



Southern California Orchid Species Society

www.socalorchidspecies.com

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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

Volume 34, Issue 1

Placentia Library
411 E. Chapman Ave, Placentia

January 2011

January 9, 2011

Peter Lin

The Three A's of the Orchid World: Angraecum, Aerangis, and Aeranthes

Peter T. Lin will be presenting a talk on: The 3 A's of the Orchid World: Angraecum, Aerangis and Aeranthes. This fast paced PowerPoint presentation will showcase 3 of the main genera in the Angraecoid family of Orchids, as well as some of the lesser genera. Along with the species, we'll also take a look at some of the beautiful hybrids that have been made over the years.

Peter started growing orchids over 25 years ago, but then stopped due to school and starting a career. It wasn't until about 7 years ago that the orchid "bug" came back and he is now heavily involved once again. He is an accredited judge with the American Orchid Society and a hybridizer of mini-catts. He enjoys meeting with other orchid enthusiasts, and can often be found at various orchid shows and societies around the country. He also has hundreds of photos of his orchids that he maintains on Flickr. You can view them by typing this address into the internet:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/minicatt/collections/>

Due to limited growing space, Peter likes to specialize in miniature orchids, both species and hybrids, and has received numerous AOS awards. His other interests in orchids include Dendrobiums, Angraecoids, and Neofinetias. He maintains a collection of a thousand or more orchids at his home in Southern California in 3 small greenhouses, as well as in the house under fluorescent lights.



Angraecum magdalenae

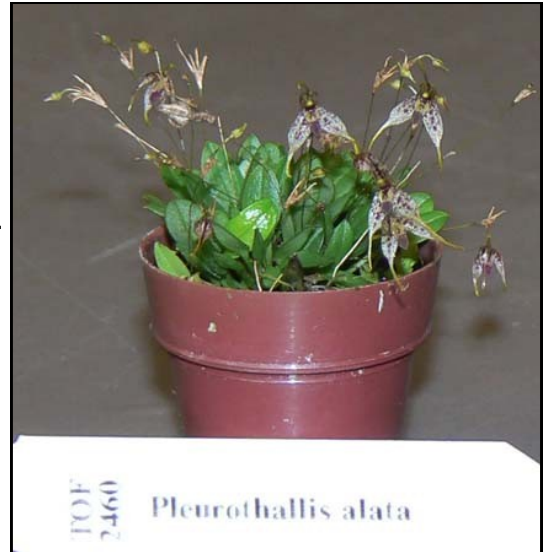
Peter Lin

Speaker's Choice

Pleurothallis alata, grown in a 1 inch pot by Peter Lin, was selected by December speaker Fred Clarke. This warm-growing species is native primarily to Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Costa Rica, at altitudes from about 600 ft (180 m) to 4500 ft (1380 m). The inflorescences are about 1 inch, the flowers about ¼ inch. A given inflorescence can produce several flowers successively, so should not be cut as long as it is green. *Pleurothallis* is a very large genus, and has been divided into multiple subgenera. This species is in subgenus *Specklinia*. The Kew Monocot Checklist <<http://apps.kew.org/wcsp/home.do>> (the "ultimate authority" on taxonomic nomenclature for all Monocotyledon plant families) lists it as *Specklinia alata*.

Editor's note: This tiny plant was a challenge to photograph, especially under the less-than-ideal conditions available. I did get the best results with flash (which necessitated backing a bit farther than I would have liked from the plant) Focus (with an auto-focus camera) on very small flowers and plants is always difficult because the camera tends to try to focus on the background (though I find that I still have better luck with auto-focus than trying to do it manually, using the smallest spot-focus setting). Putting the label into the picture served two purposes – one, to

give an idea of the relative size of plant and flowers, but also to serve as a "focus target". If one gets it right, the photo shows much more detail than most of those of us over the age of 40 can see when



looking at the plant. These are beautiful little flowers, with deep burgundy spots, and yellow tips on the sepals. (If you are looking at this on paper in monochrome, it is better on the web, in color!)

Pleurothallis alata, showing multiple blooms on inflorescence

From the Members Corner

Thanks to Jorge Molina, Anne Line Anderson and Wilma Wilson (she came in late) for joining us Sunday 12/12. Please come back again, we'd love to see you.

It's dues time, folks; please pay as early as possible so I can get the roster out in a reasonably short time. Thanks.

Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary



Eurychone rothschildiana

Peter Lin

President's Message

Happy New Year, may it be successful and rich in surprises growing your orchids. We have been given a great gift in the many inches of rain we have received. Washing out the salts is wonderful for your plants!

We had a really fun and exciting meeting last month! Fred Clarke brought in a black orchid and did himself proud, his talk was excellent, the food was great and lots of it. The black orchid was on the silent auction table. It was really an exciting exchange 'til it finally was settled as the time ran out and Edie Gulrich walked away with it. She says it has a very interesting fragrance, it smells like freshly chopped wood and very nice in the early morning.

The installation went well and was done by Ed Wise and he encouraged us that we are on the right track to continue with the Orchid Conservation Alliance which is our

supports our purpose, thank you Ed. If you haven't read our purpose go to the pink roster book it is in there and please read it.

While reading an issue of "Orchids" the AOS magazine of June 2003, there is an article written by Ken Stump, very interesting, discussing "Our Orchid Collection Records", keeping records on the plants in our collection. There are four headings that he uses: A numbering system; Spelling counts; Plant performance; Storing data. All of this can be on a tag or in a log either in a notebook or on the computer so you can track what is going on with the orchids and the importance of doing it even if it is a daunting task. If you haven't started before start NOW!!! Don't let the new plants go out to the greenhouse or yard before writing the names of each plant plus where you acquired them, and keep an extra list with you so you don't duplicate unless you want to for extras(?) The numbering system also helps to iden-

tify it from others in the collection including plants that have no name.

A simple way is to build a 4 or 5 digit code where the first two digits represent the year that it was purchased or acquired and the last two digits represent the sequence in that year you acquired them. The 4 or 5 digits will depend on whether your annual orchid purchases are more than 100 plants, for example 98026 could represent the 26th plant acquired in 1998 similarly 03101 could be used for the 101st plant acquired in 2003. But log all this info either in a log or in a data base on the computer. Spelling should be correct, you can add plant performance, be sure your tags are up to date and can be read. If you need more information just call me.

Looking forward to seeing you all. As always bring a friend. Also adding to that, to bring goodies if you can.

Barbara Olson, President

Editor's Potting Bench

Barbara's suggestion to develop a system for organizing one's orchid collection is "Right on!". There are a lot of ways to approach the issue, but all begin with a unique identifier for every plant. I would be happy to work with anybody who wants to set up a system. If you don't "do computers" a file box can be quite functional. But if you do it on a computer, there are some additional things you can do – such as link digital photos to the plant record. (I would be happy to show you how it can be done in Excel or MS Word). If you own Orchidwiz, you already have an excellent database for keeping track of your own plants, along with its other obvious benefits.

I am an "orchid omnivore"... specializing in anything that I can manage to grow. I have great admiration for people who find a challenge in exploring a genus in depth. Some have created wonderful websites that permit one to compare photos, and gain more detailed

information on the species within the genus. For information about the *Dendrochilum* species, check out <http://www.dendrochilum.com>

Those who came to my house last May (the Mother's Day meeting) may recall the *Cyrtorchilum falcipetalum* with spikes that were already about 5' long. By mid-June, they were up to the shade cloth. While I was on vacation for two weeks, something caused the longer of the two spikes to break (maybe a bird or cat?) but the other one kept on growing. When it hit the shade cloth, it started to grow in a circle, I would move it, and it created cork-screws. I finally got it going more horizontally by training it with some electrical wire. It finally grew out from under the patio cover, and headed toward the open sky. After escaping the shade cloth, we had a hot day, and the tip withered. So the growth stopped at about 12 feet. And the flowers finally started to develop.

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

Editor's Potting Bench (from Page 3)



**Cyrtorchilum falcipetalum inflorescence
(or part of it anyway)**

This is NOT a miniature plant ... it will never make it to a meeting (as long as it is in bloom, it isn't moving anywhere!) So, here I can share this beautiful member of the Oncidium alliance.



Cyrtorchilum falcipetalum flower

A note on my comments last month about potting *Laelia anceps*... If you have any that you want to pot or mount, start watching them NOW for signs of new roots. I have found that those that bloomed early, or aren't going to bloom this year, are already putting out new roots. For those, get them potted or mounted NOW. The calendar says "winter" but I am starting to see lots of root activity on some of the *Cattleya* tribe plants, among others. While it has been pretty wet and nasty, it has also been relatively warm (nights staying mostly above 50 degrees F.). This could change abruptly – when it rains, the cloud cover keeps the temperature up, but if it clears during the night, it could drop sharply, and cold-and-wet can be a deadly combination for new growth. You might try sprinkling some cinnamon around those new growths to help prevent rot. If the plants that are showing signs of activity can be protected from the rain, or moved to spot that is a little warmer, you may be able to prevent damage that way. If they have a chance to dry out before it gets cold, they will probably do fine.

I have a little *Trichopilia* that I grow in the greenhouse. It produces new inflorescences over a period of several months, but the flowers only last for a week or less, so it hasn't been in bloom for a meeting yet. Acquired from a plant table about a year and a half ago, it says "*Trichopilia elegans*" on the tag. But I can't find a species with that name, even as an obsolete synonym, so it is just "*Trichopilia* sp.". I do find the species name in some web references, but without photos I don't know if it even the same plant., since it's not an "official" name. Still, I am sufficiently intrigued to try to find an identification. The best collection of photos that I have found is the *Trichopilia* page on the website <[orchidcourt.com](http://www.orchidcourt.com)> <<http://www.orchidcourt.com/tricpics.html>> From the photos, my guess would be *Trpla. rostrata* or *Trpla. turialbae*, but possibly not—a characteristic of my plant is that the lateral sepals are partially fused, and I don't see that in either picture, though it is in the description of *rostrata* on IOSPE <<http://orchidspecies.com>>. I think I will have to live without a definitive ID, but the research is fun and enlightening. Perhaps I will eventually find a reference relating the name to a currently-accepted species (I have occasionally found such references on plant tags).

Roberta Fox, Editor

Calendar of Events

* See flyer at www.socalorchidspecies.com, select the [Events](#) link

- **Orange County Orchid Society Annual Auction***
Wednesday, January 19 at 7 PM
Yorba Linda Public Library
1800 Yorba Linda Blvd, Yorba Linda
www.ocos.net or (909)396-0172
- **Newport Harbor Orchid Society Orchid Expo and Sale***
January 28-30
Westminster Mall, Westminster
10 AM-9 PM Friday, 10 AM-7 PM Saturday, 11 AM-6 PM Sunday
www.nhos.org
- **Pacific Orchid Exposition***
March 4-6
Fort Mason Center, San Francisco
www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
- **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show**
March 11-13
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
www.sborchidshow.com
- **San Diego County Orchid Society Spring Show**
March 25-27
Scottish Rite Center, Mission Valley



Trichopilia sp.

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.

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| <p>Andy's Orchids Contact: Andy & Harry Phillips 734 Oceanview Ave Encinitas, CA 92024 760-436-4235, www.andysorchids.com</p> | <p>Cal-Orchid Contact: James Rose 1251 Orchid Dr Santa Barbara, CA 93111 805-967-1312, www.calorchid.com</p> | <p>Cal-West Tropical Supply Contact: Brad & Ryan Wicks 11614 Sterling Av Riverside, CA 92503 951-351-1880, www.calwesttropical.com</p> |
| <p>Casa de las Orquideas Contact: Loren Batchman 170 S Nardo Av Solana Bch, CA 92075 858-755-7572, www.orquideas.com</p> | <p>Ecuagenera Contact: Ivan Portilla PO Box 01011110 Cuenca, Ecuador www.ecuagenera.com</p> | <p>Marcel's Contact: Sonora Winward 5133 Kildee St. Long Beach, CA 90808 562-843-5951</p> |
| <p>Mariposa Garden Contact: Ron Hill 6664 South St Lakewood, CA 90713 562-920-5588, www.mariposagarden.net</p> | <p>Norman's Orchids Contact: Norman Fang 11039 Monte Vista Ave. Montclair, CA 91763 909-627-9515, www.orchids.com</p> | <p>Orange County Farm Supply Contact: Chris Roy 1826 W Chapman Av Orange, CA 92868 714-978-6500, www.ocfarmssupply.com</p> |

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| <p>OrchidWiz 145 NE 95th Street Miami Shores, FL 33138 305-758-3596, www.orchidwiz.com</p> | <p>Outdoor Images Contact: John Remlinger 6961 Livingston Dr Huntington Bch, CA 92648 714-841-0442, www.orchidbasket.com</p> | <p>Paphanatics Contact: Norito Hasegawa 159 Monterey Rd Orange, CA 92866 714-639-1387</p> |
| <p>rePotme 10608 Floral Park Lane North Potomac, MD 20878 301-315-2344, www.repotme.com</p> | <p>Rex Foster Orchids Contact: Billy Baker 2645 Massachusetts Ave Lemon Grove, CA 92945 619-466-0605, www.rexfosterorchids.com</p> | <p>Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Contact: Alice & Parry Gripp 1250 Orchid Dr Santa Barbara, CA 93111 800-553-3387, www.sborchid.com</p> |
| <p>Seed Engei Contact: Satomi Kasahara 1622 Moreno St Oceanside, CA 92054</p> | <p>Sunset Valley Orchids Contact: Fred Clarke 1255 Navel Pl Vista, CA 92083 760-639-6255, www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com</p> | <p>The Rowland Collection Contact: Pat Rowland 12446 S Georgian St Garden Grove, CA 92841 714-892-3502</p> |
| | <p>U.S. Orchid Supplies Contact: Ram Ramakrishnan 1621 S Rose Ave Oxnard, CA 93033 805-247-0086, www.saicoir.com</p> | |