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Directors-at-Large:
Espie Quinn (2026)
Desica Ingagiola (2027)
Dean Shoffeitt (2028)
Eva Von Huff (2028)



Regular Meeting Schedule
Doors open at 6:30 pm
Meeting begins 7:00 pm
Culture session
Speaker starts at 7:30 pm
Opportunity drawing
Doors close at 9:30 pm
Committees: Auction - John McCoy. Ribbon Judging - Bill MacCorkell. Hospitality – Open. Newsletter – Open. Website - John McCoy. Library - Open

South Coast Orchid Society

76th Year of Orchid Excellence

Newsletter

Founded in 1950

August 2026



Peter Lin Brassavola Species and Their Hybrids

—
Monday, August 24, 2026

Brassavola species are important in their own right for any orchid collection, but they are also widely used in creating spectacular hybrids in the Cattleya alliance. They usually have a strong fragrance at night (typical of white flowers from many plant families). What are their cultural needs? Which ones are likely to perform best for us? Peter has the answers!



Newsletter Editor: Russ Nichols has retired from a very long run as newsletter editor. John McCoy is filling in for now, but we still need to find a permanent newsletter editor. Currently, the newsletter is composed in Microsoft Word. The editor will receive input from board members about the schedule, program, ribbon judging results and photos, as well as

covering any developments of interest to our members. The newsletter is then converted to PDF format and distributed via email, a process now managed by Don Goss. Contact any board member to volunteer for this important position!

July meeting report: Doug Overstreet encouraged us to think about pests in our orchid collections in new ways. What can we do in our growing area to keep pests from becoming a serious problem? What can we do to keep our pest control measures from poisoning our gardens and ourselves? What biological controls make sense for our individual situations? Some pests are relatively easy, others are extremely persistent, but just about all of them have a long part of their life cycle that is invisible! Pests are such an important part of the orchid hobby, in fact, that we have started a **Pest of the Month** series in this newsletter, see below for the August installment.

Ribbon Judging: Bill Maccorkell is taking a couple months off. Mong Noibooksoon has stepped up to keep ribbon judging going until Bill can return. At the July meeting, ribbon judging went smoothly, thanks to Mong and his dedicated team. The plants on display were extremely diverse! In fact, our meetings have become a free orchid show. Donna Ballard's comment: "Where's judging when you need it?" The list of winners is only a small sample of what turned up! **Request from the ribbon judging team:** *Please try to have your plants in place and labeled by 6:45 PM!*

Shows and Sales: •Friday-Sunday, September 11-13, [Andy's Orchids](#) fall open house, 734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas, CA. •For more events, watch the [Orchid Events Calendar](#) at fascinationoforchids.com!

Breaking News: Our **Director-at-Large Dean Shoffeitt** has accepted the position of President of the [Newport Harbor Orchid Society](#) for the next term, starting with his installation at the Society's annual banquet on July 21. Every orchid club is a challenge; we are grateful for Dean's many continuing contributions to SCOS.

Having a heat wave, a tropical heat wave: For about the last 5-6 weeks, Long Beach has experienced unusual heat and humidity. So hot, in fact, that the night temperatures have become a stress for many of the orchids we grow. "Warm" growers such as many Vandas, *Dendrobium bigibbum*, *Cattleya violacea*, and others – all from low elevation areas where the night temperatures rarely dip below 65-70° F – will feel right at home, but most of the hybrid Cattleyas, Cymbidiums, and so many others come from "intermediate" climates where the night temperatures are at least 5-10° lower. Shade, frequent watering, and good ventilation can help minimize the damage.

About gardening in the heat: Many products we use in our gardens come with warnings against using them in hot and/or dry conditions. That includes anything we are likely to spray on our plants (except water) and in some cases also powders or granules. *When in doubt, wait for cooler weather*, or apply sprays in the coolest part of the day. Oil products that are intended to coat or suffocate pests definitely fall into this category and should be avoided in hot weather.

A simple off-the-shelf misting system: Last year, our remodeling crew had spotted a simple misting kit at Home Depot, intended for cooling a patio, as seen frequently in Palm Springs: a simple string of 20 misting nozzles designed to attach to a garden hose. It's on Amazon, *Bonviee 59FT Misters for Outside Patio*. We tried it out in our outdoor growing area, about 12' x 20' under a clear tarp, the sides mostly bird netting. We attached it to a short garden hose, in turn attached to a simple battery-powered hose timer with three "cycles", so the misting comes on for about 6 minutes three times during the afternoon. We attached the nozzles to the overhead supports from which many mounted plants and baskets are hanging, so that everything gets nicely doused in a fine mist. Some tinkering was involved, and we wanted more nozzles, so we got second kit and used the pieces to extend the original set-up. You could construct your own kit from widely available pieces: ¼" tubing (used in drip irrigation systems), a pressure reducer fitting where the system attaches the garden hose, and misting nozzles, but the combination in this kit has the advantage of convenience and availability. In fact, the product information on Amazon includes ideas about other ways of configuring the parts for custom applications. With proper adjustment, the mist produces significant cooling, and provides enough moisture for most mounted plants. However, there is some dripping that could end up leaving some potted plants too wet. As with any irrigation system, the placement of the plants and the nozzles may have to be adjusted from time to time. For us, definitely an improvement!



OrchidWiz – the next act: The well-known "orchid encyclopedia" program for your home computer, OrchidWiz, has reached the next step in its evolution. Under new ownership, but with the founders still very much involved, it has migrated to the internet as orchidwiz.org, with a \$99 annual subscription fee, considerably less expensive than the previous versions, and with impressive new capabilities intended to support growers with large collections. Over the years, OrchidWiz has collected award information from almost everywhere

(except, unfortunately, the Orchid Digest awards program that was so important for SCOS until it was folded into AOS judging in 1968—maybe we can do something about that!), as well as an amazing collection of photos of species, hybrids, and cultivars from many sources.

July Meeting Ribbon Judging

Mong Noiboonsook led the Ribbon Judging team at the June meeting. Bill Maccorkell is taking a break for a couple months.

July 27, 2026 SCOS Ribbon Judging Results

GENUS	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE	JUDGES
POINTS	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	
CATTLEYA	C. leopoldii 'Dark One' x Ctt. Sagarik Wax 'Red Beauty', Dean Shoffeitt	Cattleya forbesii, Dean Shoffeitt	Rth. Ebon-Enchantment, Eva Von Huff	Desica Ingagiola
CYMBIDIUM	No entry	No entry	No entry	
DENDROBIUM	Den. macrophyllum, Dean Shoffeitt	Den. Kyle Quintal, Dean Shoffeitt	Den. densiflorum, Desica Ingagiola	Mong Noiboonsook
EPIDENDRUM	Prosthechea cochleata, Don Goss	Encyclia tampensis var. alba, Wes Hansen	Epidendrum NOID (orange), Mong Noiboonsook	Eva Von Huff
MAXILLARIEAE	Anguloa Almorah, Don Goss	Zygopetalum Jumpin' Jack, Espie Quinn	No entry	Dean Shoffeitt
ONCIDIUM	Oncidium Rusty, Espie Quinn	No entry	No entry	Dean Shoffeitt
PAPHIOPEDLIUM	Paph. St. Swithin, Don Goss	Paph. haynaldianum, Don Goss	Phrag. Fritz Schomburg, Don Goss	Mong Noiboonsook
PLEUROTHALLID	Masdevallia Elven Gem, Don Goss			
PHALAENOPSIS	Phalaenopsis NOID, Mong Noiboonsook	Phal. NOID, Dawn Dwyer	No entry	Carl Barry
VANDA	Vanda Kenneth Roberts, Desica Ingagiola	Vanda Omar Padron 'Indigo Blue Spots', Desica Ingagiola	Vanda Jairak Orange, Wes Hansen	Dean Shoffeitt
CULTURAL AWARD WINNER – 7 points	Den. macrophyllum, Dean Shoffeitt			Doug Overstreet



Ribbon Judging Photos from our July Meeting

Many thanks to Don Goss for the excellent photos – but this is only a small part of the incredible display that our members brought to the meeting!



Vanda Kenneth Roberts, grown by
Espie Quinn



Vanda Omar Padron 'Indigo Blue
Spots', grown by Desica Ingagiola



Renanthera Kasem Jumbo, grown by
Espie Quinn



Dendrobium macrophyllum, grown by
Dean Shoffeitt



C. leopoldii 'Dark One' x Ctt. Sagarik
Wax 'Red Beauty', grown by Dean
Shoffeitt



Anguloa Almorah, grown by
Don Goss



Masdevallia Elven Gem, grown by
Don Goss



Cattleya forbesii, grown by Dean Shoffeitt



Oncidium Rusty, grown by Espie Quinn



Phalaenopsis NOID, grown by Mong Noiboonsook



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, 5620 E. Atherton St. in Long Beach, CA. Whaley Park is on Atherton, just off Bellflower Blvd., near the Long Beach State University campus.

From SCOS Gardens:



Here's an excellent ***Gastrorchis*** grown by Dean Shoffeitt. We don't see many of these terrestrial Madagascar natives, generally growing in "intermediate" or "warm" conditions on the shady forest floor. The species ***francoisii*** seems to be the most cold tolerant; the real question is whether it can take the heat in our California climate. Flowers are around 1.5" across, very showy, on tall spikes.

Dean got the plant from Lourens Grobler, owner of Afri-Orchids, based in South Africa, who has been visiting the Cal-Orchid nursery in Goleta, CA during their annual "Summer Hummer" open house events.

There are hundreds of intriguing terrestrial orchid species in Africa, including Madagascar, most of them completely unknown in the US. Many need dry winters and abundant water during the summer, exactly backwards from our California climate, but some are definitely manageable, such as *Eulophia petersii*, which behaves like a succulent.

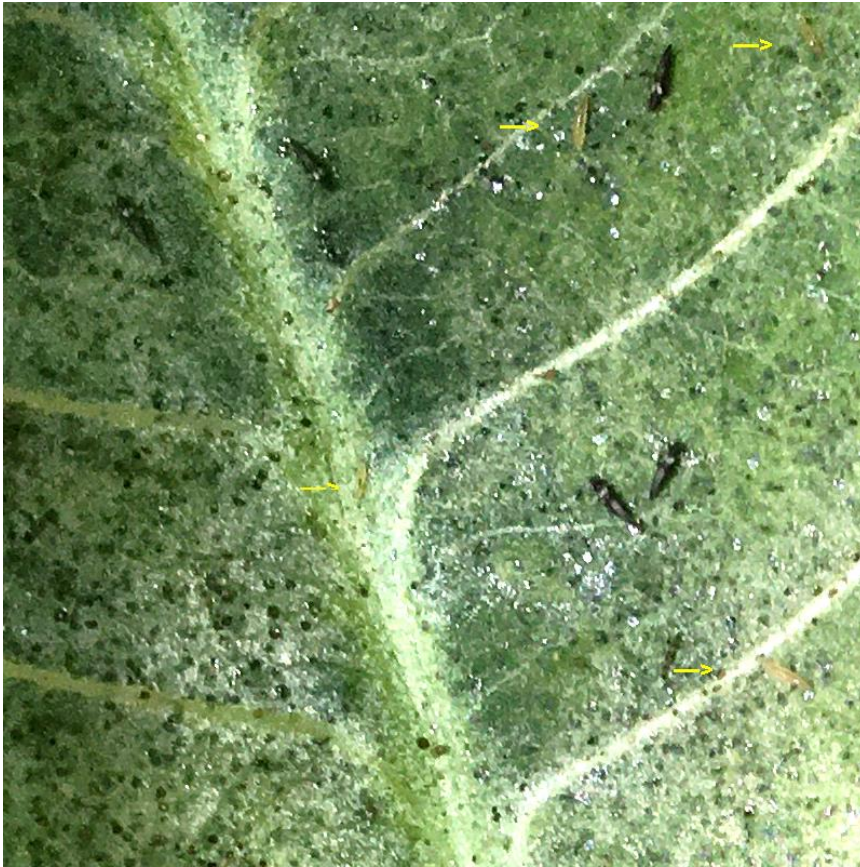
One of those "novelty" or "compact" Brassavola hybrids: **Rhyncho brassoleya (Rby.) Golden Tang**. The parentage is the well-known Rlc. Waikiki Gold, which has produced

many excellent hybrids with remarkable substance and sometimes outstanding fragrance too, crossed with the highly regarded Bc. Richard Mueller (B. nodosa x C. milleri), which tends to impart a nice spotted lip, with open, star-shaped flowers. In this case, the flowers are about 4½" across, although the plant seems weak. Flowers open rather pale but in a few days reach this deep golden shade and last well, even in the summer heat. Can we keep it going to reach its full potential?



Pest of the Month:

One Thrips, Two Thirps, Three Thrips, Four...



Thrips on a Plumeria leaf, note larval forms marked with arrows

The most interesting thing about thrips is that the word is the same in the singular and plural. *There is almost never just one thrips, anyway.* In fact, there is a whole taxonomic order of trips, Thysanoptera, with around 7,700 species, including some that are serious horticultural pests and vectors of plant viruses. Among them is an insect genus *Thrips*, from a Greek word θρίψ, meaning woodworm. There are many thrips species that can damage orchids, as well as some predatory thrips species that eat other thrips! Identification is difficult because these insects

are so small, the adults only around 1 millimeter long. Probably the most common species in our collections is likely to be ***Frankiniella occidentalis***, the **Western Flower Thrips**, which, as a result of botanical commerce, seems to have a world-wide following. However, very few of us are equipped to identify thrips species. We would have to enlist the help of an entomologist or agricultural extension agent. At least some plant viruses, especially those affecting commercial vegetables, can be transmitted by at least some thrips species. Whether thrips in our orchid collections are busily spreading orchid viruses probably needs more investigation, but it sounds likely!

Even if we can't be sure which thrips are eating our orchids, it doesn't matter much, because diagnosis and control are the same for all of them. The best way to detect thrips is to hold a white piece of paper under the plant, and tap the plant gently. Adult thirps will fall off and show up on the paper as tiny dark insects that move around, about 1 mm long and very narrow.

Like other insects, thrips go through a complicated life cycle. In this case, the eggs and larval forms live in or on plant tissue – orchid flower buds are often targeted – and adults for a time live also in the potting medium below the plants. Flower damage is what we usually notice, although thrips can also invade thin leaves as well.

How to control thrips? The first problem: their life cycle is short, maybe a couple weeks, so it will probably take a few cycles of insecticide for effective control. Biological control is feasible, either by predatory mites such as *Amblyseius* species and others, or the predatory nematode *Steinernema feltiae*. More information about biological control of thrips and their friends can be found on the internet. One of the major players in the biological control industry is [Bioline AgroSciences](#), a great source for information about biological control of thrips and other pests, but there are many others.

Biological control carries with it the problem of not killing off the beneficial bugs, worms, bacteria, etc. with the pesticides you may need for other purposes. Good thrips control is also possible with more traditional insecticides, but because the eggs and the first larval stage are in the plant tissue, often a flower bud, a systemic insecticide will probably be the more efficient choice. One that has developed a following in the “organic gardening” community is [AzaMax](#), a concentrate based on **azadirachtin**, a compound found in neem oil. There are several similar formulations, notably [AzaSol WSP](#), a water-soluble power, but the liquid concentrate, if available, is undoubtedly easier to handle, as there is no danger from dust. Prices for AzaMax 4 oz. average around \$30-\$40, especially popular with the hydroponics crowd. At around ½ tsp. in a 1 pint spray bottle, covering a full bench of orchids, that’s around \$1.00 per batch. Main mode of action is to prevent insects and mites from developing to the next stage of their life cycle, and it’s really effective!

Using neem oil as a substitute for azadirachtin is NOT RECOMMENDED, because neem oil can easily harm foliage and flowers. For thrips, ANY spray insecticide that is safe on plants is better than leaving the infestation untreated, including Espie’s home remedy in last month’s newsletter, or the popular [Home Defense](#) product by Ortho available at home improvement and garden stores. But for best results, look for a systemic insecticide or consider biological control.

Next month: *Anthrachnose, maybe, on Cymbidium leaves...*



Vendor Sponsors

The South Coast Orchid Society thanks these commercial vendors for their generosity and support of our continuing auction and other events over the years.

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