



# 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  
Kraemer Memorial Park  
Backs Community Building, Main Room  
201 N. Bradford Ave., Placentia  
(Chapman and Bradford, parking off Bradford)

Volume 38 Issue 11

November 2015

**November 8, 2015**

## Laelia purpurata: Queen of the Cattleyas

**Tim Culbertson**

Although he teaches middle school kids for a living, one of his passions has always been plants. He began growing orchids as an offshoot from working at Longwood Gardens in Philadelphia just after college. From the very beginning it was all about Paphs, particularly awarded and select clones of historic importance, of which his collection numbers nearly 3000. While he loves finding old, rare stepping stones in paph breeding, he also does a little hybridizing of his own, and growing up his own babies is a blast. He is an accredited judge with the American Orchid Society, and have served in various capacities with various orchid societies in California and on the East Coast. He likes to be involved in plants as much as possible: in addition to Longwood, he has worked at the Smithsonian Institution tending to their orchids, and for years for the United States National Arboretum, collecting rare plants and documenting cultivated species and hybrids for their herbarium. In short, he really likes plants.



Laela (Cattleya) purpurata var. ubatubana

For our meeting, he will be sharing a presentation on Laelia purpurata, the Queen of the Cattleyas. Although large, these spectacular Cattleyas grow well outside in Southern California, and with their myriad colors and a relatively unique blooming time, these are great plants for every collection, extending the blooming times in the Cattleya Alliance through July. With more and more Laelia purpurata clones and

See: Tim Culbertson, Page 2

Tim Culbertson, from Page 1

seedlings coming in from Brazil, and large grexes being bred in the United States, these stately, magnificent plants have seen a resurgence in popularity of late, and with good reason! By the end of this presentation, you will have a new appreciation of the range of color forms of *Laelia purpurata* and its hybrids, as well as an appreciation of their beautiful flowers and ease-of-growth. He will be providing a plant table of outdoor growing cattleyas, including many plants of *Laelia purpurata*.

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## Construction of a Gray Water Recycling System

*Nick Braemer*

I built an elaborate gray water recycling system and am utilizing all of the gray water the house produces for watering (orchids and all others) purposes. I did this for several reasons, saving the planet (being super green) was not one of them. I think the planet will go to hell in a hand basket once the pesky human population reaches 20 to 30 billion with or without my water conservation. No matter, as long as a few amoeba survive us, nature will start all over again and produce intelligent life in another 2 or 3 billion years.

I did it mostly to see if it can be done. Also to keep busy with tinkering, which I enjoy and finally to be prepared in case the city ever limits my water usage. Right now they limit the times I can water my grass, define how to wash a car, driveway etc none of which impacts my orchid watering. I use about 5 times as much water as my neighbors and if the city ever gives absolute limits, I'm in trouble. Finally it actually may save me money as it will reduce the water bill but at this point I don't know yet by how much. I'm guessing \$50 per month which would take a couple of years to recapture the outlay. It's not a money maker.

I made an anonymous call to the city and all I got was talk about filters, UV light fixtures etc which is nonsense. Expensive and needs maintenance. What I built did not cost an arm and a leg and requires no maintenance as it relies on bacterial action to do the work. As long as I can keep the bleach out of there it should run indefinitely, similar to a river bed

which does not need cleaning.

The only part I could not do myself was the plumbing under the house. I am friends with a couple of plumbers and they diverted all of the water from the house except the toilet water and brought it in a 2" pipe to the edge of the greenhouse adjoining the house. Included are all the sinks, shower/tub and the washing machine. The water arrives in the greenhouse at ground level. I sunk a 40 gallon trash can into the ground and brought the pipe to the bottom of the container. There is a master valve which I can use to redirect the water back into the sewer which I need to do anytime someone uses bleach in the washing machine. The waste water from the RO system also goes into these containers. My RO unit wastes about 3 gallons for every gallon it produces, this is now put to use.

The water is released near the bottom of this below ground level barrel which is filled 3/4 with 1/2' gravel. On top of the gravel sits a sump pump in a 5 gallon container which is activated when the water reaches the top of this container. It then pumps about a foot worth of water into a 40 gallon trash can which sits at ground level. This can and 3 more like it, are full of gravel. A pipe picks up the water at the bottom of the can full of gravel and releases it on the top of the gravel in the next can. This is repeated until the water reaches the storage containers which are empty. In order to get there it has to See: [Gray Water Recycling, Page 4](#)

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## From the Member's Corner

A very big thank you for all of the hard work by the auction group, it wouldn't have gone so smoothly without each and every one of you. Thank you again! A warm welcome to our guests, who had a good time by the amount of plants that they left with: Marisol Redding from Brea, and Medrick Bullock from San Diego. Thank you for joining us and we hope to see you again very soon.

Please note that over the next few months, meeting times and/or locations will be different due to facilities scheduling and construction. The full schedule is listed in this newsletter, and you will receive reminders each month, so be sure to read your newsletter each month to be sure that you find the meeting!

Looking forward to seeing everyone one on November 8th. Best to all,  
*Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary*

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## President's Message

Hello everyone,

In spite of the extreme heat, our annual auction was a success! All of our plants were sold. I would like to thank everyone who pitched in to help in any way. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! On behalf of all our members, I would also like to thank all of our commer-

cial supporters for their donations. A very special thanks goes out to our auctioneer, Peter Lin.

Hope to see you all at our next meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Happy Halloween!

*There will be a board meeting after the general meeting. Main topic—board for next year.*

*Darrell Lovell, President*

### UPCOMING MEETINGS—NOTE SOME CHANGES

December 13, 2015	<b>Starts at 1 PM</b> (an hour earlier), at regular place
January 10, 2016	Regular time and place
February 14, 2016	Regular time and place
March 13, 2016	<b>Whitten Community Center, 900 S Melrose St, Placentia</b> , Regular time
April 10, 2016	<b>Whitten Community Center, 900 S Melrose St, Placentia</b> , Regular time
May 8, 2016	Regular time and place

## Editor's Potting Bench

First, I want to give a very special thanks to Edie Gulrich for organizing the smoothest auction I have ever worked on. The whole team was awesome!

In southern California we are blessed to be located near some outstanding orchid nurseries. When you visit a nursery you have access to a much wider variety of plants than anybody could put in a truck and bring to a show. You can also see where the plants are grown, which can help you select the best location for them when you get them home. Be sure to visit the Santa Barbara nurseries just before the November meeting, and the San Diego ones at the beginning of December.

Fall is finally putting in at least a tentative appearance, with a bit of cooling at night. Night temperatures are still high enough for even warmer-growing orchids, but be on the watch for more chill. But the Cymbidiums are finally starting to show a bit of action! The first of my autumn Laelias to bloom is *Laelia* (*Schomburgkia*) *superbiens*, and it is a whopper that is not coming to the meeting because it doesn't fit in the car. Yours truly included for scale.

*Catasetum fibriatum* bloomed about the time of the auction, so you'll have to enjoy that one in a photo. I'm start-



***Laelia superbiens***

ing to see the beginnings of dormancy in a few of that group and am cutting back the water for the ones that are starting to lose leaves. Different plants do have slightly different "calendars" but they do sense fall.



See: **Editor's Potting Bench**, Page 4

Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3



Cattasetum  
fimbriatum

Another interesting one that bloomed last month was this unusual color form of *Cattleya bowringiana*. It's form could probably be described as "anelata" because of the colored ring on the lip. Cultivar is 'One in a Million'.



*C. bowringiana* 'One in a Million'

I think the Stanhopeas have conspired to get their revenge for my occasional absences. Three of them came and went in the two weeks that I was in Canada last summer. Then Stan. wardii 'Los vientos Encinitas' decided to bloom early (and well before the Santa Ana winds). First spike opened during the weekend when I was busy with Fascination of Orchids. The second spike opened the following weekend, when I was helping out at Andy's Orchids. (I did get to enjoy the fragrance, but missed the "pop" when they opened). I did get the last

one when I could properly appreciate it. The fragrance is intoxicatingly sweet. The flowers only last a few days, so it is important to savor them while they're fresh.

Live in the moment...

Roberta Fox, Editor



*Stanhopea wardii*

Gray Water Recycling, from Page 2

pass through five 40 gallon cans worth of 1/2" gravel, approximately 20 odd cubic feet since the cans are not filled to the top. A gradient is required as the water flows from can to can by gravity. Two 100 gallon tubs and 3 more trash cans give me 300 gallons plus storage capacity for clean water. To get to the storage containers, the water has to pass through 5 trash cans worth of 1/2" gravel. If I water everything extensively, including the non-orchids, I use about 200 gallons.

None of this takes up greenhouse space as I have a bench top on top of the containers so no growing space is lost. I could have sunk them into the ground but that would have been too much work. The last of the containers has an overflow which discharges into the flower bed in front of the house. If at any point the house produces more water than I need, it just goes into that flower bed. In the winter when I water much less a lot of that is going to happen. I can also at any time divert the house water directly into the city sewer.

Now I needed a couple of booster pumps to give me water pressure so I can water in the usual fashion. For fertilization I just throw it into the containers using a ppm meter to keep track of the concentration. The sensitive cloud forest plants, Masdies, Dracula, Pleuos etc still only get RO water.

I fed the water to my dog and turtle and after they failed to kick off, even drank some myself. It looks clear, does not smell but is a little soapy. The bacteria apparently eat all of the organic stuff like food residues, etc, but fail to clear all of the

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

- **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Fall Open House**  
November 7-8 2015; Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-4  
1250 Orchid Dr., Santa Barbara  
Info: [www.sborchid.com](http://www.sborchid.com) or (800) 553-3387
  - Mexican Laelia species, Cymbidium Season kickoff, \$7.50 specials
  - Annual Silent Auction
- **Cal Orchid Fall Open House**  
November 7-8; 2015 9-4 both days  
1251 Orchid Dr., Santa Barbara  
Info: [www.calorchid.com](http://www.calorchid.com) or (805) 967-1312
  - Sale of all sorts of great plants
  - Special Cymbidium event—an offering of select divisions from the private collection of Andy Easton. Andy will be on site to answer questions
- **Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Show and Sale**  
November 21-22, 2015; Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-3  
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2599 Puesta del Sol Rd, Santa Barbara  
Info: [fmorchids@hotmail.com](mailto:fmorchids@hotmail.com)
- **Andy's Orchids Holiday Open House**  
December 4-6; 10-4 each day  
734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas  
888-514-2639 or [info@andysorchids.com](mailto:info@andysorchids.com); [www.andysorchids.com](http://www.andysorchids.com)  
Don't forget your "Bonus Bucks"
- **Casa de Las Orquideas Annual Open House**  
December 5-6; 9-4 each day  
170 S. Nardo Ave., Solana Beach  
858-755-7572 or [casa@orquideas.com](mailto:casa@orquideas.com); [www.orquideas.com](http://www.orquideas.com)
- **Sunset Valley Orchids Open House**  
December 5-6; 9-4 each day  
1255 Navel Pl, Vista  
760-310-0778 ; [www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com)  
Saturday 11-2 is Taco Day—handmade tacos for all!
- **Orange County Orchid Society Annual Auction**  
January 20, 2016; 6:30 PM Preview, 7 PM auction begins  
Yorba Linda Public Library Community Room, lower level, 18181 Imperial Highway, Yorba Linda  
Info: Edie Gulrich 714-991-8661 [egulrich@att.net](mailto:egulrich@att.net) or Susan Scheffler 714-777-9553, [chefinyl@gmail.com](mailto:chefinyl@gmail.com)

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soap. The PH is high, about 8 but with the use of fertilizer drops down to the low 7s. So far the orchids don't seem to care, ask me again in 6 months or so.

With this I have eliminated use of the city water for watering all of my plants except the sensitive orchids which continue to get the RO water. I'm sure the planet sleeps a little better knowing how green I am! If we get a big El Nino this winter and the reservoirs will all be full again, this was an exercise in futility but I enjoyed building it, there won't be any regrets. Anyone who wants to see it is welcome to stop by. Bring your own cup, you'll be expected to taste it as a show of confidence .

**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 &amp; Harry Phillips 760-436-4235, info@andysorchids.com www.andysorchids.com</p>	<p>Aroma Orchids of Rowland Heights Contact: Michelle Liu 626-839-3888 aromaorchids@gmail.com</p>	<p>Asbell Orchids Contact: Bob &amp; Dan Asbell 805-550-5484</p>
<p>Cal-Orchid Contact: James Rose 805-967-1312, calorchid@cox.net www.calorchid.com</p>	<p>Casa de las Orquideas Contact: Nancy Batchman 858-755-7572, casa@orquideas.com www.orquideas.com</p>	<p>Diamond Orchids Contact: Peter Lin 909-396-0334, mini-catt99@yahoo.com www.diamondorchids.com</p>
<p>Ecuagenera Contact: Ivan Portilla info@ecuagenera.com www.ecuagenera.com</p>	<p>Everything Orchids Contact: Linda Gardner (619)252-1294, everythingorchids@cox.net www.everythingorchids.biz</p>	<p>Floralia Contact: Steve Champlin info@floralia.com.br www.floralia.com.br/index.html</p>
<p>Gold Country Orchids Contact: Alan Koch 916-645-8600, gcorchids@aol.com www.goldcountryorchids.com</p>	<p>Hatfield Orchids Contact: George Hatfield 805-901-0340, www.hatfieldorchids.com</p>	<p>Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens Contact: Brandon Tam btam@huntington.org www.http://huntington.org</p>
<p>Lico Orchids Contact: Lisa Humphries &amp; Nico Goossens 760-942-4143, licoorchid@aol.com</p>	<p>Mariposa Garden Contact: Ron Hill 562-920-5588, www.mariposagarden.com</p>	<p>Mr. Fertilizer Contact: Don Knipp 949-548-2678,</p>
<p>Orchid Design Contact: Angelic Nguyen 408-947-0486 angelic@orchidesign.com www.orchidesign.com</p>	<p>Orchids &amp; Gardens Contact: Susan Hamilton orchidsandgardens@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>Orchids of Los Osos Contact: Michael Glikbarg (805) 528-0181, orchidland@aol.com www.orchidsoflososos.com</p>
<p>OrchidWiz 720-524-3774 support@orchidwiz.com www.orchidwiz.com</p>	<p>Orquideas Katia Contact: Gustavo Aguirre orquideaskatia@gmail.com</p>	<p>Outdoor Images Contact: John Remlinger 714-841-0442, www.orchidbasket.com</p>
<p>Phrao Orchids Nursery Contact: Katai phraoorchidsnursery@gmail.com www.facebook.com/Nursery.at.Phrao</p>	<p>Rainforest Flora Contact: Jerry Robinson 310-370-8044 jr@rainforestflora.com www.rainforestflora.com</p>	<p>rePotme.com Orchid Mixes and Supplies 301-315-2344, customer_service@repotme.com www.repotme.com</p>
<p>Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Contact: Alice &amp; Parry Gripp 800-553-3387, sboc@sborchid.com www.sborchid.com</p>	<p>Seed Engei Contact: Satomi Kasahara , seed_engei@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Sorella Orchids Contact: Nenita Sorella 360-607-9342, www.sorellaorchids.com</p>
<p>Sunset Valley Orchids Contact: Fred Clarke 760-639-6255, fred.clarke@att.net www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com</p>	<p>The Orchid Place Contact: Nghia Le cuheo1@netscape.net</p>	<p>Wise Orchids Contact: Ed Wise 714-524-1730;orchides@pacbell.net</p>