



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 34, Issue 11

November 2011

November 13, 2011

Searching for Orchids in Colombia

Ron Kaufmann

Our November speaker will be Ron Kaufmann, chair of the San Diego County Orchid Society Conservation Committee. Ron has travelled extensively to view orchids in the wild in South America. His talk will cover his first trip to find orchids in Colombia in preparation for a tour he organized to benefit the Orchid Conservation Alliance.

Colombia is one of the most orchid-rich countries in the world, with over 3,000 described species. Ron's talk will show orchids in the wild, in reserves and at several nurseries that are cultivating native Colombian orchids.

Ron is a marine biologist by training, and his scientific work includes studies of Antarctic and deep-sea ecosystems as well as marine communities in coastal Southern California. He has been growing orchids for more than 15 years, starting with a reed-stem *Epidendrum*



Miltoniopsis roezlii alba

and progressing to a collection that contains mostly species orchids.

Ron has a long-standing interest in conservation and has been a member of the SDCOS Conservation Committee for more than 10 years and chair since 2004. Since 1991, the Conservation Committee has awarded nearly \$160,000 to support projects in 20 different countries. Ron also helped to found the Orchid Conservation Alliance



Miltoniopsis roezlii

See: Ron Kaufmann, Page 2

Ron Kaufmann *(From Page 1)*

and serves on the boards of the OCA, EcoMinga Foundation (a conservation foundation based in Ecuador) and Orchid Digest Corporation. Ron has been a regular contributor to the Orchid Digest since 2003, when he began writing the Webwatch column

Ron grows most of his orchids in a 36 x 24 foot greenhouse and several outdoor shade-covered areas around

his house in San Diego. Friends have suggested that he build a second, much larger greenhouse to accommodate the many plants that often make walking through his greenhouse an exercise requiring extensive training in gymnastics and yoga to avoid serious injury. Thus far, this recommendation hasn't been followed, although the temptation is always there

Editor's Potting Bench

The auction was great, and I know that many of you, like me, went home with some new orchids to grow, and with luck, be able to share in another year or so. The frustration, of course, is that we have plants that perversely bloom in October. That was the original inspiration for the "virtual show and tell" on our website. (I haven't received any contributions lately.. you should certainly be out capturing those blooms to share with the rest of us!) The one that I'd like to share this month, though, is in a different category, orchids that will never make it to a meeting because they are not portable.

Last spring, I acquired a *Sobralia caliglossa* from Andy's Orchids. It is about 12 ft. tall. It came in a 15" pot, which was stuffed, so I moved it up to a 20"

tall tub. I made no attempt to open the root ball, figuring that the new roots would just find the new medium. I put it in small coconut husk chips with Perlite, since I know that it likes to be on the moist side. Since it is too tall for my shade-cloth, I found a spot with some tall trees nearby to shade it from the noonday sun. In July, Andy



See: **Editor's Potting Bench**, Page 3

From the Member's Corner

Wow, what a great auction, beautiful weather, great food, great plants and wonderful participants. We had 13 guests: Doris Arakaki, Teresa Bartens, Gene Beenders, Yolanda Brown, Maria Holland, Karen Hyman, Lisa Miller, Russ Nichols, Grace Niwa, Frank Nguyen, Mari Nguyen (not related or married to each other), Josefina Penning and Mike Selbo - thank you for joining us and we hope to see you again at another meeting. We had 5 new members join our family: Michelle Dobard, Janice Krause, Joyce Nugent, Merle Robboy (came back home!) and Chris Villalpando, welcome and we look forward to seeing you in November. A huge thank you to our auctioneers, Dick Hess, Merle Robboy and Ed Wise and thank you to our 2 computer wizards Roberta Fox and Erika Jelovsek. For members bringing plants: Nick Braemer, Roberta Fox, Daniel Geiger, Dorothy Goldberg, Jan Hennessey, Richard Hess, Irma Hughes, Marianne & Jack Keating, Joy Keyser, Marshall Lai, Bob Laughlin, Barbara Olson, Susan Scheffler, Wilma Wilson and Ed Wise. To all of the volunteers and helpers, in addition to those mentioned above, I include: (not in alphabetical order) Tim Roby, Marshall Lai, Susan Scheffler, Darrell Lovell, Irma Hughes, Joy Keyser, Barbara Olson and Wilma Wilson for set-up, tear down, plant pick-up, food handling, moving plants from table to auctioneer and then to security, without whom this would not have gone so smoothly, my deepest gratitude. A final thank you to those who paid their 2012 dues.

Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

The Auction is OVER !!!! The auctioneers were fast, the computer was sizzling but no melt down, wonderful plants; some were lucky, some not so lucky but those that came we want to thank you for the generous bidding, it was lively and fun. For the first time with this new program, they had very few problems. That is exciting and with a little fine tuning next year should be super. Thank you all for making it a success as it was about \$3000 we made which will help to pay our bills through this coming year.

Eddie, we all owe you a huge amount of thanks for chairing the whole project of the Auction. it

was well run and no one knows how hard you worked to get it ready, thank you , thank you. The organizing in itself was a huge job. She has done this for several years. Many kudos to you. We will need someone to step forward next year to take over this job as she needs a rest from all her duties. Think about this folks, this money is how we are able to run this club so this is an important position but Edie has all the files on how to do it and she can instruct the people how it is done. As they say many hands make light work

Thanks to Joy for her years of work with our refreshments as she is retiring from that position. Thanks Joy for the

time you spent planning and making the table look very festive and a job well done.

The next big job is our election, be thinking if you have any people you would like to nominate for any of the offices and you can bring them to the floor.

Looking forward to our next meeting. Exciting things are beginning to happen in our new shade area, plants that have never bloomed are starting to put on bloom spikes yeah. Next meeting, bring a friend.

Barbara Olson, President

Slate of Officers and Directors for 2012

President: Darrell Lovell
 Vice President: Barbara Olson
 Secretary: Open
 Treasurer: Susan Schleffer
 Membership Secretary: Edie Gulrich
 Directors, 2012: Erika Jelovsek, Marshall Lai
 Directors, 2013: Phyllis Adams, Tim Roby
 Directors, 2014: Wilma Wilson, Open

Other Positions

Newsletter Editor: Roberta Fox
 Refreshments Coordinator: Open
 AOS Rep: Open
 Southland Show Rep: Open
 Orchid Digest Rep: Barbara Olson
 Auction Coordinator: Open

Nominations (and volunteers for open positions) will be taken at the November meeting

Editor's Potting Bench (From Page 2)

asked me if it had buds, since the ones in the nursery did. Alas, no. So I figured that I would have to wait another year. After all, it had not bloomed before, just a baby. However, toward the end of August I looked up and saw a little bump silhouetted against the sky I got out the binoculars, and indeed, there was a spike beginning to emerge. I impatiently watched it develop, but at the end of September I was rewarded. My camera has a long zoom, and so I was able to get a very good look at the flowers without climbing. I did need to go up a ladder,



See: **Editor's Potting Bench**, Page 5

Simple, Mechanical Shut-off for a Reverse Osmosis System

By Nick Braemer

(Previously published In South Bay Orchid Society Newsletter Thank you to Don Goss!)

I have 2 x 40 gallon 'Tough Stuff' garbage cans which hold my RO water. I'm going to expand to three. While redoing the system I decided to replace the solenoid shut-off valve I have with a float valve. The solenoid is getting old and was acting weird. Replacement is about \$70 including all costs. Why not get a toilet-like float valve to do the job? No electricity, just a simple float such as we all have in our toilets, which works perfectly well there to shut off the water when a certain level is reached.

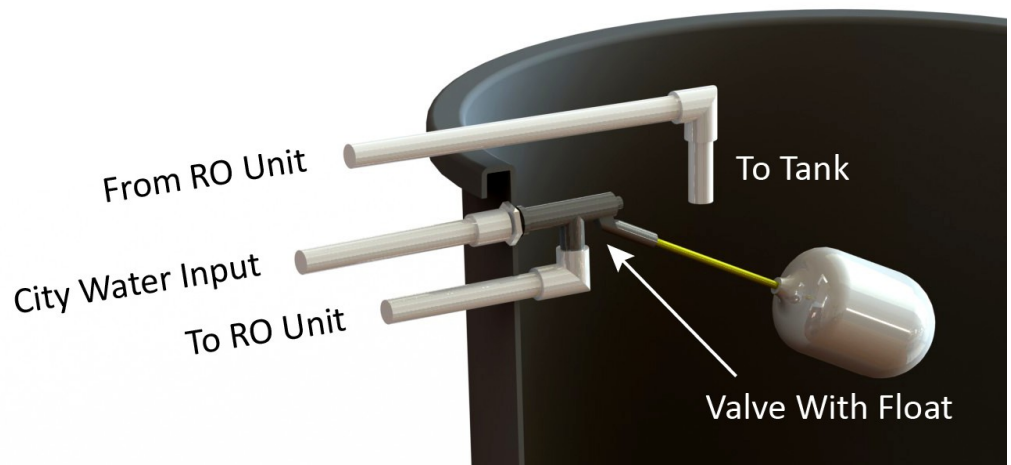
Off to Home Depot, then a local plumbing shop, finally Ferguson, a specialty plumbing shop, all dead ends, no luck. Every float valve has a threaded inlet but features a non-threaded outlet thus making it unsuitable to interrupt the 1/2" PVC pipe, such as the one feeding my RO unit. You cannot plumb the outgoing water unless there are threads. The shut-off valve has to be before the RO unit, not afterward.

After considerable bouncing around the internet, mostly banging my head against a wall, I found the valve I wanted right here at



Grainger. From them, I got a 1/2" Kerick Float Valve, Bulkhead Mount, PVC 0.25" Orifice. It is the Golden Grail of Float Valves as it has threads going in and going out. It's made out of PVC, schedule 80. I also needed a Float Rod and a Float Ball, standard items everywhere. Total cost: \$27.

This makes for an easy, homemade, shut-off



mechanism to regulate RO water production without electricity, solenoids and other stuff that cannot be dealt with, as easily as a leaking toilet float valve. 1/2" PVC in and out, a simple way to solve the problem. Make a hole near the top of the can, the bulkhead inlet fixes it in place, it's a no-brainer. For me, it's not so much about saving \$40 but having a simple, mechanical and easy to fix system rather than an electric solenoid

Rube Goldberg triumphs again. Ahnuld wants one too to keep the water from rising above his nose.

Nick Braemer

Calendar of Events

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

- Cal-Orchid Open House**
 November 5-6, 9 AM—5PM both days
www.calorchid.com
- Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Fall Open House**
 November 5-6, Saturday 8 AM—5 PM, Sunday 9 AM—4 PM
 Laelia Anceps, Cymbidium Season Kickoff, lots of other fall bloomers, and those great \$7.50 specials
www.sborchid.com
- Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Show and Sale***
 November 26-27, Saturday 10 AM—5 PM, Sunday 10 AM—3 PM
 Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2599 Puesta del Sol Rd, Santa Barbara
 Free with museum admission (\$10 adults, \$7 Seniors and Ages 13-17, \$6 Ages 3-12)
- Casa de las Orquideas Open House**
 December 3-4, 9 AM—4 PM
 New seedlings, divisions of show and breeding stock Cymbidiums, and more.
 Andy's Orchids will be special guest.
 170 S. Nardo Ave, Solana Beach
- Sunset Valley Orchids Open House**
 December 3-4, 9 AM—4 PM
 1255 Navel Place, Vista
 Once-a-year discounts on all stock; New Zealand 'Kiwi Orchid Bark' \$20/bag



Sobralia caliglossa in bloom

Editor's Potting Bench (From Page 3)

though, to smell them, and found them to be very fragrant. The flowers have heavy, waxy substance, and last at least 4 days, longer than most Sobralias. The flowers open in succession, so I have been able to enjoy my "first bloom seedling" for about two months.

Roberta Fox, editor

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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>Diamond Orchids Contact: Peter Lin 834 Featherwood Dr Diamond Bar, CA 91765 909-396-0334, www.diamondorchids.com</p>	<p>Ecuagenera Contact: Ivan Portilla PO Box 01011110 Cuenca, Ecuador www.ecuagenera.com</p>
<p>Lico Orchids Contact: Lisa Humphries & Nico Goosens 309 Via Nancita Encinitas, CA 92024 760-942-4143</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.com</p>

<p>Orange County Farm Supply Contact: Chris Roy 1826 W Chapman Av Orange, CA 92868 714-978-6500, www.ocfarmsupply.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 Orchid 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>	