

Southern California Orchid Species Society

www.socalorchidspecies.com

Officers
President

Darrell Lovell
dallevol@yahoo.com

Vice President

Barbara Olson
barstan50@hotmail.com

Society Secretary

Edie Gulrich

Membership Secretary

Edie Gulrich
egulrich@att.net

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Barbara Olson
barstan50@hotmail.com

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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
(Corner of Chapman and Kraemer)

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April 14, 2013

Mounted Orchids Fact and Fantasy

Harry Phillips

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 (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 have an effect on Harry. Shortly after, Andy left for four months for 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 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, with the beginnings of Andy's Orchids, for 10 years while holding a full time job to pay the mortgage, going full time in November of



See Page 2: Harry Phillips

Harry Phillips, from Page 1

1998. His passion in orchids is in the Genera Sobralia and Elleanthus, but you ask him at any particular time of the year which is his favorite orchid, it will most likely be the one or ones in bloom at that time. He has traveled in Mexico the Caribbean and Ecuador viewing orchids in the wild. Harry believes that growing epiphytic orchids the way they grow in nature is best and the orchids seem to agree. He will share with you his experiences with growing mounted orchids, and would like to dispel the fantasy that growing mounted orchids is difficult.

Harry will also be bringing a good selection of orchids to sell. If there is something in particular that you would like him to bring, send your request to info@andysorchids.com.

What IS a Species? A Discussion...

Those of you who missed the last meeting missed a very lively discussion, ignited by some comments from Ed Wise. Here is a bit of a recap of some of the points that were raised. Ed pointed out that we consider ourselves an Orchid species club (woe betide the member who brings a hybrid to show-and-tell). So what IS a "species"? The responses clustered around the concept of a natural population whose offspring have the characteristics of the parents. A hybrid would, then, be the progeny of parents not of the same species (the population whose offspring are like the parents). Ed then pointed to an awarded *Cattleya lueddemanniana*. This plant was the product of generations of selectively breeding *Cattleya lueddemanniana* plants to produce a flower that was bigger and more shapely than would be likely to be found in nature. Is it a species? By the strict definition, that it was not bred with anything else, it is. If placed in the *C. lueddemanniana* habitat, it would probably not produce progeny (no longer fitting its pollinator) and thus

would die out. In cultivation, "big, round, AOS-awarded" are criteria that encourage its pollinator (which has two legs and carries a toothpick). In nature, the selection process favors those plants with flowers that best attract a six-legged pollinator, which



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Cattleya lueddemanniana
'Jim Elmore' AM/AOS

See Page 3: Discussion

From the Member's Corner

With great pleasure, let's welcome new members who joined us at the March meeting: Rita Christensen, Yvonne Ritter and Susan Yamagata. Also a guest: Odette House, who may be joining us permanently very soon. Welcome to all of you and we're glad you've joined our family of orchid enthusiasts.

A note of correction on my part and a big apology, in producing the new roster I inadvertently omitted a very good member; please add to the 'New Members, Additions and Corrections' page in your roster: Holly Hillman, 2826-C Frontera, Anaheim, CA 92806, 714-666-0727, hhillman@exchange.fullerton.edu.

Another note and apology to our members, on our application I asked for dates of birthdays and anniversaries and then didn't send out cards as I had intended, so...Happy Birthdays and Anniversaries to our members who had those special dates in January, February, March and now April. Senior moments are no fun at all. Thank you one and all for your consideration in these matters.

Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

Hi everyone,

I'm sorry I missed the last meeting. I heard that the round table on outdoor growing was a great success. Thanks to all who contributed: Jan Hennessey, Richard Hess, Ed Wise, and Roberta Fox. I hope I didn't forget anyone.

Next month's speaker is Harry from Andy's Orchids. In

case you didn't know, Andy's Orchids specializes in species. I'm really looking forward to the presentation.

All board members: There will be a board meeting after the general meeting, since we did not have one last month.

See you all at the meeting!

Darrell Lovell, President

Discussion, From Page 2

seeks pheromones or food (and probably does not understand the AOS judging system).

Ed then pointed to a spectacular Blc. Goldenzelle. Is that a species? The consensus was that it was not. (Reference to [Orchidwiz](#) indicates that it contains eleven species, from various combinations of hybrids and species over four to seven generations). The odds of finding this combination in nature are probably similar to those of a million monkeys with typewriters producing the *Collected Works of Shakespeare*. But that particular Blc. Goldenzelle was bred from other selected Blc. Goldenzelle cultivars, and so was third-generation Blc. Goldenzelle. These individual Blc. Goldenzelles clearly attracted a pollinator (OK, the two-legged one with a toothpick) At what point does the "selection" become a species? All dogs, from the Chihuahua to the Great Dane or Siberian Husky, are members of the species *Canis canis*. They are all descendents of line-

bred *Canis lupus* (wolf). (Ed. note: A study recently performed in Russia established that it only took about three generations of selectively breeding for gentleness to produce a wolf that was essentially a dog in its behavior)

Canis canis is a "human-made" species (if it is one... one could argue that it really is not different from the original *Canis lupus*.) Probably few were convinced that multiple generations of Blc. Goldenzelle bred to other Blc. Goldenzelle constituted a "species". But the details of which differences in a population of plants determine "species" differentiation can be the subject of much debate in the community of botanists.

Editor's Potting Bench

There are quite a few plants that I keep outside in the spring, summer and fall, moving them into the shelter of the greenhouse only in the coldest months. I have been watching the two- and three-week weather forecasts for awhile, to try to determine when it is safe to move those plants back out. I look for nights consistently above 50 deg. F. The night temperatures have been mostly pretty safe for a month or so, but there were a few days when winter returned—and it is the extremes, not the average, that can cause problems. I think we have finally reached that point. Long-range forecasts look good. I can finally get to the back of the greenhouse without a lot of ducking and weaving. I have taken advantage of the cloud cover to give the plants a chance to adjust a bit more gently to the brighter outdoor environment. So far, I have managed to not toast anything by exposing it to too much light too fast.



© Ed Wise

Blc. Goldenzelle 'Memoria Roy Field' AM/AOS

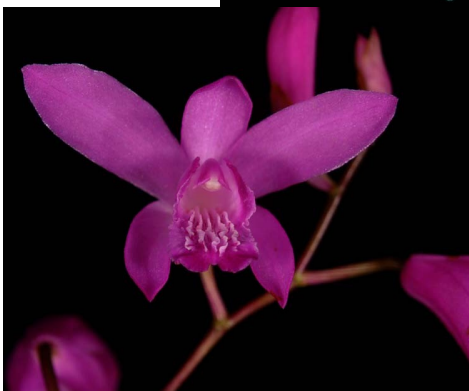
See Page 4, Editor's Potting Bench

Editor's Potting Bench, From Page 3

When orchids are dry (with or without dormancy) they can tolerate more cold than they would otherwise be able to handle. After talking to a few people who have had success wintering *Catasetinae* outdoors (sheltered from any rain, of course) I tried two of them that way. They seem to have done fine, starting to come out of dormancy like the ones in the greenhouse. I will see if they bloom any better. If so, I will give more of them the "treatment" next year—in the warmth of the greenhouse they are very slow to go dormant, and I think that has had a negative impact on blooming. We'll see...

Speaking of blooming, lots of that going on, as I am sure is happening in your growing areas, too. The Aussie *Dendrobiums* remind me of the effect of throwing a match into a pile of fireworks—everything is going off at once. Spectacular, but over too soon. Terrestrial orchids are waking up. Following advice from Richard Hess, I have planted several *Bletilla striata* plants in the flower beds. Those, of course, will never make it to a meeting, but they are blooming enthusiastically and spreading out. The ones in pots are in potting soil (instead of orchid media) and

***Bletilla striata*-
var. *alba* and
typical form**



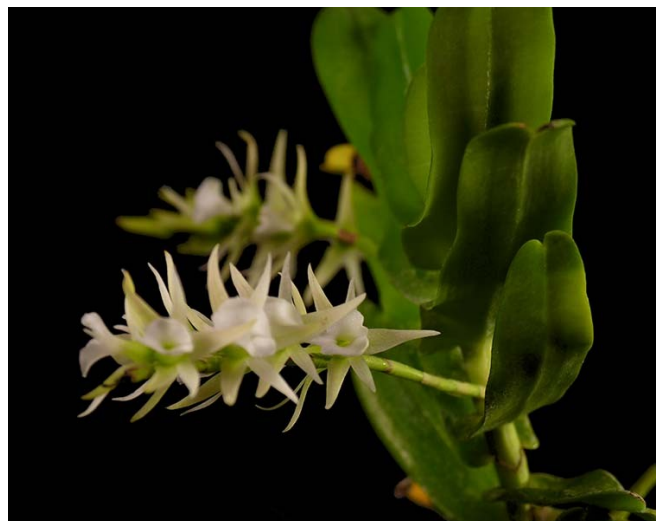
are growing better than they ever did before.

Another in the category of "never at a meeting" is *Sobralia caliglossa*. Along with reblooming on the longest cane (new batch of flowers about 15-17 ft up) one of the newer canes has buds at only 6-7 ft. ... close enough that I'll be able to smell them standing on a kitchen step-stool. (They are fragrant, but the original batch of flowers required a ladder and now they're too high even for that.)



Sobralia caliglossa

It is always a thrill to see the first blooms on a plant that I have been nurturing for awhile. I got this *Oeoniella polystachys* (genus is pronounced "oh-ee-NEE-ella"), an Angraecoid from Madagascar, a couple of years ago from a plant table. I put it in the greenhouse (definitely a warm-grower), and eventually hung it up because the roots were all over the place. Especially in the evening it has a strong, sweet fragrance reminiscent of cloves.



Oeoniella polystachys

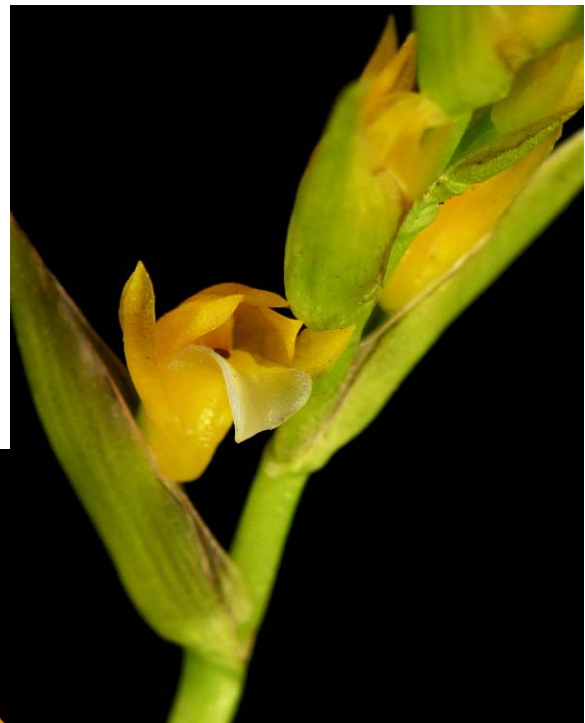
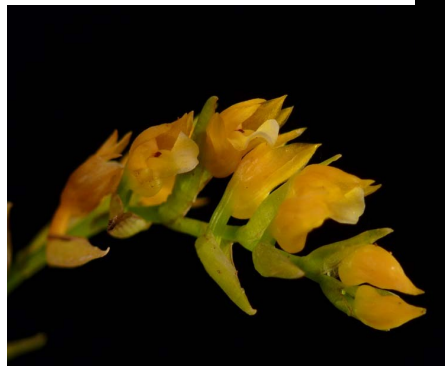
Calendar of Events

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

- **Central Coast Orchid Show and Sale***
April 6-7, 2013—Sat. 9 AM—5 PM, Sun. 10 AM—5 PM
South County Regional Center, 800 W. Branch St., Arroyo Grande
Info: www.fcos.org or (805)929-5749
- **Spring Garden Show**
April 26—29, Thursday-Friday 10 AM—9 PM, Saturday 10 AM—8 PM, Sunday 11 AM—6:30 PM
South Coast Plaza Crate & Barrel/Macy's Home Store Wing (Crystal Court), 3333 Bear St, Costa Mesa
Info: www.springgardenshow.com
- **San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists Annual Auction***
May 16, 2013—Preview 6 PM, Auction begins 7 PM
LA County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia
Info: www.sgvo.org
- **Casa de las Orquideas 13th Annual Seedling Sale***
May 18, 9 AM—4 PM
170 S. Nardo Ave, Solana Beach
Info: www.orquideas.com, (858)755-7572 or casa@orquideas.com

Also blooming now is *Brachtia andina*. The flower is best appreciated in a photograph—the inflorescence contains multiple flowers, each about 1/8" across. The plant (member of the *Oncidium* tribe) is grown mounted, outside in a shady area. Being mounted, it needs daily watering, more in summer. Originating in Colombia and Ecuador at elevations as high as 9000 ft, it needs to be protected from the summer heat as much as possible, though it isn't as fussy as some of the *Masdevallias*.

Roberta Fox, Editor



Brachtia andina

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: Nancy & Karl Batchman 170 S Nardo Av Solana Bch, CA 92075 858-755-7572, www.orquideas.com</p>	<p>Diamond Orchids Contact: Peter Lin 834 Featherwood Dr Diamond Bar, CA 91765 909-396-0334, www.diamondorchids.com</p>	<p>Ecuagenera Contact: Ivan Portilla PO Box 01011110 Cuenca, Ecuador www.ecuagenera.com</p>
<p>Lico Orchids Contact: Lisa Humphries & Nico Goosens 309 Via Nancita Encinitas, CA 92024 760-942-4143</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.com</p>
<p>Mr. Fertilizer Contact: Don Knipp 247 23rd St Costa Mesa, CA 92626 949-548-2678</p>	<p>Orange County Farm Supply Contact: Chris Roy 1826 W Chapman Av Orange, CA 92868 714-978-6500, www.ocfarmssupply.com</p>	<p>Orchids by Zeny Contact: Zeny Harrington 22920 Cajalco Rd Perris, CA 92570 951-236-0291</p>
<p>Orchids of Los Osos Contact: Michael Glikbarg 1614 Sage Ave. Los Osos, CA 93402 805-528-0181, www.orchidsoflososos.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 Orchid Mixes and Supplies 10608 Floral Park Lane North Potomac, MD 20878 301-315-2344, www.repotme.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>Sorella Orchids Contact: Nenita Sorella 100 Frenchys Cove #71 Camarillo, CA 93012 360-607-9342, www.sorellaorchids.com</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>	