

# Southern California Orchid Species Society

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

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### Newsletter

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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 41 Issue 11

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**November 11, 2018**

## Springtime in Western Australia

**Ron Parsons**

Ron Parsons has been growing orchids for going on 40 years and has been interested in and has grown species orchids for most of that time. He loves to photograph orchids and other flowers whenever he can, whether it be in collections or on trips to see them in nature. His photographs appear often in Orchid Digest and Orchids, and he has co-authored multiple books with Mary Gerritsen.

In the Spring of 2012 Ron visited Australia for a month. Part of that trip entailed a visit to the state of Western Australia to speak at the national orchid conference in Perth. During breaks in the conference, he and his friends went out on day trips to see native orchids and

other flowers in the area. After the conference they took five days to explore the area between Perth on the west coast, down to Albany on the south coast to find more of this state's amazing flora.

The southwest corner of Australia has one of the world's few Mediterranean climates, the other being the Mediterranean region itself, most of coastal California, Chile, and the Southwest Cape of South Africa. A Mediterranean climate is one in which the winter is cool and wet while the summer is hot and dry, usually lacking any precipitation. Most of the orchids of this area are endemic, with just a handful also being found in southeast Australia. Unlike the orchids of the southeast, all are terrestrial here. This talk will feature some of the country's most incredible and bizarre flora.



**Diuris brumalis**



**Cyanicula gemmata**

## Speaker's Choice

October speaker Steve Champlin had difficulty deciding on just one Brazilian orchid for his Speaker's Choice so we let him choose two. The first was *Miltonia moreliana*, grown by Scott McGregor. This was previously considered a variety of *Miltonia spectabilis*, but is now considered its own species. This plant has particularly large flowers for the species, and it has lots of them. It grows easily outside, which is where Scott grows all of his plants. *Miltonia moreliana* is native to both northeastern and southeastern Brazil, and has also been found in Venezuela. It tolerates a wide range of temperatures, and can be easily grown outside throughout southern California.



*Miltonia moreliana*  
(*spectabilis* var. *moreliana*)



*Cattleya labiata* f. *coerulea*

Steve also selected *Cattleya labiata*, grown by Roberta Fox. This is the *coerulea* form, which was accompanied by both *alba* and *rubra* forms. (A *Cattleya labiata* trifecta!) It has a reputation for being a warm-grower, but it does fine outside. All three examples were grown that way. It does seem to benefit from overhead protection from winter rain, provided by transparent polycarbonate panels under the shade cloth. The species is native to north, northeast, and southeast Brazil, over a range of elevations.

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## From the Member's Corner

Floralia's Steve Champlin gave the members a very interesting slide show of the beautiful Brazilian *Laelias* & *Cattleyas* that he and his wife grow and sell. He also brought a great selection of both plants for sale AND provided a fabulous group of orchids for our raffle! I believe we all took home some 3-4 new babies for our own collections. It was very nice to welcome Edie Gulrich back after her knee replacement surgery; we've missed her. Raymond Aguilar made a return visit, too.

Happy growing, see you at the next meeting.

Thanks,  
Holly Hillman

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## Editor's Potting Bench

Fall show season is behind us. I hope that you had a chance to enjoy the show at the Huntington. Still ahead, though, are open houses at some of our favorite southern California nurseries, both north and south. At all of them you'll find lots of excellent plants at great prices. The weekend right after you get this newsletter (Nov 3-4), you can feed your orchid cravings at Santa Barbara Orchid Estate and Cal Orchid. December 1 (probably before the next newsletter) brings two once-a-year events, Sunset Valley Orchids (think great plants and street tacos) and Casa de las Orquideas, with the introduction of their newest seedlings. And the week after that, back to San Diego for Andy's holiday-season open house.

Do keep an eye on the weather. This time of year it can be just about anything. Nights are still mostly pretty mild but there have been a few that got down into the mid 50's. Days are mostly still warm and mild. No doubt there will be another Santa Ana or two with low humidity, but so far not bad. Because fall (and winter for that matter) is really different here than in the rest of the country, it's also a time to break "rules". While it is true that for most, growth is slowing down and so potting should wait, there are some that are rooting vigorously. Those can be safely repotted or mounted. It's all about roots...

There's lots of flower action in my yard—fall is almost as good as spring, and probably better variety. My monster *Cattleya guttata coerulea* (3 ft. pseudobulbs) is in full bloom. A few weeks ago I discovered that it had rooted past its basket and attached to the cinder blocks that support the racks that I use for benches. I tried preserve as much as I could but did savage some of those roots. However, it is blasting out vast quantities of new ones, so I'm not worried. I have also hung it up so that the new roots can't grow into anything.

Also in the "not miniature" category, *Laelia* (*Schomburgkia*) *superbiens* is reliably putting on its show. This year's spike is not quite as tall as this photo from last year, but still substantial. I



*Cattleya guttata f. coerulea*

particularly love the contrast of the intense yellow throat against the pink, twisty flower. There are more roots outside than in the basket. As long as it gets adequate water, the bark is pretty much an afterthought.



*Laelia* (*Schomburgkia*) *superbiens*



See: Editor's Potting Bench, Page 4

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

*Sobralia fimbriata* is an ephemeral beauty. The flowers only last about a day, but they are beautiful and also fragrant. Note that not only is the lip spectacular, but the petals are also fringed. Like all *Sobralias*, it can bloom successively on a spike. It comes from a fairly wide range of elevations, and seems to grow well here, at least in the coastal area. It grows somewhat shadier than the more-familiar *Sob. macrantha* and related species and hybrids.



*Sobralia fimbriata*

For those who grow it in a greenhouse, *Dendrochilum magnum* bloomed a month ago or more. Mine, which grows outside, is just now hitting its stride. It would probably be happier a bit warmer, but it gets what it gets, and seems OK with that.



*Dendrochilum magnum*

*Vanda coerulea* is one of the relatively few large-flowered *Vandas* that is fairly cold-tolerant. Having had some fatalities in the past I'm not sure that it is all that durable, but this one has survived for a couple of years under my care and seems to be doing well. I do wonder if it is one of the orchids that is more particular about its water than it is given credit for... the big difference between "now" and "then" is my RO water. Other *Vandas* are also doing better for me. The color of this species ranges from almost white to very "blue". This one isn't as dark as some I have seen, but still quite lovely.



*Vanda coerulea*

The yellow of *Oncidium onustum* is just about as saturated as it can be. I grow this one in the greenhouse, but I suspect that it could grow outside if kept fairly dry in the winter. It comes from a range of elevations, though it is mostly a lowland species. In its natural habitat in western Ecuador and northwestern Peru it gets rather sparse rainfall. It grows on cactus or in dry forest. In the greenhouse it gets watered with everything else, but it is mounted on bare cork so it dries out very fast.

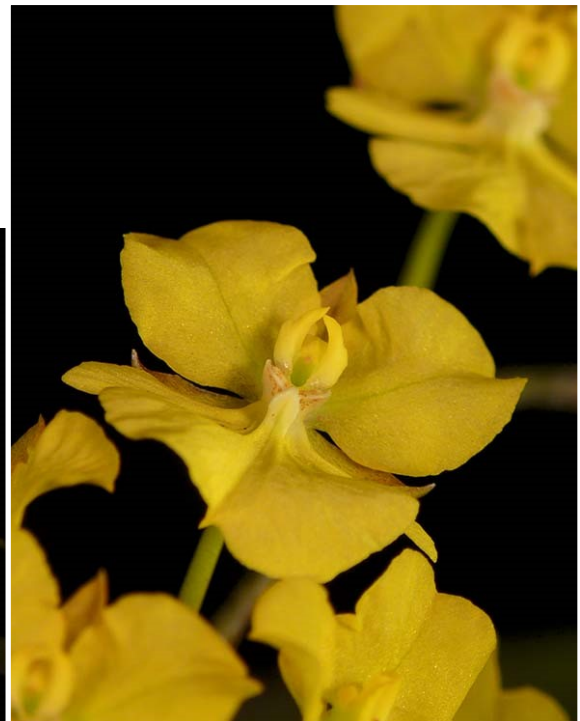
**See photos on Page 5**

*Roberta Fox, Editor*



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

- **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Fall Open House\***  
November 3-4, 2018; Saturday 8 AM–5 PM, Sunday 9 AM–4 PM  
1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara  
Info: [www.sborchid.com](http://www.sborchid.com)
- **Cal Orchid Fall Open House**  
November 3-4, 2018; 9 AM–4 PM  
1251 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara  
Info: [www.calorchid.com](http://www.calorchid.com)
- **Santa Barbara Orchid Society Show and Sale\***  
November 17-18, 2018; Saturday 10 AM–5 PM, Sunday 10 AM–3 PM  
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta Del Sol Rd, Santa Barbara  
Info: [www.orchidsb.org](http://www.orchidsb.org)
- **Sunset Valley Orchids Open House\***  
December 1, 2018; 9 AM–4 PM (Street Tacos from 10 am to 2 PM!)  
1255 Navel Pl., Vista  
Info: 760-310-0778 or [www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com)
- **Casa de las Orquideas Annual Open House\***  
December 1, 2018; 9 PM–4 PM  
170 S. Nardo Ave., Solana Beach  
info: [casa@orquideas.com](mailto:casa@orquideas.com) or 858-755-7572
- **Andy's Orchids Holiday Open House\***  
December 7–9, 2018; 10 AM–4 PM  
734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas  
Info: [www.andysorchids.com](http://www.andysorchids.com)



Oncidium onustum

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  760-436-4239  info@andysorchids.com  www.andysorchids.com</p>	<p>Asbell Orchids  Contact: Bob &amp; 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: 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  www.http://huntington.org</p>	<p>Royale Orchids  Australia  http://www.royaleorchids.com/</p>
<p>Santa Barbara Orchid Estate  Contact: Alice &amp; Parry Gripp  800-553-3387, sboc@sborchid.com  www.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  <a href="http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com">www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com</a></p>