



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, at 2 PM

Placentia Library
411 E. Chapman Ave, Placentia

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Peter Toblas

Orchid Conservation with the Orchid Conservation Alliance A Visit to Brazil

We welcome a return visit from Peter Tobias, President of the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Peter first started growing orchids in Chicago in the early 1970s but his hobby only "...really got out of control" when he moved to Encinitas, a coastal town just north of San Diego, CA, in 1980. His collection is primarily species orchids, most of which are grown outdoors. In 1999 he visited the Atlantic Rainforest in Brazil at the invitation of Rosario Almeida Braga. After that visit he started his own little rainforest in two large backyard avocado trees. The rain for this forest has to be provided from a hose.

He was a founding member of the San Diego County Orchid Society's Conservation Committee. The success of that endeavor in San Diego led to the idea that orchid lovers nationwide, and even internationally, might support an organization devoted to orchid habitat protection. This idea evolved into the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Peter will provide an update on the activities of OCA, of which our society is a supporting mem-

ber.

The central vision of the Orchid Conservation Alliance is that orchid-rich habitats should remain undisturbed as reserves for the orchids and other organisms that live there. Thus the principal goal of the OCA is to foster the development of wild orchid reserves. To this end they

(See Peter Tobias, Page 2)



Leptotes bicolor

Peter Tobias (*From Page 1*)

partner with organizations in orchid rich countries, raising money and supporting them as much as possible. One particularly enjoyable way to do that is to organize fund raising trips to see orchids in the wild. This talk will show slides from several trips, highlighting the trip in 2010 to Brazil's Atlantic Rain Forest.

**Miltonia
spectabilis
var. rosea**



Speaker's Choice

January speaker Peter Lin selected Angraecum calceolus, grown by Jan Hennessey. This choice was a perfect tie-in to Peter's talk on Angrecoids. Jan had won this plant from a plant table last year when Peter spoke to us. At the time, it was only about 2 inches tall. It is clearly very happy in its wooden basket, hanging in Jan's greenhouse. The individual greenish-white flowers are only about a half-inch wide, with a nectary that is only a little longer. But there are many of these flowers, arrayed on about seven branching spikes, each 1-2 feet long or more.

This species is found over a wide range of Indian Ocean islands, Madagascar, and in Mozambique on the African mainland. It grows as an epiphyte or lithophyte in shady forests over a range of elevations, from about 100 to 6000 feet. It prefers both warmth and humidity.



Angraecum calceolus

President's Message

It is always interesting, never knowing what our meetings are going to be like—always a learning tool, talking about the plants, as we see new species come in, exciting to see and wondrous beauty.

Thanks to Peter Lin for bringing the beautiful pictures and interesting talk. As always when he brings in the plant table everyone

looks forward to the little jewels that will be there. He does have the ability to bring in very interesting plants.

One of the truly interesting things that happened, Jan Hennessey following the lead of our speaker and brought in a very interesting *Angraecum*, which was the speaker's choice, and last year she got it off the table, great plant Jan!

Next month Peter Tobias is coming to

share his trip to Brazil, and possibly bring new information on the Orchid Conservation Alliance and how things are going in Ecuador.

The weather is truly changing from day to day but the plants are seemingly enjoying the warm spell and starting to put out new spikes and blooms.

Barbara Olson, President

From the Members Corner

Thank you Pascaul Machin for being our guest, we hope to see you again very soon.

Okay members.....it's dues time, only \$5 a year with a yearly roster and monthly newsletter and what a bargain compared to \$15, \$20 and more for some of the other societies. You know you love us and enjoy the company, so please pay your fair share to keep us going another year with great speakers and articles. You can either mail it to me or see me at the meeting. I'll be looking for you in February!!

Eddie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

Editor's Potting Bench

By the time that you read this, the Newport Harbor Orchid Society show at Westminster Mall will be over. I hope that you had a chance to get over there and see the very lovely display room as well as to lighten your wallet at the vendor booths. Especially, I hope that you had a chance to view the Southern California Orchid Species Society display, "Nature's Gift to the World". This was the brainchild of Eddie Gulrich and Barbara Olson, with lots of help and support from Darrel Lovell.

I'd like to share a bit of the insight that I gained from observing and participating in the process, to appreciate the gargantuan effort that was required to make this display happen. Many of the orchid species plants

In Memoriam: Alba Conner

Alba Conner, one of the founding members of Southern California Orchid Species Society, passed away on January 3, 2011. She was born in Big Pine, California on October 9, 1912. She grew up in the Mojave Desert town of Atolia, near Randsburg, the eldest daughter of her Italian immigrant parents, Victor and Angelina DeZan. Alba and her late husband Bart resided in Dana Point for more than 50 years. They owned Conner's Department Store and were instrumental in the development of the Dana Point Marina. They were charter members of the Dana Point Yacht Club.

Alba worked as a beautician in Laguna Beach, but her lifelong passion was raising and collecting orchids. She traveled the world adding to her collection. She has been an active and generous supporter of SCOSS throughout the years.

In recent years her wonderful orchid collection has been lovingly tended by Rick Wells, also a charter member of SCOSS. Alba was comforted and delighted when Rick brought her the plants that bloomed under his care.

are rather small. (Well, actually, some of them are so tiny that they can be best appreciated with a hand lens—those aren't even candidates for a large tabletop display that must be viewed from behind stanchions.) So the first challenge is having enough material to fill the space, at a time when lots of the showier plants won't have flowers for another few weeks, and after a

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run of cold, damp weather that has left a lot of the blooms with unsightly damage. Edie and Barbara and Joy Keyser made a lot of phone calls and pick-up trips. Thank you to everybody who contributed plants!.

I know that there were a lot of hours spent in planning the presentation, because when we started setting up, they clearly knew what they wanted to do with all those boxes of drapery and props. Also, all those plants needed labels. Along with being generally desirable for a quality display, putting labels on all the plants is especially important for the mission of our exhibit, which is to educate people. Many of our plants are unique, and we want to show something of the diversity of the family of orchids. Identification is particularly important if one wants to pursue the botany of these gems. Edie had very attractive labels prepared for all the plants that had been “recruited” - it isn’t possible to know in advance which ones will actually get into the display, so it was necessary to prepare them for everything—it is much easier to pull out the ones that are not needed than to add them. Also, not knowing which ones would actually be in the display, she prepared judging registration cards for everything.

Here are a few photos to show how it was done.



Risking life and limb before we even get to the plants.



“A little more to the left...”



About 47 plants, all of them needing labels. Need to get the back part done before the second table is placed in front making the back ones much harder to reach.

It came together beautifully.

Roberta Fox, Editor

Calendar of Events

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

- **Orange County Branch Cymbidium Society Annual Auction***
February 9, 7:00 PM Preview, Auction starts at 7:30 PM
Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 250 E Center St, Anaheim
- **Pacific Orchid Exposition***
March 4-6
Fort Mason Center, San Francisco
www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
- **South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale***
March 5-6, 10 AM-5 PM (show on Sat. opens at 12 PM, sale at 10 AM)
Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr, Torrance
- **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show***
March 11-13
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
www.sborchidshow.com
- **Long Beach Amateurs Orchid Society Annual Auction***
March 14, 6 PM Preview, Auction starts 6:30 PM
St. Gregory's Episcopal Church Hall,
6201 E Willow St, Long Beach
- **San Diego County Orchid Society Spring Show***
March 25-27, Fri. 4–8 PM, Sat. 9 AM–6 PM, Sun. 10 AM–4 PM
Scottish Rite Center, 1805 Camino del Rio South, San Diego



The finished product—
Nature's Gift to the World

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>Andy's Orchids Contact: Andy & Harry Phillips 734 Oceanview Ave Encinitas, CA 92024 760-436-4235, www.andysorchids.com</p>	<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>Ecuagenera Contact: Ivan Portilla PO Box 01011110 Cuenca, Ecuador www.ecuagenera.com</p>	<p>Marcel's Contact: Sonora Winward 5133 Kildee St. Long Beach, CA 90808 562-843-5951</p>
<p>Mariposa Garden Contact: Ron Hill 6664 South St Lakewood, CA 90713 562-920-5588, www.mariposagarden.net</p>	<p>Norman's Orchids Contact: Norman Fang 11039 Monte Vista Ave. Montclair, CA 91763 909-627-9515, www.orchids.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>OrchidWiz 145 NE 95th Street Miami Shores, FL 33138 305-758-3596, www.orchidwiz.com</p>	<p>Outdoor Images Contact: John Remlinger 6961 Livingston Dr Huntington Bch, CA 92648 714-841-0442, www.orchidbasket.com</p>	<p>Paphanatics Contact: Norito Hasegawa 159 Monterey Rd Orange, CA 92866 714-639-1387</p>
<p>rePotme.com Floral Mixes and Supplies 10608 Floral Park Lane North Potomac, MD 20878 301-315-2344, www.repotme.com</p>	<p>Rex Foster Orchids Contact: Billy Baker 2645 Massachusetts Ave Lemon Grove, CA 92945 619-466-0605, www.rexfosterorchids.com</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>Seed Engei Contact: Satomi Kasahara 1622 Moreno St Oceanside, CA 92054</p>	<p>Sunset Valley Orchids Contact: Fred Clarke 1255 Navel Pl Vista, CA 92083 760-639-6255, www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com</p>	<p>The Rowland Collection Contact: Pat Rowland 12446 S Georgian St Garden Grove, CA 92841 714-892-3502</p>
	<p>U.S. Orchid Supplies Contact: Ram Ramakrishnan 1621 S Rose Ave Oxnard, CA 93033 805-247-0086, www.saicoir.com</p>	