

# Southern California Orchid Species Society

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

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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 41 Issue 8

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**August 12, 2018**

## Wild Orchids of Ecuador

**Brandon Tam**

Brandon Tam will talk about his trip to Ecuador in 2017 with Harold Koopowitz, Steve Hampson, Alex Allen, and Pepe Portilla (President of Ecuagenera) in search for orchids in general and *Selenipedium aequinoctiale* in particular.

Brandon is passionate about his career as the Orchid Collection Specialist at The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California.

His grandmother first introduced him to orchids when he was seven by giving him a white cymbidium. He volunteered at the Huntington

during high school, and when he graduated at age 16, Dr. James Folsom, Director of the Botanical Gardens, offered Brandon a full-time position as the Orchid Collection Specialist. Brandon has managed the collection for the past eight years. While working with Dr. Folsom to reinvigorate the Huntington's orchid collection, Brandon attended California State University Polytechnic, Pomona, and earned his Bachelor of Science in Plant Science degree in 2015.

Brandon now oversees one of the largest orchid collections in the United States, which has grown from 2000 to over 10,000 plants in the past eight years. The Huntington's orchid collection is housed in over 26,000 square feet of growing area, which includes the Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory and three collection greenhouses, dedicated specifically for tropical plants. He also oversees the Huntington's 50 *Amorphophallus titanum*s (better known as the "Corpse flower"), and has successfully bloomed one in 2014.

He is also in charge of the annual Huntington International Orchid Show, which he inaugurated in 2015, and was in charge of hosting the annual meeting of the American Orchid Society at the Huntington in 2016.

In Brandon's spare time, he loves to travel, and of course...EAT! He recently joined Harold Koopowitz and others on a trek in Ecuador led by Pepe Portilla, where the group saw many wild orchids and focused on the study of *Selenipedium aequinoctiale*. Additionally, Brandon was elected as Trustee of the American Orchid Society, for a three-year term, which started March 2018.



## Speaker's Choice



**Dendrobium sulawesiense**  
(Syn. *Dendrobium glomeratum*)

July speaker Peter Lin selected *Dendrobium sulawesiense* (Syn. *Den. glomeratum*), grown by Scott McGregor, as his Speaker's Choice. The plant was beautifully grown, and the flowers were especially dramatic. The color of the flowers is an intense, almost glowing magenta, set off by orange lip and column. Scott grows this, like all of his plants, outside. This species, according to Charles Baker in *Orchidwiz*, is a warm grower from low elevations, but clearly, it is happy at Scott's place.

The species is native to Papua New Guinea and the Molucca Islands. The name implies that it is found in Sulawesi, in Indonesia, west of Papua New Guinea, as well. The reference from the Internet Orchid Species Encyclopedia (Jay Pfahl's website) indicates that the species (as *Den. glomeratum*) grows at elevations of 1,200 meters and higher. Based on the way the plant actually grows for Scott, the higher elevation is probably the correct one. There may be more than one population of the species (high and low elevation) to have such different information from the two sources.



## President's Message

WOW has it been hot! Let's hope it cools a bit soon.

As Species is winding down, let's make the most of each meeting, something to learn from each guest speaker and from Show and Tell, as the members share their orchids and tell what they do to get them to this point.

I don't grow orchids but I enjoy seeing them and listening to what each of you do, and the joy with which you do it. See you at the meeting.

*Yolanda Brown, President*

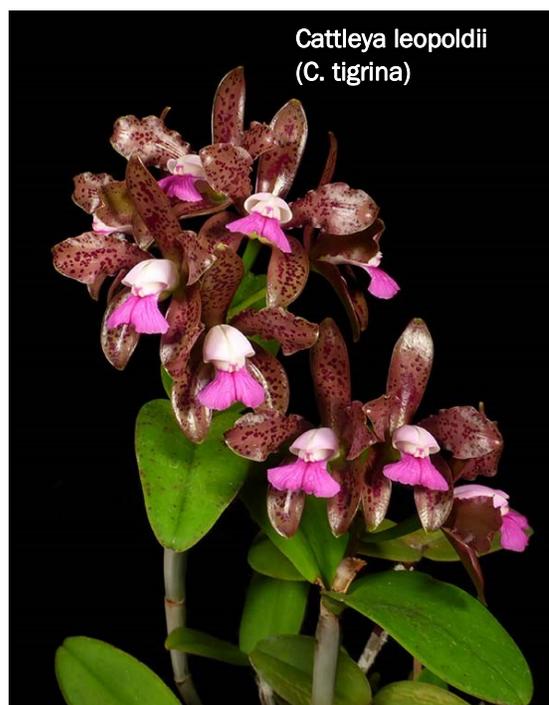
## From the Member's Corner

Peter Lin's lecture on *Cattleya* species provided an excellent way to determine when to repot your orchids. Those attending the meeting had their many questions answered & also took home a plant from the collection that Peter provided. Happy growing, everyone! Our guests were Aili McGregor, the frog-whisperer daughter of Scott McGregor, Elaine Galisky & Herman (at least I got his first name this time) & Natalia Soules who found the Species Society on the internet. Stay cool; see you at the August meeting.

Thanks,  
Holly Hillman

## Editor's Potting Bench

There was a time when there wasn't much happening on the orchid scene during the summer, except for the Santa Barbara Open Houses. That is clearly no longer the case. There are lots of orchids in bloom, and some opportunities to acquire more as well. The NHOS sale at Westminster Mall nicely bridges the gap, and then Fall gets busy again. The way to always have something in bloom is to acquire blooming orchids in all seasons. They will re-bloom at their natural time of year. Far from discouraging the orchids, I see lots in bloom in spite of the summer heat, or perhaps because of it. After all, lots of species come from tropical areas, and even those at higher elevations see warm days even if nights cool off. We complain, but our nights are



*Cattleya leopoldii*  
(*C. tigrina*)



*Oncidium hastilabium*

still cooler than a lot of places (70 deg. F. nights in California are better than 90 deg. nights in much of the rest of the country!)

Much of the fun of writing this column is sharing some of the orchid diversity from my own yard. Except where noted, all of these grow outside. Orchids teach patience. I have had this *Oncidium hastilabium* for about 10 years, and this is the first time that it has bloomed for me. (I have record of it having tried last year but wasn't good enough to photograph). But what a bloom! The spike is about 4 ft. tall (don't know if I can get it into the car for the meeting) and has been opening buds for about a month. There are still a few left to go.

One of the showiest *Cattleyas* I have is *Cattleya leopoldii* (*C. tigrina*). Along with producing lots of flowers, the contrast be-

See: Editor's Potting Bench, Page 4

## Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3



Sobralia sanderae

tween the dark segments and the intensely-saturated magenta lip is dramatic. I have two of these putting on a grand display.

I think that my favorite Sobralia is Sob. sanderae. It is compact and very floriferous. It grows under pretty much the same conditions as the more common Sob. macrantha and its hybrids. But when pink and yellow Sobralia species are crossed, the resulting hybrids tend to have pale colors if they don't wash out to white. This species has the colors, the ease of growth, and is only about 2 ft. tall. Why hybridize? This is hard to "improve" upon.

Dendrobium  
bensoniae

I won this *Dendrobium bensoniae* at the auction at last year's Orchid Digest Speaker's Day. When it went dormant during the winter (receiving very little water) I unpotted it and mounted it, since long-term I think that is how it wants to grow. The new growth didn't really get started until June, but then it grew rapidly and the flowers followed shortly after. It has a vanilla-like fragrance during the day.

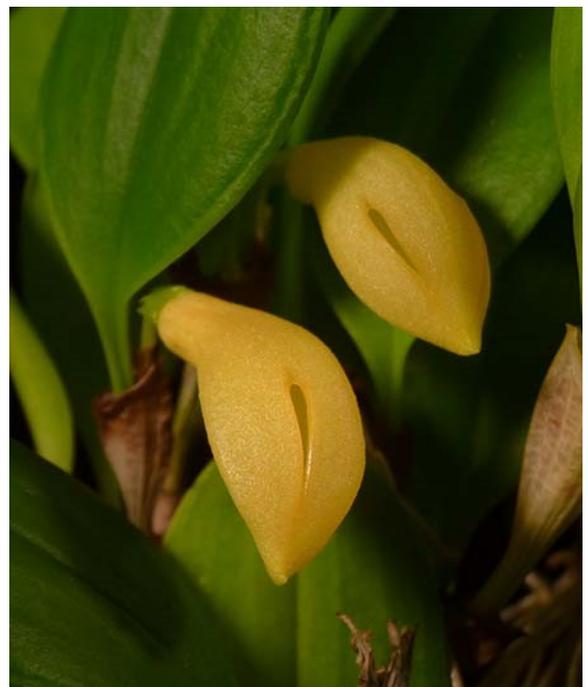
I acquired this little *Vanda flabellata* from China just this last spring, so it has not gone through a winter yet. However, it does come from high elevations and should do just fine. I got it bare-root, put in in a basket, and it developed the spike on my "watch" so I think that I can take at least partial credit for that. That exaggerated spur is rather unique. The flowers are about an inch across.

Vanda  
flabellata

And last, here is a weird little Pleurothallid, *Zootrophion alvaroi*. I got it at the Species auction a couple of years ago, I could not find much information about it, but according to IOSPE, it is from low elevations in Ecuador and Colombia so I have been growing it in the greenhouse. I kept wondering when it was going to actually open as the "balloon" flowers developed, but then on close examination I discovered that it WAS open. The pollinator has to be REALLY tiny, perhaps a gnat.

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

- Orchids in the Park: San Diego County Orchid Society Show and Sale\***  
 July 28-29, 2018: Saturday, Show Noon–6 PM, sales 10 AM–6 PM; Sunday, 10 AM–4 PM  
 Balboa Park's Casa del Prado, Room 101 (Near Natural History Museum), San Diego  
 Info: [www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com)
- NHOS Summer Orchid and Exotic Plant Festival\***  
 August 17-19, 2018; Friday and Saturday 10 AM–9 PM, Sunday 11 AM–6 PM  
 Westminster Mall  
 Info: [www.nhosinfo.org](http://www.nhosinfo.org)
- South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale\***  
 September 15-16, 2018; Sales Sat. 9 AM–5 PM, Sun. 9 AM–4 PM, Show Sat. 11 AM–5 PM, Sun 9 AM–4 PM  
 South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes  
 Info: [www.southbayorchidsociety.com](http://www.southbayorchidsociety.com)
- Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale\***  
 September 29-30, 2018; 10 AM–5 PM  
 South Coast Plaza Village, 1621 W. Sunflower, Santa Ana (across from South Coast Plaza)  
 Info: [www.ocorchidshow.com](http://www.ocorchidshow.com)
- Andy's Orchids Fall Open House**  
 October 5-7, 2018; 10 AM–4 PM  
 734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas  
 Info: [www.andysorchids.com](http://www.andysorchids.com)
- Huntington Orchid Show and Sale\***  
 October 19-21, 2018; 10 AM–5 PM  
 The Huntington Library, Art Galleries and Botanical Gardens, San Marino (Brody Botanical Center)  
 Info: [www.huntington.org/orchidshow](http://www.huntington.org/orchidshow)
- Orchids in the Park: San Diego County Orchid Society Show and Sale\***  
 October 27-28, 2018: Saturday, Show Noon–6 PM, sales 10 AM–6 PM; Sunday, 10 AM–4 PM  
 Balboa Park's Casa del Prado, Room 101 (Near Natural History Museum), San Diego  
 Info: [www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com)
- Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Fall Open House**  
 November 3-4, 2018; Saturday 8 AM–5 PM, Sunday 9 AM–4 PM  
 1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara  
 Info: [www.sborchid.com](http://www.sborchid.com)
- Cal Orchid Fall Open House**  
 November 3-4, 2018  
 1251 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara  
 Info: [www.calorchid.com](http://www.calorchid.com)



Zootrophion alvaroi

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 Phillips  760-436-4239  info@andysorchids.com  www.andysorchids.com</p>	<p>Asbell Orchids  Contact: Bob &amp; Dan Asbell  805-550-5484</p>
<p>Cal-Orchid  Contact: James Rose  805-967-1312, calorchid@cox.net</p>	<p>Ruben Colmenares  Contact: Rco90808@gmail.com</p>
<p>Diamond Orchids  Contact: Peter Lin  909-396-0334, minicatt99@yahoo.com  www.diamondorchids.com</p>	<p>Gold Country Orchids  Contact: Alan Koch  916-645-8600, gcorchids@aol.com  www.goldcountryorchids.com</p>
<p>Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens  Contact: Brandon Tam  btam@huntington.org</p>	<p>Royale Orchids  Australia  http://www.royaleorchids.com/</p>
<p>Santa Barbara Orchid Estate  Contact: Alice &amp; Parry Gripp  800-553-3387, sboc@sborchid.com</p>	<p>Seed Engei  Contact: Satomi Kasahara  seed_engei@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Sorella Orchids  Contact: Nenita Sorella  360-607-9342,  www.sorellaorchids.com</p>	<p>Sunset Valley Orchids  Contact: Fred Clarke  760-639-6255, fred.clarke@att.net  www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com</p>