



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

Volume 33, Issue 12

Placentia Library
411 E. Chapman Ave, Placentia

December 2010

December 12, 2010

Fred Clarke

The Species of *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches*, and *Mormodes*

Catasetum, *Cycnoches* and *Mormodes* are three related genera from the Tribe Cymbidieae. Individually, each has been considered an orchid oddity, or "botanical", of interest mainly to the seriously addicted enthusiast. These plants have a brief deciduous period in winter, when the plants need a definite dry rest period bordering on neglect. These robust orchids are native to lowland tropical forests in Central and South America and are usually grown in warm or intermediate conditions.

Commercially, *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches* (or 'Swan' orchids) and *Mormodes* (or 'Goblin' orchids) have occupied a small market niche on the edge of a sea of Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis, Dendrobiums, Epidendrums, and so on.

This talk will feature a wide-screen computer slide show on some of some excellent species of *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches* and *Mormodes*. The presenter will be Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in Vista.

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 33 years and has been hybridizing for 28 of those years. With over 26 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing (See Fred Clarke, Page 2)



Fred Clarke (From Page 2)

Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Bulbophyllum and Paphiopedilum hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out!

His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced “the **blackest** flower ever witnessed”. This grex has received eight FCC’s and three AM’s on the first flowers shown for judging!



Catasetum expansum male flower



Catasetum expansum female flower

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.

From the Members Corner

Thank you to all of our guests for visiting us this past month: Fran Fujii, Sharon Clapman, Linda & Tab Harrison, Janice Pape, Cathy & Dann Seeley, Cu Ngo & Thi Nguyen, Gail Pearce, Wilma Wilson. We were so glad to see you and hope that you'll visit us again soon. A big welcome to our new members: Steve Rogers, Don Goss, Dean Rajudin and returning Norito Hasegawa

At the beginning of the meeting, we will elect officers for 2011. They will then be installed.

The slate proposed by the nominating committee is:

- President: Barbara Olson
- Vice President: Darrell Lovell
- Secretary: Doug Adams

- Treasurer: Susan Scheffler
- Membership Secretary: Edie Gulrich

- Directors:
- 2011 Joy Keyser, Jan Hennessey
- 2012 Marshall Lai, Tim Roby
- 2013 Phyllis Adams, Roberta Fox

Thank you to the non-elected representatives and coordinators who have agreed to continue to serve for 2011:

- Newsletter Editor: Roberta Fox
- Refreshments: Joy Keyser
- Raffle Coordinator: Phyllis Adams
- AOS Representative: Denise Claycomb
- Orchid Digest Representative: Vicki Ryan

Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

Greetings to all.

What a wonderful meeting we had. It was exciting to see the large group of people at Edie's table and knowing they were guests and new members. Also very interesting talking to our guests and new members. Please come back again, all of you. The orchids, wow! Beautiful as usual and some tiny (very) hardly visible in fact but cute. A great show and tell and a large plant table my oh my what interesting and beautiful orchids.

Our next meeting will be the election and installation of new officers. Please bring goodies as it will be a party with a very interesting speaker Fred Clarke ,the man

who worked 10 yrs.to produce the black orchid.

We had a surprise and special guest from Encinitas, Peter Tobias, who heads up the Orchid Conservation Alliance that our society helps to support. He just returned from Brazil leading an OCA group on a tour and promises to bring pictures and a talk later after he gets them together. He was gracious enough to bring our calendars so we could deliver them before Christmas. If you haven't picked up one please do so as they help our society and the Orchid Conservation Alliance. They cost \$10 and they are far more informative than those you buy at Barnes and Noble for \$20.

Thanks you , Norito for bringing your

pictures and all the information you shared about the gorgeous orchids. Much to think about and to learn.

One thing we haven't discussed in our meetings is that we have a very nice and knowledgeable lady who represents The Orchid Digest. Vicki Ryan, who has represented the magazine for years in this group. If you haven't seen or read it you have missed a real treat. The articles are great reading and the pictures are wonderful, the pinup is great. They come 4 times a year and are worth every penny. Look her up in our roster or ask Edie for a membership form at the meeting. Bring a friend

Barbara Olson, President

Please bring something yummy to share!

Speaker's Choice

November's speaker Norito Hasegawa selected *Phalaenopsis pantherina*, grown by Roberta Fox, from a large and diverse show-and-tell table.

According to Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia <http://orchidspecies.com>, this species comes from Borneo, from sea level to 2600 ft (800 meters). It is closely related to *Phal. cornu-cervi*. Orchidwiz, citing the most recent publications, lists it as a synonym. If it IS a *cornu-cervi*, it is a particularly large, dark, dramatically marked one. The inflorescence is very similar, though somewhat flatter, with flowers emerging sequentially from the end. This creates a very interesting scalloped inflorescence, which should not be cut as long as it is green, since flowers may continue to emerge for months.

Like other *Phalaenopsis*, it prefers relatively warm temperatures, and a very open medium so that the roots stay fairly moist but have a chance to dry out



somewhat. (They like humidity, but shouldn't be soggy-wet) *Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* occurs over a very wide area in southeast Asia and adjoining islands, at a range of altitudes. This would imply that it could take cooler temperatures, but no doubt grows better warm, with nights above 60 deg. F.

Editor's Potting Bench

The weather has been very atypical this year, with the summer-that-wasn't followed by record heat in the fall. Night temperatures stayed above 55 degrees F, for the most part, until past mid-November. As I write this just before Thanksgiving, I think we're finally getting something like fall-winter night temps. The hybrid Vandas and multifloral Paphs have moved into the greenhouse nearly a month later than they have in the past. I have also held off cutting back the water for the nobile-type dendrobiums. It is finally cool enough to do that. I think that we really do need to modify the generic "recipes" for what to do at what time of the year, to take into consideration the fact that our weather patterns are different than for most of the country. If it is hot and dry, then the orchids need water even if the calendar says "November". Orchids can't read.

Whatever the trigger for flowering might be (day length or night temperature or ???) we can expect things to bloom at odd times. I was surprised to see *Vanda suavis* bloom in early November—I have had it for quite a few years, and it has always bloomed somewhere between late June and early August. My darker *Vanda tricolor* bloomed at the usual time, in June. I had figured that *V. suavis* just wasn't going to



Vanda suavis

bloom this year, and surprise!. I am getting a lot of action from *Laelia anceps*. I have several, and again I am getting some surprises. A lovely pink one that I got last February as a nearly rootless division that was just ending its bloom, has grown and prospered, and sprang into bloom at the end of October. It has already finished. A big mounted *L. anceps* var. *veitchiana* (white with blue lip) that I got last January, just starting its bloom, is now hitting its stride.



L. autumnalis is still about a week away from blooming, and *L. gouldiana* might be as much as two weeks. For me, the anticipation is as exciting as the blooming.

While I have generally had pretty decent success with *L. anceps*, I have also had the disappointment of strong plants going into decline. I think I now know why—potting too late. I have spent quite a bit of time around Pat Rowland, and have learned that these orchids are particularly fussy about when they are potted. I had waited until I saw the new roots appear, which was April or May. She says, "No, feel for slight bumps—as soon as you feel them, that's the time to pot. February or March at the latest". So, for these, one needs to anticipate the roots to catch them at the optimum time. That pink one that I acquired in February and potted because it was bare root took off and has grown magnificently. Just because of when I bought it, I guess I accidentally got it right.. Also, I have noticed that they grow much better after reaching the edge of the pot, so I have started using baskets, and am leaning toward mounting more of them. They seem to want to be freeeee. I have also moved all of them into stronger light (above the *Cymbidiums*) and that seems to be beneficial as well.

Roberta Fox, Editor

Calendar of Events

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

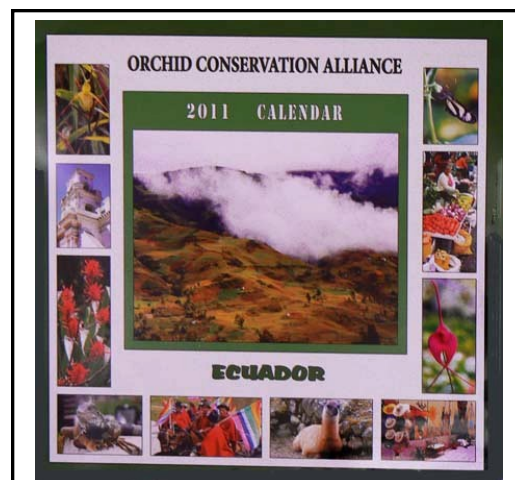
- **Casa de Las Orquideas Open House**
December 4-5 9 AM to 4 PM
170 S. Nardo Ave, Solana Beach
casa@orquideas.com—858-755-7572—www.orquideas.com

7000 new seedlings in 3” pots, thousands of Cymbidiums and Zygos in spike, Rowland Collection seedlings in 3” and 6” pots. . Andy’s Orchids will also be participating

- **Sunset Valley Orchids Open House**
December 4-5
1255 Navel Place, Vista
fred.clarke@worldnet.att.net—760-639-6255—www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com
- **Newport Harbor Orchid Society Orchid Expo and Sale**
January 28-30, 2011
Westminster Mall, Westminster
www.nhos.org
- **Pacific Orchid Exposition**
March 4-6, 2011
Fort Mason, San Francisco
- **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show**
March 11-13, 2011
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
www.sborchidshow.com



Laelia anceps 'Pink Snow'



Get your OCA Calendar (and more for gifts) at the December meeting. Dozens of photos, and loads of information about orchids, Ecuador, and OCA.

Only \$10!

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 & Harry Phillips 734 Oceanview Ave Encinitas, CA 92024 760-436-4235, www.andysorchids.com</p>	<p>Cal-Orchid Contact: James Rose 1251 Orchid Dr Santa Barbara, CA 93111 805-967-1312, www.calorchid.com</p>	<p>Cal-West Tropical Supply Contact: Brad & Ryan Wicks 11614 Sterling Av Riverside, CA 92503 951-351-1880, www.calwesttropical.com</p>
<p>Casa de las Orquideas Contact: Loren Batchman 170 S Nardo Av Solana Bch, CA 92075 858-755-7572, www.orquideas.com</p>	<p>Ecuagenera Contact: Ivan Portilla PO Box 01011110 Cuenca, Ecuador www.ecuagenera.com</p>	<p>Marcel's Contact: Sonora Winward 5133 Kildee St. Long Beach, CA 90808 562-843-5951</p>
<p>Mariposa Garden Contact: Ron Hill 6664 South St Lakewood, CA 90713 562-920-5588, www.mariposagarden.net</p>	<p>Norman's Orchids Contact: Norman Fang 11039 Monte Vista Ave. Montclair, CA 91763 909-627-9515, www.orchids.com</p>	<p>Orange County Farm Supply Contact: Chris Roy 1826 W Chapman Av Orange, CA 92868 714-978-6500, www.ocfarmssupply.com</p>

<p>OrchidWiz 145 NE 95th Street Miami Shores, FL 33138 305-758-3596, www.orchidwiz.com</p>	<p>Outdoor Images Contact: John Remlinger 6961 Livingston Dr Huntington Bch, CA 92648 714-841-0442, www.orchidbasket.com</p>	<p>Paphanatics Contact: Norito Hasegawa 159 Monterey Rd Orange, CA 92866 714-639-1387</p>
<p>rePotme 10608 Floral Park Lane North Potomac, MD 20878 301-315-2344, www.repotme.com</p>	<p>Rex Foster Orchids Contact: Billy Baker 2645 Massachusetts Ave Lemon Grove, CA 92945 619-466-0605, www.rexfosterorchids.com</p>	<p>Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Contact: Alice & Parry Gripp 1250 Orchid Dr Santa Barbara, CA 93111 800-553-3387, www.sborchid.com</p>
<p>Seed Engei Contact: Satomi Kasahara 1622 Moreno St Oceanside, CA 92054</p>	<p>Sunset Valley Orchids Contact: Fred Clarke 1255 Navel Pl Vista, CA 92083 760-639-6255, www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com</p>	<p>The Rowland Collection Contact: Pat Rowland 12446 S Georgian St Garden Grove, CA 92841 714-892-3502</p>
	<p>U.S. Orchid Supplies Contact: Ram Ramakrishnan 1621 S Rose Ave Oxnard, CA 93033 805-247-0086, www.saicoir.com</p>	