



Southern California Orchid Species Society

www.socalorchidspecies.com

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Barbara Olson
barstan50@hotmail.com

Vice President

Darrell Lovell
dallevol@yahoo.com

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Membership Secretary

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egulrich@att.net

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TBD

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(626)330-8122

Refreshments Coordinator

Joy Keyser

Raffle Coordinatoor

Phyllis Adams

Newsletter

Roberta Fox
roberta@orchidcentral.net
(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

Volume 34, Issue 7

Placentia Library
411 E. Chapman Ave, Placentia

July 2011

July 10, 2011

Encyclias and Related Species

Paul Tuskes

Paul Tuskes will be giving the July presentation on the genus *Encyclia* and its relatives. Species of *Encyclia* occur from Southern Florida to Southern Brazil. Many species are easily grown outdoors in coastal Southern California. Paul will review their culture, diversity, and biology. He has an excellent collection of photos to go with the presentation and at this time of



Encyclia alata



Encyclia belizensis ssp. *parviflorum*
syn. *E. parviflorum* syn. *E. alata*

year, will be bringing

Anacheilium gilbertoi syn. *Prosthechea gilbertoi*

many plants in bloom for display. Paul and his wife Ann have been growing species orchids for 30 years. He is on the Board of Directors for *Orchid Digest*, they are both orchid judges and have written for *Orchid Digest* and *Orchids*, and started the Species Study Group in 1987.



Prosthechea vitellina syn. *Encyclia vitellina*

Speaker's Choice

June's speaker Gin Gan selected *Vanda cristata*, grown by Roberta Fox, as Speaker's Choice. Roberta grows this plant outdoors throughout the year, in open shade or occasional filtered sun. Since it is mounted, it needs frequent watering. That is handled by an automatic sprinkler system that waters this plant, and all other mounted plants, at least daily. In hot weather, those sprinklers may run two or three times a day. Winter night temperatures may get close to freezing but seldom go any lower. In very cold weather, watering is reduced (and is done in mid-morning when temperatures are a little higher) Plants like this can handle low temperatures better when dry overnight.

Vanda cristata is native to the Himalaya region from northern India eastward to Bhutan and Nepal, and northward into Tibet, at elevations from around 2000 to 7000 ft. According to Charles Baker, as quoted in *Orchidwiz*, the temperature range at Katmandu, Nepal, at 4223 ft. is 99 Deg. F down to 27 deg F. At higher elevations, one could expect winter night temperatures to often drop below freezing. In its native habitat, there is considerable cloud cover in the summer, so some shading is required with high temperatures. Rainfall is lower in the winter, though there is ample water from dew. While our climate is the diametric opposite with regard to rainfall, it is not difficult to provide necessary water in the summer. Fortunately when it rains in winter here, the cloud cover tends to keep the temperatures well above freezing,



Vanda cristata



Closeup showing the dramatic lip

and on cold clear nights the plant will be sufficiently dry to avoid damage.

From the Member's Corner

A nice welcome to Lisa Humphreys of Lico orchids as our guest; she also asked for a membership app, so we may be seeing more of her. Glad to have you, Lisa, and looking forward to having you at our meetings. Calling all members, I'll be needing some volunteers for the auction, runners to and from the auctioneer, intake registration of orchids and related items, set-up and security. Pick your spot and have some fun.

Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

Dear orchid lovers,
Our club had a very good meeting on June 12 with Gin Gan as our speaker. Many people said that they never realized how vast Indonesia is until they saw the map; the area it covers HUGE. The orchids were wonderful, thanks Gin for sharing your trip with us, we all enjoyed it. Plus another great show and tell. Our new member Dan Gieger brought many wonderful small plants for us to enjoy, one so tiny it was hard to see the tiny white flowers. Great flowers..

After reading Nick's story in last month's newsletter about his new shade cloth and the trials he had, this will be tame in comparison, My shade cloth was ordered and

came in a timely manner, then I went with Edie to meet Bill the pipe man at Golden West College swap meet. I never would have found him! That is one big place and very busy. We made arrangements to call after the shade cloth arrived and for him to come and scope out the area. The call was made and he forgot to call back, finally the call came and he arrived here. With much discussion on how the cloth would be placed, we started with one plan and we ended with another easier way of looking at it. It should be a great asset to the plants and the house. This won't end the project but as everyone says these things are always ongoing, never finished. Ah well it is a step forward. When it is finished please come by and see it. We would love to

show it to you.

Lots of new growth even the Masdevallia is responding to the terra cotta pots, so don't give up, Roberta, thanks for the tip on that one. Ask me about that one. The Cattleya walkeri-ana is putting on new roots and a possible bloom spike, I'm really excited about that one.

The warm weather will help the plants to really start their new growth, it is beginning in this yard as it will be in yours. Don't forget the plants for the auction. We can always use more help picking up plants, etc. Looking forward to seeing you and your plants at the next meeting. Talk to you then and as always bring a friend.

Barbara Olson, President

Board members note: There will be a board meeting after the general meeting. We have a few items related to the October auction that must be decided, so it is very important for all board members to attend and participate.

Editor's Potting Bench

For those who missed the Orchid Digest Speakers' Day on June 18, try not to make that mistake again! As soon as a date for next year is announced, I will publish it here so that you can mark your calendar. This year the topic was Oncidiinae, and that covers a lot of territory. Cordelia Head of J&L Orchids led off with a survey of some of the smaller members of the tribe (at least smaller flowers, some plants not so small). There are some genera that don't immediately come to mind, with absolutely charming flowers – such as Ada, Brachtia, Comparettia, Cochlioda, Erycina, Ionopsis, Lockhartia, Psygmorchis, Scelochilus, Solenidium... you get the idea. I was delighted to realize that I grow quite a few of these. There was a nail-biting, edge-of-the-seat presentation by Steve Beckendorf on his search for two Odontoglossom species that had not been seen, at least by the scientific community, for many years. Yes, he found them. The process of figuring out how to even go about the search was extremely interesting. We heard a discussion of Cyrtochilums by Howard Leibman,



Encyclia adenocaula

See: Editor's Potting Bench, Page 4

Editor's Potting Bench (from Page 3)

with examples of some hybrids that he has been making with them. He been one of the foremost hybridizers of Oncidium Alliance intergenerics for many years. Living in the Malibu area, he primarily works with outdoor-growing species and hybrids. (I was also delighted to realize that my own collection of *Cyrtochilum* species now is getting pretty respectable in variety.)

After wine and cheese followed by an excellent dinner, we were treated to a talk by Mark Chase, Director of the Jodrell Laboratories at Kew Gardens. His research has developed the methods that are being used to determine the relationships between orchids, and between orchids and other plants utilizing DNA analysis. He illustrated a case in which a group of orchids mimics a non-orchid to fool insects into pollinating them. The shape (morphology) of the flower, then, may indicate, not a relationship between plants but rather a common pollinator. Determining relationships among organisms is shaped by decisions as to what, of many possible parameters,

are the most important. Thus, birds turn out to be much more closely related to reptiles than to mammals, even though they are warm-blooded. Regulation of one's own body temperature is only one factor; others are more informative of relationships. The complications of horticultural designations (awards, pedigree for breeding, etc) that conflict with new understanding of relationships in orchids will be addressed in enhancements now under development in the Kew database of orchid names. Stay tuned for new developments.

As though the feast of information, good fellowship with other orchid enthusiasts, and good food were not enough, the shopping was also wonderful. The vendors in attendance knew that they would have a particularly discriminating audience, and brought some especially outstanding plants. Naturally, some of those had to go home with me. A few were in bloom, and some of those I share here. I have high hopes for all. So... you have a year to plan to attend the next one. Do it!

Roberta Fox, Editor



Cochlioda noezliana. The color has to be seen to be believed.



Scuticaria hadwenii. Flower looks a bit like an *Odonoglossum*, but it has terete leaves reminiscent of a *Dendrobium teretefolium*. Actually, it related to *Lycaste* and *Zygopetalum*.

Calendar of Events

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

- **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!

Wonderful plants, including lots of easy-to grow, prolific Sobralias!

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

September 24-25, 10 AM to 5 PM

South Coast Plaza Village, NE corner of Bear and Sunflower in Costa Mesa

Information: www.ocorchidshow.com or (949) 735-2930



Laelia milleri mounted on a porous rock. New roots are grabbing onto it as well as they would on a wooden mount.



Haraella retrocalla. Flower about 1/2". Purple marking on lip is fuzzy—looks like a bug. It is fragrant.



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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.

<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</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>	