

President - John Reyes
1st Vice Pres. - John McCoy
2nd Vice Pres. - Don Goss
Secretary - Mong Noiboonsook
Membership - Dawn Dwyer
Treasurer - Elaine Murphy
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

October 2026

October 26, 2026

Program: Growers' Round Table

Our panel of experienced growers offers their views on how to succeed with orchids in Long Beach! After a short slide show reviewing the latest SoCal sales and shows, our panelists will discuss how they have adapted their homes and gardens to provide the right conditions for growing orchids, along with recommendations on where to find supplies and plants, automation, water quality, seasonal care, improving your orchid skills, best sources for information, and other topics. A great opportunity to discuss your orchid-related questions and needs! Sure to be on the agenda, the story of **Desica's marvelous Renanthera**, which won the cultural award at our September meeting and then survived the heat to win the second place trophy at the Huntington show!



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!

September meeting report: The theme was “warm-tolerant”! Tim Culbertson reported on his project of breeding Masdevallias that will grow and bloom in “normal” SoCal conditions, namely, warm weather. Their warm tolerance was seriously tested by a full week of shade-house temperatures in Vista on the order of 105°! The results to date are excellent: striking shapes and bright colors on compact, very floriferous plants that really do survive the heat! Even coming off a serious heat wave, the display of plants brought in by SCOS members for ribbon judging was remarkable, including a unique large-flowered “warm-tolerant” Cymbidium whose spike started growing during the hottest week of July. Our thanks to our warm-tolerant members who showed up for a most entertaining meeting.

Ribbon Judging: Bill Maccorkell is taking some time off. Mong Noibooksoon has stepped up to keep ribbon judging going until Bill can return. At the September 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. Mong provided the photos this month. 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!*** Also from the ribbon judging team, we’re closing in on the end of the year, with some impressive point totals going into the final two months. A healthy competition is underway, see below!

Shows and Sales: • [Cattleya Orchid Symposium](#), Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, at the Huntington, register for in person or virtual attendance. • For more events, watch the [Orchid Events Calendar](#) at fascinationoforchids.com!

Annual Election: Our [By-Laws](#) set out requirements for our annual election cycle. It’s time to get to work! Dawn Dwyer has agreed to head up the Nominating Committee. We need volunteers for all positions, including up to three “Directors-at-Large”. We already have great participation at the meetings for all the tasks that arise, including remarkably efficient ribbon judging, help with facilities and equipment, and general organization. Make it official: step up to help SCOS meet the future!

No Fascination Show this year: Roberta Fox reports that there will be no Fascination of Orchids show this year. The normal venue at the Santa Ana Zoo is not feasible due to major construction. However, the Fascination of Orchids club has posted a hint that future shows

will be INDOORS, which presumably means good lighting, air conditioning, and space for exhibits! Also, perhaps, less work involved in setting up the show. Over the years, the Fascination of Orchids shows have been an important meeting place for orchid lovers, professional growers, and a wide range of orchid plants. So much information exchanged, so many friendships blossoming! Since the show moved to the Santa Ana Zoo, admission has been *almost* free (discounted tickets) and everything has been easily accessible. We're hoping for a new chapter for this show!

A simple off-the-shelf misting system: This thing works! It has saved at least one orchid collection from succumbing to a nasty heat wave this year. 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, *Bonvieve 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. The materials we have collected for SCOS history (shown on our web site) include some items that should eventually make their way into OrchidWiz, including extensive slide collections from the families of Kay Francis (“the orchid lady of Pasadena”, creator of Lc. Prism Palette and others) and Carl and Imogene Keyes (famous for their paphs, odontoglossums, and many others), as well as our complete list of awards from the old Orchid Digest Corporation judging program 1949-1967!



September Meeting Ribbon Judging

Mong Noiboonsook led the Ribbon Judging team. Bill Maccorkell is taking a break.

September 28, 2026 SCOS Ribbon Judging Results

GENUS	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE	JUDGES
POINTS	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	
CATTLEYA	Cattleya bowringiana (coerulea) Dean Shoffeitt	Blc. Sunspots ‘Sandy’ x Lc. Allen Condo ‘Joe Grazaffi’ Una Yeh	Cattleya bowringiana Espie Quinn	Hoa Nguyễn
CYMBIDIUM	Cymbidium Inez Daparium Desica Ingagiola	Cymbidium NOID (a “warm tolerant hybrid”!) John McCoy		Dean Shoffeitt
DENDROBIUM	Dendrobium Hibiki Espie Quinn	Dendrobium secundum Desica Ingagiola		Dean Shoffeitt
EPIDENDRUM	Epidendrum Fuchsia Espie Quinn			Dean Shoffeitt
MAXILLARIEAE				
ONCIDIUM	Oncidium Don Bivin x Bouley Bay Espie Quinn	Tolumnia Jairak Rainbow Dean Shoffeitt	Oncidium Sharry Baby Desica Ingagiola	Mong Noiboonsook

PAPHIOPEDILUM	Paph Lynleigh Koopowitz Espie Quinn	Dean Shoffeitt
PHALAENOPSIS	No entry	
PLEUROTHALLID	No entry	
VANDA	Rhynchostylis retusa Renanthera monachica Hoa Nguyễn Desica Ingagiola	Dean Shoffeitt
MISCELLANEOUS	No entry	
CULTURAL AWARD WINNER -7 points	Renanthera monachica Desica Ingagiola	Tim Culbertson



Mong has been keeping track of the ribbon judging results. With only two months to go (no ribbon judging in December), the competition for the top score for 2026 is heating up! Here are the top five so far. Participation and the quality of the plants themselves have been outstanding, as has the efficient performance of the judging team. Congratulations all around!

	January	February	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total
Desica Ingagiola	6	18	0	35	22	9	0	19	109
Espie Quinn	13	14	9	0	19	8	13	21	97
Dean Shoffeitt		8	17	6	0	23	28	8	90
Don Goss	5	4	17	0	13	24	0	0	63
Hoa Nguyễn	16	8	0	0	11	0	4	5	44



Ribbon Judging Photos from our September Meeting

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

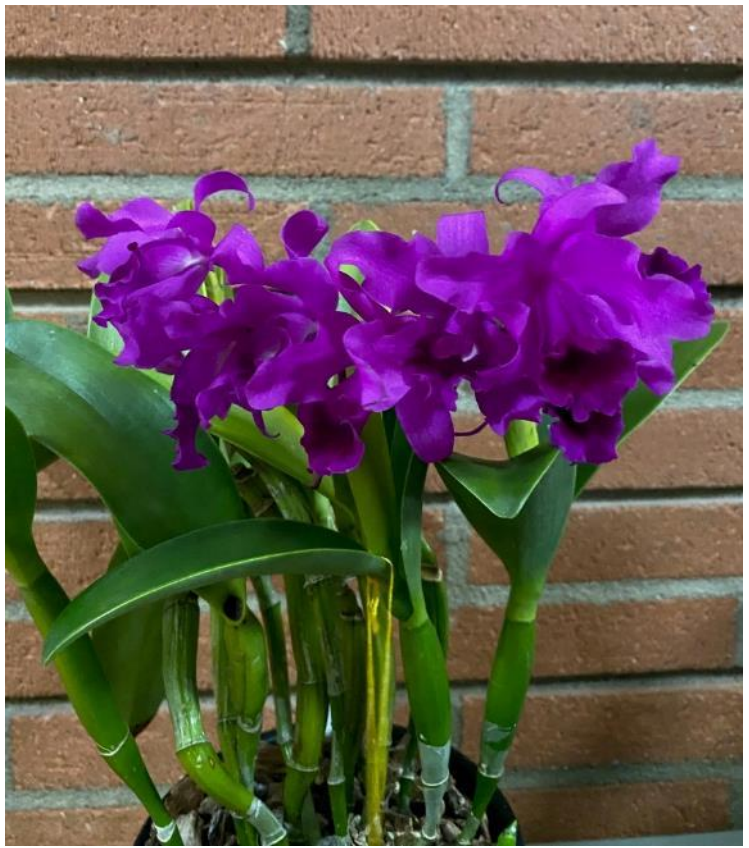
First, the Cultural Award, *Renanthera monachica*, grown by Desica Ingagiola. Ten days later, the same plant, included in the Newport Harbor Orchid Society exhibit, won the second place trophy at the Huntington International Orchid Show. This plant has accumulated a lot of miles!



Desica's amazing *Renanthera monachica*, at SCOS (left)
and at the Huntington show (right)



Guarianthe (Cattleya) bowringiana coerulea,
grown by Dean Shoffeitt



Guarianthe (Cattleya) bowringiana,
grown by Espie Quinn



Rlc. (Sunspots "Sandy" x C. Allen Condo "Joe
Grazaffi"), grown by Una Yeh. Really nice
example of a spotted Cattleya hybrid!



Cymbidium Inez Daparium,
grown by Desica Ingagiola



Cymbidium, unidentified – it was a raffle
plant about 10 years ago, clearly “warm-
tolerant”, because the spike started growing in
the middle of July! – grown by John McCoy



Dendrobium Hibiki, grown by Espie
Quinn. Everybody should have one of
these! They are easy to grow, and they
are in bloom for months at a time.



Dendrobium secundum,
grown by Desica Ingagiola



Epidendrum Fuchsia, grown by Espie Quinn



Brassia hybrid, not sure we got the
right label, grown by Espie Quinn



Tolumnia Jairak Rainbow,
grown by Dean Shoffeitt



Oncidium Sharry Baby,
grown by Desica Ingagiola



Paphiopedilium Lynleigh Koopowitz, grown
by Espie Quinn



Rhynchostylis retusa, grown by Hoa Nguyễn



Cattleya Orpetii, grown by Dean Shoffeitt



Vanda tessellata alba x vietnamica,
grown by Una Yeh



Not sure whose this is, or what it is! Let us
know if it's yours!

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.

Pest of the Month: Slugs and Snails



Some of us grew up with enormous slugs, in several disgusting colors, in the Pacific Northwest. The idea that the slugs and snails we find in our orchid pots are “giant” or even “intimidating” is laughable, but we fully understand what these little pests may be doing to orchid roots, and even to buds and flowers, mostly during the night.

There have been several proposals to control them, including leaving **apple or potato slices** on the surface of the medium at night, then harvesting and disposing of any slugs or snails found feeding on the slices first thing in the morning, or **trapping and drowning them in little saucers of beer**, or treatment with

metaldehyde “baits” or “drenches” (granular formulation **“That’s It Snail Bait”** may be the easiest to use), or **“Sluggo”, a safe and somewhat effective bait that looks like little pieces of pasta**, containing an iron phosphate that gives these pests fatal indigestion, and even a promising **“heat treatment”** based on the observation that your average orchid can withstand a bath in hot water that will kill the unsuspecting molluscs.

In addition, given the warning labels on the insecticides we use, that they may be harmful to “aquatic life”, you might think that those insecticides would be effective against slugs and snails. However, field testing shows that the

permitted insecticides are not particularly effective against soil-dwelling molluscs, and agricultural fields may actually experience increased slug and snail damage after insecticide treatments, because the insect predators that normally control them have also been killed off. What can we do?

The first step is to detect and then to identify any slugs or snails that may be damaging your plants.

As far as we know, the slugs we are likely to find in our orchid pots, hiding in any damp place, under the pot, within the pot, or lurking nearby, regardless of species, are essentially all the same: they are all disgusting and they all eat tender leaves, roots, buds, flowers, etc.

The same is not true of snails. There are “helpful” snails that eat other snails as well as other pests (you can buy “decollate snails”, they are permitted in Southern California!), and there are harmful snails, especially the tiny “bush snails” (*Zonitoides arboreus*, called “bush snails” by orchid growers, but they are also known as “quick gloss snails”—see the illustration, above), rarely even ¼” across, and generally much smaller.

You are most likely to see slugs when you look closely at your pots (even empty ones that are stacked), and especially when you repot your orchids. Bush snails are most often noticed on new growths in the morning. Slug and snail control advice for gardeners usually mentions removing moisture, because these pests have to remain damp in order to survive. That won’t work for orchids, which generally need that damp environment. Also mentioned are diatomaceous earth, copper strips, and several other strategies that discourage but don’t eliminate these pests.

It may be helpful to separate detection from treatment. Applying apple slices and checking them the next morning may reveal the presence of slugs or snails, if you are out among your plants early enough. Knowing they are there is a start! But the ones that got away will be well fed!

For treatment, “Sluggo” is at least safe and somewhat effective, but we keep coming back to studies in Hawaii, which have continued to advance the possibilities of hot water control. A very interesting report turned up on the

internet: [Slug Control Efforts in Hawaii](#), a presentation from March, 2013, by Arnold H. Hara, University of Hawaii at Manoa, and Department of Plant and Environmental Protection Services, Hilo, Hawaii, publication date February 8, 2014. Not only has hot water at 113°F been shown to kill bush snails and other mollusc pests within 3 minutes, the same treatment has been adapted on a larger scale for imported agricultural products such as Christmas trees, exposed for 8 minutes to a hot shower at 118°F in a 24' insulated cargo container, eliminating all the slugs and snails, but with no damage visible on the trees themselves even 22 days later.

How does hot water treatment work for orchids? The idea is to make sure the orchid is well watered and as healthy as possible before treatment: a strong plant should be better able to withstand the stress of any heat treatment. Then, prepare a large vat of water, perhaps in a kitchen sink, between 113° and 118°, with a thermometer to monitor the temperature, and some extra hot water available in case the temperature falls during treatment. Drench the pot continuously or even submerge it for 5 minutes, then drain it and set it aside in a shaded place.

Clearly this is not a treatment for an entire collection, and it remains possible for bush snails to re-colonize a disinfected pot, but it seems like significant progress – something that kills off mollusc pests without killing the plants! The method has been tested on Cattleyas and Oncidium hybrids, but whether it is safe for other types of orchids is not clear. But from the experimental biology of the bush snail, it looks like 113°F for just 3 minutes should be sufficient to kill all of them, and most of the orchids we grow outdoors in Long Beach, having survived several heat waves already, should be able to survive another few degrees for a few minutes. In fact, some of our Long Beach plants in very bright locations may already have experienced sufficient heat to kill off most of their bush snails just in the first week of October! Proceed with caution, but hot water treatment for individual plants seems very promising.

There is also a parasitic nematode, *Phasmarhabditis hermaphrodita*, that can kill slugs and snails. It has been used in Europe for this purpose since 1994. However, it is essentially unavailable in the US due to the possibility that the strain developed in Europe (under the trade name Nemaslug!) could also disrupt

US native mollusc populations. It is possible that US native populations of *P. hermaphrodita* may eventually be developed and permitted for agricultural use, but for the moment, consider this nematode unavailable.

Next month: *Ant farms: Destructive insect pests cultivated by ants!*



Report from the Huntington Orchid Show & Sale, October 9-11, 2026

The theme this year was “Roots of Origin”, interpreted in various ways by the exhibitors. Given the extreme heat in the weeks leading up to the show, some



Riverside-San Bernardino Counties Orchid Society exhibit

of the exhibits were a bit thin compared with previous shows. However, the plants that showed up gave visitors an extraordinary display of orchid diversity.

Riverside-San Bernardino Counties Orchid Society, which meets monthly in Colton, presented a fine exhibit that seemed miraculous, considering the difficulties of rounding up suitable plants from growers scattered throughout the Inland Empire during a severe heat wave. Hard to beat their dedication!

Some plants we recognized from SCOS ribbon judging found their way into the enormous display of the Newport Harbor Orchid Society, including Desica Ingagiola's *Renanthera monachica* specimen. SCOS Director Dean Shoffeitt is now serving as President of NHOS. NHOS Vice-President Kira Jones gets special credit for overseeing the construction of an enormous structure that included moving parts and specimens ranging from grand to almost microscopic.

Orchid Society of Southern California, which has presided over so much SoCal orchid history since they were founded in 1940, included some nice local orchid history in their display, as well as excellent plants. San Fernando Valley Orchid Society took the orchid history to another level, displaying their plants against a



Newport Harbor Orchid Society exhibit

sort of tribute wall of the great orchid personalities, both from the distant past and from recent fond memory of the local growers we have lost.

The “commercial” exhibits included some outstanding plants. Joe Ambriz again created a remarkable exhibit drawing from his outstanding collection of Cattleyas and their hybrids, as well as the full range of “companion plants” from his “Kingdom of Plants” in Carpinteria.



Ambriz Kingdom of Plants exhibit



Among the specimens in the Sunset Valley Orchids exhibit, one really caught our attention: Cattleya Jerry Spencer 'Sangria Wine' (Green Emerald x Katherine Clarkson, Fred Clarke, 2018) snagged an AM/AOS for Carlos Lopez. The flowers are much larger than any spotted Cattleya we have seen (and larger than those of any other seedling from this cross), with deep red spots well distributed against a near-white background. Carlos says some crosses have already been made from this cultivar.

This year, the fall-blooming Cattleyas in the Huntington's own collection seem to have come into flower at just the right time, in spite of the heat, resulting in a wonderful display of *Guarianthe skinneri* and *bowringiana* specimens, as well as



Exhibit of fall-blooming Cattleya hybrids from the Huntington's collection



several different Ctt. Portia cultivars (with coerulea varieties as well) and the big purple Cattleyas. Given the size of the collection and the work involved in moving blooming plants where the public can view them, most of the

Huntington's orchids are probably fated to bloom in obscurity. This year, we had a rare opportunity to see some of the larger specimens in full bloom.



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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