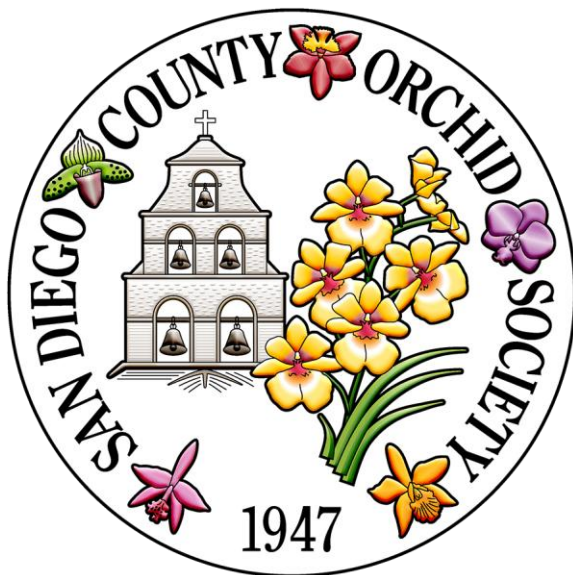




**San Diego County Orchid
Society Newsletter
Volume 328:
October 2026**

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***Paphiopedilum* Magic Lantern 'O'side's Raspberry Jam'**
**This orchid, exhibited by Tim Culbertson, earned an
 FCC with 91 points at September judging**

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President's Message

Hi everyone,

Well, we made it through the heat! Our orchids may be a little worse for wear—and sadly, a few did not survive the journey. We'd like to take a brief moment of silence for those we lost. They were beautiful, they were loved, and some of them were probably a little more dramatic than others.

For those still standing, cooler temperatures are finally here, and our survivors can take a deep breath, recover, and hopefully start showing us some beautiful blooms.

And the timing couldn't be better, because our October Orchid Show is coming up October 24th and 25th! We're looking forward to filling the show area with as many gorgeous blooming plants as possible, so start looking over your collection and thinking about which of your orchids might be ready for their moment in the spotlight.

And if the summer heat left a few empty spaces in your orchid family, don't worry—the sales area will provide plenty of opportunities to welcome a new family member (or three). We won't judge.

Here's to cooler days, happy orchids, and lots of blooms in October!

Barb McCubbin

SDCOS President

From the Editor

Hello everyone, look further in the newsletter for information on some great events from the society in October: the fall show and a repotting workshop. These are

both opportunities to learn more and enjoy orchids with fellow enthusiasts.

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



Lou Jost of Fundación EcoMinga, Ecuador, in his habitat

General Meeting, October 6, 7:30 PM.

Lou Jost:

Why are orchids so diverse? Clues from the distribution of Andean miniatures

Lou Jost will be the speaker at the SDCOS meeting on October 6. His topic will be "Why are orchids so diverse? Clues from the distribution of Andean miniatures." Lou describes his talk as "Orchids are the most diverse group of flowering plants. What factors control their distributions? There has been a lot of speculation and theorizing about this. For 30 years I lived in Ecuador, the world center of orchid diversity, and this was a good opportunity to look at how orchids were distributed. I did find some patterns that might give clues about the factors controlling their distributions."



Some *Lepanthes* orchids, much larger than life size!

Lou Jost was born in Wisconsin and did graduate work in physics at the University of Texas. After a couple of years of that, he fell in love with the tropics and spent the rest of his life working odd jobs to finance long trips to the forests of Mexico, Costa Rica, and eventually Ecuador where he settled down. He co-founded Fundación EcoMinga in 2006 to protect the orchids and other

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species that he discovered. During that time, he also revolutionized how ecologists quantify biodiversity, and fixed some foundational errors in population genetics, thanks to his training in mathematics. At present, in addition to his work with Fundación EcoMinga, Lou is working part-time as an orchid taxonomist at Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida, describing the many new species of orchids and other organisms he and his colleagues have discovered in Ecuador.

It is special pleasure to have Lou visit us because some of his early work on these subjects was partially financed by SDCOS Conservation Grants in 2000-2002 to support studies on the diversity and ecology of *Lepanthes* and *Teagueia* species near Baños in Ecuador. That work also led to the founding of Fundación EcoMinga in Ecuador. In the years since its founding, Fundación EcoMinga has grown to conserve approximately 50 square miles of pristine Ecuadoran orchid habitat, no mean feat.

Anyone wishing to have dinner with Lou Jost and me at the Prado in Balboa Park before his SDCOS presentation should contact me, Peter Tobias, via peterstobias1944@gmail.com. It's Dutch treat at 5:45 PM. Please let me know by Sunday, October 4. I will be making the dinner reservation Monday, October 5.



A mite house

Culture Class, October 6, 6:30 PM

Todd Ruth:

Breeding Predatory Mites to Fight Pests

This culture class focuses on general orchid Thrips, mites, and whiteflies are orchid pests that can be managed with predatory mites. This culture class will demonstrate creating a breeding environment from household recyclables (a glass salsa jar and plastic peanut butter jar) and a 2oz container of sphagnum moss. Starter populations on cotton rounds with pine pollen and 2oz containers will be provided. Save jars to use at home. (Additional pine pollen is available from Amazon for \$20 for a year's supply.) Note: Another predator (e.g. lacewing larvae) would be needed for larger pests, e.g. aphids, scale, or mealybugs, and such breeding is beyond the scope of this culture

class. Mites cannot be successfully combined with insecticides.

Todd Ruth is an engineer who became interested in orchids at the April 2025 SDCOS show. He lives downtown and enjoys tinkering with ways to grow Vandaeae and attempting flasking. He has been breeding mites since Feb 2026 to address thrips. He looks forward to seeing flowers from his first Phal. cross in 2027 and is especially excited about his *Vandaenopsis* seedlings.

Andy's Orchids.com

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News From Other Societies

On Wednesday October 7, Lou will deliver a related talk at the Palomar Orchid Society "Adventures in discovering, describing, and protecting new Andean orchid species. A personal tale of the trials and tribulations of an orchid fanatic."

Both talks come strongly recommended.

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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.

Orchids

October 24–25

Saturday Sales 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday Exhibit 12 p.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park
Near the Natural History Museum

Free Admission



Show and Sale
in the Park



sdorchids.com
San Diego County Orchid Society

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

Text and photographs by
Jeanie Anderson, AOS Photographer

There were 12 orchids presented for judging. Nine (9) orchids were awarded.

New: Images embedded in this document can also be downloaded from SmugMug – gallery link below:

<https://greenjeanie.smugmug.com/AOS-Awarded-Orchids-September-2026>

[1] ***Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Valerie's Charm 'Magnifique'**
HCC/AOS
Exhibited by Fred Clarke
Awarded Highly Commended Certificate, 79 points



[2] ***Bulbophyllum* Karen Lewis 'Bravo Orchids'**
AM/AOS
Exhibited by William Tse
Awarded Award of Merit, 80 points



[3] ***Cattleya itambana* 'SVO Sunshine'**
AM/AOS
Exhibited by Fred Clarke
Awarded Award of Merit, 83 points



[4] **Unregistered *Cattleya* Penny Kuroda x *Sophrolaeliocattleya* Katherine Clarkson 'Sunset Valley Orchids'**
AM/AOS
Exhibited by Fred Clarke
Awarded Award of Merit, 80 points



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[5] ***Paphiopedilum sukhakulii* 'O'side's Wings'**

AM/AOS

Exhibited by Tim Culbertson

Awarded Award of Merit, 80 points

[6] ***Paphiopedilum sukhakulii f. aureum* 'O'side's Apalite'**

AM/AOS

Exhibited by Tim Culbertson

Awarded Award of Merit, 81 points

[7] ***Paphiopedilum* Magic Lantern 'O'side's Raspberry Jam'**

FCC/AOS

Exhibited by Tim Culbertson

Awarded First Class Certificate, 91 points

[8] ***Paphiopedilum violascens* 'O'side's Spectacular'**

AM/AOS

Exhibited by Tim Culbertson

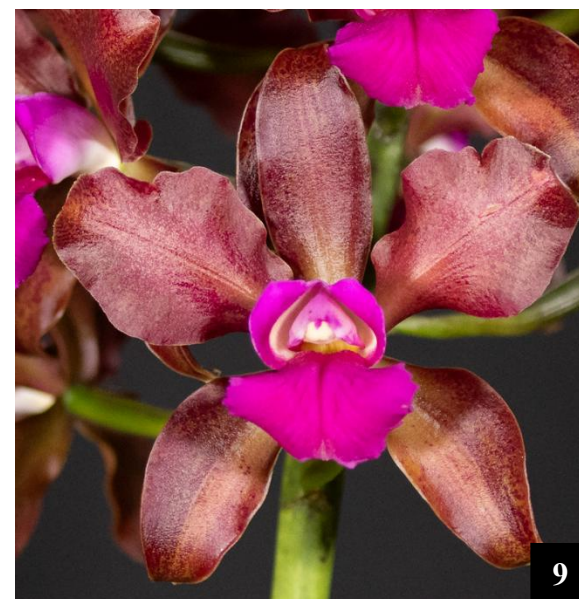
Awarded Award of Merit, 85 points

[9] ***Cattleya* Izzy Mahler 'Bravo Orchids'**

FCC/AOS

Exhibited by William Tse

Awarded First Class Certificate, 90 points



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Other Orchid Activities

Plant Registration for the October Show

Pam Peters, Ribbon Judging Chair

You can register your plants online (preferred method) early in the week by emailing your Registration Form (found on sdorchids.com) to Debby Halliday at debhallid@gmail.com. Debby will have your printed registration tags at the registration desk Friday, October 23rd afternoon.

You can also register in person Friday (preferred) from 2:00 – 7:00 or Saturday Oct 24th morning from 8:00 – 9:00.

Judging of Plants & Awards

SDCOS judges orchids on a merit basis, not competitive. We reward our members for entering plants. A Best of Section orchid will be selected from each Section. Out of these Best of Section plants, the judges will pick one for **Best of Show**.

The judges will also award one (any) orchid for the **Forrest Robinson Cultural Award**. This plant will be vigorous and healthy, have a high flower count, good presentation, clean, and be pest free. **Cultural Excellence** ribbons may be given to a plant that is particularly well grown and has a large number of flowers. The judges will also award one Species orchid for the **Siv Garrod Most Unusual Species Award**. **People's Choice Award** will be given to the orchid that receives the most nominations from the public.

What Makes a Winning Orchid?

1. Quality of flowers: Flowers should be symmetrical in shape and size, with good texture and substance, have clear and pleasing colors, and a generous number of blooms.
2. Condition of flowers: Flowers should be in peak condition, with at least half the buds fresh, unblemished and fully open. The plant should be staked for pleasant presentation.
3. Number of flowers: Keeping in mind what you can expect from this particular hybrid or species, there should be a generous number of blooms.
4. Plant/leaves/roots/mix: The plant should appear healthy and well-grown, pest-free, and well-groomed. The leaves and container must be clean. Dead bulbs should be removed, and absolutely no mealy bugs, scale, or aphids, etc.

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Fall Potting Workshop

We are having our fall potting workshop on October 10, 2026 at Ben Machado's house. This is a great time for repotting your plants! Don't miss this opportunity. As always, we'll have a dividing and potting demonstration followed by time to work on your own plants. There should be plenty of friendly, experienced members on hand to help you.

We will meet at **9 am** for potluck breakfast and then get to work. It is a morning schedule again because our work area will be in the shade then. The SDC Orchid Society will provide medium and a range of pots. We will also supply scissors, labels, stakes, gloves, etc., so you only need to bring your plants. For best results they should be showing new root growth. That will ensure that they take off and grow immediately with minimum transplant shock.

We are asking for a nominal fee of \$5 per plant to cover the supplies you use. Ben will also have a few other items on hand for sale if you need them.

Please bring a breakfast dish to share. We'll provide coffee and utensils. You are invited to enjoy the breakfast and conversation and take a tour of Ben's greenhouse and growing space before or after the workshop.

Here are the details. We ask that you sign up in advance so that we can have a place for you to work and enough supplies. Here is the link for online signup:

volunteersignup.org/9AR7P

Date: Saturday, October 10, 2026

Time: 9 am -12:30 pm

Address: Home of Ben and Susie Machado

See previous email for the address

Cost: \$5.00 per plant

Our workshops are really fun. Our participants always learn something and walk away with a new confidence in their ability to care for orchids. It's also a great place to meet some of the other members of the club in a very relaxed and friendly setting.

NOTE – as always, you don't have to be a new member to come. If this session interests you, go ahead and sign up. You'll be welcome.

Questions?

John Snyder

mini39@cox.net

**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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Orchid Dates to Remember:

October 1

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

October 3

SDCOS Species Study Group Meeting

Socializing 8:30 AM, meeting 9:00 AM

First Saturday of the month

info@sdorchids.com

October 6

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

October 6

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

October 7

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

October 10

Fall Potting Workshop

9 AM -12:30 PM

Home of Ben and Susie Machado

See previous email for the address

\$5.00 per plant

October 24-25

SDCOS Fall Show

Saturday Sales 10 AM – 5 PM

Saturday Exhibit 12 PM – 5 PM

Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

Casa del Prado, Room 101 Balboa Park

2026-2027 Officers

President	Barbara McCubbin
Co-1st Vice President	Peter Tobias
& Co-2nd Vice President	& John Snyder
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 Vandebroek