



The INFLORESCENCE

“Orchids for Amateurs”

South Bay Orchid Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 3793

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www.SouthBayOrchidSociety.com

Our January 19, 2024 Guest Speaker will be Scott McGregor ‘Searching for Blue- A Study of Blue Color in Orchids, and Some Blue Orchids You Can Grow’

Scott McGregor has been growing orchids since he was twelve, when a neighbor gave him a plant. That plant had a short life, but the hook was set, and he found books and sources for orchid species while growing up in St. Louis. His collection has changed over time, living in different locations around the world, but has always centered around the more unusual species. Scott grows all his plants outdoors, without a greenhouse, just "adding some water and shade" to what nature provides in Southern California. He especially enjoys finding new species that grow well in our climate (many are far more adaptable than most people would believe), and now grows over 500 different orchid species, along with cloud forest companion plants such as Heliamphora and epiphytic Utricularia. He rarely uses chemical insecticides or fungicides, preferring fresh air, beneficial insects and our native tree frogs. Scott retired from the corporate world a few years ago and stays active on corporate boards and working with non-profit groups that promote science education for kids. He resides with his family in San Juan Capistrano, California.

January President's Message

By Marcia Bergen

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I hope you will be blessed with good health and happy blooming orchids in 2024.

Thank you to everyone that decorated and helped with set up and clean up for the pot luck party. It was beautiful, the food was great and plentiful, and best of all we were able to see some friendly faces that have been missing for a while. Congratulations to Bobby Ignacio for winning the specimen cattleya plant raffle.

For the next year, Braulio has been busy lining up guest speakers for our meetings. Please invite a friend to attend our meetings. See the last page of the newsletter for the list of upcoming orchid events that begin in February.

Recently I have been seeing articles on facebook about orchid care tips. Many seem to mention using garlic cloves for their antibacterial properties, parasite prevention, or as a fertilizer/growth stimulator for orchids. We will be looking into and trying some of their suggestions just to check it out.

<http://gardengrowthtips.com> (look under the house section for articles) mentions making a garlic infusion that is anti- bacterial and repels parasites. They recommend using a two liter bottle, four halved garlic cloves, and filling the bottle with water. Infuse the garlic in water for a day. Use the infusion to water the orchid plant and wipe the leaves.

<http://recipes-eng.top> had a short article on How to Save and Revive a Dying orchid with No Flowers and Dry Leaves (look under recipes for various articles on orchids)









American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.

Webinars:

January 3, 2024 AOS Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton 5:30 pm open to the public Ron McHatton answers your questions about all things orchid. Send your questions and pictures to Sandra Svoboda at greenhousechat@aos.org by January 1, 2024

Enroll at: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5499831264391779929>

January 23, 2024 Multifloral Paphiopedilums with Carol Klonowski 5:30 pm Join Carol Klonowski as she takes us on a tour of the various species and hybrids and what influences the breeding. **Members only**

Enroll at: <https://secure.aos.org/login?ReturnUrl=http://www.aos.org/all-about-orchids/webinars/member-only/multifloral-paphiopedilums-with-carol-klonowski.aspx>

American Orchid Society Monthly Checklist for January and February Written by Ned Nash and James Rose

<https://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/january-february-checklist.aspx>

Cattleya - Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

Cymbidium - We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

Lycaste - The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

Odontoglossums – Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using *Oncidium* and *Brassia*, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

Paphiopedilum – The standard *Paphiopedilum insigne*-derived hybrids, which are called 'bull dogs' and 'toads', are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

Phalaenopsis – Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

Zygopetalum – For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.



Cattleya trianae 'Mary Fennel' HCC/AOS is a good example of this winter blooming species.

In the fall *Phalaenopsis* should start initiating flower spikes. Inflorescences should be well developed by mid-January.



Our future membership meetings are held at the Palos Verdes Art Center

- January 19, 2024
- February 16, 2024
- March 16 & 17, 2024 SHOW

◇ General Meetings start 6:30 PM

The next board meeting will be January 23, 2024 7:00PM

Call 310-326-5405 for more Information



Palos Verdes Art Center 5504
Crestridge Rd.
Rancho Palos Verdes



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"The Inflorescence"
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Our Next Meeting will be January 19th, 2024 at 6:30 PM



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Upcoming Events:

February 16-18, 2024 Pacific Orchid Exposition

County Fair Building in Golden State Park,
San Francisco

<http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org>

**March 8 – 10, 2024 76th Santa Barbara International Orchid Show
Orchids – Floral Gems of Nature**

Earl Warren Show Grounds Admission \$20
General Admission, \$30 for 3 day pass

<http://sborchidshow.com>

March 16-17, 2024 South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale

Palos Verdes Art Center, 5504 Crestridge Rd.
Rancho Palos Verdes