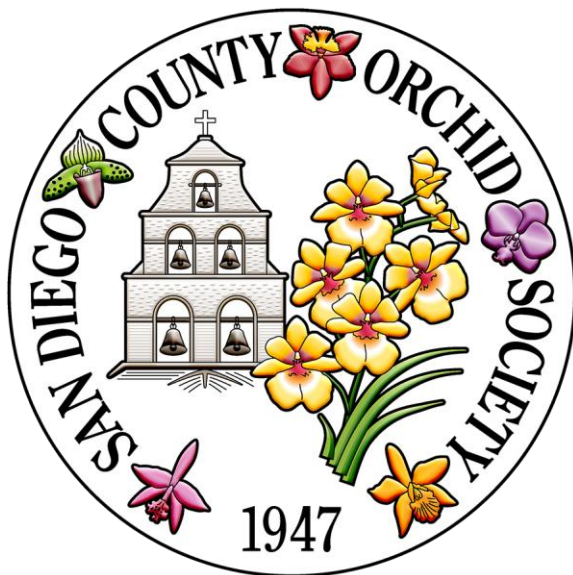




**San Diego County Orchid
Society Newsletter
Volume 327:
September 2026**

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AOS judges examining an orchid at the July Show
Left to right: Paul Tuskes, Jason Gomez, Phyllis Prestia
This *Vanda* Santa Barbara Fizz 'TC's Turn', by George Pflaum received the Award of Merit with 86 points

San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter – September 2026

From the Editor

Hello everyone, this month's newsletter has a lot of content from the July show and member submitted articles. This is all possible because of the participation of members like you. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this.

Speaking of membership participation, the Kids Corner is in dire need of help. The October show will be the last Kids Corner unless someone steps up. Perhaps that person could be you. See the article later in this newsletter for more information.

With September coming around that means cooler weather will be here soon, as hard as it is to believe now with this heat wave we are having. Our plants still need to tough it out for a few more weeks, but we will get there.

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**. I find articles about what grows well for you under your conditions especially interesting.

All the best,

Alex Cain

SDCOS Newsletter Editor

General Meeting, September 1, 7:30 PM.

Alan Koch:

Mini-Vandas and their Hybrids



Alan Koch, Our September Speaker

Alan Koch owns and operates Gold Country Orchids where he specializes in miniature and compact Cattleyas along with miniature species. Alan started growing orchids in 1969 with 3 Cymbidiums given to him by an aunt. While in college he became interested in other orchids and discovered many would grow outdoors in Southern California. He has moved five times as his orchid obsession has led to the need for more growing space.

With the last move, he purchased 10 acres of land in Lincoln, California for his 250,000

orchids. He is recognized as an expert in the Brazilian *Cattleya* alliance and a trend setter in miniature and compact *Cattleya* breeding. Alan has been published in the Orchid Digest, the American Orchid Society magazine, as well as many international publications. He has also been published in several proceedings of the World Orchid Conference. He is an internationally known speaker. He was very pleased to be the keynote speaker for the 2025 Asia Pacific Orchid Conference in Taiwan.

He is a past member of the AOS Judging Committee, and the Research Committee, as well as an Emeritus Judge and is Training Coordinator for the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center. Alan also served two terms on the Orchid Digest Executive Committee and 3 terms on the Board of Directors, as well as two terms as a Trustee for the AOS. He was the First Vice President for the International *Phalaenopsis* Alliance for 3 terms. Alan is also well known for the many AOS auctions he has done.

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Culture Class, September 1, 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!

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.

News From Other Societies

Alan is also a shared speaker with the Palomar Orchid Society, and he will be giving his talk "Modern Trends for the *Cattleya* Grower" at 4pm September 2nd in Activity Room 108 at the Pine Avenue Community Center in Carlsbad.



Palomar Orchid Society Orchid Sale

**Saturday, September 19th
10am-2pm**

**Dove Library, Gowland Room
1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad**

**Great prices on Blooming and
Non-Blooming Orchids!**

**Cattleya
Phalaenopsis
Dendrobium
and many more**

Please join us ~ All are welcome!

www.palomarorchid.org

Open Volunteer Positions

David Vandenbroek, 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.

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Nancy at the Kids Corner

Kids Corner STILL Needs Your Help!
Nancy Walters

Save the Kids Corner! Volunteer now.

**LAST SHOW WILL BE IN OCTOBER
UNLESS WE GET A VOLUNTEER TO
TAKE OVER.**

**Only 3 shows a year and 6 hours each
show. All materials provided!! If you are
interested email
nancywalters928@gmail.com or see
Nancy at the October show.**

The Kids Corner has served over 800 children in 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 show will be in 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!!



Kids Corner interactive display



A kid making orchid art

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David Vandebroek chatting with a visitor.

Summer Show a Great Success! Debby Halliday, Show Chairman

We did it again. What a lovely Summer Show we put on! I am always impressed that our members can come together every quarter and stage such spectacular orchid shows. You are giving the public a very special treat by showing them the amazing world of orchids in every season of the year. The quality of the plants on display was top class as it always is. You grow such a variety of stunning orchid hybrids, and the collection of species on display was remarkable. We had 191 orchids in this

show and 95 of them were species. Half of our show was devoted to giving the public a taste of the incredible natural diversity in the orchid family. Well done!

34 members brought in a wide variety of plants for display (See related article). Almost every section was represented. For a complete list of the Best in Section winners, please check the website for names and pictures. Our Special Award winners were as follows:

Best in Show – Cattleya Raspberry Smoke brought in by Terry Drever. It was a specimen sized gorgeous bicolor purple with 5 large floral clusters. A real show stopper! This was Terry's first show. What a way to start!

Forrest Robinson Cultural Award & People's Choice Award – Dendrobium thyrsiflorum by Debby Halliday. It was a dramatic and showy species specimen that really caught the visitors' interest.

Siv Garrod Most Unusual Species Award – Bulbophyllum plumatum var. flava by Betty Kelepecz. This charming small species looked like a bundle of yellow ribbons cascading over its basket.

Congratulations to all the award and section winners!

My favorite part of shows is watching the amazement and awe on people's faces as they discover these fascinating plants. One benefit of showing in the park is that so many of our visitors are new to orchids so we get the full benefit of their wonder. We also have the pleasure of welcoming back our dedicated repeat visitors and of course our shoppers.

Sales were active with over 1300 items sold. Overall revenue was right in line with our average July sales, which also helps top up our conservation fund. We filled all our vendor spaces and the sales area was busy with shoppers both days. With our many cashier stations and price tag scanners, the lines were only bad on Saturday morning.



Cattleya Raspberry Smoke by Terry Drever

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Bulbophyllum plumatum v. flava by Betty Kelepecz

It takes a lot of volunteers to run our shows, and we really appreciate everyone who gave their time to help out. I would like to especially thank the dedicated members of the show committee. You are phenomenal!

George Pflaum on set-up, take-down, signs and logistics. Our shows have never run as smoothly and efficiently as they do now with George and his team in charge.

Tom Corzine our volunteer coordinator. He and his wife Cindy make sure all the volunteer positions are filled, classes run on

time, visitors vote, food gets delivered, etc. etc.

Myra DeTate our treasurer and head of cashiering. She and her team see that lines move fast, the plants get rung up and packed up, and all the vendors get paid promptly.

Pam Peters our judging and registration chairman. She ensures all the plants are registered, lays out the showroom, organizes judging teams, and orders the ribbons and awards to reward your efforts.

Juan Bonilla is our vendor liaison and always presents a beautiful sales booth to welcome in our shoppers.

Not on the committee, but also important:

Betty Kelepecz & Ron Kaufmann led our conservation team in acquiring, organizing, pricing, and selling our plant donations to generate revenue for the conservation fund.

Nancy Walters created a delightful Kid's Corner to entertain the youngsters while their parents enjoyed the orchid show.

Our Orchid seminar instructors, Kay Klausing, Alex Nadzan, Nico Goossens, John Snyder, Ben Machado, and Debby Halliday helped us offer 3 classes each day. They were well attended by our visitors who all learned more about growing orchids.

Phyllis Prestia made sure members could register their plants for American Orchid Society judging on Saturday. See award details elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Many, many thanks to all our volunteers & coordinators! This is only possible because

you work to make it happen! Great job everybody!

If you have never participated in our orchid shows, I urge you to sign up for the next one. Bring in a plant if you have something in bloom, and/or volunteer for one of the many positions we need to fill to make the show work. It's fun, rewarding, and the very best way to really feel like a part of SDCOS.

Next show: October 24-25. Join us!



Dendrobium thrysiflorum by Debby Halliday

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Summer Show People's Choice

Debby Halliday, Show Chairman

We again had great participation in the People's Choice voting at our show – 1158 people cast ballots! 128 plants received at least one vote. 31 different growers had plants selected as someone's favorite. I love that people can find so many different orchids to appreciate at our shows. It doesn't have to be a judges' favorite to win votes. We truly have something for everyone! It's good to remember that the real point of People's Choice is to give our visitors a reason to slow down and really look at all the wonderful plants our members have brought in. It obviously worked very well. Great job everyone!

The winner was *Dendrobium thyrsiflorum* exhibited by Debby Halliday with a total of 196 votes! I guess people love showy and

unusual in a single package. The cascading racemes of gold and white blossoms were clearly hard to resist. It also won the Forrest Robinson Cultural Award. It is mine. Thank you, orchid, for growing so well!

8 other plants received 30 – 54 votes each and were the following:

Vanda Pakchong Blue by Min Teng with 54 votes

Vanda coerulea by Debby Halliday with 47 votes

Cattleya Raspberry Smoke by Terry Drever with 44 votes

Phalaenopsis Peloric 'Spotty Purple' by Debby Halliday with 44 votes

Papilionanda Omar Padron by Jack Li with 37 votes

Prosthechea prismatocarpa by Dave Rimlinger with 34 votes

Paphiopedilum (Hsinying Web x Hilo Leopard) x Captivating Wood Cheetah by Julia Chimento with 33 votes

Dendrobium Evening Blue by Jerry & Anita Spencer with 31 votes

Other stats – 23 plants got at least 10 votes but less than 30, and 96 got at least one but less than 10. The top 32 plants accounted for 75% of the votes cast.

Here is the list of growers who earned votes: Alex Nadzan, Ben Machado, Betty Kelepecz, Bichvan Nguyen, Carolyn Smith, Dave Rimlinger, Debby Halliday, Ed Danielowicz, George Pflaum, Jack Li, Jane W. Brooks, Jeanie Anderson, Jerry & Anita Spencer, John Snyder, Julia Chimento, Kay

Klausing, Linda Gardner, Lisa Humphreys, Min Teng, Nico Goossens, Pam Peters, Paolo Garcia, Peter Tobias, Stewart Walton, Suzi Sandore, Terry Drever, Tom Osborn, Victor Gonzales, Rachel Burns, Primrose Tricker-O'Dell. Congratulations!

I'll send the list by grower to Alice for the website so you can look yourself up if you want to. It was a excellent show and I thank every one of you for making the effort to bring in your plants. Our guests loved seeing them! If you have never shown your orchids, you should. Your plant could also be someone's favorite!

**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

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Show Winners

Pam Peter, Judging Chair

Show Winners JULY 2026			
Sec	Award	Orchid	Winner
	Best of Show - James & Lise Wright Award	<i>Cattleya</i> Raspberry Smoke	Terry Drever
	Forrest Robinson Cultural Award	<i>Dendrobium thyrsiflorum</i>	Debby Halliday
	Siv Garrod Most Unusual Species Award	<i>Bulbophyllum plumatum</i> var. <i>flava</i>	Betty Kelepecz
	People's Choice Award	<i>Dendrobium thyrsiflorum</i>	Debby Halliday
1	Cymbidium Standard Hybrid	no entries	
2	Cymbidium Hybrid Miniature	<i>Cymbidium</i> Betty Court	Anita & Jerry Spencer
3	Cymbidium Hybrid Pendulous	<i>Cymbidium</i> Devon Railway 'New Horizon'	Anita & Jerry Spencer
4	Cattleya Alliance Standard	<i>Blc.</i> Moy Lim Gum	Suzi Sandore
5	Cattleya Alliance Compact	<i>Potinara</i> Mark's Valentine	George Pflaum
6	Cattleya Alliance Miniature	<i>Slc.</i> Jessica Reder 'Ruben's Pick' x <i>Slc.</i> Virginia Dickey 'Diamond Orchids'	George Pflaum
7	Paphiopedilum Hybrid	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Transvaal 'Merlinda'	Lisa Humphreys
8	Phragmipedium Hybrid	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Noirmont	Debby Halliday
9	Oncidium Alliance Hybrid	<i>Oncostele</i> Wildcat 'Golden Red Star'	Min Teng
10	Dendrobium Hybrids	<i>Dendrobium</i> Jiaho Delight	Debby Halliday
11	Vandaceous Alliance	<i>Papilionanda</i> Omar Padron	Jack Li
12	Hybrids of Other Genera	<i>Encyclia gracilis</i> 'Brownie Points' x <i>Encyclia</i> Hereford Jewel	Anita & Jerry Spencer
13	Phalaenopsis Alliance	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> King Car Dalmatian	Jeanie Anderson
14	Specimen Plants	<i>Cattleya</i> Raspberry Smoke	Terry Drever
15	Large Species: Angraecum - Masdevallia	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>	Jane Wesley Brooks
16	Large Species: Maxillaria - Zygopetalum	<i>Prosthechea prismatocarpa</i>	Dave Rimlinger
17	Small Species: Angraecum - Masdevallia	<i>Bulbophyllum hirundinis</i>	John Snyder
18	Small Species: Maxillaria - Zygopetalum	<i>Domingoa purpurea</i>	Dave Rimlinger
19	Small Displays	<i>Darwin</i> Moth Orchid Display	Nico Goossens
22	Orchids Grown for Foliage	<i>Sedira japonica</i> 'Minmaru Shima'	Primrose Tricker-O'Dell

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People Who Brought Plants & Displays for the July Show

Pam Peters, Judging Chair

At the July Show, 34 people brought in a total of 191 plants and 1 display: Jeanie Anderson, Jane Wesley Brooks, Rachel Burns, Julia Chimento, Ed Danielwicz, Terry Drever, Paolo Garcia, Linda Gardner, Wendy Garnica, Victor Gonzales, Nico Goossens (Plants & Display), Debby Halliday, Cheryl Hoecht, Lisa Humphreys, Betty Kelepecz, Kay Klausing, Jack Li, Ben Machado, Grady Mitchell, Alex Nadzan, Bichvan Nguyen, Tom Osborn, Pam Peters, George Pflaum, Dave Rimlinger, Suzi Sandore, Carolyn Smith, John Snyder, Anita Spencer, Jerry Spencer, Min Teng, Peter Tobias, Primrose Tricker-O'Dell, Stewart Walton. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH FOR MAKING THIS A SPECTACULAR SHOW!!!!









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Judging at the San Diego Judging Center (Casa del Prado, Balboa Park), July 25, 2026 ~ Summer Show

Text and photographs by
Jeanie Anderson, AOS Photographer

There were 191 orchids presented for judging. Four (4) orchids were awarded.

[1] ***Vanda Santa Barbara Fizz 'TC's Turn'***

AM/AOS

Exhibited by George Pflaum

Awarded Award of Merit, 86 points

[2] ***Neofinetia falcata* (Pink) 'Choukou'**

AM/AOS

Exhibited by Alex Nadzen

Awarded Award of Merit, 85 points

[3] ***Prosthecea kautskyi* 'Windflower'**

AM/AOS

Exhibited by Betty Kelepecz

Awarded Award of Merit, 82 points

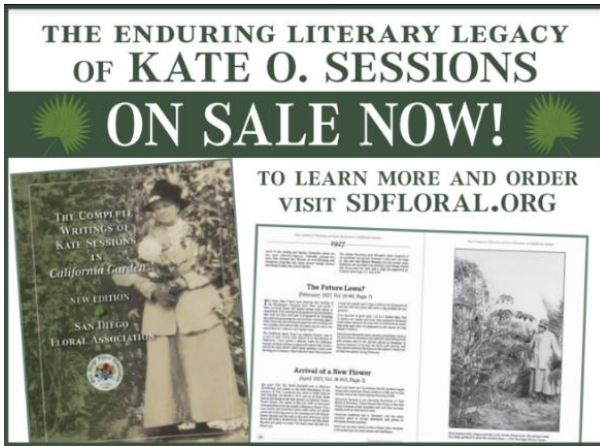
[4] ***Cyrtochilum cordatum* 'Windflower'**

AM/AOS

Exhibited by Betty Kelepecz

Awarded Award of Merit, 82 points





Judging at the San Diego Judging Center (Casa del Prado, Balboa Park), August 4, 2026 ~ Member Meeting

Text and photographs by
Jeanie Anderson, AOS Photographer

There were 7 orchids presented for judging.
Three (3) orchids were awarded.

[5] ***Miltonia candida* 'Mareva'**
AM/AOS

Exhibited by Jane Wesley Brooks
Awarded Award of Merit, 85 points

[6] ***Cymbidium ensifolium* 'Dark Flame'**
AM/AOS

Exhibited by Jack Zhu
Awarded Award of Merit, 82 points

[7] ***Barkeria barkerioides* 'Five Angels'**
CHM/AOS
Exhibited by Pedro Sanchez
Awarded Certificate of Horticultural Merit, 81 points



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Member Submissions



Jeanie Anderson and *Phalaenopsis* King Carr 'Dalmation' at San Diego Summer Show on July 25, 2026.

Carrying on the Legacy of Arne Gum One Orchid at a Time

Jeanie Anderson

In Spring of 2025, Arne Gum passed away. He was our AOS photographer for the San Diego Judging Center. When I heard that they were seeking a new photographer to replace him, I enthusiastically offered my services.

Along the way, I realized I needed to seriously gear up, so I purchased some of Arne's photo gear from his partner, Pierre. Also, when his orchids became available at the Huntington auction in June 2025, I selected a few special plants to add to my collection, and to honor Arne for his service.

One plant, a *Phalaenopsis*, grew well but did not spike. I gave her a "talking to" around 10 months after I had her, and within 2 weeks she developed 2 spikes!

So, long story short, she bloomed so nicely with 13 flowers that I decided to enter her into our July show. And she was a hit!

May I present **King Carr 'Dalmation'**... with her First Award and *Phalaenopsis* Best of Section Award.

I am sure Arne would be most pleased that his orchid was a winner for the photographer who graciously took on his role.

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Some like it hot!

John Snyder

On occasion, I will work for friends who own an orchid species nursery. My primary job is helping people choose appropriate orchids for their conditions and desires, as well as simply finding plants that people have on their wish lists.

To begin the conversation I ask the following, "Where are growing orchids?" and "What orchids do you already grow?" These are clues that help me help the customer choose an orchid that will most likely be successful in their conditions and cultural abilities. Mostly, these are relative beginners without a full-blown orchid growing set up.

When the customers tell me they live near the coast, my job is easy. There are abundant orchids that will grow in those conditions

In our region. However, often they tell me they are from the high desert or East San Diego County where high temperatures and

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low humidity can limit the types of orchids which can be successfully grown without any special horticultural setup.

This can make my job helping them suss out the best orchid for their conditions a little more difficult. So many of the popular orchids we grow require humid and cooler conditions.

Here are three of the orchids that I typically recommend for those hotter dryer locations: *Dendrobium speciosum*, *Eulophia petersii* and *Ansellia africana*. These species are fully adapted to hot dry, climates such as San Diego. While these are not the only plants that flourish in these conditions, these are three readily available choices for local orchid growers. All three orchids mentioned here still require protection from low temperatures, but with the right care, they will thrive in higher temperatures.

Casa de las Orquideas

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Phone and Fax: (858) 755-7572
Email: casa@orquideas.com



Dendrobium speciosum (flowers)
CC BY Moonlight0551, Australia

Dendrobium speciosum

Dendrobium speciosum is a very large orchid from Northern Australia. While it does require water while in growth, it is able to withstand high heat and relative dryness. These are large plants that can easily be 3 feet across and have hundreds of flowers in early spring. The floral display in late winter/ early spring is spectacular!

Dendrobium speciosum is well adapted for Southern California.

To be successful with this plant avoid overhead direct sun, and water and fertilize regularly with 1/8 strength orchid fertilizer, while the sheaths on the new growth are still green. This is a great plant to grow mounted near the base of trees or rocks.



Eulophia petersii (plant)
CC BY 2.0

Eulophia petersii

You would be forgiven if you have mistaken this African orchid for an agave or aloe. *Eulophia petersii* has thick, slightly spiny leaves that are a beautiful gray-green. Beautiful even out of flower, it is easy to see how this plant is adapted to grow in hot, dry locations. And that it does!

Though not very colorful, the flower spikes of *Euph. petersii* can grow to 5 feet tall and provide a very impressive presentation when flowering. Provide full sun and very little water, except when the plant is in full growth. In which case, water and light fertilizer are par for the course.

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Ansellia africana
Public Domain

Ansellia africana

Rounding out this trio is another delightful African orchid species: *Ansellia africana*.

Ansellia africana boasts robust, 1-3 foot tall pseudobulbs and numerous strap shaped leaves arising from the top half. While this plant might require a little more watering during hot spells, it is well worth it. The numerous, 2 inch across flowers form panicles that arise from the top of the pseudobulbs, and are cheerful yellow overlaid with dark brown leopard spots and stripes. This wonderful species has unusual roots that poke straight up, out of the growing medium. They have adapted to capturing

any nutrition they can get from leaf litter and debris which gets caught in.

Happy growing!

JJS

Orchid Dates to Remember:

September 1

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 1

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 2

Palomar Orchid Society Meeting

Society business at 4 PM; main program at 5 PM
First Wednesday of the month

Pine Avenue Community Center
3209 Harding St
Carlsbad, CA 92008

September 3

SDCOS Board Meeting

First Thursday of the month, 7 PM

Zoom; for an SDCOS member to request a meeting invite, email president@sdorchids.com

Board and General Meeting Minutes

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

president@sdorchids.com

September 5

SDCOS Species Study Group Meeting

Socializing 8:30 AM, meeting 9:00 AM

First Saturday of the month

info@sdorchids.com

September 11th- 13th

Andy's Orchids 2026 Fall Open House

734 Ocean View Ave.

Encinitas CA 92024

September 19th

Palomar Orchid Society Orchid Sale

10 AM to 2 PM

Dove Library, Gowland Room

1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad

October 24-25th

SDCOS Fall Show

Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

2026-2027 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 2027	Paolo Garcia
Director-at-Large, to 2028	Tracey Olson
Director at Large, to 2029	Sima Perkins
Past President	David Vandenbroek