

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 38 Issue 12

December 2015

December 13, 2015

MEETING BEGINS AT 1 PM THIS MONTH!!! (Regular location)

Aussie Native Dendrobiums and Their Cultivation

Fred Clarke

Sunset Valley Orchids

Our friends down under have been breeding their native Dendrobiums and creating some fantastic flowers, the word is out! Aussie Dens are easy to grow, tolerant of heat and cold, have fragrant flowers, and re-bloom from the old bulbs!!! They grow well with Cattleyas and in frost free areas they are perfect plants for the shade house. In conclusion we cover the 'best practices' for growing these remarkable plants. A PowerPoint presentation

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 33 years and has been hybridizing for 25 of those years. With over 25 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.



Dendrobium teretifolium

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Aussie Dendrobium and Paphiopedilum hybrids.

His pioneering work in Cattasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of sev-

See: Fred Clarke, Page 2

Fred Clarke, from Page 1

eral notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced “the **blackest** flower ever witnessed”. This grex has received eight FCC’s, eight AM’s and the coveted ‘Award of Distinction’ on the first flowers shown for judging!

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.

Speaker’s Choice

November speaker Tim Culbertson selected a robust *Sophronitis wittigiana* grown by Scott McGregor as his Speaker’s Choice. Scott grows all of his orchids outside, and utilizes reverse-osmosis water.

Sophronitis wittigiana (also known as *S. rosea*) is now listed officially as *Cattleya wittigiana*, reflecting the current assignment of all *Sophronitis* as *Cattleya*. Interesting to know, but most of us are not changing our tags. This species originates in southeast Brazil, from the interior mountains of the state of Espírito Santo, primarily at elevations from 3500–4500 ft. (1070–1370 m.) but have been found as low as 2500 ft (700 m.) and as high as 6550 ft. (2000 m.) according to Charles Baker in [Orchidwiz](#). This would indicate that it can tolerate a wide range of temperatures, preferring cool nights but also tolerating warm days. As is typical for tropical areas, the highest amount of rainfall is in the summer, with drier, brighter winters. However, it receives moisture from dew even when rain is sparse, so does not need, or want, a significant rest period in winter.



Sophronitis wittigiana

From the Member’s Corner

Let's welcome our latest addition to the Society, May Cheng, coming from San Clemente. Welcome aboard and very glad to have you with us. For the rest of you, dues are due; if you didn't pay at the auction, bring your \$5 for email newsletter or \$10 for snail mail newsletter to the December meeting. I would like to get the roster out in a timely manner.

Remember, the meeting starts an hour earlier, at 1 PM, this month, because another event will be using the building in the late afternoon. Doors will be open at noon.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours.

Eddie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

Hello all,

On behalf of the Society, I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Richard Hess and his family. Richard's wife Sara recently passed away. In her honor, the Society is making a donation to the Jack T. Fowlie Fund of the Orchid Digest.

Election of officers and Board members will take place at the December meeting. If you would like to submit nomi-

nations, you may email me at dallevol@yahoo.com. The slate of officers that is offered by the Nominations Committee is listed below.

I was going to comment about keeping delicate plants warm on these chilly nights, but it happens to be over 80 degrees today! I will just say "Happy Growing" and hope to see you at the December meeting!

Darrell Lovell, President

Proposed Officers and Directors for 2016

President	Dana Seelig	Director, 2016	Scott McGregor
Vice President	Nick Braemer		Tammy Anderson (new)
Corporate Secretary	Holly Hillman	Director, 2017	Marshall Lai
Membership Secretary	Edie Gulrich		Richard Hess
Treasurer	Susan Scheffler	Director, 2018	Alexandra Allen (new)
			Darrell Lovell (new)

Editor's Potting Bench

We have all heard the advice about the orchids that need to "have no water between Halloween and Valentine's Day". To which I reply, "Baloney!" or words to that effect. The calendar may be a guide, but I think that one needs to observe what the weather is actually doing, and adjust behavior accordingly. In the habitats where species such as *Dendrobium nobile* grow, the plants are not likely to encounter 85 deg. F days with 15% humidity. And our usual pattern of cool nights combined with warm days, which usually occurs in September, didn't happen until November. Finally, we may be approaching the time for safely reducing water. Nights have been cool for about a month, and the long-range forecast indicates that we may be done with Santa Anas for awhile. The prime candidates for a significant reduction of water are *Den. nobile* and its hybrids, and some others that are starting to show yellowing leaves. Also, *Dendrobium lindleyi* (*aggregatum*) needs a rest to give flowers in the spring. Some of the others, like the temperate-zone Aussie *Dendrobiums* (like *Den. speciosum* and *Den. kingianum*) don't have this need. The key is where the plants originate—those from monsoonal areas will receive little or no rain in the winter (though they get dew...

a hint that the drying-out needs to be moderated a bit) but southern Australia has a climate similar to ours, with winter rain. Another group that can benefit from a few dry months is *Sarcochilus*. Butch Wekerle-Thrun noted that the ones that didn't get hit by the sprinklers bloomed better. *Catasetinae* are different, though... no water means "NO WATER" until new growth is well-established.

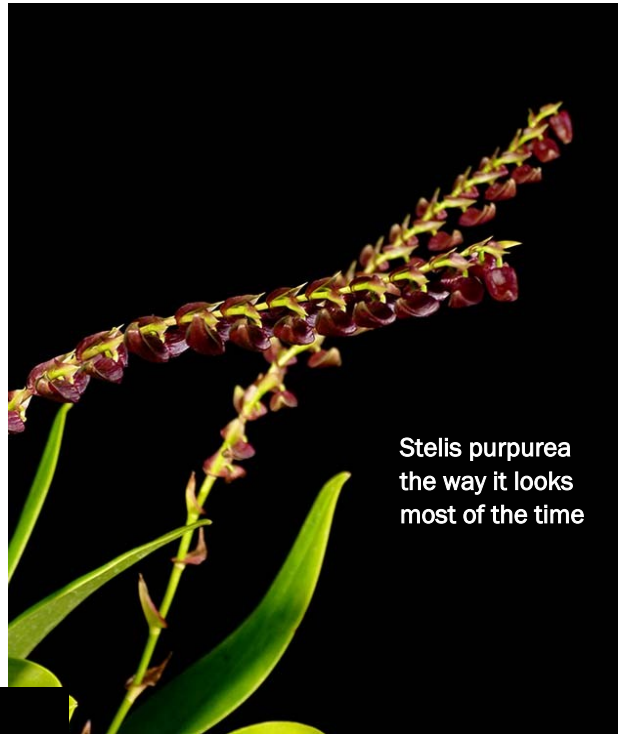
For those of us who grow outside, we also need to be concerned about the "temperature marginal" species, those that might like to be warmer but will put up with cold if they are dry. That includes many of the *Cattleya* species. In general, we reduce watering in winter anyway, since things don't dry as quickly. But a cold rain, followed by a sharp temperature drop when the cold cover departs, can be deadly for some of the *Catts*, especially those that are putting out their new growth during the winter and early spring. It is really quite easy to make a sheltered area with clear polycarbonate patio-cover material. If you can slide the sheets under the shade cloth, they will also be secured against wind. Just a small caution... if you keep the plants from being rained upon, don't forget to water them even if it does

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

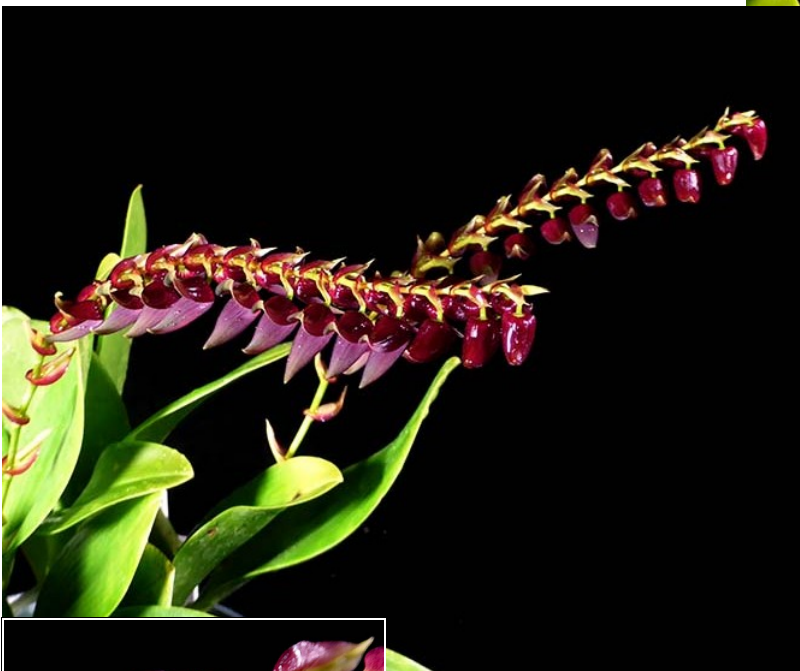
Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3

rain, once the sun comes out.

I had the first bloom, after several years, on *Stelis purpurea*, and almost missed it. The inflorescences developed nicely, had big, dark buds... but there it sat, or so I thought. I am not an early-morning person, but one morning I did go out to look at my plants about 8 AM. And behold... the flowers on this plant were, in fact, open. At 9 AM they were tightly shut again. So, I am not sure when the flowers actually started to open, but once I figured out the scheme I kept an eye on them and they lasted for another two weeks or so. Quite a few *Pleurothallids* do close up around mid-day (so that they don't lend themselves to be taken to meetings) but this one goes to extremes. I don't know how early the flowers open, probably around dawn. But somewhere between 8:30 and 9 AM, they're done for the



Stelis purpurea
the way it looks
most of the time



Stelis purpurea open for early risers.

day. Enjoy it here.

Several *Dendrochilum* species are blooming for me at this time. Most of them grow outside. *Dendrochilum cootesii* is a charming miniature. The whole plant is about 3" or 4" tall. The flowers are relatively large for the genus, and the segments are curled at the tips. It was named



Dendrochilum cootesii

Calendar of Events * See flier at www.socalorchidspecies.com, select the Events link

- **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; 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; 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
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 or Susan Scheffler 714-777-9553, chefinyl@gmail.com
- **Newport Harbor Orchid Society Orchid Expo**
February 12-14, 2016; Friday 10-9, Saturday 10-7, Sunday 10-6
Westminster Mall
Info: www.nhosinfo.org
- **Pacific Orchid Exposition**
February 26-28, 2015; Friday and Saturday 9-6, Sunday 10-5
Fort Mason Center's Festival Pavilion, San Francisco
Info: <http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/poe.html>
- **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show**
March 4-6, 2016
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
Info: www.sborchidshow.com

Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 4

for James Cootes, who visited several local clubs early in the year. He has done a lot of work on the identification of new species, especially *Dendrochilum*. Several other *Dendrochilum* species are blooming for me now... no room for the photos, but perhaps they'll be in bloom for the meeting. One *Ddc. magnum* is done, but I have another hitting its stride. Those tend to do better in a greenhouse, but mine live outside, and still bloom. Other outside-growing *Dendrochilums* are just getting started—*Ddc. cobbianum* and *Ddc. javierii*. I grow *Ddc. saccolabium* in the greenhouse, but suspect that it would be OK outside, at least most of the year. It's a delightful genus that produces LOTS of flowers.

Roberta Fox, Editor

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>Aroma Orchids of Rowland Heights Contact: Michelle Liu 626-839-3888 aromaorchids@gmail.com</p>	<p>Asbell Orchids Contact: Bob & 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 & 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 & 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>
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<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 & 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>