



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**—
THIS MONTH THE MEETING WILL START AT 1:45 PM !
Placentia Library
411 E. Chapman Ave, Placentia

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April 2011

April 10, 2011

The Judge, the Hunter, the Thief, and the Black Orchid
A documentary by
Rich Walton

Director's Statement

"The Judge, the Hunter, the Thief, and the Black Orchid" is my second documentary feature. The goal for this film was to find a topic that I could research, film, and edit by myself with minimal expenses. A truly independent feature film.

I chose to do it this way for a number of reasons. First, I wanted to have sole control of the finished product, from content to marketing. I learned so much from the experiences of my first film and from the producers and wanted to discover if I could do it on my own. Mainly, however, I wanted to put to the test my belief that the filmmaking process doesn't need to be done on a large scale, both in expense and production. I've always felt that film can be a people's medium, accessible to all, especially with the technology that is available today. Everyone has different thoughts and experiences with filmmaking and I don't be-

lieve that one way is better than the other, it's just a theory that I wanted to explore.

As with my first film, I wasn't very knowledgeable about the subject. Once I began my research I quickly discovered that orchids were something that inspired great passion from the devotees of the art. It was a passion and devotion that, while I couldn't fully grasp, I could certainly respect. It is an admirable quality to have found something to which you are willing to dedicate your life. Wherever there is a strong passion, there is the potential for a great story. I hope that is the case with this film and I hope that those who see it experience the same passion.



The Judge, the Hunter, the Thief
and the Black Orchid

Stare if you dare!

Speaker's Choice

March speaker Dorothy Goldberg decided that she couldn't pick just one, so we have two "speaker's choice" plants.

One selection was *Dendrobium papilio*, grown by Peter Lin. The inflorescence is produced from the prior year's



Dendrobium papilio

leafless cane. The stem of the inflorescence is very thin, almost like a wire, and the large white flower appears to float in space (like a butterfly, as its name implies). The 2-3 inch flower dancing in the breeze from this delicate plant is very dramatic!

This species originates in the Philippines, growing on mossy trees at an altitude of 4200-7200 ft. (Baker) Peter grows this plant in an intermediate greenhouse, which ranges in temperature from about 55-85 degrees F.

The other selection was *Dendrochilum tenellum*, grown by Roberta Fox. This plant grows large quite readily. With a tiny inflorescence at the end of each new leaf, it looks like a tuft of feathers. It is clearly quite happy on its mount, but it also does well in a clay or tree-fern pots. This plant is grown outdoors, in open shade. It gets watered daily, along with the rest of the mounted plants. It originates in the Philippines, in mountainous areas of

quite a few islands, at altitudes from 3300-4900 ft. (Baker). The temperature extremes cited by the Bakers



***Dendrochilum tenellum*—the plant**



***Dendrochilum tenellum* inflorescence**

are from 46-84 degrees F. It does not seem to suffer from slightly cooler minimum temperatures in Costa Mesa.

(Coincidence? Both "Speaker's Choice" plants come from higher altitudes in the Philippines!)

From the Members Corner

Welcome to our March guest who became a member - Holly Hillman Here is her information to add to your new roster: Holly Hillman, 2826-C Frontera, Anaheim, CA 92806, 714-66-0727.

Eddie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

Hi to all,

The Ides of March are behind us, the super moon is on the wane, and spring couldn't get here since winter didn't want to move on. But spring will arrive one of these days with lots of bright sunny days. In the meantime we will have new growth on our orchids, beautiful flowers and repotting plants that didn't get accomplished earlier. It's bad enough getting weeds pulled out of the yard between the showers, ah, that is Southern California.

Dorothy Goldberg, you are a jewel, the pictures were wonderful and interesting plus IF you had to have a layover in an airport the flowers

alone would keep you entertained for a day or two in that airport - "beautiful". Singapore was incredible with those very modern and imposing buildings. WOW! The humidity might be hard to live with in Bali but with the ocean and the pools that you can cool down in, that might not be too bad. Oh so many things to see and all those wrap skirts to purchase. Thanks for all you shared with us, it was most enjoyable and informative.

Please don't forget the movie we will be seeing for the April meeting, there are people that are familiar in the film. Look and see how many you recognize. It has some history about orchids and on up to present day happenings very interesting.

Yes Erika, there will be a meeting in a home and garden, that is a work in progress. Mother's Day always falls on our May meeting so we will have our in-home special for those who don't have families in the area (or can get free for a couple of hours). We will meet at the regular time, have show and tell, please bring goodies and if the weather is poor the house is available. The May newsletter will give the location, and directions. We hope all your gardens are loving the rain and will be flourishing with gorgeous orchids to share with all of us. Good growing, and see you at the movies and as always bring a friend.

Barbara Olson, President

The April meeting will start 15 minutes earlier than usual, at 1:45 PM, so that we can proceed with our speaker and the movie by 2 PM. Refreshments and Show and Tell will follow, and we should still be done by 4.

Something to strive for?

Recall that the February Speaker's Choice was a specimen of *Coelogyne cristata*, grown by Nick Braemer. There was another *Coel. Cristata*, grown by Doug Adams, on the table as well. James Rose of Cal-Orchid sent me an email about yet another *Coelogyne cristata*... which won the Grand Prix at the Tokyo Dome show this year. Here is the photo that he sent. In a few years, will we have one of these at our meeting?

To see how this plant was displayed after it was awarded Grand Champion, and learn about its owner, see the AOS website <http://aos.org>, look for February Announcements on the home page, and follow the link to the full article.

Roberta Fox, Editor



***Coelogyne cristata* var *hololeuca* 'Pure White'
Grand Champion, Japan Grand Prix International Orchid Festival**

Editor's Potting Bench

One of the pleasures from having a website (in this case, my own site <http://orchidcentral.net>) is the contact that I receive from people in distant parts of the US, and even the world. Both sharing what I have learned from my experience with orchids, and learning from others are huge rewards for a modest effort. I received an email from a teacher in Virginia, who has used the site as a teaching tool. She shared with me a site that one of her 9th grade students had found, that is full of good orchid species information. Check out <http://www.silkflowers.com/orchids-the-exotic-flower-guide>. The owner of the site sells silk flowers, but clearly loves the real ones. The link for each listed plant takes you to more information about it, different sites for different plants. So from there, you can find even MORE information, about still MORE plants. The World Wide Web is very aptly named.

This month's meeting features Rich Walton's documentary. It does take a bit more time than our speakers usually do, which is why we're starting the meeting 15 minutes earlier so that we can finish with the "preliminaries" and get to the program by 2 PM or sooner. We'll still have time for Show and Tell if we pay attention to its purpose and format. What distinguishes this club is our focus on orchid species. When we describe how we grew our orchid species in our own growing areas, we share information that can be obtained no other way. Reference works can address the cultural needs of a species in a general way, but finding out what works for our fellow hobbyists in our own geographical area (which has some unique climate features and patterns) is extremely valuable. An understanding of the needs of each species leads to greater insight into the requirements of the hybrids to which they contribute. We all belong to general orchid clubs where we can show off our blooming hybrid orchids. If those clubs had "show and tell" like we do, there would be no time for a program. By restricting our focus to the species that we grow, we have the time to discuss them in a meaningful way. This month we will be under particular time constraints, and with spring bringing many orchids into bloom, I expect that the

table will be quite full. So I hope that you will remember what makes us unique, bring your species orchids, and save the others for another day and place.

I can think of one type of situation where the presence of a primary hybrid (both parents are species) would perhaps be appropriate for our meetings—if you have both the hybrid and at least one of the species in its parentage in bloom, our "discussion" format gives a chance to show the relationship that you would not have at a general club meeting. If you have both parents in bloom at the same time as the hybrid progeny, that's fantastic. (Doesn't happen often, but sometimes one gets lucky.)

If you aren't sure whether a given plant is a species, there are some references readily available. The plant tag may be a clue, if it follows the convention that species names are lower-case and hybrid grex names are capitalized. However, sometimes these are done incorrectly, and some hand-written letters are ambiguous. If you find the name in a reference that contains only species, that is definitive. Jay Pfahl's website <http://orchidspecies.com> is an excellent resource. Because the focus of that website is on those for which photos are available, you might have a species that isn't there. (I have occasionally had that situation) Another resource, which is 100% complete (but isn't quite as easy to use) is the Kew Monocot List of Species. This is the definitive reference for species of all flowering plants. There's a link on our website, or you can go directly to <http://apps.kew.org/wcsp/home.do>. If you are unsure of a spelling, you can just enter the genus, and get an alphabetical list of the species in it, or include just part of the species name to narrow the list.

Note that just because the name on a tag has an "x" in it doesn't necessarily mean that it's a hybrid. "x sib" and "x self" for a species are certainly the same species. A cross of two named cultivars of a species (denoted by names in quotes) is still the species. Indeed, even a cross of two varieties of a species is still the species. In addition to the two free references that I have cited, Orchidwiz contains a fairly complete list of species. I would be happy to look up any plant for you (hybrids too) - just send me an email.

If you have not been to the San Francisco orchid show (Pacific Orchid Exposition), put it on your "bucket list". More than any other show that I have been to, that one is "species heaven". There are exhibits by some phenomenal species growers in the Bay area, and some vendors who have species that are not readily available in southern California. You will especially see lots of Masedvallias, Pleu-

Calendar of Events

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

- **Central Coast Orchid Show and Sale ***
April 2-3, Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 10-5
South County Regional Center, 80 W. Branch St., Arroyo Grande
Information: www.fcos.org or 805-929-5749
- **Orchids at the Flower Fields**
April 22-24
The Flower Fields, 5704 Paseo del Norte, Carlsbad
Information: www.theflowerfields.com/orchids.html or 760-0352
- **The Southern California Spring Garden Show**
April 28-May 1
South Coast Plaza (Crate & Barrel/Macy*s Home Store wing)
3333 Bear St., Costa Mesa
Information: www.springgardenshow.com
(There will be lots of orchids!)



Scaphosepalum beluosum

rothallis, and other cool-growing orchids. Pacifica, about a half-hour south of San Francisco, has several delightful nurseries. I will be happy to provide information if you're going to be in that area.

Here are a few of the treasures that I brought back. If they grow for me as well as I hope that they will, they'll show up on the table when I have bloomed them after growing them for a season, so that I know that I understand how to meet their needs.

Roberta Fox, Editor



Specklinia (Pleurothallis) endotrachys



Lepanthes elegantula



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<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.com Floral Mixes and Supplies 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>	