



# POS News

The Palomar Orchid Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the understanding and cultivation of both hybrid and species orchids. We welcome members of all levels to join us for orchid fun and learning! Our mission is to promote interest in the appreciation of orchids and to provide an opportunity for their display and the exchange and dissemination of information relating to their culture.

A Monthly Publication

January 2021

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## Speaker's Info

### Ron Parsons on 'Orchid Rarities and Oddities'



Our first Joint POS/SDCOS Zoom meeting of the year will be on Tuesday, January 5th at 7:30 pm and feature Ron Parsons. Ron is well-known to many of our members since he has spoken to our society several times. On Tuesday, he will present to us a new talk on 'Orchid Rarities and Oddities'. This talk features some of the strangest and rarest plants in the orchid family, and includes both terrestrial and epiphytic species. The majority of terrestrial orchids are not in cultivation, and many of those shown were photographed in nature. Most of the epiphytic species

presented are in cultivation, and though some may be relatively common, others are not, but hopefully all will inspire awe.

Ron Parsons has been growing orchids for more than 45 years, and has been interested in species orchids for most of that time. Ron loves to photograph orchids and most other flowers whenever he can, whether it be on trips to see them in nature or in collections. He loves to travel to see orchids in the wild, and does so as often as possible. Ron has more than 80,000 digital images, most of which are of orchids, and still retains a slide library that exceeds 100,000 botanical images. He has 4000 published photos that have appeared in magazines, periodicals, journals and books.

Ron has co-authored four botanical books, all with Mary E. Gerritsen. The first two, published by Timber Press, are *Masdevallias*, *Gems of the Orchid World* and *Calochortus, Mariposa Lilies and their Relatives*. The third book, a large, luxurious, 18.5 pound, two-volume set, *A Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species* was published by Redfern Natural History Productions in January of 2014, and has 1200 pages, 1800 photos (1600 are his), and features 500+ species in detail with many others included for comparison. In 2019, The American Orchid Society

Guide to Orchids and their Cultural was released, and is on its third printing. Currently, Ron and Mary are working on a second edition of *A Compendium of Miniature Orchids Species*, which will have over 1100 new photos including photos of nearly 500 species not in the first edition. There will now be four volumes and more than 2600 photos, with up-to-date text revision and taxonomy. Ron willingly shares his knowledge about plant habitats and suggestions for culture with all who are interested. Follow him on [flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/flowershots/), or visit his website [flowershots.net](https://www.flowershots.net/).



Telipogon Species

# President's Message

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## **POS Members and Friends: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!**

We wish each and every one of you a joyous holiday season and a very healthy and Happy New Year. 2020 has been a difficult year for all of us and our families. Most of us have not experienced anything like the Covid-19 pandemic the world has faced. We are all coping with this pandemic the best ways we can. Thankfully, we are not aware of any POS member who has contracted the virus.

We are hopeful the new vaccines being developed and distributed will be successful. As we write this message, the first vaccinations in the US have started being administered across the nation. Although it will take some months before most of us receive the vaccine, we hope they will be as successful as the trial results demonstrated and we can eventually return to some semblance of normalcy soon.

In all likelihood, most of 2021 will not be a normal year. We are not planning any in-person meetings and are not planning an auction at present. We also are not planning any caravans to a member's home or vendors in 2021. It may take most of the year for the scientific community to determine if COVID is under control sufficiently to allow us to resume a more normal life. Let's hope and pray we get there soon.

We plan to continue our joint Zoom Orchid meetings with the San Diego County Orchid Society in 2021. We are thankful that we can share speakers and meetings with SDCOS and this relationship has

benefited both organizations. Our first speaker for 2021 will be Ron Parsons of the San Francisco area. Ron has spoken to POS on several occasions and is an engaging and informative speaker as well as a top class photographer. Ron will present a new talk entitled 'Orchid Rarities and Oddities'. More on Ron's background and bio is included in first page of the newsletter. The Zoom meeting will be on Tuesday January 5th. at 7:30 pm. Our first culture class will be held also at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, January 6th. The topic of the culture class will be "Orchid Roots for Beginners, a Free Internet Orchid Database" and will be given by Alex Nadzan. Alex will walk attendees through the basics of the database and provide examples to demonstrate its capabilities.

This past month three local orchid events were planned, two were cancelled or modified. Casa de las Orquideas held their December Open House on the 12th. Andy's Open House was cancelled and replaced with an Online Open House extended from December 11 to December 31st. Sunset Valley Orchids postponed its on-line Open House until December 28 - 30th. As we can see, it's difficult for our local orchid growers to sustain a thriving business during the pandemic. We need to support these vendors any way we can until things get back to normal.

We encourage member to send in your annual membership renewal via mail or on-line using the POS website. So far only five members have renewed so please renew ASAP. We still have society expenses to cover such as speaker

fees, storage locker, etc. Mail renewals to POS, P.O. Box 130774, Carlsbad CA 92013 or renew [online](#) using our website.

If you want to share photos of your beautiful collections, please send them to Alex and we will try to incorporate them into the February Newsletter. Be sure to include the name of the plant and grower, if possible. Since we don't get to enjoy them at the live orchid meetings, the Newsletter is the next best option.

As always, we hope our members and friends remain healthy, upbeat and optimistic about the future. As always, Bill and Alex are available to listen to your suggestions, questions and concerns. Please call Bill at 760-931-0502 or Alex at 760-529-5814 or e-mail them at [billtcwong@att.net](mailto:billtcwong@att.net) or [anadzan@mac.com](mailto:anadzan@mac.com).

**CULTURE CLASS ON JANUARY 6th at 7:30 pm**

**Orchid Roots for Beginners, a Free Internet  
Orchid Database**

**Speaker: Alex Nadzan**

Orchid Roots ([www.bluenanta.com](http://www.bluenanta.com)) is a free internet orchid database that can provide useful information to the orchid beginner and experienced orchid enthusiast alike. One can search the genus and name of the species or hybrid or just the species name. For orchid species, it can provide origin and distribution, synonym names, and immediate offspring information. For hybrids, it will give the most recent genus name, parentage information, and a list of immediate off-springs made from the hybrid. In addition, several pictures are available for many of the species and hybrids. Alex will walk you thorough the basics of the database and provide some examples to demonstrate Orchid Roots capabilities and then compare it with the more expensive Orchid Wiz database.

## **TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2021**

We are asking all of our members to renew their membership for 2021 at this time, since this is our only source of income during the pandemic. We need these resources to continue to pay for our Zoom speakers, newsletter mailings and storage fees in order to remain a viable organization. Please mail your renewal membership (\$25 individual, \$30 household) to the POS mailing address (Palomar Orchid Society, P.O. Box 130774, Carlsbad CA 92013) or contact our membership chairperson, Trudy Ibbetson at (trudygro@aol.com). You also may renew and pay directly online on our, [website](#) which also has membership forms for new members.

### **2021 POS Officers**

**Co-President:** Alex Nadzan & Bill Wong

**Co-1st Vice President/Programs:** Tom Wisniewski & Alex Nadzan

**2nd Vice President/Raffle:** Jerry Spahn & Jim Anderson

**3rd Vice President/Membership:** Trudy Ibbetson

**Secretary:** Open Position

**Treasurer:** Vidya Sirsi

**1st Year Trustees:** Judy Dyer, Debra Funakoshi & Stewart Walton

**2nd Year Trustees:** Steve Redmond, Suzi Sandore and Cher Whelan

**Newsletter Editor:** Alex Nadzan (temporary)

**Website Editor & Publicity:** Helge Weissig

**Facebook Editor:** Debra Funakoshi

### **Contact Us:**

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#### **Online**

palomarorchid.org  
facebook.com/palomarorchid  
@palomarorchidsociety  
(Instagram)

# January 'To Do' List

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## General

- Short days and cold nights in January will keep most of your orchids in a semi-dormant growth state but Fall/Winter blooming orchids will initiate spikes at this time. Watch them carefully and cut back on water and fertilizer as cooler days and nights prevail.
- Protect your outdoor orchids from winter rains. Keeping them on the dryer side will allow them to tolerate the cold winter nights we tend to experience in Southern California. Water and fertilize sparingly during winter warm spells.
- As watering and fertilizing practices diminish for winter, be sure to leach your plants thoroughly. Make your last thorough watering a leaching process in order to address 'salt built up' issues before diminished watering starts. Roots should readily be able to absorb the little water and nutrients that they may get during this period. Roots heavily encrusted with excess minerals are not able to absorb the ones they need and may develop deficiencies or even excess toxic levels during dryer conditions.
- Keep cold-sensitive, warm growing orchids (phals, paphs, tolumnias, most vandas and warm growing dendrobiums and cattleyas such as violacea, dowiana and their hybrids) inside or in a greenhouse to protect them from night temperatures below 50°F. An excellent article on 'Cold Tolerance of Orchids' by Sue Bottom of the St. Augustine Orchid Society can be found in [their October Newsletter \(pgs. 9-11\)](#)
- Cold loving orchids, including odontoglossums, miltonias, pleurothallids, masdevallias, draculas, will thrive in cool weather and respond by initiating growth so continue to water and fertilize them during this period but also protect from freezing temps. Take this opportunity to divide or repot them during their winter growth period to encourage new growth and avoid the stress of repotting during the warm season.
- Winter blooming cattleyas and cymbidiums should be in bud or full bloom by now. Provide adequate water and fertilizer, but do so in the mornings so plants dry out before nightfall. Stake cymbidium spikes to guide inflorescences for support of buds and blooms.
- Maintain good hygiene practices to minimize transmission of pests and viruses. Watch for fungus, bacterial rot and cold burn in cold and wet weather. Remove infected tissues and treat accordingly, with more information being found on [the AOS website](#).
- More details on monthly checklist items for specific genera can be found on the [AOS website](#)

## Indoors and Greenhouse

- Carefully monitor greenhouse temperatures and check that circulating fans, automatic vents, humidifiers and heaters are in good working order.
- Use a humidifier or mister to keep humidity up due to heavier use of fans and heaters in winter. In absence of a humidifier, wet down floor to increase humidity.
- Continue to provide good air circulation for indoor plants to discourage diseases and pests such as mealy bugs and scale. Be sure to check all edges of the pot and neighboring pots. Pests, especially mealy bugs also can be found on the bottom of pots. Treat early to avoid spreading to other plants.
- Cut back on watering and frequency of fertilizing in winter. Avoid over fertilizing to minimize root damage and growth of soft growths. Keep to one half to one fourth the recommended amount on the package.

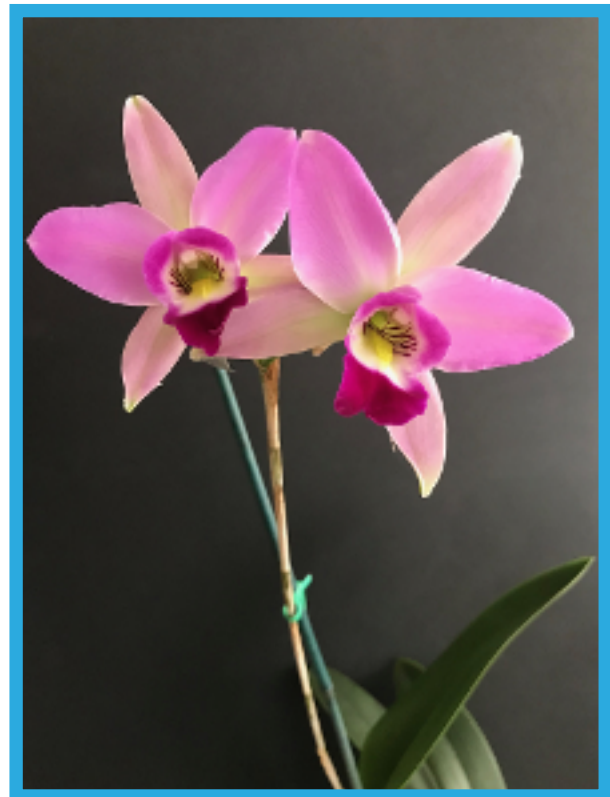
## Outdoors

- Continue to monitor and control snails, slugs and other pests as cooler wet weather will bring them out. They can do considerable damage to plants in short order.
- Try not to use water that is much cooler than the plants as their tissues can be shocked. Watering early in the day will facilitate that and allow plants to dry before nightfall in order to minimize bacterial and fungal diseases.
- Most cymbidiums are now in spike or bloom so switch from high nitrogen fertilizer (30-10-10) to one with lower nitrogen relative to phosphorus and potassium (i.e. 20-10-20 or 18-8-17) to initiate and stimulate spike production instead of vegetative growth. Stake spikes early to train them to grow upright while the spikes are flexible. More information is available via the [AOS Cymbidium culture sheet](#).
- Most members of the Catasetinae family (catasetums, clowesia, cycnoches, and mormodes) are now in their dormant period as evidenced by the yellowing and loss of leaves. Note that some actually initiate spikes at the outset or during their dormant period. Cut back and eventually eliminate water and fertilizer until Spring when new roots are established as recommended by Fred Clarke [on his website](#).
- Most phalaenopsis are very sensitive to cold and should be inside your home or in a greenhouse by now and spiking. Stake spikes early to train them to grow upright for optimal display of blooms.

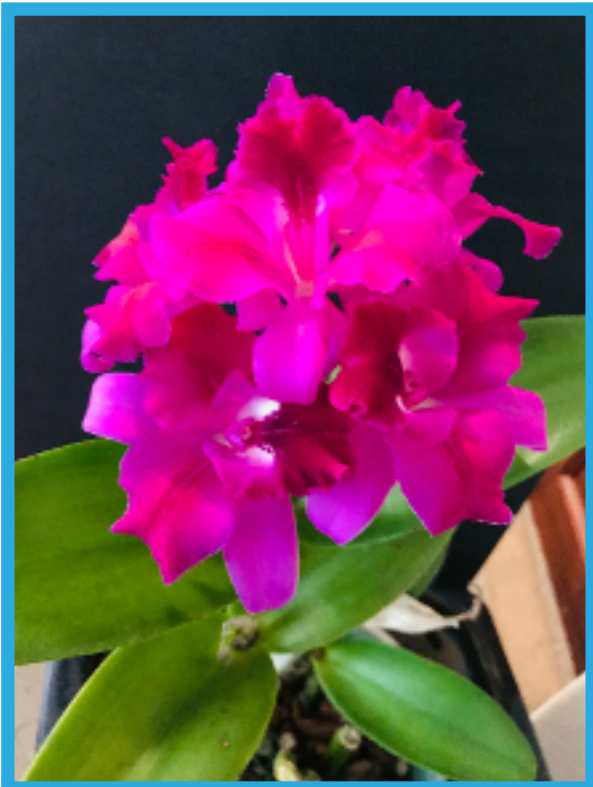
**Bill Wong's Photos**



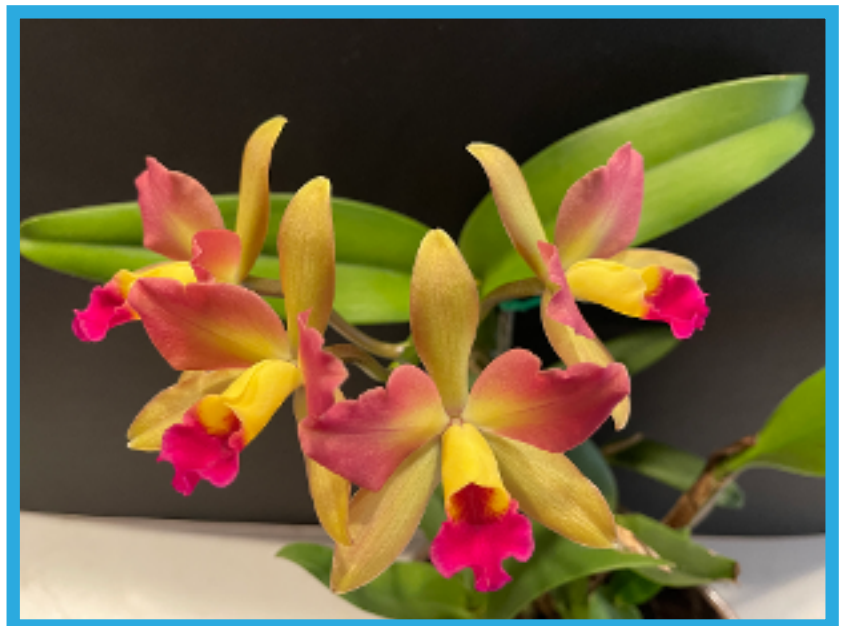
**Slc. What'll it Be x  
Sc. Dal's Good One 'Janelle'**



**L. anceps (MarbleHall Imperialis x  
Constellation)**



**Lc Tristar Bouquet "Hawaii"**



**Lc. Newberry Fireworks 'Mendenhall'  
HCC/AOS x Slc. Angel Eyes 'SVO' HCC/AOS**

**Ken Campbell's Photo**



**Blc. Aloha Mermaid**



**Blc. Hawaiian Discovery**



**C. walkeriana v. aquinii**



**Lc. Jungle Eyes**



**Pot. Little Toshie**



**Slc. Lucky Chance**

**Jerry Spencer's Photos**



**C. Green Emerald**



**Ctt. Blood Moon**



**Cym. Milton Carpenter**



**D. Burana Crysta**



**Lc. Sylvan Sprite**



**Lcn. Helen Christie 'Puesta Del Sol'**





**Rlc. Anita's Surprise (white)**



**Rlc. Anita's Surprise (Pink)**

**Steve Redmonds's Photos**



**Blc. Brassy Gold**



**Blc Angkinantana X Hawaiian Lightning**



**Pot. Tokyo Bay "Victory" SM/JOGA X  
Blc. Pink Empress "Lakeview"**

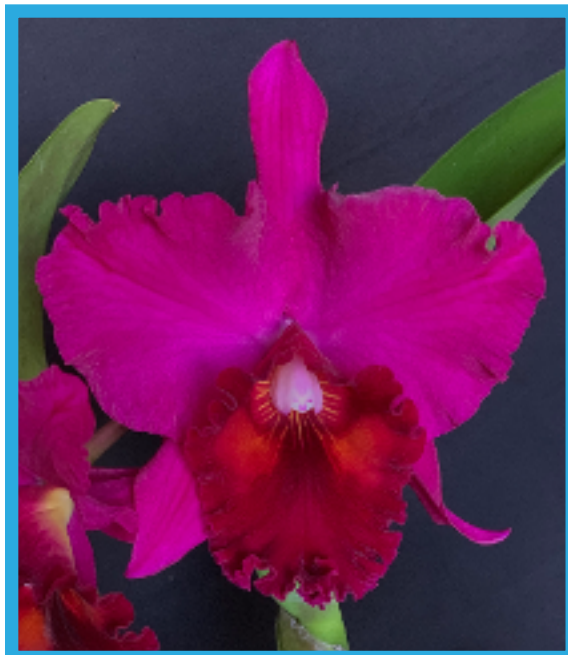


**Rlc. Waianae Starburst "Volcano Queen"**

**Alex Nadzan's Photos**



**AMN-345A Blc. Toshie's Magic 'Kathleen' x  
Slc. Circle of Life 'Crossroads'**



**Pot. Ocone Circle 'SF604'**



**AMN-310J Slc. Circle of Life 'Role Model' x  
L. Santa Barbara Sunset 'Showtime'**



**LB1898 Atc. Cedar Creek 'Chocolate' x  
Gptm. Black Knight 'Buxom'**



**Blc. Plum Island  
'Newberry'**



**L. anceps x  
Blc. Molly Tyler 'Towering Beauty''**



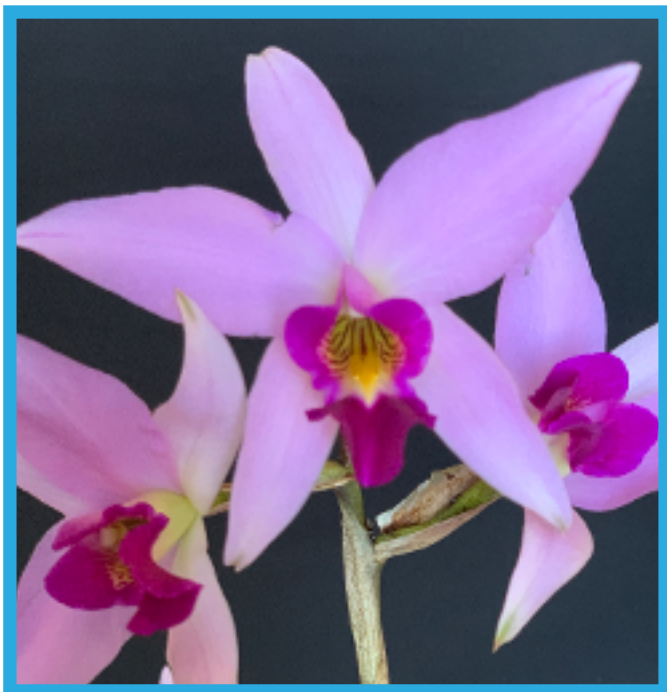
**AMN-115D Pot. (Slc. Circle of Life  
'Crossroads' x Bc. Maikai 'Lea')**



**C. Fredis J. Refunjol  
(L. harpophylla x C. leopoldii)**



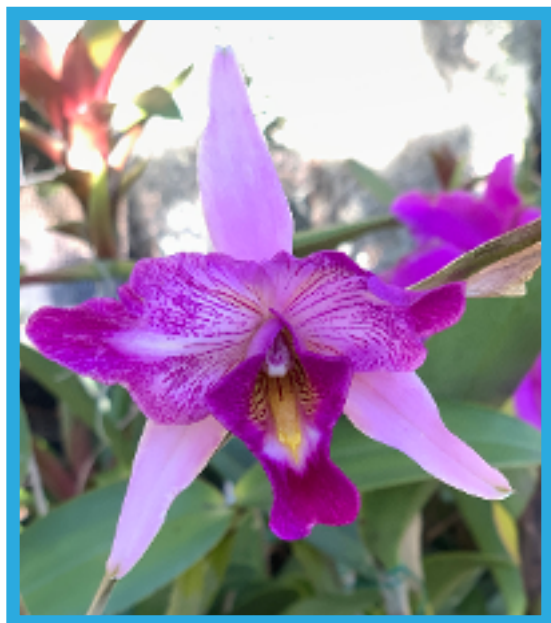
**Lc. Tristar Bouquet 'Florabunda'**



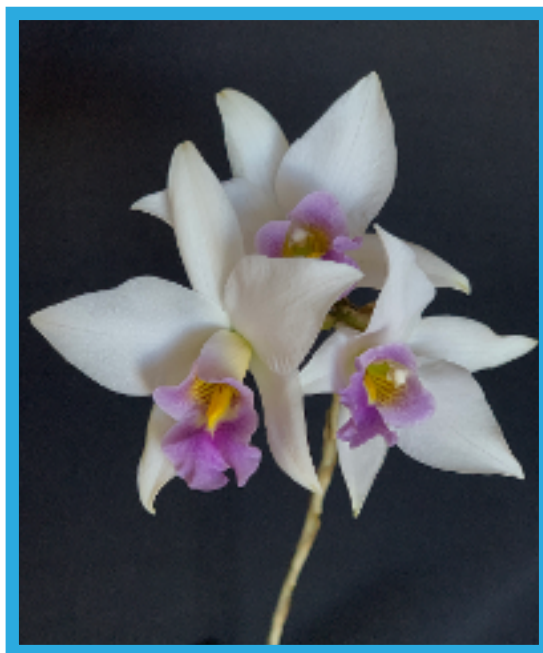
**L. anceps 'SanBar Celebration'**



**V. tricolor 'Cruthers' x self**



**L. anceps v. roeblingiana 'Feathered  
Flame' CHM/AOS**



**L. anceps veitchiana 'SanBar Blue'**



**L. anceps veitchiana coerulea  
'Andy's Choice' x self**