramillo, Betty Kelepecz, Kay Klausing (Plants & Displays), Jack Li, Grady Mitchell, Brayden Myers, Alex Nadzan, Bichvan Nguyen, Orchid Design, Tom Osborn, Gabriela Perales, Pam Peters, George Pflaum, Barry Reder, Dave Rimlinger, Suzi Sandore, Johana Smith, John Snyder, Anita Spencer, Jerry Spencer, Min Teng, David Vandebroek, Stewart Walton. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH FOR MAKING THIS A SPECTACULAR SHOW!!!!



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Orchids in the Wild Show at the San Diego Botanic Garden

Alex Nadzan

The Orchids in the Wild Show (new theme) will be held between May 2 and June 1 at the San Diego Botanic Garden.

This year will be the sixth year our society members can participate in this beautiful show, an event that has been well-received by the general San Diego community. Society members will have the opportunity to display their plants during this year's show. This year [Hannah Smith](#) will coordinate the submissions and returns of member's orchids on Tuesdays during the show. The initial plant set up is on Tuesday and Wednesday April 28 and 29 and those members who participated last year should be on the list and should have gotten an email with details on how to submit your orchids. If you didn't receive a list, check your spam folder to see if it landed there. Please contact [Hannah Smith](#) to be added to the list if you have not received her email or want to participate for the first time. The first list will be due to Hannah by the end of day on **Saturday, April 25**. You do not have to display plants every week during the show. Forms will be sent out on a weekly basis and due Saturdays before the following week with plants dropped off and picked up on successive Tuesdays (May 6, 13, 20 and 27) and final pick up at the end of the show on June 2.

Requirements for your display plants: 1) Clean and bug free - we don't want to introduce pests into the SDBG conservatory. 2) Clean pot, but no outer pot is necessary.

If you provide an outer pot, make sure it has drainage holes. 3) Clearly labeled with plant name and your name. 4) Recently watered.

When you arrive with your plants, you will be given numbered ID tags to attach to your plants to further ensure that nothing gets lost and each plant will have a name tag with the plant's name and your name as the exhibitor. The plants will be in the show until the next Tuesday or longer if the flowers are still in good condition. Plants staying longer than one week, will be watered by the garden staff should they need it. Participating in this event is a lot of fun and gives our societies the opportunity to show visitors many of the beautiful orchid hybrids and species we grow to perfection. Society members who participate in showing their plants will receive a complementary, one year membership to the garden and an entry pass for visits during the show that will allow up to 6 guests for each visit.

On weekends, show visitors can shop for unusual and unique orchids and related plants at the grower direct orchid market. During the show SDCOS members will be selling orchids the weekends of May 2-3, 8-10, and 15-17 with POS selling plants for their society's fundraiser on Memorial Day weekend May 23-25. Additionally, several other vendors will be selling from 9 am-4:30 pm every Friday thru Sunday during the show. Please refer to the [SDBG website](#) for more details on vendors, classes and general admission. [Cassidy White](#) will be coordinating the plant sales on the weekends should additional vendors be interested in selling at the show.

Admission to World of Orchids is free for members, free for youth (3-17) with general admission, and \$7 per adult in addition to garden entrance fee for non-members. All attendees are encouraged to make a reservation online to obtain tickets for entry. Entrance is free for AOS members but you still need to register for tickets (under reciprocal) and show your ticket and AOS membership card upon entry. Make your reservation today for this exciting, month's long show. Any additional questions can be directed to the above SDBG staff members or to Alex Nadzan who is representing both societies and working closely with the SDBG staff. Alex's contact info is anadzan@mac.com or text/phone at 858-205-6789.

2026-2027 Proposed Officers

President	Barbara McCubbin
Co-1st Vice President	Peter Tobias
& Co-2nd Vice President	& John Synder
Secretary	Nate La Breche
Treasurer	Myra DeTate
Director at Large, to 2029	Sima Perkins

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

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Orchid Dates to Remember:

May 2
SDCOS Species Study Group Meeting
Socializing 8:30 AM, meeting 9:00 AM
First Saturday of the month
info@sdorchids.com

May 2 - 3
Vista Garden Club's 90th Flower Show
Jim Porter Recreation Center, Brengle Terrace Park
Details in Flyer

May 5
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

May 5
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

May 6
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

May 7
SDCOS Board Meeting
First Thursday of the month, 7 PM
Zoom; for an SDCOS member to request a meeting invite, email president@sdorchids.com

May 9
Long Beach Amateur Orchid Society Annual Auction
1 PM - 4 PM
St. Gregory's Episcopal Church
6201 E Willow St, Long Beach, CA 90815
Details in Flyer

July 25 - 26
SDCOS Summer Show

Board and General Meeting Minutes

The SDCOS Board meeting minutes are available to members upon request.
president@sdorchids.com



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