



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
Whitten Community Center
900 S. Melrose , Placentia
(until further notice)

Volume 39 Issue 7

July 2016

Meeting Location Until Further Notice

Whitten Community Center, 900 S. Melrose St., Placentia
East side of Melrose just south of Orangethorpe

July 10, 2016

Oncidium leucochilum Curtis Gean

We welcome the return of Curtis Gean and his new talk.

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 as an AOS judge (for the second time) in 2013. This is what he says about his talk:

“During my “re-training” as a Judge, I had to prepare a presentation on how certain species influence the hybrids. I chose *Oncidium leucochilum* as my subject. The research that I did for the presentation gave me the idea to share my findings with others.

I also have an interest in other species in the Oncidinae alliance... and how the re-naming of many of the species has cause a great deal of confusion, and necessitat-



Oncidium leucochilum 'La Jolla'

Curtis Gean, from Page 1

ed the changing of many hybrid names, names that have been in common usage for decades.

One such species is *Baptistonia echinata*, [now known as *Gomesa echinata*], and what would result in using this species as a hybrid parent. A few photos might give you an idea.”

Speaker's Choice

June speaker Ron Kaufmann selected a beautifully grown *Cleisocentron merrillianum* grown by Jan Hennessey. Jan grows this in an outdoor shade area. It is possible that it may actually be *Cleisocentron gokusingii*... the two species are very close, only with a little different flower presentation. We'll go with the tag, *Clctn. merrillianum*. The color is very rare in the orchid world (or for that matter, among plants in general) It is truly blue—sort of a slate blue. The intensity of color may vary in blooming at different times of the year, being influenced by temperature and light. The plant may bloom two or three times per year. This is a particularly good blooming!

According to Jay Pfahl's website www.orchidcpecies.com, *Cleisocentron merrillianum* is found only in Sabah, Borneo. It grows in the crowns of large, mossy trees at elevations from 3600 ft to 9800 ft (1100–3000 m). It was discovered relatively recently, being described by Eric Christenson in 1992. It clearly can grow over a wide range of temperatures. That something so unusual and beautiful was only known to science for less than 25 years tells us that there are other wonderful species still undiscovered, making habitat preservation and maintenance a critical priority, lest we lose some before we even know about them.



Cleisocentron merrillianum



From the Member's Corner

What a missed opportunity if you did not attend the June meeting, a different venue, and a great talk by Ron Kaufmann. Wow, orchids growing on and in the cracks of rocks!!! Unfortunately, we did not have any visitors this month. July will soon be upon us and I really would like to see a volunteer step up to help with the auction, the activities start with the collection of vendor names and we go from there. See you in July back at the Whitten Center on Melrose.

Happy growing,

Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

My goal for everyone attending the July meeting is for you to bring your Red, White, and Blue blooming Orchids. (I will be in Santa Barbara that weekend; I go for the Orchids and then take my wife wine tasting.)

I am an outside grower in Orange. I use aluminet (floating) attached about 10 feet above the ground with a homemade series of wires attached to my palm trees and eaves to suspend the aluminet. This summer my focus is on air movement in my outside growing area by using an older fan in my back yard. The challenge will be to keep the fan dry when watering.



Hope to see (photos) of your Red, White, and Blue Orchids in July!

Dana Seelig, President

Editor's Potting Bench

The way to always have something in bloom is to buy blooming plants at different seasons of the year. The traditional show seasons are spring and fall, but in summer we have another burst of activity. The weekend of the meeting you could go to Andy's on Friday and Santa Barbara on Saturday (or vice versa) and still make it to our meeting on Sunday! Take a break for a week, and there's the Newport Harbor Orchid and Exotic Plant Sale at Westminster Mall. All of those are probably cooler than where you live (Santa Barbara and Encinitas are on the coast, the mall is air conditioned)

Laelia purpurata season has been going on for a month or so, and the earlier ones are done. But there are some varieties that tend to bloom later, such as *carnea*, *sanguinea*, and *alba*. In the meantime, the *L. tenebrosas* are getting started (earliest ones already open, the peak approaching rapidly.)

Keeping plants hydrated is a challenge as the summer warms up. As long as the humidity stays up it's not so bad, but still (fortunately for us, not so much for the orchids) it's not the tropics. The rule that the various water districts maintain of watering between



Laelia purpurata
f. *carnea*



Laelia tenebrosa

See: Editor's Potting Bench, Page 4

Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3

5 PM and 8 AM makes a lot of sense, whether their days do or not. Water applied during the day evaporates too quickly. A spritz in the middle of the day may help keep plants from overheating, but the important watering is in the evening or early morning. Evening is best (that is what happens in the tropics) since the plants have the whole night to absorb water before the sun comes up in the morning. With nights staying well above 65 deg. F, there is no worry about botrytis or crown rot. By applying water when it will be absorbed best by the plants, we can simultaneously save water



Sobralia sanderae

and benefit the orchids.

Many Sobralias are blooming vigorously. Along with Sob. macrantha, Sob. xantholeuca and their hybrids, there are some very nice species that are not so well-known. Sobralia sanderae flowers have a soft yellow blush on the petals, the little pink streak on the midribs gives a nice accent, and while some of the usual hybrids may be similar, they aren't reliably so. The species is so pretty, are the hybrids in this group an improvement? Size is about the same as Sob. macrantha and its hybrids, it grows under the same conditions. Another nice one, that seems to want more shade and is perhaps a bit trickier, is Sobralia violacea. Well worth branching out! You won't

Sobralia violacea



often see Sobralias at meetings since they tend to be a bit large to transport. All the more reason to populate your yard with them.

Macroclinium manabinum is a charming miniature in the Oncidium alliance. Flowers are only about 1/4" across, so the intricate detail is really better appreciated in a photograph. This one needs to grown a bit warmer, but it could be easily accommodated in a terrarium or similar environment. It blooms multiple times on the same spike, so don't cut them until they are brown and clearly done. I typically get three sequential sets of flowers on an inflorescence over several months.

Roberta Fox, Editor



Macroclinium manabinum



Calendar of Events * indicates that event flier is on the website.

- **Cal Orchid's Summer Hummer***
July 8–10; 9 AM–5 PM
1251 Orchid Dr., Santa Barbara
Info: www.calorchid.com or 805-967-1312
 - Neofinetia falcata (Fukiran) show and judging
June 9, 10 AM–3 PM
- **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Summer Open House**
July 8-10; Friday and Saturday 8 AM–5 PM, Sunday 9AM–4 PM
1250 Orchid Dr., Santa Barbara
Info: sboe@sborchid.com or 800-553-3387
 - Large-flowered Cattleyas (Laelias), Stanhopeas, Encyclias, Lots of \$7,50 specials
 - Special guest author Dr. Harold Koopowitz. After a lifetime of writing scholarly books and articles about orchid conservation, slipper orchids, clivias and daffodils, he now has two wonderfully entertaining works of fiction—**Orchid Tales**, a collection of short stories, and now **Diamonds and Disas**, a novel of adventure and mystery set in the Namaqualand region of South Africa. For each book purchased, SBOE will make a \$20 donation (the price of the books) to the Orchid Digest Publication Fund.
- **Andy's Orchids Summer Open House***
July 8-10; 10 AM–5 PM
734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas
Info: www.andysorchids.com
- **Newport Harbor Orchid Society Summer Exotic Plant and Orchid Festival***
July 22-July 24, 2016; Friday 10 AM–9 PM, Saturday 10 AM-7PM, Sunday 11 AM-6 PM
Westminster Mall, Westminster (Macy's Entrance)
Info: www.nhosinfo.org
- **Orchids in the Park***
July 23-24; 10 AM-5 PM
San Francisco County Fair Building (Hall of Flowers), 9th Ave & Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
Info: www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
- **South Bay Orchid Society Orchid Show and Sale***
September 17-18; Sales Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4; Show Sat 11-5, Sun 9-4
South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes
Info: www.southbayorchidsociety.com
- **Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale*** (We will need volunteers for this one!!!!)
September 24-25; 10 AM–5 PM
South Coast Plaza Village, 1621 W. Sunflower, Santa Ana
Info: www.ocorchidshow.com or (949) 416-0505
- **International Show and Sale at the Huntington***
October 21-23 ;Friday Noon–4:30 PM, Saturday and Sunday 10:30 AM–4:30 PM
Huntington Library, Art Collection and Botanical Gardens, San Marino

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.

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<p>Cal-Orchid Contact: James Rose 805-967-1312, calorchid@cox.net www.calorchid.com</p>	<p>Casa de las Orquideas Contact: Nancy Batchman 858-755-7572, casa@orquideas.com www.orquideas.com</p>	<p>Diamond Orchids Contact: Peter Lin 909-396-0334, minicatt99@yahoo.com www.diamondorchids.com</p>
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<p>Sunset Valley Orchids Contact: Fred Clarke 760-639-6255, fred.clarke@att.net www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com</p>	<p>The Orchid Place Contact: Nghia Le cuheo1@netscape.net</p>	<p>Wise Orchids Contact: Ed Wise 714-524-1730;orchides@pacbell.net</p>