

Southern California Orchid Species Society

www.socalorchidspecies.com

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Newsletter deadline is the 25th
of the month prior to the month
of issue.

Meeting is 2nd Sunday of each month (except May), at 2 PM

Placentia Library
411 E. Chapman Ave, Placentia

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February 14, 2010

Bob Lauri Growing Terrestrial Orchids

Bob Lauri is a native Californian and has been growing orchids here for thirty years. He received his M.S. degree at San Diego State University where he completed his thesis "Comparative Floristic Study of Palomar Mountain State Park". During his thesis, he began to study terrestrial orchids that began a specific interest, leading him to further his education. He completed his Ph.D. at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in 2009. His dissertation focused on a native California genus of terrestrial orchids known as

Piperia. His study also has enabled him to grow and work with numerous tropical and terrestrial orchids native to North America, South America, Africa, and Europe. Many of these orchids are beautiful and easy to grow here in southern California.



Platanthera ciliaris



Platanthera dilatata

Speaker's Choice

January speaker Peter T. Lin selected *Epidendrum porpax*, grown by Richard Hess, as his favorite on the Show and Tell table. The plant, with dozens of growths and many flowers, was grown in a greenhouse, on a slab of hapu, or tree fern fiber. Richard grows the plant horizontally, which seems to promote better growth than hanging it vertically; the hapu provides excellent air circulation and drainage. He has another specimen growing on cork under similar conditions. See this newsletter on the Web at <http://socalorchidspecies.com> for color photos. There is a red blush on the lip of the flowers, but with green sepals and petals, the black-and-white image doesn't do it justice.

This plant has undergone multiple reclassifications. Its current most-accepted epithet is *Epidendrum peperomia*. However, it has been *Epidendrum porpax*, *Neolehmannia porpax*, *Neolehmannia peperomia*, *Nanodes porpax*, *Nanodes gnomus*, *et al...* The huge genus *Epidendrum* has been divided into a number of groups. This plant is classified in the *Group*

Porpax (See the Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia <http://orchidspecies.com>) It is found across a wide range in Central and South America from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, to Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil in pine and oak forests at altitudes of 600 to 2700 meters. It grows from cool to warm conditions,

forming large mats. (It can grow outside in coastal areas of southern California, as well as in an intermediate greenhouse) There is a range of color within the species, particularly on the lip, from only a slight blush of red to more intense red, and in very bright light, some red in the sepals, petals, and leaves. . There is also an alba form.



Epidendrum porpax

Close-up of flowers



From the Members Corner

There were no guests at our January meeting. Please remember to send or bring in your dues, they will be delinquent as of February 1st.

If you want to mail your dues, please send to:

E M Gulrich
1627 W Palais Rd,
Anaheim, CA 92802-2106.

Thank you.
Edie Gulrich

Editor's Potting Bench

As promised, I will highlight in this space some of the orchid resources that can be found on the Web. There is no better place to start than the Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia (IOSPE), <http://orchidspecies.com>. Within this website, you can find reference to (as of 1/21/2010) 10,825 species in 767 genera. (By the time you read this, there will probably be more.) You'll find photos, habitat and culture information for most of them. This massive resource has been compiled by Jay Pfahl of Key West,

FL. I am pleased to have been able to play a very small part in aiding this fantastic project. Originally, Jay supported the site and the purchase of reference works for it with a small orchid business. In the winter of 2005 the site contained a bit over 3000 species. In the fall of 2006, however, disaster struck. Jay's greenhouse, and the plants that he grew to sell to support IOSPE, were destroyed in a hurricane. He appealed, on the Orchidguide list, (to

subscribe, send email to orchids-request@freelists.org with Subject = "Subscribe") for contributions to help him buy the reference books that he needed to continue to add to the site. I suggested to him that even better than one-shot contributions would be a steady revenue stream. There is a pool of people that are willing to subscribe to a resource that they can access for free because they think that it is important, like public radio and television. They do this in the knowledge that even though access is free,



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Piperia elegans, photographed *in situ* near Pacifica, CA

production isn't, and without support, the resource will cease to exist.

He took my suggestion, (See **Editor's Potting Bench** on Page 4)

President's Message

What interesting weather we have had in January! It is always nice to have the rain stop in for awhile but it came with a vengeance this time, with all kinds of wind including a "tornado." Wow! At least the rain gauge is gaining the inches we have needed so badly. Thank you Roberta! What a great news letter and to have our web site up and running is so exciting. Those of you who have a computer, if you haven't checked it out please do and ask your friends to check it out also. It is a great way to encourage new people to come and join us. Plus helping to educate

us on the complexities of so many different orchid species. Tips that can help us be successful from so many who have worked hard to learn through trial and error. They are truly a treasure trove of knowledge and information.

Peter Lin's topic was very interesting on Dendrobium Genus Miniatures. Since it seems we never have enough space for all our plants, it's great to have small. Thanks so much Peter, lots of beauties and so informative. We always love to hear from you and the photography was

outstanding.

Orchids are an exciting hobby - with over 33,000 species, who could ever be bored, and more being found. Be sure to check on Roberta's Orchid Central <http://orchidcentral.net>, very interesting.

Barbara Olson

Editor's Potting Bench *(From Page 3)*

and the effort was (and continues to be) successful. He clearly was inspired, bought many new reference books, and the site expanded at an explosive rate. It passed 7000 species in July 2007; 8000 in April 2008; 10,000 in July 2009. And it is still growing. The bibliography of source books is massive (Jay had to purchase them all, they're not the sort of thing that you're likely to find at your local public library!) – see <http://orchidspecies.com/bibliography.htm>. If you want to learn about an orchid species, this is the place to start. Odds are, you won't need to go any further.

One of the benefits of the “virtual show-and-tell” of our website is that it is possible to share orchids that can't be brought to a meeting because of size or growing habit. In the spring of 2008, I acquired a tree-fern trunk. It's about 7' tall, weighs about 30-40 lbs. It appeared perfect for mounted orchids. To try it out, I found some plants that were not doing particularly well where they were currently growing. If they didn't survive the experiment, no big loss. One was a *Laelia anceps* that had languished in a pot, was moved to a cork

mount where it was still not doing much after a couple of years. It was easy to get off the mount, roots were not very good. I tied it to the tree-fern trunk, with no moss. Within weeks new roots appeared, and grew rapidly. The surface is rough, and tends to hold water. Note the long roots. The fish line that was used to attach the plant is starting to become brittle and break, but it is no longer needed.

Clearly, this is a perfect mounting surface. This *L. anceps* bloomed (for the first time in 5 years, a year and a half after mounting on the tree-fern trunk) from two leads. I have obtained a bunch of tree-fern pots (made from the core of the tree fern



that has been stripped of the fibers), and used a chisel to break them into 3 nice plaques each, and the bottom piece, which is a plaque made from the fibers (hapu) is a bonus. I have found that this is, indeed, an ideal mounting surface, especially for cattleya-tribe orchids.

Remember, the Oceans of Orchids Show, sponsored by Newport Harbor Orchid Society at the Westminster Mall, is taking place Feb 12-14.

(See **Editor's Potting Bench** on Page 5)

Calendar of Events

* See flyer at www.socalorchidspecies.com, select the [Events](#) link

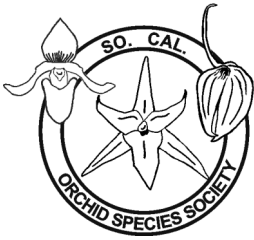
- **February 6, 2010**
CSA San Diego Branch Auction 6:30 PM
3320 Monroe, Carlsbad, CA
- **February 12–14, 2010***
Oceans of Orchids Show and Sale, sponsored by Newport Harbor Orchid Society
Westminster Mall
Friday, 10 AM to 9 PM/Saturday, 10 AM to 7 PM/Sunday 11 AM to 6 PM
For more information: www.nhos.org/shows/2010/home.html
or Denise Claycomb 949-859-4238
- **February 16, 2010**
Newport Harbor Orchid Society Annual Auction 6:30 PM
Costa Mesa Community Center, 1845 Park Ave, Costa Mesa
- **February 26-28**
San Francisco 58th Annual Orchid Exposition
Fort Mason Center Festival Pavilion, San Francisco, CA
For more information: www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
- **March 6-7, 2010***
South Bay Orchid Society Show
Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr., Torrance
For more information: Marla Correy, 310-707-7097, marlacorey@sbcglobal.net
- **March 12-14, 2010**
Santa Barbara International Orchid Show
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara, CA
For more information: www.west.net/nonprof/sborchid/
- **March 26-28, 2010***
San Diego Orchid Society presents "A Rainbow of Orchids"
Scottish Rite Event Center

Editor's Potting Bench *(From Page 4)*

Our meeting is the afternoon of Feb. 14, but there is plenty of time earlier in the weekend to visit the show, and for those helping with the breakdown after 6 PM, to get up there after the meeting. There is time for both in a busy weekend for orchids!

Roberta Fox





Southern California Orchid Species Society, Inc
 Roberta Fox, Editor
 1854 Kentucky Pl
 Costa Mesa, CA 92626

These vendors have generously supported our Society at the last Auction, and throughout the year. Please support them with your business. When you visit them, let them know that you are a member of our society. They need to know that our Society supports them.

Cal-Orchid Contact: James Rose 1251 Orchid Dr Santa Barbara, CA 93111 805-967-1312, www.calorchid.com	Cal-West Tropical Supply Contact: Brad & Ryan Wicks 11614 Sterling Av Riverside, CA 92503 951-351-1880, www.calwesttropical.com	Casa de las Orquideas Contact: Loren Batchman 170 S Nardo Av Solana Bch, CA 92075 858-755-7572, www.orquideas.com
Orange County Farm Supply Contact: Chris Roy 1826 W Chapman Av Orange, CA 92868 714-978-6500, www.ocfarmssupply.com	Orchid Fever Contact: Aaron & Dave Thomas 10242 Culver Blvd Culver City, CA 90232 310-559-6599	Outdoor Images Contact: John Remlinger 6961 Livingston Dr Huntington Bch, CA 92648 714-841-0442, www.orchidbasket.com
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Sunset Valley Orchids Contact: Fred Clarke 1255 Navel Pl Vista, CA 92083 760-639-6255, www.sunsetvalley.com	The Rowland Collection Contact: Pat & Butch 12446 S Georgian St Garden Grove, CA 92841 714-892-3502	