

Southern California Orchid Species Society

www.socalorchidspecies.com

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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

Whitten Community Center

900 S. Melrose, Placentia

(until further notice)

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April 9, 2017

Mediterranean-Climate Terrestrial Orchids

Scott McGregor

Our California climate bears a great deal of resemblance to the countries around the Mediterranean and the Southwest coast of Australia, the home of some rarely seen but charming terrestrial orchid species. In Europe, *Ophrys* species are known as "bee orchids" for their insect-like appearance and unusual pollination habits. Orchid species are known for their monkey-like appearance, with some appearing more human-like. In Australia, *Thelymitra* species, or "sun orchids" are brightly colored and arguably the most beautiful in color of any orchid. *Diuris* are brightly colored with yellow, orange, red and brown tones and are known as "donkey orchids". All of these orchids can be grown outdoors in our California climate, with a bit of care about their unique requirements.

Scott McGregor will describe a variety of Mediterranean-climate orchid species that he's grown here in Southern California over the last five years. While still finding these plants to be quite challenging, trial and error led to some success that others can replicate. Scott will talk about sources for these plants, and the unique cultural requirements they have for temperature, watering and potting media, along with a few tricks that have proven successful.

Scott McGregor has been growing orchids since he was 12, after a neighbor gave him a plant and he killed it in fairly short order. Determined to figure out what went wrong, he visited the library (no internet back then) and found a handful of books on the subject. That led him to the St. Louis Orchid Society where friendly members welcomed a geeky kid and soon he had some new ones to try. Without a greenhouse, he hung his plants in the backyard trees in the summer and under fluorescent lights in the basement during the winter. Orchids were always in the picture, despite career moves across the United States and to The Netherlands. Today, he's retired and has a bit more time to indulge the hobby. In San Juan Capistrano, he grows over 400 species of orchids and carnivorous plants outdoors, without a greenhouse, and using beneficial insects and frogs instead of pesticides. He enjoys the challenge of finding new species that enjoy (or at least tolerate) our climate that are thought to be unsuitable for outdoor growing.



@Scott McGregor

**Diuris
magnifica**

Speaker's Choice

March speaker Ron Kaufmann asked if he could have two Speakers Choice plants. An easy editorial decision, of course he could. He first selected *Orchis italica*, grown by Scott McGregor. This was a well-grown example of one of the species of "little man" orchids. It is a terrestrial that is native to a wide range of countries surrounding the Mediterranean, not only Italy. Scott has had very good success with quite a few of the Mediterranean and Australian terrestrial species, and this month he will be sharing with us the techniques that he has discovered to make this unusual group of orchids



Orchis italica

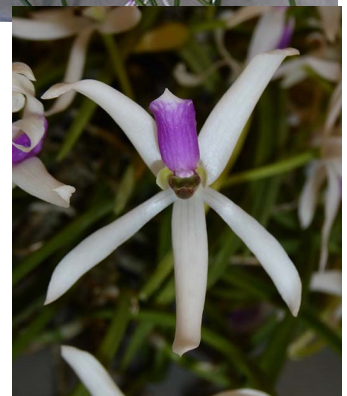


thrive and bloom.

Ron's other choice was the specimen *Leptotes bicolor* grown by Richard Hess. Richard grows it in his greenhouse, and clearly the plant is delighted with the arrangement. This species can also grow outside in southern California, but probably not as spectacularly. It originates in a wide area of Brazil, from coastal mountains to subtropical rainforests, at elevations from 1650–2950 ft. (500–900 m).



Leptotes bicolor



From the Member's Corner

The March meeting brought in some members we haven't seen in a while; we're sure they enjoyed the presentation. We didn't have any guests this month (hope the "Spring Forward" time change didn't have anything to do with it). Thank you Tim Roby for being "Yolanda" this month and bringing the set ups and refreshments she always provides for the members. Don't forget to invite friends, family and future orchid aficionados to the April meeting; there's always something of interest to be seen.

Thanks, *Holly Hillman*

MEETING SCHEDULE AND LOCATION CHANGES

Because our regular May meeting day falls on Mother's Day, and many people have schedule conflicts, there will be NO May meeting. In June, we have a special treat, a chance to visit Scott McGregor's garden and growing area. Because he lives in San Juan Capistrano, and also because parking is at a premium in his residential neighborhood, please plan to carpool if possible. We will work on organizing carpools at the April meeting.

President's Message

I'm not sure anymore when different orchid varieties should be blooming. It can be overwhelming to consider all the variations of temperature, rain, sunlight and why some plants die and others thrive and others thrive and bloom.

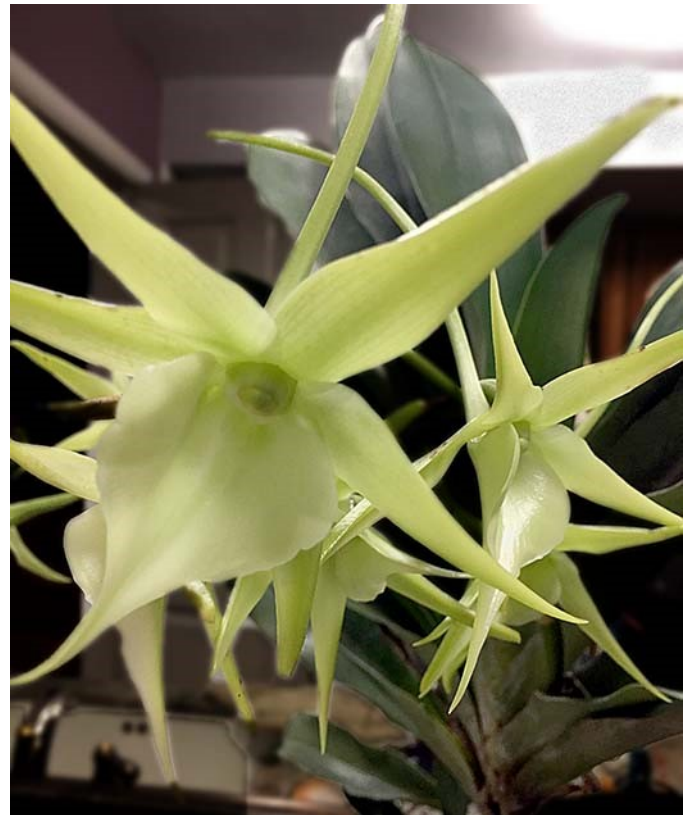
My *Angraecum sesquipedale* from all accounts likes a dry rest. It has been growing outside all winter where the patio roof runs off on to the plant. Today, I noticed my *Angraecum* has 3 blooming spikes. They are reported to bloom in August to September in Europe, December to January in Madagascar, and April in Orange. In addition, the flowers are so green. For me that's what is so rewarding about trying to grow orchids. It's the not knowing if or when a plant grows, blooms or decides to produce keikis.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angraecum_sesquipedale

See you in April!

Dana Seelig, President

***Angraecum sesquipedale*
(or possibly *Angcm. Veitchii* =
A. sesquipedale x *A. eburneum*)**



Editor's Potting Bench

Do make sure that you watch the notices in the newsletter with regard to meetings. No meeting in May, since too many people have other places that they need to be. In June, we are going to have an opportunity to see where Scott McGregor grows the wonderful orchids that he brings to meetings, including those fantastic Mediterranean-climate terrestrials that he'll be discussing at the April meeting. In July we'll return to a "normal" meeting format. We're hoping that the Backs Building in Kraemer Memorial Park (our old meeting place) will be available, but that had not been finalized at press time. So pay attention, so that you show up at the correct places.

Spring orchid shows are pretty much over, but there are

some excellent Society auctions in our area in the coming month. Orchid Digest Speakers Day should certainly be on your calendar. It's a chance to "wallow in orchids" with a terrific lineup of speakers, and also to purchase plants from some of our favorite vendors. The program will be published in the newsletter next month, but you can find it on the Orchid Digest website. You can also register. Space is limited, so don't delay.

Somehow, this year's blooming season seems a little subdued. I think that it's just more spread out; there's not the sense that everything is popping at once. For me, that's a positive thing since it is easier to properly appreciate each bloom as it opens. The Australian

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

Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3

Dendrobiums are an example. Some of my Den. speciosums didn't bloom at all. The ones that did, however, seem to be lasting longer, and the smaller ones have had more of a chance to be front and center.

It looks like a good year for *Cattleya intermedia*. This is a Catt that grows very easily outdoors, with no particular TLC needed. It has some interesting forms. Here are two *coerulea*s that are just opening (and hopefully, will hold for the meeting). The *aquinii* form is *peloric* (the lip pattern repeated in the petals) These tend to not open fully, due to the extra tissue in the ribs of the petals. However, it has its own charm, and is very important in hybridizing. The *orlata* form has the lip color continue onto the sidelobes, so that there is a ring of color around the column.



Cattleya intermedia f. *orlata coerulea*



Cattleya intermedia f. *aquinii coerulea*

Dendrobium auriculatum blooms on an off most of the year. The flowers don't last long, so it tends to miss meetings. As it matures, it is starting to produce a few more flowers at a time, so eventually it will make it. This one grows in the greenhouse.



Dendrobium auriculatum

Maxillaria variabilis is an easy outdoor grower. It does live up to its name. All of these color forms are blooming at the same time (some finishing and some starting, so best to see them all together in photos.) The plants tend to ramble, so lend themselves to growing in a basket. They bloom on and off several times a year.



Maxillaria variabilis

Roberta Fox, Editor

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

- **Central Coast Orchid Society Show and Sale***
April 1-2, 2017; Saturday 9 AM–5 PM, Sunday 10 AM–5 PM
South County Regional Center, 800 W. Branch St, Arroyo Grande
info: www.FCOS.org or (805) 929-5749
 - **Cool Growing Orchid Society Annual Auction***
April 12, 2017; 6:30 PM Registration and Preview, 7 PM Auction Begins
11270 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove
Info: coolgrowingorchids.com
 - **Riverside-San Bernardino Counties Annual Auction**
April 13, 2017; Preview 6:30 PM, Auction 7 PM
L.F. Hutton Community Center, 660 Colton Ave., Colton
 - **Andy's Orchids Spring Open House**
April 7–9, 2017; 10 AM–4 PM
734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas
 - **South Bay Orchid Society First Annual Auction***
April 21, 2017; 6:30 PM Preview, 7 PM auction begins
South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd. Palos Verdes Peninsula
Info: www.southbayorchidsociety.com
 - **Orchid Digest Speakers' Day**
June 10, 2017; 12 PM–8 PM
Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens. San Marino
Info and reservations: www.orchiddigest.org, or Simone Friend at simonef@orchiddigest.org or (562) 431-1247
 - **Andy's Orchids Summer Open House**
July 7–9; 10 AM–4 PM
734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas
Info: www.andysorchids.com
 - **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House**
July 14-16; Friday and Saturday 8 AM–5 PM, Sunday 9 AM–4 PM
1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara
Info: sborchid.com
 - **Cal Orchid Open House**
July 14-16
1251 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara
Info: calorchid.com
 - **Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale***
September 23-24, 2017
South Coast Plaza Village, 1621 W. Sunflower, Santa Ana
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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>
<p>Diamond Orchids Contact: Peter Lin 909-396-0334, mini-catt99@yahoo.com www.diamondorchids.com</p>	<p>Ecuagenera Contact: Ivan Portilla info@ecuagenera.com www.ecuagenera.com</p>	<p>Everything Orchids Contact: Linda Gardner (619)252-1294, everythingorchids@cox.net www.everythingorchids.biz</p>
<p>Floralia Contact: Steve Champlin info@floralia.com.br www.floralia.com.br/index.html</p>	<p>Gold Country Orchids Contact: Alan Koch 916-645-8600, gcorchids@aol.com www.goldcountryorchids.com</p>	<p>Hatfield Orchids Contact: George Hatfield 805-901-0340, www.hatfieldorchids.com</p>
<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>
<p>Orchid Design Contact: Angelic Nguyen 408-947-0486 angelic@orchidesign.com www.orchidesign.com</p>	<p>Orchids of Los Osos Contact: Michael Glikbarg (805) 528-0181, orchidland@aol.com www.orchidsoflososos.com</p>	<p>Outdoor Images Contact: John Remlinger 714-841-0442, www.orchidbasket.com</p>
<p>Phrao Orchids Nursery Contact: Katai phraoorchidsnursery@gmail.com www.facebook.com/Nursery.at.Phrao</p>	<p>Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Contact: Alice & Parry Gripp 800-553-3387, sboc@sborchid.com www.sborchid.com</p>	<p>Seed Engei Contact: Satomi Kasahara seed_engai@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Sorella Orchids Contact: Nenita Sorella 360-607-9342, www.sorellaorchids.com</p>	<p>Sunset Valley Orchids Contact: Fred Clarke 760-639-6255, fred.clarke@att.net www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com</p>	<p>Tayama Greenhouses, Inc Contact: Mike Kimura tayama.mike@gmail.com www.tayama.com</p>
	<p>Wise Orchids Contact: Ed Wise 714-524-1730;orchides@pacbell.net</p>	