

Southern California Orchid Species Society

www.socalorchidspecies.com

Officers President

Tim Roby
timroby@me.com

Vice President

Open

Society Secretary

Edie Gulrich

Membership Secretary

Edie Gulrich
egulrich@att.net

Treasurer

Susan Scheffler

Directors

2016

Phyllis Adams
Darrell Lovell

2015

Daniel Geiger
Ed Wise

2014

Roberta Fox
Dana Seelig

Orchid Show Representative

Barbara Olson
Yolanda Brown

Orchid Digest Representative

Barbara Olson
barstan50@hotmail.com

Refreshments Coordinator

Yolanda Brown

Raffle Coordinator

Open

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

Volume 37 Issue 5

May 2014

May 11, 2014

Stanhopea Culture How to Grow These Bizarre Beauties

Robert Lauri

Robert Lauri has a keen interest in the evolutionary biology of orchids, gives orchid horticultural lectures to local societies, and operates a blog on *Stanhopea* culture (<http://stanhopeaculture.blogspot.com/>). His orchid horticultural interests include

Cattleya, *Pleione*, *Stanhopea*

and a few other genera and

species. Robert received his

master's degree in evolutionary

biology and floristics from San

Diego State University in 2004,

and his Ph.D. in Botany from

Claremont Graduate University

and Rancho Santa Ana Botanic

Garden in 2010. His disserta-

tion title was "A systematic

study of *Piperia* (Orchidaceae)

and close relatives in *Platan-*

thera s.l. He currently works as

an adjunct professor at the Uni-

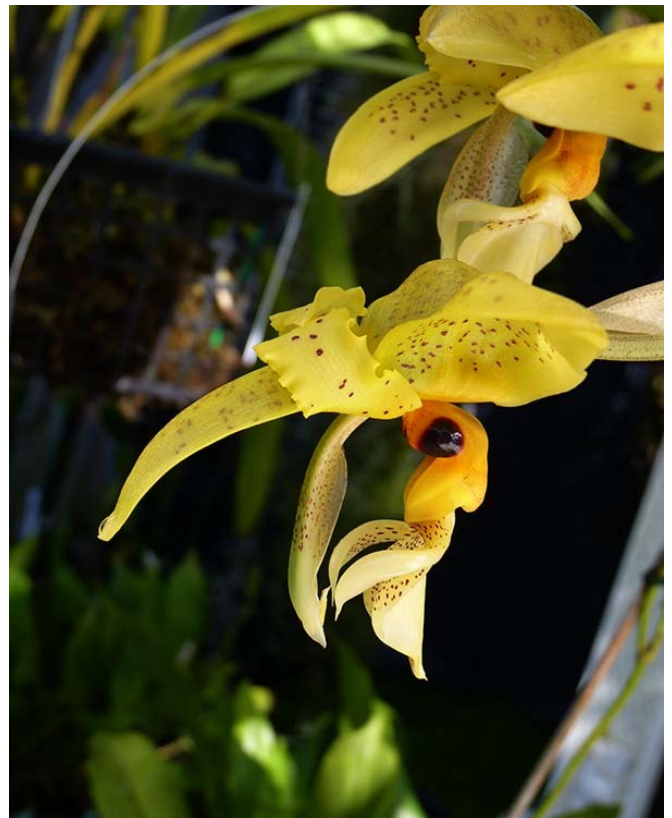
versity of San Diego teaching

biology, botany, and genetics.

Bob will discuss cultural needs

of these weird and wonderful

orchids.



Stanhopea wardii

Speaker's Choice

April speaker Gene Crocker broke with the usual pattern, and mission of the club, and selected *Dracula Raven*, a hybrid of *Drac. vampira* x *Drac. roezlii* brought in by Nick Braemer as his Speaker's choice. Clearly he was drawn to the dramatic dark color and large size of this flower. While primary hybrids are within the scope of the SCOSS Show and Tell table, generally they are brought in to illustrate a point, or in the absence of examples of the species of interest. After all, there are many "general interest" clubs for displaying hybrids, only one club devoted to the appreciation of orchid species, and usually, many wonderful species to choose from. Nick grows this plant in his cold greenhouse with the rest of his many *Draculas*, *Masdevallias*, and other pleurothallids. He uses reverse-osmosis water, since this entire group of orchids tend to be very sensitive to salts.

Drac. vampira is native to the cloud forests on the slopes of Mt. Pichincha in Ecuador (and no other location), at an elevation range of 5900 to

7200 ft (1800–2000 m). It grows in damp humus and leaf litter at the base of trees (ref: Charles Baker in [Orchidwiz](#)). *Drac. roezlii* grows in cloud forests in Colombia at elevations from 1800-2300 m (ref: Jay Pfahl's website IOSPE www.orchidspecies.com). Since they come from similar habitats, the speciation is driven, at least in part, by geographical separation.

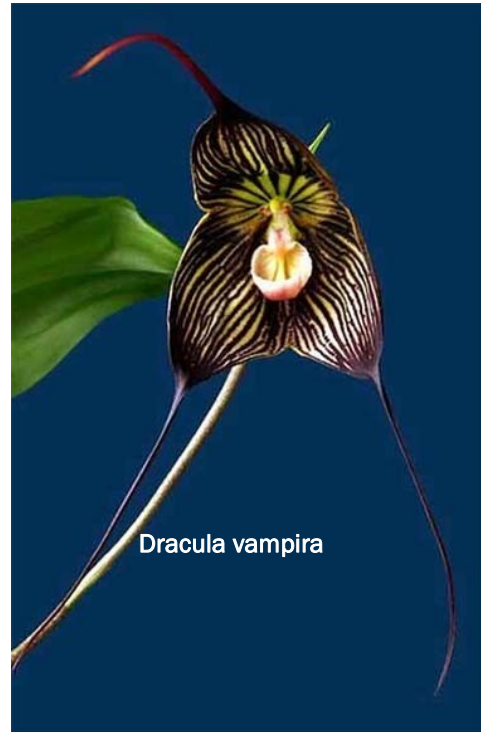


Dracula roezlii

© Ecuagenera



Dracula Raven (*D. vampira* x *D. roezlii*)



Dracula vampira

© Ecuagenera

From the Member's Corner

Welcome to our guests in April: Joan Matsalla, AnneLine Andersen and Steve Andreason. So glad that you could join us and we'd love to have you back again.

On a sad note, long-time member Marion Nordberg passed away last month.

Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

I wasn't really impressed with the Ramona Pageant so I really missed a good meeting. Will try not to do that again. Looking forward to our next meeting.

Tim Roby, President

Note to Board Members: There will be a brief board meeting after the general meeting

Editor's Potting Bench

Next month is Orchid Digest Speakers' Day. Those who have attended in the past know what a treat that is. Spend the afternoon and evening wallowing in orchids! The Orchid Digest website <http://orchiddigest.org> has been updated, and now it is really easy to register for Speakers' Day (and renew your membership) online. Also remember that due to construction, the event will be held in a facility with limited space. The website indicates a price for registration at the door, but if there isn't room, you are out of luck, so getting your reservation done early is important!. See the notice on the Events page of this newsletter for information about the wonderful lineup of speakers.

As I write this column, the wind is howling at about 40 MPH. I hope that you have had no wind damage. This sort of weather tests your construction. I found one broken zip tie that was letting one of my shade supports wobble. Replaced it, and all is solid again. These are wonderful for securing just about anything, but they do get brittle with time (even the black ones, that have some UV protection in the plastic) so one needs to keep an eye on them. Sprinklers are doing overtime, several times a day. The water evaporates quickly in this single-digit humidity, but it does serve to keep leaf temperatures down and prevent desiccation, especially for the mounted thin-leaved plants.

I had a bit of a triumph for an orchid species at AOS judging. *Epidendrum lacustre* (Panama purple form) put on a spectacular show this year. I have had the plant for a couple of years, two blooming seasons. Last year, I got one spike with about eleven flowers (at least visible in the photo) This year, five spikes full of dra-



***Epidendrum lacustre* 'Wow Fireworks'**

matic flowers., so I decided to give the judging system a chance. As is often the case, species orchids don't fit well into the flower-quality system, but this form of this species had not been awarded before, it is spectacular, and it received a CHM of 83 points. The first one into the system gets to set the standard, and so this plant is now headed for the record books. I gave it the cultivar name "Wow Fireworks" because that is what it looks like to me, an explosion of colors. I have been following Andy Phillips' instructions for this plant—sopping wet and nearly full sun. It grows with the *Laelia anceps*, hanging above the *Cymbidiums*, so it gets 12-13 hours of sun in the summer, with only about 45% shade cloth taking off the "edge". The "sopping wet" part in that

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

Editor's Potting Bench, from *Page 3*

requirement is the tricky part. That is solved with media. The *L. anceps* are all mounted, or in baskets with minimal media so no matter how often they get watered, they dry out quickly. *Epi. lacustre* is in a plastic pot with sphagnum, directly under a sprinkler, so it stays pretty wet. Last summer, after it bloomed, I moved it to a larger pot, but the roots were so good, and so entangled in the sphagnum (which was also good), that I just popped the whole thing into a larger pot and added more moss. I hope that at least some of the spikes will still be presentable at meeting time.



***Epidendrum lacustre* 'Wow Fireworks'**

In the "eye candy department, this is the season for *Cattleya* (*Guarianthe*) *aurantiaca*. The red/orange form is, perhaps, the first one comes to mind. However, this species occurs in a variety of colors. My yellow one is particularly vigorous. Since it is in full bloom now and has been for awhile, it will probably not make it to the meeting, so I share it here. It is also quite fragrant during the day.

I admit to complaining as much as the next orchid hobbyist about the name changes being applied to so many of our old friends. Of course, our interest is primarily to label the plants in our yards. We do want to know something about where those orchids originated to understand their cultural needs. What we do is horticulture, not science. While we are seeking to keep track of our orchids, science is attempting to understand the relationships between organisms – orchids, birds, insects, etc. The tools for investigating life forms have developed from the explorations of two centuries ago to the sophisticated instruments of chemistry today, and those continue to evolve. Scientific "ignorance" is simply that which we don't

know at a point in time. The more we know, the more we find new questions to investigate. Neal deGrasse Tyson, the host of the TV series *Cosmos*, summarized this process elegantly. "Science works on the frontier between knowledge and ignorance. We're not afraid to admit what we don't know. There's no shame in that. The only shame is to pretend that we have all the answers." We may not want to change our plant tags, but we should not pretend that what they represent is science. Better minds than mine debate how we might manage the horticultural names in light of the evolving science. I, for one, depend on the excellent cross-reference provided by *Orchidwiz*. For a given name that can be looked up, one is able to see what is currently accepted, what it was and when. But like it or not, modern DNA analysis can see relationships that earlier generations of scientists, who could only observe with their five senses, could not. And the results of the DNA analysis will change and be refined as the new answers reveal new questions. Perhaps a system of labeling will be devised that will manage the static nature of horticultural identifications and the problem of handling pedigrees of hybrids, but science is, at its core, dynamic.

You can certainly keep your labels—they impart useful information—but also take delight in the new understanding of your orchids that is evolving. In time, the nomenclature will stabilize, but there is still so much to learn.

Roberta Fox, Editor



***Cattleya* (*Guarianthe*) *aurantiaca* var. *aurea* 'Lemon Drop'**

Calendar of Events

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

- **San Gabriel Orchid Hobbyists Annual Auction***
May 15, Preview 6 PM, Auction begins 7PM
Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia
www.sgvo.org
- **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
- **Orchid Digest Speakers Day**
June 14—See Below
- **Cal Orchid Open House**
July 11-13
1251 Orchid Dr., Santa Barbara
www.calorchid.com
 - Great deals on great plants
 - Guest vendors
 - Barbecue lunch and fresh guacamole
- **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House**
July 11-13
1250 Orchid Dr., Santa Barbara
www.sborchid.com
 - Huge variety of great plants, including lots of \$7.50 specials and many selected divisions.
 - Dr. Phillip Cribb of Kew Gardens, UK will be chatting with visitors and signing his books, including three new ones. Dr. Cribb will also be speaking at 7:30 PM at the SB Museum of Natural History.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE TWELFTH ORCHID DIGEST SPEAKERS' DAY!!

“ORCHIDS AROUND THE WORLD”

Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California
Saturday, June 14, 2014 – 12:30 pm to 8:00 pm in the Ahmanson Classroom

SCHEDULED SPEAKERS:

Mary Gerritson – Orchids of Borneo
Tom Miranda – Orchids of Sicily
Ron McHatton – Orchids of Madagascar
Jim Sloniker – History of Orchids in Santa Barbara County

2014 Orchid Digest Distinguished Lecture: Gene Crocker – Cattleyas

VENDORS: Cal Orchid; Sunset Valley Orchids, Andy's Orchids, Carter & Holmes
Tickets: \$65 (\$80 at door). **Order online at www.orchiddigest.org**

After June 11th contact
Simone Friend, 4349 Dogwood Ave., Seal Beach, CA 90740
Phone: (562) 431-1247 E-mail: 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 & 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_engai@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>