



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

Norma Hertzog Community Center | 1845 Park Avenue | Costa Mesa, CA 92627

March 2025

President's Message

Hi everyone!

We are finally into the spring season and our plants and orchids are blooming and flourishing. Having our show and seeing all the people visiting and supporting us, we should do the same by going out and supporting the other societies at their shows.

I realize that our love for orchids is not spreading out to the younger genera-

tion, and our societies are slowly diminishing. I hope something can be done to bring enthusiasm for orchids into the future generation. I just don't know.

We just had our fundraiser orchid auction, and we did quite well for not having a whole lot of plants. Thank you, **Kira**, for organizing everything, and thanks to all the volunteers who helped out with running the event. Thank you, **Merle**, for your wonderful position of auctioneer. And thank you all who donated plants. This helps our club

Culture Class

7:00 p.m.

Please join us for the culture class at 7:00 p.m., right before the general meeting, in the smaller room off the main auditorium.

enjoy many of the fun events we have throughout the year. This couldn't have happened without all of your support.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our next meeting.

Michael Miranda
NHOS President

March Speaker

Mitchell Schneider "Journey into Wonderland Inter-generic Zygos"

Mitch Schneider's interest in Orchids started young, in his teenage years. He started growing orchids after seeing the orchid mania display in his hometown at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens.

During his PhD studies Mitch worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. While at Los Alamos Mitch met Dr. Ron Midgett, who has been breeding orchids for over 50 years. Mitch learned the art of breeding orchids from Ron. When Ron started considering retirement, Mitch became a co-owner of New Earth Orchids and relocated operations from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to Half Moon Bay, California, while he was at SLAC National accelerator laboratory.

Eventually Mitch relocated the greenhouse to Encinitas, California, after



Mitch's primary interest in breeding orchids is in the Cattleya alliance, Oncidium alliance, and Zygopetalum alliance. Mitch has continued Ron's work of producing compacted novelty size Cattleya's who have plants no bigger than 18 inches tall with flowers that are 4 to 6 inches in natural spread. In a wide variety of color forms including large full segmented coerulean, green with a white lip, spots and stripes, and his favorite, the art shade lines.

Mitch also has started breeding to reintroduce high quality warmth tolerant Odontoglossum with the assistance of Bob Hamilton. Mitch is also working with a consortium of breeders to pioneer inter-generic Zygopetalum with a full spectrum of colors. Mitch was on

moving to Southern California to continue his research in medical accelerators at a private company.

the SFOS show committee and Vice President, and now works closely with OCOS being in charge of the judging committee.

Mitch was an AOS student judge before leaving the organization to continue to build an actually inclusive organization. Mitch strives to encourage younger orchid growers to become more involved and to help partner them with experienced members to share their love of orchids, and to learn from each other. His goal is to build a community that is cross generational, multinational, and accepting of all persons

This program discusses the culture of Zygopetalums and introduces the color range from inter-generic Zygo hybrids. People think that Zygopetalums are just green and purple flowers, but this talk discusses the primary bi-generic Zygo hybrids producing new and interesting colors. The talk also discusses how to grow Zygopetalums and the different conditions that are needed for their inter-generic. Many of the Zygopetalums and intergeneric hybrids can be grown outside along with Cymbidiums.

Meetings are held on the **third Tuesday** of each month.
General Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mark Your Calendar 2025

Our regular monthly meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month, at the Norma Hertzog Community Center in Costa Mesa.

Please bring a goody to share at the regular monthly meetings.

March 7-9: Santa Barbara International Orchid Show

March 18

April 15

April 24-27: South Coast Plaza Spring Garden Show

May 20

June 17



Officers 2024-2025

President

Michael Miranda

First Vice President

Kira Jones

Second Vice President

Clifford Vu

Corporate Secretary

Rosemary Krumme

Membership Secretary

Linda Barker

Treasurer

Richard Hara

Ex-Officio

Tom Harrison

Board of Directors

2022-2025 Term

Julie Ford

Jan Hennessey

Bill MacCorkell

2023-2026 Term

Marilyn Bauer

Joe Rupp

Valerie Sanders

2024-2027 Term

Paula Butler

Chitsaya Winmaw



A Busy February

What a busy month February has been for NHOS!!

First we had our Exotic Plant and Orchid Sale at the Westminster Mall. It was a successful show, not as big as some of our past shows, but a manageable size for our first show in five years. Thank you to the show committee for your hours of work behind the scenes, **Michael Miranda, Kira Jones, Paula Butler, Winn Winmaw, Ha Bui, Rosemary Krumme, Tom Harrison, and Bill MacCorkell.**

We had lots of great volunteers like **Mary Kermani, James Butler, Merle Robboy, Ruth Hollis, Miko Yang, Lily & Richard Hara, Julie Ford, Valerie Sanders, Marilyn Bauer, Kay Firebaugh, Linda & Steve Barker, Kayoko Nebrig, Barbara Livingston, Kenton Boettcher & friend, Joe Krumme, and Bill MacCorkell.** Thank you! We couldn't do it without you!

Our Members Sales booth generated lots of interest. **Barbara Livingston, Kay Gunderson Firebaugh, Kayoko Nebrig, Gen, Guy Gottschalk, Merle Robboy and Kira Jones** all sold their extra plants. They freed up some space on their growing benches and the Society got 25%. Everybody is happy.

Then at our regular meeting in February, we held an auction. Some of the venders and many of our members donated plants. We made money so we can continue our great meetings.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our successes!



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Exotic Plant and Orchid Sale

