

Southern California Orchid Species Society

www.socalorchidspecies.com

**Officers
President**

Darrell Lovell
dalleval@yahoo.com

Vice President

Barbara Olson
barstan50@hotmail.com

Society Secretary

Edie Gulrich

Membership Secretary

Edie Gulrich
egulrich@att.net

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Barbara Olson
Yolanda Brown

Orchid Digest Representative

Barbara Olson
barstan50@hotmail.com

Refreshments Coordinator

Open

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Phyllis Adams

Newsletter

Roberta Fox
roberta@orchidcentral.net
(714)435-8015

**Newsletter deadline is the 25th of
the month prior to the month of
issue.**

Meeting is 2nd Sunday of each month, at 2 PM

Volume 35, Issue 9

September 2012

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

September 9, 2012

Lessons from Andean Orchids

Roberta Fox

Four years after visiting Ecuador, Roberta Fox has had some success growing orchids from that part of the world. She reflects on some of the lessons she learned observing similar plants in their natural habitat, identifying some of the conditions that can be achieved in our southern California climate without elaborate environmental controls.



Success is a heady drug, that leads to a desire to obtain more orchids. Since returning from that trip, she has indulged frequently, and now grows approximately 85 species from Ecuador (most of which have bloomed in her possession), and probably a similar additional number that come from the surrounding countries with Andean environments, such as Peru, Colombia, and Bolivia. She will address some approaches to determining what compromises one can make to grow and flower these Andean orchids, giving them what they need, even though it might be less than ideal. There will also be a discussion of information resources that are available, and some thoughts on how to “read between the lines” to determine the important factors, out of the information available, to figure out what a particular species actually requires.

Speaker's Choice

August speaker Winn Winnmaw selected *Broughtonia sanguinea*, grown by Richard Hess, as his Speaker's Choice plant. Richard grows the plant in his greenhouse

This diminutive member of the *Cattleya* tribe comes from Jamaica, from sea level to 2500 ft/, but according to Charles Baker (as quoted in *Orchidwiz*), most of the plants grow within about 6 miles from the coast, at less than 1600 ft, with the heaviest concentration on the south side of the island near sea level. Therefore, this is definitely a warm-growing orchid that prefers night temperatures about 60 deg. F. The climate data



Broughtonia sanguinea

in their habitat indicates that mornings are generally clear, with high cloud cover in the afternoon. The plants do need protection from the afternoon sun, although they can tolerate quite a bit of light. In their habitat, rain is lightest and light brightest in the winter months. They benefit from reduced watering in the winter, but not be allowed to stay dry for very long.

Broughtonia is the “-onia” in the hybrid genus *Cattleytonia*. When *Broughtonia sanguinea* is bred with larger *Cattleyas* (both in flower size and plant size), brightly-colored, small flowers with the round *Broughtonia* shape, on fairly small plants, are often the lovely result.



From the Member's Corner

Two of our visitors joined our group yesterday....please welcome Peggie Berry and Sharon Tanner, we're very happy to have you with us; it's a great group to be part of, with lots of good information and new friends who share your orchid enthusiasm.

If you will be bringing plants to the auction for others to bid on, I have the sheets to record them on, so e-mail me at egulrich@att.net or phone me at 714-991-8661 and I'll get them to you; there are 14 entries per page. We need a bit more help on auction day, Yolanda could use some help with refreshments and we need another body for security/check out and recording the bids on forms for Roberta and Erika to enter in the computer. Please consider helping out, it goes much smoother with everyone in place. Thanks, see you at the September meeting!!

Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

Hello everyone,

It's hard to believe it's August already – where has the summer gone? We had a great meeting highlighted by our guest speaker, Winn Winmaw. I would like to thank Yolanda for providing some delicious refreshments. The timing was perfect for our show & tell

segment, and we even had sufficient time for our board meeting!

I will not be here for our September meeting as my wife and I are going to Missouri to visit her brother and sister. I will definitely be back in plenty of time for our auction in October. In the meantime, Barbara will be running the show.

As you all know, our annual auction is scheduled for October 14th. If you

plan to bring plants (which I hope you will!) please see Edie to register and obtain plant labels. We are still in need of additional help for security. If you would like to volunteer, please let Edie know.

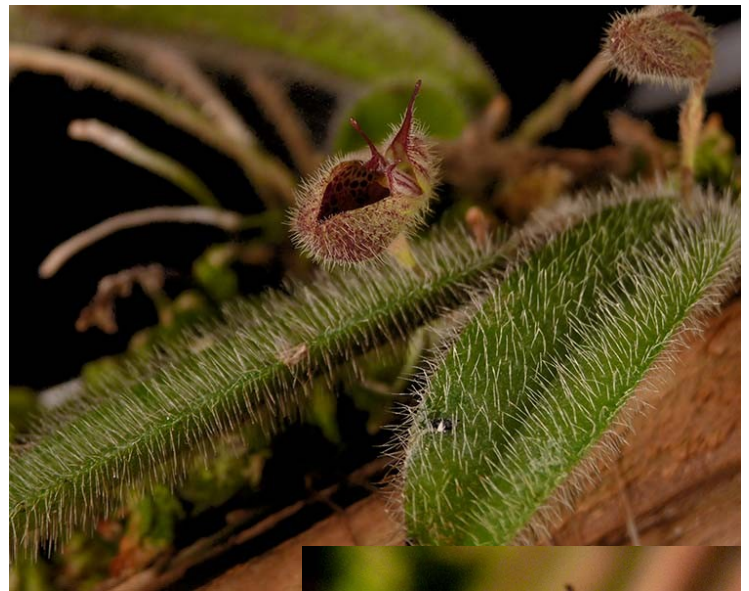
Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Darrell Lovell, President

Editor's Potting Bench

I'd like to add my "auction plug" to the other comments on the subject. The October auction is our primary source of funds for the year. That is what provides the speakers and pays the rent. What makes this one really special, distinct from all the other very fine society auctions in this area, is an assortment of plants that one cannot find anywhere else. It's the generous donations from the collections of members that are unique. Those of us who have been collecting for awhile tend to have developed a "space" problem. While there is always room for one more orchid, growing areas do get a bit tight. One way to increase one's growing space is to get a bigger house with a bigger yard. (OK, I already did that once, can't afford to do it again.) The other way is to share some of those plants. Some plants have multiplied through division, some perhaps would just grow better in somebody else's yard. For those who have not donated before, if you part with a few, you'll make room for the new ones that you will no doubt buy at the auction. So... at the September meeting, consider taking a sheet of auction stickers for your donations, since we would like to pre-log as many of the plants as possible before auction day.

One of the very enjoyable parts of this job is the opportunity to share with you some of my plants whose blooms did not happen to coincide with a meeting, especially the small and intriguing ones.



Dresslerella pilosissima is even fuzzier than *Dresslerella lasiocampa*, which I have discussed before. It only produced two flowers this time, but it is a small, young plant. I have high hopes that it will become as floriferous as its "cousin", which blooms several times a year. Another delightful little *Pleurothallid* is *Scaphosepalum decorum*. This one is a serial

bloomer, and perhaps it will produce its next flower for the meeting. The flower seems to last longer than many *Pleu-*



Dresslerella pilosissima

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

Editor's Potting Bench , from Page 3



Scaphosepalum decorum

rothallids. The one pictured lasted about two weeks. The lip has a relatively long, red appendage. Perhaps it serves as a “landing pad” for the pollinator.

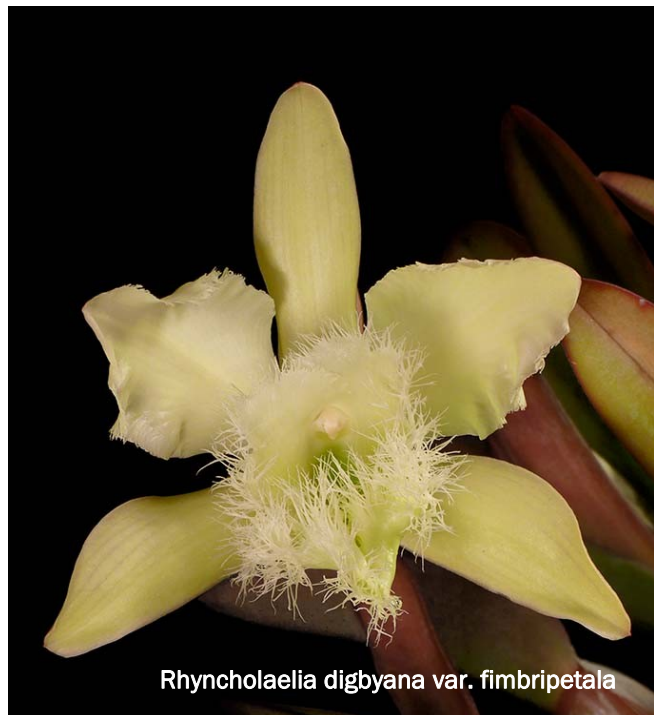
This has been a good year for *Rhyncholaelia digbyana*. The normal type bloomed for me about a month and a half ago. The one currently blooming is var. *fimbripetala*. The petals are fringed, as well as the lip. Here is the typical form, and the fringed form. According to one of the people posting on the Orchid Source Forum <http://forum.theorchidsource.com>, *Rhyncholaelia digbyana* from Honduras tends to be the *fimbripetala* type, while those from Yucatán and Belize have the typical petals. I don't know if this is true, but interesting if so. In the past, I have wintered this species in the greenhouse, but did not get much blooming though the plants grew reasonably well. Last winter I left them outside on shelves right outside of the greenhouse, hoping that they'd get just a little more warmth. The shelves were covered with plastic, so that the plants were protected from rain, and were watered very sparingly, only enough to keep them from becoming too dehydrated when the Santa Ana winds lowered the humidity to single digits, otherwise only about once every two weeks. They received nearly full sun, definitely brighter than

in the greenhouse. The result seems to be much better blooming.

Roberta Fox, Editor



Rhyncholaelia digbyana, typical form.



Rhyncholaelia digbyana var. *fimbripetala*

Calendar of Events

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

- **South Bay Orchid Show and Sale***

September 22-23, Saturday Sales 9-5 and Show 11-5, Sunday Sales and Show 9-4
South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes
Info: www.southbayorchidsociety.com or 310-707-7097

- **Fascination of Orchids Show and Sale***

September 29-30, 10 AM—5 PM
South Coast Plaza Village
Northeast corner of Sunflower and Bear, across from South Coast Plaza
Info: www.ocorchidshow.com or 949-735-2930

- **San Diego International Orchid Fair**

October 6-7, 9 AM—5 PM Saturday, 9 AM—4 PM Sunday
San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA
Info: www.sdbgarden.org/orchid.htm or 760-436-3036

- **Southern California Orchid Species Society Annual Auction (THAT'S US!!)***

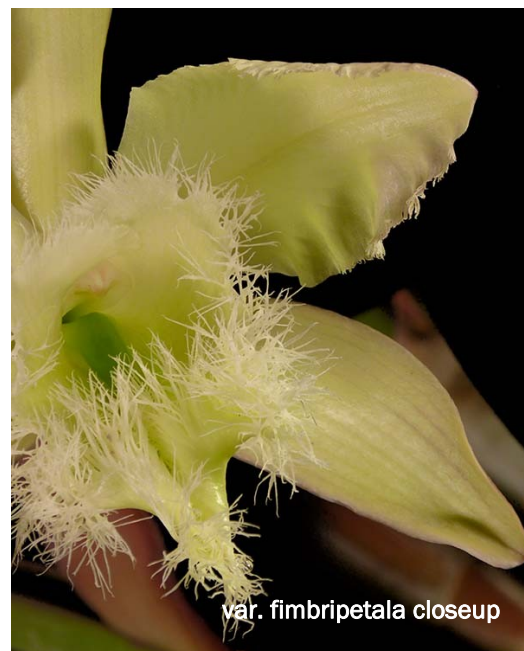
October 14, 2012 - Preview Starts 12:30 PM, Auction at 1 PM (note earlier time!)
Placentia Library, 411 E. Chapman, Placentia
Info: www.socalorchidspecies.com

- **Southland Orchid Show**

October 19-21
Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California

- **Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Show and Sale***

November 17-18, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-3
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2599 Puesta del Sol Rd, Santa Barbara
Info: www.orchidsb.com or fmorchids@hotmail.com



var. fimbripetala closeup

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>Cal-Orchid Contact: James Rose 1251 Orchid Dr Santa Barbara, CA 93111 805-967-1312, www.calorchid.com</p>	<p>Cal-West Tropical Supply Contact: Brad & Ryan Wicks 11614 Sterling Av Riverside, CA 92503 951-351-1880, www.calwesttropical.com</p>
<p>Casa de las Orquideas Contact: Loren 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 PO Box 01011110 Cuenca, Ecuador www.ecuagenera.com</p>
<p>Lico Orchids Contact: Lisa Humphries & Nico Goosens 309 Via Nancita Encinitas, CA 92024 760-942-4143</p>	<p>Marcel's Contact: Sonora Winward 5133 Kildee St. Long Beach, CA 90808 562-843-5951</p>	<p>Mariposa Garden Contact: Ron Hill 6664 South St Lakewood, CA 90713 562-920-5588, www.mariposagarden.com</p>

<p>Orange County Farm Supply Contact: Chris Roy 1826 W Chapman Av Orange, CA 92868 714-978-6500, www.ocfarmsupply.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>rePotme.com Orchid Mixes and Supplies 10608 Floral Park Lane North Potomac, MD 20878 301-315-2344, www.repotme.com</p>	<p>Rex Foster Orchids Contact: Billy Baker 2645 Massachusetts Ave Lemon Grove, CA 92945 619-466-0605, www.rexfosterorchids.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 1622 Moreno St Oceanside, CA 92054</p>	<p>Sunset Valley Orchids Contact: Fred Clarke 1255 Navel Pl Vista, CA 92083 760-639-6255, www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com</p>
	<p>The Rowland Collection Contact: Pat Rowland 12446 S Georgian St Garden Grove, CA 92841 714-892-3502</p>	