

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

Whitten Community Center

900 S. Melrose , Placentia

(until further notice)

Volume 39 Issue 12

December 2016

Meeting Location Change December Only

Aguirre Community Building, 505 N. Jefferson St, Placentia

Small building just before Jefferson curves into E. Garten Dr.

Parking adjacent, entrance after the curve. (The address is the sports complex in the middle of the block... The meeting place is north of that, follow the directions, not the address!)

Map on Page 4

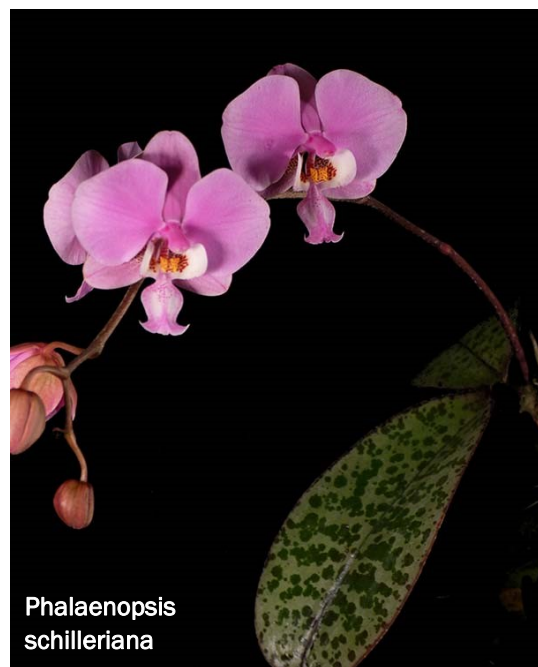
December 11, 2016

Phalaenopsis Species and Their Culture

Paul Tuskes

Paul Tuskes will be giving the December presentation. Paul and Ann Tuskes have written a number of year-end articles on Phal species for Orchid Digest, and Paul provided dozens of photos for the book by Eric Christenson (*Phalaenopsis A Monograph*). He has successfully grown and killed many of the species and will discuss some of the pit falls and best cultural practices by species.

Paul and his wife Ann have been growing species orchids for 35 years and both are AOS judges and started the Species Study Group in San Diego in 1987. For many years Paul and Ann were members of our club .



**Phalaenopsis
schilleriana**

Speaker's Choice

November speaker Tom Biggart selected *Sophronitis* (*Cattleya*) *rosea* (*wittigiana*) grown by Scott McGregor as his Speaker's Choice. Scott grows this, and all of his plants, outside in a shaded enclosure, using RO water. He says that this species grows and blooms the best of any of the *Sophronitis* under his conditions.

Sophronitis rosea (*Cattleya wittigiana*) originates in the interior mountains of the state of Espirito Santo in southeastern Brazil, at elevations around 3500-4500 ft. (1070-1370 m) according to Charles Baker in *Orchidwiz* but has been found at higher elevations too. It can often experience winter night temperatures in the low 40's or high 30's F. It grows on rough-barked trees that are covered with thick, wet moss. It prefers trees high enough on slopes to get good light, though may grow high on trees that are growing in lower, shady valleys.



Sophronitis rosea
(*Cattleya wittigiana*)



From the Member's Corner

Tom Biggart's wife was our November guest. Remember, your dues are due as of January 1st.

Here are some 2017 changes for all of us.

Item #1: The Board has voted to increase our dues from \$5 to \$10 (plus \$5 for those who receive their newsletter via the mail.) You can pay your dues in December (if you haven't already) for \$5 or wait until after January 1st and pay \$10.

Item #2: There will be no meeting on Mothers' Day (May). June and July will be tours of growing-areas of some members. Look for details on locations in future newsletters. Read or weep if you miss them.

Item #3: the auction will be in September rather than October, which is just too full of other events.

Please read your newsletter for meeting location changes. Since we have one of the lowest rents for our meetings, we are at the mercy of the City of Placentia when it comes to locations; we try to book them early enough to keep the same location, but it's not always possible, so **please read your newsletter...**

Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

As 2016 comes to a close, I want to thank all of you who work so hard to make the Southern California Orchid Species Society a success. Preparing for meetings, the newsletter, auctions, speakers and plant tables are fun ways to become involved in your Society. I encourage you to plan how your involvement will look in 2017.

Last winter I was not as good at keeping my plants as dry I would have liked. How many of you who grow outside go to the trouble of covering your plants with plastic? I ended up with "brown rot" due to what I believe was too much water at the wrong time when some

nights were too cold. I tried holiday lights for added warmth. This winter I am considering plastic to keep out the rain, not sure if that will help. I see it is dipping into the mid 40's next week with rain in the forecast.

<http://www.aos.org/orchids/additional-resources/preparing-orchids-for-winter.aspx>

Good luck with the weather this winter. I would like to hear how you cope with winter at the show-and-tell table next month, for the indoor, greenhouse and outdoor growers. See you in December!

Dana Seelig, President

Editor's Potting Bench

"Orchid acquiring" opportunities are winding down pretty soon, but there is one more burst of activity before the focus shifts to holiday events. San Diego is the place to be the first weekend of December (right after you receive this newsletter) Andy's Orchids will have Open House Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Sunset Valley Orchids is Saturday only, and Casa de las Orquideas is open Saturday and Sunday. Check the Events Calendar for all dates and times.

Some of the non-orchids (like fruit trees) are showing some confusion about what time of year it is. My fig tree has put out some new leaves and a couple of figs. But I think that my orchids have taken it all in stride, and are spiking and blooming on a schedule much closer to their historical patterns than they did last year. We did get the start of a cool-down in October, though it didn't really take hold until mid-November. But now, it's time to think "winter". Over Thanksgiving weekend I registered a low of 42 degrees, and there are plenty of nights with forecast lows in the 40's. Responding to Dana's challenge, here are some of the things that I do.

I was growing the Catasetinae outside through the summer and into the fall, but they all moved back into the greenhouse once the nights got below about 55 deg. F. Some of the more tender hybrid Vandas moved into the greenhouse about that time as well. Paph. rothschildianum and its hybrids stayed out until nights

were in the low 50's—they benefit from a cold jolt, but now they're also inside. A few of the Catasetinae have started to go dormant, so I tuck them into corners of the greenhouse where the sprinklers don't hit. This will be an ongoing project. Cymbidium canaliculatum also needs to be both a bit warm, and dry during the winter.

Moving the Catasetinae freed up an area behind the greenhouse where I put some Angraecums that probably would like to be a bit warmer, but are too big for the greenhouse. I have cut the sprinkler schedule in that area to only every 4 days, so they'll also be a bit drier than they would be in their usual area. If it rains, they get wet—I'm hoping that the bit of extra warmth radiated by the greenhouse will compensate, and they will benefit from the pure rain water. I also put the Sarcocochilus in that area—they don't mind the cold, but need to be a little drier, and will benefit from the reduced watering.

Most of the Catts are fine with the cold and wet. (Hybrids that are fussy I mostly don't have any more) L. purpurata and C. intermedia totally don't care. There are some species, though, that are marginal. I have had good luck growing them under a polycarbonate "hard cover" that keeps them from getting rained on, so that if it is cold they can stay dry. Once they're in bloom, a good idea to bring them into the house, though—botrytis damages flowers, though the plant is fine. That's a good time to enjoy the bright flowers in

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your living area, anyway.

If you don't have a greenhouse, you can certainly bring plants into the house if necessary, but you may have outdoor areas that can give a little extra protection. Block walls absorb heat during the day, and slowly radiate it during the night. Often, that's enough extra warmth to keep nearby orchids happy. That, with some overhead protection to keep the plants dry when they are cold, can help the plants make it through the winter.

Not needing any protection, or any other TLC, *Laelia anceps* plants are starting to hit their stride. I grow them over the *Cymbidiums*, mostly mounted or in baskets with little media, so they dry out quickly after either sprinklers or rain. The early ones are in bloom now, with others in the queue. The flowers tend to only last two weeks or less, but larger plants have multiple spikes that open somewhat sequentially, and with lots of plants, there will be *L. anceps* flowers until well into



January or maybe even to February.

Cymbidium dayanum is getting ready to put on a nice show. A large plant can produce a flush of spikes, and open them over a period of time to extend the blooming period,

Several *Dendrochilum* species bloom this time of year. *Ddc. magnum* has been in bloom for awhile.



Different plants of the species seem to have different bloom times. For those who grow it in the greenhouse, it seems to bloom much earlier than mine. *Ddc. cootesii* is a charming miniature plant, with a subtle twist to the inflorescence, and relatively large individual flowers with perky reflexed petals.

Ddc. cobbianum is another one with quite variable bloom times, and can bloom more than once a year. I am seeing spikes on several other species of this genus, so can look forward to more in the next month or two. All of these are outdoor growers. **To Page 5**



Our temporary meeting place for December 2016

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

- Andy's Orchids Winter Open House***
 December 2-4: 10 AM–4 PM
 734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas
 info: www.andysorchids.com
 - Spend those Orchid Bucks that you have accumulated!
- Sunset Valley Orchids Open House***
 December 3; 10 AM–4 PM
 12555 Navel Place, Vista
 info: (760) 310-0778 or www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com
 - Authentic handmade “street tacos” 10 AM–2 PM
- Casa de las Orquideas Annual Open House***
 December 3-4; Sat. 9 AM–4 PM, Sun. 9 AM–1 PM
 170 S. Nardo Ave, Solana Beach
 info: (858) 755-7572 or www.orquideas.com
- Orange County Orchid Society Annual Auction***
 January 18, 2017: 6:30 PM Preview, 7 PM auction begins
 Yorba Linda Public Library Community Room (Lower Level)
 18181 Imperial Hwy, Yorba Linda
 Info: Edie Gulrich egulrich@att.net or Susan Scheffler chefinyl@gmail.com
- Newport Harbor Orchid Society Orchid Expo and Sale***
 February 10-12, 2017; Friday 10 AM–9 PM, Saturday 10 AM–7 PM, Sunday 11 AM–6 PM
 Westminster Mall, Westminster
 Info: www.nhosinfo.org/orchidshow



**Dendrochilum
cootesii**

Room for one more... Stenorrhynchos glicensteinii is a terrestrial with an inflorescence that opens sequentially. It is native to Costa Rica and southern Mexico. I grow it in the greenhouse, although Charles Baker (in [Orchidwiz](#)) indicates that it could grow cooler. If grown cool, it certainly would need to dry out once it loses its leaves after blooming. In the greenhouse, it starts its new growth right away. It does not need much light, and should also do nicely as a houseplant. Stenorrhynchos speciosum is quite similar.



**Stenorrhynchos
glicensteinii**

Roberta Fox, Editor

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 760-436-4235 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>Blossom Supplies Contact: Gordon Hong 626-542-3915</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>
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<p>Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens Contact: Brandon Tam btam@huntington.org www.http://huntington.org</p>	<p>Lico Orchids Contact: Lisa Humphries & Nico Goossens 760-942-4143, lico_orchids@aol.com</p>	<p>Mr. Fertilizer Contact: Don Knipp 949 -548-2678,</p>
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