



Southern California Orchid Species Society

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

Placentia Library
411 E. Chapman Ave, Placentia

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September 12, 2010

Tom Biggart

The Culture of Rupicolous Laelias of Brazil

Tom Biggart is the owner and head grower of GRANITE HILLS ORCHIDS IN El Cajon, California (a small town 15 miles east of San Diego). His nursery is a hobby business which means he doesn't make a living growing plants. It is more of a labor of love! Tom loves plants in general, and orchids are his main passion. He is very interested in Encyclias and has a large collection of Encyclia species and hybrids. The Australian cool growers are a current interest. He is in business with the Harveys of Cedarvale Orchids. They are major Australian growers and hybridizers of native Dendrobiums. He is a retired elementary school teacher with orchids as his new students. He would love to have anyone stop by to talk orchids should one be in the San Diego area.



Laelia crispata (flava) in Ibitipoca State Park in Minas Gerais

Photo by Peter Tobias

The past few years he and his wife, Neal, have gotten interested in Ceramics. In typical Biggart fashion they now have a throwing building, a glazing building, and a kiln yard with 3 kilns. His pottery is designed primarily for plants and can be seen at most of the local orchid shows and at the nursery. He would love to talk orchids and pottery with anyone interested!

(See: **Tom Biggart**, Page 2)



Laelia krautskyi in Tom's back yard

Photo by Tom Biggart

Tom Biggart (From Page 1)

A few years ago Tom traveled to Brazil, where he became interested in rupicolous Laelias. He has experimented with some techniques to grow these with con-

siderable success at his home in inland San Diego County.

Tom will be providing a plant table. (ed. You're going to be competing with ME! Plan to buy tickets!)

Cal Orchid Trip August 8, 2010—A Photo Album



From the Membership Corner

We had LOTS of visitors for the Cal Orchid Trip. We hope to see them at a Species Society meeting,, and ESPECIALLY at our auction next month. We were happy to welcome Rosa Laurson, Anne-Lee Anderson, Gen and Joe Gundersen, Janet Gonzales, Norman Holtkamp, Diane Luna, Simone and Alf Friend, Dan Warren, Jan Christena, Alana and Tim Kacazmarek, Kate and Jim Wood.

Members—please plan to bring snacks for the auction in October. Well-fed bidders buy more!

Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

Wow, what a great time was had by all. Cal Orchid out did themselves. As we got off the bus we were met by Lauris, and the heavenly aroma of tri-tips being barbecued. We gathered at the meeting area and were told what we would be doing. We would eat after we had visited the green houses

..Lets go!

Every one headed in, and boy what a sight. Plants everywhere, small to large. It was truly a sight to behold, all the benches with miniature plants, some potted, others on boards, large and medium plants, an orchid lovers paradise.

Unreal, where do we start? Species so cute and then Lycastes, wow, really exciting. As we were

finding our treasures Lauris and Jim were answering questions, showing us, and finding special plants for us. Thank you Lauris and Jim, you couldn't have been more gracious to us. It was so much fun to have a chance to hear how they came up with the Lycaste Sunray hybrids. Exciting! We won't forget how that was done.

People were carrying their wish lists and putting plants in their boxes. What a day!

The food was just as good as it smelled cooking and the guacamole was sooo wonderful and so much to eat. What great cooks.

Meeting new friends from the other Societies was wonderful. Thanks for coming; we enjoyed your company. The weather was delightful. We want

to thank Lauris, Jim and Edie for the planning that it took to make it a big success and to those that helped to carry plants to the bus and take them off at the mall ,Tim and Marshall , thanks guys. Maybe this could be an annual affair but at different seasons to see other orchids in bloom.

EVERYONE, please remember Oct is our annual fantastic auction. It is so exciting to participate in the bidding for great orchids and you never know what special plants there will be. Plus food there is food of course! Our auctioneers really know their orchids and they generally tell you important information about the different orchids going up for bid.

(See: **President's Message**, Page 4)



President's Message, (From Page 3)

For the new people, be open to new types of plants you may or may not have seen.....All in all we have something exciting to look forward to that is a great opportunity to find something special to take home with you.



Thanks again to all who participated in our trip and all the help and most of all to Lauris and Jim Rose for a great day.

Barbara Olson
President

Editor's Potting Bench

I found a very impressive website devoted to the Native Orchids of New Zealand, <http://www.nativeorchids.co.nz/>
The site includes some habitat photos, and I was struck by how much the terrain resembles California. New Zealand has 31 genera, and over 150 species identified. Most of these are terrestrial orchids, which are in general difficult to grow in cultivation. Their preservation is highly dependent on the conservation of their environment.

One New Zealand native is fairly common in cultivation here, *Pterostylis curta*. It goes completely dormant in the summer. I pretty much stop watering mine in mid-June, or earlier if the foliage dies back before then. I completely stop watering by mid-July. By early August, the corms, which look like tiny potatoes, can be unpotted and placed in new fast-draining potting soil mix. I use about 1/2 cactus mix and 1/2 sand with a little fine perlite and resume watering lightly. As the weather cools, rosettes of leaves appear.

(See: Editor's Potting Bench, Page 6)



**Southern California
Orchid Species Society**

ANNUAL ORCHID AUCTION

Sunday, October 10, 2010

Placentia Library
411 E. Chapman Ave, Placentia
Corner of Chapman and Kraemer

Preview at 1 PM
Auction starts at 2 PM

Featuring
Species and Hybrids

Including many plants not readily available from other sources

www.socalorchidspecies.com

Affiliated with:
American Orchid Society
Orchid Digest
Orchid Conservation Alliance

Calendar of Events

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

- **South Bay Orchid Society Fall Show and Sale**
September 18-19
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula
www.southbayorchidsociety.com
 - **Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale***
September 25-26 10 AM–5 PM
South Coast Plaza Village
Corner of Bear and Sunflower
www.ocorchidshow.com
 - **San Diego International Orchid Fair, 16th Annual Show and Sale***
October 1-3: 1-5 PM Friday, 9 AM-5 PM Saturday, 9 AM-4 PM Sunday
San Diego Botanic Garden
230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
www.sdbgarden.org
 - **Southern California Orchid Species Society Auction***
October 10 1 PM (Preview), 2 PM Auction
Placentia Library
411 E. Chapman Ave, Placentia
(That's US! Save extra divisions to donate, and make room for more orchids!)
 - **Southland Orchid Show**
October 15-17; 12-4:30 PM Friday, 10:30 AM–4:30 PM Saturday and Sunday
Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanic Gardens
www.orchidshow.org
 - **South Coast Orchid Society Auction**
October 25 at 6:30 PM
Whaley Park Clubhouse, 5620 E. Atherton, Long Beach
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Editor's Potting Bench (From Page 4)

The inflorescences appear in December, and bloom in late January or early February into March. When the flowers fade, the leaves start to wither, and the cycle begins again. The number of corms multiplies rather rapidly. When repotting, they should be spread out—I like to use a shallow bulb pan. One can rather easily grow a plant (or actually cluster of them) that makes an impressive display, and it does not take many years to get enough corms to share, too.

The plants do like to be kept on the cool, shady side when in active growth. I have seen some very impressive specimens at the San Francisco orchid show in late February or early March—that seems to be an even better climate than ours for growing this plant. (Note that New Zealand is farther south—41 degrees S, than San Francisco is north—37 degrees N.) Ocean currents keep New Zealand a little warmer than the latitude would otherwise indicate.

Roberta Fox
Editor



Pterostylis curta

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.

Cal-Orchid Contact: James Rose 1251 Orchid Dr Santa Barbara, CA 93111 805-967-1312, www.calorchid.com	Cal-West Tropical Supply Contact: Brad & Ryan Wicks 11614 Sterling Av Riverside, CA 92503 951-351-1880, www.calwesttropical.com	Casa de las Orquideas Contact: Loren Batchman 170 S Nardo Av Solana Bch, CA 92075 858-755-7572, www.orquideas.com
Orange County Farm Supply Contact: Chris Roy 1826 W Chapman Av Orange, CA 92868 714-978-6500, www.ocfarmssupply.com	Orchid Fever Contact: Aaron & Dave Thomas 10242 Culver Blvd Culver City, CA 90232 310-559-6599	Outdoor Images Contact: John Remlinger 6961 Livingston Dr Huntington Bch, CA 92648 714-841-0442, www.orchidbasket.com
Mariposa Garden Contact: Ron Hill 6664 South St Lakewood, CA 90713 562-920-5588, www.mariposagarden.net	Paphanatics Contact: Norito Hasegawa 159 Monterey Rd Orange, CA 92866 714-639-1387	Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Contact: Alice & Parry Gripp 1250 Orchid Dr Santa Barbara, CA 93111 800-553-3387, www.sborchid.com
Sunset Valley Orchids Contact: Fred Clarke 1255 Navel Pl Vista, CA 92083 760-639-6255, www.sunsetvalley.com	The Rowland Collection Contact: Pat & Butch 12446 S Georgian St Garden Grove, CA 92841 714-892-3502	