



# *Southern California Orchid Species Society*

[www.socalorchidspecies.com](http://www.socalorchidspecies.com)

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Roberta Fox

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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

Whitten Community Center

900 S. Melrose , Placentia

(until further notice )

Volume 40 Issue 2

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## **Regular Meeting Location—Whitten Center**

***February 12, 2017***

### **World Orchid Conference: Johannesburg, South Africa**

***Phyllis Prestia***

Phyllis S. Prestia, Ed.D. is a retired educator and Middle School Principal. Originally from New Jersey, she moved to California with her husband to retire in the sunny, San Diego area and grow orchids. Her collection includes a variety of species and hybrids across several genera grown both in a small greenhouse and three outdoor growing areas under shade cloth.

In her orchid life she has been the President of the San Diego County Cymbidium Society and currently serves as the Vice President of the Cymbidium Society of America, as well as keeping active in several Southern California orchid societies. She is currently participating in the orchid judge training programs of both the American Orchid Society and Cymbidium Society of America.

This talk is "Part Two" of Phyllis' Africa trip. After visiting Madagascar (the topic of her talk last year) she went on to Johannesburg, South Africa to attend the World Orchid Congress. She also participated in judging. She will share with us her photographs of the orchids of Africa, and the displays and awarded orchids that she saw at the WOC.



## Speaker's Choice

January speaker Peter Lin selected *Microcoelia gilpinae*, grown by Scott McGregor, as his Speaker's Choice plant because of its rarity and uniqueness. This is a leafless orchid with tiny, brilliant orange flowers. Scott particularly was interested in this species since most *Microcoelias* are white. Scott grows this outside, as he does with all of his plants. Scott, thanks for the close-up photo.

*Microcoelia gilpinae* is endemic to Madagascar.

According to the Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia ([www.orchidspecies.com](http://www.orchidspecies.com)), it grows in eastern Madagascar in mossy rain forests on twigs and small branches, at elevations from 330 ft (100 m) to 5900 ft (1800 m). This wide elevation range indicates that it can thrive in a wide range of temperatures. When the roots are wet, they are green (as with essentially all epiphytic orchids), showing the chlorophyll that conducts photosynthesis for the plant, here in the complete absence of leaves.

*Microcoelia gilpinae*





## President's Message

Drought, Rain, Wind, Heat, Cold...

So if you had to pick, what weather is best for your orchids? If you are an outdoor grower, like me, it is really hard to pick. For an area that is thought of as a mild Mediterranean climate, the extremes are rather stressful on my orchids and me. I guess I am lucky that so far more have not died. (I am attributing that to my extensive repotting efforts.) When the winds came up I thought they would help to dry out waterlogged plants, except the temperature took an extreme dip. Just when I think I have plants to bring to meetings, botrytis flower fungus attacks. I hate to think the prior drought conditions were easier on my outdoor growing conditions.

Please talk about your growing conditions when talking about your member show and tell plant table plants.

Again, I urge you to consider a New Year's resolution to help increase our membership by inviting friends to be your guest at our meetings. We have a great group of volunteers working hard to keep our meetings interesting and informative. We all have many stories to share about our most interesting hobby of growing orchids!

See you in February!

*Dana Seelig, President*

## Editor's Potting Bench

Shade cloth can do a lot more than reduce the intensity of sunbeams. I had about 5 minutes of dumping hail, and the shade cloth did nicely in preventing the shredding of a lot of blooming *Laelia anceps* and *Cymbidiums*. This is what the area looked like. That white stuff in the shade cloth is hailstones... took about 3 hours to finally melt away!



I am going to be watching to see if some of the *Pleurothallis* and other plants that are sensitive to salts perk up with the dousing of rain washing away years of city water. If so, that might accelerate my timetable for a RO system. I did end up with some botrytis, but not too

bad. I did bring a few blooming plants into the house, that would have otherwise stayed outside because of size, to save the flowers. Fortunately the cloud cover kept temperatures up through nights pretty well. It's when it rains and then the clouds clear permitting temperatures to plummet during the night that it is most dangerous.

Scott and I bought some European and Australian terrestrials last fall, and we both have been seeing a little action from them. Here is *Ophrys ariadnae*. If you were a bee, wouldn't you be fascinated? Scott sent me a photo of his *Ophrys sphegodes*—and a bee does seem to be interested. (OK, honey bees are females, so maybe and maybe not...but great photo...)



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

## Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3



@Scott McGregor



**Ophrys sphegodes**  
and little buddy

Some other terrestrials are waking up as well. Old reliable *Pterostylis curta* is starting to put on a terrific show. This one you're seen, and will probably make it to the meeting. Another one, that may not, is *Bonatea speciosa*. My plant did well last year, and I put in a 3-gallon pot where it produced multiple growths, so not very portable. I think after it blooms it's going to get divided. Growths die back, and may produce a non-blooming growth later in the year, die back and then do the blooming growth right about now.

**Maxillaria lepidota**



Some of the little Pleurothallids are better appreciated in photos. *Scaphosepalum gibberosum* tends to pop out one bird-like flower at a time sequentially on an inflorescence, and the flowers are not particularly long-lived

so it requires lucky timing to be in bloom for a meeting though a given spike may keep going for months. So, enjoy it here.



**Bonatea speciosa**

*Maxillaria lepidota* is putting on a floriferous show. Unfortunately, it probably won't last to the meeting, so here it is. It grows quite happily outside on my patio.



**Scaphosepalum gibberosum**

Roberta Fox, Editor

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

- **San Diego Cymbidium Society Annual Auction\***  
February 4, 2017; 11 AM Preview, 12 PM Auction  
Lake San Marcos—Lake Pavilion Room, 1105 La Bonita Dr, San Marcos
  - **Newport Harbor Orchid Society Orchid Expo and Sale\***  
February 10-12, 2017; Friday 10 AM—9 PM, Saturday 10 AM—7 PM, Sunday 11 AM—6 PM  
Westminster Mall, Westminster  
Info: [www.nhosinfo.org/orchidshow](http://www.nhosinfo.org/orchidshow)
  - **Newport Harbor Orchid Society Annual Auction**  
February 21, 2017: 7 PM  
Costa Mesa Senior Center, 695 W. 19th St, Costa Mesa  
Info: [www.nhosinfo.org](http://www.nhosinfo.org)
  - **Pacific Orchid and Garden Exposition\***  
February 24—26, 2017; Friday and Saturday 9 AM—6 PM, Sunday 10 AM—5 PM  
San Francisco County Fair Building, Hall of Flowers, 1199 9th Av., San Francisco — *NEW LOCATION!*  
Info: [www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org)
  - **Long Beach Amateurs Annual Auction\***  
March 13, 2017; 6 PM Preview, 6:30PM Auction begins  
St. Gregory's Episcopal Church Hall, 6201 E. Willow, Long Beach  
Info: [www.lbaos.com](http://www.lbaos.com), [info@lbaos.com](mailto:info@lbaos.com), 562-972-0450
  - **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show**  
March 15-17, 2017; 9 AM—5 PM  
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara  
Info: [www.sborchidshow.com](http://www.sborchidshow.com)
    - Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House  
Fri.—Sat. 8 AM—5 M, Sun. 9 AM—5 PM, 1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara, Info: [www.sborchid.com](http://www.sborchid.com)
    - Cal-Orchid Open House, 1251 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara, Info: [www.calorchid.com](http://www.calorchid.com)
  - **San Diego County Orchid Society Show and Sale\***  
March 24-26, 2017; Friday 3—6 PM, Saturday 9 AM—6 PM, Sunday 10 AM—4 PM  
Scottish Rite Event Center, Mission Valley, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego  
Info: [www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com) or (619) 543-9078
  - **Cool Growing Orchid Society Annual Auction**  
April 12, 2017; 6:30 PM Registration and Preview, 7 PM Auction Begins  
11270 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove  
Info: [coolgrowingorchids.com](http://coolgrowingorchids.com)
  - **South Bay Orchid Society First Annual Auction\***  
April 21, 2017; 6:30 PM Preview, 7 PM auction begins  
South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd. Palos Verdes Peninsula  
Info: [www.southbayorchidsociety.com](http://www.southbayorchidsociety.com)
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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 Phillips 760-436-4235 info@andysorchids.com www.andysorchids.com</p>	<p>Aroma Orchids of Rowland Heights Contact: Michelle Liu 626-839-3888 aromaorchids@gmail.com</p>	<p>Asbell Orchids Contact: Bob &amp; Dan Asbell 805-550-5484</p>
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