



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

Whitten Community Center

900 S. Melrose , Placentia

(until further notice)

Volume 40 Issue 1

January 2017

Regular Meeting Location—Whitten Center

January 8, 2017

Laelia Species and Their Culture

Peter T. Lin

Peter Lin will be presenting his newest talk: Laelia Species and Their Culture. Learn about the many different species and some of their culture requirements. This fast paced PowerPoint presentation will discuss most of the Laelia species and their various color forms.

Peter started growing orchids over 30 years ago, but then stopped due to school and starting a career. It wasn't until about 12 years ago that the orchid "bug" came back and he is now heavily involved once again. He is an accredited judge with the American Orchid Society and a hybridizer of mini-catts. He enjoys meeting with other orchid enthusiasts, and can often be found at various orchid shows and societies around the country. He also has hundreds of photos of his orchids that he maintains on Flickr. You can view them by typing this address into the internet: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/minicatt/collections/>

Due to limited growing space, Peter likes to specialize in miniature orchids, both species and hybrids, and has received numerous AOS awards. His other interests in orchids include Dendrobiums, Angraecoids, and Neofinetias. He maintains a collection of a thousand or more orchids at his home in Southern California in 3 small greenhouses, as well as in the house under fluorescent lights.



Laelia autumnalis

Speaker's Choice

December speaker Paul Tuskes selected *Trichopilia rostrata*, grown by Roberta Fox, as his Speaker's Choice plant. This plant timed its flush blooming perfectly for the meeting. It blooms several times a year, but the flowers do not last long, so it's a matter of luck when it puts on its show at the right time. It grows in a greenhouse—it might possibly be OK outside, but it does so well there that there's no incentive to try doing anything different. It seems to also appreciate the humidity.

This species, in the *Oncidium* tribe, grows on the western slopes of the Andes in Ecuador and Colombia in wet forests from about 400-1000 m (1300–3300 ft) according to Charles Baker in *Orchidwiz*. He indicates that temperatures can be as low as 37 deg F but the low temperature is quoted for Cuenca at 2527 m (8291 ft) which is inconsistent with the stated elevation range which is much lower. Greenhouse is probably the correct choice.

Paul was also intrigued by *Cochleanthes (Warczewiczella) wailesiana*, also brought in by Roberta. The coerulea lip is quite striking. This one is also grown in the greenhouse, but can probably grow outside. Jay Pfahl's website www.orchidspecies.com does not give elevation data, but indicates that it is "warm to cool". The genus is related to the *Zygopetalum* group.



Trichopilia rostrata



Cochleanthes wailesiana



From the Member's Corner

Hello everyone, hope you all had a wonderful Holiday. With much heartfelt gratitude, I'd like to welcome Holly Hillman as our new membership Secretary. It's been great doing this for the past decade or so, but now there are other needs to be filled. Holly Hillman will do a great job, so please support her as you have done for me. Our guest in December was Ron DeWilde (from Newport Harbor Orchid Society). A big welcome to Ron and we're looking forward to seeing him again. Remember dues are now due and the increase to \$10 starts this month (\$15 for the snail mailers). Rosters will be available at the March meeting. See Holly or me this month to verify the information you want in the roster. Thanks to everyone for a great time as Membership Secretary.

Edie Gulrich

President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone has a Great 2017.

So, do you think Iowa is a good place to grow orchids? My nephew's wife likes to have blooming orchids in her house. However when they stop blooming, she ignores them waiting for them to die before replacing them. My sister-in-law flies from southern California to see her son and his family 4 or 5 times a year. This past year she noticed two orchids that were being completely ignored once their blooms fell off. Secretly she was watering the abandoned orchids each time she visited, about once every three months, knowing they could bloom again. Her daughter-in-law just wanted the plants to die so she could throw them out and get new ones. She could not understand how these orchids could keep living with no water. On a recent trip, my sister-in-law found the orchids had been moved from

above the kitchen sink and banished to the unheated garage. Abandoned to finally die. Knowing that our household is a safe haven for abandoned orchids, these plants found their way into her carry-on luggage, without saying a word to anyone in Iowa. Christmas day they arrived at our house, the darkest green orchids I have seen are now above our kitchen sink enjoying sunny California!

I urge you to consider a New Year's resolution to help increase our membership by inviting friends to be your guest at our meetings. We have a great group of volunteers working hard to keep our meetings interesting and informative. We all have many stories to share about our most interesting hobby of growing orchids!

See you in January!

Dana Seelig, President

Editor's Potting Bench

Ah, California... While the rest of the country is shoveling snow and sliding around on icy interstates, my yard is a colorful riot of blooming orchids, with lots of buds just waiting their turn, and new roots starting to emerge in large numbers. Look closely at your orchids, especially the Cattleyas and Laelias... if you see new roots, it's time for potting and mounting. If you are dividing, probably better to wait a bit since could still get some chilly nights, but the forecast lows for January look pretty moderate with a very few exceptions. By February, noticeably-lengthening days will be promoting vigorous growth. Other than some rain protection for plants that are on the margin of cold-tolerance (since cold-and-wet is still a bad combination), the rain is good, too.

There are a couple of January events to note. The Paph Guild meeting will occur in Santa Barbara over the Martin Luther King weekend. And don't forget the Orange County Orchid Society Auction January 18. Several of the SCOSS members are working hard on that auction, and there should be some wonderful plants for sale.

I noted that it can be an accident of timing for a plant to put on a particularly good show for the meeting—or not. Two days after our December meeting (when it was just budding) , *Maxillaria ubatubana* was a spectacular mass of flowers. I am glad, at least, that I can share it with you in a photo. This one grows very well outside. Unlike many of the *Maxillarias*, it seems to do better in a pot



Maxillaria ubatubana



than in a basket. It is closely related to *Maxillaria picta*.

The secret to having a long and floriferous *Laelia anceps* season is to have lots of them... each spike is in bloom for a couple of weeks, but large plants have several spikes, and different plants bloom

at different times between about November and January. There is so much variety, how could anyone want to stop at just one??? Along with those, *Laelia gouldiana* and *Laelia autumnalis* are also in bloom. There are not as many color varieties as with *L. anceps*, but they

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are also beautiful and grow under the same full-sun-whatever-nature—brings conditions. Another relative, that is not likely to come to a meeting because it doesn't fit in the car, is *Laelia* (*Schomburgkia*) *superbiens*. The 4' spike on top of 2' pseudobulb makes a 6' bloom. The intense yellow of the throat is dazzling; and also here is a "bug's eye view" closeup.



Oncidium
hyphaematicum



Laelia *superbiens*

I may be dreaming, but it seems like I have more

than the usual number of "too big to transport" plants in bloom at the moment. That includes many of the *Laelia anceps*. *Oncidium hyphaematicum* is another of those. There are two spikes, about 5' in height. This one is a little bit of a challenge. It really

does not like to be cold, so I put it in the greenhouse once nights dip to about 50 deg F. until the spikes start to take up too much room. Then I move it into the house, The flowers have opened nicely, so it seems to like this arrangement.

For a finale, *Lycaste skinneri* seems to be recovering from having been repotted. It grows in sphagnum, in a basket. That's the way that I got it from Andy, so I continue with it. It seems to be happy in that medium for a long time, but eventually the sphagnum does need replacing, and it apparently resents disturbance of its roots. I have seen that on some of

the *Maxillarias* (which are related) as well—there comes a time when they HAVE to be repotted or roots die, but they tend to sulk for awhile after.



Lycaste *skinneri*

Roberta Fox, Editor

Calendar of Events * indicates that event flier is on the website.

- **Paphiopedilum Guild**
January 13-15, 2017
Hyatt Hotel, 1111 East Cabrillo Boulevard, Santa Barbara
Info: www.orchiddigest.org
 - **Orange County Orchid Society Annual Auction***
January 18, 2017: 6:30 PM Preview, 7 PM auction begins
Yorba Linda Public Library Community Room (Lower Level)
18181 Imperial Hwy, Yorba Linda
Info: Edie Gulrich egulrich@att.net or Susan Scheffler chefinyl@gmail.com
 - **Newport Harbor Orchid Society Orchid Expo and Sale***
February 10-12, 2017; Friday 10 AM–9 PM, Saturday 10 AM–7 PM, Sunday 11 AM–6 PM
Westminster Mall, Westminster
Info: www.nhosinfo.org/orchidshow
 - **Pacific Orchid and Garden Exposition***
February 24–26, 2017; Friday and Saturday 9 AM–6 PM, Sunday 10 AM–5 PM
San Francisco County Fair Building, Hall of Flowers, 1199 9th Av., San Francisco — *NEW LOCATION!*
Info: www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
 - **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show**
March 15-17, 2017; 9 AM–5 PM
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
Info: www.sborchidshow.com
 - Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House
Friday–Saturday 8 AM–5 M, Sunday 9 AM–5 PM
1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara
Info: www.sborchid.com
 - Cal-Orchid Open House
1251 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara
Info: www.calorchid.com
 - **San Diego Orchid Society Show and Sale***
March 24-26, 2017; Friday 3–6 PM, Saturday 9 AM–6 PM, Sunday 10 AM–4 PM
Schottish Rite Event Center, Mission Valley, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego
Info: www.sdorchids.com or (619) 543-9078
 - **South Bay Orchid Society First Annual Auction***
April 21, 2017; 6:30 PM Preview, 7 PM auction begins
South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd. Palos Verdes Peninsula
Info: www.southbayorchidsociety.com
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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 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>Blossom Supplies Contact: Gordon Hong 626-542-3915</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, lico_orchids@aol.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 of Los Osos Contact: Michael Glikbarg (805) 528-0181, orchidland@aol.com www.orchidsoflososos.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>Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Contact: Alice & Parry Gripp 800-553-3387, sboe@sborchid.com www.sborchid.com</p>	<p>Seed Engei Contact: Satomi Kasahara seed_engei@yahoo.com</p>
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