

# *Orange County Orchid Society*

September 2020





COVER: *Encyclia belizensis* var. *parviflora* (editor's choice), grown by Sharon Tanner.  
INSIDE COVER: *Den. miyakei* (aka *Den. victoria-reginae* v. *miyakei*), grown by Jan Hennessey.



# Orange County Orchid Society, Inc.

# RANGER

**September 2020**

Volume 74, Issue 9

**Zoom Speaker: Tom Mirenda**  
**Topic: The Big Island Orchid Scene!**

**Zoom Presentation Date**  
**September 16, 2020**

Set-Up and Connect ..... 6:30 PM  
Speaker..... 7:30 PM

Please see the email  
for details



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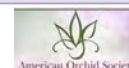
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in the e-edition only

If you are still getting the printed version,  
switch to the e-edition today, and see all the  
pages of beautiful flowers in full color.

Tom Mirenda has been cultivating plants since his early childhood and has created beauty with plants in botanic garden settings for more than half of his adult life. Originally trained as a marine biologist, Tom moved to Hawaii in his early 20s to pursue a marine biology career and worked on the trophic relationships of denizens of coral reefs in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands (Midway and French Frigate Shoals). There he realized he was better suited to horticultural pursuits and took positions at New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanical Garden, and at the incredible Greentree Estate in Long Island where he cared for a first-class orchid collection. During this time, Tom also was the floor manager of the legendary  
**Continued on p. 2**



### President's Message

Entering the sixth month since the start of the pandemic here in the US, things are getting to a "new normal" for some and just shelter in place for others. Thankfully we have our orchids to care for and sometimes talk to. This recent heat wave has not been easy on our lovely plants but I've managed to keep them cool with overhead watering three times a day and a swamp cooler.

Jan has had more difficulty with her orchids that are in the lath house as there is no swamp cooler. She just has a mister and overhead sprinklers.

On a sad note, long-time member Arlene Whitaker has passed away. Arlene was very active in OCOS for many years and an enthusiastic orchid grower. Candy spoke with her about six weeks ago. We will miss her upbeat and positive attitude.

We are still meeting via Zoom at least until January so be sure to tune in every third Wednesday at 7:00 PM. Jeff has lined up great speakers so far and we have had good turn outs. Invite friends to join us. Maybe we will get a few new members. (We have one new family so far, John and Leslie Kehoe from Fullerton.)

We have the Yorba Linda Community Center reserved for all of 2021. We have the option of canceling month to month depending on the Covid 19 vaccine's progress—or lack thereof—and the related infection rate. I am uncomfortable meeting until a vaccine is readily available, tested, and proven effective. I want all of us to be safe. On that note, please don't forget your annual flu shots. If you are a senior get the extra-strength shot. Be safe, wash your hands, and wear the mask.—President Fred

### Speaker, continued from p. 1

New York International Orchid Show. Eventually, Tom accepted the Orchid Collection Specialist position at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, where he cultivated and curated a huge, diverse orchid collection for 17 years. The collection was used to create massive four to five month long educational orchid exhibits displayed to literally millions of visitors each year.

For the past 14 years, Tom has contributed two monthly columns to the AOS *Orchids* magazine, and has developed an international following, as a writer, speaker, and advocate for orchid conservation around the world. Last year, Tom coauthored *The Book of Orchids* with two scientists from Kew and has done speaking tours in the UK for the last three summers. He also presented at the last three World Orchid Conferences and several IOCC and AOCs on conservation topics.

Tom was a founding member of the North American Orchid Conservation Center and continues his

support of orchids conservation there and around the world.

Last fall, Tom took a major gamble and left the security of his job with the Smithsonian to take a leadership position at the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden, an exceptionally beautiful jewel on the lush Hamakua coast just north of Hilo on the Big Island (aka the Orchid Island). What Tom found there was an orchid paradise where myriad spectacular orchids of all types, both lowland and montane species and hybrids, seem to thrive.

Ultimately, he believes that the concept of growing orchids in garden settings to be a viable model worldwide for orchid conservation. He encourages the ex-situ cultivation of orchids by diverse stakeholders in the orchid community and that it is only with the cooperation of botanical garden professionals, commercial growers, academia, committed orchid collectors, and backyard growers that orchids will survive the vicissitudes of climate change.

### New Members

John & Leslie Kehoe

Welcome to OCOS!

### January 2020 Auction

### Commercial Supporters

## Diamond Orchids

### Diamond Orchids

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### Mariposa Garden

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**Ribbon Judging Results  
August 2020 via Email**

Anne-Line Anderson and Tim Roby

**Vandacious**

- 1st Place..... Jim Wheeler
- 2nd Place .....Jan Hennessey
- 3rd Place .....Stella Son
- Culture ..... Janet Roberson

**Standard Cymbidium**

No entries

**Laelia Tribe (Large)**

- 1st Place..... Jim Wheeler
- 2nd Place ..... Jim Wheeler
- 3rd Place ..... Janet Roberson
- Culture ..... Janet Roberson

**Oncidium**

- 1st Place..... Jim Wheeler
- 2nd Place .....Janet & Kevin Wilson
- 3rd Place .....Stella Son

**Paphiopedilum**

- 1st Place..... Janet Roberson

**Laelia Tribe (Small)**

- 1st Place.....Stella Son
- 2nd Place .....Jan Hennessey
- 3rd Place ..... Janet Roberson
- Culture ..... Kathy & Scott MacIntyre

**Botanical**

- 1st Place..... Janet Roberson
- 2nd Place .....Jan Hennessey
- 3rd Place ..... Jim Wheeler

**Phalaenopsis**

- 1st Place.....Anne-Line Anderson
- 2nd Place .....Anne-Line Anderson
- 3rd Place .....Anne-Line Anderson

**Dendrobium**

- 1st Place.....Stella Son
- 2nd Place ..... Jim Wheeler

**Novelty Cymbidium**

- 1st Place..... Janet Roberson
- 2nd Place .....Sharon Tanner

**Species**

- 1st Place.....Jan Hennessey
- 2nd Place .....Jan Hennessey
- 3rd Place .....Sharon Tanner
- Culture ..... Jim Wheeler

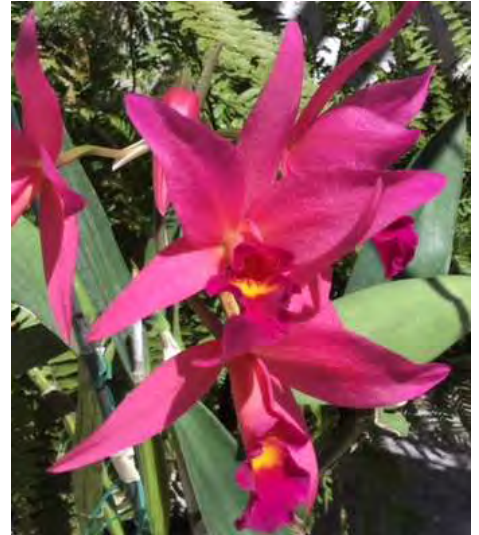
**Updates on Orchid Judging**

Anne-Line Anderson

Members may submit pictures of orchids that are blooming between the judging deadlines at any time.

The next deadline is September 9, the one after that is October 14. For the October judging deadline you may enter plants that are in bloom between September 10 and October 14.

You do not need to submit all your entries at one time, and I prefer that you do not submit a whole bunch just before the deadline. Don't forget to include a card showing the date, and do not submit more than 12 entries in any month.



**In Memorium: Arlene Springe Whittaker**

Marilyn Hettick and Candy Jester

Orange County Orchid Society is sad to inform you of the passing of long-time Life Member, Arlene Springe Whittaker.

Arlene and her first husband, Fred, who passed away in 2004, were very active on the Board of OCOS. Arlene hosted Board meetings at their home for over two years. Both she and Fred made significant contributions to the vitality of the Society. As a team, they promoted OCOS by chairing and participating in three years of the Fullerton Green Scene, as well as several Fascination of Orchids Shows.

Candy spoke to Arlene about six weeks ago and she still wanted to maintain her membership in OCOS. Her upbeat and positive attitude will be very much missed.



## Zoom Meetings

Janet Roberson

Hi, all!

Even though it is so different not being able to get together and chat each month, I hope you have been able to attend and enjoy the Zoom meetings! (Thanks, Fred and Jeff. We still get to chat a little at the beginning of the meeting.)

Another big change to our meetings is, instead of having the long train of tables filled with beautiful, blooming orchids to be judged, we now enter our plants for judging by pictures through email before the Zoom meeting. (Thanks so much, Anne-Line.) And the results are now being shared in the *Ranger*. (Thanks, Janet W.)

When we do get to start our physical meetings, the Member Plants Sales Table is likely to be very full for a while. 😊 Those of us who take the time when repotting to set aside plants for sharing at the meetings with other members and visitors will likely

have almost a whole year's worth of "saving".

We missed our Mounting Workshop this April, but the plants keep growing, so I am really hopeful that this coming April will be our most bodacious offerings ever.



The photo below is *B/c.* Yen Corona 'Green Genie' in its flat. The larger plants are 9 inches tall. They are still a little young to bloom, but they are really healthy. It is a mericlone.



This is *Rodriguezia decora* × *Rodriguezia lanceolata*, and you will not even have to ask if they are "big enough" to bloom. There are at least eleven spikes in this tray so far, and they are just starting to open.

We have so much to look forward to in the coming months. Hang in there and please, join us for the Zoom meetings!



## September in OC Orchid Growing

Janet Wilson



As can almost be expected on Labor Day weekend, Southern California is seeing record heat—temperatures anywhere from the 90s to over 110 °F. So while September can mean the beginning of cooler weather some places, here it often means a last kick in the pants in terms of heat and dryness. In particular, it pays to watch out for the drying Santa Ana winds which can bring humidity inland to less than 10%.

Watering is one means of combating heat and dryness—veteran growers tell me they sometimes water two or three times a day on extreme heat days. My husband has already doused the orchids this morning, but when I feel the thick leathery leaves of the cattleyas, they are still quite warm.

So he's set up another line of defense: a rickety old house fan, the kind on a pedestal that can be made to oscillate side to side if you need. Yes, it looks hillbilly, but nobody's dropping by in this era of pandemic and social distancing. And even Brandon Tam, orchid specialist at The Huntington, has used box fans for their paph collection, so I feel vindicated in using the tacky old thing.

We also have misters, the kind that you sometimes see on patios at homes and even restaurants. We typically have these on periodically, during hot days. Today, though, we were going to let them go most of the

day, in part to help the backyard cats stay cool. As long as it stays dry, I think this will be ok for a few days.

But I will be sure to check for indications of fungus or rot as we run these misters. From what I am learning, you should suspect rot or fungus if leaves start to brown and die from the crown up.

On the bright side, all this heat and light seems to have been good for at least a couple of bifoliolate cattleyas. These are supposed to be finicky plants to grow, but these two have started to put out sheaths at this otherwise listless time of year (listless at least in my collection).

I also remind myself to pay attention to temperature and overcast mornings at the month goes on. Shorter days and decreasing in temperatures should signal a shift in how you care for your orchids.



*Sobralia violacea*, grown by Roberta Fox.  
Photographs used with permission.



*Orchid Digest*

## International Speakers Day

A Virtual Experience

October 31, 2020 9:30 – 2:30 PM PDT

All speakers live, via Webinar

\$30; register [here](#) to join in

All registrants will be entered in a raffle for prizes donated by our sponsors and for memberships/renewals to the *Orchid Digest*.

- **Lourens Grobler**, Afri Orchids, Pretoria, South Africa  
"My 10 Favorite African Orchids"
- **Andrea Niessen**, Orquideas del Valle, Cali, Colombia  
"Orchids in Nature in Colombia"
- **Lou Jost**, EcoMinga Foundation, Baños  
"Ecuador Orchids as Guides to the Conservation of Unique Biodiversity"
- **Alek Zaslowski**, AWZ Orquídeas, Vitória, Brazil  
"Beautiful Brazilian Mountains (and the Orchids that Grow There)"



c/o Janet Wilson  
PO Box 872  
La Habra CA 90633-0872  
ocos.ranger16@gmail.com  
562.694.5341

Meeting Date – Wednesday, September 16

#### Upcoming Events Calendar

**September 16**

**Orange County Orchid Society - Monthly Meeting**

**October 05**

**Orange County Orchid Society Board Meeting, members welcome!**

**October 21**

**Orange County Orchid Society - Monthly Meeting**

**October 31**

Orchid Digest International Speakers Day, A Virtual Experience, 9:30 – 2:30 PM PDT; \$30 registration. Info:  
<http://www.orchiddigest.org/speaker-day-2020.html>





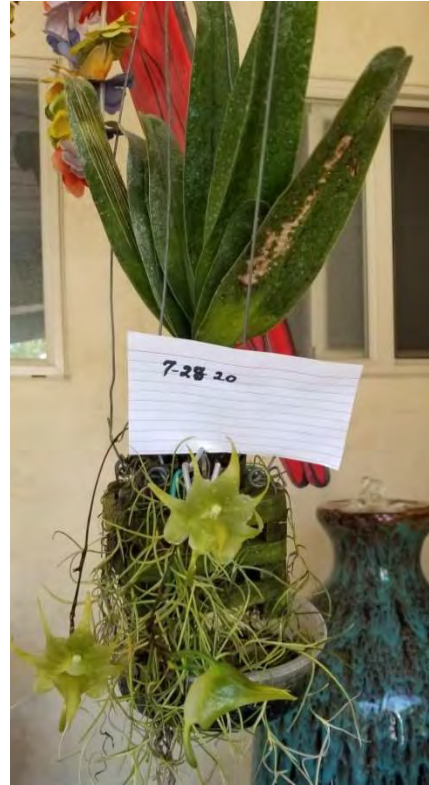
# Orange County Orchid Society

Plant Judging for August 2020

Photography by the growers



Vanda – First Place  
*Vanda* Ladda Gold 'Linda Jean' AM/AOS – Jim Wheeler



Vanda – Second Place  
*Aeranthes* Hsinying Ramosa – Jan Hennessey



# Orange County Orchid Society

Plant Judging for August 2020

Photography by the growers



Vanda – Third Place  
*Renanetia Sunrise* – Stella Son

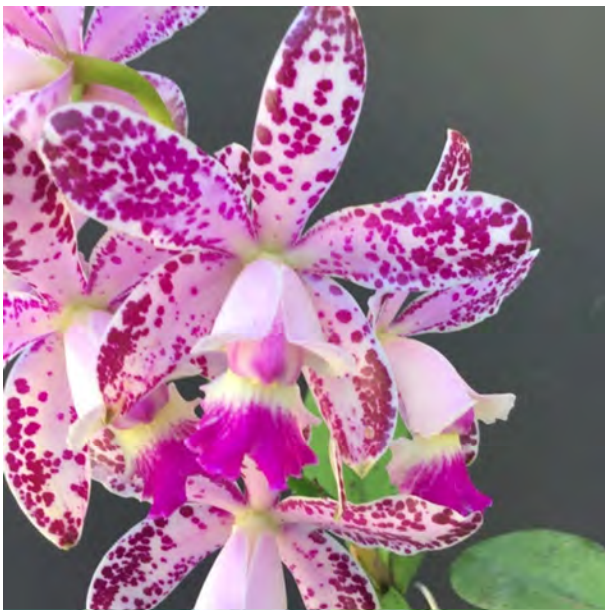
Vanda – Culture  
*Neostylis Lou Sneary* – Janet Roberson



## Orange County Orchid Society

Plant Judging for August 2020

Photography by the growers



Large Laelia – First Place  
*Lc.* Lulu 'Hot Pink' × *C.* Orchidom  
Brabant 'Freckled Flamengo' – Jim Wheeler

Large Laelia – Second Place  
*B/c.* Nobile's Ambar – Jim Wheeler



## Orange County Orchid Society

Plant Judging for August 2020

Photography by the growers



Large Laelia – Third Place

*B/c.* Waikiki Gold 'Lea' × *C.* Brabantiae – Janet Roberson

Large Laelia – Culture

*Encyclia (mooreana × tampensis)* – Janet Roberson



# Orange County Orchid Society

Plant Judging for August 2020

Photography by the growers



Oncidium – First Place  
*Brassia arcuigera* – Jim Wheeler



Oncidium – Second Place  
*Brassidium* No Name – Janet & Kevin Wilson



## Orange County Orchid Society

Plant Judging for August 2020

Photography by the growers



Oncidium – Third Place  
*Miltoniopsis* Lillian Nakamoto – Stella Son



Paphiopedilum – First Place  
*Paph.* Freckles – Janet Roberson



# Orange County Orchid Society

Plant Judging for August 2020

Photography by the growers



Small Laelia – First Place  
*Epicatanthe* Hsing Yu Gold Coast 'Sunkiss'  
Stella Son

Small Laelia – Second Place  
*Bc.* Love 'SVO' × *Pot.* Life's Melody – Jan Hennessey



## Orange County Orchid Society

Plant Judging for August 2020

Photography by the growers



Small Laelia – Third Place  
*Bc. Cynthia 'Lilac Gem'* – Janet Roberson



Small Laelia – Culture  
*Lc. Cariad's Mini-Quinee 'Angel Kiss'*  
Kathy & Scott MacIntyre





# Orange County Orchid Society

Plant Judging for August 2020

Photography by the growers



Botanical – First Place  
*Bulb. sp. (Cirrhopetalum Vietnam #5) 360*  
Janet Roberson



Botanical – Second Place  
*Stanhopea tigrina v. nigro violacea* – Jan Hennessey



## Orange County Orchid Society

Plant Judging for August 2020

Photography by the growers



Botanical – Third Place

*Ctsm.* Millie's Frilly Dragon 'Chocolate Frills' ×  
*Ctsm.* Hat Trick 'Top Hat' AM/AOS – Jim Wheeler

Phalaenopsis – First Place

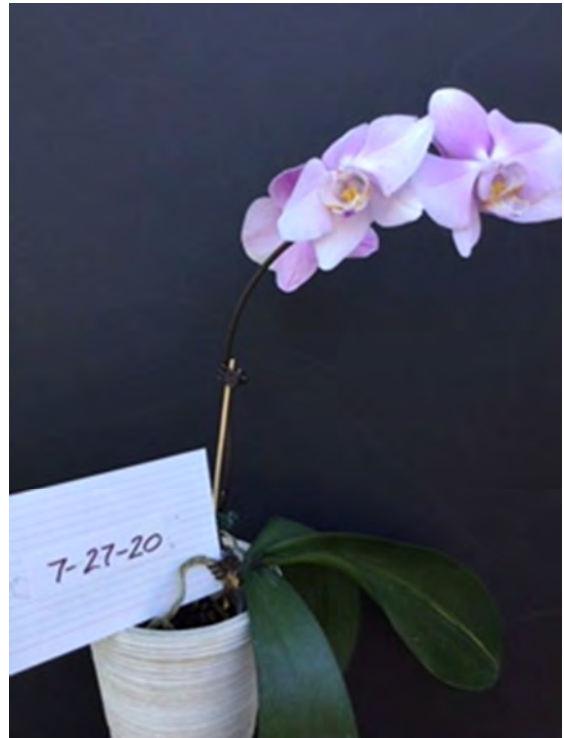
*Dtps.* Unimax Moonlight 'Green Apple'  
Anne-Line Anderson



## Orange County Orchid Society

Plant Judging for August 2020

Photography by the growers



Phalaenopsis – Second Place  
*Phalaenopsis* (mini) No Name  
Anne-Line Anderson



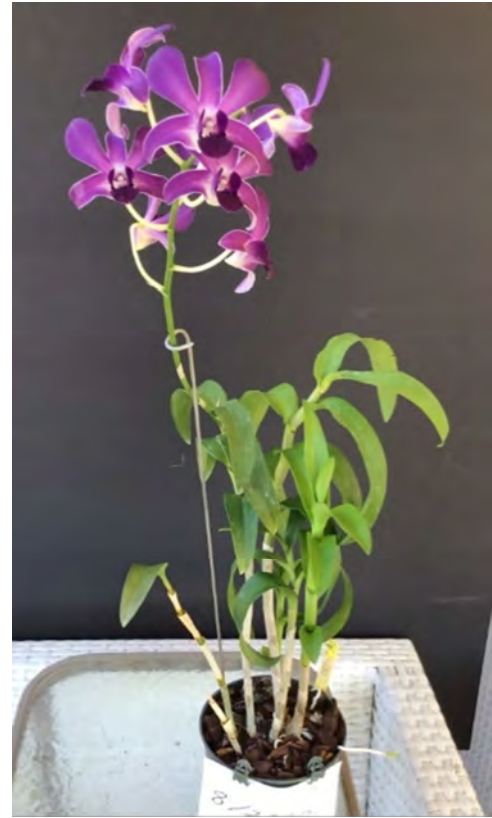
Phalaenopsis – Third Place  
*Phal.* Saera Loeb × *Phal.* California Glow  
Anne-Line Anderson



# Orange County Orchid Society

Plant Judging for August 2020

Photography by the growers



Dendrobium – First Place  
*Den. Chrissy Dawn – Stella Son*



Dendrobium – Second Place  
*Den. Genting Blue ×  
Den. Fuch's Blue Angel – Jim Wheeler*



## Orange County Orchid Society

Plant Judging for August 2020

Photography by the growers



Novelty Cymbidium – First Place  
*Cym. simulans* – Janet Roberson



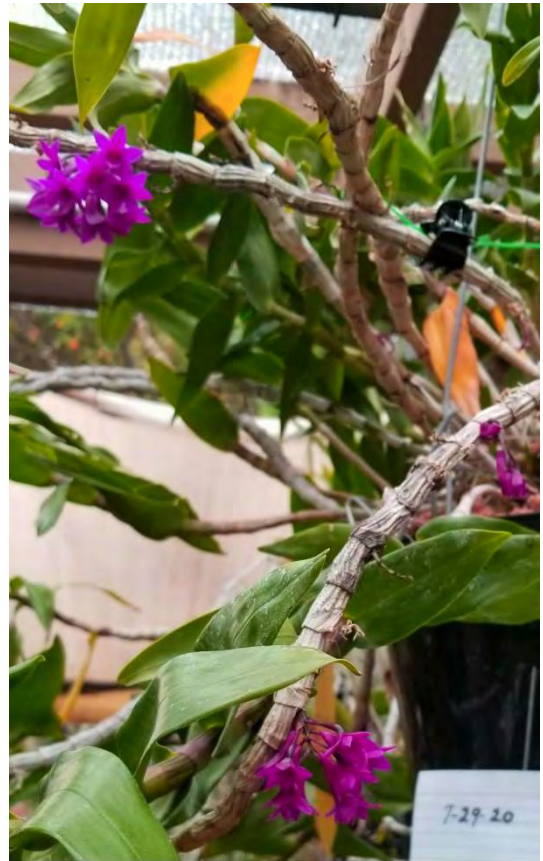
Novelty Cymbidium – Second Place  
*Cym. aleofolium* '99' – Sharon Tanner



# Orange County Orchid Society

Plant Judging for August 2020

Photography by the growers



Species – First Place  
*Prosthechea cochleata* – Jan Hennessey



Species – Second Place  
*Den. miyakei* (aka *Den. victoria-reginae* v. *miyakei*)  
Jan Hennessey



# Orange County Orchid Society

Plant Judging for August 2020

Photography by the growers



Species – Third Place

*Encyclia belizensis* var. *parviflora* – Sharon Tanner

Species – Culture

*Brassavola cucullata* – Janet Roberson