



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 2nd Sunday of each month, at 2 PM

Volume 35, Issue 7

Placentia Library
411 E. Chapman Ave, Placentia
(Corner of Chapman and Kraemer)

July 2012

July 8 2012

How Did I Manage to Win 59 AOS Awards?

Howard Gunn

Howard Gunn will share with us details about his growing areas and the cultural techniques that enabled him to grow spectacular specimen orchid plants, nearly all species. Over the years, he has, indeed garnered 59 AOS awards, many (if not most) cultural. Cultural awards aren't only for big plants... miniatures can be spectacular too.

Howard has been growing orchids since 1965. He has two greenhouses, warm and intermediate. Living in Sacramento, outdoor growing isn't an option. In those greenhouses, he has around 1850 plants, of which around 1500 are species, mostly Paphiopedilums, Bulbophyllums, and Pleurothallids. He has sought orchids in their native habitats, visiting Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, and Brazil in the Americas. In Australia, he has notched 12 bushwalks on his walking stick.

Howard will be bringing some plants to sell. He always has wonderful and unusual things, so bring money! He will also provide a plant table.



Photo © Helen Michel

Barbosella dusenii 'Joan' CCM/AOS

Speaker's Choice

June speaker Karen Muir selected *Epidendrum parkinsonianum*, grown by Roberta Fox, as Speaker's Choice. She noted the presentation of the plant and flowers as factors in her decision.

This plant is mounted on cork. It was remounted about 4 years ago, as the oldest part of the plant had died, but the new growth attached well to the new mount. This plant is grown in open shade, outdoors, in an area where it receives daily watering all year, and in the summer is watered twice a day or even more.

These plants have a creeping habit, tending to grow off their mounts. The newer growths hang free, but the roots do tend to stay with the mount. Therefore, keeping the whole plant hydrated is important, especially at times of low humidity. It does not have noticeable pseudobulbs, storing water in its succulent leaves. However, it does have small ones, hidden by papery sheaths, hard to distinguish from the rhizome. If a piece breaks off, which happens easily because the free-hanging part is unsupported, just mount it and new roots will grow from a node where the pseudobulb at the base of the leaf meets the rhizome. The star-shaped flowers are pleas-



antly fragrant.

Epidendrum parkinsonianum is native to Mexico and Central America, occurring as far south as Panama. According to the Baker culture sheet in Orchidwiz, it grows in pine-oak forests, in an altitude range of 4900-7550 ft. (1500-2300 m). Plants from this altitude range can tolerate our cool winter night temperatures easily.

From the Member's Corner

We had 2 guests at Sunday's meeting, Peggy and Skip Berry from Yorba Linda. Welcome to you both and we'd love to see you again real soon. Thank you to Holly, Ginger and the unknown third person who brought snacks for the meeting. With the weather getting warmer, is there someone who would consider handling a small cooler with ice and some water for the meetings???? We all would appreciate the effort and the Society pays for the items, I already have the cooler, cups and napkins. Think about, please, e-mail me or call 714-991-8661, thank you.

Eddie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

Hello all!

Our guest speaker for this month was Karen Muir, and her topic was Maxillarias from Central to South America. Thank you, Karen, for sharing your extensive knowledge with us.

I can't believe it's June already – time to begin planning for our October 14th auction! Please let me know if you have plants you would like to donate. Also, we will need

volunteers for set-up, plant pick-up, runners, and take-down. Next month I will have a list of jobs available. If you would like to volunteer prior to that, please feel free to contact me by phone (714-535-2020) or email me at dallevol@yahoo.com. Please note "Orchid related" on subject line.

If there is a particular speaker you would like to hear from or an orchid related topic you would like discussed at a future meeting, please contact me or Barbara Olson. We

would be happy to hear your suggestions.

Orchid Digest Speakers Day at the Huntington Library will take place on July 7th. This will be my first year, and from what I hear, this is one engagement you don't want to miss!

See you next month!

Darrell Lovell, President

Editor's Potting Bench

Several members have indicated that they will be going to Orchid Digest Speakers Day on July 7. There may be carpooling opportunities—ask around! Our July meeting is the day following, so I think we may have some lively comparing of notes.

Do you have fewer orchids in bloom during the summer? Would you like to remedy the situation? If you purchase an orchid in bloom, the odds are good that it will bloom at the same time next year, and that is the problem—there are fewer opportunities to go shopping in the middle of summer. That just means that you need to take advantage of the opportunities that you DO have. Speakers Day is certainly one. The other is the Santa Barbara Orchid Fair and the open houses at Santa Barbara Orchid Estate and Cal Orchid, which happen the very next weekend. Then you have a little time to make your new acquisitions feel at home, before we get into fall show season.

This is prime *Laelia purpurata* season. Mine seem to be running almost a month later than they did last year—which just means that I'll be able to enjoy them



Laelia purpurata var. *vinicolor*

through July. There are so many wonderful color forms. I am easily tempted when I see one that I don't already have—there are lots of varieties in that category. And there is the adventure of the seedlings to be found on the SBOE \$7.50 table—the descriptions on the tags hint of great beauty to come. *Laelia lobata* is closely related to *L. purpurata*, and those are also blooming now, as well. For me, they are usually just a little later than (See: **Editor's Potting Bench**, Page 4)

Editor's Potting Bench , from Page 3

the purpuratas, blooming into July and August.

Sobralias are also a summer treat. *Sob. macrantha* and its hybrids (such as *Sob. veitchii* and *Sob. Mirabilis*) are just getting going. The flowers only last a few days, but they produce multiple flowers from the same inflorescence. These plants like to be kept fairly moist. I have had good success growing them in small coconut husk chips with a dash of perlite. Coconut doesn't break down as fast as bark, and when it does it stays open because it is so fibrous. Sobralias don't like their roots disturbed, so this medium that does not require frequent repotting is helpful. These don't usually come to meetings, because they get pretty big. If you do want to divide them, the root ball is quite impossible to untangle. I have found that one must just cut through the mass with a sharp, preferably serrated, knife. The new growths will



Laelia lobata var. *alba*

produce new roots, and in a year or two all will be forgiven.

A bit of a surprise was to find that *Elleanthus amethystinus*, a *Sobralia* relative, decided to bloom now too. I have had it for four years, and it has never bloomed this early, usually doing one batch of flowers in the early fall



Sobralia macrantha

(September/October), and then often another in January. I'm not complaining! Individual flowers are only about 1/4", (5 mm) so this one is easier to appreciate in a photograph.



Elleanthus amethystinus

Roberta Fox, Editor

Calendar of Events

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

- **Orchid Digest Speakers Day***
July 7, Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanic Gardens
(See notice for list of speakers)
- **Santa Barbara Orchid Fair***
July 13-15, 9 AM–5 PM Friday-Saturday, 10 AM–4 PM Sunday
Earl Warren Showground, Santa Barbara
 - Open House at Santa Barbara Orchid Estate
 - Open House at Cal Orchid (with barbecue lunch!)
- **Palomar Orchid Society Orchid Fair and Auction***
August 18, 2012 – Preview 11 AM, Auction 12 PM
The Pavilion at Lake San Marcos, 1105 La Bonita Dr, San Marcos
Info: www.palomarorchid.org
- **Fascination of Orchids Show and Sale***
September 29-30, 10 AM–5 PM
South Coast Plaza Village—Info: www.ochidshow.com

TENTH ORCHID DIGEST SPEAKERS' DAY!

“ORCHID SALAD DAYS”

Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California
Saturday, July 7, 2012
12:30 – 8 PM in Friends Hall

Lectures:

Marc Hachadourian - “Extreme Orchids

Jason Fischer - “Neofinetia, The Living Antique”

George Vasquez - “Phalaenopsis: Past, Present, and Future”

James Rose - “The Laelias of Mexico”

Dinner Speaker:

David Banks

“Bulbophyllum Species”

Vendors:

Cal Orchid - Orchids Ltd. - Sunset Valley Orchids - Zuma Canyon Orchids - Andy's Orchids

Tickets \$60 (\$75 at the door)

Contact: orchidsimone@aol.com or phone (562)431-1247

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 & 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>Diamond Orchids Contact: Peter Lin 834 Featherwood Dr Diamond Bar, CA 91765 909-396-0334, www.diamondorchids.com</p>	<p>Ecuagenera Contact: Ivan Portilla PO Box 01011110 Cuenca, Ecuador www.ecuagenera.com</p>
<p>Lico Orchids Contact: Lisa Humphries & Nico Goosens 309 Via Nancita Encinitas, CA 92024 760-942-4143</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.com</p>

<p>Orange County Farm Supply Contact: Chris Roy 1826 W Chapman Av Orange, CA 92868 714-978-6500, www.ocfarmssupply.com</p>	<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.com Orchid Mixes and Supplies 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>	