

# The INFLORESCENCE

"Orchids for Amateurs"

South Bay Orchid Society, Inc.  
P.O. BOX 3793  
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[www.SouthBayOrchidSociety.com](http://www.SouthBayOrchidSociety.com)

Founded in July 1957

September 2011



Our Fall Show  
September 17 & 18, 2011  
South Coast Botanic Garden

## HOW TO SELECT THE BEST ORCHID TO BUY

Text & Photographs by Don Goss

It's fall orchid show season. Orchid shows are THE best place to buy orchids. Why? Because you buy directly from the orchid nurseries while at a show. The growers bring their orchids from their nurseries directly to you. Your newly found dream orchid is not trucked around and warehoused by folks that are not orchid experts. So the quality and variety is better AND, *this if very important*, you can ask the orchid nursery experts questions about the plants they are growing and selling and not people guessing just to satisfy you.

So, I want to set you up for getting the most for your money. I'm going to layout what you need to know to choose wisely. It doesn't matter if you live in an apartment, condo, or house. For instance, I live in a condo, have no yard and no greenhouse. I have different orchids in bloom all year long and they bloom year after year.

There are more orchids than any other blooming plant to choose from. So, I'm going to narrow it down to make it easy for you. So don't be put off by past experiences if

you've killed orchids. Lord knows all the experts have murdered their share. You may have just bought the wrong kind for where and how you wanted to display them. Orchids are uniquely different from roses, azaleas, hydrangeas, etc., in the way they live. In nature, most orchids, including the ones I'll be recommending, live in trees and not in soil. Orchids have a handful of basic needs and just like Rodney Dangerfield; they just want a little respect *for their needs*. (Continued on page 3)



*Cattleya Example*

## From the President's Desk

It's Show Time - Yes, this is the month for our Fall Show at the South Coast Botanic Garden on September 17-18. If you have never participated in any of our shows this is an excellent opportunity to learn and have fun at the same time. All we ask is a few hours of your time either on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. Our show hostesses, Kayo and Sue, will be very happy to sign you up for volunteering in various duties and capacities. We also need food to feed all our volunteers, helpers, and vendors.

Help the society by spreading the word about the show by passing out the flyers to your co-workers, friends, relatives, neighbors and anyone else you can think of. We're looking forward to a tremendous show and to make a real success, please bring in your blooming named Orchid plants on Friday September 16 and enter them for ribbon judging competition. There is a tremendous amount of information about our show on our website or just click this link to take you there:

[South Bay Orchid Society Fall Show and Sale](#)

Thanks to each board member who jumped in and helped out at the August meeting. I do apologize for not being there. Hopefully, I will be able to participate in a somewhat reduced capacity during the upcoming show and I'm looking forward to seeing each of you at the show.

Please note: There will not be a regular meeting on Friday September 16, this night will be our show setup time until 8 PM. So clean up your plants, bring them with you and lend a hand to support your society.

*Arthur Hazboun - President and Webmaster,  
SBOS, Inc.*

## South Bay Orchid Society Board

**President:** Arthur Hazboun.....310-995-1592  
*SPECIALORCHIDS AT SOUTHBAYORCHIDSOCIETY DOT COM*  
**1st Vice President:** Nick Braemer ..... 310-560-4384  
*ORCHIDNICK AT YAHOO DOT COM*  
**2nd Vice President:** Kayo Libiano..... 310-897-8085  
*KAYO AT LIBIANOCO DOT COM*  
**Treasurer:** Joe Woods.....310-641-0730  
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*LMJK AT EARTHLINK DOT NET*  
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*EEVASBOS AT VERIZON DOT NET*  
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**Webmaster:** Arthur Hazboun.....310-995-1592  
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**Directors:**  
Polly Kinsinger.....310-374-6471  
*KINSINGERS AT ROADRUNNER DOT COM*  
Don Goss ..... 310-316-3595  
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Tom Renger ..... 310-316-0707  
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**Director Emeritus:** Bob Streeter ..... 310-541-6692

## SBOS Committee Chairs

**Librarian:** Kayo Libiano ..... 310-897-8085  
**Raffle Tickets:** Lori Storm..... 310-320-0202  
**Refreshments:** June Brooks..... 310-549-4266  
And Joann Green ..... 310-830-1585  
**Ribbon Judging:** Polly Kinsinger ..... 310-374-6471  
**Property Manager:** Ron Henry ..... 310-374-9699  
**Meeting Set-up:** David Okihara ..... 310-324-3211  
**AOS Liaison:** Robert Streeter ..... 310-541-6692  
**Southland Representative:**  
Marilyn Hill ..... 310-675-0604  
**Sunshine:** Kathy West..... 310-643-8740  
**Publicity:** Don Goss ..... 310-316-3595

Newsletter submissions cut-off date is the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month for articles and photos to be included in that month's issue. Items presented after the 1<sup>st</sup> may be included in the following month's edition. We welcome all orchid related news and photographs submitted by email. No special formatting or editing is needed. Any questions, please call: Eeva @ 310.316.0707.

## HOW TO SELECT THE BEST ORCHID TO BUY (CONTINUED)

To grow and re-bloom successfully you'll need to learn what it is that orchids want and provide for those needs consistently. Orchid societies aren't for experts, they're for everyone. It was the best investment I made when I started. I strongly recommend you join a society nearest you.

Let's get into some dos and don'ts about choosing the right orchids for your home.

### Doomed Strategies for Buying Orchids

All too frequently, buying an orchid is an impulse buy. That's fine, but you'll do better with a little forethought. So I want to begin by examining what gets most people in trouble.

**#1 Doom** – Don't fall prey to picking anything just because it's pretty. This is not a successful strategy. Orchids need a somewhat specific environment; more on that later.

**#2 Doom** – "Since I don't know what I'm doing, I'll just buy this little guy. It's only a few dollars. If I kill it, I didn't lose much." Orchids are like us and grow up in stages. Seedlings (baby orchids) are cheap and like infants need a lot of supervision and proper care or they don't have a chance. Teenagers, well . . . they are getting a sense of things but still get in trouble. Adults have more experience and resources to draw on when they are in trouble. So, your best strategy is to buy the largest healthiest plant you can afford. Orchids go through an adjustment period when they are moved from one environment to another. An adult plant has far greater resources (stored nutrients) to weather your abuse 😊 while the two of you get acquainted and make the transition.

**#3 Doom** – "Oh, look at these bare-root plants. They look grown up and they're so cheap!" Bare root orchids are again like people – people on death row. Their roots are already dried up, unproductive and will not provide nutrients to the plant. So, unless you really know what you're doing and can bring them back from the brink of death, pass on these.

### A Successful Orchid Buying Strategy

Start by asking yourself some basic questions. These deal with temperature and light, two critical environmental needs that must be met for the plant to prosper and re-bloom each year.

- ◆ Do you want the plant to be indoors all year or indoors when it's blooming and outdoor the rest of the year?
- ◆ Where do you want to keep your orchid (North, South, East or Westside window or exterior side of your home)?
- ◆ If outdoors, do you have a shady place; eaves, a covered patio, under a tree or other indirect light location?
- ◆ If indoors, is it near an East, West or South facing window?

North light or in the middle of a room may be enough light for an orchid to grow but generally is insufficient for them to re-flower. Direct sunlight can burn and may kill your orchid quickly. Now that you've asked yourself these questions, review my short list of easy to grow orchids and decide what you'll be in search of while at the show.

*(Continued on page 4)*



*Epidendrum Example*

## HOW TO SELECT THE BEST ORCHID TO BUY (CONTINUED)



*Oncidium Example*

### **Easy all-year outdoor orchids**

Cattleyas (abbrev: C., L., Lc., Blc., Rlc., Slc. )

Epidendrums (abbrev: Epi.)

Oncidiums (abbrev: Onc.)

Zygopetalums (abbrev: Zygo.)

### **Easy indoor growers**

Phalaenopsis (abbrev: Phal.)

*I've included the abbreviations as this is what you'll find on the tags shoved into each pot.*



*Phalaenopsis Example*

### **What to Look for When Shopping**

First, a specific comment about Phalaenopsis or moth orchids. Look at the leaves. Are they wide, long, thick and smooth? Do they extend straight out or upward? If yes, these are good signs. If the leaves are limp, droopy and not smooth and plump, then pass. If you have several to choose from, select the one that has the biggest leaves AND the most pairs of leaves.



Second, and this is for all orchids, look at the roots if visible on top or through a clear pot. Some types of orchids have thin roots while others are thick. In either case, they should be plump, generally whitish with nice green tips. If all their roots are shriveled brownish or mushy ask to see another. If all the roots are missing their root tips it could be a sign of poor care or that the pot may contain miniature snails or slugs that love to dine on root tips. It's not uncommon to find a few dried roots on top. What we're interested in is the bulk of the roots and not a few exceptions.

*New  
Healthy  
Looking  
Roots*



## HOW TO SELECT THE BEST ORCHID TO BUY (CONTINUED)

Next, and this is for non-Phalaenopsis orchids, count the number of fully matured adult growths. Then count the number of new immature growths. The plant with the most of each wins this one. One more thing while you're looking at each growth; are they full and plump or are they grooved, wrinkled or shriveling? Fatter and plumper wins. And finally, to ensure you enjoy the flower for the



*Two healthy plants— the left one has 4 mature growths and 2 new growths. The plant on the right has 6 mature growths and 3 new growths.*

longest time, are all the flowers open? If they are all open you don't know if it's the plants first week or last week for blooming. I prefer to have some of them in bud, if that's a choice, and the plant meets all the previous criteria. If some are in bud you know it's early in the plant's flowering cycle and you'll enjoy them longer.

### **Now What . . .**

If all you have is a dozen or so orchids, it should be about a 20 minute Saturday hobby. So here's a short and **very incomplete answer** for what to do next.

1. Give them plenty of bright shade but not so much that they get sunburned. Leaves should look about lime green if they are getting the right amount of sun.
2. If they are planted in bark, flush large amounts of water through the pot about once a week,

more in warm summer months. If planted in moss, water lightly about every two weeks.

3. Water first before you fertilize. If in bark, fertilize with ½ strength fertilizer every two weeks with whatever fertilizer you have. If in moss, fertilize with ¼ strength fertilizer every two weeks. Orchids are very fertilizer efficient, so don't over do it.
4. Repot them every 1½ to 2 years in the same stuff they're growing in now. For good quality bark and moss, buy your supplies at orchid shows. I haven't had much luck with the quality of orchid mix sold by the chain stores and neighborhood nurseries. So, get it from the experts at orchid shows.

And, since orchids do not have a finite lifespan, how do we get them to re-bloom one or more times each year? I recommend you attend one of our "Orchids-R-Easy" classes while at our show. They run all weekend. And, my best advice is to join an orchid society. It's cheap and the advice and counseling is invaluable.

Happy Hunting,

*Don Goss*



*Zygopetalum Example*

## Judge's Corner by Polly Kinsinger

Thank you to Bob Streeter for handling Ribbon Judging for me while I was camping in the Sierra's. Congratulations to Nick Braemer for again taking the Speakers Choice award. Remember, that the speaker will choose his or her favorite plant from all of the plants in the room, so everyone is eligible.

If your collection is anything like mine, this time of year is when plants are growing more than they're blooming. It's a good time to clean out old blooms, cut dead spikes and be sure you pull those volunteer ferns and oxalis before they take over and spread to other plants. This warm dry weather can be tough on our plants, so be sure to pay extra attention to water requirements these next few weeks. Caring for your plants when they are not in bloom is what gets them to produce blue ribbon flowers later.

Please spend a little more time writing your white entry slips legibly. The reason we have you fill out those forms is so that we won't be messing around in your plant trying to pull out tags to get accurate spelling and so I can recognize awardees. So, please be sure to write legibly and fill in your name.

See you at the show.

*Polly Kinsinger*



### August 2011 Ribbon Judging Results Judging by Dr. Bob Streeter

#### Speaker's Choice:

Dracula cordoba Nick Braemer

#### Advanced Amateur

##### Cattleya

1 <sup>st</sup>	C. Hawaiian Wedding Song	Marla Corey
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Blc. Waianae Leopard 'Ching Hua'	Bobby Ignacio
3 <sup>rd</sup>	C. dabasa x L. anceps	Jasmine Bashi

##### Other Genera

1 <sup>st</sup>	Bllra. ? (can't read writing)	Jasmine Bashi
2 <sup>nd</sup>	V. Simirane x V. Dr. Aher	Bobby Ignacio
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Den. Roy Tokunaga	Bobby Ignacio

#### Amateur

##### Cattleya

1 <sup>st</sup>	Blc. Toshie Aoki 'Pizazz' AM/AOS	Kathy West
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Blc. Yen Corona 'Green Genie'	Fely Fernandez
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Blc. Waianae Leopard 'Ching Hua' HCC/AOS	Wilma Tawagon

##### Other Genera

1 <sup>st</sup>	Zygopetalum Unknown	Marilyn Camisa
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Epi. Hokulea 'Super Red' x Epi. Sun Valley 'Vulcan'	Jerri Larsson

See you at the show!

## Orchid Calendar 2011

### Our future membership meetings are

- ◆ **October 21** (3rd Friday)
- ◆ **November 18** (3rd Friday)
  
- ◆ **Culture sessions start 7pm**
- ◆ **General meetings start 8pm**  
**at the South Coast Botanic Garden**

### Next board meeting will be

- ◆ **September 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Call 310-995-1592 for more info

### **South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation Upcoming Events**

- ◆ Tram tours most Saturdays at 11am & 1pm
- ◆ September 12; Fuchsia Society, 9:30am
- ◆ September 12; Begonia Society, 6pm
- ◆ September 12; Calif Native Plant Society, 6pm
- ◆ September 13; Epiphyllum Society, 7pm
- ◆ September 15; Rose Society, 7pm
- ◆ September 24: PV Begonia Society Show & Sale, 9am
- ◆ September 25; Bonsai Society, 10am

For more information and verification of hours and events, visit their website [SCBG](http://SCBG) or call 310-544-1948.

## **Annual Fall Orchid Show and Sale September 17 & 18, 2011**

Our fall show is coming soon and planning is well underway. Vendors are signing up and publicity is getting out, but to make this show a success your society needs your help. We have members who have volunteered to be team leaders and they need you to sign up to work.

**Set-up:** Takes place on Friday morning before the show at 9:00. This involves setting up and arranging tables as well as draping of the display tables. We will also need people with trucks to help bring things from storage. Call Ron Henry at (310) 374-9699 or Larry Bergen (310) 326-5405.

**Host and Hostess:** People are needed throughout the show hours to talk to our guests and answer questions they may have. This position is also important for security. You need to make sure no one touches the plants or walks off with one. This position also includes the "plant hotel" table where people can check purchased plants, since they are not allowed in the judging area. Call Kayo Libiano (310) 897-8085 or Charlotte Morrison (310) 316-8193. (Sue is on vacation and Charlotte has agreed to help.)

**Food:** Lots of food is needed to feed our hungry volunteers and vendors throughout the show. If you are bringing food on Sunday, it needs to be there by 11:30 am. The ladies in the kitchen need

to know what food is coming to avoid making a last minute trip to get more food. Call Joann Green at (310) 830-1585.

**Take-down:** Will take place right after the show closes. We need everyone to pitch in and help to make this job go quickly. Again, Ron will need trucks to take things back to storage on Monday. Call Ron Henry at (310) 374-9699.

**Publicity:** Don Goss is in charge of publicity. Everyone can help by putting up posters and passing out flyers in their neighborhoods.

**Plant Registration:** Registration will take place on Friday in the auditorium beginning at 4:00pm and ending at 8:00pm. I hope everyone will bring in your blooming plants for judging. I have noticed that some of the best plants have been in the novice category so don't be shy about putting your plants in the show for ribbon judging. All we ask is they have been in your possession for a minimum of 3 months and be free of pests and disease. Volunteering a few hours of your time is a great way to get to know your fellow society members and we always have a good time. Call me if you have any questions about the show or the volunteer positions.

*Marla Corey, Show Chair*

**“The Inflorescence”**  
**South Bay Orchid Society**  
**c/o Eeva Renger**  
**438 Avenue E**  
**Redondo Beach, CA 90277-5141**

**OUR SHOW DATES ARE: September 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**Plant Registration and Setup: Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**

### **Upcoming Orchid Events**

**South Bay Orchid Society Fall Show and Sale**

September 17-18, 2011  
South Coast Botanic Garden  
26300 Crenshaw Blvd  
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274  
More Info:  
<http://southbayorchidsociety.com/Show/index.html>

**Fascination of Orchids Show and Sale**

September 24 - 25, 2011  
South Coast Plaza Village  
1631 W Sunflower (Sunflower & Bear)  
Santa Ana, CA 92704  
More Info: [Fascination Of Orchids Show](#)

**San Diego International Orchid Fair**

September 30 and October 1-2, 2011  
San Diego Botanic Garden  
San Diego, CA 90274  
More Info: <http://www.sdbgarden.org/orchid.htm>

**Southland Orchid Show Committee**

"Beauty and the Bees"  
October 14-16, 2011  
Huntington Library  
San Marino, CA 90274  
More Info: <http://www.orchidshow.org/>

**San Diego County Orchid Society Show and Sale**

October 22 - 23, 2011  
Casa del Prado Bldg, Room 101  
Balboa Park, San Diego, CA  
More Info: <http://sdorchids.com/shows.htm>

**South Coast Orchid Society Annual Auction**

October 24th, 2011 at 7:00pm  
Whaley Park Clubhouse  
5620 East Atherton St  
Long Beach, CA  
More Info: <http://southcoastorchidsociety.com/>