

Southern California Orchid Species Society

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

Placentia Library
411 E. Chapman Ave, Placentia

Volume 33, Issue 6

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June 13, 2010 2 PM

Harvey Brenneise

Darwin's Sexy Orchids: First Case Study on the Origin of Species by Natural Selection

In a Powerpoint presentation Harvey Brenneise will give an overview of Darwin's life, specifically his interest in orchids, as shown by the publication of his first book after *Origin of Species* (1959), *On the various contrivances by which British and foreign orchids are fertilised by insects, and on the good effects of intercrossing* (1862). There are



Catasetum callosum
Female and Male Flowers

many illustrations of orchid people Darwin knew as well as the plants he used to tell the story.

Harvey is the Head Librarian at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont. This facility houses

See: **Harvey Brenneise** , Page 2



Bonatea speciosa

Harvey Brenneise (From page 1)

a significant collection of orchid books, including rare books.

He is also currently First Vice President of the Riverside-San Bernardino Counties Orchid Society. Harvey has grown orchids since childhood, in greenhouses, outside, and under lights. He has been active in orchid societies in Michigan and California as well as the AOS.

Musings—A Look at Our Logo

When I started designing our website and this newsletter, I noted that the computer file that I had for the logo was not as crisp as I would like it. The original artwork for the badge would have served, but that seems to have disappeared over the years. So, I decided that, with the software tools that I had at my disposal, I would attempt to recreate the logo.

The concentric circles and the lettering were easy. That is something that graphic software does very nicely (and creates a file that can be scaled to any size without getting fuzzy on the edges). A close look at the flowers sent me on a very interesting

search. I quickly realized that those flowers were not just randomly chosen. We have a Paphiopedilum, an Angraecum, and a Masdevallia.

Where do these come from? The Paph **Angraecum sesquipedale** comes from Asia, the Angraecum from Africa, and the Masdevallia from the Americas. These represent three of the major land masses from which many of our orchid species have originated.

(See: **Logo**, Page 3)



From the Membership Corner

Plans have come together for a bus trip to Cal Orchid in Santa Barbara. The date will be Sunday, August 8, which is our regular meeting day. James Rose will give us a tour of his greenhouses, and provide us a DELICIOUS tri-tip barbecue lunch. (*Editor's note, based on many trips to the summer Open House at Cal Orchid: the tri-tip sandwich and roasted corn-on-the-cob are phenomenal, and if the avocado tree is willing, the guacamole is the best you will ever eat*).

The price for the bus and lunch will be no more than \$45, and will probably be less. (We're not responsible for what you spend on orchids...) The exact amount will depend on how many people sign up. A deposit of \$15 per person will establish your reser-

vation. Edie Gulrich must receive your deposit by June 30. If you do not come to the June meeting, it will be necessary to mail a check to her. Edie's address is:

1627 W. Palais Rd
Anaheim, CA 92802

We must commit exact numbers for the bus and lunch, so you **MUST** reserve by June 30 to participate in this fun-filled day of orchid indulgence. Contact Edie Gulrich as 714-991-8661 or egulrich@att.net for more information.

We will announce the exact amount in the July newsletter; the balance due must be paid at the July meeting or no later than July 28.

President's Message

Greetings Orchid Lovers –

The meeting at Roberta's was a wonderful afternoon. She has a great set up in her yard, 3 areas under shade cloth and 11/2 green houses very well thought out. A side yard is open but the angle gives it some protection from the sun. There are many blooming orchids in the house and outside.

We had an interesting show and tell. Nick Braemer had

some very different and amazing orchids from Australia. His presentations were very imaginative, especially his tiniest one. Ask him about it.

Joy brought in her glass green house (jar) that has a stick holding a Den. loddigesii that is growing lots of new roots. Come on folks, those that don't have greenhouses, let's get inventive.

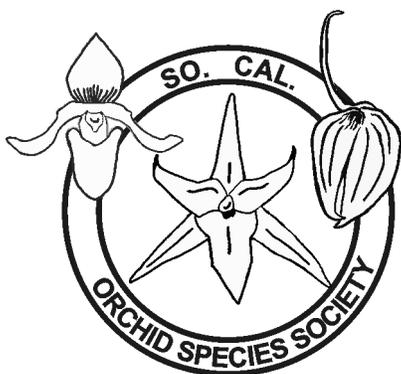
We didn't have a quorum so we have delayed the board meeting to June. (Board members please

plan to stay after the meeting). The August meeting will be our trip to Santa Barbara and the barbecue at Cal Orchid. This should be a lot of fun, a chance to buy orchids right at the nursery- especially when you don't travel to Santa Barbara that often.

Hope to see a lot of you at the meeting and as always, BRING A FRIEND.

Barbara Olson
President

Logo (From Page 2)



I searched a bit further to get photos of the flowers, to help me produce more accurate line drawings. The Masdevallia matched quite closely to Masd. coccinea. To

select a suitable Paph, I went to Orchidwiz, and performed a search for all Paph species. It produced a list. I selected the button for Gallery, and obtained many screens of photos. Scrolling through them I discovered that Paph.



Paphiopedilum fowliei

© Eric Hunt www.orchidphotos.org

fowliei was a nearly perfect match for the Paphiopedilum on our badges, and on the original logo. Angreum sesquipedale was the best match for the Angreum. The lip is very distinctive.

If anyone has more knowledge of the origin of the logo (Who originally created it? When? What discussions took place?) let me know and I will share the information. If my guesses about the concept, or the species, are not correct, I'd love to know that too, along with the REAL information.

Roberta Fox
Editor and Webmaster



Masdevallia coccinea

Editor's Potting Bench

I do hope that all the members who visited my house and garden at our May meeting had as much fun as I did. We enjoyed a magnificent spring afternoon among the orchids (and lots of other blooming plants), good company and good food. For those who missed it, my back yard is a perfect home for a large variety of orchids. It gets good light essentially all day since it is oriented east-west. The house is on the south side, which shields the yard from the baking southern sun. Still, all of the orchid growing areas have a bit of protection; the Cymbidiums get a “barely there” 45% shade cloth cover, while the patio and a couple of little “satellite” growing areas get 60%. My two little greenhouses (a free-standing 8' x 12' one and a 4' x 8' lean-to) hold maybe 10% of my orchids, the other 90% are quite happy outside.

We had a wonderful show-and-tell table. Since we didn't have a speaker, we didn't have a “speaker's choice”. So you had to be there to see them all. (Remember, if you have photos, I would be happy to add them to the website. Just tell me a bit about their growing conditions, and month of bloom for the photos you send) So that those who could not attend don't feel completely left out, here are a few of the orchids that were growing on my patio.



Arpophyllum giganteum



Odontoglossum spectatissimum



Guarianthe (Cattleya) skinneri

In the process of searching for cultural information about a new acquisition, I found a guide to Ecuadoran orchids, with 200 pictures and location information. The link is <http://fm2.fieldmuseum.org/plantguides/guideimages.asp?ID=274>, and it is within the website of the Field Museum in Chicago. The home page for a large group of references to tropical plants is <http://fm2.fieldmuseum.org/plantguides/default.asp>. Under Rapid Color Guides search for Orchidaceae, and you will find several references. The one I used was *Pichincha–Maquipucuna Orchids*. What was I looking for? I won an *Elleanthus gramminifolius* from a plant table. The genus *Elleanthus* is related to *Sobralia*. For most that I have seen, the plant looks very similar, but the flowers are tiny and grow in a cluster. This plant is much smaller than the ones that I'm familiar with, and has very thin grass-like leaves.

(See: Editor's Potting Bench Page 6)

Calendar of Events

* See flyer at www.socalorchidspecies.com, select the [Events](#) link

EIGHTH ORCHID DIGEST SPEAKER'S DAY!!

"CATTLEYS"

Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California

Saturday, June 12, 2010 – Noon to 8:00 pm in *Friends Hall*

FEATURING

All Genera Flower Display – Orchid Sales– Expert Lectures – Dinner

Remember!! Open at 11:00AM to bring your blooming plants for the flower display

Prize for best species and best hybrid

Lecturers: Greg Allikas; Bill Rogerson; Amy Chung and Harry Akagi

Dinner Speaker: Frank Fordyce

VENDORS: H & R; Sunset Valley Orchids; Cal Orchids; Andy's Orchids; and Norman's Orchids

Tickets: \$60 (\$70 at door) for afternoon Seminars, Wine and Cheese Happy Hour; Dinner and Evening Entertainment

Please Contact: Simone Friend, 4349 Dogwood Ave., Seal Beach, CA 90740

Phone: (562) 431-1247 E-mail: orchidsimonef@aol.com

Make Your Reservations Now!

- **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair***

July 9-11, Fri-Sat 9 AM–5 PM Sun 10 AM–4 PM

Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara, CA

www.orchidfair.com

- Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House
1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara
- Cal Orchid Open House
1251 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara

New shipment of plants from Japan, including those special Lycastes!

Cal Orchid's fabulous lunch: Tri-tip sandwiches, corn on the cob, steaming tamales

- **Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale***

September 25-26 10 AM–5 PM

South Coast Plaza Village

Corner of Bear and Sunflower

www.ocorchidshow.com

Editor's Potting Bench (From Page 4)

I looked for it in Orchidwiz, finding that it comes from a large number of countries, most that I'd consider tropical. However, I also know that most of the listed countries have high altitude areas, and there was no cultural information given. The Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia <http://orchidspecies.com> had even less information. A Google search located my orchid in *Pichincha–Maquipucuna Orchids*, where I found that it occurs from sea level to 2000m in Ecuador. (A side note: the San Diego Orchid Society is listed as a supporter of this publication, one of its orchid conservation efforts)

From the altitude information, I think that I can surmise that while this species might tolerate cool night temperatures if given a chance to acclimate, that it would be happier in the greenhouse. Here's the flower, which is less than 1/8" wide. It is continuing to put out new flowers—if it is in bloom for the meeting, I'll bring it in.

Roberta Fox
Editor



Elleanthus graminifolius

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.

Cal-Orchid Contact: James Rose 1251 Orchid Dr Santa Barbara, CA 93111 805-967-1312, www.calorchid.com	Cal-West Tropical Supply Contact: Brad & Ryan Wicks 11614 Sterling Av Riverside, CA 92503 951-351-1880, www.calwesttropical.com	Casa de las Orquideas Contact: Loren Batchman 170 S Nardo Av Solana Bch, CA 92075 858-755-7572, www.orquideas.com
Orange County Farm Supply Contact: Chris Roy 1826 W Chapman Av Orange, CA 92868 714-978-6500, www.ocfarmssupply.com	Orchid Fever Contact: Aaron & Dave Thomas 10242 Culver Blvd Culver City, CA 90232 310-559-6599	Outdoor Images Contact: John Remlinger 6961 Livingston Dr Huntington Bch, CA 92648 714-841-0442, www.orchidbasket.com
Mariposa Garden Contact: Ron Hill 6664 South St Lakewood, CA 90713 562-920-5588, www.mariposagarden.net	Paphanatics Contact: Norito Hasegawa 159 Monterey Rd Orange, CA 92866 714-639-1387	Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Contact: Alice & Parry Gripp 1250 Orchid Dr Santa Barbara, CA 93111 800-553-3387, www.sborchid.com
Sunset Valley Orchids Contact: Fred Clarke 1255 Navel Pl Vista, CA 92083 760-639-6255, www.sunsetvalley.com	The Rowland Collection Contact: Pat & Butch 12446 S Georgian St Garden Grove, CA 92841 714-892-3502	