

# Southern California Orchid Species Society

[www.socalorchidspecies.com](http://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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**July 10, 2011**

## Encyclias and Related Species

**Paul Tuskes**

Paul Tuskes will be giving the July presentation on the genus *Encyclia* and its relatives. Species of *Encyclia* occur from Southern Florida to Southern Brazil. Many species are easily grown outdoors in coastal Southern California. Paul will review their culture, diversity, and biology. He has an excellent collection of photos to go with the presentation and at this time of



*Encyclia alata*

year, will be bringing *Anacheilium gilbertoi* syn. *Prosthechea gilbertoi* many plants in bloom for display. Paul and his wife Ann have been growing species orchids for 30 years. He is on the Board of Directors for Orchid Digest, they are both orchid judges and have written for Orchid Digest and Orchids, and started the Species Study Group in 1987.



*Encyclia belizensis* ssp. *parviflorum*  
syn. *E. parviflorum* syn. *E. alata*



*Prosthechea vitellina* syn. *Encyclia vitellina*

## Speaker's Choice

June's speaker Gin Gan selected *Vanda cristata*, grown by Roberta Fox, as Speaker's Choice. Roberta grows this plant outdoors throughout the year, in open shade or occasional filtered sun. Since it is mounted, it needs frequent watering. That is handled by an automatic sprinkler system that waters this plant, and all other mounted plants, at least daily. In hot weather, those sprinklers may run two or three times a day. Winter night temperatures may get close to freezing but seldom go any lower. In very cold weather, watering is reduced (and is done in mid-morning when temperatures are a little higher) Plants like this can handle low temperatures better when dry overnight.



*Vanda cristata*

*Vanda cristata* is native to the Himalaya region from northern India eastward to Bhutan and Nepal, and northward into Tibet, at elevations from around 2000 to 7000 ft. According to Charles Baker, as quoted in Orchidwiz, the temperature range at Katmandu, Nepal, at 4223 ft. is 99 Deg. F down to 27 deg F. At higher elevations, one could expect winter night temperatures to often drop below freezing. In its native habitat, there is considerable cloud cover in the summer, so some shading is required with high temperatures. Rainfall is lower in the winter, though there is ample water from dew. While our climate is the diametric opposite with regard to rainfall, it is not difficult to provide necessary water in the summer. Fortunately when it rains in winter here, the cloud cover tends to keep the temperatures well above freezing, and on cold clear nights the plant will be sufficiently dry to avoid damage.



Closeup showing the dramatic lip

## From the Member's Corner

A nice welcome to Lisa Humphreys of Lico orchids as our guest; she also asked for a membership app, so we may be seeing more of her. Glad to have you, Lisa, and looking forward to having you at our meetings. Calling all members, I'll be needing some volunteers for the auction, runners to and from the auctioneer, intake registration of orchids and related items, set-up and security. Pick your spot and have some fun.

*Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary*

## President's Message

Dear orchid lovers,  
Our club had a very good meeting on June 12 with Gin Gan as our speaker. Many people said that they never realized how vast Indonesia is until they saw the map; the area it covers HUGE. The orchids were wonderful, thanks Gin for sharing your trip with us, we all enjoyed it. Plus another great show and tell. Our new member Dan Gieger brought many wonderful small plants for us to enjoy, one so tiny it was hard to see the tiny white flowers. Great flowers..

After reading Nick's story in last month's newsletter about his new shade cloth and the trials he had, this will be tame in comparison, My shade cloth was ordered and

came in a timely manner, then I went with Edie to meet Bill the pipe man at Golden West College swap meet. I never would have found him! That is one big place and very busy. We made arrangements to call after the shade cloth arrived and for him to come and scope out the area. The call was made and he forgot to call back, finally the call came and he arrived here. With much discussion on how the cloth would be placed, we started with one plan and we ended with another easier way of looking at it. It should be a great asset to the plants and the house. This won't end the project but as everyone says these things are always ongoing, never finished. Ah well it is a step forward. When it is finished please come by and see it. We would love to

show it to you.

Lots of new growth even the *Masdevallia* is responding to the terra cotta pots, so don't give up, Roberta, thanks for the tip on that one. Ask me about that one. The *Cattleya walkeriana* is putting on new roots and a possible bloom spike, I'm really excited about that one.

The warm weather will help the plants to really start their new growth, it is beginning in this yard as it will be in yours. Don't forget the plants for the auction. We can always use more help picking up plants, etc. Looking forward to seeing you and your plants at the next meeting. Talk to you then and as always bring a friend.

*Barbara Olson, President*

**Board members note:** There will be a board meeting after the general meeting. We have a few items related to the October auction that must be decided, so it is very important for all board members to attend and participate.

## Editor's Potting Bench

For those who missed the Orchid Digest Speakers' Day on June 18, try not to make that mistake again! As soon as a date for next year is announced, I will publish it here so that you can mark your calendar. This year the topic was Oncidiinae, and that covers a lot of territory. Cordelia Head of J&L Orchids led off with a survey of some of the smaller members of the tribe (at least smaller flowers, some plants not so small). There are some genera that don't immediately come to mind, with absolutely charming flowers – such as Ada, Brachitia, Comparettia, Cochlioda, Erycina, Ionopsis, Lockhartia, Psygmorchis, Scelochilus, Solenidium... you get the idea. I was delighted to realize that I grow quite a few of these. There was a nail-biting, edge-of-the-seat presentation by Steve Beckendorf on his search for two Odontoglossum species that had not been seen, at least by the scientific community, for many years. Yes, he found them. The process of figuring out how to even go about the search was extremely interesting. We heard a discussion of Cyrtochilums by Howard Leibman,



*Encyclia adenocaula*

See: Editor's Potting Bench, Page 4

### Editor's Potting Bench (from Page 3)

with examples of some hybrids that he has been making with them. He been one of the foremost hybridizers of Oncidium Alliance intergenerics for many years. Living in the Malibu area, he primarily works with outdoor-growing species and hybrids. (I was also delighted to realize that my own collection of Cyrtochilum species now is getting pretty respectable in variety.)

After wine and cheese followed by an excellent dinner, we were treated to a talk by Mark Chase, Director of the Jodrell Laboratories at Kew Gardens. His research has developed the methods that are being used to determine the relationships between orchids, and between orchids and other plants utilizing DNA analysis. He illustrated a case in which a group of orchids mimics a non-orchid to fool insects into pollinating them. The shape (morphology) of the flower, then, may indicate, not a relationship between plants but rather a common pollinator. Determining relationships among organisms is shaped by decisions as to what, of many possible parameters,

are the most important. Thus, birds turn out to be much more closely related to reptiles than to mammals, even though they are warm-blooded. Regulation of one's own body temperature is only one factor; others are more informative of relationships. The complications of horticultural designations (awards, pedigree for breeding, etc) that conflict with new understanding of relationships in orchids will be addressed in enhancements now under development in the Kew database of orchid names. Stay tuned for new developments.

As though the feast of information, good fellowship with other orchid enthusiasts, and good food were not enough, the shopping was also wonderful. The vendors in attendance knew that they would have a particularly discriminating audience, and brought some especially outstanding plants. Naturally, some of those had to go home with me. A few were in bloom, and some of those I share here. I have high hopes for all. So... you have a year to plan to attend the next one. Do it!

Roberta Fox, Editor



Cochlioda noezliana. The color has to be seen to be believed.



Scuticaria hadwenii. Flower looks a bit like an Odon-toglossum, but it has terete leaves reminiscent of a Dendrobium teretefolium. Actually, it related to Lycaste and Zygopetalum.

## Calendar of Events

\* See flyer at [www.socalorchidspecies.com](http://www.socalorchidspecies.com), select the Events link

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

July 8-10, Friday and Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 10-4

Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara

Information: [www.orchidfair.com](http://www.orchidfair.com) or (800) 553-3387

- **Open House at Santa Barbara Orchid Estate**

1250 Orchid Dr, Santa Barbara

Information: [www.sborchids.com](http://www.sborchids.com)

- **Open House at Cal Orchid**

Friday, Saturday and Sunday 8-5

1252 Orchid Dr, Santa Barbara

Information: [www.calorchid.com](http://www.calorchid.com) or (805) 967-1312

BBQ Lunch!

Guest vendors!

Wonderful plants, including lots of easy-to grow, prolific Sobralias!

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

September 24-25, 10 AM to 5 PM

South Coast Plaza Village, NE corner of Bear and Sunflower in Costa Mesa

Information: [www.ocorchidshow.com](http://www.ocorchidshow.com) or (949) 735-2930



Laelia milleri mounted on a porous rock. New roots are grabbing onto it as well as they would on a wooden mount.

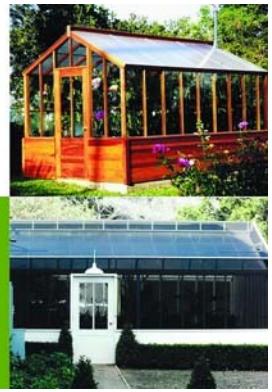


Haraella retrocalla.  
Flower about 1/2". Purple marking on lip is fuzzy—looks like a bug. It is fragrant.

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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.

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