

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)

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December 10, 2017

Oberonia Under the Microscopes

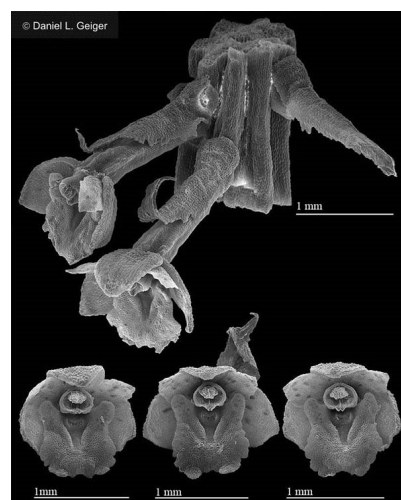
Daniel Geiger, PhD.

We welcome the return of Daniel L. Geiger, PhD. He was a member several years ago, and has talked to us before on several topics. He is a marine invertebrate systematist working on biodiversity and evolution of basal marine snails at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. His interests in plants come from natural history photography and gardening.

Oberonia is a literally and figuratively overlooked genus of orchids with minute flowers. Daniel has become interested in this genus with some 150–300 species. An overview of the genus is provided, including many never seen before images taken with light and scanning electron microscopes. Most specimens available in the trade are misidentified; the process of checking the identification of a plant is detailed. Approaches to experimental culture of oddball orchids rounds out the presentation. This may be particularly interesting to growers who want to expand into under-appreciated orchids, or may be tempted with small research projects.



Oberonia leytensis
(purchased as
Ob. iridifolia)



Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM)
view of Oberonia leytensis

Speaker's Choice

November speaker Kay Klausing 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 Espírito 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.

(If this looks familiar, this was the choice of the November, 2016 speaker too... a reliable and spectacular plant)



Sophronitis rosea
(*Cattleya wittigiana*)



From the Member's Corner

Thank you to the members who attended the November meeting & enjoyed the "second half" of Kay Klausing's presentation on identifying & preventing the spread of orchid viruses to other orchids in a member's collection. Edie Gulrich is stepping down from active participation for a while to care for her husband who is recuperating from recent surgery. Some of our members have stepped up to assist not only the Species Society as Board members, but also to give Edie a hand when repotting time rolls around; if you have a few hours to spare, please let Edie know that you're willing to help. Hope to see all of you at the December meeting to end the year on a high, happy note.

Thanks,
Holly Hillman

President's Message

What an amazing opportunity it has been to serve as President for the Orange County Orchid Species Society. As a species society, we are unique in Southern California. For those who attend regularly, please consider taking on responsibilities in your society. As with all organizations, we are in need of an increased level of involvement from the General Membership.

Please continue to reach out to your orchid friends and acquaintances and encourage them to attend

our Monthly Sunday Meetings. Also please try and attend lunch with our speakers before the meeting, it is a way to gain additional insight and make new friends.

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

See you in December!

Dana Seelig, President

Editor's Potting Bench

First, a reminder of the Open Houses at the San Diego nurseries (if you get the newsletter by email... if you get it by snail mail I hope that you noted these in November). Then, the "orchid scene" goes quiet over the holidays. It starts back up in January with the Orange County Orchid Society Annual Auction leading into the spring show season starting in February. Check out the Orchid Events page for details.

This month may be a light one for meetings, but I am glad that we're having a regular meeting because the orchids are certainly not taking a vacation. With the return of mild weather, there is lots of blooming activity in my yard. Nights are still pretty temperate (I have seen high 40's F on a few nights, but mostly still low 50's at worst). This is the time when orchid growing in coastal California deviates the most from the rest of the country, where in many cases it is already too cold for shipping even with heat packs when days don't get above freezing!

Cattleya percivaliana is a large-flowered species from Colombia and Venezuela that does very well for me. It just barely missed blooming for the November meeting, and may or may not still be in bloom for December, so I share it here. I grow it outside all year, with overhead protection (which it may or may not need). It comes from relatively high elevations of 4600-6550 ft. (1400-2000 m) which explains its cold-tolerance.



Laelia anceps plants are starting to bloom profusely. The flowers don't tend to last much more than 10 days for most (although as the plants get larger this seems to improve) so the solution is to have lots of them, which bloom at different times over a couple of months. These are one of the most temperature-tolerant orchid species that one can own. They are fine with 100 deg. F days in nearly full sun and they are also fine as the night temperatures plummet to near freezing. They're also drought-tolerant. In my experience, they really hate pots, so I grow mine mounted, or for those too large for mounts, in baskets. If I have a mounted plant that outgrows its mount, I just pop the mount into a wood basket, perhaps with a bit of large bark or not, depending on the roots, and that seems to keep them under a bit of control—I see the basket as a three-dimensional mount since the roots do tend to attach to

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Laelia anceps 'Sanbar Ruby'



Laelia anceps 'Blushing'

the wood and not just run wild. My first one this season was a particular dark one, 'Sanbar Ruby' but some of the more usual colored ones are also starting to bloom, such as this one.

At the same time. *Laelia superbiens*, which used to be classified as *Schomburgkia*, is also blooming. This may or may not make it to the meeting, since the spikes are very long. This year the spike is not quite as large as last year so I might be able to get it in the car. Also, another, that I got several years ago as a seedling, is blooming and it's a bit smaller. These grow a little shadier than *L. anceps*, but are nearly as durable. I did get a bit of leaf-scorching in the heat wave we had last month. I suspect that there was a sudden blast, from a different direction than the ones that plant had acclimated to, that was the culprit. *L. superbiens* was not the only victim. When this happens, the plant is not seriously harmed but it looks ugly since

this group of plants keeps leaves for years. Cherish the deciduous orchids... leaf damage goes away.



Laelia superbiens



Dendrochilum cootesii is a charming little outdoor-growing species that blooms reliably this time of year. The flowers are relatively large for a *Dendrochilum*, and the petals flip up at the tips. That's a 4 inch pot, so it's lots of flower power in a small space.

Maxillaria sophronitis has been popping the



Dendrochilum cootesii

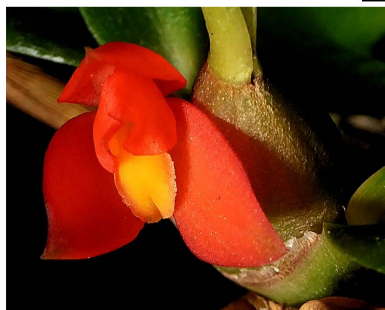
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Calendar of Events * indicates that event flier is on the website.

- **Andy's Orchids Winter Open House**
December 1-3, 2017; 10 AM–5 PM
734 Oceanview Ave., Encinitas
Info: www.andysorchids.com
- **Sunset Valley Orchids Open House***
December 2, 2017; 9 AM–4 PM
1255 Navel Place, Vista
Info: www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com or (760) 310-0778
- **Casa de las Orquideas Open House***
December 2, 2017; 9 AM–4 PM
170 S. Nardo Ave., Solana Beach
Info: www.orquideas.com, casa@orquideas.com, (858) 755-7572
- **Orange County Orchid Society Annual Auction**
January 17, 2018; 6:30 PM Preview, 7 PM Auction begins
Yorba Linda Public Library Community Room (lower level), 18181 Imperial Hwy., Yorba Linda
Info: www.ocos.net, (714) 446-9283
- **Newport Harbor Orchid Society Orchid Expo and Sale**
February 9–11, 2018; Friday 10 AM–9 PM, Saturday 10 AM–7 PM, Sunday 11 AM–6 PM
Westminster Mall, Westminster (2nd level, near J.C. Penny)
Info: www.nhosinfo.org/orchidshow
- **Pacific Orchid Exposition Show and Sale**
February 23-25, 2018
Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
Info: www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
- **Santa Barbara Orchid Show**
March 9-11, 2018; 9 AM–5 PM
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
Info: <https://sborchidshow.com/>
- **Long Beach Amateurs Annual Auction**
March 12, 2018; 6 PM Preview, 6:30 PM Auction begins
St. Gregory's Episcopal Church Hall, 6201 E. Willow St., Long Beach
Info: www.lbaos.com

occasional brilliant flower for a couple of months, but in the last couple of weeks it treated me to a flush bloom. It's an outdoor grower, on the shady and damp side. Basket is 4".

Roberta Fox, Editor



Maxillaria sophronitis

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</p>	<p>Asbell Orchids Contact: Bob & Dan Asbell 805-550-5484</p>
<p>Cal-Orchid Contact: James Rose 805-967-1312, calorchid@cox.net</p>	<p>Ruben Colmenares Contact: Rco90808@gmail.com</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</p>	<p>Royale Orchids Australia http://www.royaleorchids.com/</p>
<p>Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Contact: Alice & Parry Gripp 800-553-3387, sboc@sborchid.com</p>	<p>Seed Engei Contact: Satomi Kasahara seed_engei@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>