San Diego County Orchid Society Newsletter Volume 329: November 2026

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***Cattleya* Barbara Tague (Formerly *Laelia*)**
A primary hybrid between *C. praestans* x *C. alaorii*
Grown outdoors by the newsletter editor

Alert: Look Out for Email Scams!

Watch out! One of our members received an email that looked convincingly like another member requesting money in order to be reimbursed. The letter included names of members and officers of the San Diego County Orchid Society in a seemingly appropriate context. The message appeared to be a plausible request. At a glance the email appeared legitimate.

Please read the name and email address carefully. You can even check the email against our members list. When in doubt, contact the message sender with another means of communication using contact info you have used before to confirm.

Scammers want you to feel rushed and to keep you isolated so you act before you think. Instead, if you receive an email asking for money slow down, think, and talk to someone to see if it makes sense. Always be suspicious about requests to transfer money or provide your financial info.

Unfortunately our society is not the only one being targeted by this kind of scam, so stay vigilant.

President's Message

Hi everyone!

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful fall show and came home with a few new treasures for your orchid collections. I certainly did. There's always room for just one more orchid, right?

As we head into November, I'm hoping our mild weather sticks around a little longer and gives us all a chance to enjoy our beautiful blooms before the cooler days arrive.

Wishing everyone a wonderful November, happy growing, and plenty of blooms!

Barb McCubbin

SDCOS President

From the Editor

Hello everyone,

There were lots of great plants in the Fall show and stay tuned to see a few of them in next month's newsletter.

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, November 3, 7:30 PM.
Carlos Lopez:
The Four Seasons of Cattleyas

Jose Carlos Lopez is an accredited American Orchid Society judge who has been cultivating orchids for over 14 years. His orchid venture began at thirteen years old when he started following his father to work at Sunset Valley Orchids. Before he knew it, he was volunteering at the nursery—helping clean orchid flasks, repotting orchids, and doing small tasks. Carlos eventually became more involved in the nursery's operations and maintenance, and he began participating in orchid shows. He is currently the manager of Sunset Valley Orchids and has years of experience with *Cattleya*, *Catasetum*, Australian *Dendrobium*, and *Sarcochilus*.

As always, anyone wishing to join our speaker for dinner at the Prado in Balboa Park should let Peter Tobias (peterstobias1944@gmail.com) know on or before Monday November 2 so that he can make the necessary table reservation.



Jose Carlos Lopez, manager of Sunset Valley Orchids

Culture Class, November 3, 6:30 PM
Ron Kaufmann:
Going Viral?

Our culture class speaker in November will be Ron Kaufmann, chair of the SDCOS Conservation Committee and a founding director of the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Ron has been growing (and killing) orchids for nearly three decades. His presentation titled "Going Viral?" will discuss orchid viruses and how these can affect your orchid collection.

Ron has a long-standing interest in conservation and has been a member of the SDCOS Conservation Committee for more than 25 years and chair since 2004. Since 1991, the Conservation Committee has awarded over $334,000 to support projects in 26 different countries. Ron also helped to found the Orchid Conservation Alliance and serves on the boards of the American Orchid Society, OCA, and Orchid Digest.

A marine biologist by training, Ron's scientific work includes studies of Antarctic and deep-sea ecosystems as well as marine communities in coastal Southern California. His orchid collection began with a reedstem *Epidendrum* and progressed to a diverse collection that contains mostly species orchids.

Ron grows orchids in a 36 x 24 foot greenhouse and several outdoor shade-covered areas around his house in San Diego. Friends have suggested that he build a second, much larger greenhouse to accommodate the many plants that often make walking through his greenhouse an exercise requiring extensive training in gymnastics and yoga to avoid serious injury. Thus far, this recommendation hasn't been followed, although the temptation is always there.

News From Other Societies

On Wednesday November 4, Carlos will also be speaking at the Palomar Orchid Society where his topic will be "Bifoliate Coerulea *Cattleyas*."

Open Volunteer Positions
David Vandenbroek, Past 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.



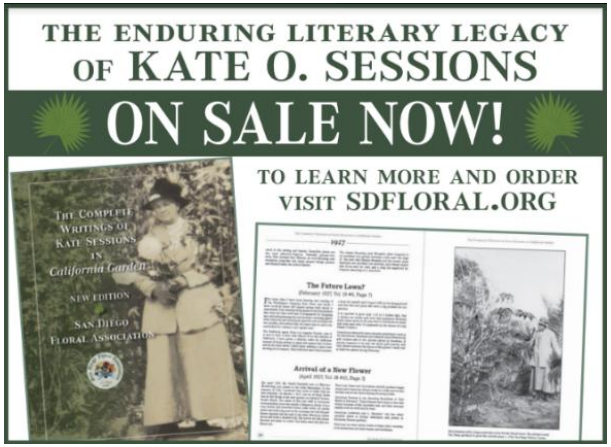
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Judging at the San Diego Judging Center (Casa del Prado, Balboa Park), October, 2026 ~ Member Meeting

Text and photographs by
Jeanie Anderson, AOS Photographer

No orchids received awards at the October member meeting judging. Check back next month for all the awards given out at our October show.



SDCOS Conservation Grant Awardees 2026

Ron Kaufmann, SDCOS Conservation Committee Chair

The SDCOS Conservation Committee met on October 3 to evaluate applications from a number of people and organizations. After careful consideration, the Committee recommended the following four grants for funding. All of these recommendations were approved by the SDCOS board on October 8.

A vote of the membership is required for society expenditures in excess of $750, and a motion to approve these four awards will be made at the monthly General Meeting on Tuesday, November 3. If you have any questions about these applications or the review or approval process, please contact Ron Kaufmann (rkaufmann@gmail.com).

1. *Mycorrhizal Fungi of Orchids from Orchid Island, Taiwan: Applications in Species Reintroduction and Ecosystem Restoration.* Submitted by Emily Jefferson, Florida International University. Lanyu, also known as Orchid Island, is a tropical volcanic island off the coast of Taiwan. Its unique ecosystem is home to 65 species of orchids; unfortunately, 34 of these are endangered and in need of conservation efforts. An orchid reintroduction program has been initiated by the Dr. Cecilia Koo Botanical Conservation Center (KBCC), a Taiwanese non-governmental organization for tropical plant conservation. The orchids being targeted for this effort are *Vanda lamellata*, *Dendrobium goldschmidtianum*, and *Tuberolabium kotoense*. The goal of this project is to investigate the communities of orchid mycorrhizal fungi (OMF) associated with Orchid Island's *Vanda lamellata*, *Dendrobium goldschmidtianum*, and *Tuberolabium kotoense*, and the role of these OMF in relation to the orchids' spatial distribution. The results of this project will be used to improve cultivation techniques and inform future reintroduction efforts. Total amount recommended = $3,618

2. *Using the Roots of a Congener to Conserve a Genus.* Submitted by Samuel Monger and Jason Ligon, Atlanta Botanical Garden. The genus *Isotria* contains only two species: large whorled pogonia (*I. verticillata*) and small whorled pogonia (*I. medeoloides*). The conservation status of *Isotrea verticillata* is considered to be globally secure, but it ranges from vulnerable in Georgia to critically imperiled throughout much of its range. The federally threatened *I. medeoloides* ranges from imperiled or critically imperiled to possibly/presumed extirpated across its distribution. Exacerbating the extinction risk, a symbiotic germination protocol does not exist for either species. This project will examine orchid mycorrhizal associations in *I. verticillata* as a proxy for understanding similar associations in *I. medeoloides*, which cannot be sampled directly due to its threatened conservation status. Results from this project will be used to reduce the extinction risk of *Isotria* by taking the initial steps toward developing symbiotic germination protocols for both species. Total amount recommended = $3,736

3. *Ecological Assessment and Community-Led Conservation of the Endangered* Dactylorhiza hatagirea *in the Eastern Himalayas, Nepal.* Submitted by Tujin Rai, Nature Conservation and Study Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal. The Himalayas, a global biodiversity hotspot, are experiencing rapid environmental change, which is altering species distributions, weakening ecological stability, and threatening high-altitude

specialists. In Nepal, orchids face mounting pressures from habitat loss, unsustainable harvesting, and climate-driven changes. Among these, *Dactylorhiza hatagirea* is one of the most threatened species. This high-elevation terrestrial medicinal orchid is endemic to the Hindu-Kush Himalayan region and occurs patchily in alpine and subalpine pastures from 2800–4200 m. *D. hatagirea* is highly valued in traditional medicine for treating ailments ranging from digestive disorders to diabetes and has recently been recognized for its anticancer potential. Its high demand in national and international markets contributes to overharvesting, placing wild populations under severe pressure. The goals of this project are to document community knowledge, harvesting behavior, socio-economic drivers, and attitudes toward the conservation of *D. hatagirea* to guide future conservation planning; conduct field surveys to gather baseline ecological data on population density, distribution, and ecological factors of importance to this species; engage local communities, fostering local stewardship and support for conservation; and raise public awareness and understanding of the species' ecological importance and legal protections. Total amount recommended = $4,694

4. *Safeguarding the Orchids of Ilam: Assessing Diversity, Habitat, and Trade Risks for Conservation.* Submitted by Bhakta Bahadur Raskoti, Nature Research and Conservation Initiative, Banke, Nepal. Nepal is home to more than 500 orchid species, and wild orchids historically have been collected for ornamental, medicinal, and commercial purposes, which collectively represent a significant conservation threat. Orchids are distributed unevenly across the landscape, and conservation decisions require information on where orchids occur, which species are present, population status, habitat associations, and the pressures affecting individual populations. Ilam district extends from approximately 140-3,636 m elevation, and the resulting environmental heterogeneity makes Ilam well suited for establishing an orchid conservation baseline. An initial study documented 40 orchid species within approximately 5 km², including a remarkable endemic species *Habenaria sandiegoensis*, named in honor of the San Diego County Orchid Society, which funded the research that led to its discovery. In this area, deforestation and ornamental overexploitation have been identified as major threats to orchid populations. The main goal of this project is to establish a conservation baseline for orchids in Ilam district by assessing orchid diversity, population status, habitat associations, and collection and trade risks. This information will be used to identify priority orchid species, populations, and habitats and to guide future conservation action. Total amount recommended = $3,700



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Orchid Dates to Remember:

November 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

November 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

November 4
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

November 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

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

November 7
SDCOS Species Study Group Meeting
Socializing 8:30 AM, meeting 9:00 AM
First Saturday of the month
info@sdorchids.com

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 Vandenbroek

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