

**San Diego County Orchid
Society Newsletter
Volume 325:
July 2026**

Table of Contents

Outgoing President Message	Page 2
Help Find Bud Close's Thesis	Page 2
AOS Bulletins (1945–1988)	Page 2
From the Editor	Page 3
General Meeting	Page 3
Culture Class	Page 3
Tom Biggart Obituary	Page 4
Kids Corner Needs Help	Page 4
Open Volunteer Positions	Page 5
Judging Report	Page 5-7
Member Submissions	Page 8
Orchid Dates to Remember	Page 9
Current & Proposed Officers	Page 9



***Paphiopedilum* unregistered (New Red Moon x
hangianum) 'O'Side's Gigantic'**

AM/AOS
Tim Culbertson

San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – July 2026

Outgoing President's Message

David Vandebroek, President

Hi everyone, it looks like it's time for my last President's message. It's been an honor to have been able to serve as the society's President for these past 3 years. I truly appreciate all the members supporting me in keeping this society going - it really is an amazing group with such an impressive history. I am also so grateful to the society for naming me a Life Member. I look forward to continuing to work to keep the society thriving for many years in the future.

I hope you'll all join me in supporting Barb, our new President, and the 2026-27 board this coming year - we've got a great team of people set up to lead us through the society's next chapter.

Looking forward to years and years to come of orchids with you all!

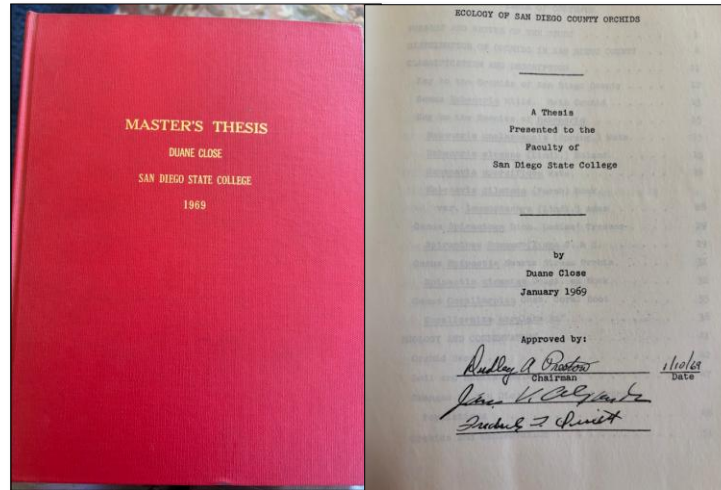
David

Help Finding Bud Close's Thesis, Loaned to an SDCOS Member

Duane "Bud" Close, a longtime member of SDCOS, once wrote a Master's thesis on the Orchids native to San Diego. At 98, he is now hoping he can recover that lost bound thesis and give it to his family. If you have it or know where it is, please contact Info@sdorchids.com and I will get it to him.

Attached is a 2nd copy he had bound, however he believes that the loaned copy was bound in back.

Bud's family reports that, at 98, he is doing well though memory issues are starting to develop. He would really appreciate the return of this book. Since many society members don't read the newsletter, if you think of it, please also ask members you see in person if they have any leads. Thank you for your help!



Free to an SDCOS Member: Bound Collection of AOS Bulletins (1945–1988)

The San Diego County Orchid Society has two complete sets of the American Orchid Society Bulletin from 1945 through 1988, professionally bound into annual volumes. As the Society only requires one set for its archives, we are exploring options for the second set.

One possibility is to place this collection with an interested SDCOS member; another is to donate it to a library, educational institution, or other organization that could preserve and

utilize these valuable historical records. Before making a decision, we would like to gauge interest among our membership.

If you would like to be considered for this collection, please send an email to Info@sdorchids.com expressing your interest. Should the Society decide to transfer the set to a member, we will contact those who have responded and determine the best path forward.

This collection represents more than four decades of orchid history, culture information, and AOS awards, and we would love to see it find a home where it will be appreciated and preserved.



A sample of some of the volumes

San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – July 2026

From the Editor

Alex Cain

Hello everyone, I hope you all had fun last month at the banquet. I am always amazed at how much food people bring.

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

For example, I am excited about this month's speaker Tim Culbertson who will talk about *Laelia purpurata*. This is one of my favorite orchids, and below is a picture of one of mine in bloom. If only my plants would cooperate and flower on time to share at the meetings.

All the best,

Alex Cain
SDCOS Newsletter Editor



Cattleya (Laelia) purpurata

General Meeting, July 7, 7:30 PM.

Tim Culbertson:

Laelia purpurata, Queen of the Cattleyas

Although I teach middle school kids for a living, one of my passions has always been plants. I began growing orchids as an offshoot from working at Longwood Gardens in Philadelphia just after college. From the very beginning it was all about Paphs, particularly awarded and select clones of historic importance, of which my collection numbers nearly 3000. While I love finding old, rare stepping stones in paph breeding, I also do a little hybridizing of my own, and growing up my own babies is a blast. I am an accredited judge with the American Orchid Society, and have served in various capacities with various orchid societies in California and on the East Coast. I love meeting other people who like orchids too, and doing so often finds me traveling to shows, vendors, and peoples' greenhouses to see the latest and greatest in new hybrids and to get the best orchid gossip. I like to be involved in plants as much as possible: in addition to Longwood, I've worked at the Smithsonian Institution tending to their orchids, and for years for the United States National Arboretum, collecting rare plants and documenting cultivated species and hybrids for their herbarium. In short, I really like plants.

For your meeting, I'll be sharing a presentation on *Laelia purpurata*, the Queen of the Cattleyas. Although large, these spectacular cattleyas grow well outside in Southern California, and with their myriad colors and a relatively unique blooming time, these are great plants for every collection,

extending the blooming times in the Cattleya Alliance through July. With more and more *Laelia purpurata* clones and seedlings coming in from Brazil, and large greges (greges) being bred in the United States, these stately, magnificent plants have seen a resurgence in popularity of late, and with good reason! By the end of this presentation, you will have a new appreciation of the range of color forms of *Laelia purpurata* and its hybrids, as well as an appreciation of their beautiful flowers and ease-of-growth. I will be providing a plant table of outdoor growing cattleyas, including plants of *Laelia purpurata* and its hybrids.

Culture Class, July 7, 6:30 PM

Paolo Garcia:

Growing Orchids in Smaller Spaces

This culture class focuses on general orchid care from a home or apartment grower's perspective. It will cover examples of different growing set-ups and discuss how to meet your orchids' water, light, and other cultural requirements on a smaller scale. Growing in your home or apartment is almost everyone's starting point in the hobby, and many different orchids can thrive even without a greenhouse!

Brief biography: Paolo Garcia is a mechanical engineer and life-long hobby orchid grower. Originally from Guam, he now lives in Bankers Hill, San Diego and has a mixed collection of orchid species in his apartment, with a special interest in miniature, fragrant, and slipper orchids. He is currently serving as a Director at Large on the SDCOS Board of Directors.

San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – July 2026



Neal and Tom Biggart, approx. 2000

Tom Biggart, R.I.P.

Peter Tobias

Long time SDCOS Life Member Tom Biggart passed away Saturday, June 13, 2026 of complications of old age. He is survived by two daughters, a son, and several grand and great-grand children from his marriage to Neal Biggart, who pre-deceased him. He is also survived by two daughters from his first marriage.

I first met Tom almost exactly 46 years ago when I walked into my first SDCOS meeting to what would become a familiar friendly greeting from him. He was outgoing and always as happy to see an old friend as to make a new one. Tom joined the SDCOS in the early '70s and served in various offices over the years, most recently as a member of the nominating committee. If you are a current SDCOS officer you may have Tom to thank (or not!).

Tom's orchid collection grew significantly when he and his family moved to El Cajon and built, with the help of his orchid family, a large greenhouse where he grew the plants that we often saw at SDCOS meetings. He certainly had a knack for growing beautiful flowers. He enjoyed many plants beyond orchids, especially bromeliads and often experimented with seeds collected somewhere in his travels. From Tom I learned never to weed other people's orchid plants. At one time he had planted seeds of a rare eucalyptus by dropping them into the pot of one of his orchids. A visitor to the greenhouse saw some shoots of what was obviously not an orchid and pulled them up – there went that experiment!

In later years Tom and Neal got into pottery, taking most of the ceramics classes offered at Grossmont Community College. Neal made mugs, cups, dishes and ornamental items, while Tom made orchid pots; they both had a remarkable eye for what would make a simple yet pleasing and functional ceramic. We will all miss Tom's happy greeting at Orchid Society events, or anywhere for that matter!

KIDS CORNER NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Nancy Walters

The Kids Corner has served over 800 children the past 10 years. We have encouraged them to appreciate and learn about orchids and how to grow them. It also gives the parents a chance to look around the shows while their children enjoy an activity at the booth.

I am looking for one or two people to take over the KIDS CORNER at 3 shows during the year: January, July and October. (Saturday and Sunday) THAT IS ONLY 6 DAYS DURING THE YEAR! It would require you to set up the booth and encourage children 5-15 to participate Everything is ready to go; just take things out of the containers and supervise use of materials. My last two shows will be in July and October. I can explain everything and show you what is available to use.

You can see how easy and FUN it is to see all the smiling young faces! We have had the Kids Corner for over 10 years. Help it continue!!

Contact Nancy Walters and give it a try!!
nancywalters928@gmail.com 619-980-3089
text or call



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 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

San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – July 2026

CALAVO GARDENS

Orchid Supplies
Specializing in the needs of the orchid grower

MSU FERTILIZER
formulated for pure water
25 lb. and 2 lb. pack

CHARCOAL
sweeten your mix
grades 3 and 4
40 lb. and 6 lb. pack

4044 Calavo Drive, La Mesa 91941
619-948-5942 bmach16814@aol.com

Open Volunteer Positions

David Vandebroek, President

SDCOS currently needs to fill the following volunteer positions. Please contact president@sorchids.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.

Judging at the San Diego Judging Center (Casa del Prado, Balboa Park), June 2, 2026 ~ Member Meeting
Jeanie Anderson, AOS Photographer

There were approx. 22 orchids presented for judging. Twelve (12) orchids were awarded.

[1] *Paphiopedilum haynaldianum*
'Bravo Orchids'
HCC/AOS

Exhibited by William Tse
Awarded Highly Commended Certificate, 79 points

[2] *Oncidium hintonii* '4 Estella' (SITF)
AM/AOS
Exhibited by Pedro Sanchez
Awarded Award of Merit, 80 points

[3] *Phragmipedium pearcei* 'Dee Dee's Scepter'
HCC/AOS
Exhibited by Dee Dee Flores
Awarded Highly Commended Certificate, 79 points

[4] *Paphiopedilum supardii* 'Dee Dee's Pride'
AM/AOS
Exhibited by Dee Dee Flores
Awarded Award of Merit, 84 points

[5] *Cattleya tenebrosa* 'SVO Merlot'
HCC/AOS

Exhibited by Fred Clarke
Awarded Highly Commended Certificate, 79 points



San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – July 2026

[6] *Paphiopedilum* unregistered (New Red Moon x *hangianum*) 'O'Side's Gigantic'
AM/AOS
Exhibited by Tim Culbertson
Awarded Award of Merit, 84 points

[7] *Paphiopedilum* Concon Bell 'Sunset Valley Orchids'
AM/AOS
Exhibited by Fred Clarke
Awarded Award of Merit, 81 points

[8] *Paphiopedilum* Alois Handlbauer 'Daybreak'
AM/AOS
Exhibited by Tim Culbertson
Awarded Award of Merit, 80 points

[9] *Aciopea* Ecuagenera Passion 'Sunset Valley Orchids'
AM/AOS
Exhibited by Fred Clarke
Awarded Award of Merit, 87 points

[10] *Paphiopedilum* *barbatum* 'O'Side's Santa Rosa'
AM/AOS
Exhibited by Tim Culbertson
Awarded Award of Merit, 82 points

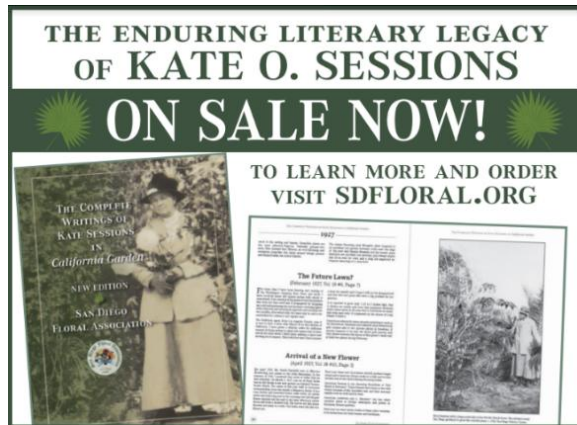
[11] *Cattleya* Dean's Monarch 'Sunset Valley Orchids'
AM/AOS
Exhibited by Fred Clarke
Awarded Award of Merit, 81 points

[12] *Paphiopedilum* *braemii* 'O'Side's Little Leopard'
AM/AOS
Exhibited by Tim Culbertson
Awarded Award of Merit, 82 points





San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – July 2026



Member Submissions

Forget the brown paper packages tied up with string...

John Snyder

A few of My Favorite Things

Epidendrum capricornu.

An orchid I seem to buy whenever I come across it because I think it's a genuine stunner: *Epidendrum capricornu* is from Ecuador to Peru, where it grows at altitudes ranging from 5500 - 8800 feet.

So, what's so special about it?

The foliage has a beautiful purplish coloration, and is gracefully shaped and beautifully spaced. It is a small plant rarely exceeding 24" in height and stays compact. A mature plant can occupy a 4" pot.

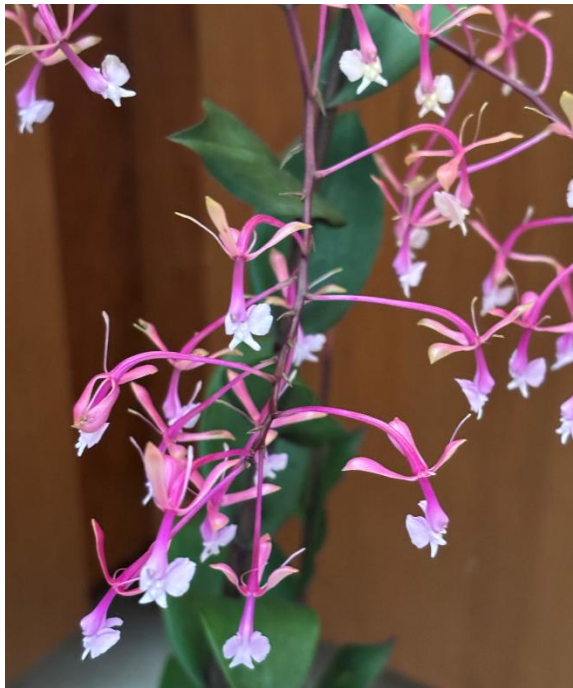
Then there are the lovely flowers. The inflorescence, which is pinkish, spreads

horizontally to display the 20-80 small delicately colored blossoms.

The interior of the sepals is a buff yellow to fawn color, which provides a beautiful contrast with the back of the sepals, which are pinkish lavender. The petals are threadlike. The column is a vivid watermelon color fading to a pale pink lip with 2 horns at the tip of the lip: the "goat horns" that give this species its name.

I grow this plant outdoors in coastal Southern California, where temps range from 100 degrees F to as low as 37 degrees. It's growing in bright light with a 70% shade cloth above.

I wholeheartedly recommend growing this compact gem of a reedstem *Epidendrum*.



Andy's Orchids.com
734 Ocean View Ave. Encinitas, CA 92024 Phone (760) 436-4239
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY - Please Call

Species Specialist
Rare and Exotic beautifully mounted and potted orchids is **What We Do Best.**

Come Visit a One Of A Kind Nursery.
Make your personalized appointment today
(closed most weekends)
Over 7000 species to choose from

734 OCEAN VIEW AVE
ENCINITAS CA 92024
(760) 436-4239
WWW.ANDYSORCHIDS.COM

San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – July 2026

Orchid Dates to Remember:

July 1

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

July 2

SDCOS Board Meeting

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

July 7

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

July 7

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

July 11

SDCOS Species Study Group Meeting

Socializing 8:30 AM, meeting 9:00 AM
Typically the first Saturday of the month,
moved this month due to the 4th of July
info@sdorchids.com

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

SANTA BARBARA ORCHID ESTATE

Every day a different orchid—check out
"Orchid-of-the-Day" at www.sborchid.com
Specializing in outdoor-growing
orchids for coastal California, incl. Laelia
anceps and hybrids, Cymbidium species
and hybrids, and orchid species.
Temporarily closed due to covid
<https://www.sborchid.com>
1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara, CA
93111
(800) 553-3387 sboe@sborchid.com

Casa de las Orquideas

Southern California's leading source for
Cymbidium and Zygopetalum seedlings.
Over 30,000 plants in stock from 3" pots to
blooming size. Our complete list of
seedlings and flasks is on the web at
www.orquideas.com
Open by appointment only!
170 S. Nardo Ave., Solana Beach, CA
92075
Phone and Fax: (858) 755-7572
Email: casa@orquideas.com

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 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