

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 39 Issue 3

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March 13, 2016

Meeting Location Change March, April, and May

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

East side of Melrose just south of Orangethorpe

Map on Page 5

Natural History of Orchids

From a 21st Century Scientist's Point of View

Ken Cameron

There was a time when scholars were proud to call themselves 'naturalists' and the discipline of 'natural history' was highly respected. The term is often used to describe the systematic study of plants, fungi, or animals in their environment, or as museum specimens, often leaning more toward observational rather than experimental methods of study. Many scientists today look down on natural history as non-rigorous, antiquated, and irrelevant in the modern world. Professor Ken Cameron disagrees. He is not only a well-respected orchid molecular systematist, using DNA data to understand the evolution of the orchid family, but also a field botanist and director of one of the world's premier herbarium collections. At the University of Wisconsin-Madison he is Chair of the campus' Natural History Museums Council, and is dedicated to promoting contemporary uses of 'big data' derived from natural history museum specimens. From a 21st Century scientist's perspective, there is still so much we do not know about the basic natural history of orchids, especially given their intimate relationships with fungi, other plants, and animal pollinators. Dr. Cameron and his students (the Madison Orchid Research Group - MORG) published a series of 12 articles in Orchids magazine in 2013 profiling some amazing examples of orchid natural history, and he will give several examples of the ways in which the 21st Century study of natural history is alive and well.



Speaker's Choice

February speaker Arthur Pinkers selected *Restrepia sanguinea*, grown by Scott McGregor, as his Speaker's Choice. This is a particularly beautiful example of a delightful species. The pattern of spots on the synsepal is much more pronounced than is usual. Scott obtained this example, and two other plants of the same species indirectly from the collection of Howard and Joan Gunn in Sacramento. Many of us have been members long enough to remember the many times that Howard was the speaker at SCOSS meetings.

Scott grows this plant outdoors, as he does his others. Most *Restrepias* grow very nicely outside, having no problem with cool winter temperatures and are reasonably tolerant of heat as well if given good shade and kept moist. The species comes from Colombia, and grows at elevations from 4900-8200 ft (1500-2500 m) (Charles Baker, in [Orchidwiz](#))



Take a moment to analyze the "orchid parts" that are distinct in this genus, giving it a bug-like appearance. The most prominent feature is the synsepal, which is really fused lateral sepals. Some species have a bit of separation at the bottom tip, giving a hint of the origin of the feature, but in this one it is very slight. The petals are very narrow and more or less horizontal, and curved forward; the dorsal sepal is the vertical "antenna". The lip is just visible over the top quarter or so of the synsepal. Individual flowers don't last long, but the inflorescence produces several flowers in succession, so that the plant is in bloom for several weeks. It may bloom several times during the year.



Restrepia sanguinea

From the Member's Corner

A big thank you to our guests in February, Brandon Tam from the Huntington and Elizabeth Peralta. Glad you came to visit us and hope to see you again very soon.

Those who have not yet paid their 2016 dues were notified with their newsletter mailing. If you are in this group, please pay at the meeting or by mail by March 20 to be in the roster. If you weren't notified, you are paid up. Thanks!

The rain is in the forecast, so prepare your plants for the 'deluge'. We will be taking our speaker, Ken Cameron, to lunch at Marie Callendar's in Yorba Linda, SW corner of Kraemer and Yorba Linda Blvd, if you'd like to join us, please let me know so we have a seat for you.

REMEMBER THE TEMPORARY MEETING LOCATION!! See you at the Whitten Community Center on Melrose.

Thank you,
Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

When you were at the February Species Meeting I was in Fort Lauderdale exploring the Sawgrass Everglades and walking around the City. During a walk on Saturday we went to the Bonnet House, a restored turn of the Century Estate. The orchids growing on the sides of trees were impressive. Most impressive were the Vandas thriving in this natural environment. It seems they get some care one day a week. In Orange, Vandas would be dead in a couple of months with one day a week watering. The thing I continue to relearn is, if you can't recreate a specific microclimate you are doomed for failure before ever starting.

At the Bonnet House I saw a flyer from Sandi Jones of Broward Orchid Supply, they meet weekly and offer Culture Classes. Look at the web site, (<http://www.browardorchidsupply.com/index.htm>). Look under the Favorite Link for an afternoon of surfing Orchid Societies, Collections.

Week #1 – Orchid Basics – For newcomers, choosing plants, watering, fertilizer, lighting.

Week #2 – Orchid Repotting – They assist in repotting attendees overgrown orchids.

Week #3 - Mounting Orchids – See the photos of Vandas growing on the side of trees.



Week #4 – Diagnosing Orchid Pests and Diseases.

Dana Seelig, President

Editor's Potting Bench

Thank you to all who helped prepare the SCOSS display at the NHOS show, and who contributed plants. We made a respectable showing in the awards department. Edie Gulrich received the Paul Brecht Trophy for Best Specimen for her *Bulbophyllum medusae*. Yours truly received a trophy for Best Oncidium Alliance for *Osmoglossum pulchellum* (which now looks much better than it did at the show... if it still looks good at meeting time, I'll bring it). Nick Braemer received a Cultural Award for *Coelogyne cristata* even though it wasn't even entered for judging. We also got an assortment of ribbons. Here are a few photos.



Here is part of team— Yolanda and Barb were hiding from the camera.

© Jan Hennessey



Bulbophyllum medusae— Edie Gulrich

See: Editor's Potting Bench, Page 4

Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3



**Coelogyne cristata -
Nick Braemer**



**Osmoglossum pulchellum—
Roberta Fox**

Show season is here in a big way. I just got back from the San Francisco show. That is “species heaven”. Of course a bunch of interesting new plants followed me home—the shopping excellent, as usual. Santa Barbara will be right after you receive this newsletter, and San Diego (and Andy’s Open House) are the weekend of our meeting. Happy shopping!

I am no longer particularly concerned about rain... we are past the serious cold, days are getting longer, and pretty much everything can benefit from that lovely clean water. Spring brings blooming from



Phalaenopsis stuartiana

many terrestrials. Some, such as *Bonatea speciosa*, are already done. *Pterostylis curta* is still going, but past its prime. Another month and it will be going dormant. *Bletilla striata* is in full bloom. The ones planted in the ground are ahead of the ones in pots (and generally do better). *Calanthe arisanensis* also grows nicely outside, and is blooming now.



Calanthe arisanensis

In the greenhouse, several *Phalaenopsis* species are also blooming. *Phal. stuartiana* has a very interesting pattern. *Phalaenopsis equestris* produces lots of flowers, then makes keikis on old spikes. The keikis bloom too, making a lovely display (although a somewhat ungainly plant). When it gets too rangy, the keikis can be removed and planted separately.



Phalaenopsis equestris

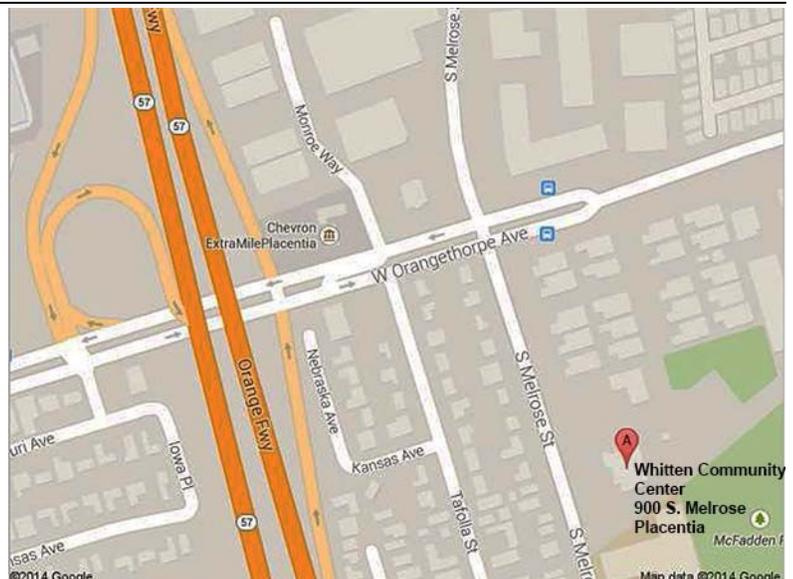
Phal. schilleriana not only has very nice flowers, but also has interesting patterned leaves. The plant in the photo is still in its original pot, but I have since found that it does better in a wooden basket. The roots adhere to the wood—think of it as a three-dimensional mount. In general, for me, the species Phals all seem to grow better in baskets. Sphagnum is easier to manage than bark in baskets, and it does dry out fast enough to keep the plants happy.

Roberta Fox, Editor

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

- **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show***
March 4-6, 2016
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
Info: www.sborchidshow.com
- **San Diego County Orchid Society Show and Sale***
March 11-13, 2016; Friday 3-7, Saturday 9–6, Sunday 10–4
Scottish Rite Events Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego
Info: www.sdorchids.com or (916) 543-9078
- **Central Coast Orchid Show and Sale***
April 2-3, 2016; Saturday 9-5, Sunday 10-5
South County Regional Center, 800 W. Branch St., Arroyo Grande
Info: www.fcso.org
- **Cool Growing Orchid Society Annual Auction***
April 13, 2016; Preview and registration 6:30 PM, Auction begins 7 PM
Garden Grove Masonic Lodge, 11270 Acacia Pkwy., Garden Grove
Info: www.coolgrowingorchids.com
- **Palomar Orchid Society Orchid Sale and Auction***
April 30, 2016; Sale and preview 9:30-11, Auction 11–3
The Pavilion at Lake San Marcos, 1105 La Bonita Dr., San Marcos
Info: www.palomarorchid.org
- **Orchid Digest Speakers Day**
June 4, 2016
Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
Info: www.orchiddigest.org (more information coming but save the date!)

*Phalaenopsis
schilleriana*



Our temporary meeting place for March, April, May 2016

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>
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