



ORCHIDS AWEIGH

Newsletter of the NEWPORT HARBOR ORCHID SOCIETY

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

May 2026

President's Message

Hi everyone!

This year is flying by so quickly, and all of the spring garden shows have passed. I didn't attend all of them like I used to because I'm pretty full on my stock of orchids.

We just had the big garden show at the South Coast Plaza, and we did quite well. This will help our club very much. Thank you **Kira, Dean, and Hoa** for all your dedication and work. Also, thanks to all those who volunteered for this event. I'm really

glad that you guys stepped up, donated, and brought plants to sell. We were also able to sign up some new members.

I have a dear friend, who I met on the Santa Barbara Orchid bus trip back in 2000, and who belongs to the South Bay Orchid Society, just recently passed away on Good Friday. His name is Ron Henry, and I know some of you knew him. He was my sidekick helper on the bus trip to Santa Barbara. Rest in peace, Ron. I'll miss you dearly.

I would like to thank James Livingston

Culture Class 7:00 p.m.

No culture class this month.

for his lecture on deflasking orchid seedlings. I can see how it can be a delicate process, and every step has to be precise. Also, thank you, **Merle**, for your presentation on the display plants for judging and for everyone who helps with running our club meeting.

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

Take care,

Michael Miranda
NHOS President

May Speaker

Mitchell Schneider

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

During his PhD studies Mitch worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. While at Los Alamos Mitch met Dr. Ron Midgett, who had been breeding orchids for over 50 years. He was happy to have Mitch as a handpicked successor before passing away in December, 2025, after a hard-fought battle with cancer. 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 moving to Southern California to continue his research in medical accelerators at a private company.

Mitch's primary interest in breeding orchids lies in the cattleya alliance, oncidium alliance, and zygopetalum alliance. Mitch has continued Ron's work of producing compacted novelty size cattleyas which have plants no bigger than 18 inches tall with flowers that are four to six inches in natural

spread. Color forms include: Large full segmented ceruleans, greens with a white lips, spots and stripes, and the art shade lines (his favorite).

Mitch also has started breeding to reintroduce high quality warm tolerant odontoglossums with the assistance of Bob Hamilton. Mitch is also working with a consortium of breeders to pioneer intergeneric zygopetalums with a full spectrum of colors.

Mitch was on the SFOS show committee and SFOS vice president. Mitch was an AOS student judge before leaving the organization to continue to build an 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. He strives to build a community that is cross generational, multinational, and accepting of all persons.



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

Mark Your Calendar 2026

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 meeting.

May 19

June 16

July 21: Installation Dinner at Michael Miranda's house

August 18

September 22: Fourth Tuesday of the month (tentative)

October 20

November 17

December 15: Christmas Party

Officers 2025-2026

President

Michael Miranda

First Vice President

Kira Jones

Second Vice President

Dean Shoffeitt

Corporate Secretary

Rosemary Krumme

Membership Secretary

Linda Barker

Treasurer

Mary Kermani

Ex-Officio

Tom Harrison

Board of Directors

2023-2026

Marilyn Bauer

Joe Rupp

Valerie Sanders

2024-2027

Paula Butler

Fred Kermani

Chitsaya Winmaw

2025-2028

Julie Ford

Jan Hennessey

Bill MacCorkell

Nominating Committee Recommendations, 2026

President

Dean Shoffeitt

First Vice President

Kira Jones

Second Vice-President

Tom Harrison

Corporate Secretary

Nicole Grimes

Membership Secretary

Laura Kuhn

Treasurer

Mary Kermani

Board Members 2026-2029: Marilyn Bauer, Michael Lum, Valerie Sanders

All other board members are returning, and Michael Miranda will automatically become ex officio.

Note that nominations may occur on the floor of the May meeting and failing any, all nominations will be elected by acclamation. Otherwise an election will be held at the June meeting.

The installation dinner will occur in July.



Newport Harbor Orchid Society

We meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month
at 7:00 p.m.

at Norma Hertzog Community Center
1845 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa

Join us at our next meeting on May 19, 2026
and receive a **FREE vanilla orchid!**

<https://nhosinfo.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/newportharbororchidsociety.org/>

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Fascination of Orchids May newsletter:

<https://fascinationoforchids.com/2026/FONL2605.pdf>



April Judging Results

GENUS	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE	JUDGES
POINTS	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	
CATTLEYA	Leptotes bicolor	Cattleya Alexis Pardo	Laeliocattleya Dorothy Warne 'Favorite' AM/AOS	Tom Harrison
	Dean Shoffeitt	Dean Shoffeitt	Dean Shoffeitt	
CYMBIDIUM	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	
DENDROBIUM	Dendrobium aphyllum	Dendrobium Little Norman	Dendrobium anosmum	Lynn Wiand
	Espie Quinn	Dean Shoffeitt	Kayoko Nebrig	
EPIDENDRUM	Epidendrum parkinsonianum	Epidendrum Pacific Palapa 'Peach Helix' x Epi. Pacific Charismatic 'Ooh La La' AM/AOS	No Entry	Tom Harrison
	Lynn Wiand	Merle Robboy		
MAXILLARIEAE	Zygopetalum No Name	Zygopetalum Debbie De Mello	Maxillaria caespitifica	Julie Ford
	Michael Miranda	Espie Quinn	Merle Robboy	
ONCIDIUM	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	
PAPHIOPEDILUM	Paphiopedilum Wossner Black Wings 'Rose Song' FCC/AOS	Paphiopedilum Temptation	Paphiopedilum Lady Rothschild	Tom Harrison
	Hoa Nguyen	Hoa Nguyen	Hoa Nguyen	
PHALAENOPSIS	Phalaenopsis No Name	Phalaenopsis schilleri	Phalaenopsis Norman's Red Lantern	Dean Shoffeitt
	Merle Robboy	Hoa Nguyen	Hoa Nguyen	
PLEUROTHALLID	Pleurothallis schweinfurthii	No Entry	No Entry	Lynn Wiand
	Merle Robboy			
VANDA	Paphiopedilum Wossner Black Wings 'Rose Song' FCC/AOS	Paphiopedilum Temptation	Paphiopedilum Lady Rothschild	Tom Harrison
	Hoa Nguyen	Hoa Nguyen	Hoa Nguyen	
MISCELLANEOUS	Phalaenopsis No Name	Phalaenopsis schilleri	Phalaenopsis Norman's Red Lantern	Dean Shoffeitt
	Merle Robboy	Hoa Nguyen	Hoa Nguyen	
POINTS	Pleurothallis schweinfurthii	None		Lynn Wiand
	Merle Robboy			
NOVICE	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	
CULTURAL AWARD WINNER—7 points	Paphiopedilum Temptation			James Livingston
	Hoa Nguyen			

April Meeting Pix

