

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

Placentia Library

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

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June 9, 2013

Finding and Photographing Orchids of the Sierra Nevada

Curtis Gean

Curtis Gean is a semi-retired photographer/videographer current living in Sanger, CA (about 15 miles east of Fresno, on the way to Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks). His interest in Orchids developed in the '60's and quickly became an un-dying passion; this year marks his 43rd year of "Orchiditis". He became an accredited AOS judge in 1986, having served his "apprenticeship" commuting from Fresno to the San Francisco area even through the gas shortages of the '70's.

About the same time as his initial exposure to judging, he had the fortunate chance to meet James Sleznick, a Ranger with the National Park Service in Yosemite National Park. James told Curtis of his studying of the Native Orchid Species of Yosemite, and directed him to an article he had submitted to the AOS on the topic, which was later published in the AOS Bulletin.

Mr. Sleznick was gracious enough to draw him a rough map of the location of *Cypripedium montanum* that was found near Wawona Meadow. That was the beginning of Curtis' quest to see if he could find all of the 13 species that were reported to occur in the Park. Over the years he has spread out his searches to cover a much broader area of the Sierra Nevada, as well as several other mountainous areas in Utah, Arizona, and Colorado. He has found dozens of species all over the West.

Approximately 17 years ago he went to visit some friends that he had made in Colima, Mexico while on a video assign-



© Curtis Gean

Cephalanthera austinae—the Phantom Orchid

See Page 2: Curtis Gean

Curtis Gean, from Page 1

ment from the previous year. What was to be a 2 week visit turned into 2 months... he then realized that he had found a new home, and eventually stayed there for the better part of the next 10 years. He found that living among naturally-occurring tropical Orchids is something that can only be experienced. He began searching the areas surrounding his location, and was able to find quite a number of species within the States of Colima, Jalisco, and Michoacan on the Pacific Coast, as well as a bit inland.

He returned to the States in 2006, and now spends time between both locations... not as much as he would prefer in Mexico.

In the past few years, he has lead groups of interested people on field trips to search for Native Orchids in the area just south of Yosemite National Park, over Carson Pass, into the Crystal Basin of El Dorado Forest, and with Dick & Donna Murrill of Durham, CA up the Feather River Canyon in Plumas County. They have been able to find several groups of plants in the Wawona area of Yosemite that he had not visited for more than a dozen years. Last year, with a group from Napa, they were able to find a few species in the area north of the Napa Valley.



© Curtis Gean

Cypripedium montanum—the Mountain Ladyslipper

Speaker's Choice

Michael Sinn, our May speaker, selected the big, beautiful *Chysis bractescens*, grown by Nick Braemer, as his Speaker's Choice. The flowers have very heavy substance, and are nearly pure white, with yellow throat. The older flowers have a very slight blush of pink, with a little bit of red veining on the lip. Nick grows this plant in his warm greenhouse.

Chysis bractescens grows in a large area, from Mexico through Central America to Nicaragua. According to Charles Baker (in *Orchidwiz*), it is found mostly on the lower slopes of mountains facing the Gulf of Mexico or



See: **Speaker's Choice**, Page 3

From the Member's Corner

No new members, but a recurring guest that I think we should encourage to join, Marianne Keating's daughter Katie Woods. As a side note, Jack Keating is in a care facility; Marianne sees him daily and says he's doing okay.

Think about your fellow orchid enthusiasts and help Barbara, Darrell and the committee members about who you'd like to see as next year's Board and Officers. Next item - remember your divisions for the auction coming up in October and seriously consider helping out in any way you can.

Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

Hello everyone,

Michael Sinn, our speaker for the month of May was very interesting. His talk was on Cattleyas of Venezuela. I always enjoy seeing orchids in their natural habitat. Even though I try to give all my orchids the best care – watering, feeding, the right light, and a nice pot to grow in – they still die! When I see them in the wild on the side of a rocky cliff or in a tree with hundreds of flower spikes, it makes me wonder if I give them too much attention. I'm putting South America on my bucket list!

The Orchid Digest Speakers Day will be in June. I won't be able to attend this year's event as I have other commitments; however, I did go last year and really en-

joyed the experience. If you have the opportunity, I would urge you to attend.

Both Santa Barbara Orchid Estate and Cal Orchid will be having an open house July 12 – 14. Canaima Orchids in Carpinteria will also be having an open house at that time.

We will be having a board meeting immediately following our regular June meeting.

Please feel free to email me at dallevol@yahoo.com (subject: orchids) with any concerns, ideas or suggestions you may have.

See you at the meeting

Darrell Lovell, President

Speaker's Choice, from Page 2



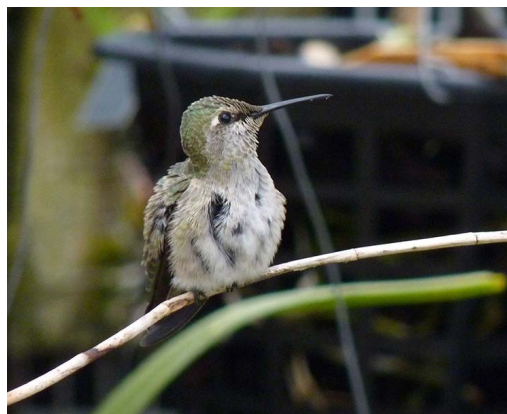
Caribbean, but has also been seen on Pacific-facing slopes in El Salvador. The plants grow as epiphytes in wet mountain forests, mostly below 2800 ft (850 m) but have been found somewhat higher in Nicaragua.

Chysis bractescens plant and inflorescence



Editor's Potting Bench

In the May newsletter, if you recall, I showed a photo of *Arpophyllum giganteum*. The flowers were pretty much spent by meeting time. However, while the plant was in flower, I got a bonus—that plant, in particular, was a hummingbird magnet. There are always hummingbirds in my yard, but in the first few weeks of May, I think there were more than usual. It is possible that there was a nest nearby. Usually, they are hard to photograph—by the time one gets the camera, and aims it, they are gone. I had this one little visitor—I think it must have



See Page 4, Editor's Potting Bench

Editor's Potting Bench, From Page 3

been quite young. It sat on a spent inflorescence for about 20 minutes preening its feathers, still a bit fluffy. Then it started to explore, and spent enough time hanging around that *Arpophyllum* that I was able to get some decent photos. It also checked out several other things that were in bloom—*Dendrobium*

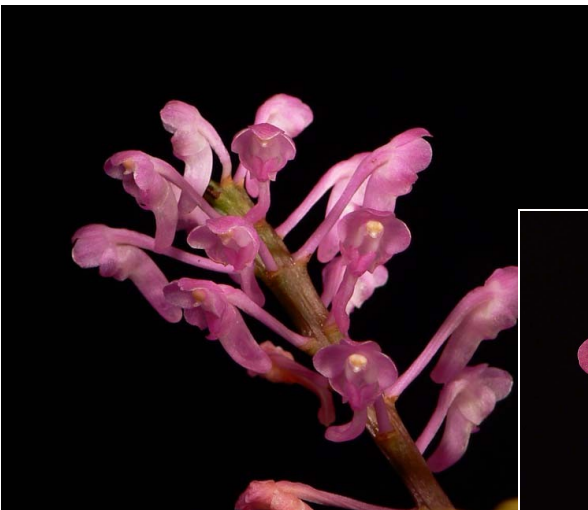


other story. I suspect that the other plants that attracted this little visitor did not self-pollinate so easily, but the *Aerides ringens* sure did. The nectary probably provided a tasty treat. This was a bit of opportunism—in nature it would never happen, since *Aerides ringens* is from India and Sri Lanka, and hummingbirds only exist in the Americas. (The *Dendrobium* and *Vanda* that interested this little bird are also Asian)

miyakei, *Vanda coerulescens*, and *Aerides ringens*. I didn't see any sign of pollination on the *Arpophyllum* when the flowers faded, but *Aerides ringens* was an-

Check out the Hummingbird page on <http://orchidcentral.org> for more photos. Also, take a look at <http://hummingbirds.net> for many more fascinating photos (especially the Gallery under Community)

Roberta Fox, Editor



Aerides ringens before and after hummingbird



Calendar of Events

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

- **Orchid Digest Speakers Day***
June 8 (See below for details)
- **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House***
July 12-14, Friday and Saturday 8 AM—5 PM, Sunday 9 AM—4 PM
Info: (800) 553-3387 or sboe@sborchid.com
Great open house specials, the biggest sale of the year!
- **Cal-Orchid Open House***
July 12-14 9 AM—4 PM
Info: (805) 967-1312 or calorchid@cox.net
Great specials, and the annual BBQ!
 - Guest vendors: Peruflora, Seed Engei, tentatively Tokyo Orchid Nursery
- **Canaima Orchids Open House**
July 12-14
3376 Foothill Rd, Greenhouse #10, Carpinteria
Info: 941-773-2940 or canaimaorchids@verizon.net
- **Newport Harbor Orchid Society Summer Exotic Plant and Orchid Festival***
August 9-11, Friday 10 AM—9 PM, Saturday 10 AM—7 PM, Sunday 11 AM—6 PM
Westminster Mall
Info: www.nhosinfo.org
- **Fascination of Orchids Show and Sale***
September 28-29, 10 AM—5 PM
South Coast Plaza Village
Info: www.ocorchidshow.com or phone 949-735-2930

Orchid Digest Speakers' Day

"WONDERFUL WORLD OF ORCHIDS"

Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California
Saturday, June 8, 2013 – 12:30 pm to 8:00 pm in the *Ahmanson Classroom*

Lecturers: [Thomas Mirenda](#) (Virginia), [Ron Kaufmann](#) (San Diego), [Paul Tuskes](#) (San Diego), [Mario Ferrusi](#) (Toronto)

Dinner Speaker: [Alec Pridgeon](#) (Florida)

Vendors: Cal-Orchid; Sunset Valley Orchids, Andy's Orchids, Canaima Orchids, Marsh Hollow Orchids

Tickets: \$60 (\$75 at door) for afternoon Seminars, Wine and Cheese Happy Hour;
Dinner and Evening Entertainment

Reserve online through June 5th.

<http://orchiddigest.org/orchid-digest-speaker-day-ad.html>

After June 5, 2013 contact

Simone Friend, 4349 Dogwood Ave., Seal Beach, CA 90740

Phone: (562) 431-1247 E-mail: orchidsimonef@aol.com

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: Nancy & Karl 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>Mr. Fertilizer Contact: Don Knipp 247 23rd St Costa Mesa, CA 92626 949-548-2678</p>	<p>Orange County Farm Supply Contact: Chris Roy 1826 W Chapman Av Orange, CA 92868 714-978-6500, www.ocfarmssupply.com</p>	<p>Orchids by Zeny Contact: Zeny Harrington 22920 Cajalco Rd Perris, CA 92570 951-236-0291</p>
<p>Orchids of Los Osos Contact: Michael Glikbarg 1614 Sage Ave. Los Osos, CA 93402 805-528-0181, www.orchidsoflososos.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>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>Sorella Orchids Contact: Nenita Sorella 100 Frenchys Cove #71 Camarillo, CA 93012 360-607-9342, www.sorellaorchids.com</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>	