

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 (Effective July 2017)
Backs Community Building, Main Room
201 N. Bradford Ave., Placentia
(Chapman and Bradford, parking off Bradford)

Volume 40 Issue 6

June 2017

June 11, 2017
2 PM

Growing-Area Visit at the Home of Scott McGregor

Scott told us about how he grows his European and Australian terrestrial orchids at the April meeting, and now we will have an opportunity to see where he grows them. We'll also be able to see the area where he grows the wonderful and unusual epiphytic orchids that he brings in to the Show and Tell table each month. For those with limited growing space, be prepared to take notes! Scott has managed to provide an outdoor environment that works well for a wide range of orchids in a very compact area. We'll convene at the home of Scott McGregor, enjoy wandering around his growing area (we'll have to take turns, only a few can fit in there at one time), see what's blooming, and also share your own blooming species orchids in an extended show-and-tell session. So YOU are also an important part of this informal get-together... bring your blooming plants and share information about how you grow them. Also, if you have plants to offer in Member Plant Sales or Silent Auction there will be a space available for those.

We didn't have a formal "speaker's choice" at the last meeting, since we didn't have a speaker. However, I (your editor) decided to exercise both host and editor prerogatives, and selected *Serapias lingua*, brought by Scott McGregor. This is the last of his terrestrials to bloom. We were for-



Serapias lingua

See: *Serapias lingua*, Page 2

Serapias lingua, from Page 1

tunate to see it for the May meeting, since at this writing it has already faded and will be well into dormancy by the time we get to Scott's home. As with his other terrestrials, this species is grown in the predominantly inorganic mix that he described in his talk. It needs to dry through the summer, Watering begins in early fall, and is increased as the leaves appear.

Serapias lingua grows in north Africa, Portugal, Spain, France, Greece, Yugoslavia, Turkey, and many of the Mediterranean islands. The climate of all of these Mediterranean lands is very similar to our own. Clearly, this plant feels right at home in southern California.

Serapias lingua,
another view



President's Message

At some point we had a discussion about how she grows what Ed Wise calls "Typhoid Mary", **Cattleya Portia 'Cannizaro'**. The original FCC/AOS plant was virused, and all of its decendents also contain virus, since the techniques for producing virus-free mericlones from virused stock were not known at the time that this cultivar was propagated.

Veitch registered this hybrid as early as 1897. It is a primary cross between the species *Cattleya bowringiana* and *Cattleya labiata*.

A lot of what I call "mainstream growers" will tell you to throw away any plants with a virus. The thing I like about growers, like Roberta, is the passion to figure

out how these plants grow and the steps necessary to enjoy them. I just have a problem throwing out a 120-year-old cross, such as this beautiful Cattleya. Roberta pointed out that the plant shows no signs of virus. No color break on the flowers or other visible problem. So when those growers that tell you they can look at an orchid plant and determine if it has a virus, you can laugh a little inside. In this case, knowledge is power. Aware of its issues, It is possible to isolate it from the rest of the orchids, handle with good hygiene practices, and enjoy the copious blooms.

Keep trying to grow orchids that may frustrate you, you may unlock the key.

See you in June!

Dana Seelig, President



MEETING LOCATION CHANGES

As noted on Page 1, we will meet in June at the home of Scott McGregor. Address and directions will be included with your newsletter.

In July, we will finally return to our regular home, the Backs Building in Kraemer Memorial Park, 201 N. Bradford, Placentia (Chapman and Bradford, parking off Bradford) There will be a reminder in the July newsletter.

From the Member's Corner

For those who did not attend, the May meeting at Roberta Fox's home was enjoyed by a hearty few. There was the opportunity to see all of Roberta's collection (both orchids and art) and to hear Scott McGregor speak about the orchids he had brought for show-and-tell. Jan Hennessey had some plants for sale so there was something for everyone. We even had 2 guests; Pat Weber, who has visited us before was brought by Erika Jelovsek and Ruth Juergens came with Mary Rupp. Since this was such a pleasant change, I am looking forward to the June meeting at Scott McGregor's home in June. Hope to see you there & bring friends!

Thanks, *Holly Hillman*

Editor's Potting Bench

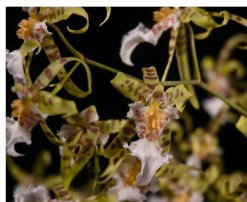
I enjoyed hosting the May meeting, and hope that all who attended enjoyed wandering around my back yard. I'm certainly looking forward to visiting Scott McGregor's place this month. The other big event in June is Orchid Digest Speakers' Day. This is an annual opportunity to wallow in orchids for a lovely afternoon and evening of informative talks, good shopping, and excellent eating, as well as enjoying the charms of the Huntington grounds and galleries. There's still time to sign up at www.orchiddigest.org.

A few plants that were teasing me by staying in bud when they should have bloomed for the May visit have finally performed. These pages give a chance for a "do over" - you get to see them in bloom after all. Here is *Epidendrum falcatum*. It's a close relative of *Epi. parkinsonianum*, plant a bit more compact and flowers smaller but more symmetrical. It is a difficult plant to transport to meetings—the new growths break off very easily. I suspect that is one of the ways the plant propagates in nature, since those broken-off growths will sometimes root. However, the process is slow... I have decided that is one that needs to stay in place and be left alone to grow.

Oncidium phymatochilum finally burst into bloom. It sat as a multi-branched cloud of buds for several months.



Epidendrum falcatum



Oncidium phymatochilum

See: Editor's Potting Bench, Page 4

Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3

This one I obtained from the Society Sales table at the last San Francisco show. The spike was just starting, so it was a bit of a leap of faith. It has turned out to be lovely. Flowers have narrow segments and reflexed petals, giving a very lacy appearance to the inflorescence, It was originally classed as an *Odontoglossum*, and it really does look more like an *Odont* than the classic "dancing lady" orchids.

perlite. (Having some bark seems to be better than straight inorganic media, though.)

Laelia purpurata are starting to pop. For me, the first to bloom seems to be the roxo-violeta form. This is a semi-alba that is very similar to the *Schusteriana* form, and may be the same thing. Semi-alba covers the range. Color forms don't have any botanical standing, and so differently-named forms are not necessarily really different.



Psychopsis papilio



Psychopsis papilio is not portable, with its 4' spikes. A given inflorescence can bloom on and off for several years. This species is a classic example of a very important lesson—do not be in a hurry to cut anything! Sometimes the spikes die at the tip after many bloomings, but then produce a branch and keep on going. If the tip of the spike is light brown, skinny, and brittle, it can be trimmed, but don't cut anything that isn't dry and crispy. In general, I am inclined to leave anything that is green, even if I know it isn't going to bloom again, since one of the efficient strategies of many orchids is to re-absorb the nutrients from spent spikes and pseudobulbs. It's one of the ways that orchids have evolved to not need a lot of fertilizer to support growth. They are excellent recyclers. This species doesn't like its roots disturbed, so an ideal mix is one that won't break down readily, such as *Orchiata* bark and



Laelia purpurata f. roxo-violeta

One more, a little surprise... I hadn't noticed the buds, which tend to blend in with the leaves on this diminutive plant, and suddenly *Oncidium (Gomesa) longipes* was in bloom, with a nice group of lightly-fragrant flowers.



Roberta Fox, Editor

Oncidium (Gomesa) longipes

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

- **Orchid Digest Speakers' Day**
June 10, 2017; 12 PM–8 PM
Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens. San Marino
Info and reservations: www.orchiddigest.org, or Simone Friend at simonef@orchiddigest.org or (562) 431-1247
- **Sunset Valley Orchids Summer Open House***
July 1; 9 AM–5 PM
1255 Navel Place, Vista
Info: www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com or (760)310-0778
 - Fantastic discounts on all stock. Authentic handmade “street tacos” from 11 AM–2 PM
Print and bring flier for a free raffle ticket
- **Andy's Orchids Summer Open House***
July 7–9; 10 AM–4 PM
734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas
Info: www.andysorchids.com
 - Print and bring flier for a free plant with qualifying purchase
- **San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists Annual Auction***
June 15; Preview and Registration 6 PM, 7 PM Auction begins
Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia
Info: www.sgvoh.org
- **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House**
July 14-16; Friday and Saturday 8 AM–5 PM, Sunday 9 AM–4 PM
1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara
Info: sborchid.com
- **Cal Orchid Open House**
July 14-16
1251 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara
Info: calorchid.com
- **Newport Harbor Orchid Society Exotic Plant and Orchid Festival**
July 28-30; Saturday and Sunday 10 AM–9 PM, Sunday 11 AM–6 PM
Westminster Mall, Westminster
Info: www.nhosinfo.org
- **Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale***
September 23-24, 2017
South Coast Plaza Village, 1621 W. Sunflower, Santa Ana

Fifteenth Orchid Digest Speakers Day

Saturday, June 10, 2017
12:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Ahmanson Classroom, Botanical Building
Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens
San Marino, CA

ORCHIDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Featuring

Cindy Hill “My Top Ten Favorite Species Orchids and How I Grow Them”

Alan Koch “Sarcophilus: Past, Present and a New Direction”

Harold Koopowitz “Orchids in Northern Thailand”

Dennis Wigham “Native Orchids: Ecology and Conservation”

Ernest Hetherington Distinguished Lecture:

Ken Cameron: “Vanilla, Orchid Evolution, & the Genomic Revolution”

Scheduled Vendors include: Andy's Orchids, Cal Orchid, Gold Country Orchids, and Sunset Valley Orchids

Tickets: \$65 (\$80 at the door) for afternoon seminars, live auction,
wine and cheese happy hour, dinner and evening entertainment.

Reservations online at www.orchiddigest.org

or contact Simone Friend at simonef@orchiddigest.org or call (562) 431-1247. When contacting by email, please include phone number, email address and mailing address. Space is limited so don't wait to buy your ticket!

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 & Dan Asbell 805-550-5484</p>
<p>Blossom Supplies Contact: Gordon Hong 626-542-3915</p>	<p>Cal-Orchid Contact: James Rose 805-967-1312, calorchid@cox.net www.calorchid.com</p>	<p>Casa de las Orquideas Contact: Nancy Batchman 858-755-7572, casa@orquideas.com www.orquideas.com</p>
<p>Diamond Orchids Contact: Peter Lin 909-396-0334, mini-catt99@yahoo.com www.diamondorchids.com</p>	<p>Ecuagenera Contact: Ivan Portilla info@ecuagenera.com www.ecuagenera.com</p>	<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>	<p>Hatfield Orchids Contact: George Hatfield 805-901-0340, www.hatfieldorchids.com</p>
<p>Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens Contact: Brandon Tam btam@huntington.org www.http://huntington.org</p>	<p>Lico Orchids Contact: Lisa Humphries & Nico Goossens 760-942-4143, lico_orchids@aol.com</p>	<p>Mr. Fertilizer Contact: Don Knipp 949 -548-2678,</p>
<p>Orchid Design Contact: Angelic Nguyen 408-947-0486 angelic@orchidesign.com www.orchidesign.com</p>	<p>Orchids of Los Osos Contact: Michael Glikbarg (805) 528-0181, orchidland@aol.com www.orchidsoflososos.com</p>	<p>Outdoor Images Contact: John Remlinger 714-841-0442, www.orchidbasket.com</p>
<p>Phrao Orchids Nursery Contact: Katai phraoorchidsnursery@gmail.com www.facebook.com/Nursery.at.Phrao</p>	<p>Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Contact: Alice & Parry Gripp 800-553-3387, sboc@sborchid.com www.sborchid.com</p>	<p>Seed Engei Contact: Satomi Kasahara seed_engei@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Sorella Orchids Contact: Nenita Sorella 360-607-9342, www.sorellaorchids.com</p>	<p>Sunset Valley Orchids Contact: Fred Clarke 760-639-6255, fred.clarke@att.net www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com</p>	<p>Tayama Greenhouses, Inc Contact: Mike Kimura tayama.mike@gmail.com www.tayama.com</p>
	<p>Wise Orchids Contact: Ed Wise 714-524-1730;orchides@pacbell.net</p>	