



# Southern California Orchid Species Society

[www.socalorchidspecies.com](http://www.socalorchidspecies.com)

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Open

**Newsletter**

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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  
(NOTE: May meeting is 3rd Sunday due to Mother's Day)  
Placentia Library  
411 E. Chapman Ave, Placentia  
(Corner of Chapman and Kraemer)

Volume 36, Issue 5  
May, 2013

**May 19, 2013**

**(NOTE: This is the 3rd Sunday)**

## Venezuelan Cattleya Species in the Habitat

**Michael Sinn**

Born in Venezuela to German parents, Michael Sinn was twelve years old when he became fascinated with orchids. He took over the care and culture of his mother's backyard collection of over 120 plants, primarily Cattleyas and Oncidiums. When he purchased his own first orchid, a blooming *V. sanderiana*, he knew he'd been bitten by orchid fever. Growing up, Michael hiked the jungles of South America whenever he could in search of Cattleyas in their natural habitats.

Following graduation from Universidad Metropolitana in Caracas where he received a degree in civil engineering, Michael worked for four years in the Venezuelan Amazon State as a contractor. The work afforded him the opportunity to observe the habitat of the *C. violacea*. Fired by what he believed was an urgent need for conservation of the precious plants, he spent personal time teaching local people how to pollinate the orchids, impressing upon them the need to let the plants remain in their natural habitat.

Orchid fever never left Michael. His deep commitment to conservation and preservation instinctively drew him toward the breeding Cattleyas and Laelias, eventually to starting his own nursery. In 2003, Michael brought his family to Florida and worked to make the next phase of his dream come true. He created and continues to grow and develop his own nursery business – Canaima Orchids.

For the past three decades, Michael has made numerous excursions to Brazil, Colombia

See Page 2: Michael Sinn



## Michael Sinn, from Page 1

and Venezuela to observe *Cattleya* habitats. Witnessing their dwindling numbers has only strengthened his resolve and endeavor to produce the finest cultivars of *Cattleya* species possible. His vision remains constant: to conserve native species by creating from seed-raised populations superior plants featuring rare and unusual color forms that were only a dream a generation ago. Michael Sinn has succeeded.

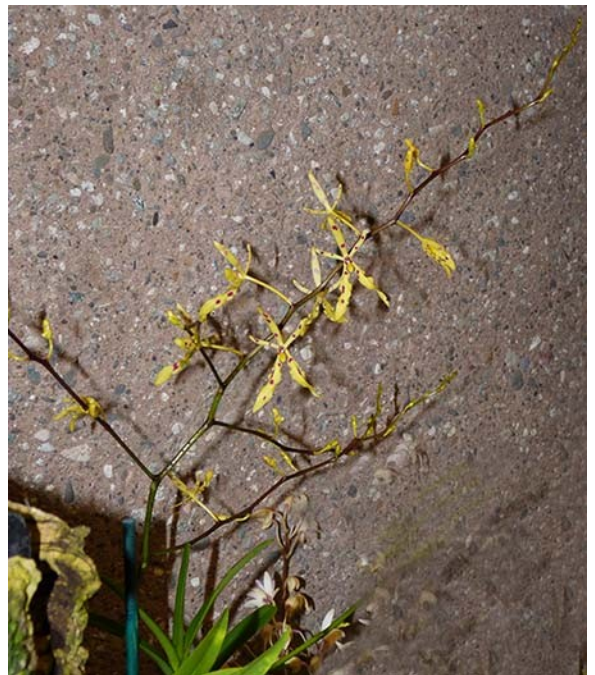
Canaima Orchids takes pride in its long list of international awards, including those from the United States, Japan and South America, that validate its breeding stock as being of the finest quality. Canaima's superior seedlings and divisions are eagerly sought by orchid connoisseurs the world over. The nursery has been recently relocated to Carpinteria, CA. Check the website <http://www.canaimaorchids.com> for more information.

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## Speaker's Choice

Harry Phillips, our April speaker, was faced with an impossible task—to select just one “favorite orchid” for his Speaker's Choice. He narrowed it down to maybe 10, then 6. He finally settled on the *Renanthera citrina* grown by Peter Lin, since it is rarely seen, and is a beautifully-grown example. Peter grows it in his greenhouse.

*Renanthera citrina* grows in Vietnam and south-central China. It occurs in mixed and coniferous forests that grow on limestone outcroppings near ridge



*Renanthera citrina*

tops. It is found at elevations from 2100-2900 ft. At this latitude, it may encounter rather cool winter temperatures. Charles Baker (cited in [Orchidwiz](#)) gives the probable temperature extremes of 25–95 deg. F. In winter, it is quite dry, however, which would help the plant survive the cold.

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## From the Member's Corner

Welcome to our three guests (unfortunately they didn't leave any info as to phone or email), we hope to see you again in the very near future. A new member has joined our family of orchid enthusiasts, please welcome Odette House from Anaheim; we're glad to have you on board.

*Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary*

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## President's Message

Hi everyone,

First of all, many thanks for your cards and well wishes – it meant a lot to me. I appreciate everyone pitching in to keep things running smoothly.

The presentation by Harry Phillips, our guest speaker, was very informative and entertaining. Even my wife who is not an orchid enthusiast and was there only because she had to drive me, remarked upon how much she enjoyed the presentation.

As usual, the plants on display for Show & Tell were spectacular! Thanks to all who participated.

Since we did not have a quorum, no board meeting was held. We are in need of a new president and vice president for the coming year as Barbara and I have each served 2 terms. If interested, please let me know.

See you all at the meeting!

*Darrell Lovell, President*

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## Editor's Potting Bench

If you have not already made your reservation for Orchid Digest Speakers' Day, this is an event that you should not miss! We had enough SCOSS members attend last year to fill a table at the dinner. Maybe this year we can fill two tables! I think that everyone who went last year enjoyed it thoroughly. Don't delay— because of construction at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, the event will be held in a room about 1/3 the size that we have had in the past. When all the seats are filled, no more reservations will be taken. Orchid Digest has added an online reservation option, so it is easy... no need to search for your checkbook or a stamp.

Please note that the Santa Barbara Orchid Fair at the Earl Warren Showgrounds will NOT be held this year. However, both Santa Barbara Orchid Estate and Cal-Orchid will be having open houses the weekend of July 12-14. There will be plenty of good shopping at both nurseries. The wonderful barbecue (with lots of excellent guacamole!) will be held at Cal-Orchid as usual.

As the days lengthen and become warmer, nearly all of the orchids are in active growth, with lots of young, vigorous roots making an appearance. I am in heavy repotting mode. One observation that I have made is that about two years ago, the quality of the coconut chips seems to have dropped (even those that are not highly compressed). I am seeing much more degradation in this medium than I have seen in the past, in just a short time. If you have been using it, take a look at your plants, repot if necessary. I am switching back to bark (or tree-fern fiber cubes in some cases) for Cattleya tribe

plants and other things that need to dry out. Even with large amounts of Diatomite (which is now unavailable anyway) they're just staying too wet. and not airy enough. Cymbidiums, on the other hand, seem to like



*Arpophyllum giganteum*

the stuff. Just keep in mind the objectives that you have for each type of orchid, and be ready to adjust

*See Page 4, Editor's Potting Bench*



## Editor's Potting Bench, *From Page 3*

how you achieve them when circumstances change.

I am finding that many plants are blooming about a month later than they did last year, but when they do, they are blooming profusely. It is exciting to see the first bloom on plants that I have acquired over the last year, but also so very rewarding to see my "old friends" show me that they still like me.

I bought *Arpophyllum giganteum* at the Species auction about 5 years ago. Some leaves had been sunburned, which did not harm the plant, but for a couple of years they didn't look so nice. In time, those old leaves fell off, the new ones look great, and the plant blooms faithfully for me every year. I hope I can bring it for show-and-tell, but the flowers tend to not last long, and with the meeting being a week later, it might not make it, so I share it here. This genus is an excellent outdoor grower—*Arpophyllum alpinum* will put on its show in the fall.

*Polystachya paniculata* is another faithful bloomer for me. The inflorescence has a dramatic contrast



*Polystachya paniculata*

*Masdevallia trochilus*



between the tiny, bright orange flowers and the bright green panicle to which they are attached. This African orchid needs a greenhouse.

Another thrill for me was the reblooming of *Masdevallia trochilus*, which I obtained from Nick Braemer about a year and a half ago. (Thanks, Nick!). It first bloomed for me last August. After the flower faded, the inflorescence remained, and it just produced another, even better (more photogenic), flower (with yet another one beginning to develop). I don't cut spikes until they start to wither, because I would certainly not want to miss out on sequential bloomers like this one. The flower is so three-dimensional that one photo angle is not sufficient to describe it.—so you get two.

*Roberta Fox, Editor*

## Calendar of Events

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

- **San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists Annual Auction\***  
May 16—Preview 6 PM, Auction begins 7 PM  
LA County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia  
Info: [www.sgvo.org](http://www.sgvo.org)
- **Casa de las Orquideas 13th Annual Seedling Sale\***  
May 18, 9 AM—4 PM  
170 S. Nardo Ave, Solana Beach  
Info: [www.orquideas.com](http://www.orquideas.com), (858)755-7572 or [casa@orquideas.com](mailto:casa@orquideas.com)
- **Orchid Digest Speakers Day**  
June 8 (See below for details)
- **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House**  
July 12-14, Friday and Saturday 8 AM—5 PM, Sunday 9 AM—4 PM  
Info: (800) 553-3387 or [sboe@sborchid.com](mailto:sboe@sborchid.com)  
Great open house specials!  
**NOTE:** There will be no Orchid Fair at the Earl Warren Showgrounds
- **Cal-Orchid Open House**  
July 12-14 9 AM—4 PM  
Info: (805) 967-1312 or [calorchid@cox.net](mailto:calorchid@cox.net)  
Great specials, and the annual BBQ!

## Orchid Digest Speakers' Day

### "WONDERFUL WORLD OF ORCHIDS"

Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California  
Saturday, June 8, 2013 - 12:30 pm to 8:00 pm in the *Ahmanson Classroom*

**Lecturers:** [Thomas Miranda](#) (Virginia), [Ron Kaufmann](#) (San Diego), [Paul Tuskes](#) (San Diego), [Mario Ferrusi](#) (Toronto)  
**Dinner Speaker:** [Alec Pridgeon](#) (Florida)

**Vendors:** Cal-Orchid; Sunset Valley Orchids, Andy's Orchids, Canaima Orchids, Marsh Hollow Orchids

Tickets: \$60 (\$75 at door) for afternoon Seminars, Wine and Cheese Happy Hour;  
Dinner and Evening Entertainment

**Reserve online through June 5th.**

<http://orchiddigest.org/orchid-digest-speaker-day-ad.html>

After June 5, 2013 contact  
Simone Friend, 4349 Dogwood Ave., Seal Beach, CA 90740  
Phone: (562) 431-1247 E-mail: [orchidsimonef@aol.com](mailto:orchidsimonef@aol.com)

**Limited Space!! Make Your Reservations Now!**

**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 &amp; 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 &amp; Ryan Wicks 11614 Sterling Av Riverside, CA 92503 951-351-1880, www.calwesttropical.com</p>
<p>Casa de las Orquideas Contact: Nancy &amp; Karl 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 &amp; 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>Mr. Fertilizer Contact: Don Knipp 247 23rd St Costa Mesa, CA 92626 949-548-2678</p>	<p>Orange County Farm Supply Contact: Chris Roy 1826 W Chapman Av Orange, CA 92868 714-978-6500, www.ocfarmssupply.com</p>	<p>Orchids by Zeny Contact: Zeny Harrington 22920 Cajalco Rd Perris, CA 92570 951-236-0291</p>
<p>Orchids of Los Osos Contact: Michael Glikbarg 1614 Sage Ave. Los Osos, CA 93402 805-528-0181, www.orchidsoflososos.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>Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Contact: Alice &amp; 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>Sorella Orchids Contact: Nenita Sorella 100 Frenchys Cove #71 Camarillo, CA 93012 360-607-9342, www.sorellaorchids.com</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>	