



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 41 Issue 3

March 2018

MEETING LOCATION CHANGE!!

March 11, 2018

Growing-Area Visit at the Home of Roberta Fox 2 pm (arrive any time after 1 pm)

It's almost spring, and everything is growing, many orchids are blooming. (Ah, California!) This month we are deviating from our usual meeting format. We'll convene at the home of Roberta Fox, enjoy wandering around her yard and growing area, see



what's blooming, and also share your own blooming species orchids in an extended show-and-tell session. Bring your favorite goodies and we'll share a potluck lunch. YOU are an important part of this informal get-together... Bring your blooming plants and share information about how you grow them. Also, if you have plants to offer in Member Plant Sales or Silent Auction there will be a space available for those. We will meet rain or shine—if it is damp outside, the orchids not only don't care, they would be very happy, just bring a jacket. There is plenty of room to convene indoors once you have looked around, if necessary. **NOTE: Daylight Saving Time** starts on our meeting day, so be sure that you set your clock!

Speaker's Choice

Of the three round table panelists at the February meeting, Alex Allen was the only one who did not bring show-and-tell plants so she was drafted to select a Speaker's Choice plant. She chose *Ophrys sphegodes*, grown by Scott McGregor. This was the first to bloom of his European terrestrials. He grows this outside, in full sun. The medium is about 80% inorganic (pumice with some perlite) and extremely well-drained. He also includes a few small marble chips, to provide a little slow-release calcium, since his RO water is neutral to slightly acidic. Their native soil is slightly alkaline.

This species grows throughout much of Europe and the Near East. It grows as far north as Great Britain and Switzerland, as far east as Iran and Turkey, and in most of the countries in between. It mimics a bee, with a fuzzy lip and two iridescent blue stripes. After it blooms in the spring, it goes dormant for the summer, when it should receive no water. Light watering can resume in approximately October, once the weather cools off, with heavier watering once the leaves appear.



Ophrys sphegodes



From the Member's Corner

Those who attended February's meeting had the great opportunity to ask many questions of the more experienced growers in the group. An extended "Show and Tell" allowed us to learn much more about the small details that are usually skipped over due to the time constraints. We also were shown the "must-haves" for the orchid growers' potting needs. Brandon Tam attended as a guest before heading out to the NHOS at the Westminster Mall. Hope to see you at the next meeting & don't forget to renew your membership if you haven't already done so..

Thanks,
Holly Hillman

President's Message

As a follow up on my original message, we had a most informative Show and Tell Roundtable discussion presented by Alexandra Allen. I was especially interested in the description of the tools she uses, and carries in a very compact carrier, making them readily available as needed. I know I have "a lot to

learn" and am looking forward to attending the meetings. If you have a friend interested in growing orchids, invite them to a meeting. I first came when I was invited by Barbara Olsen and decided it would be something I would be interested in trying. See you at the meeting.

Yolanda Brown, President

Editor's Potting Bench

I brought a little rain back with me from San Francisco. Well, OK, I didn't have much to do with it, but after the SF show weekend I did get rained on when leaving the Bay area, and that night we got some of it. I just drive faster than the storm moves. I did acquire a few nice orchids, with the hope that my RO system will permit me to be successful with Draculas and a few other species that need good water. The shopping in Santa Barbara should be even better—there are several vendors who usually go to San Francisco that weren't there this year, but will be in Santa Barbara. The AOS Trustees Meeting happening at the same time seems to have had a great effect. The San Diego show is also happening this month.

I look forward to having you visit my growing area and home for the March meeting. Remember that Daylight Saving time starts that day. Weather forecast is not very accurate this far out, but rain is possible. If necessary, wear a jacket—there will be lots to see in the garden. Also, this will be a potluck lunch, so bring your favorite dish to share, as well as show-and-tell plants.

I'm starting to see some action from my European and Australian terrestrials. My yard has been pretty shady all winter, and these want sun. As the sun angle shifts with the season, this will improve. In fact, I have found March to be the most treacherous month for sunburn on orchids since the available light can change quite abruptly as the sun clears trees and buildings for

the first time in many months. Keep some spare shade cloth handy to toss on plants if necessary.

You have seen how well *Pterostylis curta* has performed for me. That, of course, has whetted my appetite for other species in the genus. One particular success is *Pterostylis baptistii*. I only had one tuber so only one flower this year, but I do hope it multiplies. That one flower is spectacular—at least twice the width of *Pterostylis curta*, and much larger in all dimensions. It also has a very attractive red-brown patch on the "hood". The plant is in a 4 inch bulb pan. Flower is a bit over two inches across. *Pterostylis* on steroids.

Orchids teach patience. Multi-floral Paphs teach even more patience. My *Paphiopedillum haynaldianum* came from a plant table at a Species meeting in 2006. It was, I think, a seedling, from the Rowland collection. It finally bloomed for



Pterostylis baptistii

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Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3

the first time in 2015. Multi-floral Paphs tend to take about 3 years for a new growth to mature, and put down roots, and only then does it bloom. This year, the waiting paid off with three spikes, each with several flowers. It does need to live in the greenhouse, but doesn't take up a lot of room when not in bloom so I basically ignored it, and this year was pleasantly surprised. It also has some fairly new growths that didn't bloom, so perhaps it is finally big enough to bloom more frequently.



**Paphiopedilum
haynaldianum**



It's important to look carefully at the little plants. Dendrochilum parvulum is tiny—the whole plant is about 3 inches. But it produces lots of flowers, on many spikes. It grows outside, in a shady area.



**Dendrochilum
parvulum**

Some of the Comparettia species need to be grown on the warm side, such as the showy Compaeattia speciosa. However, Comparettia macroplectron seems to be quite happy outside. The genus is in the Oncidium group. It has a prominent spur or nectary.



Comparettia macroplectron

Bletilla striata is starting to wake up. I have some in bulb pans, and have planted some in the ground. One particular patch in the ground is far out-performing the ones in pots. It is planted near the house, so perhaps the roots stay warmer than those in pots. This patch is blooming actively, while the rest of them are just getting close to that point. When I planted it, I filled the hole with good potting soil, because my soil is hard adobe clay. However, it has spread far beyond the original area, into that clay and continues to grow very well.



Bletilla striata

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

- **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
- **Andy's Orchids Spring Open House**
April 13–15, 2018; 10 AM–4 PM
734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas
Info: www.andysorchids.com
- **Central Coast Orchid Show and Sale***
April 14–15, 2018; Saturday 9 AM–5 PM, Sunday 10 AM–5 PM
South County Regional Center, 800 W. Branch St., Arroyo Grande
Info: www.fcos.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

Room for one more... *Pleurothallis cardiothallis* blooms intermittently over a period of several months. It can produce several flowers sequentially from a leaf. However, it tends to be at its best in the morning. The flowers have a bad habit of closing up in the afternoon, to reopen the next morning. Therefore, it doesn't get to meetings. I have tried several times, gotten it packed up, and then, nope. So here it is.



Pleurothallis cardiothallis



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</p>	<p>Ruben Colmenares Contact: Rco90808@gmail.com</p>
<p>Diamond Orchids Contact: Peter Lin 909-396-0334, minicatt99@yahoo.com www.diamondorchids.com</p>	<p>Gold Country Orchids Contact: Alan Koch 916-645-8600, gcorchids@aol.com www.goldcountryorchids.com</p>
<p>Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens Contact: Brandon Tam btam@huntington.org</p>	<p>Royale Orchids Australia http://www.royaleorchids.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>