



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

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Growing Orchids in a Terrarium

Daniel Gieger

Daniel L. Geiger, PhD, is a marine invertebrate systematist working on biodiversity and evolution of basal marine snails at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. His interests in plants come from natural history photography and gardening. He is a member of the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara, SCOSS, and the California Native Plant Society, and has been growing native California orchids outdoors, and more recently added an indoor terrarium with tropical orchids.

Growing orchids in a terrarium is similar to growing in a miniature greenhouse with artificial lights. An overview of all aspects of planning, installation, and running a plant terrarium is provided. Special emphasis is given to automatic control of environmental parameters (light, temperature, moisture). The second half of the talk discusses species-



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Bulbophyllum lasiochilum

orchids and their performance with many pictures of a variety of morphologies.

Dan published an article in Orchids in 2008 on this subject of growing orchids in a terrarium. That article can be found at <http://www.vetigastropoda.com/abstracts/GeigerOrchids2008.pdf>
PHPSES-SID=d9b52b29d3835ad33a8176ca4f6ab20a . He has another article "in the works", and this talk will include a preview of some of that material.



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Harella retrocalla

Speaker's Choice

December speaker Norito Hasegawa selected Sophronitis (Cattleya) cernua grown by Peter Lin. Peter grows this plant outdoors, in a sheltered area. While protected from the baking summer sun, it still experiences the temperature extremes of Diamond Bar, both triple-digit summer heat and the occasional sub-freezing winter cold. The flowers have particularly good form, size, and color.

According to Charles Baker, this plant was first found in the area of Rio de Janeiro, and it is also found along



the Brazilian coast. The flowers of these coastal plants tend to have somewhat pale or faded flowers. Plants with more brightly colored flowers grow far inland in the states of Minas Gerais and São Paulo. Those areas also tend to be higher and cooler. This plant, with its brilliant flowers and cold-tolerance, no doubt draws its ancestry from one of those inland locations. The petals are very crystalline, and glisten in the sunlight.

From the Member's Corner

Happy Holidays to you and yours. Let's welcome our newest member Gisela Ferolito, who joined us at the December meeting! Glad to have you with us Gisela.

Please remember dues are due. If you have received a "reminder" with this newsletter, we still need them for 2012. Since there has been no volunteer for refreshments, you'll need to bring your own drinks and snacks. See you in January.

Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

I would like to wish all of you Happy Holidays. Since I am your new president, I would like to share a little bit about my background. I've always had an interest in plants and have enjoyed numerous visits to the local arboretums. Orchids, more than any other plant, always intrigued me, but I was not very successful in my attempts to grow them. In 2009 I decided to join the Species Society to see if I could improve my success rate. My plants are happy that I did! I'm very thankful for all the helpful hints all of you have given me since I joined the Soci-

ety. To me, that's the most important function of our group – helping one another and sharing our love of orchids.

Congratulations to our lifetime members: Dorothy Goldberg, Jan Hennessey, Richard Hess, Ed Wise. Ed is one of our founding members.

I would like to thank Ed Wise for swearing in the new officers. I'm looking forward to working with all of you. Norito Hasegawa was our speaker for December. I always find him very interesting and knowledgeable. I had a lot of good feedback about his program

We are looking for a volunteer to handle refreshments. This involves making coffee and set-up/clean-up for our monthly meetings. If we don't get a volunteer there will be no refreshments.

I want to thank everyone for all the beautiful orchids for show and tell. Once again, Happy Holidays! I hope to see you all at the January meeting. If you have any ideas for speakers that you would like to hear from, please contact Barbara Olson.

Darrell Lovell, President

Editor's Potting Bench

While the rest of the country is busy shoveling itself out from under lots of snow, my orchids (and I am sure yours too) are celebrating the holidays in California style.

Laelia anceps are putting on a spectacular show. I am finding that the flowers tend to last a bit longer when the plants are left outside (the house is warm and very dry), but then they are vulnerable to bugs (thrips, especially, do not seem to be deterred by the chilly nights) and botrytis, especially if it gets damp at night along with the cold. Fortunately the latter problem has been pretty much held in check by very low humidity. With night temperatures in the 30's, the single-digit humidity has been giving the plants an extra bit of protection. The short days pose a challenge in figuring out when it is best to water. Too early, and the plants will stay wet and cold too long before the sun dries them. Too late, and they won't dry out before nightfall. But the middle of the day is sunny, very dry, and fairly warm, so they do need water. I have found that right around 10 AM is the sweet spot.

Speaking of *L. anceps*... we are in, or very near, the ideal time to pot or mount them. While most members of the *Cattleya* tribe are ideally potted when the roots first appear, *L. anceps* does better if done in anticipation of the

roots. Then, when they appear, there is no risk of damaging the fragile tips, which would stop their development cold. When I have had any of these in pots, they struggle until reaching the edge of the pot, then they take off. Clearly they don't want to be in pots, They really grow best mounted. I have some small ones that did not bloom this year, and they are already rooting



Laelia anceps var. *veitchiana* 'Elizabeth's Eyes' x 'Neptune'

See: [Editor's Potting Bench, Page 4](#)

(Editor's Potting Bench , from page 3)

(actually, started back in November). If you have a plant that is blooming and starting to root at the same time, get the job done... the flowers won't mind, and you'll catch it at the optimum time. January, or maybe early February will still be OK for the late bloomers, but don't procrastinate or you'll miss the "window". That beautiful *L. anceps* var. *veitchiana* 'Elizabeth's Eyes' x 'Neptune' came bare-root from our 2010 auction, I mounted it at that time, and has rewarded my efforts. Thank you, thank you to the donor. The blue-violet blush on the petals is not an artifact of photography, it is very real and wonderful.

Another "December surprise", this one living in the greenhouse, was *Cattleya percivaliana* var. *semi-alba* 'Jewel'. I got this a couple of years ago from a society plant table (not ours), bare root, and this is the first time that it has bloomed for me. Again, thank you to the person who donated it. The photograph does not do it justice—that lip is almost fluorescent. The standard *C. percivaliana* is also very beautiful (see the website) but this one has a special charm.



There are lots of other things just starting to bud—it will be a great year for *Lycastes*, I think. Here is one more little gem that is starting to produce lots of new buds that are opening now, will do more over the next month or two—

Pleurothallis ornata. The little fringes wave in the breeze. It blooms successively on each inflorescence, so don't cut them until they are definitely dead and dry. I have also seen this referred to as



Pleurothallis ornata

Pths. schiedei, but that name is given in *Orchidwiz* (and on *IOSPE*) as a synonym for *Pths. villosa*, which is a quite different plant. Both of them are now classified as *Stelis*.

Roberta Fox, Editor



***Cattleya percivaliana* var. *semi-alba* 'Jewel'**

Calendar of Events

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

- **Mariposa Gardens Winter Festival***
January 14, 2012, 9 AM–3 PM
6664 South Street, Lakewood
www.mariposagarden.com 562-920-5528
Select from hundreds of pendants, thousands of standards in a broad spectrum of colors.
- **Orange County Orchid Society Annual Auction***
January 18, 2012 Preview at 6:30 PM, auction begins at 7 PM
Yorba Linda Public Library Community Room, Lower Level, 18181 Imperial Hwy, Yorba Linda
Info: dwarren@shipandshore.com or 909-396-0172
- **Rowland Collection Open House**
January 22, 1 PM to 4 PM
12446 Georgian St., Garden Grove
714-892-3502
- **Newport Harbor Orchid Expo***
February 10-12, 2012
Westminster Mall
- **Pacific Orchid Exposition***
February 23-26, 2012
Fort Mason, San Francisco
- **South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale***
March 3-4, 2012 Sales 10 AM-5 PM, Show Sat. 12 PM-5 PM, Sun 10 AM-5 PM
Torrance Cultural Arts Center
3330 Civic Center Dr, Torrance
- **San Diego Orchid Society Show and Sale***
March 9-11, 2012, Friday 3-7 PM, Saturday 9 AM–6 PM, Sunday 10 AM–4 PM
Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South, San Diego
Info: www.sdorchids.com or 760-529-2947
- **Santa Barbara Orchid Show***
March 16-18, 2012 9AM-5 PM
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara



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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>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>
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<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 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>
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