

Southern California Orchid Species Society

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 at 2 PM, doors open at 1 PM

Kraemer Memorial Park

Backs Community Building, Main Room

201 N. Bradford Ave., Placentia

(Chapman and Bradford, parking off Bradford)

Volume 41 Issue 12

December 2018

December 9, 2018

Cattleya mossiae

Fred Clarke

Sunset Valley Orchids

Cattleya mossiae is the queen of Venezuelan Cattleyas. Once the most popular corsage flowers for Mothers day, it is now rarely seen in collections and cut flower trade. See the magnificent pictures of C. mossiae in the wild presented in PowerPoint presentation. Learn about its habitat and the perils that await the future for the queen of Venezuelan Cattleyas.

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 40 years and has been hybridizing for 35 of those years. With over 32 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development



of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced "the blackest flower ever witnessed". This grex has received eight FCC's and six AM's from the American Orchid Society and over 90 awards worldwide!

Speaker's Choice

November speaker Ron Parsons selected *Sophranitis brevipedunculata* grown by Peter Lin as his speaker's choice. The peach color of this flower is unusual—the typical form ranges from salmon to orange to red. Along with the unique color, the form is also very nice. Peter grows this in an intermediate greenhouse, temperatures ranging from 40 deg F to 90 deg F.

Certainly this could grow outside in coastal areas. The species is native to southeast areas of the state of Minas Gerais in Brazil, at elevations ranging from 4500-600 ft (1350-1830 m). According to Charles Baker in *Orchidwiz*, it grows primarily on Vellozia in very dry saddles between river valleys, surrounded by cactus. However, there is heavy dew, and the fibrous surface of the Vellozia bushes holds this condensation so that the plants are hydrated even when rain is sparse.



Cattleya (Sophranitis) brevipedunculata
(‘Valley Isle’ x ‘Pawela Red’)

Farewell...

This is the final meeting of the Southern California Orchid Species Society. In recognition of the occasion, and as a “thank you” to the membership, the Society will be providing hearty hors d'oeuvres and dessert.

Bring your blooming species orchids for a spectacular Show and Tell session. While this is the last newsletter, photos will be posted on the website for the world to see.

From the Member's Corner

We hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving with family & friends. Belated Happy Birthday to Yolanda Brown - we missed you, but hope you enjoyed your celebration. Members at the November meeting had the opportunity to see great photos of Australian orchids & little known native plants taken by Ron Parsons in a recent trip. We're looking forward to seeing you all at our December meeting to enjoy our final speaker, Fred Clarke; a festive refreshment table & a chance to say good-bye to friends we've made & to the Southern California Orchid Species Society. Happy growing, everyone.

Thanks,
Holly Hillman

Editor's Potting Bench

Goodbyes are never easy. This Society has been a place for me to indulge my passion for orchid species, many of which are not big and splashy, which tend to be somewhat lost and certainly under-appreciated on general-society Show and Tell tables. I have also greatly enjoyed the company of others with the same passion. I wonder if, perhaps, there is a way to maintain our species-loving community in virtual space, even if not in the physical space of regular meetings. We have a website that doesn't have to go away, thanks to the generosity of Fascination of Orchids, Inc. That organization has provided the hosting, as well as domain registration, for Southern California Orchid Species Society for many years. If others in this group would like to contribute material (such as photos, growing insights, travels, and anything else orchid-species-related) I would be happy to maintain a blog on that platform. The content, and frequency of update, is totally dependent on the information that you contribute. It's up to you — if I end up being the only one supplying material, it will fizzle.

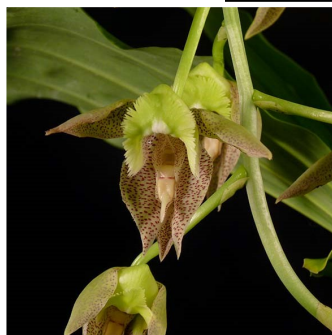
Also, if you have enjoyed reading my musings in this column, this isn't my only outlet. I also edit the newsletter of the Cool Growing Orchid Society that meets the second Wednesday of each month at the Garden Grove Masonic Lodge. To receive that newsletter, you're invited to join CGOS. Only \$10, a link to the membership form is on the website at www.coolgrowingorchids.com. Although it is a general-purpose club, my newsletter column has a definite "species" spin (because that's what I like to write about), as well as an outdoor-growing bias which reflects the focus of the club and my own leanings. I'd love to see you there. If you can't make the meetings you can still subscribe to the newsletter by joining.

Take a look at the Calendar of Events (last page). Open houses will be held at Sunset Valley Orchids and Casa de las Orquideas on December 1, immediately after you receive this newsletter. The following weekend you can indulge

your species addiction at Andy's Orchids Open House. Then, the scene goes quiet for about a month, over the holidays. But after that, on January 16, the Orange County Orchid Society Annual Auction kicks off the spring season. There are always wonderful plants to acquire there. The Calendar of Events will continue to be available on the Species website, as well as the Cool Growing Orchid Society and Fascination of Orchids sites.

By now any plants that don't like cold should be in their winter homes... nights can be chilly. *Catasetinae* are getting reduced water, but most still have leaves and are getting some. Another month and drying-out will begin in earnest. I'm just starting to move some of the *Dendrobiums* that want a winter rest to sheltered areas where they won't be watered or rained on. It's a month later than the conventional wisdom dictates, but days have been rather warm up to now. and we have seen only the beginning of rain. You have to go with the climate reality, not what the books say. My winter-growing terrestrials are growing vigorously. *Pterostylis curta* is a mass of green. Flowers are probably only about a month away. The Australian and European terrestrials are just getting going for me (Scott's are a lot farther along) but are starting to grow rapidly, noticeably bigger even just from day to day.

Several *Catasetinae* are blooming, just before they go dormant. Here is *Catasetum fimbriatum*. I don't think that it will last to the meeting, but at any rate I don't like to transport these—the motion of the car tends to shake the pollinia loose, and then the flowers fade quickly.



Catasetum fimbriatum

Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3

Cattleya percivaliana continues to amaze. The plant that I brought in to the November meeting is still in bloom, and two others are blooming as well. This species grows outside quite well. It is under polycarbonate hard cover, but exposed to the full range of temperatures. This cultivar, 'Orchid Ranch', is bigger and darker than the 'Mendenhall' that came to the meeting.



Cattleya percivaliana
'Orchid Ranch'

Lycaste skinneri (virginalis) is in the ancestry of most of the big, round hybrid *Lycastes*. There has been a lot of selective line breeding for color in the hybrids. This one is the typical form, a soft pink. It produces flowers over a period of six weeks to two months, and may bloom twice



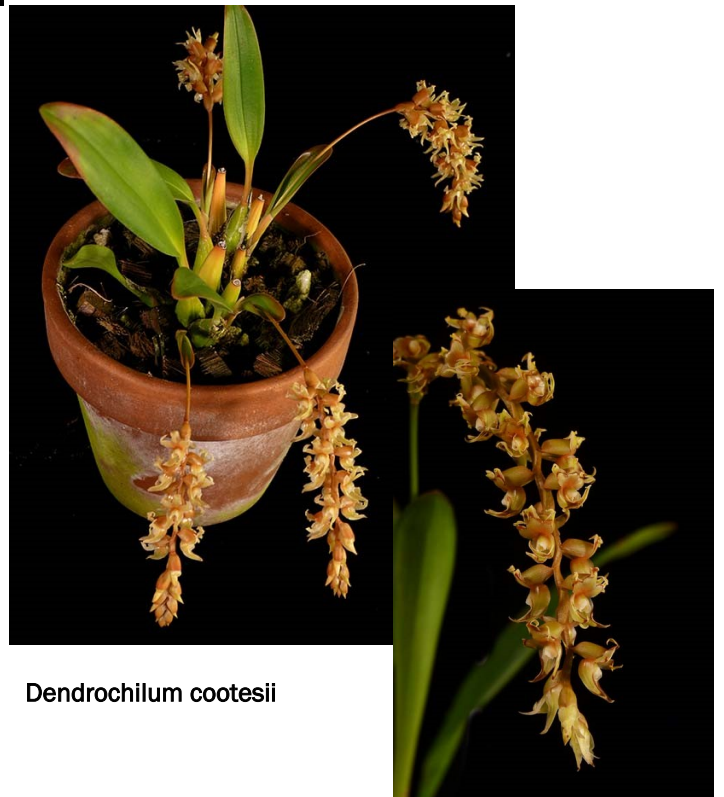
Lycaste skinneri (virginalis) f. rosea.

a year, though the fall blooming tends to be more prolific than the summer one.



Cattleya schilleriana

Here's *Cattleya schilleriana*, a spectacular outdoor-growing Catt that typically blooms twice a year, once in summer and then again now. This one is tricky to photograph, since the petals are very glossy. The contrast between the dark petals and the large hot-pink lip is very dramatic.



Dendrochilum cootesii

See: Editor's Potting Bench, Page 5

Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 4

Dendrochilum cootesii is a charming little plant, only about 3 to 4 inches tall, but with multiple spikes, with flowers that are large for a *Dendrochilum*. It grows outside, in bright shade. The flowers are arranged on the inflorescence so that it appears to be twisted like a corkscrew. It is a reliable bloomer, and each year it is more floriferous. It is named for Jim Cootes from Australia. Some you had a chance to meet him when he did a "grand tour" of orchid societies a couple of years ago.

Laelia rubescens is a difficult one to bring to meetings since the flowers don't last long. If it has more than one spike, they tend to not open at the same time, so that the time when the whole plant looks attractive is even shorter. Still, they are reliable fall bloomers. Here are the rosea and semi-alba forms, both of which grow outside nicely. *Laelia aurea* is a closely related species, but seems to need to grow a little warmer and I moved it to the greenhouse where it is definitely doing better than it was outside.



Laelia rubescens
f. rosea



Laelia rubescens
f. semi-alba



Laelia aurea



For the grand finale, *Maxillaria ubatubana*. This is a flowering machine. It is related to *Max. picta*.

Maxillaria ubatubana



Roberta Fox, Editor

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

- **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
- **Casa de las Orquideas Annual Open House***
December 1, 2018; 9 PM—4 PM
170 S. Nardo Ave., Solana Beach
info: 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
- **Orange County Orchid Society Annual Auction***
January 16, 2019; 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; Starting Jan. 3, 2019 check website for list of sale items
- **Newport Harbor Orchid Society Orchid Expo & Sale***
February 8—10, 2019; Friday 10 AM—9 PM, Saturday 10 AM—8 PM, Sunday 11 AM—6 PM
Westminster Mall, Westminster (2nd Level, near Penney's Wing)
Info: www.nhosinfo.org/orchidshow
- **Pacific Orchid Exposition***
February 22—24, 2019; Friday and Saturday 9 AM—6 PM, Sunday 10 AM—5 PM
County Fair Building "Hall of Flowers", 9th and Lincoln, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
Info: www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/orchid-events/pacific-orchid-expo-poe/
- **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show***
March 15—17, 2019; 9 AM—5 PM
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
Info: www.sborchidshow.com