



The INFLORESCENCE

“Orchids for Amateurs”

South Bay Orchid Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 3793

Torrance , CA 90510-3793

www.SouthBayOrchidSociety.com

C. Portia ‘Coerulea’ X
mossiae ‘coerulusenes’
Grown by Larry Bergen

**Our January 16, 2026
Meeting will be an AOS
Webinar “Pest Management
Techniques for Indoor
Orchids” with Ron McHatton**

Ron is currently the American Orchid Society’s Chief Education and Science Officer. He started growing orchids in Northern California about 60 years ago at the age of eight with a cattleya purchased from a local grower. This single plant quickly became a collection occupying every window facing east or south and his fascination with orchids has never waned. Over the years his private collection has numbered in excess of 2,500 plants; a direct result of no willpower or common sense.

Ron’s growing experience spans lights while a graduate student in Iowa, out-of-doors in Southern California as a postdoc at Cal Tech, a northern greenhouse in upstate New York, a temperate greenhouse in Atlanta and a shade house in Central Florida. He even has experience on the mass-market side of the orchid work (he calls it the dark side of the Force).

Ron is a PhD Chemist by training, receiving his degree from Iowa State University and spent two years as a postdoctoral fellow at Caltech in Pasadena, California. He is responsible for the editorial content and layout of the Society’s monthly magazine, Orchids and holds a monthly orchid Q&A webinar (Greenhouse Chat). Don’t let that name scare you off. If you haven’t registered for one, you should. In addition to the magazine, Ron represents the Society on the Orchid Hybrid Registration Advisory Group, an international group that advises the Royal Horticultural Society on matters of hybrid registration and nomenclature. **Continued on page 2**

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In addition to his professional position, Ron is an accredited American Orchid Judge with 35 years under his belt. Prior to joining the AOS staff in 2007, he volunteered for over 25 years; chairing several national committees, twice holding a seat on the Society's Board of Trustees and briefly serving as a vice-president. If this weren't enough, Ron has also been a long-time supporter of the Orchid Digest. In this role, he has served (and currently serves again) on its Board of Directors and its Executive Committee for many years and as its President for three consecutive terms.

January President's Message by Marcia Bergen

I would like to thank everyone that attended our holiday potluck party and contributed such delicious offerings. It was good to see some of our new members as well as some that have moved away and returned to visit. Congratulations to the winners of the 2025 plant judging: Larry Bergen, Stephane Larouche, and Marc Adolph.

Recently our weather has turned cool in the evenings and often very wet. This has had us collecting all the rain water we can for use throughout the year. Larry uses it to rinse the orchids after fertilizing to prevent the fertilizer from burning the root tips. Be sure to protect your outdoor plants as much as possible from the cold evening temperatures.

At this time of year, you will want to cut back on watering and fertilizing. Repotting may still be needed on some of your plants or those whose bark is breaking down. It is also a good time to check for pests.

Be sure to read the AOS monthly checklist for January and February orchid care suggestions. <https://www.aos.org/orchid-care/seasonal-orchid-care/monthly-checklist-for-january-and-february>

We are getting ready for our Spring Show and Sale coming March 28th & 29th. You can start preparing your plants now. Stake up cymbidium spikes, take off dead leaves and flower sheaths, fight off the pests that want to snack on your newly emerging flowers. Like any proud parent watching over their kids, these emerging flowers are your babies that need to be protected. When show time comes, clean up the plants and bring them in for judging. Be sure to sign up early to volunteer for the shift(s) of your choice over the weekend. We need all the help we can get! The **online volunteer signup form is at** <https://volunteersignup.org/FDJLK>

We are looking forward to a new year of monthly programs and speakers. If you have any requests for special topics or things you would like to do at meetings please speak with any board member. Remember to bring in your plants for judging each month. I look forward to seeing you in January.

Happy New Year may you be blessed.

Membership Renewal Time!

Time to Renew Your Membership! Our membership year runs from January 1 to December 31, so please plan to renew soon. Here is a link to the form [SBOS Renewal Form](#) and you will find it in the newsletter. There is no change in the fees this year. It is still \$20 if you have a single membership and \$25 if you have a membership for a household (2 or more people). If you want the newsletter mailed via USPS, it is an additional \$20.00 to cover the mailing cost. You may send the form and your renewal fee to Charlotte Morrison at the address listed on the form, or better yet, bring the form to the next regular meeting on January 16. Forms will also be available at the meeting. We would love to see you there! Remember the great benefits you get from being a member:

- ◇ Learn about collecting, growing, and repotting from our monthly meetings' cultural session
- ◇ Listen and ask questions of local, national and internationally recognized orchid experts and their fabulous photographs, techniques, and presentations
- ◇ Rub elbows with your fellow orchid enthusiast members, ask questions, exchange ideas and learn from each other
- ◇ Win ribbon awards for bringing your own orchids to the meetings; year-end winners receive a subscription to Orchid Digest
- ◇ Take home fabulous orchids at unbelievable prices through our monthly silent auctions
- ◇ Win orchid plants by participating in our monthly orchid raffle

Renew your membership soon so that your name will appear in the annual directory which will be published in the Spring.

ORCHID CARE SHEETS FOR OUR NEW ORCHID GROWERS

The American Orchid Society website offers care sheet information for many different types of orchids. This information is free and printable. GO TO : [HTTPS://AOS.ORG/](https://aos.org/)

From there look under Orchid Care. There are lots of general information topics or you can choose a particular type of orchid for more specific information.

Spring Show and Sale

March 28 and 29, 2026

Arthur Hazboun – Show Chair



It's almost time for our yearly spring show to enjoy the Cymbidiums, Dendrobiums, Cattleyas, Oncidiums, Paphs, Encylas, and many others. The show and sale will take place on the March 29 & 30 at the Palos Verdes Art Center. Setup is scheduled for Friday, March 28 starting at 10 am. We have some new and favorite vendors lined up for the event and we hope you support them. Please see our website to get more information <https://southbayorchidsociety.com/Show> and to get the plant entry forms and plant classifications.

We encourage members who are able to volunteer a couple of hours to help with the event. All volunteers who sign up and complete their shift will receive a gift plant for their time. The **online volunteer signup form is at <https://volunteersignup.org/FDJLK>** we suggest you sign up for your preferred assignment as soon as possible as slots fill up quickly.

Plants being entered into ribbon judging competition for exhibition must be thoroughly cleaned - remove dead sheaths, old dead flowers, dead pseudobulbs and leaves, debris, check for pests and remove them. Plants which are suspected of carrying a virus will be immediately removed and returned to their owners. **ALL ENTERED PLANTS MUST BE IN BY 6 PM ON FRIDAY MARCH 27** to ensure entry in our logs and be eligible for judging. Plants arriving after 6p will **NOT** be entered into the competition.

For further information see the [rules/regulations](#) at <https://www.southbayorchidsociety.com/Show/PlantRegistration.html> and the entry form is located [here](#):

https://www.southbayorchidsociety.com/Show/Spring_Classifications.html

Print legibly to make sure we can read and enter your plant in the correct classification. Plants without a name will be listed for "exhibit" only and will not be considered for ribbon judging. Judging starts promptly at 6:30pm on Friday evening March 27.

Please get the word out and publicize our show, tell your friends, coworkers, neighbors, colleagues, and invite them to the show. The show enables us to continue to pay our bills and to bring you the monthly meetings, speakers, events, and future shows





American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.

Webinars:

January 8, 2026 Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton Tuesday, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM
Join Dr. Ron McHatton as he answers your question about all things orchids. Please send your question and pictures to Sandra Svoboda at greenhousechat@aos.org by January 5, 2026 **OPEN TO ALL**

Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4907462791854902111>

January 14, 2026 the World of Phragmipediums: What Can Nature Teach Us? – Part 2 Wednesday, 5:30 PM The World of Phragmipediums: What Can Nature Teach Us? – Part 2 continues the exploration of the fascinating Phragmipedium orchids. **MEMBERS ONLY**

Register at: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6118871720752998752>

American Orchid Society Monthly Checklist for January and February

Written by Ned Nash and James Rose

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



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

- January 16, 2026
- February 20, 2026
- March 28-29, 2026 SHOW

◇ General Meetings start 6:30 PM

The next board meeting will be
January 20, 2026 7:00PM
Call 310-326-5405 for more Information



Palos Verdes Art Center 5504
Crestridge Rd.
Rancho Palos Verdes



South Bay Orchid Society Board

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Property Manager: Braulio Mena310-413-3259

AOS Liaison: Arthur Hazboun310-995-1592

"The Inflorescence"
South Bay Orchid Society
c/o Marcy Bergen
23415 Juniper Ave.
Torrance, CA 90505

Our Next Meeting will be January 16, 2026

Upcoming Orchid Events

January 24-25, 2026 San Diego County Orchid Society Orchids in the Park

Saturday 12 PM – 5 PM (sale starts 10 AM) Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM

Balboa Park Casa del Prado room 101 info: <https://www.sdorchids.com>

February 26 – March 1, 2026 Pacific Orchid Exposition

Friday – Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

County Fair Building 1199 9th Ave. San Francisco

Info: <https://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org>

March 20 – 22, 2026 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show

Earl Warren Show Grounds, Santa Barbara

Info: <https://www.sborchidshow.com>

March 28 – 29, 2026 South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale

Saturday – Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM Palos Verdes Art Center

5504 Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes

Info: <https://www.southbayorchidsociety.com>

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