

Southern California Orchid Species Society

www.socalorchidspecies.com

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Newsletter

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(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

Kraemer Memorial Park

Backs Community Building, Main Room

201 N. Bradford Ave., Placentia

(Chapman and Bradford, parking off Bradford)

Volume 40 Issue 10

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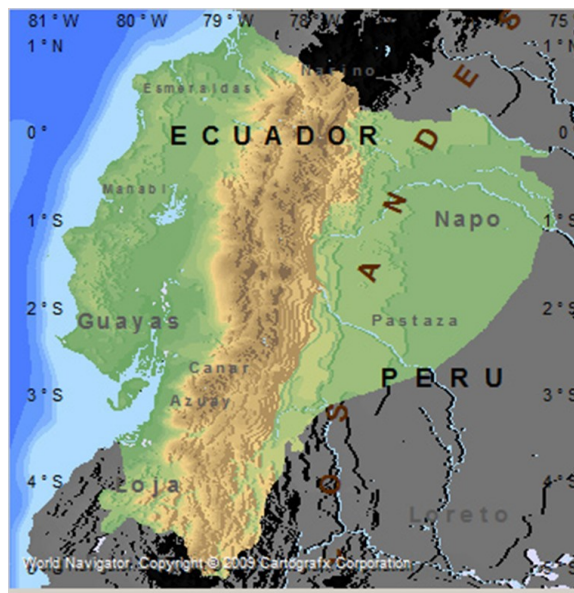
October 8, 2017

Orchid Travels in Ecuador

Ron Kaufmann

The speaker in October will be Ron Kaufmann, chair of the San Diego County Orchid Society Conservation Committee and a founding director of the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Ron has traveled extensively to view orchids in the wild in South America. His talk will present highlights of a trip to explore orchids in Ecuador as part of a tour to benefit the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Ecuador may have the highest orchid diversity in the world, with over 4,000 described species in an area slightly smaller than the state of Nevada. By comparison, North America contains fewer than 300 native orchid species. Ron's talk will show orchids in the wild and at Ecuagenera, one of the largest orchid nurseries in South America.

Ron is a marine biologist by training, and his scientific work includes studies of Antarctic and deep-sea ecosystems as well as marine communities in coastal Southern California. He has been growing orchids for over 20 years, starting with a reedstem *Epidendrum* and progressing to a diverse collection that contains mostly species orchids. He has a long-standing interest in conservation and has been a member of the SDCOS Conservation Committee for more than 15 years and chair since 2004. Since 1991, the Conservation Committee has awarded more than \$185,000 to support projects in 21 different countries. Ron also helped to found the Orchid Conservation Alliance and serves on the boards of the OCA, EcoMinga Foundation (a conservation foundation based in Ecuador) and Orchid Digest.



Orchid Research Using 3D Printing

From *The Orchid Review* (Royal Horticultural Society) Vol.124, No. 1314 (June 2016)

(I learned about this very interesting project by reading *The Orchid Review* from the RHS. I have not seen anything on it in the U.S. orchid publications that I read. I did discover that it had been written up in **Science** but didn't find it until I knew what to look for. *Ed.*)

A team from University of Oregon, led by Tobias Policha and Bitty Roy, were investigating the pollination of the Ecuadoran species *Dracula lafleurii*. Like many *Draculas*, this species has a labellum that resembles the fruiting bodies of several species of fungi that grow in the same habitat, both in appearance and scent. The orchid is pollinated by fruit flies that breed on the fungi.

The scientists used 3D printing to create replica flowers that allowed them to isolate the factors that might influence the attraction of insects. Melinda Barnadas of University of California, San Diego, who creates scientific models for museums, provided expertise on 3D printing. She produced molds of the realistic flower parts using a 3D printer, and then used them to cast the models in scent-free surgical silicone. Different color patterns and scents were then applied to the silicone flowers. Also, flowers with a mix of real and fake parts were constructed to study which parts were attractive and which were not. All the models were hung on trees among the real epiphytic *Dracula* orchids.

The scent of the flowers and fungi were determined, using gas chromatography, to be quite similar. The scent of the real flowers was extracted us-

ing a solvent and applied to the models for the experiments.

Observations reveal that, while the appearance of the mushroom-like labellum was part of the attraction, the flies did not visit models unless they also smelled like the fungus. Visual and olfactory signals were equally important, and both had to be present. The scientists plan to continue to use this 3D printing methodology for further pollination and evolution studies. Knowing more about pollinator interactions will also aid conservation.



The only real flower is on the far left, the others are total replicas or composites.

These fungi on which the fruit flies breed look very similar to the labellum of the *Dracula* flowers



From the Member's Corner

Our fundraising auction went very smoothly; those members who attended got some great bargains on the orchids they acquired for their collections & enjoyment. Members who were away or otherwise unable to attend will probably have a chance to see what they missed when these plants come back in bloom for future show-and-tell. Welcome to Lisa Marie Basiho who came to buy & also joined as our newest member. Auction guests & successful bidders included Medrick Bullock, Chong Chung, Ethan Fisher, Jim Gomes, Steve Metcalf, Russ Nichols & Andy T. We hope you all enjoyed the auction & that the plants you bought bring you much pleasure. We would really like to have you come back & join us at our monthly meetings - thank you for coming.

Thanks,
Holly Hillman

President's Message

Thanks to everyone who made the auction happen. The selection of plants was fabulous. An amazing team helped with the "day of" the Auction activities. There were many deals, that is, unless you were bidding against the auctioneer - Thanks Scott!

I have three months left as President. Many Societies are looking for new members to be more involved in their Board. It would be tragic to lose this organization in Southern California due to lack of commitment. The SCOSS is very unique among our Southern California Societies. We will be electing a New Board in January

2018. If you enjoy the Society, friendships, and speakers – please step up and let anyone on the Board know you are interested in being on the Board. "We are the ones we've been waiting for." Hopi Teaching.

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

See you in October!

Dana Seelig, President

Editor's Potting Bench

It's ironic that I need a British publication to find out about orchid research on the west coast of the U.S. But that just points up the international nature of the orchid passion. The Orchid Review is a wonderful quarterly publication, with a significant amount of information of about orchid species, including research, travel to orchid habitats, conservation efforts, and also featured in shows.

If you missed the auction, you missed an opportunity to obtain some really outstanding plants. We had the best line-up of plants of any auction, from any club, that I can recall. I ended up with some terrific plants. I had competition, but that's what auctions are about. The more competition, the more the club benefits because every penny raised goes to provide our excellent speakers in a comfortable venue. This primary hybrid, *Catasetum gladiatorium* x *Catasetum barbatum*, was in bud when I got it, and it's just too fantastic and weird not to share. It hasn't been named. I think it's one of Fred Clarke's newer experiments, with some uncommon species and I'm quite fond of that wild lip.

Show season is winding down, but grower open houses are just getting started. Check out the Events Calendar to plan your orchid acquisitions. The way to always have something in bloom is to obtain blooming plants throughout the year.

Days are still warm, but nights are much cooler.



The evening watering that was beneficial during the summer is now not such a good idea. Plants need to dry out before they get cold, so back to morning watering. I have been lightly watering my *Pterostylis curta* pots since early August, and the leaves are just starting to emerge. I am now increasing the watering, since they are clearly in active growth. *Catasetinae* are slowing down, so water and fertilizer can be cut back a bit but they still have another month or two before most of them start going fully dormant. However, they're not all the same. A few are already slowing down. As they lose leaves, they don't need water any more until new growth in the spring.

Cattleya bowringiana is vigorously blooming. My *coerulea* form bloomed last month, but now I have the typical one, and also a unique *anelata coerulea* form with the cultivar name "One in a Million". Someone got one of these at the auction. I'm hoping that mine stays in bloom until the meeting, but if not, I share it here—whoever got it, bought a winner. This spe-

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

Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3

Cattleya bowringiana (typical)



Cattleya bowringiana
'One in a Million'



cies grows outside quite well, especially with a bit of overhead protection.

Most of the Sobralias, especially those in the Sob.

Sobralia violacea



macrantha group, have finished for the year (although I have one plant that always starts about the time the others are finishing and goes until around November) but there are some others that are also quite lovely. *Sobralia violacea* is just starting to bloom. I eagerly await *Sob. fimbriata* but I think I have another few weeks on that one so will wait on that photo.

Lycaste schilleriana seems to be rather variable in its bloom time. Flowers are quite long lasting but I will probably not be able to bring it for the meeting since it decided to direct this flower out the bottom of the basket, making it pretty hard to transport safely. Remember, these are related to *Stanhopea*, and so it is not unusual for a flower to be somewhere other than the top of the plant though usually they are more to the side than the bottom. Still, a basket is a very good way to grow these to allow the flowers to go where they want.

Lycaste schilleriana



The majority of *Bulbophyllum*s are warm growing, but there are a few that come from higher elevations and do fine outside. *Cirrhopetalum* (*Bulbophyllum*) *hirundinis* is one that has survived for me for long enough to say that yes, it does. (I don't make the claim until I have grown a plant for a couple of years... in this case, it has survived for five) It is looking better than it has for a long time... I think it is also benefiting from the RO system that I installed early this summer. More on that next month.

One more easy outdoor species, *Miltonia regnellii* blooms consistently this time of year. It can be grown

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

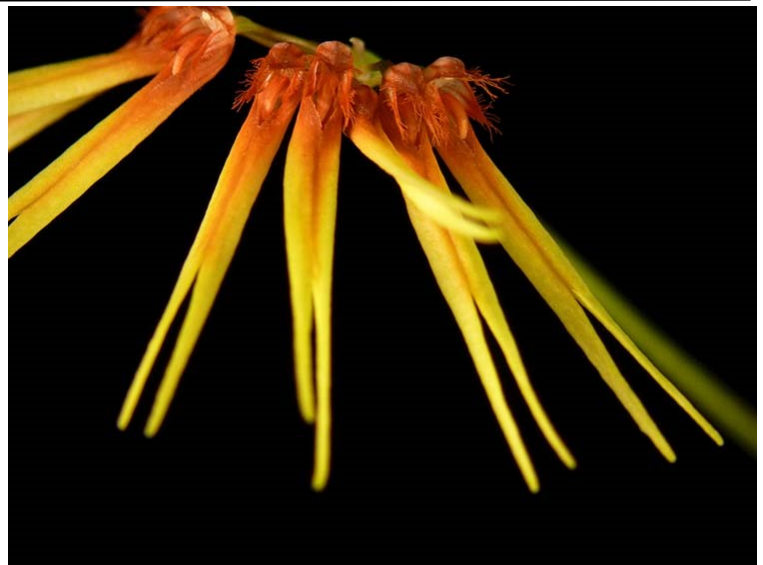
- **Andy's Orchids Fall Open House**
October 6-8, 2017; 10 AM–5 PM
734 Oceanview Ave., Encinitas
Info: www.andysorchids.com
- **International Huntington Orchid Show and Sale***
October 20-22, 2017; 10 AM–5 PM
The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, San Marino
Info: <http://www.huntington.org/orchidshow/>
- **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
- **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Fall Open House**
November 4-5, 2017 8AM–4 PM
1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara
Info: www.sborchid.com
- **Cal Orchid Fall Open House**
November 4-5, 2017 9 AM–4 PM
1251 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara
Info: www.calorchid.com
- **Santa Barbara History Museum Show and Sale**
November 18-19, 2017; Sat. 10 AM–5 PM, Sun 10 AM–3 PM
2559 Puesta Del Sol Rd, Santa Barbara
Info: www.orchidsb.org



well either mounted or in a basket, producing multiple spikes.



Miltonia regnellii



Cirrhopetalum (Bulbophyllum) hirundinis

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>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>Ruben Colmenares Contact: RubenColmenares@ocfa.org</p>
<p>Diamond Orchids Contact: Peter Lin 909-396-0334, minicatt99@yahoo.com www.diamondorchids.com</p>	<p>Gold Country Orchids Contact: Alan Koch 916-645-8600, gcorchids@aol.com www.goldcountryorchids.com</p>
<p>Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens Contact: Brandon Tam btam@huntington.org www.http://huntington.org</p>	<p>Royale Orchids Australia http://www.royaleorchids.com/</p>
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