

President John Reyes  
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2nd Vice Pres. Open  
Secretary Marylyn Paulsen  
Membership Marilyn Wallan  
Treasurer Elaine Murphy  
Auction Mong Noiboonsook  
Ribbon Judging Open  
Hospitality Open  
Newsletter Russ Nichols  
Website John McCoy  
Library Open



**Regular Meeting Schedule**  
Doors open at 6:30 pm  
Table/chair setup, plants in place  
Ribbon judging starts at 7:00 pm  
Culture session  
Speaker starts at 7:30 pm  
Opportunity drawing  
Table/chair teardown  
Doors close at 9:30 pm

# South Coast Orchid Society

**\*\*\*70 Years of Orchid Excellence\*\*\***

Newsletter

Founded in 1950

January 2020

## **Orchids at The Huntington: Past, Present, and Future presented by Brandon Tam Monday, January 27, 2020**

**Presentation starts at 7:30 p.m.**

Brandon Tam is passionate about his career as the Orchid Collection Specialist at The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California.

Brandon's grandmother first introduced him to orchids when he was seven by giving him a white cymbidium. He volunteered at the Huntington during high school, and when he graduated at age 16, Dr. James Folsom, Director of the Botanical Gardens, offered Brandon a full-time position as the Orchid Collection Specialist. Brandon has managed the collection for the past ten years. While working with Dr. Folsom to reinvigorate the Huntington's orchid collection, Brandon attended California State University Polytechnic, Pomona, and earned his Bachelor of Science in Plant Science degree in 2015.

Brandon now oversees one of the largest orchid collections in the United States, which has grown from 2000 to over 10,000 plants in the past ten years. The Huntington's orchid collection is housed in over 26,000 square feet of growing area, which includes the Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory and three collection greenhouses, dedicated specifically for tropical plants. He also oversees the Huntington's 50 *Amorphophallus titanum*s (better known as the "Corpse flower"), and has successfully bloomed six since 2014.

Brandon is in charge of the annual Huntington International Orchid Show, which he inaugurated in 2015, and was in charge of hosting the annual meeting of the American Orchid Society at the Huntington in 2016.

Under Brandon's direction, The Huntington has won over 100 awards from the American Orchid Society (AOS) within the last three years, which includes five First Class Certificates and three Certificates of Cultural Excellence. At the AOS Fall 2016 Members Meeting, The Huntington received The Merritt W. Huntington Award, which gives international recognition for the "Most

Outstanding Orchid” in the year of 2015 for Paphiopedilum micranthum ‘Huntington’s Perfection’ FCC/AOS. In 2016, The Huntington received not just one, but two AOS Special Annual Awards! Lycaste consobrina ‘Huntington’s Finest’ AM-CCE/AOS received the Butterworth Award which goes to the grower of the plant exhibiting the finest orchid culture. It also received the Benjamin C. Berliner award which is given to most outstanding example of the genus Lycaste or its closely allied genera. At the time of judging, it had a total of 287 flowers and 7 buds.

In Brandon’s spare time, he loves to travel, and of course...EAT! He joined Harold Koopowitz and others on a trek in Ecuador led by Pepe Portilla, where the group saw many wild orchids and focused on the study of Selenipedium aequinoctiale. Additionally, Brandon was elected as Trustee of the American Orchid Society, for a three-year term, which started March 2018.

### Refreshments

Last names starting with **A through H** please bring refreshments.

### **President's Message**

Happy New Year to everyone! We finished our year with a small but spirited Christmas meeting on December 16th. We had music, plenty of food and dessert which we shared with Ruby from LB parks and the AOS judges. All our members took home Pointsettia plants to brighten up their homes. After dinner Arthur Pinkers presented a slide show of all the AOS awarded orchids from various SoCal shows as well as those from our judging center at Whaley Park. His slide show included several of our members awarded plants. We finished the evening with a lively gift exchange. Thanks to all our members who came and helped us setup making the party a big success.

Dr Phil Plocher, a lifetime member of SCOS, passed away on December 1, 2019, Phil was 92. For those who didn't know Phil, he was a kind and gentle man as well as one of the finest orchid growers in our society. He served as an SCOS officer and board member. He also shared his orchid collection and knowledge with all our members, I still have divisions from Phil's plants. Phil took me in when I got hooked on orchids. We became great friends and he and I participated in his other passion which was long range sportfishing. We put a lot of tuna on the decks of long range sportfishing boats in San Diego. I will miss him but I am happy he finally gets to join his loving wife Gwen.

John Reyes, President

### **Reminder: Dues are due for 2020**

Time to pay up. But hey, its just \$20. I know, one less orchid for your collection, but look at all you get: 12 meetings per year with refreshments and an outstanding orchid display, 12 wonderful newsletters [does that give you a hint about who is writing this reminder?], a silent auction and a plant table raffle offering beautiful plants, and an annual auction with a vast array of different hybrids, genera, and species. Add in all your old friends and enthusiasts, and we offer a great way to spend an evening.

### **SCOS Roadtrip to The Huntington 2020**

Brandon Tam has offered SCOS members and spouses an exclusive behind the scenes tour of the orchid growing areas at The Huntington. Mark the date on your calendars: Saturday, February 8, 2020. We have enjoyed this experience once before, in April 2013, so it seems fair to say it is a rare as well as wonderful opportunity.

Parking is free. Meet in front of the visitor's center and admissions booth by 9:30 AM but DON'T buy a ticket! Brandon will escort us past security to the Botanical Center, a short walk. The tour lasts around 2 hours. Contact John McCoy ([realmac@aol.com](mailto:realmac@aol.com), 562-423-4962) if you need additional information on the tour.

### **Greenhouses at The Huntington**



Huntington Greenhouse



Brandon among the Orchids

### **Upcoming Events**

See our website for flyers: [www.southcoastorchidsociety.com](http://www.southcoastorchidsociety.com).

Orange County Orchid Society Annual Auction, Yorba Linda, Jan. 15, 2020, 6:30 Preview

Newport Harbor Orchid Society Orchid Expo, Westminster Mall, Feb. 7-9

Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, Santa Barbara, Earl Warren Showgrounds, March 13-15

Cal-Orchid Open House, Santa Barbara, March 13-15

Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House, Santa Barbara, March 13-15

**Our February 2020 regularly scheduled meeting date is February 24, 2019**

## Meeting Location

The South Coast Orchid Society holds monthly meetings, usually on the fourth Monday of the calendar month, at the Whaley Park Community Center in Long Beach, CA. Whaley Park is on Atherton, just off Bellflower Blvd. near the Long Beach State University campus.

## Vendor Sponsors

**The South Coast Orchid Society thanks these commercial vendors for their generosity and support of our 2019 Annual Auction and other events helping to carry us through a successful 2020.**

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