



Southern California Orchid Species Society

www.socalorchidspecies.com

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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
Kraemer Memorial Park
Backs Community Building, Main Room
201 N. Bradford Ave., Placentia
(Chapman and Bradford, parking off Bradford)

Volume 37 Issue 2

February 2014

February 9, 2014

Laelia Anceps: Varieties, and Their Influence on Hybrids

Curtis Gean

Curtis Gean is a semi-retired photographer/videographer current living in Sanger, CA (about 15 miles east of Fresno, on the way to Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks). His interest in Orchids developed in the '60's and quickly became an un-dying passion; this year marks his 43rd year of "Orchiditis". He became an accredited AOS judge in 1986, having served his "apprenticeship" commuting from Fresno to the San Francisco area even through the gas shortages of the '70's .

Approximately 17 years ago he went to visit some friends that he had made in Colima, Mexico while on a video assignment from the previous year. What was to be a 2 week visit turned into 2 months... he then realized that he had found a new home, and eventually stayed there for the better part of the next 10 years. He found that living among naturally-occurring tropical Orchids is something that can only be experienced. He began searching the areas surrounding his location, and was able to find quite a number of species within the States of Colima, Jalisco, and Michoacan on the Pacific Coast, as well as a bit inland. He returned to the States in 2006, and now spends time between both locations... not as much as he would prefer in Mexico.

Last year Curtis spoke to us about the native California orchids that he has found in the Sierras. He is also an active orchid hybridizer. This month he will discuss the



See: **Curtis Gean**, Page 2

Laelia anceps var. *sanderiana*

Curtis Gean from Page 1

varieties of *Laelia anceps*. Most of us are familiar with a few of the varieties, such as *L. anceps* var. *guerrero* or *L. anceps* var. *veitchiana*. However, there are many more named varieties and forms. Those unique colors and patterns are part of the hybridizer's "tool box" .

Speaker's Choice

January speaker Nico Goossens selected *Mediocalcar decoratum*, grown by Nancy Benay, as his Speaker's Choice. Nancy grows this plant in the greenhouse. She was out of town for a period of time, came back to find the plant in bloom with many little "candy corn" flowers.

Mediocalcar decoratum is native to New Guinea. It grows at a wide range of elevations, from around 2800-6700 ft., and has been observed as high as 8200 ft. This would indicate that it can grow under rather cool conditions. (Ed. note: I grow it outside, but mine doesn't look as good as Nancy's) The Baker culture sheet in *Orchidwiz* indicates a



Mediocalcar decoratum



temperature range in its native habitat of 84 deg. F down to 40 deg. F. It prefers rather shady conditions, and high humidity. Its growth habit is to form a "mat", and so needs to be grown in a shallow pot, basket or mounted, though it may be a challenge to keep a mounted plant moist enough.

From the Member's Corner

Great to see Vicki and Bill Ryan, it's been way too long; come back soon. Welcome to our three guests: From San Diego - Phyllis Prestia, from Covina - Una Yeh and from Brea - Genie Pieroni. We hoped you enjoyed the meeting and would love to see you back again real soon.

Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

Wasn't that an informative meeting about toluenias? Thank you Nico! Having lost a few of those (along with many others) I appreciate some new info regarding culture.

Looking forward to the next meeting? So am I.

There are a great many things coming up in the Orchid world in the near future so please read your newsletters and come to the meetings and share in the fun.

Tim Roby, President

Editor's Potting Bench

After a couple of months with a paucity of orchid-acquiring events, February always kicks off show season in a big way. Take a look at the Events page.. it is STUFFED. I had to resort to some "squeezing" tricks to get all of the entries on the page. Do check the SCOSS website Events page to view the posters with additional information about each event. And be sure to mark your calendar for Orchid Digest Speakers Day on June 14. Details will be available in the next issue of OD, but in the meantime, save the date.

Last year, the mail-order supplier Charley's Greenhouse had a seminar on greenhouse design and issues at their store in the state of Washington. I would have loved to attend, but of course it is about 1500 miles outside of commuting range. I asked, and I am sure many others did as well, if a video of the session might be available. It didn't happen right away (they could have sold a lot of DVDs if it had) but it is now available as a series of YouTube videos. Even better, since a DVD would cost, and this is free. Go to http://www.charleysgreenhouse.com/index.cfm?page=_greenhouse-101 for a page of links to the videos. If you don't have a greenhouse and are thinking of getting one, there is a wealth of valuable information and things to consider. Even if you already have one, there are some excellent ideas that you can use to improve it. It's about an hour and a half of viewing (the actual length of their class) but broken into a separate segment for each topic. A hint—the default view is tiny, but you can choose to view it in full screen.

We will be setting up our display at the Westminster Mall on the morning of Thursday, February 6. If you have blooming species orchids, bring them to the society display room (same location as last year, I think) by 10 AM, or contact Yolanda if you need another way to

get the plants to the mall. If you can be there to help, even better.

I am at the stage of talking to my plants, urging them to bloom... but not too soon. There are so many candidates. This is turning out to be a wonderful winter for orchid-blooming. (I love you, California!!!) So, let me share a few orchids that will probably not make it to the meeting... either because they're up in Westminster in our display (hope, hope) or sadly past their prime.

This *Laelia anceps* was purchased at the Westminster show about 4 years ago, a two-bulb division still in bloom (so it can be assumed to have bloomed around the beginning of February) Since then it has bloomed each year but at different times — in October, late December, and November... finally it seems to have come full circle, blooming at about the same time as the year that I got it.



Laelia anceps 'Pink Snow'

See: **Editor's Potting Bench**, Page 4

Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3

Laelia (Schomburgkia) moyobambae has been teasing me for months, with the spike continuing to elongate but no sign of blooming. Suddenly, as I write this, it is just starting to open, so I'm hoping that it will be at its prime for the show. This plant grows outside—it would probably prefer to be a bit warmer, but it has adapted.

This *Odontoglossum cristatum* was purchased at our auction last fall, so one of my more recent acquisitions. At that time it had one spike, just finishing. It must have liked my patio, though, because it recently exploded with multiple spikes, and much fuller flowers than that original one.

Cymbidium canaliculatum is a long shot... it's either going to just barely open in time, or just miss it (in which case it might make the meeting) But with three spikes, the most that it has ever done, I hope...



Laelia moyobambae



Odontoglossum cristatum



Cymbidium canaliculatum 'Friends' AM/AOS

And then there's "old reliable", *Pterostylis curta*. It will certainly be in the show, but it may or may not be in full glory. Still a bit sparse, but those spikes develop very rapidly. We'll see...

Roberta Fox, Editor



Pterostylis curta

Save the Date

June 14, 2014

Orchid Digest Speakers Day

"Orchids Around the World"

Calendar of Events

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

- **Newport Harbor Orchid Expo 2014***
February 7-9; Friday 10 AM–9 PM, Saturday 10 AM–7 PM, Sunday 11 AM–6 PM
Westminster Mall, Bolsa and the 405 freeway, Westminster
Info: www.nhosinfo.org
- **Orange County Branch CSA Annual Auction***
February 12–6:30 PM preview, 7 PM Auction starts
Garden Grove Masonic Hall, 11270 Acacia Pkwy, Garden Grove
Info: www.ocbcsa.com
- **South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale***
February 15-16; Saturday and Sunday Sale 10-5, Show Saturday 12-5 and Sunday 10-5
Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr., Torrance; Adult Admission \$7
Info: www.southbayorchidsociety.com
- **Newport Harbor Orchid Society Annual Auction***
February 18, 7 PM
Costa Mesa Community Center, 1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa
Info: www.nhosinfo.org
- **Pacific Orchid Exposition***
February 21-23: Friday 10-6, Saturday 9-6, Sunday 10-5
Fort Mason Center's Festival Pavilion, San Francisco
Info: www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
- **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show***
March 14-16 9 AM–5 PM
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
Info: www.sborchidshow.com
- **San Diego County Orchid Society 2014 Show and Sale***
March 21-23 : Friday 3 PM-7 PM, Saturday 9 AM-6 PM, Sunday 10 AM-4 PM
Scottish Rite Center, 1894 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA; Adult admission \$7
Info: www.sdorchids.com or (760)529-2947
- **San Diego County Cymbidium Society Annual Auction***
April 5; Preview 11:30 AM, Auction begins 12:00 PM
Lake San Marcos–Lake Pavilion, 1105 La Bonita Dr., San Marcos
Info: orchldy1@mac.com or 760-732-0055
- **Central Coast Orchid Show***
April 5-6; Saturday 9-5, Sunday 10-5
South County Regional Center, 800 W. Branch St, Arroyo Grande
Info: www.fcos.org or 805-929–5749
- **Palomar Orchid Society Annual Auction***
May 17; Preview 10:00 AM, Auction begins 11:00 AM
The Pavilion at Lake San Marcos, 1105 La Bonita Dr, San Marcos
Info: www.palomarorchid.org

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>Asbell Orchids Contact: Bob or Dan Asbell 200 Orchid Lane Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 805-550-5484</p>	<p>Cal-Orchid Contact: James Rose 1251 Orchid Dr Santa Barbara, CA 93111 805-967-1312, www.calorchid.com</p>
<p>Casa de las Orquideas Contact: Nancy 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 info@ecuagenera.com Cuenca, Ecuador , www.ecuagenera.com</p>
<p>Hatfield Orchids Contact: George Hatfield 3793 Dufau Rd Oxnard, CA 93033 805-901-0340, www.hatfieldorchids.com</p>	<p>Lico Orchids Contact: Lisa Humphreys & Nico Goossens 309 Via Nancita Encinitas, CA 92024 760-942-4143</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 23 St. Costa Mesa, CA 92627 949 -548-2678</p>	<p>Ooi Leng Sun Orchids Nursery and Laboratory Contact: Benjamin Ooi ben@aaorchids.com Penang, Malaysia , www.aaorchids.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>Patricia Rowland 12446 S Georgian St Garden Grove, CA 92841 714-892-3502</p>
<p>Phrao Orchids Nursery Contact: Katai katai2497@gmail.com Chiangmai, Thailand , www.facebook.com/Nursery.at.Phrao</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 & Parry Gripp 1250 Orchid Dr Santa Barbara, CA 93111 800-553-3387, www.sborchid.com</p>
<p>Seed Engei Contact: Satomi Kasahara seed_engei@yahoo.com 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>