

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 6

June 2014

June 8, 2014

Native Orchids of the Sierras: Update

Curtis Gean

Curtis Gean returns to give us an update on the orchids of the Sierras, which he has been studying and visiting for many years. Some of our members accompanied him on an orchid-hunting trip last summer, and perhaps he will have some photos of that expedition. He had hoped to include photos from a trip that he took to Yosemite in May, but it seems that the drought is affecting our native orchids in many areas. He visited the location in Yosemite where *Cypripedium montanum* is normally found on May 8, and found only two struggling half-grown plants, with no blooms forming. He spent several hours there searching for more (along with five friends) and that was all that they found. However, he has been able to put together many “never seen before” images in a new PowerPoint format. He will be bringing a raffle table from Gold Country Orchids, as well as some plants from them for sale. He can also bring some cork bark slabs in assorted sizes. If anyone has a request for a certain size, let Roberta Fox know and he can bring it.

Curtis is a semi-retired photographer/videographer living in Sanger, CA (about 15 miles from Fresno). He developed his interest in orchids in the '60s. He became an accredited AOS judge in 1986 but became inactive in the judging program due to living in Mexico for 10 years, and lost his accreditation. Upon his return, he plunged back into the judging program, and had to serve yet another seven-year apprenticeship to get it back. He received his accreditation this spring at the AOS members meeting in Minneapolis. Congratulations, Curtis!



Corallorhiza maculata

Speaker's Choice

May speaker Bob Lauri selected *Grammatophyllum multiflorum*, grown by Nick Braemer as his Speaker's Choice. Nick grows this plant in his warm greenhouse, with patience. He describes the plant as a "reluctant bloomer". He had it for close to three years before coaxing it to bloom. It has been growing in fairly low light. He is planning to move it to a brighter, somewhat cooler area to see if it becomes more willing to bloom.



Grammatophyllum multiflorum



Gram. multiflorum is an epiphyte found only in the Philippines, from sea level to 300 m (980 ft.) This species, like others in the genus, prefers a hot, humid, environment with lots of sun. A mature plant can have an inflorescence as much as 5' (1.5 m) long with up to 100 flowers, and stay in bloom for several months. Plants of this genus can become very massive, probably the largest being *Gram. speciosum*, which can have 20' canes and weigh several tons! (*Ed: Patience, Nick, your plant is just a baby!*) The genus is related to, and can breed with, *Cymbidiums*. (*Ref. the website of the Species Orchid Society of Western Australia*)

From the Member's Corner

A warm welcome to Ruhan Kainth, a friend of Phyllis Adams. She's checking out what orchids are all about. Hope you got some good information, Ruhan, and we'd love to have you join us again.

As you're repotting think about the auction coming up in October. Janice Krause will be contacting you very shortly about the auction and what and who she'll need. Please extend the same helping hand to her as you've given me over the years.

As most of you know, we pay by the hour for our use of the room. However, for the past few months we have been running over by 1/2 hour and on 2 occasions almost 45 minutes. Though the attendants from the City have been nice about it, we shouldn't push it. So here is the proposal: you can bring any number of plants for the SHOW portion, but you will be limited to 5 minutes for the TELL portion. So pick your plants carefully for describing, and you'll know how long 5 minutes is, because there will be a timer for you proud, long winded, knowledgeable folks. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Eddie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

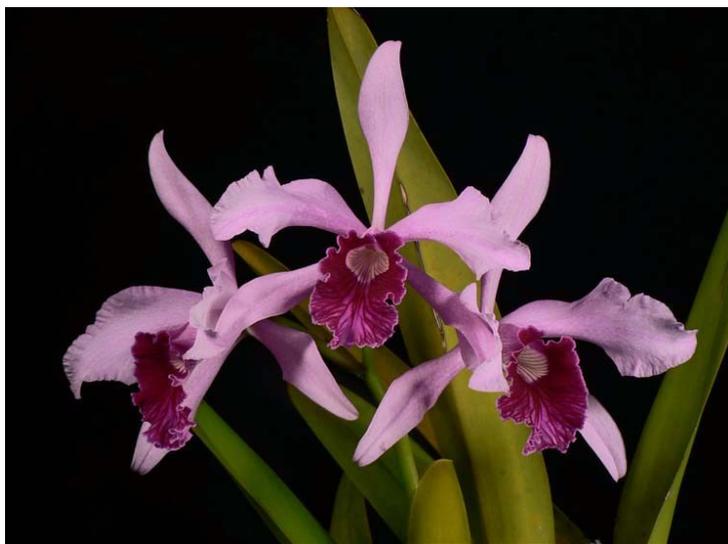
Sorry I haven't been with you all the last two meetings. Bet I missed really interesting and informative presentations. And all of your plants that you brought to show. We all grow orchids but they are all different in one way or another. Looking forward to being there with you this next time.

Tim Roby, President

Editor's Potting Bench

First, one more reminder that Orchid Digest Speakers Day is June 14. It is easy to register online at <http://orchiddigest.org>. The lineup of speakers and topics is outstanding, and the event is always a wonderful experience for orchid lovers.

Never mind "the first robin of spring"...while there is always SOMETHING blooming, there are times of the year when a whole group of orchids does its thing at once, or so close to it that it is even a bit difficult to properly appreciate each. These events mark a definite "orchid season". In late fall into winter, it is *Laelia anceps* and its close relatives. In late February into March, it's *Dendrobium kingianum*, *Dendrobium speciosum*, and their hybrids. Now, *Sobralia macrantha* and



Sobralia macrantha



My First *Laelia (Cattleya) purpurata* of the season

its hybrids are starting to pop, and for those of us who grow them outside, *Laelia (Cattleya) purpurata*. (The ones grown in a greenhouse have been in bloom for at least a month.)

There are several reasons why certain plants are less likely than others to come to meetings for Show and Tell. Of course the first is size—if you want to appreciate

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

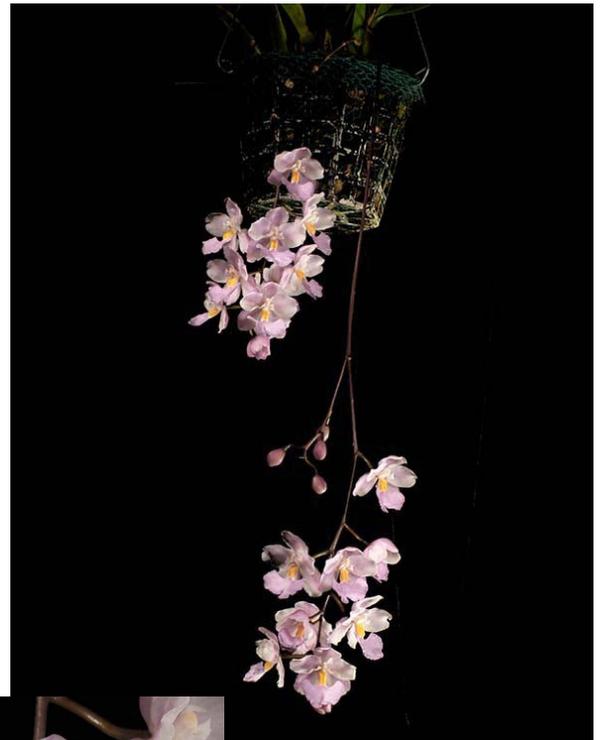
Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3

my *Sobralia caloglossa* you will have to come over to my house... it is about 15' tall (though getting better... growing in a bright area, it bloomed nicely on canes only about 6' or 7' tall...) There's timing—of course plants know about meeting days, and perversely finish just before or open just after. But those, sooner or later, will hit it right. Another reason is fragility. I have just crossed *Epidendrum falcatum* off the “bring to meeting” list when I broke a nice growth trying to find a good angle to lay the mount in the car to take it to the meeting of another club. The growths break off, it

**Epidendrum falcatum**

seems, if you just look at them wrong. In nature, the broken growths no doubt root, and that's a mechanism for reproduction. My luck with those pieces is not great... they survive but grow very slowly. So... in the interest of trying to grow a plant of decent size, I think it's going to have to stay home for a few years. It's wonderfully fragrant, especially at night. Growth habit is very similar to *Epi. parkensianum*, but the flowers are somewhat different. Another one in the “tough to transport” category is *Cuitlauzina pendula*. As the name implies, it is pendulous, so that it needs to be transported hanging (one can lay it down very carefully, but that's risky) One would think that the spikes “hang” flexibly. However, that is not the case. As they grow downward, the spikes become quite hard and very brittle, with a nasty predisposition for snapping off at the base. I can share the beauty of this species in photos, but another feature requires one to “be there”... especially early in the morning when the sun first hits it, *Cu. pendula* has a wonderful fragrance of roses, with a slight musky undertone.

As the morning progresses, the fragrance becomes ephemeral, and by afternoon, it's barely there.

**Cuitlauzina pendula**

I am seeing buds on lots of orchids, and I am sure you are as well. I'm looking forward to sharing mine and seeing yours. It is so easy to get carried away when talking about one's “babies”... please do remember that we each have only a limited amount of time to talk about them, to give everybody a chance. At the June meeting I will show another approach that I have found useful, to share information about plants without utilizing “air time” to do it. Let me know how you like it. Until then...good growing.

Roberta Fox, Editor

Calendar of Events

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

- **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 July 11 at the SB Museum of Natural History.
- **Newport Harbor Orchid Society Exotic Plant and Orchid Festival**
August 22-24
Westminster Mall
- **Fascination of Orchids***
September 27-28
South Coast Plaza Village, 1631 Sunflower Ave, Santa Ana (Across from South Coast Plaza)
www.ocorchidshow.com

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_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>