



Speaker's Choice:
Den. delicatum
Grown by Braulio Mena

The INFLORESCENCE

“Orchids for Amateurs”

South Bay Orchid Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 3793

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www.SouthBayOrchidSociety.com

**Our May 17, 2024
Meeting will be an
Orchid Repotting
Workshop**

The May 17, 2024 meeting will be a hands-on repotting workshop. First, we will have a demonstration on how to properly prepare a plant to be moved into a new pot. The society will provide the cattleya plants, pots, and potting media (bark, perlite, etc). The cost will be \$20.00 per person. Members may also choose to repot one of their own orchids (bring your own pot) and just pay \$10 for the media. **Please sign up in advance at volunteersignup.org/KYF9P** so we will have enough supplies. Others may attend and observe during the meeting without participating in the repotting experience.

Please bring your own sanitized hand pruners, newspaper for covering the table, and disposable gloves. .



Max. procurrens
Grown by Braulio
Mena

Zygo. AGWA Kiwi
Gold Nugget
Grown by Larry
Bergen



MAY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Larry Bergen

Greetings, to all orchid enthusiasts. The April meeting was a very informative webinar on Viruses. This is a topic which is of extreme importance to all novice growers. If one of your plants has a virus, it can infect your entire collection. Last year I tested and threw out half of my cymbidium collection. It was very sad but necessary.

For our May meeting, we have an opportunity to learn how to repot. The society will provide the orchid, the medium, and the pot. You will learn how to remove your orchid from its existing pot. Then how to properly upsize to a new pot. You will be able to ask questions about repotting different varieties of orchids. The cost for this is \$20. Please bring your own disposable gloves, and sanitized hand pruner.

At this time of year, it is a great time to check for insects on your plants. I use Fertilome Triple Action spray for mine. I spray once every other week for six weeks. Make sure to cover the entire plant thoroughly. For scale, I use neem oil. I spray every week for six weeks. I just released lady bugs to control thrips.

You should be seeing new growth on your orchids. Take the time to stake and prepare them for the fall show. Let's make this show the best show ever.



Max. picta



Phal. Yaphon Gelacea (MC)



Vuyl. Celtic Sun 'Maya'



Phal. Feingmei 'Candy Love'



Cym. hookerianum
X Iorianum



Cym. Jacqueline Hatfield

Ribbon Judging Results for April, 2024

Speaker's Choice: Den. delicatum

Braulio Mena

Advanced Amateur

Cattleya:

1st Rlc. Golf Green 'Hair Pig'

Larry Bergen

2nd Pot. Spirit Flare 'SVO Flare' x
Slc. Crimson Dragon 'Velvet Splash'

Larry Bergen

3rd C. Intermedia 'alba'

David West

Cymbidium:

1st Cym. hookerianum x lorianum

Larry Bergen

2nd Cym. Jackqueline Hatfield #1703

David West

3rd Cym. Jackqueline Hatfield # 1703 (2023)

David West

Phalaenopsis:

1st Phal. Feingmei 'Candy Love'

Margaret Akashi

2nd Phal. Yaphon Gelacea (MC)

Rika Hayashi

3rd Phal. Chienlung Happy Queen 'Wilson'

Rika Hayashi

Dendrobium:

1st Den. delicatum

Braulio Mena

2nd Den. Mini Snowflake

Anna Parkhomenko

Other Genera:

1st Maxillaria picta

Jim Hoyle

2nd Vuyl. Celtic Sun 'Maya'

David West

3rd Epcts. gigantea

Braulio Mena.



Pot. Spirit Flare 'SVO Flaire'
X Slc. Crimson Dragon
'Velvet Splash'



Rlc. Golf Green 'Hair Pig'

DO YOU LOVE ORCHIDS? YES, YOU CAN GROW THEM!

While orchids do grow differently than roses, geraniums, and Dutch iris, there are just a few things you need to know to be successful at growing orchids. First, most of the orchids we grow are epiphytes, which mean that their roots need access to air. In the wild, many orchids grow in trees or on rocks where their roots are exposed. If you plant a Phalaenopsis in soil, it will die very quickly because the roots cannot breathe. This represents one of the biggest and most important differences among plant families that you need to understand. Now there are a few basic things we need to know to be successful orchid growers. It starts with buying the right kind of orchid for you.

Many people make the mistake of buying a small inexpensive plant. This is not a good strategy for learning to grow orchids. Orchids can store nutrients and move them when and where needed within the plant. If you buy the largest and healthiest plant you can afford, it gives the plant time to adjust to the new growing conditions and gives you time to learn how to care for it. The plant can take some abuse while the two of you get acquainted.



Cymbidiums (outdoors)

There are five simple things you need to know to be successful with orchids (besides what orchids grow in); these are, water, temperature, sunlight, fertilizer, and airflow. Water, temperature, and light are the more critical, so we'll start there.

EASY ALL-YEAR OUTDOOR ORCHIDS: Cymbidiums (Cym.), Dendrobiums (Den.), Cattleyas (C., L., Lc., Blc., Slc. Rlc.), Oncidiums (Onc.), Zygopetalum (Zygo.)

EASY INDOOR GROWERS: Phalaenopsis (Phal.)

Watering: Most Southern California water is adequate for the orchids I've listed above. So, you may water them right from the tap. Most orchids we buy are growing in either fir bark or sphagnum moss.

Growing in bark:

- Water early in the morning after breakfast.
- Water the mix in the pot, not the leaves. (It is OK for the leaves to get wet.)
- Water all around the pot to saturate all the bark.
- Water should stream out of the holes in the bottom of the pot.
- Watering frequency will vary depending on the time of year, temperature, humidity, growing media, size of plant and pot. During typical Southern California summers (and even our freak summer-like periods in the winter) you'll need to water twice a week. During the winter, once a week should be sufficient.

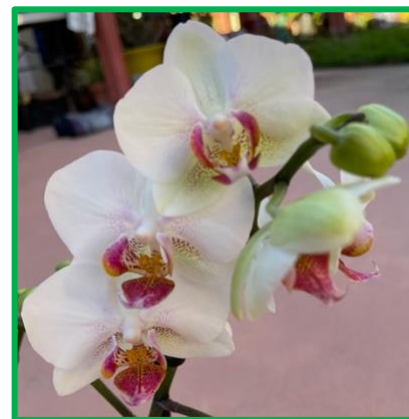
Growing in sphagnum moss:

Dig your finger down the inside edge of the pot (a couple of knuckles at least) and feel if it is still wet. When it begins to feel like it's getting dry, pour a few ounces of water on top of the moss. The moss acts like a sponge. You don't want to over saturate it and you don't want to let it dry out completely.

Orchids like humidity. If humidity is low, such as during a Santa Ana condition, you may need to water more frequently. If possible, misting the plants on dry days is also a good practice.

If you are not watering enough, Phalaenopsis leaves will not be smooth, they will appear dehydrated and sag. New leaves of Cymbidium, Oncidiums, and Zygopetalums will have "accordion" folds in their leaves.

Phalaenopsis (indoors)



If you water too frequently the roots will rot and the plant will not take up water and nutrients sufficient for good growth and blooming.

Watering don't's: Don't water in the late afternoon or evening. Don't let water sit in between the leaves at night. Watering in the morning provides enough time for any water sitting in between leaves to evaporate before nightfall.

AND, don't fill up a bucket and dunk each of your orchids one after another. This is how you can spread viruses from one orchid to another and there is no cure (except the trash can) for an orchid virus.



Zygopetalum (outdoors)

Temperature: Orchids listed above are in two groups. The outdoor group can handle Southern California weather all year with few exceptions. It must be frost-free. These groups are generally OK with nighttime temperatures down to 40°F and lower for brief periods. Warm growers, such as Phalaenopsis are OK down to a nighttime low of about 55°F. Orchids shut down and stop growing when they get too cold. Then it's easy for bacteria to set in and finish off your beautiful orchid. When temperatures go up, particularly with low humidity, orchids can overheat. Keeping them in shade, misting, and good airflow will help to cool your plants. When temperatures reach 90° or above start to watch more closely and start misting until the afternoon starts to cool down.

Sunlight: The indoor/outdoor groups have different light needs. The color of the leaves is a good indicator of proper light conditions. The color should be a medium to light green (or yellow-green). Indoor (Phalaenopsis) need lower-light shade. This makes them perfect for windows with filtered light. The outdoor

group likes brighter shade but can get sunburn if they get too much direct sun. Under a tree or under the eaves of your house may work well. The north side of your home may not provide enough light. If Phalaenopsis do not get enough light their leaves will be dark and new leaves will grow long and slender. If orchids do not get enough light, then they may never bloom.

Fertilizer: Simple. Use a water soluble "balanced" fertilizer. Look on the bottle or bag for numbers like 10-10-10 or 13-13-13. These numbers represent the three primary nutrients. Check the label for two other things (not essential, but good practice). The fertilizer should state that it contains "micronutrients." Next check the nitrogen. It is best if the nitrogen is not (or mostly not) all urea nitrogen. Urea nitrogen is not as available a food as other types of nitrogen.

Forget what the manufacturer states as a mixing ratio. Orchids are very efficient feeders, and it is very easy to over fertilize which is not healthy for your orchids. We have a saying: "weakly weekly." In other words, fertilize with a weak solution every week. If you are growing in bark and using 10-10-10 or 13-13-13 use one teaspoon per gallon of water. If you are growing in moss, cut that in half. If you are using 20-20-20 use ½ teaspoon per gallon. Water you plant first and give it about 30 minutes to absorb a bit of water before you fertilize. Fertilizing first can burn their roots.



Dendrobium (outdoors)

Airflow: Orchids take in carbon dioxide and give back oxygen. Good airflow promotes this healthy exchange which benefits the plant and the environment. Airflow helps to reduce the plant's temperature on hot days. Good airflow also accelerates the evaporation of water sitting in the leaves which can invite bacteria that may cause rot. It also reduces problems with pests or insects like scale and mealy bugs. It's likely that you have good airflow if your plants are outside under a tree. If your plants are inside, consider placing them near an open window or in a room with a fan.

To learn more: www.southbayorchidsociety.com

Article source: Arthur Hazboun's ORCHIDS-R-EASY

Photos: Elyn Meikle's garden



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.

Webinars:

May 9, 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 May 7, 2024
Enroll at: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3489269801461937760>

May 16, 2024 Take a Trip to Taiwan, the World Orchid Conference with Carol Klonowski 5:30 PM **Members Only**
Enroll at: <https://secure.aos.org/login?ReturnUrl=http://www.aos.org/all-about-orchids/webinars/member-only/take-a-trip-to-taiwan,-the-world-orchid-conference.aspx>

American Orchid Society Monthly Checklist for May and June *Written by Ned Nash and James Rose*

<https://www.aos.org/orchid-care/seasonal-orchid-care/monthly-checklist-for-may-and-june>

Bringing Back Meeting Refreshment Time

We would like to resume having refreshments at our monthly meetings. SBOS will supply coffee and water. Members are encouraged to bring in finger food type snacks that don't require plates or silverware. A raffle ticket will be given to those who bring in snack donations.



Welcome New Member!

We offer a warm welcome to our newest member: Sarah de Heras

Please be sure to meet and help our new member to feel welcomed to SBOS.

To our new members: When you come to the next meeting, stop by the membership desk to pick up your name badge and a new member package. We will include ten free plant table raffle tickets as our 'Thank You' for joining SBOS.

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

- April 19, 2024
- May 16, 2024
- June 21, 2024

◇ General Meetings start 6:30 PM

The next board meeting will be May 21, 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"
South Bay Orchid Society
c/o Marcy Bergen
23415 Juniper Ave.
Torrance, CA 90505

Our Next Meeting will be May 17, 2024



Phal. Chienlung
Happy Queen 'Wilson'

Holo. subulifolium X
Rhy. gigantea
Grown by Braulio Mena



Epcts. gigantea

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