



# *Southern California Orchid Species Society*

[www.socalorchidspecies.com](http://www.socalorchidspecies.com)

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### **Newsletter**

Roberta Fox

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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 40 Issue 9

September 2017



## **Southern California Orchid Species Society**

# **ANNUAL ORCHID AUCTION**

**Sunday, September 10, 2017**

**Kraemer Memorial Park**

**Backs Community Building**

**201 Bradford Ave., Placentia**

**Chapman and Bradford**

**Parking off Bradford, north side of park**

**Preview at 12:30 PM**

**Auction starts at 1 PM**

## **Auction! Auction!**

**Note the earlier starting time.** We will have lots of outstanding plants and orchid-related items for you to buy. This is the principal source of funds for the society—the proceeds support the speaker programs for the year. Come early to preview the plants, then **BID, BID, BID** and go home with some wonderful treasures! Start checking the website Wednesday, September 6 and come back often to see the updates of the illustrated preliminary list of items.

## Speaker's Choice

August speaker Sanda Tillisch Svoboda selected *Laelia liliputana*, grown by Roberta Fox, as her Speaker's Choice plant. She noted that a very small orchid can be as charming as a large, spectacular one. This one has leaves that range from 1/2" to 1" on 1/4" pseudobulbs. The flower is nearly 1". Clearly this little rupicolous *Laelia* has evolved to survive in a harsh environment. The leaves are thick and succulent, oriented vertically. In nature, the species grows on exposed rocks in

bright sun. According to Charles and Marge Baker in *Orchidwiz*, *L. liliputana* grows in a small area of Minas Gerais state in southeastern Brazil. It is found on lichen-covered rocky slopes and attached to the base of *Vellozia* bushes, experiencing as much as 10 hours of sun a day. Part of the year is quite dry, but does have dew that serves to maintain hydration of the plants.

Roberta grows this, and other rupicolous *Laelias* in pots containing mostly gravel, with a thin layer of potting soil about 1/2" below the surface. They grow in full sun, and have no problem with winter chill.



*Laelia  
liliputana*



## From the Member's Corner

We were happy to see some members who haven't been to the meetings in a while & welcomed Leo Song, last months' guest as our newest member. Be sure to come to next months' meeting/AUCTION & introduce yourself to Leo. We had another walk-in guest, Lailene Leong who said she had been a member of the Newport Harbor Society. We hope Lailene will return next month for the auction & maybe also become another new member. That would make it two for two ! Please be sure to attend the auction, buy some plants, have some refreshments, talk with like-minded people & have some fun.

Remember, bidding makes people hungry! Please bring some snacks to share.

See you there!

Thanks, *Holly Hillman*

## Editor's Potting Bench

The biggest news for September is our annual auction. That's what pays for our outstanding speaker program, as well as for the rent and our other operational expenses. Dues contribute only a small fraction, so it is critically important that we all support the auction. Many vendors, and members who have extra divisions, generously donate plants and other items. This is a chance for you to acquire some very special plants, support the club, and have a very good time. I will be posting a preliminary "auction catalog" on the website starting, Wednesday or Thursday before the auction, and updating it as I get information about additional plants. The auction catalog will also have photos where available, and culture notes to help you build your "wish list". Of course, there are also "surprises" that arrive on auction day so be prepared to add to your list. And bid, bid, bid!

The Fascination of Orchids show will be held at South Coast Plaza Village September 23-24, for MORE orchid-acquiring opportunities. It's a busy month—check the Events Calendar on Page 5. October is even busier (which is why we moved our auction to September... do your buying before you are orchid-ed out!)

There are some interesting things blooming, that I share with you photographically since we of course won't have show-and-tell at the September meeting. *Cattleya schofieldiana* grows outside very nicely. I have it in the hard-cover part of my hanging *Cattleya*



*Cattleya schofieldiana*

area, so that it is protected from cold rain, but is otherwise exposed. The spots and the intensely-colored lip make this a very interesting flower that you don't see very often. It won't win any awards for form (petals are held somewhat forward) and it's more "smelly" than "fragrant" (though not all that strong). Of course, I'm biased in favor of any *Cattleya* species that I can grow outside, and besides, I do like a bit of weirdness.

*Polystachya pubescens* is simply one of those orchids that is better appreciated in a photo, because of the intriguing

See: Editor's Potting Bench, Page 4

## President's Message

I missed last month's meeting. Thanks to all that filled in. It's amazing what we collect over the years, yet don't realize we can live without all our stuff. All to say, my wife and I have moved out of our home after almost 30 years to do a remodel. My wife has been telling me for years to do self-purging. She keeps telling me that after I have passed most everything I have, our kids will not want, and most of it will go in the trash. We need to determine the fate of our possessions and what is important to us. My version is there are two levels of purging - what we are keeping and what is in transition between the house and the landfill or someone else's home. For years those items have spent

transition time in our garage. All that to say, I have several species of *Cymbidium* that I will be bringing to the auction. I love them, but I don't need three or four of the same plant. It's good to share, so go through your collection and bring plants to share with your society.

Do something different today, even your orchids may enjoy the change, and you may unlock the key.

See you in September!

*Dana Seelig, President*



### Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3

hairy detail. The 1/2 inch flowers nod downward. This one does need greenhouse protection, but it has a small footprint and doesn't take up a lot of room.



*Polystachya pubescens*

*Laelia purpurata* tends to bloom in the late spring, and *Laelia tenebrosa* in mid-summer. Late summer reliably brings *Laelia crispa*. All of these Brazilian *Laelias* (now *Cattleya*) grow outside for me. *L. crispa* tends to have narrow, rather rolled petals and sepals and so doesn't have the classic form of its earlier-blooming cousins, but displays a spectacular lip pattern.

One of my favorite outdoor growing Vandas is *Vanda roeblingiana*. Other than keeping it a little drier when it



*Laelia (Cattleya) crispa*



is cold (which applies to essentially everything) it doesn't get any particular protection, and blooms reliably for me. I especially love the lip.

One more outdoor growing *Cattleya*... *C. bowringiana*. The *coerulea* form is blooming now, The others seem to be a bit later and perhaps will be ready for the October meeting. But enjoy this one now.



*Cattleya bowringiana*  
*f. coerulea*

Roberta Fox, Editor

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

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

September 10, 2017; 12:30 PM registration and preview, 1:00 PM Auction begins  
Kraemer Memorial Park, Backs Community Building, 201 Bradford Ave., Placentia  
Info: [www.socalorchidspecies.com](http://www.socalorchidspecies.com)

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

September 16-17; Sales Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; Show Sat. 11-5, Sun. 9-4  
South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes  
Info: [www.southbayorchidsociety.com](http://www.southbayorchidsociety.com)

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

September 23-24, 2017  
South Coast Plaza Village, 1621 W. Sunflower, Santa Ana  
Info: [www.ocorchidshow.com](http://www.ocorchidshow.com)

- **Andy's Orchids Fall Open House**

October 6-8, 2017; 10 AM–5 PM  
734 Oceanview Ave., Encinitas  
Info: [www.andysorchids.com](http://www.andysorchids.com)

- **International Huntington Orchid Show and Sale\***

October 20-22, 2017; 10 AM–5 PM  
The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens,  
San Marino  
Info: <http://www.huntington.org/orchidshow/>

- **South Coast Orchid Society Annual Auction**

October 23, 2017; 6 PM registration; 6:30 PM Auction begins  
Whaley Park Clubhouse, 5620 Atherton St., Long Beach  
Info: [www.southcoastorchidsociety.com](http://www.southcoastorchidsociety.com)

- **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Fall Open House**

November 4-5, 2017  
1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara  
Info: [www.sborchid.com](http://www.sborchid.com)

- **Cal Orchid Fall Open House**

November 4-5, 2017  
1251 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara  
Info: [www.calorchid.com](http://www.calorchid.com)



**Fascination of Orchids  
International Show & Sale**  
**SEP 23 & 24, 2017 10 am to 5 pm**  
**South Coast Plaza Village**  
**1621 West Sunflower**  
**Santa Ana CA 92704**  
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More Information  
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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 &amp; Dan Asbell 805-550-5484</p>
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