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 | November 2026

Monday, November 16, 2026

Duy Nguyen: *Cymbidium devonianum* and Its Hybrids



Cym. Memoria Amelia Earhart, a *devonianum* hybrid

California, especially Santa Barbara, has long been known as the Cymbidium capital of the United States. The famous Santa Barbara International Orchid Show began in 1945 as the Santa Barbara Cymbidium Show, reflecting the importance of this beloved orchid genus. (How Signal Hill oil money revolutionized the Santa Barbara orchid industry!)



Duy has been a welcome presence at shows and sales for many years. He shared his story with us: "I started growing Cymbidiums when I came to the US in 2010. Along the way, I met Nenita Sorella (Sorella Orchids, Oxnard) and had the opportunity to work with her at many shows. In 2015, I met my mentor, Andy Easton, whose guidance helped

deepen my knowledge and shape my own breeding program. Among my favorite species is *Cymbidium devonianum*, a fascinating orchid that can be quite challenging to grow, but has produced many wonderful hybrids." Duy will explore the secrets of growing Cymbidiums, especially *devonianum*, techniques of hybridizing, and the exciting potential of the *devonianum* hybrids.

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 newletter 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!

October meeting report: What fun we had! We recruited a panel of expert growers from among our membership—Dean Shoffeitt, Desica Ingagiola, Espie Quinn, and Hoa Nguyễn—and asked them to describe their growing areas, water quality, and cultural practices. None of them had a ready-made orchid habitat. Modifications to house and garden were always necessary, and that always involved compromises and improvisations.



The discussion moved on to species versus hybrids, standard Cattleyas versus "compact" hybrids, providing for your plants while you are on vacation, and other topics. All the while, we were surrounded by an exceptional display of the best of fall-blooming orchids which somehow survived the summer heat waves.

Ribbon Judging: At the October meeting, ribbon judging went smoothly, thanks to Mong and his dedicated team. Against all odds, an amazing display of fall bloomers showed up for judging, including the beloved Cattleya hybrids of the season, such as the Portia, Porcia, and other *bowringiana* hybrids. **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 month. Any of the front-runners could win!

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, assisted by Eva Von Huff. 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!

Making a little money from your orchids: Since the early days of advice for home orchid growing, the suggestion was that you might make a little money from your orchid hobby by selling a few flowers or plants. Easier said than done! For one thing, the market for cut orchid flowers for corsages has almost disappeared, and they are now supplied, if you can find them at all, by large commercial growers. For SCOS, the Long Beach Parks Department does not allow "commercial activity" at our meetings or on park premises. That leaves just a couple options: First, we allow "**silent auction sales**" as a way of bringing in some cash for our treasury. You can bring in up to 4 plants and set them out for "**silent auction**" (the simple bidding form and the rules are on our web site). You can donate the entire sale price to SCOS, or your can keep up to 75% for yourself, at your discretion. Second, it is always possible for people of good will to agree among themselves, by word of mouth, to barter or sell plants or supplies as a private transaction.

October Meeting Ribbon Judging

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

October 26, 2026 SCOS Ribbon Judging Results

GENUS	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE	JUDGES
POINTS	**5 pts**	**3 pts**	**1 pt**	
CATTLEYA	Rlc. Lake Murray 'Mendenhall'	C. Hawaiian Wedding Song	C. deckeri	Eva Von Huff
	Dean Shoffeitt	Espie Quinn	Espie Quinn	
CYMBIDIUM	Cymbidium dayanum	Cym. Golden Vanguard (Golden Elf x Vanguard)		Desica Ingagiola
	Espie Quinn	Una Yeh		
DENDROBIUM	Dendrobium Enobi Purple 'Splash'	Dendrobium phalaenopsis		Dean Shoffeitt
	Eva Von Huff	Eva Von Huff		
EPIDENDRUM	Prosthechea garciana			Mong Noiboonsook
	Dean Shoffeitt			
MAXILLARIEAE				
ONCIDIUM	Oncidium Sharry Baby	Trichocentrum microchilum	Zelenkoa onusta (Oncidium onustum)	Desica Ingagiola
	Jerry Jensen	Dean Shoffeitt	Hoa Nguyễn	
PAPHIOPEDILUM	Phragmipedium Erik Young			Dean Shoffeitt
	Jerry Jensen			
PHALAENOPSIS	Phalaenopsis speciosa	Phalaenopsis Tzu Chiang Sapphire		Dean Shoffeitt
	Hoa Nguyễn	Hoa Nguyễn		
PLEUROTHALLID	Pleurothollis grobyi			Mong Noiboonsook
	Dean Shoffeitt			
VANDA	Vanda Kenneth Roberts (Paki x Suavia)	Vanda Princess Mikasa Pink	Vanda Wiwat Gordon 'NN'	Eva Von Huff
	Desica Ingagiola	Desica Ingagiola	Desica Ingagiola	
MISCELLANEOUS	Bulbophyllum Wilber Chang (echinolabium x carunculatum)	Stenoglottis Venus 'Jamboree'	Stenoglottis longifolia	Dean Shoffeitt
	Dawn Dwyer	Espie Quinn	Espie Quinn	
CULTURAL AWARD WINNER -7 points	C. Deckeri			John McCoy
	Espie Quinn			

Ribbon Judging is almost finished for 2026! Mong has been keeping track of the ribbon judging results. With only one month 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	October	Total
Desica Ingagiola	6	18	0	35	22	9	0	19	9	118
Espie Quinn	13	14	9	0	19	8	13	21	20	117
Dean Shoffeitt		8	17	6	0	23	28	8	18	108
Don Goss	5	4	17	0	13	24	0	0	0	63
Hoa Nguyễn	16	8	0	0	11	0	4	5	9	53

Ribbon Judging Photos from our October Meeting



It's the season for fall-blooming Cattleyas! The *bowringiana* hybrids, especially Portia and Porcia, give us clouds of medium-sized flowers in lavender and "coerulea" (as close to blue as a Cattleya can be). *C. labiata* also blooms in response to shorter days, usually in purple or white, but in the 1950's, as the result of a carefully planned breeding program, additional colors were interbred with labiata hybrids to create a whole series of "controllable Cattleyas" to support the needs of the cut flower industry—by adding extra light at night, flowering of these hybrids in many colors could be delayed so that the flowers could be scheduled for any desired data, right up through Mother's Day! Today we can find fall-blooming Cattleyas in many sizes and colors.



Rlc. Lake Murray ‘Mendenhall’, grown by Hoa Nguyễn. One of the great lavender Cattleyas, registered by Carter & Holmes in 1986, this cultivar awarded AM/AOS in 1991.



Cattleya Hawaiian Wedding Song, grown by Sepie Quinn



Cattleya deckeri, grown by Espie Quinn, originally from a division from Paul Brecht



Cattleya Dinard ‘Blue Heaven’, grown by Hoa Nguyễn. Registered as Lc. Dinard in 1930 by Charlesworth, Ltd., England, but no awards for any cultivar until 1991, although it was the parent of many purples in the 1940’s and ‘50’s. Where the blue cultivar ‘Blue Heaven’ came from, we don’t know—perhaps it was just a lucky mutation, or maybe the hybrid was re-made? ‘Blue Heaven’ was awarded AM/AOS in 2001 (Hausermann, Illinois Orchid Society show, Glencoe, IL). An apparently identical cultivar ‘Veronica’ got an FCC/AOS in 2016 in Colombia. About the most vivid “blue” Cattleya you will ever see!



Cymbidium Golden Vanguard (left) grown by Una Yeh and Cymbidium dayanum (right) grown by Espie Quinn. It’s just the beginning of Cymbidium season. So far, the “standard” Cymbidiums are barely beginning to think about sending up spikes. Golden Vanguard is one of the roughly 100 early-blooming novelty offspring from the famous Cym. Golden Elf, originated by Paul Gripp and then registered in 1978 by Rod McLellan Co. Cym. dayanum is a miniature that comes in many color forms, still not widely used in hybridization.



Dendrobium phalaenopsis (left), and Dendrobium Enobi Purple ‘Splash’ (right), both grown by Eva Von Huff.



Oncidium Sharry Baby, grown by Jerry Jensen



Two unusual Phalaenopsis grown by Hoa Nguyen: Phal. speciosa (left) and Phal. Tzu Chiang Sapphire (right).



Phragmipedium Erik Young,
grown by Jerry Jensen



Pleurothallis grobyi,
grown by Dean Shoffeitt



Rlc. Jessie Lee ‘Hawaii’ (Hawaiian Thrill x Marlene Lundquist). Really nice! Whose is it? Registered by Hawaii Hybrids in 2016, apparently no AOS awards yet.



Stenoglottis longifolia,
grown by Espie Quinn



Vanda Kenneth Roberts,
grown by Desica Ingagiola



Vanda Princess Mikasa ‘Pink’,
grown by Desica Ingagiola



Yes, Vandas do grow outdoors here, in this case in Lakewood!

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:
Ant Farms among the Orchids



The photo: Argentine ant tending or "farming" a scale insect. Eeew! Whether glass or plastic "ant farms" are children's toys or educational aids, orchid growers have their own version: Ants can colonize our gardens, benches, and individual pots, and bring with them an amazing variety of other harmful insects that they have

domesticated. The ants are the "farmers", and their "livestock" can include aphids, mealybugs, scale, and probably other pests. While the concept of insects domesticated and farmed by other insects is fascinating in itself, orchid growers will want to be rid of both the farmers and their livestock.

There are many species of ants in our area that can engage in farming, but by far the most common is the Argentine Ant, an introduced species that is now found throughout California and nearly worldwide. Argentine Ants, accidentally introduced here in the distant past, probably from a cargo ship, are extremely adaptable. They do not quarrel among themselves, and it is suspected that all of them in our area descend from a single ancestral colony. Each colony can have multiple queens, without any arguments about the royal succession, and those queens and their followers can set out independently to seek their fortunes anywhere in your orchid collection, or in your house (including inside the walls).

"Farming" other insects is only one of their food sources. Any insect livestock they are farming is usually not too far from their colonies, on a tender stem or new growth, in the form of a colony, often just out of sight, of some insect that doesn't move very far and which secretes a sweet nectar from the juices that it sucks out of your prized orchid. This is a partnership we want to discourage!

The first step is to track down the ant colony and get rid of it! A good spritz or some granules of almost any garden-safe insecticide will usually do the trick. Ortho Home Defense (easily available at Home Depot etc.) sprayed wherever you see the ants is effective, but for a larger infestation, Terro makes very effective "ant baits" (also easily found at Home Depot etc.) that can be deployed indoors and outdoors, especially effective when the colony lives underground, inside walls, or other places a spray can't reach. Another tried and true method, although sometimes very unpleasant, is to submerge the pot containing the ant colony in a big bucket or tub of water, which will send the ants scurrying for safety. You can actually see the larger queens among the refugees and give them special attention.

Once the ants are gone, it is usually easy to find and treat the small colonies of their "livestock".

As usual, it's up to you to read the labels for any insecticides you use, and be careful not to use any of them indoors or near "aquatic life" unless the label says it is safe to do so. Home Defense is one of the products that can be used indoors, but it would make sense to take the pots outdoors, spray them there, and let the spray dry out before you take them back inside.

(Ortho has other interesting products, including a new "Home Defense Mosquito Kill & Prevent" station, designed to lure and kill mosquitos from the common genera *Aedes* and *Culex*. It uses pyriproxyfen, an "insect growth regulator" (IGR) which prevents larva of mosquitos and other insects from developing into adults, plus spores of *Beauveria bassiana*, a fungus that can kill mosquitos within 9 days. Because these ingredients are contained within a bait station, they should not pose a danger to other insects, unless the bait station is, say, trashed by raccoons and the contents spread all over your yard. Even so, it is not safe for "fish and aquatic invertebrates", so use with care.)

Next month: Critters we have found in our orchid gardens.

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.

Agdia Elkhart, IN (800) 622-4342 www.agdia.com	**Andy's Orchids** Encinitas, CA (888) 514-2639 www.andysorchids.com
Cal-Orchid Santa Barbara, CA (805) 967-1312 www.calorchid.com	**Casa de Las Orquideas** Solana Beach, CA (858) 755-7572 www.orquideas.com
Diamond Orchids Diamond Bar, CA minicatt@yahoo.com	**Flori Culture** Carmichael, CA (800) 301-9009 www.flori-culture.com
Gallup & Stribling Carpinteria, CA (805) 684-1998 www.gallup-stribling.com	**Gublers Orchids** Landers, CA (760) 364-2282 www.Gublerorchids.com

Mundi Flora Cuenca, Ecuador 593(0)999310067 www.mundiflora.com	**Orchids Royale** Carpinteria, CA (805) 684-8066
Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Santa Barbara, CA (800) 553-3387 www.sborchid.com	**Sorella Orchids** Camarillo, CA (360) 607-9342
Sunset Valley Orchids Vista, CA (760) 639-6255 www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com	**Westerlay Orchids** Carpinteria, CA (805) 684-5411 www.westerlayorchids.com