



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
(Corner of Chapman and Kraemer)

Volume 34, Issue 5

May 2011

May 8, 2011

LOCATION FOR THE MAY MEETING: THE HOME OF BARBARA OLSON

1350 N Puente St, Brea 92821

As we did last year, the May meeting will feature an opportunity to visit the home and growing areas of a member. This year, we will have a chance to see how Barbara grows those lovely Angraecoids and other neat things that she brings to the meetings.

We will have our usual show-and-tell session, so bring your blooming species orchids (and a snack to share). It's Mother's Day, but even if you are celebrating, we hope that you can take a couple of hours to share some good company (and orchids).

Directions to Barbara's House

From the 57 freeway, get off at Lambert. Go west (if coming from the south, go left under the freeway bridge). Stay on Lambert to Puente St. There is a gas station on the northwest corner. (Major streets before Puente are Brea Blvd, then Berry) Turn right on Puente St. Pass one signal, and continue up the hill. The second stop sign is Whittier Blvd. There is a statue of a woman stretching on your right. Keep going, Barb's house is the third one on the right past the statue, a long redwood house with lots of foliage in front.

Phone number is (562) 694-2244.

Speaker's Choice

April speaker Rich Walton selected *Phalaenopsis wilsonii*, grown by Peter Lin, as his favorite from a jam-packed Show and Tell table. This small, but dramatic plant is grown mounted, and is mostly roots. There is only a single leaf, but when wet, the green roots show that they are the primary photosynthetic powerhouse. The plant can lose even that single leaf, be quite healthy, and grow another one in the next season. The flower is fragrant.



Phalaenopsis wilsonii, flower and leaf

Phalaenopsis wilsonii is native to western China and eastern Tibet, at elevations from approximately 4920 to 7000 ft. Peter grows his in a warm greenhouse (and the plant is clearly quite happy that way) but according to the



Phalaenopsis wilsonii plant

Baker culture sheet in Orchidwiz, it can encounter temperatures from 84 degrees F down to 25 degrees F. in its native habitat. With such low temperatures, it certainly would be deciduous, and go dormant. In cultivation, it flowers better if kept warmer, so that it does not lose all its leaves.

During the growing season, it wants high humidity and plenty of water. In the winter, watering can be reduced, In nature, it also encounters higher light levels in winter, since cloud cover is reduced. In cultivation, a moderate rest should be sufficient to mimic its natural pattern while keeping the plant healthy. Peter certainly has found the right balance.

From the Members Corner

A couple of visitors spent the April meeting with us: Doug Overstreet, whom we haven't seen for awhile, good to see you again Doug; come back more often. From the far reaches of our continent came June and James Bauman all the way from Anchorage, Alaska while on a visit to family in Long Beach. Interesting to hear how the climate affects the orchid growing in their area. We're very glad that you came by and hope that we'll see you again on your next visit to the southern 48.

Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

Well, we are enjoying a little bit of Spring, somewhat, and it is nice to have the cloud cover when you have to repair shade cloth .At least we do seem to have some warmer days, and the orchids seem to like that....Our last meeting was very interesting. We didn't have the film "The Judge.the Hunter, the Thief and the Black Orchid", as we had a small electrical problem, but Rich Walton, the man who made the film, very kindly told us about making it, and answered the several questions that were asked . We will be seeing it at a later date so that information will be fun to put it together with the film.

Thanks Rich for being flexible with the situation and your sharing with us about the filming.

We had some guests from Alaska, June and James Bauman that were down here to see their son in Long Beach. They happened to see our website and thought they would come and see what we do in the lower 48. It was very nice meeting you both. Hope to see you in Alaska in September.

Show and tell was so wonderful. beautiful and interesting flowers, such a highlight in our meetings we never cease to have unique and inspiring flowers. With such talented and informed growers how could we

not have such an array of outstanding flowers. Congratulations all you growers. Happy Spring and Happy Mother's Day to all you mothers.

The" work in progress" is coming along, for Mother's Day there is a question whether it will be finished or not but it doesn't matter after all, it is a work in progress! YES the meeting will be at my house at 1350 N Puente St, Brea, 92821 phone 562 - 694-2244 please bring snacks and plants as we will have show and tell from 2pm to 4pm. We look forward to seeing all of you who can come to the meeting. As always bring a friend.

Barbara Olson, President

Board members note: Since some will not be able to attend the May meeting, the next board meeting will be held after the June club meeting. We will be starting to prepare for the fall auction, so it is very important for all board members to attend and participate.

Editor's Potting Bench

The difference between an "easy—to—grow" orchid species and a difficult one is, in a nutshell, the amount of effort to which one must go to obtain the conditions that the plant wants. For many of them, we manage to arrive at a compromise between what the orchid gets in its natural habitat and what we can achieve for it in "captivity". There aren't many orchid species native to California, and most of those are even more picky—we can't offer winter frost or special mycorrhizae that might be found in the mountains. I have found one, though, that is proving to fall into the category of "easy".

Epipactis gigantea (the "giant stream orchid") grows over a large area of the western United States. It likes streams, bogs, and "seeps", including those that it finds in the canyons of southern California. It even grows by springs in the Mojave

Tour Colombia with the Orchid Conservation Alliance!

From Peter Tobias:

"Colombia, like Ecuador just to the south, sits astride the Andes and has a remarkable orchid diversity; at least 3000 species. In this trip we will see many sights. Orchids in the wild, of course, are the primary attraction. We will also visit a flower show, a flower parade, and two nurseries in Medellin, a coffee plantation, several reserves, many scenic places, and finally end in Cali, a wonderful city with much to see in an orchid rich surrounding. Lots of hiking and an optional horseback ride will get us into the forests to see orchids where they are at home. Our guides in Colombia will be Andrea Niessen and Juan Carlos Uribe, proprietors of Orquideas del Valle nursery. The trip begins in Medellin on August 4th and ends in Cali on August 19th. "

This is a fantastic opportunity to see orchids in the wild! Contact peter@orchidconservationalliance.org with any questions or to get your name on the list of travelers.

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Editor's Potting Bench (from Page 3)

desert! Unlike most of the native orchids, it can be readily grown from seed, and I managed to obtain one from Tree of Life Nursery, a native-plant nursery near San Juan Capistrano.

When I got in February, it was just a few dead stalks in a gallon pot. However, about a month later, little green shoots started to appear. Now, at the end of April, it has started to bloom! That's not much more than a month from the appearance of growth to the emergence of flowers! While most of the California native orchids are very small, and many are rather undistinguished-looking, this one is colorful, and the flowers are about 1 inch wide. I'll bring the plant to the May meeting, but share it here for those who don't get to see it in person.

The leaves are soft, and there is no pseudobulb. The flowers open somewhat sequentially. The plant

goes dormant in the winter, but since it's a "native", it does not expect to dry out when that happens. After all, winter is when it rains in California, so that is what it expects. Indeed, too much drying is likely to drive it into "permanent dormancy".

It came to me in a light soil containing a fair amount of humus, and that is what it would be likely to find in its native habitat. I added some azalea mix to fill the pot into which I transferred it, which seems to be appropriate. It would experience leaf-litter, which tends to be a bit on the acidic side. I grow it in open shade. While in the desert it would get full sun, I think that in the Orange County canyons where it grows, it's fairly shady. Also, it's easier to keep it moist with a little shade, and for all of its habitats, plenty of water is the common denominator.

Roberta Fox, Editor

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NINTH ORCHID DIGEST SPEAKER'S DAY!!
"ONCIDIINAE"**

Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California

Saturday, June 18, 2011 - 12:30 pm to 8:00 pm in *Friends Hall*

FEATURING

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

Remember!! AOS judging at 10:00 AM Open at 11:00AM to bring your blooming plants for the flower display
Prize for best species and best hybrid

Lecturers: Cordelia Head, Jim Rassmann, Steve Beckendorf, Howard Liebman
Dinner Speaker: Mark Chase

VENDORS: J & L Orchids; Cal Orchids; Andy's Orchids; Sunset Valley Orchids, Orchid Inn

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!

Calendar of Events

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

- **Orchid Digest Speaker's Day**
Saturday, June 18 (See Ad on Page 4)
- **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair ***
July 8-10, Friday and Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 10-4
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
Information: www.orchidfair.com or (800) 553-3387
 - **Open House at Santa Barbara Orchid Estate**
1250 Orchid Dr, Santa Barbara
Information: www.sborchids.com
 - **Open House at Cal Orchid**
Friday, Saturday and Sunday 8-5
1252 Orchid Dr, Santa Barbara
Information: www.calorchid.com or (805) 967-1312

BBQ Lunch!

Guest vendors!

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Epipactis gigantea





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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.

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<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>
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<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>	