



Southern California Orchid Species Society

www.socalorchidspecies.com

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Newsletter

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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

Kraemer Memorial Park

Backs Community Building, Main Room

201 N. Bradford Ave., Placentia

(Chapman and Bradford, parking off Bradford)

Volume 37 Issue 11

November, 2014

November 9, 2014

Meeting Location Change November Only!

Whitten Community Center, 900 S. Melrose St., Placentia

East side of Melrose just south of Orangethorpe

Map on Page 5

The Genus *Catasetum*: Species and Hybrids

Phyllis Prestia

Phyllis S. Prestia, Ed.D. is a retired educator and Middle School Principal. She received a Doctorate of Education at Rutgers University, where she also served as instructor in the graduate education program.

Originally from New Jersey, she moved to California with her husband to retire in the sunny, San Diego area and grow orchids. Her collection includes a variety of species and hybrids across several genera grown both in a small greenhouse and three outdoor growing areas under shade cloth.

In her orchid life she has been the President of the San Diego County Cymbidium Society and currently serves as the Vice President of the Cymbidium Society of America, as well as keeping active in several Southern California orchid societies. She is currently participating in the orchid judge training programs of both the American Orchid Society and Cymbidium Society of America.

Phyllis' presentation on the genus *Catasetum* will give the hobbyist orchid grower a thorough review of the distinctive traits of these spectacular orchids. She will highlight the key species most popular in modern *Catasetum* breeding and their influence of color and form in both primary and complex hybrids.

With a comprehensive review of the culture for these relatively easy to grow orchids, including tips from her own successful experience growing them, even those new to the genus can enjoy these beautiful, fragrant orchids.

Phyllis will provide the plant table from Sunset Valley Orchids



The “Bonus Plant”

Scott McGregor

A weed is a plant growing where it isn't wanted. Most orchid growers deal with the occasional weed, or maybe a stubborn infestation of things like Oxalis or various ferns and mosses, but what about weedy orchid infestations? How could an orchid be a weed?

If you're a beginner growing orchids, you're probably delighted when your plants survive to bloom each year. More advanced growers are amused when a stray seedling pops up in a pot or on the mount of another orchid—a “bonus plant”! It would be hard to imagine an orchid with beautiful flowers being a weed. Well, I've learned that there is one...

You may have read about *Epipactis helleborine* that was intentionally brought to the US from Europe and has become widespread across the country. *Disa bractea* has been nicknamed “South African weed orchid” by Australians who view this very much like we view dandelions as it spreads invasively across their continent. We don't see these in our orchid collections.

I got my first *Cynorchis fastigiata* for free (a “bonus plant”) when I made a large purchase. It was in bloom at the time, and I was delighted with the cute pink flowers, and the Madagascar origin made it seem even more intriguing. It was described in the catalog as follows: “a prolific deciduous terrestrial, 1-2 seasonal leaves appear in spring from an annual tuber that produce a 4" to 10" spike carrying from two to ten 1" little pink blushed man flowers that are all lip, freely seeds and sprouts about .. everywhere.” Sure enough, as the flowers faded, seed pods emerged and matured. Still cute, and I thought little of it.

The following year, I noticed a small plant, clearly a

© Scott McGregor



Cynorchis fastigiata

monocot and probably an orchid, growing in the pot of a large *Dendrobium speciosum*. It flowered, and I recognized it as a seedling *Cynorchis fastigiata*. Another bonus plant! I carefully protected it, worried that it was getting too much light or not enough water, and my efforts paid off and it too developed seed pods. Encouraged, I got a second *Cynorchis*, *C. gibbosa*, which is truly spectacular and which I highly recommend (and doesn't readily self-seed).

Now this year, I have *Cynorchis fastigiata* everywhere.

See: **Bonus Plant**, Page 3

From the Member's Corner

What a day on Sunday with the auction! Good plants, good food, great auctioneer and wonderful help from everyone who pitched in. All of the setup, picking up and toting of plants, helping Peter with the items up for bid, helping the people with their plants and items at checkout, all of the prep and computer work and helping with the cleanup. Thank you so very much, I couldn't have done it without all of you.

We also had 3 new members join us, so please welcome: Ivan Allen, Tammy Anderson and Yau-Suen Farn. We welcome you to our family and look forward to seeing you next month. Thank you again each and everyone.

Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

Our annual auction was a smashing success! I would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who gave so generously of their time and effort to make this year's auction one of our best ever. Peter Lin did a great job as auctioneer. We are very grateful to all of our sponsors who donated plants. When you visit one of our sponsors, please mention that you are a member of the

Species Society and are very appreciative of their support. We sold every plant!

See you all in November! (At our temporary meeting place! for November only!)

Darrell Lovell

Slate of Officers and Directors for 2015

President	Darrell Lovell	Director, 2015	Ed Wise (continuing)
Vice President	Nick Braemer		Janet Roberson
Secretary	Phyllis Adams	Director, 2016	Scott McGregor
Treasurer	Susan Scheffler		Roberta Fox
Membership Secretary	Edie Gulrich	Director, 2017	Marshall Lai
			Richard Hess

Bonus Plant, from Page 2



Cynorchis fastigiata "infestation"

There are perhaps a dozen plants in the original Dendrobium pot, and it has sprouted in pots all over my growing area, seemingly transported long distances from the original plants. They seem indifferent to the amount of light or growing medium. They'll all disappear in another month or so for their winter dormancy, but I know they'll be back in force next Spring, and I'll probably get quite a nice display of flowers next June. I haven't yet developed the resolve to dig them out of

their host pots—I'll let them live, for now, but next year I will surely cut off the flower spikes once they fade. We'll see how I feel about them by the end of next summer!

Oh, and be sure to let me know if you'd like a "bonus plant" with some cute pink flowers...



Cynorchis gibbosa



© Edie Gulrich

Auction 2014



Editor's Potting Bench

Thank you to everybody who participated in the auction—organizers, helpers, and bidders. The proceeds will provide us with a meeting place and speakers for the coming year. Thanks especially to Edie Gulrich and Janice Krause for leading the effort.

That long, hot summer (just winding down) has certainly messed with blooming times. As of two weeks before the November meeting, I have four *Laelia anceps* in full bloom, a month to six weeks earlier than usual for those plants. On the other hand, most of my *Cymbidium* spikes aren't even big enough to stake yet, running about a month late. All that means is that I expect to have lots of flowers of one sort or another over a longer period of time. All good.

Instead of filling this space with *L. anceps*, which all of you have (or if not, what are you waiting for????) here are a few more unusual things. *Dendrobium papilio* (Peter Lin brought in a beautiful one awhile back) is fascinating. It has a 4-inch flower on a cane that is about 1/16", so that if it isn't staked, the flower just

floats (living up to its name, "butterfly"). It does bloom several times a year, so maybe next time it'll make it to a meeting. This one does need warmth. *Pelatantheria insectifera* is a cute little outdoor-growing Vandaceous plant, that is blooming for me for the first time. It will probably be in bloom for the meeting, but the small flowers are better appreciated in a close-up photo. This was a SBOE \$7.50 special that I have been nurturing for about four years; well worth the time. The form of the plant and the appearance of the flowers, indicate to me that this genus is closely related to *Cleisostoma*, another Vandaceous genus with several cool-growing species.

Roberta Fox, Editor



Dendrobium papilio



Pelatantheria insectifera

Calendar of Events

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

- **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House***
November 1 8 AM –5 PM, November 2 9 AM–4 PM
1250 Orchid Dr, Santa Barbara
Info: www.sborchid.com, sboe@sborchid.com, 800-553-3387
 - Laelia anceps Parade, Cymbidium Season Kickoff
\$7.50 specials
Other great fall bloomers
- **Cal Orchid Open House***
November 1-2, 9 AM–4 PM
1251 Orchid Dr, Santa Barbara
Info: www.calorchid.com, calorchid@cox.net, 805-967-1312
- **Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Fall Show and Sale**
November 15 10 AM–5 PM (museum admission), November 16 10 AM–3 PM (free admission)
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta del Sol , Santa Barbara
Info: fmorchids@hotmail.com or call SBOE
- **Casa de las Orquideas Open House***
December 6-7, 9 AM–4 PM
170 S. Nardo Ave., Solana Beach
Info: casa@orquideas.com or (858)755-7572



Location of November Meeting

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 760-436-4235, info@andysorchids.com www.andysorchids.com</p>	<p>Asbell Orchids Contact: Bob & Dan Asbell 805-550-5484</p>	<p>Blossom Supplies Contact: Gordon Hong 626-975-5293, blossomplanting@aol.com www.blossomproducts.com</p>
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