



**Dedicated to Growing Orchids Outdoors**

Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 PM  
Garden Grove Masonic Lodge  
11270 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840

Summer, 2014

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### **A New Club, A New Concept**

Coastal California, from the Mexican border to around San Francisco, offers an orchid-growing environment that is unique in the United States, and rare in the world. Winter frost is rare (and does not last long when it occurs), summers may be warm but evenings are cool. As a result, there are many orchids, even those from tropical latitudes at higher elevations, that can be grown outdoors all year around. While there are organizations that may focus on a few orchid genera that will grow under these conditions, there is none that is dedicated to the concept of outdoor orchid-growing in a temperate Mediterranean climate.

Welcome to the Cool Growing Orchid Society. The goal of this organization is to share the knowledge that we, as backyard orchid growers, have attained, and to expand that knowledge. While we all know that we can easily grow Cymbidiums, and some Paphiopedilums outdoors, there are also many Lycastes, Cattleyas, Sobralias, Pleurothallids, Maxillarias, even Vandas (just to name a few types) that will also thrive without a greenhouse. As we explore beyond the most common choices, we need to examine more carefully the origins of the specific plants to find which ones will appreciate, or at least tolerate, the conditions that we can give them. In our meetings, and within the pages of this newsletter, we will explore the resources permitting us to become more successful orchid growers in our wonderful, temperate climate.

Special thanks are offered to Fascination of Orchids, Inc. for its generous financial support to bring this organization into existence.

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## Editor's Notes

A society "opportunity table" is a great place to build one's orchid collection for a modest price. It is a chance to acquire plants that one might not have even thought of obtaining because they were unfamiliar. Of course, then, if a plant is unfamiliar, how can we know what conditions it wants? THAT is a feature of the orchid hobby that leads to a lifetime of learning. I am looking a Cattleya hybrid that I won from the last society opportunity table. Here's the label: "C. Orchidglade 'SVO' HCC'AOS x Pot Rubescence 'SVO' AM/AOS" . The plant was not in bloom, so I could not say for certain what it would look like. And what about culture? Many Cattleyas and their relatives grow well outside, but not all. So, this how I went about learning more. The first thing one needs is a good reference, to determine what species went into this complex hybrid.



Cattleya Orchidglade

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Orchidwiz is a piece of software that, in my humble opinion, anybody who grows orchids should own, if not the full version, then at least the abbreviated Express. The software makes it very

easy to obtain information about parentage, and culture as well. However, it's not the only way to do it. One can look up the parentage of a hybrid on the website of the Royal Horticultural Society. Tedious, but possible. I'll leave that to the adventurous. But this is what I learned from Orchidwiz. Cattleya Orchidglade is a primary hybrid (between two species) - C. walkeriana x C. aurantiaca. For outdoor growing, on that side, no question, these species both do fine outside. (I could look those up if I didn't know, but I grow both of them, so there's no question in my mind on that count) . The other parent, Potinara Rubescence, is a bit more complicated. About half of its parents can grow cool (Sophronitis coccinea is 38% , the main cool-grower) but the other half is a mix of warm growers. It could probably grow outside, but perhaps not optimally. However, put the two together and about 70% of it consists of species that are fine outside. No problem here. What else did my research turn up? Based upon the parentage, and photos in Orchidwiz, I could expect it to be red. And the cross has been named: Pot. Al Thanhauser. A recently-named plant may not be reflected in the tag, so by looking it up, one gets the most up-to-date information. (The prediction of the flower color was borne out just a few days ago, when the plant bloomed.)

If you have an orchid about which you would like to learn more, email the name to me and I'll be happy to look it up for you. Also, if you have any comments or suggestions about what you'd like to see in this space,, send those too, to [roberta@orchidcentral.net](mailto:roberta@orchidcentral.net) .

Roberta Fox, Editor



Potinara Rubescence

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Potinara Al Thanhauser, my plant!

August 13, 2014, 7:00 PM

## Orchids at the Beach

*Dr. Ron Kaufmann*

The speaker in August will be Ron Kaufmann, chair of the San Diego County Orchid Society Conservation Committee and a founding director of the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Ron has travelled extensively to view orchids in the wild in South America and Asia. His talk titled "Orchids at the Beach" will identify the habits and habitats of orchids that grow on at and near the beach.

Ron is a marine biologist by training, and his scientific work includes studies of Antarctic and deep-sea ecosystems as well as marine communities in coastal Southern California. He has been growing orchids for nearly 20 years, starting with a reed stem *Epidendrum* and progressing to a diverse collection that contains mostly species orchids.

Ron has a long-standing interest in conservation and has been a member of the SDCOS Conservation Committee for almost 15 years and chair since 2004. Since 1991, the Conservation Committee has awarded nearly \$165,000 to support projects in 21 different countries. Ron also helped to found the Orchid Conservation Alliance and serves on the boards of the OCA, EcoMinga Foundation (a conservation foundation based in Ecuador) and Orchid Digest, for which he also serves as an assistant editor.

Ron grows most of his orchids in a 36 x 24 foot greenhouse and several outdoor shade-covered areas around his house in San Diego. Friends have suggested that he build a second, much larger greenhouse to accommodate the many plants that often make walking through his greenhouse an exercise requiring extensive training in gymnastics and yoga to avoid serious injury. Thus far, this recommendation hasn't been followed, although the rationale grows stronger every day.



## **Calendar of Events**

- **Newport Harbor Orchid Society Exotic Plant and Orchid Festival**  
August 22-24  
Westminster Mall
  - **South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale**  
September 20-21, 2014 (Sales Sat. 9-4 and Sun. 9-4, Show Sat 11-4 and Sun 9-4)  
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 27-28 10 AM–5 PM  
South Coast Plaza Village, 1631 Sunflower Ave, Santa Ana (Across from South Coast Plaza)  
Info: [www.ocorchidshow.com](http://www.ocorchidshow.com)
  - **San Diego International Orchid Fair**  
October 4-5  
San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas  
Info: [www.sdbgarden.org](http://www.sdbgarden.org)
  - **Southern California Orchid Species Society Annual Auction**  
October 12: Preview 12:30 PM, Auction begins 1:00 PM  
Kraemer Memorial Park, Backs Community Building, 201 Bradford, Ave. Placentia  
Info: [www.socalorchidspecies.com](http://www.socalorchidspecies.com)
  - **Southland Orchid Show**  
October 17-19: Friday 12-4:30 PM, Saturday and Sunday 10:30 AM–4:30 PM  
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino  
Info: [www.orchidshow.org](http://www.orchidshow.org)
  - **South Coast Orchid Society Annual Auction**  
October 27: Preview 6:00PM, Auction begins 6:30 PM  
Whaley Park, Clubhouse, 5610 Atherton St., Long Beach  
Info: [www.southcoastorchidsociety.com](http://www.southcoastorchidsociety.com)
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