



Southern California Orchid Species Society

www.socalorchidspecies.com

Officers

President

Barbara Olson
barstan50@hotmail.com

Vice President

Tim Roby
(562)696-0847

Society Secretary

Irma Hughes

Membership Secretary

Edie Gulrich
egulrich@att.net

Treasurer

Susan Scheffler
chefinyl@roadrunner.com

Directors 2012

Doug Adams
Roberta Fox

2011

Joy Keyser
Jan Hennessey

2010

Phyllis Adams
Richard Hess

AOS Representative

Denise Claycomb
turtlegramma@dslextreme.com

Orchid Digest Representative

Vicki Ryan
(626)330-8122

Refreshments Coordinator

Joy Keyser

Newsletter

Roberta Fox
roberta@orchidcentral.net
(714)435-8015

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

Meeting is 2nd Sunday of each month, at 2 PM

Placentia Library
411 E. Chapman Ave, Placentia

Volume 33, Issue 7

July 2010

July 11, 2010 2 PM

Howard Gunn

Miniature Species

Howard Gunn, one of our all-time favorites, will be returning to speak to us. This time, his topic is "miniature species". Howard has a huge store of material from which to choose – he has collected over 3000 slides of plants that he has flowered over the years.

Howard has been growing orchids since 1965. He has two greenhouses, warm and intermediate. Living in Sacramento, outdoor growing isn't an option. In those greenhouses, he has around 1850 plants, of which around 1500 are species, mostly Paphiopedilums and Bulbophyllums. He has sought



Dryadella edwalii



© Eric Hunt, www.orchidphotos.org

Lepanthes costaricensis

orchids in their native habitats, visiting Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, and Brazil in the Americas. In Australia, he has notched 12 bushwalks on his walking stick.

He has collected about 45 AOS awards. Many of those are CCMs. Cultural awards aren't only for big plants...

(See: **Howard Gunn**, Page 2)

© Eric Hunt, www.orchidphotos.org

Howard Gunn (From page 1)

Miniatures can be spectacular. Perhaps we will get to see some of those!

Howard will be bringing some plants to sell. He always has wonderful and unusual things, so bring money! He will also provide a plant table.



Speaker's Choice

Our June speaker, Harvey Brenneise, had a particularly difficult job selecting a "favorite" from the show-and-tell table, because it was absolutely packed with wonderful blooming plants. He ultimately chose a *Laelia purpurata* v. *vinicolor*, grown by Ed Wise. This was the largest of the *L. purpurata* plants on display, and had a beautiful dark lip contrasting with soft pink petals and sepals.

Laelia purpurata grows in a narrow coastal belt in several states of Brazil, extending some 750 miles in a band that is only a few miles wide. It grows from sea level to around 600 feet. They are tolerant of a wide range of temperatures, and grow outside easily in southern California, espe-

Laelia purpurata v. *vinicolor*

cially in coastal areas. Like all members of the *Cattleya* tribe, they need a very well-drained medium, and a chance to dry between waterings. In the winter, watering should be reduced somewhat. This species has undergone several reclassifications. It was "*Sophronitis purpurata*" for awhile, currently is "*Cattleya purpurata*". Since there are multiple criteria that the taxonomists use to determine relationships, and this species shares some with one genus, some with another, the classification is still in flux. (Don't change your tags just yet...) (See: **Speaker's Choice**, Page 3)

From the Membership Corner

Thank you to our guests - Doris Arakaki and Darrell Lovell for visiting us and we hope to see you again and possibly join our orchid family.

Thank you to our members who brought such beautiful plants for us to purchase - Jan Hennessey's *Epi parkinsonianum* (which I added to my collection), Dick Hess' *Cochleanthes discolor* and *Lycaste dowiana*, Ed Wise's *L. lobata alba* (3 of them) and *L pulcherrima alba* (*Editor: ?*) for a total of \$103.00 to the club. Let's see some more next month and remember they can be hybrids.

Come join us for a great day!! The bus trip to Cal Orchid will be on Sunday August 8th, leaving at **9:00 AM sharp** from Brea Mall, exact location coming soon. Ask your friends if they'd like to join us, we have several non-members joining us al-

ready. Please call me at 714-991-8661 or e-mail me at egulrich@att.net to join up and then send me your \$15 deposit immediately after signing up. People are still coming in, so we don't have an exact price yet. This will be a great trip, plus a fabulous barbeque and lots of friends to chat with about our experience.

Edie Gulrich
Membership Secretary

President's Message

Happy summer! Maybe it has arrived? The calendar says so but we still have the cool, but it is wonderful.

What a great showing of species we had at our last meeting for "show and tell" was great, many plants some of us have never seen before ,plus much information, all very enlightening.

It was exciting for Erica who brought in her first bloom ever on an orchid, and to be able to show it, great going Erica .It is so wonderful when a new orchid or one you have waited for years to bloom finally it does, that makes it worth all the effort you have put into it.

Our speaker Harvey Brenneise gave a very interesting talk about Darwin, in addition to some very old pictures about Darwin's life. While on his long trip around the horn he stopped at the Galapagos Islands for 6 weeks when he came up with his theory on evolution. Very interesting Harvey come back again sometime.

There were some very beautiful (all white) Laelia Cat's that Ed Wise brought in for sale. Gorgeous flowers, thanks Ed we all enjoyed them.

Please don't forget the trip to Santa Barbara and call Edie if you can go we want to fill the bus. Invite a friend maybe they would be interested in a

great lunch and a chance to see the green houses and orchids that Cal-Orchid has. They put out a super meal from what we've heard.

July will bring an interesting speaker Howard Gunn and his wife from Sacramento. He always has an interesting talk to share and very different plants and some very small. Great for a miniature green house like Harry Phillips showed us.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the next meeting and as always bring a friend.

Barbara Olson
President

Speaker's Choice (From Page 2)

Taxonomy is, after all, a human attempt to understand the relationships between organisms, not an absolute.

Those who attended the Orchid Digest Speakers Day event in mid-June were treated to a look at the enormous variety, and quality, of this species in Brazil. There is a large range of color forms and combinations. Specific forms tend to have a similar blooming season, and so the variety extends the season over several months. Check out our website <http://socalorchidspecies.com> to see just a few of the color forms. (If you have some to add, please send photos to Roberta for inclusion on the special *Laelia purpurata* page)



Laelia purpurata v. *vinicolor*, lip detail.

Editor's Potting Bench

Orchids don't do anything fast – they grow slowly, and usually when they are unhappy, they hide their decline until it is too late to save them. Sheaths can sit for months, buds for weeks. But... turn my back, go out of town, and BOOM! They bloom in profusion, and, I think, laugh at me. I just returned from a 10-day trip to Iceland. (It's a very beautiful and amazing place, and I had a fantastic time. There were lots of wildflowers, but no orchids, I was about a month too early for those). When I got home I found about 30 orchids that had sprung into bloom in my absence (about 20 of them species). Fortunately, they stayed in bloom long enough for me to enjoy them on my return (and to get photos of some that had not bloomed for me before). Thus I was spared the frustration of staring at buds before leaving and withered blooms on my return (which happened last year when I was gone for nearly 3 weeks).

One of the special treats was *Dracula polyphemus*. This was one that I saw in Ecuador in the wild. I bought a plant from Andy last year, and it has rewarded me – one flower in bloom, one about to bloom, and another spike on the way. I grow it in the shadiest spot that I have, next to the mounted plants, so that it stays cool and moist. It is a bit tricky to photograph, since the flower faces downward. I found a place to hang it high enough to get under it with the camera.



Dracula polyphemus



Sobralia macrantha

When I left, my own *Laelia purpurata* v. *vinicolor* (an auction donation from Ed Wise that I purchased a couple of years ago) had just opened. When I returned, I found a *L. purpurata* (*striata* x *flamea*) that had bloomed for the first time, and also both the pink form of *L. lobata* and the *alba* one. So my patio was ablaze with all of these big, showy *Laelias*. As a bonus, *Sobralia macrantha* and a huge hybrid *Sobralia* also greeted me. The individual flowers only last a few days, but there are lots of buds, and I'll enjoy blooms on and off for a couple of months. In the Vandaceous department, I had *Vanda tricolor*, *V. testacea*, and *Cleistoma birmanicum*. I love Vandaceous species that I can grow outside! And *Dendrobium teretifolium* (the "bridal veil" orchid). *Lycaste aromatica* and *Lyc. consobrina* joined the party. (Note the article on the yellow *Lycastes* in the April 2010 [Orchids](#) – these all grow very nicely in this area. Most are also on the website – I got several species from Peter Kurtz).

(See: [Editor's Potting Bench, Page 6](#))

Calendar of Events

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

- **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair***

July 9-11, Fri-Sat 9 AM–5 PM Sun 10 AM–4 PM
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara, CA
www.orchidfair.com

- Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House
1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara
- Cal Orchid Open House
1251 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara

New shipment of plants from Japan, including those special Lycastes!
Cal Orchid's fabulous lunch: Tri-tip sandwiches, corn on the cob, steaming tamales

- **South Bay Fall Show and Sale**

September 18-19
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula
www.southbayorchidsociety.com

- **Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale***

September 25-26 10 AM–5 PM
South Coast Plaza Village
Corner of Bear and Sunflower
www.ocorchidshow.com

- **San Diego International Orchid Fair, 16th Annual Show and Sale***

October 1-3: 1-5 PM Friday, 9 AM-5 PM Saturday, 9 AM-4 PM Sunday
San Diego Botanic Garden
230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
www.sdbgarden.org



Laelia purpurata (flamea x striata)



Vanda tricolor



Dendrobium teretifolium

Editor's Potting Bench (From Page 4)

Another triumph was *Cymbidium canaliculatum*. This one needs to dry out during the winter. I hang it under the eaves, which protects it a little from the rain, but not completely. That location also gets it away from the sprinklers. If there is no rain, I do give it a little water about once every two or three weeks. I put it back in the general population around mid-March. With our low humidity, I have found that my plants that need a winter rest still need an occasional drink, especially when the Santa Ana winds blow.

The *Dendrophylax lindenii* ("ghost orchid") that was found right by the boardwalk of the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Florida bloomed early this year. Check out <http://flnativeorchids.blogspot.com/> to see this, and some other native Florida orchids. While there are native orchids all over the United States, most are terrestrial. Florida has tropical areas that also contain epiphytic orchids. This website shows some of them.

Roberta Fox
Editor



Cymbidium canaliculatum

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
Mariposa Garden Contact: Ron Hill 6664 South St Lakewood, CA 90713 562-920-5588, www.mariposagarden.net	Paphanatics Contact: Norito Hasegawa 159 Monterey Rd Orange, CA 92866 714-639-1387	Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Contact: Alice & Parry Gripp 1250 Orchid Dr Santa Barbara, CA 93111 800-553-3387, www.sborchid.com
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	