

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

Kraemer Memorial Park

Backs Community Building, Main Room

201 N. Bradford Ave., Placentia

(Chapman and Bradford, parking off Bradford)

Volume 39 Issue 4

April 2016

April 10, 2016

Meeting Location Change April and May

Whitten Community Center, 900 S. Melrose St., Placentia

East side of Melrose just south of Orangethorpe

Map on Page 5

Orchids of Madagascar

Phyllis Prestia

Phyllis S. Prestia, Ed.D. is a retired educator and Middle School Principal. Originally from New Jersey, she moved to California with her husband to retire in the sunny, San Diego area and grow orchids. Her collection includes a variety of species and hybrids across several genera grown both in a small greenhouse and three outdoor growing areas under shade cloth.

In her orchid life she has been the President of the San Diego County Cymbidium Society and currently serves as the Vice President of the Cymbidium Society of America, as well as keeping active in several Southern California orchid societies. She is currently participating in the orchid judge training programs of both the American Orchid Society and Cymbidium Society of America.

Phyllis recently spent 9 days trekking through rainforests in Madagascar. She will highlight the species she saw and photographed, with an emphasis on Angraecoids.

As she also grows many of these species, she will review the culture for these orchids, including tips from her own successful experience growing them. Together with knowledge about growing conditions in these rainforests, hobbyists will gain a greater understanding of how to adapt their growing environments for success.

Phyllis will provide the plant table, which will include some of these orchids.



Speaker's Choice

March speaker Ken Cameron selected *Diuris orientis*, grown by Scott McGregor, as his Speaker's Choice. Scott is having considerable success growing Australian terrestrials such as this one. He has found that they do best in almost straight perlite, with very little organic matter, and thrive in bright sun. They need a dry spring and summer rest after they bloom.



Watering can resume in the fall. Scott grows this outside, as he does all of his plants. Here, also, is a photograph of *Diuris magnifica*, taken by Scott in his back yard. This is another beautiful “Donkey Orchid”, which didn’t make it to the meeting.



Diuris orientis is native to Australia, in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, and Tasmania. It grows in eucalyptus forests at sea level to 300 m. The climate is rather similar to ours (just with seasons reversed).

From the Member's Corner

A big welcome to our two new members, Josie and Elizabeth Peralta of Placentia.

A few guests that came to our March meeting were: Nohline L'Ecuyer, President of the Orange County Orchid Society, Brandon Tam from the Huntington Library and Gardens and Steve Hampson, a guest of Harold Koopowitz. A warm welcome to all and we hope to see you again very soon.

Since I will not be at the April meeting, please be sure to sign in at the Member Table with the person handling that table for me. Thank you, Happy Spring to all.

REMEMBER THE TEMPORARY MEETING LOCATION, Whitten Community Center on Melrose!

Thank you,
Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

Thanks to Alex for arranging a thought-provoking speaker, Ken Cameron, PhD, Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. There were over 40 in attendance at our Sunday meeting! However, those orchid growers that did not attend sure wished they had attended after learning second-hand about the speaker.

I find the topic of genetics and naming plants, very interesting. For over a hundred years we classified plants based on what they looked like. Conventional wisdom before the 1980's told us if it looked like another plant/flower, then they were related. Check out the book "Flora and Fauna of Southern California" by Philip A. Munz, this book takes you through the process of identifying plants based on their leaf structure, size, and flower characteristics. You might not be so quick to judge some of the current changes going on in plant/orchid naming circles.

Little did we know there was an alternate plan in play, that being genetics and DNA. The species orchids are native orchids that grow (or grew) wild somewhere in the

world. A hybrid is the result of man (in most cases) breeding (species or hybrids) one orchid with a different orchid. This process is usually referred to as hybridizing or 'crossing'. Primary hybrids are crosses from two species, other combinations of species and hybrids are complex hybrids. Crossing different genera produces inter-generic hybrids. For example, crossing *Laelia* and *Cattleya* (both species) produces an inter-generic hybrid named *Laeliocattleya*.

Species orchids are often crossed with another of the same species with the expectation of obtaining improvements to the flower size, shape, color, or flower quantity. They are still the species, though a pollinator might not recognize them. There was an amazing display of species orchids on display at last month's meeting.

Dana Seelig, President

Editor's Potting Bench

Be sure to check out the Events calendar. While we are pretty much done with shows for awhile, there are some auctions in the near future. Cool Growing Orchid Society (devoted to back yard orchid growing) has the one that is soonest, and also closest for most members, on April 13. Also, Orchid Digest Speakers Day is coming up in a couple of months, and is always a treat.

Cattleya intermedia grows outside quite easily, and

Cattleya intermedia
f. *orlata*



comes in a variety of color forms. The peloric (petals with lip-like markings) *aquinii* form is in the parentage of many splash-petal hybrids. The *orlata* form has the lip color extending around the side lobes. There are also *coerulea* forms, and combinations. This species is blooming quite prolifically right now.

I have been growing *Phragmipedium besseae* in circulating RO water, and my plants are growing vigorously. I have them potted with about an inch of stones at the

Cattleya intermedia
f. *aquinii*



See: Editor's Potting Bench, Page 4

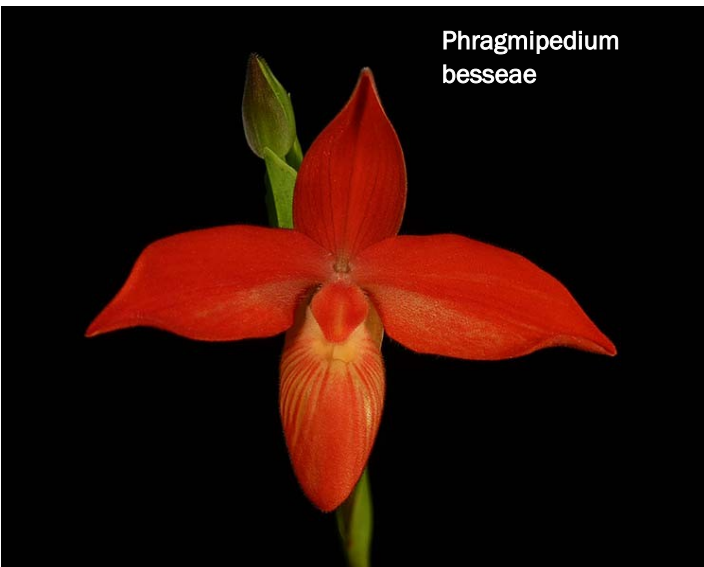
Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3

Cattleya intermedia
f. *orlata coerulea*



bottom of the pots so that there is a significant zone for the roots that is open and airy above the water. However, on several plants, the roots have gone down thorough the rocks and out the holes in the pots, swimming happily in the water. The species does grow by running water, and roots reach into the streams. In the summer they are outside in my Disa fountain, where they benefit from a somewhat higher light level than they have in the greenhouse. In winter, they do move into the greenhouse, in a pan with an aquarium bubbler to keep the water aerated and moving. This has turned out to be much easier to manage than the submersible pump that I use in the "fountain". If I had it to do over again, I'd just use a larger bubbler rather than the pump. Since the bubbler does not sit in the water, there is no clogging, or concern that it might burn out if it goes dry.

Phragmipedium
besseae



Maxillaria picta is vigorous and reliable outdoor-growing species. I have tried it both in pot and basket, and the pot seems to be winning. I have it in small bark, since it does need to be somewhat moist. The buds are almost as attractive as the flowers, with prominent dark red spotting on a white background, which persists on the back of the open flowers. This is a nice contrast with the yellow inner surface.

Maxillaria picta

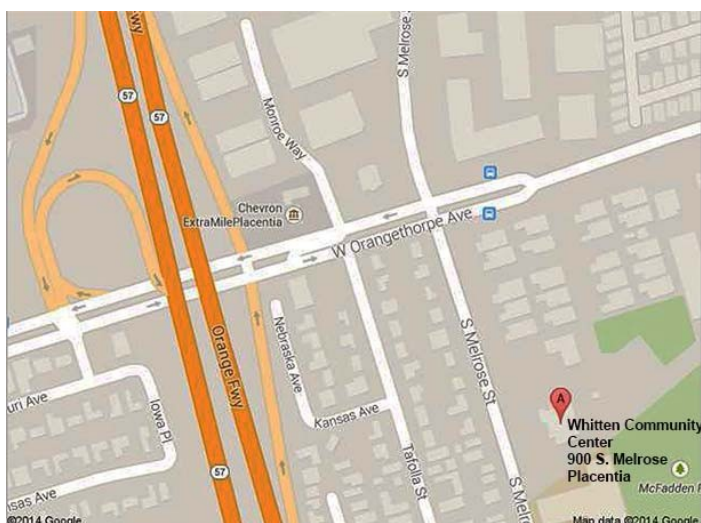


I find it as exciting to see buds and spikes, with their promise of beauty to come, as I do looking at the flowers, I think. I'm starting to see spikes developing on some *Vanda* species, the *Laelia purpuratas* have big, fat sheaths. There are lots of active new roots.... time to do some more potting! As I write this a couple of weeks before the meeting, I wonder what is going to pop in time. The garden is calling...

Roberta Fox, Editor

Calendar of Events * See flier at www.socalorchidspecies.com, select the Events link

- **Central Coast Orchid Show and Sale***
April 2-3, 2016; Saturday 9-5, Sunday 10-5
South County Regional Center, 800 W. Branch St., Arroyo Grande
Info: www.fcso.org
- **Cool Growing Orchid Society Annual Auction***
April 13, 2016; Preview and registration 6:30 PM, Auction begins 7 PM
Garden Grove Masonic Lodge, 11270 Acacia Pkwy., Garden Grove
Info: www.coolgrowingorchids.com
- **Palomar Orchid Society Orchid Sale and Auction***
April 30, 2016; Sale and preview 9:30-11, Auction 11-3
The Pavilion at Lake San Marcos, 1105 La Bonita Dr., San Marcos
Info: www.palomarorchid.org
- **San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists Annual Auction**
May 19, 2016; Preview 6 PM, Auction begins 7 PM
Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia
- **Casa de las Orquideas Annual Seedling Sale—over 50% off select 3" and 6" plants**
May 14, 2015 9 AM—6 PM
170 S. Nardo Ave, Solana Beach
Info: casa@orquideas.com or 858-755-7572
- **Mariposa Garden Orchids and Succulents**
Open Saturdays 9-3
6664 South St., Lakewood
Info: 562 920 5588



Our temporary meeting place for April and May 2016

Saturday, June 4, 2016
Fourteenth Orchid Digest Speakers Day:

Crazy About Cattis

The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA

12:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

Expert Lectures-Orchid Displays-Orchid Sales- Silent Auction- AOS Judging-Dinner

Scheduled Speakers:

Fred Clarke—"Modern Splashed and Spotted Cattleyas and How To Grow Them"

Keith Davis—"Superior Culture for Cattleyas"

Munekazu Ejiri—"New Cattleyas from the Far East"

Francisco Miranda—"The Genus Cattleya in Brazil - Species and Groups"

Evening Presentation:

James Comstock—"Cattleyas in 3-D"

Tickets: \$65 (\$80 at door) for afternoon seminars, wine and cheese happy hour, dinner and evening entertainment.

Reservations online at www.orchiddigest.org

or contact Simone Friend at Orchidsimonef@aol.com or call (562) 431-1247. When contacting by e-mail, please include phone number, e-mail address and mailing address. Space is limited so don't wait to buy your ticket.

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 760-436-4235, info@andysorchids.com www.andysorchids.com</p>	<p>Aroma Orchids of Rowland Heights Contact: Michelle Liu 626-839-3888 aromaorchids@gmail.com</p>	<p>Asbell Orchids Contact: Bob & Dan Asbell 805-550-5484</p>
<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, mini-catt99@yahoo.com www.diamondorchids.com</p>
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