

Southern California Orchid Species Society

www.socalorchidspecies.com

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Newsletter

Roberta Fox

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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 4

April 2018

April 8, 2018

Development of the Harlequin Phalaneopsis

Norman Fang

Even before 1988, when he received his degree in Ornamental Horticulture from California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, Norman Fang was already immersed in orchids. While still a student, he managed the Raymond Burr Orchid Collection on campus. Two scholarships to study plant tissue culture also allowed him to study under Dr. Murashige at the University of California and Dr. Tanabe at the University of Hawaii.

In 1986, he started his nursery, Norman's Orchids, based in both California and Taiwan. His parents, brother and sister soon joined him in the company as it grew, and he wisely was the first to secure the domain name of www.orchids.com. Exhibiting at shows across the US, he has received more than 400 AOS flower quality awards and 20 AOS Show Trophies. In addition, he was honored in 2005 with the Distinguished Alumni Award from the School of Agriculture at Cal Poly in Pomona.

As the second youngest judge to become fully accredited, Norman has traveled around the world to judge orchid shows, from Asia to South Africa, from Canada to South America. He has long served as the AOS Representative for the Taiwan Orchid Growers Association. As a former Vice President of the American Orchid Society and having also Chaired their Development Committee, he is currently serving on their Public Relations Committee. He is a Founding Member and Regional Director of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, currently celebrating its 25th year!

Norman will discuss the origins of "Harlequin" Phaleneopsis, starting in 1996, and look at the species that influenced them. Also, if you would like to pre-order any plants from Norman's Orchids, you can place an order on the website www.orchids.com, and in the Special Instructions put Southern California Orchid Species Society—Norman will bring your plants and credit back the shipping charge that the website applies. If you would like to visit the nursery, there is Open House from March 23—Apr 1, but actually will stay set up until Mother's Day.



Speaker's Choice

Since we didn't have a speaker in March, we have a "host's choice" instead. Roberta Fox selected *Diuris amplissima*, brought in by Scott McGregor. This was an early bloomer among Scott's outstanding terrestrial orchids. What will we see in April??

Scott grows all of his orchids outside in San Juan Capistrano, using reverse-osmosis water. The terrestrials grow in a mostly-inorganic mix, utilizing pumice and perlite. Just a bit of potting soil is added. It is critical that these be very well-drained. They receive no water once they flower and go dormant, with light watering resuming in approximately October when new growth appears. If watered too soon, or if they stay too wet, the tubers may rot. Scott has found that white pots work well to protect these plants from overheating in the direct sun that they love.

Diuris amplissima is native to western Australia, in moist, grassy areas of woodlands. The genus *Diuris* has the common name "Donkey Orchid". It's the "ears"...



Diuris amplissima

From the Member's Corner

A small number of members met at Roberta Fox's house on Mar. 11th to see her EXTENSIVE collection of orchids & to enjoy a potluck lunch. We were able to ask questions & understand the growing conditions she has created for her varied species; many of which were in bloom. The show & tell portion of our visit became another learning opportunity AND a lively question & answer session. We hope to see you all at the April meeting — please renew your membership if you haven't already sent in your check. Happy Spring!

Reminder: There will be **no May meeting**, since our meeting day falls on Mother's Day.

Thanks,
Holly Hillman

President's Message

Thanks Roberta Fox, for having the meeting in your home and giving us a tour of your growing area, having a show and tell session which led into a discussion about increasing our membership. A decision was made to have a workshop session after the June 8th meeting to share ideas and figure ways to implement them to keep Southern California Orchid Species Society alive, continue to enjoy it and be a part of it.

It is important that every member of Species attend the work shop to offer your ideas and knowing you had a voice in making the decisions and helping to make things work out. Focus will be on the auction. How can we bring in more bidders—both our own members and visitors? We get excellent plants. How can we earn enough at the auction to keep the club going? **Please note that there will be no meeting in May, due to conflict with Mother's Day.**

See you at the meetings!!

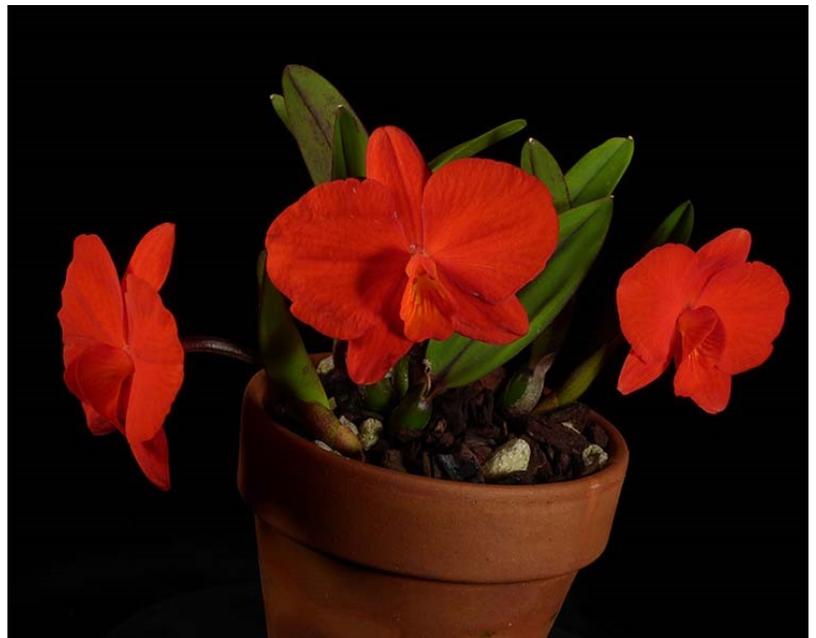
Yolanda Brown, President

Editor's Potting Bench

It was a pleasure hosting the meeting last month. Those who visited had a chance to see my place at a different season than last year, and so of course different things were blooming. Food, thanks to all, was excellent. I do hope that you got up to Santa Barbara. The show was very nice and the shopping was excellent. It was rainy but not too heavy, fortunately for the residents of the area. Now, show season is winding down, but there are lots of events in the near future. For a start, lots of auctions. The closest one in both distance and time is the Cool Growing Orchid Society auction. Hope to see you there! Norman's Orchids Open House ends April 1, but Norman assures me that you can come up there after that and still find lots of great plants. And Andy's Orchids Spring Open House is coming up a week after our meeting.

It's always frustrating when something special is almost in bloom for a meeting... One of the benefits of writing the newsletter is that I sort of get a do-over. I get to share what didn't make to the meeting. *Sophronitis coccinea* had two fat buds, and another just emerging from the leaves. It is now in glorious bloom. I do have high hopes that it will last to the April meeting. This is one that is rewarding me for the reverse osmosis water that it has been getting. The species is one of the picky ones. I got it in Santa Barbara last summer. It was bare-root, from Royale Orchids. Although these do well mounted, it was

not actively growing roots (the only time for mounting) so I put it in a clay pot with small bark, in hopes that evaporation would keep the roots cool through the heat of summer. It has now gone through a rooting and growing cycle (flowers come from new leads), so I think that it likes the arrangement. It is a particularly nice one, a tetraploid with flowers a bit over 3 inches across. I'm not sure that a pollinator would recognize it, having been line-bred for "bigger, rounder, fuller" relative to what is likely to be found in nature, but it is pretty, and it is also vigorous.



Sophronitis coccinea

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

Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3

Another of the plants with tantalizing buds at the meeting was *Laelia* (*Cattleya*) *jongheana*. Originally, I mounted it. It grew on the mount for a year or so, then turned around and grew away from it. Not wanting to disturb roots that had attached to the mount, I popped the plant, mount and all, in a wood basket and added some large bark. It is now rooting into the bark, and the part that was on the mount is pretty much dead. I'll rearrange things once it stops blooming.

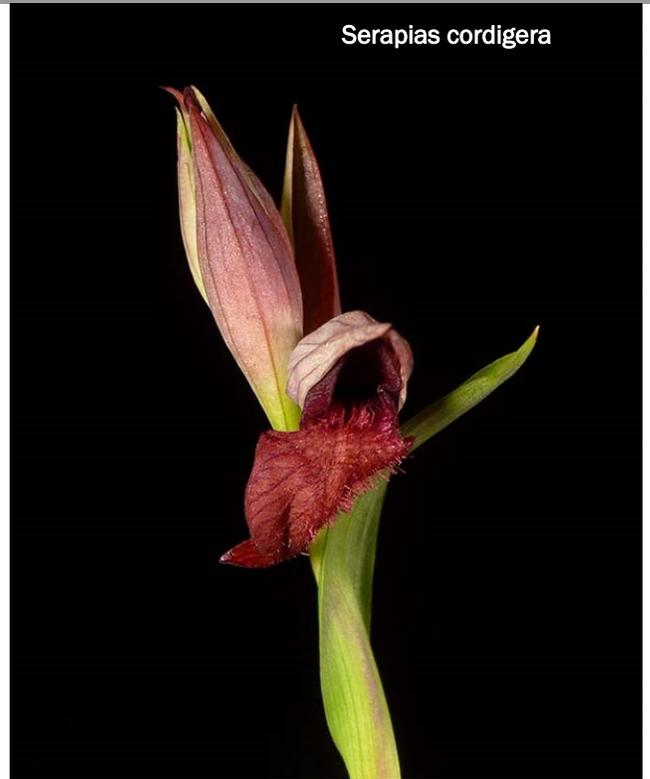
Laelia (*Cattleya*) *jongheana*



I have one European terrestrial orchid that has managed to bloom so far, a few others waiting in the wings. *Serapias cordigera* just opened. There are still several flowers behind this one, but I figured that I'd better grab a photo of the first one—I have had the experience of getting one and having the plant decide it is done. My success rate is not what I would wish, but I'll take what I can get. And keep trying. The fuzzy lip on this one is best appreciated in a photo. The species is native to a very large area, from North Africa through the Mediterranean and as far north as Austria.

I expect to have some *Phalaenopsis* species for the meeting. While most of my orchids grow outside, I do have a small greenhouse for the warm growers that I just had to have, and *Phalaenopsis* species fall into that category. I am particularly fond of *Phalaenopsis stuartiana*. I find the spotting quite intriguing, and the mottled leaves are interesting even when it is not in bloom. I have found that essentially all the *Phal* spe-

Serapias cordigera



cies that I grow do better in wood baskets or on mounts than in pots. I mostly use baskets, because they accommodate existing roots, in whatever direction they are growing. The new roots tend to treat the wood as a mount, and soon are crawling out of the slats. I hang many of them sideways, to allow any water to drain out of the crown, and have largely avoided crown rot when I do that. After all, they mostly grow that way in nature.

Roberta Fox, Editor



Phalaenopsis stuartiana

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

- **Norman's Orchids Spring Open House***
March 23-April 1, 2018
11039 Monte Vista Ave, Montclair
Info: www.orchids.com or 909-627-9515
 - **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
 - **Riverside-San Bernardino Counties Annual Auction***
April 21, 2018; 11 AM Preview, 11:30 AM auction begins
L.F. Hutton Community Center, 660 Colton Ave., Colton
Info: www.rsbcos.org
 - **Palomar Orchid Society Orchid Sale and Auction***
May 12, 2018; 9 AM preview, 10 AM–2:30 PM auction
Shadowridge Golf Club, 1980 Gateway Dr., Vista (new location)
Info: www.palomarorchid.org
 - **Orchid Digest Speakers Day "Orchids in the Wild"**
June 9; 12 PM–8 PM
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino
Info: www.orchiddigest.org
 - **San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists Annual Auction***
June 21, 2018; 6 PM Preview, 7 PM Auction
L. A. County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia
Info: www.sgvoh.org
 - **International Phalaenopsis Alliance Summer Symposium***
July 21-22, 2018
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino
Info: www.phal.org
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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 760-436-4239 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>
<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 www.http://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</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>