

# Southern California Orchid Species Society

[www.socalorchidspecies.com](http://www.socalorchidspecies.com)

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### Newsletter

Roberta Fox

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(714)435-8015

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 9

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**September 9, 2018**

## Helping Your Orchids Thrive in Challenging Environments

**Tanya Lam**

Tanya has been growing orchids since 1997. She has been juggling every day to work full time, travel frequently for business, take care of family and her orchid collections. She lives in San Jose California where it costs a lot to heat and cool the greenhouses. She has come up with a good orchid mix over the years, and has been known as a great orchid grower. However, some of her species bloomed but did not thrive to their best potential. She likes "showy" orchids and likes to grow them to specimen size. Furthermore, some moist-loved species did not survive, and many plants died from dehydrating with her frequent business trips.



**Paphiopedilum Tanya Lam**  
(*Maudiae* x *tigrinum*)



**Cattleya Tanya Lam**  
'Bud Seagraves' HCC/AOS

After seeing plants grow in their habitats in Thailand, Brazil, Ecuador, China - Tanya determined to make a change to overcome her environment challenges. Her collections are now changing with the new successes, and she will continue to try growing many species that were avoided before. She has received AOS awards, and is most proud of two hybrids that were named for her.

She will share everything she does from A to Z from water, heat, cool, fertilize, and more of her collections in San Jose.

## Speaker's Choice



**Habenaria medusa**



August speaker Brandon Tam selected *Habenaria medusa*, grown by Richard Hess, as his Speaker's Choice. Richard grows several examples of this lovely species in his greenhouse. The plants go dormant after they bloom, and receive very little water during their winter rest. Watering resumes in the spring, and the "empty pots" spring to life again.

*Habenaria medusa* is native to the Indonesian islands of Borneo, Java, Sulawesi, and Sumatra. It

grows mostly at lower elevations, and so likes warm, humid conditions during its growing season. However, it does experience a very dry winter. In cultivation, it benefits from occasional moistening of the medium to prevent the tubers from desiccating. It grows in a terrestrial mix.

Along with Richard's impressive plant from the meeting, here is a closeup of another plant to show more clearly what a beautiful flower this is.

### In Memorium—Simone Friend

Simone Friend passed away in mid-August. She was almost synonymous with the Orchid Digest. Simone was involved in all aspects of the publication and its supporting organization in innumerable roles over the past 20 years. She was also a member of many orchid societies, and will be deeply missed throughout the orchid community..

## President's Message

Our meeting was very well attended. Your continued participation is great and a tribute to the guest speakers, as it shows an interest in what they have to offer. As with any activity that is coming to an end, the comradery, the knowledge we acquired from the guest speakers and the show and tell from the members will be sorely missed.

This also the time to "Thank" Roberta Fox for all the time she has spent keeping *Species* active . So "Thanks," Roberta we all really appreciated your care and concern. (*Ed.: You're welcome!*)

We can all be thinking about our final meeting and what could be a memorable "Last" meeting.

See you at the meeting.

*Yolanda Brown, President*

## From the Member's Corner

Hot as August was, those attending enjoyed a slide show & running commentary by Brandon Tam on his 2017 trip to Ecuador to view orchids in the wild. Alex Allen & Harold Koopowitz were also part of the group exploring for orchids with Brandon on that trip. We didn't have any guests, but did welcome back after a long absence, Fred & Jan Anderson, who have moved back to California. All members went home with a new addition to their collections; beautiful (mostly miniature) orchids provided for the plant table by Peter Lin. Some of our members are also selling plants from their collections – a good time to try something new !

Happy growing everyone.

Thanks,  
Holly Hillman

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## Editor's Potting Bench

Nights have finally started to feel slightly autumnal. OK, it's only a couple of degrees, but 67 deg. F is better than 71 deg F. for lows. We are certainly still a couple of months away from consistently cooler days, but at least an increase in the diurnal variation should help blooming for a lot of orchids (and improve human sleep.)

Fall also brings lots of opportunities for orchid acquisition. September brings the South Bay Orchid Society show and sale, and then at the end of September, Fascination of Orchids will bring a large selection of both international and local vendors—and especially, lots of species from Asia and South America. The season continues with the Huntington Show, followed by grower open houses. Check out the Events page for the details.

I have found that many of my orchids have bloomed, or are getting ready, a month or more later than in the past. I am fairly certain that at least part of this is related to the “extension” of summer last year that lasted through most of November. Winter finally happened, but long after it usually does. We'll see how this year plays out.

Now for the eye candy. Last month the starring outdoor-growing bifoliate Catt was *C. leopoldii* (*tigrina*), This month it's *Cattleya bicolor*. Tall,



*Cattleya bicolor*

skinny pseudobulbs are 24” - 30”, but fortunately the footprint stays fairly small. I do grow this under a polycarbonate “hard



*Cattleya schilleriana*

See: Editor's Potting Bench, Page 4

## Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3



Laelia xanthina

flowers are very similar to those of *Laelia grandis*, which bloomed about two months ago, but are somewhat smaller.

I grow some of the teensy plants in the greenhouse, not so much because they need the warmth (especially this time of year) but also because the humidity is higher. Since I use a fogger to keep temperatures down, it's really damp in there. A truly micro-mini is *Bulbophyllum moniliforme*. The pseudo-bulbs are not much bigger than 1/8" (mostly leafless), and the flowers are about the same size. This one came from the plant table supplied by Marni Turkel at the beginning of the year. It is really cute, better appreciated in a photo than in person, I think.. It was also a challenge to photograph. The name means "necklace-like" and refers to the growth habit. Also in the greenhouse is *Coelogyne monilirachis*. Here, the name refers to the necklace-like rachis, or inflorescence. It blooms successively from the same rachis. Flowers don't last long. There is usually at least one flower in bloom most of the time, but once in awhile I'll get a rather impressive flush bloom. I am hoping

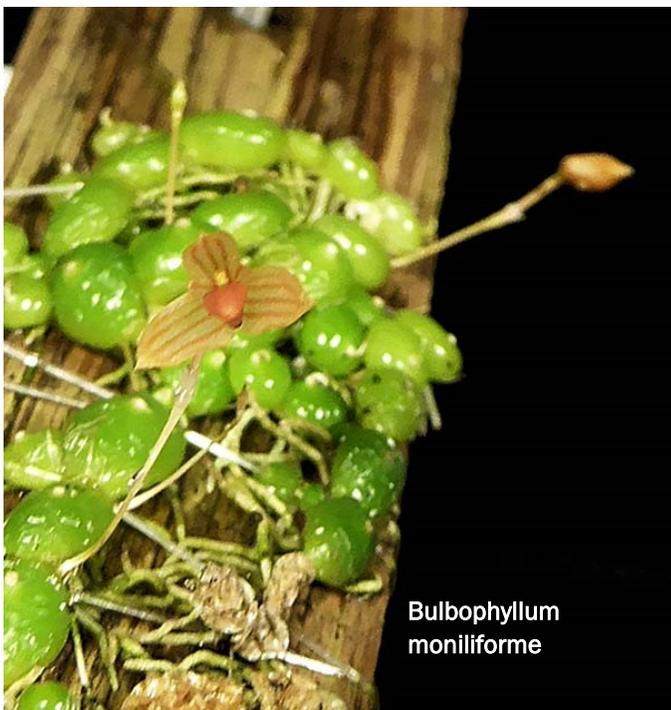
cover" to protect from winter rain, but that's the only protection that it gets. Also, *Cattleya schilleriana* bloomed—not as well as it has in the past, I hope that's just temporary, since it is one of my favorites. The plant looks healthy and is rooting for its next growth so I'm hopeful. It stays very compact, with flowers that are about 4" across. Also in the *Cattleya* group is *Laelia xanthina*. The



Coelogyne monilirachis

that happens around a meeting day to make it worth bringing in. The reddish leaves and pseudo-bulbs make this a very attractive plant, in addition to the cute flowers.

One more, not a mini. I got *Bulbophyllum frostii* at last year's Fascination of Orchids, and mounted it. My success rate with *Bulbophyllums* is higher with mounted ones than in pots or even baskets, but the high humidity of the greenhouse is very important, since these do like to stay damp. I was really pleased with the substantial flowers, and the plant is growing well.



Bulbophyllum moniliforme

Roberta Fox, Editor

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

- **South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale\***  
September 15-16, 2018; Sales Sat. 9 AM–5 PM, Sun. 9 AM–4 PM, Show Sat. 11 AM–5 PM, Sun 9 AM–4 PM  
South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes  
Info: [www.southbayorchidsociety.com](http://www.southbayorchidsociety.com)
- **Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale\***  
September 29-30, 2018; 10 AM–5 PM  
South Coast Plaza Village, 1621 W. Sunflower, Santa Ana (across from South Coast Plaza)  
Info: [www.ocorchidshow.com](http://www.ocorchidshow.com)
- **Andy's Orchids Fall Open House\***  
October 5-7, 2018; 10 AM–4 PM  
734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas  
Info: [www.andysorchids.com](http://www.andysorchids.com)
- **Huntington Orchid Show and Sale\***  
October 19-21, 2018; 10 AM–5 PM  
The Huntington Library, Art Galleries and Botanical Gardens, San Marino (Brody Botanical Center)  
Info: [www.huntington.org/orchidshow](http://www.huntington.org/orchidshow)
- **Orchids in the Park: San Diego County Orchid Society Show and Sale\***  
October 27-28, 2018: Saturday, Show Noon–6 PM, sales 10 AM–6 PM; Sunday, 10 AM–4 PM  
Balboa Park's Casa del Prado, Room 101 (Near Natural History Museum), San Diego  
Info: [www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com)
- **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Fall Open House\***  
November 3-4, 2018; Saturday 8 AM–5 PM, Sunday 9 AM–4 PM  
1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara  
Info: [www.sborchid.com](http://www.sborchid.com)
- **Cal Orchid Fall Open House**  
November 3-4, 2018  
1251 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara  
Info: [www.calorchid.com](http://www.calorchid.com)
- **Santa Barbara Orchid Society Show and Sale\***  
November 17-18, 2018; Saturday 10 AM–5 PM, Sunday 10 AM–3 PM  
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta Del Sol Rd, Santa Barbara  
Info: [www.orchidsb.org](http://www.orchidsb.org)



*Bulbophyllum frostii*

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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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>