



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

Kraemer Memorial Park

Backs Community Building, Main Room

201 N. Bradford Ave., Placentia

(Chapman and Bradford, parking off Bradford)

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August 2015

August 9, 2015

Orchids at the Huntington

Brandon Tam

Brandon has been growing orchids since the age of 7, starting with a white flowering Cymbidium his grandmother gave to him. She has been the source of his inspiration to further his studies within the botanical world and pursue a career within that field. She would bring him to their local nursery where she would let him pick a plant each time they went. Over time, not only did his orchid collection grow, but his knowledge in that field did as well. At the age of 14, he began volunteering at The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens where he helped out among the different areas of the institution. From tending to the plants of the Conservatory to database entry of pressed specimens in the Herbarium, there were always plenty of opportunities to quench his thirst for plant knowledge. When Brandon turned 16, he graduated from high school and began attending college. During the next 4 years, Brandon had earned his Bachelor of Science in Plant Science at the California State University, Pomona by the age of 21. A few months after graduating high school at the age of 16, the Director of the Botanical Gardens at The Huntington offered Brandon an internship within the Orchid Department to reorganize and perpetuate the collection. Brandon has been with the institution over 8 years in total, but 5 and a half years with the Orchid Collection specifically. Currently at the age of 22, Brandon is The Orchid Collection Specialist focusing mostly in Paphiopedilums since a large chunk of the collection at The Huntington consists of that specific genus. Overseeing one of the



**See: Brandon
Tam, Page 2**

Brandon Tam, from Page 1

United States largest Orchid Collection of 16,000 plants is no easy task but Brandon manages to get it done. From hybridizing new plants to the propagation of rare and endangered species, it is a high priority for The Huntington to further the advancements of plants within the Orchid world. At the moment, Brandon is working on the conservation aspect of the collection while acquiring and adding more rare orchids to The Huntington's fast growing collection. He stays active in the orchid world by being a member of 7 different or-

chid societies located all over Southern California while having the experience of being on the Board of Directors at The San Gabriel Valley Orchid Society. Brandon's participation in the orchid world is very limited at the moment due to his busy schedule working full time but plans on getting more involved as his schedule becomes clearer. Down the road, he plans to travel the world orchid-hunting on behalf of The Huntington Botanical Gardens. Along with being The Orchid Collection Specialist, he is also the keeper of the *Amorphophallus titanum* collection, better known as the Corpse Flower.

Speaker's Choice

July Speaker Don Goss selected *Paphiopedilum victoria-regina*, grown by Richard Hess, as his Speaker's Choice. Richard says that this is his favorite Paph. It blooms sequentially over a period of many months. This plant is native to Sumatra, and prefers to be grown on the warm side.

Don took this photograph at the end of the meeting, elbows propped on the table, using the inexpensive set-up that he demonstrated in his talk. With the "curfew" to vacate the room looming, he made one shot, adjusted the exposure compensation slightly, took another, and packed up. He wants to emphasize the message that it doesn't need to be complicated or laborious to take a photo (unless you want it to be).



Paphiopedilum victoria-regina

© Don Goss

From the Member's Corner

Please think AUCTION. Volunteers will be needed for all sorts of positions and think about divisions of your plants. Also used, but clean pots, that you're no longer using and other orchid related items.

Let's welcome our newest member Edie Loose from Yorba Linda. Thank you and welcome for becoming part of our orchid loving family. See you in August at the meeting. Members of the Board, we will have a Board meeting, the last one before the auction.

Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

Hello everyone,

I hope you all enjoyed the presentation of Don Goss (Improving Your Floral Photography) at our July meeting. I for one love to take pictures of my orchids, and I've been trying out some of the techniques I learned. I don't think I'm quite ready to try it out in the field yet, but I'm getting there!

Though I'm not a big fan of hot humid weather, I was thrilled to get so much rain this past weekend. I'm happy to report that all my rain barrels are now full! This should make all my mounts and Masdevallias very

happy! If you collect rain water, remember to keep those barrels tightly covered to avoid mosquito infestations!

I will be on vacation for a week in August and will miss the meeting. Edie will be seeking volunteers to assist with our annual auction in October. If you are able to help, we would greatly appreciate it. Remember, this is the main source of revenue for our society. See you all in September!

Darrell Lovell, President

Editor's Potting Bench

I am sorry that I had to miss Don's talk. I was traveling in eastern Canada, far from my orchids. Of course, there were those that perversely bloomed and finished in my absence. I could console myself with the photos that I have taken of prior blooms. Of particular note were several Stanhopeas. I had hoped that one spike, at least, would hold off until I got home, but I'll just have to wait until next year. I do think that the heat accelerated the blooming cycle of many plants. Fortunately, most of mine that bloomed in my absence did linger enough that I got to enjoy them at least for a few days.

Fascination of Orchids is still about a month and a half in the future, but there are several international vendors, who will accept pre-orders. If the vendor list is not up on www.ocorchidshow.com when you receive this, it will be there shortly thereafter. I do know that Ecuagenera needs pre-orders by Sept. 9, so if there is something special that you want Ivan to bring, let them know.

I did get to see *Anguloa clowesii*, a plant that I have had for about 9 years, that bloomed for the first time for me. (Orchids teach patience) Anguloas don't open fully, and so one has to look carefully to appreciate their full floral beauty. But this one opened enough, and at an almost horizontal angle, so that I got a good glimpse of the lip, which is hinged and flips up or down depending on the angle of the flower. I can see it flipping up to slam an insect into position for pollination.

This has been a fantastic summer for Sobralias. Sobralia

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



Lip open

Anguloa clowesii
with the mobile
lip.



Lip closed

Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3



Stanhopea nigroviolacea bloomed without me <sigh>

xantholeuca has been used in quite a bit of hybridizing with Sob. macrantha (Sob. Veitchii, Sob. Mirabilis, Sob. Colmaniae) . It may “improve” some characteristics, but to my eye, the species is the most attractive of the lot, with the most intense color. Like other Sobralias, the individual flowers don’t last long, but the plant produces flowers sequentially, staying in bloom for a month or more. Also, it seems to be a fairly compact plant (relative to some of its cousins).



Sobralia xantholeuca

One more little treat—Masdevallia rex. This one seems to prefer to grow on the warm side. I put in the greenhouse when I got it about a year ago, and this is how it rewarded me. It is even more interesting in the photo than when just looking at it, since the color in the throat actually comes from dark orange hairs.



Masdevallia rex

If you have Pterostylis curta (I have been donating these to auctions, etc. for several years, they multiply like crazy, so lots of people have them) it’s time to repot. They have been ignored, and sleeping, for a couple of months, but it’s time to wake them up. Take the little tubers (in size anywhere from a BB to a marble) and put them in any well-drained terrestrial mix, about 1” deep. Start watering lightly until sprouts appear in 4-6 weeks, then increase watering.

Roberta Fox, Editor



Pterostylis curta tubers out of their old mix, ready to plant

Calendar of Events * See flyer at www.socalorchidspecies.com, select the Events link

- Newport Harbor Summer Exotic Plant and Orchid Festival***
 August 8-9; Friday 10 AM—9 PM, Saturday 10 AM-7 PM, Sunday 11 AM—6 PM
 Westminster Mall, Westminster
 Info: www.nhosinfo.org
- South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale**
 September 19-20; Sales Sat. 9-5, Sun 9-4, Show Sat 11-5 and Sun 9-4
 South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes
 Admission \$9 Adults, \$6 Seniors, Free parking
 Info: www.southbayorchidsociety.com
- Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale***
 September 26-27, 2015, 10 AM—5 PM
 South Coast Plaza Village, 1631 W Sunflower, Santa Ana
 (Corner of Sunflower and Bear)
 Info: www.ocorchidshow.com
- Andy's Orchids Open House**
 October 2-4, 2015 10 AM—4 PM
 734 Ocean View Ave, Encinitas
 Info: www.andysorchids.com
- San Diego International Orchid Fair**
 October 3-4; Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
 San Diego Botanic Garden,
 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas
 Info: <http://www.sdbgarden.org/orchid.htm>
- The Huntington Botanical Gardens First Annual International Orchid Show and Sale**
 October 16-18
 The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino



**Fascination of Orchids
Show and Sale**

Saturday, September 26 & Sunday, September 27, 2015
 10 am to 5 pm — South Coast Plaza Village
 1631 West Sunflower
 (Corner of Sunflower & Bear)
 Santa Ana, CA 92704

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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 760-436-4235, info@andysorchids.com www.andysorchids.com</p>	<p>Asbell Orchids Contact: Bob & Dan Asbell 805-550-5484</p>	<p>Blossom Supplies Contact: Gordon Hong 626-975-5293, blossomplanting@aol.com www.blossomproducts.com</p>
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<p>Everything Orchids Contact: Linda Gardner (619)252-1294, everythingorchids@cox.net www.everythingorchids.biz</p>	<p>Floralia Contact: Steve Champlin info@floralia.com.br www.floralia.com.br/index.html</p>	<p>Gold Country Orchids Contact: Alan Koch 916-645-8600, gcorchids@aol.com www.goldcountryorchids.com</p>
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