



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
Whitten Community Center
900 S. Melrose , Placentia
(until further notice except June)

Volume 39 Issue 6

June 2016

Another Meeting Location Change June Only

Aguirre Community Building, 505 N. Jefferson St, Placentia
*Small building just before Jefferson curves into E. Garten Dr.
Parking adjacent, entrance after the curve.*

Map on Page 4

June 12, 2016

Life on the Rocks: The World of Rupicolous Orchids

Ron Kaufmann

Our speaker in June will be Ron Kaufmann, chair of the San Diego County Orchid Society Conservation Committee and a founding director of the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Ron has been growing orchids for two decades and has travelled extensively to view orchids in the wild in Asia and South America, particularly Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia. His talk will explore the habits and habitats of orchids that grow on rocks, with a focus on Brazil and species that grow well outdoors in coastal southern California.



Laelia mixta

Ron is a marine biologist by training, and his scientific work includes studies of Antarctic and deep-sea ecosystems as well as marine communities in nearshore habitats around San Diego. His orchid collection began with a reedstem Epidendrum and progressed to a diverse assemblage that contains mostly species orchids. He has a long-standing interest in conservation and has been a member of the SDCOS Conservation Committee for more than 15 years and

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Ron Kaufmann, from Page 1

chair since 2004. Since 1991, the Conservation Committee has awarded more than \$185,000 to support projects in 21 different countries. Ron also helped to found the Orchid Conservation Alliance and serves on the boards of the OCA, EcoMinga Foundation (a conservation foundation based in Ecuador) and Orchid Digest.

Ron grows most of his orchids in a 36 x 24 foot greenhouse and several outdoor shade-covered areas around his house in San Diego. Friends have suggested that he build a second, much larger greenhouse to accommodate the many plants that often make walking through his greenhouse an exercise requiring extensive training in gymnastics and yoga to avoid serious injury. Thus far, this recommendation hasn't been followed, although the temptation is always there.

Speaker's Choice

May discussion leader (and President) Dana Seelig selected *Rhyncholaelia digbyana*, grown by Tim Roby, as his Speaker's Choice. Tim grows this outside (as he does all or most of his plants) Dana, thanks for the photos.

This species is native to southern Mexico into Central America,



along the Caribbean coast. According to Charles Baker in [Orchidwiz](#), it grows primarily in hot, humid lowlands. However, it adapts readily to our cool winter nights. It grows best mounted or in baskets, needing to dry out well between waterings. When weather is cold, it does benefit from being kept on the dry side, but it is clearly quite forgiving. It is fragrant, especially in the evening, with a wonderful lemony aroma. The frilly lip makes it very attractive to hybridizers, and it is in the background of many of the big, frilly *Cattleya* hybrids. At the time of registration it was considered *Brassavola*, so it is the "B" of *Blc.* hybrids.



From the Member's Corner

If you didn't make it last month, you missed a very nice meeting discussing 'what's wrong with my plant', led by Dana Seelig. Great job, thanks, Dana. Our guest came by way of Darrell Lovell, who called Darrell, and found out about our meeting. Let's welcome Michael Knoff, who says he'll be back because he has more questions and wants to know more.

We have a new "temporary" temporary meeting location for June only, the Aguirre Community building, listed by the city as 505 N. Jefferson St., Placentia. However, the building where we will be meeting is farther up Jefferson, just as it curves to the left and becomes Garten Dr. After June, we'll be meeting at the Whitten Center on Melrose until further notice. Construction at the Backs Building in Kraemer Memorial Part hasn't even begun, and the earliest that it could be ready would be October. Stay tuned.

See you in June at our "temporary" temporary meeting location.

Thank you,
Edie Gulrich, Membership Secretary

President's Message

Everyone who did not attend the meeting on Mothers' Day missed a very educational and interactive meeting.

I looked in my back yard this weekend and I have several Laelias in bloom, one with almost 50 blooms! Have you ever got to the point where if you had to choose you could pick one species to grow? For me it is Laelia (reclassified as Cattleya) and more specific, Laelia tenebrosa. Rather than tell about their culture, look at the culture sheet on the website provided by Charles and Margaret Baker <http://www.orchidculture.com/COD/FREE/FS184.html>

Laelia (Cattleya) tenebrosa was first described by Rolfe in Brazil 1891 as Laelia grandis var. tenebrosa this was because of the dark color (my favorite) compared to the "yellow" (I can live with this) of Laelia grandis. The name tenebrosa implies a mysterious or supernatural quality and later described completely different species. Experts say Laelia tenebrosa is closely related to Laelia grandis and C. (L.) purpurata. The plants and flowers tend to be larger in all respects than those of C. (L.) grandis and

even many clones of C. (L.) purpurata. (Ed Wise has some of the most amazing Laelia tenebrosa species.)

Laelia tenebrosa are easy to grow outside in southern California. Plants can have very unique colored showy flowers, usually from yellow (mustard) to dark bronze.

Laelias like to dry out between watering in pots. They can also be grown on cork or tree branches, which allows plenty of air to the orchid's roots. Mounted plants should water daily when temperatures are excessive. They appreciate 50-70% humidity, particularly if grown mounted. Laelias are very happy with intermediate day temperatures of 70-75°F, although mine do fine even mounted with extra water when temperatures are up to 105 degrees. Some need cooler nighttime temperatures to initiate blooming, (that has not been a problem for me).

Hope to see you your Laelias in June!

Dana Seelig, President



Laelia lobata f. alba



Laela purpurata f. anelata



Laela purpurata f. concolor

Editor's Potting Bench

Sorry that I missed the meeting. But I was having a great time in Namibia. No orchids, but lots of animals and spectacular desert. And I got a new perspective on the setting of Dr. Harold Koopowitz' recent novel, **Diamonds and Disas**, set in the part of South Africa closest to Namibia. It's a terrific read... orchids and adventure and mystery and mayhem. And all the proceeds go to Orchid Digest!

When I get home from a long trip, the first thing I do

(before unpacking or going to the grocery store to restock the 'fridge) is to check around the garden to see what bloomed in my absence. Nearly everything that bloomed after I left had the courtesy to stay that way for me to enjoy. I think that the cool and humid weather helped. I love May gray and June gloom, and so do the orchids.

Dendrobium aphyllum has masses of delicate pink flowers with cream lips, growing from bare canes. New growth will come later. This is how it rewards what

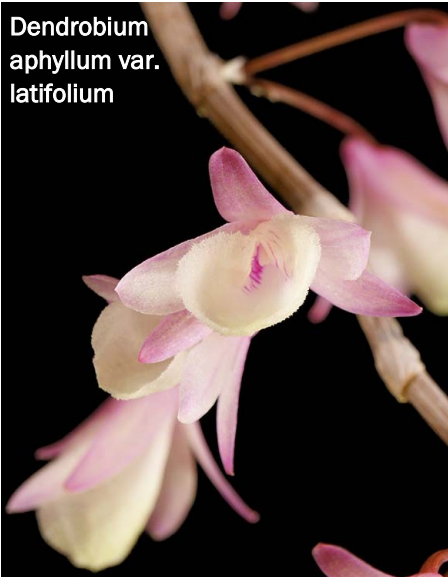
See: **Editor's Potting Bench, Page 4**

Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3

seems like abuse, being kept dry all winter. *Bifrenaria harrisoniae* has been reluctant for years, but it finally bloomed. I have it in full sun, near the Cymbidiums but completely in the open, and that seems to be what it needed to bloom. The prize one did wait for me.

the Cymbidiums, and the colors were rather washed out. I moved it back up with the *L. anceps*, where it gets very bright light all day, and the color was much better—deep purple backs of the leaves, and a strong pink blush over the green of the petals. Toasting bright and sopping wet is what it wants.

Roberta Fox, Editor



Dendrobium aphyllum var. *latifolium*



Epidendrum lacustre
'Wow Fireworks'



Bifrenaria harrisoniae

Epidendrum lacustre was just starting to open when I got home. Eventually, the spikes on all eight growths were open, with 4 to 6 flowers on each spike. This is one that I took to judging two years ago, got CHM/AOS on it, and was encouraged to bring it back, if the flowers were in better condition. This time they were all nearly perfect, and I did bring it in, ending up with AM/AOS. I gave it the cultivar name 'Wow Fireworks' because that's my reaction when I look at it. Last year it was on the bench with



Our temporary meeting place for June 2016

Calendar of Events

- **Orchid Digest Speakers Day—"Crazy about Catts"**
June 4, 2016 12:30-8:00 PM
Huntington Garden, Art Collections and Botanical Garden
Info and reservations: www.orchiddigest.org
- **Orchid Society of Southern California Annual Auction**
June 11, 2016 ; 1 PM Doors Open 2 PM Auction begins
Meeting Hall, First Christian Church, 221 S, 6th St., Burbank
Info: www.orchidssc.org
- **Sunset Valley Orchids Annual Open House**
June 18, 2016 9 AM–4 PM
1255 Navel Pl, Vista
Info: www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com or 760-310-0778
 - Fantastic discounts on all stock;
 - Plant raffles, fun and food. Free authentic street tacos 11 AM–2 PM
- **Cal Orchid's Summer Hummer**
July 8–10, 2016 9 AM–5 PM
1251 Orchid Dr., Santa Barbara
Info: www.calorchid.com or 805-967-1312
 - Neofinetia falcata (Fukiran) show and judging
June 9, 10 AM–3 PM
- **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Summer Open House**
July 8-10, 2016; Friday and Saturday 8 AM–5 PM, Sunday 9AM–4 PM
1250 Orchid Dr., Santa Barbara
Info: sboe@sborchid.com or 800-553-3387
 - Large-flowered Cattleyas (Laelias), Stanhopeas, Encyclias, Lots of \$7,50 specials
 - Special guest author Dr. Harold Koopowitz. After a lifetime of writing scholarly books and articles about orchid conservation, slipper orchids, clivias and daffodils, he now has two wonderfully entertaining works of fiction—**Orchid Tales**, a collection of short stories, and now **Diamonds and Disas**, a novel of adventure and mystery set in the Namaqualand region of South Africa. For each book purchased, SBOE will make a \$20 donation (the price of the books) to the Orchid Digest Publication Fund.
- **Andy's Orchids Summer Open House**
July 8-10; 10 AM–5 PM
734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas
Info: www.andysorchids.com
- **Newport Harbor Orchid Society Summer Exotic Plant and Orchid Festival**
July 22-July 24, 2016; Friday 10 AM–9 PM, Saturday 10 AM-7PM, Sunday 11 AM-6 PM
Westminster Mall, Westminster (Macy's Entrance)
Info: www.nhosinfo.org

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>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>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>
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<p>Sunset Valley Orchids Contact: Fred Clarke 760-639-6255, fred.clarke@att.net www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com</p>	<p>The Orchid Place Contact: Nghia Le cuheo1@netscape.net</p>	<p>Wise Orchids Contact: Ed Wise 714-524-1730;orchides@pacbell.net</p>