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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 41 Issue 2

February 2018

February 11, 2018

Orchid Growing Round Table

Alexandra Allen, Roberta Fox, Scott McGregor

Welcome to our first roundtable of 2018. Our panel of “experts” will field a Q&A session. Our panel “experts” (all backyard growers) include Scott McGregor, Roberta Fox, and Alexandra Allen and a demonstration by Alexandra Allen of “essential tools” that should be in every orchid growers tool kit.

There is no such thing as a dumb question, so please don't be intimidated to ask questions. The whole purpose of this exercise is a refresher course, to go back to the basics. Don't know the difference between a species and a hybrid...no problem! Don't know what all the Info listed on a plant tag is, or what all those plant abbreviations are...it's OK. We are here to help.

If you have problem plants that are not growing well, please bring them. If you have problem pests on plants that need identification, please bring them wrapped in a plastic plant. Also, if you suspect your plant has virus, please bring it in a paper bag. We will provide testing services for \$5 (half of the proceeds from raised from testing, will be donated to the society).

Also, a reminder that it is the last day of the NHOS Expo at Westminster Mall. In case you happened to purchase a plant that is out of our comfort zone and need some cultural help, please bring it for advice. Happy Growing Everyone! Here's an introduction to our panelists:

Alex has been growing orchids for over 15 years and grows a plethora of orchids. She is an AOS Student Judge, lives in Irvine, and grows outside under shade cloth & trees, as well as terrariums, and in a greenhouse. Her love for nature has been a there since she was a child. Saving the rain



Was it something I said???

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Round Table, From Page 1

forest was her goal as a teenager, and as the AOS Conservation Chair, she is getting a chance to make her dream a reality.

Roberta has been growing orchids, mostly outdoors, for the last 20+ years, ever since a co-worker gave her a Cymbidium. (She figured that if the co-worker could grow orchids in Diamond Bar, Costa Mesa should be easy.) She went to shows, joined several clubs, and orchids started following her home. Over time, species have become her primary interest. It's a thrill to discover the "compromise conditions" between what the plants really want, and what they will accept and adapt to, in backyard Costa Mesa. That challenge has led to a deep interest in orchid habitats, and their conservation.

Scott has been growing orchids since he was 12, when a neighbor gave him a plant—which died in short order. Determined to figure out what went wrong, he went to the library and found a handful of books on the subject. That led him to the St. Louis Orchid Society and some friendly members who encouraged him and gave him some new plants to try. In the absence of a greenhouse, he hung plants in trees in the summer and grew under fluorescent lights in the basement in the winter. Throughout many career moves, orchids were always in the picture. Now settled in San Juan Capistrano, Scott enjoys the challenge of finding new species that will enjoy (or at least tolerate) our climate, that are thought to be unsuitable for outdoor growing.

Speaker's Choice

January speaker Marni Turkel selected *Barkeria obovata*, grown by Peter T. Lin, as her Speaker's Choice plant. Peter grows this in an intermediate greenhouse, with a minimum night temperature of 56 deg. F.

Barkeria obovata is native to much of Mexico, and its range extends through much of Central America as well. It grows over an elevation range of 1650–5600 ft. (500-1700 m.) Andy's tag indicates that the species needs protection from cold, and Peter does grow it (very well!) in that temperature range. The habitat range indicates that it can grow cooler, although a given plant from a warmer elevation may not adapt so well to cold even of other members of the species do. Like all *Barkerias*, this is somewhat deciduous, but needs water even when it is leafless. It needs to grow mounted or with minimal media.



Barkeria obovata

From the Member's Corner

Happy New Year to all our members - we started the year by welcoming back Edie Gulrich & two guests - Anne-Line Anderson & Linda Lu Lai. The speaker, Marni Turkel had a great slide show of Monopodials & was a wealth of information about them. Please check the newsletter each month for our varied speakers, topics AND locations. It promises to be an adventurous year and we hope you'll join us !

Thanks,
Holly Hillman

Editor's Potting Bench

If you missed Marni Turkel's talk in January, you really missed out. Make sure that you put our meetings on your calendar! We will be scattering off-site meetings and other modifications to the schedule into the mix over the next few months, so pay attention to your newsletter! I'll send out email reminders, so pay attention to your email too. (If you are getting the newsletter by snail mail, you're on your own.) We're heading into show season, and there are several in close range over the next couple of months. First there's the Newport Harbor Orchid Society show at the Westminster mall, in our own back yards—that one is the same weekend as our meeting. Note that its location within the mall has changed, it's going to be on the second level in the Penny's wing. The Santa Barbara show (with open houses at Santa Barbara Orchid Estate and Cal Orchid) will be in March, followed a couple of weeks later by the San Diego show. There are auctions in the mix as well, so there are LOTS of opportunities over the next few months to acquire more orchids. You've had a little break, consolidated your collection, now it's time to expand again.

With the weird weather patterns we have been having all winter, it will be most interesting to see what is actually in bloom for the shows. Different orchids appear to have different triggers for blooming. *Laelia anceps* and relatives, for me, have been pretty much on schedule. That implies, I think, that day length is a significant factor. *Cymbidiums*, on the other hand, at least in large part, are triggered by night temperature drop, and I am finding that some of those are as much as two months late. One certainly can't water by the calendar (every two days, or twice a week, or once a week or...) There have been plenty of days where a summer watering regimen is in order, at least for those plants not getting a full winter rest. For those resting orchids, I have been watering a little bit, lightly—"dry" is one thing, 85 deg. F with 10% relative humidity is quite another, something that they don't experience in nature. Shorter days mean less time at

those high temperatures than in summer, but the humidity is much lower (last summer, at mid-day relative humidity was in the 40%-60% range.) I find that I need to tweak the watering schedule every few days as the weather changes. It's just necessary to observe the plants—if they look like they are desiccating, apply water no matter what day it is or when you last did it, preferably early in the day, so that they don't go into the sometimes-chilly night with wet feet. A few of the *Catasetinae* are starting to break dormancy, though it is pretty early in the season for that. It is soooo tempting to water when one sees those nice green shoots. Don't be succumb to the temptation... this is something else that can't be done strictly by the calendar—individual plants wake up at different times, and one just has to hold the water until the new growths are spreading their leaves well, and roots are 3"-4" long. If you can't see the roots that are going down into the pot, there is a second flush of roots that stays more on the surface, and those need to get a couple of inches long too before watering can resume.

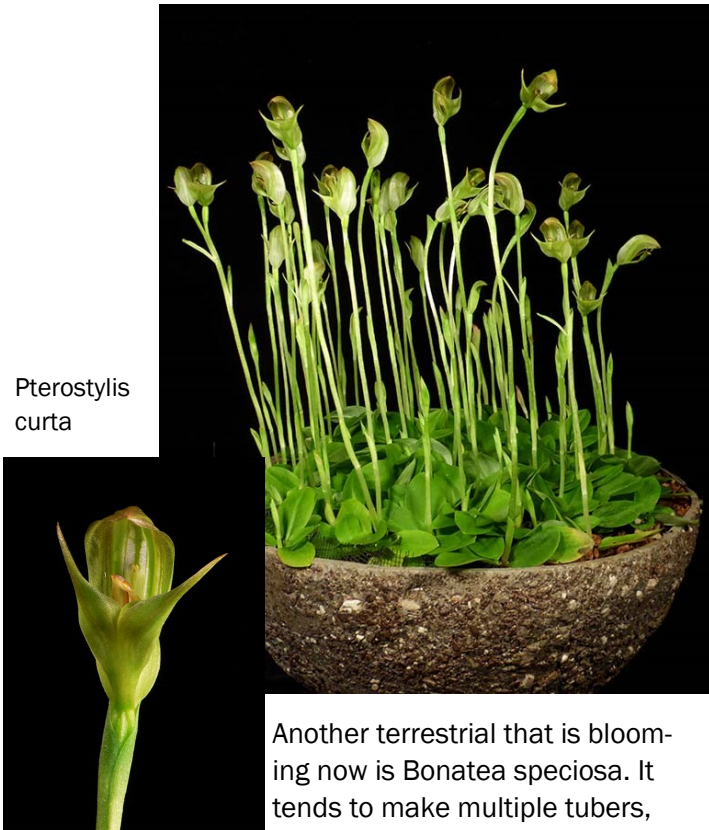
Some of the "regulars" of the season are right on time or maybe a little early. *Paphiopedilum villosum* is doing nicely, with three flowers open. There are other new growths, so there may be another blooming in the near future.



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Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3

Pterostylis curta has started blooming a few weeks ago, but there are still lots of growths that are just starting to spike. The early flowers have rather short stems relative to what I have seen in prior years, but perhaps the ones that develop later (which is more typical) will be taller. I repotted the tubers and started watering lightly in late July, and began heavy watering in around October when the rosettes started to appear.



Pterostylis curta

Another terrestrial that is blooming now is *Bonatea speciosa*. It tends to make multiple tubers, but if it happens to put all of its

effort into one growth, can make a spectacular presentation.

A few of you may recall the magnificent specimen of this plant presented at Fascination of Orchids in 1999 by Ginny Worthington—the



Bonatea speciosa

inflorescence was about 3 ft. tall, packed with perfectly-presented flowers around the center stalk—received an FCC/AOS. For me, I get spikes on several growths, each with 6 or fewer flowers. Someday...But it blooms very consistently with those weird flowers. Still a nifty plant.

Osmoglossum pulchellum is a reliable January bloomer. It is extremely fragrant, and the flowers last a month or more. Last year I got 17 spikes, this year I see only four, but there are new growths coming and it could pop out some more, which would extend the bloom time. It was set back a little by having its



Osmoglossum pulchellum

mount rot. I broke off the part of the mount that was spongy, and tied the rest to a new mount. As the roots go into the new material, I expect that it will be fine. I didn't remove it from the old mount where it was firmly attached, because that would have seriously damaged roots, more than being in contact with the rotting wood, I think.

Back in the terrestrial mode, here is *Stenorrhynchos speciosum*. Unlike the rest of the orchids that I have shown you, this one is a warm grower, and lives in the greenhouse. However, it would also grow, I think, as an excellent house plant. It doesn't need a lot of light, and has really beautiful foliage so it is attractive when not in bloom. The leaves do die back after blooming but the new growth starts almost immediately. Before the flowers open, the bright red bracts are also attractive. The bracts perhaps make this the poinsettia of the orchid world, though the flowers are as large as the bracts, not insignificant. I strongly suspect that this flower is hum-

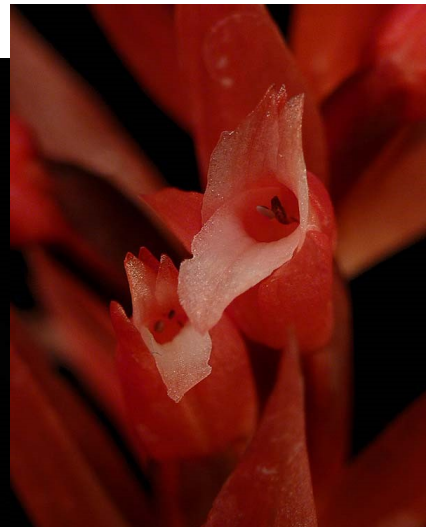
Continued: Page 5

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

- **Newport Harbor Orchid Society Orchid Expo and Sale***
February 9–11, 2018; Friday 10 AM–9 PM, Saturday 10 AM–7 PM, Sunday 11 AM–6 PM
Westminster Mall, Westminster (2nd level, near J.C. Penny)
Info: www.nhosinfo.org/orchidshow
- **Pacific Orchid Exposition Show and Sale***
February 23-25, 2018
Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
Info: www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
- **Santa Barbara Orchid Show***
March 9-11, 2018; 9 AM–5 PM
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
Info: <https://sborchidshow.com/>
- **Long Beach Amateurs Annual Auction***
March 12, 2018; 6 PM Preview, 6:30 PM Auction begins
St. Gregory's Episcopal Church Hall, 6201 E. Willow St., Long Beach
Info: www.lbaos.com
- **San Diego Orchid Society Show and Sale***
March 23-25, 2018; Friday 3–7 PM, Saturday 9 AM–6 PM, Sunday 10 AM–4 PM
Scottish Rite Event Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego
Info: www.sdorchids.com
- **Cool Growing Orchid Society Annual Auction***
April 11, 2018; 6:30 PM registration and preview, 7 PM Auction
Garden Grove Masonic Lodge, 11270 Acacia Pkwy., Garden Grove
Info: www.coolorchids.org
- **South Bay Orchid Society Annual Auction***
April 20, 2018; 6:30 PM Preview, 7 PM Auction
South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes Peninsula
Info: www.southbayorchidsociety.com

mingbird-pollinated with its bright color, small lip, and tubular shape. It originates in over a wide range, from southern Mexico through Central America and into South America as far south as Peru, so that is definitely hummingbird territory. I hope that it stays in bloom for the meeting, but if not, it is one that is really worth a look. It's an orchid that should be more widely grown.

Roberta Fox, Editor



Stenorrhynchos speciosum

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 760-436-4239 info@andysorchids.com www.andysorchids.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>Ruben Colmenares Contact: Rco90808@gmail.com</p>
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