



Southern California Orchid Species Society

www.socalorchidspecies.com

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2010

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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, at 2 PM

Volume 33, Issue 4

Placentia Library
411 E. Chapman Ave, Placentia

April 2010

April 11, 2010

Harry Phillips

Marvelous Miniatures Gems of the Orchid World

Harry Phillips was born in San Diego, California on July 9, 1953. His father taught him to appreciate plants at an early age. In January of 1963, Harry's brother **Andy Phillips** (of **Andy's Orchids** fame) was born, and six years later is when it all started. They were both exposed to exotic plants and flowers at an early age, but when Andy became interested and later obsessed with orchids, Harry somehow resisted becoming involved with them for as long as he could. He assisted Andy in his passion by building his first two green houses, and Andy would reward him with a hybrid that was in bloom, tell him to bring it back when it goes out of bloom, and exchange it for one in bloom. Well this would only last about a year until he decided that he wanted to keep one and get it to re-bloom, the beginning of the end.

In 1986 Harry, with his soon to be wife Leslie, moved with Andy and his orchid collection to Encinitas, California. Being constantly exposed to all of Andy's orchids was beginning to



Stelis hirtella

have an effect on Harry. Shortly after, Andy left for four months in Costa Rica, and placed Harry in charge of the collection. When Andy returned he found that Harry had not killed too many plants and managed to become

(See: **Harry Phillips**, page 2)

Harry Phillips, (from Page 1)

even more addicted. Andy, now feeling more confident about leaving his orchid collection under Harry's care, began to plan a cycling trip through South America, which ended up lasting two years. After that it was all over for Harry – he was completely addicted to orchids.

Harry assisted Andy part time for 10 years, going full time around 1996. His interest in miniature orchids began several years ago while constantly being exposed to Andy's minis. He decided he would try some for himself, and that was the way the story starts. Harry would like to share some of his thoughts on growing and choosing

the right mini for your conditions, or creating a growing area with miniatures in mind. Once you get to know and appreciate them, miniatures will be a larger part of your collection.

There will be a plant table, supplied by Andy's Orchids.

Speaker's Choice

March speaker Peter Tobias had a difficult time choosing from a large, wonderful, diverse show-and-tell table but succumbed to his overall personal favorite orchid, *Sophronitis coccinea*. This one was grown outside in Costa Mesa by Roberta Fox. The brilliant red-orange flowers are about 2" across, and the pseudobulbs plus leaves are about 3" in height. This little plant screams "notice me!"



Sophronitis coccinea grows epiphytically throughout the coastal mountain cloud forests of Brazil, at altitudes from 1000-3000 ft. The environment is very damp, with fog condensing to light rain nearly every afternoon throughout the year. The plants grow on moss-covered small trees from ground level up to around 30'. Day temperatures are seldom

more than 85 degrees, and nights can easily go down into the 40's or lower. It is one of the very important species in the breeding of miniature *Cattleyas*. It gives its hybrid progeny brilliant color (there is also a yellow form), compact size, and cold tolerance.

Roberta's plant is grown in bright shade, in a clay pot. The clay tends

to stay moist, and helps to cool the roots during the warm days of summer. It is potted in a very loose mix of perlite, small diatomite, and small coconut husk chips. Although this species has a reputation for requiring very good water it seems to do fine on city water, which is around 400 ppm solids.

From the Members Corner

Thank you to Darrell Lovell for being a guest, we hope you'll come back and join our family on a permanent basis. Thank you to our 2 guests who became members: Kimiyo & David Campen and Ralph Williams. Welcome and we look forward to seeing you again next month

Edie Gulrich

President's Message

Orchid Conservation Alliance...What a great meeting! Peter Tobias was full of information about the Orchid Conservation Alliance (OCA) with many wonderful pictures of the Ecuadorian orchids. He also presented pictures of habitats in Ecuador, Brazil and Argentina that need more protection.

The board has decided to help support the Orchid Conservation Alliance, and we as individuals are encouraged to join also. Dues are the principle source of funding for OCA. There are also other perks when you become a member

Those that weren't at the meeting can get more info from Edie Gulrich, just give her a call or send email. There is also a link on the SCOSS website. This is a wonderful organization and we should be proud to be part of it. Thank you board for wanting to advance our purpose as a club, to promote orchid species – their culture, environment, and conservation.

Bring some friends when you come to meetings
Thanks for your support.

Barbara Olson, Pres.

Proposed "Field Trip"

On a few occasions, Jim Rose from CalOrchid has invited Species to visit his nursery and has offered to provide lunch and a tour of his greenhouses. We thought that if we could get OCOS to join us we would rent a bus and cut out the car-pooling problem. OCOS agreed and we are now checking into bus pricing which would cost approx. \$36/per person. We are going to ask members if they would like to go and are confirming with Jim as to the best month. As of my last conversation with OCOS, they said that

Jim indicated that Aug may be the best time. Have not finished exploring all of the bus options, but it seems that a lot of people are interested .

May Meeting

The library will be available for a May meeting (one year it wasn't) but this date is also Mother's Day. We're still working on format (possibly with location change) for the meeting—be sure to check the May newsletter for more information.

Edie Gulrich

Notes from the Board Meeting

Hi All,

Following the Society meeting last month, the Board conducted its bi-monthly meeting. One of the topics covered methods to involve more of the membership participation and also the topic of our finances. There was a unanimous consensus that we should invite all members to bring to the meetings, any and all orchids, including hybrids, for the purpose of offering them to the members by way of a set price or a starting minimum bid. The rules are very simple:

1. The plant must be healthy and growing
2. 25% of the final price goes to the Society and 75% to the owner
3. The closing bid time will be immediately after our "show and Tell", then the lucky bidder delivers the final ticket to the cashier and pays for the plant

Secondly, as a policy, we will **not** have an "opportunity table" each and every month. Generally, we may have 2 to 3 raffles per year as the situation occurs. If there is to be one, we will announce it in the newsletter provided we have been given the information in time to have it printed .

We hope all will participate in this new agenda and have a lot of fun with it.

Jan Hennessey

Editor's Potting Bench

I'm not quite sure how I got on the email list that directed me to the Brazilian Orchids website <http://www.delfinadearaujo.com/page2.htm>, but I received a link to an excellent newsletter on the site. (This link takes you directly to the English version of the site, if you choose the base website address without the "/page2.htm" part you go to a page from which you can select the English or Portuguese version) The newsletter included some very in-depth articles on a variety of topics. You can find it, and previous newsletters, by following the link to [Orchid News](#). In addition, there is a vast range of articles, ranging from very basic culture information to scholarly discussions of species botany and habitat. There are also photos and links to other sources. While the emphasis is on Brazilian orchids, there is much additional material. Browse it as you would browse in a library—there are treasures in every corner.

It's spring, and blooming orchids are exploding in my yard. I like to bring the blooming plants into the house to enjoy, but it has gotten to the point that there is no place to put them all... I just have to go out into the beautiful spring air even more than I otherwise would. I think it's a combination of the tendency of many plants to flower at this time of year, and it is also the season for shows—at which I must admit that I like to acquire a few (or a few more) orchids. Also, this is the time that the BIG ones bloom. Cymbidiums, of course. But also the temperate-zone Australian dendrobiums. Since these occur at a latitude that is about as far south of the equator as we are north of it, the climate is quite similar and they thrive outdoors in coastal southern California. Of course, the queen of this group of species is *Dendrobium speciosum*. There are several varieties. *Hillii* and *grandiflorum* can become huge. (Recall the one at the Santa Barbara show about 10 years ago, that was 9 feet across) Other varieties are more compact. All take 10-15 years or more to get to blooming size. (That little *Den speciosum* seedling that you got for \$20? May you have long life... it'll take awhile to see flowers!) While most of the ones at shows are not quite that large (in part because they are REALLY hard to transport) there are lots of big ones in back yards. The creamy-white flowers on

the various forms are very similar, and have a wonderful, if sometimes overwhelming, fragrance, that to me has overtones of fresh cedar. At the same time the smaller *Dendrobium kingianum*s are also blooming profusely, and they are super-fragrant too, more of a very sweet aroma. These come in a wide range of colors—white, pink, lavender, solid colors and blushed. They can also get very large, but unlike *Den. speciosum*, they don't have to be so big and old to bloom. These also form natural hybrids such as *Den. X delicatum* (*kingianum* x *tarberi*) though I have seen the name attached to plants that were actually *Den. Specio-kingianum*. (*speciosum* x *kingianum*) If nature can make them, they are rightfully also subjects for our Society, though most *Den. Specio-kingianum* are human-made hybrids. Depending on exactly which *Den. kingianum* gets into the mix, these can range from pure white to soft pinks and purples, graceful and fragrant. In black and white, you're missing the subtle variations and much of the beauty of these flowers... if you don't have a computer, maybe you know someone who will let you use theirs for a few minutes. Go to <http://socalorchidspecies.com> and click on the [Newsletter](#) link.

Roberta Fox, editor



Dendrobium speciosum v. *grandiflorum*

(See [More Dendrobiums](#), Page 6)

Calendar of Events

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

- **Orchids at the Flower Fields**
April 23-25 9 AM to 6 PM
5704 Paseo Del Norte, Carlsbad
For more information: www.theflowerfields.com or 760-431-0352
Mention that you saw the ad in the Southern California Orchid Species newsletter and get \$3 off!
- **Spring Garden Show**
April 22-25
South Coast Plaza
3333 Bear St., Costa Mesa
- **San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists Auction***
May 20 7 PM
Los Angeles Arboretum and Botanic Garden
310 N. Baldwin Ave.
Arcadia
- **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair**
July 9-11
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara, CA
www.orchidfair.com

EIGHTH ORCHID DIGEST SPEAKER'S DAY!!

"CATTLEYAS"

Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California

Saturday, June 12, 2010 – Noon to 8:00 pm in *Friends Hall*

FEATURING

All Genera Flower Display – Orchid Sales – Expert Lectures – Dinner

Remember!! Open at 11:00AM to bring your blooming plants for the flower display

Prize for best species and best hybrid

Lecturers: Greg Allikas; Bill Rogerson; Amy Chung and Harry Akagi

Dinner Speaker: Frank Fordyce

VENDORS: H & R; Sunset Valley Orchids; Cal Orchids; Andy's Orchids; and Norman's Orchids

Tickets: \$60 (\$70 at door) for afternoon Seminars, Wine and Cheese Happy Hour; Dinner and Evening Entertainment

Please Contact: Simone Friend, 4349 Dogwood Ave., Seal Beach, CA 90740

Phone: (562) 431-1247 E-mail: orchidsimonef@aol.com

Make Your Reservations Now!

More Dendrobiums, from Page 4



**Dendrobium kingianum
Variations on the theme**

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.

<p>Cal-Orchid Contact: James Rose 1251 Orchid Dr Santa Barbara, CA 93111 805-967-1312, www.calorchid.com</p>	<p>Cal-West Tropical Supply Contact: Brad & Ryan Wicks 11614 Sterling Av Riverside, CA 92503 951-351-1880, www.calwesttropical.com</p>	<p>Casa de las Orquideas Contact: Loren Batchman 170 S Nardo Av Solana Bch, CA 92075 858-755-7572, www.orquideas.com</p>
<p>Orange County Farm Supply Contact: Chris Roy 1826 W Chapman Av Orange, CA 92868 714-978-6500, www.ocfarmssupply.com</p>	<p>Orchid Fever Contact: Aaron & Dave Thomas 10242 Culver Blvd Culver City, CA 90232 310-559-6599</p>	<p>Outdoor Images Contact: John Remlinger 6961 Livingston Dr Huntington Bch, CA 92648 714-841-0442, www.orchidbasket.com</p>
<p>Mariposa Garden Contact: Ron Hill 6664 South St Lakewood, CA 90713 562-920-5588, www.mariposagarden.net</p>	<p>Paphanatics Contact: Norito Hasegawa 159 Monterey Rd Orange, CA 92866 714-639-1387</p>	<p>Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Contact: Alice & Parry Gripp 1250 Orchid Dr Santa Barbara, CA 93111 800-553-3387, www.sborchid.com</p>
<p>Sunset Valley Orchids Contact: Fred Clarke 1255 Navel Pl Vista, CA 92083 760-639-6255, www.sunsetvalley.com</p>	<p>The Rowland Collection Contact: Pat & Butch 12446 S Georgian St Garden Grove, CA 92841 714-892-3502</p>	