

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)

Volume 40 Issue 3

March 2017

March 12, 2017

South American Slipper Orchids: Habitats and Conservation

Ron Kaufmann

Our speaker in March 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 travelled extensively to view orchids in the wild in South America and Asia. His talk will include information about slipper orchids of South America and the areas where they grow, as well as considerations for their conservation.

Ron has a long-standing interest in conservation and has been a member of the SDCOS Conservation Committee for more than 15 years and chair since 2004. Since 1991, the Conservation Committee has awarded over \$200,000 to support projects in 22 different countries. Ron also helped to found the Orchid Conservation Alliance and serves on the boards of the OCA, American Orchid Society, EcoMinga Foundation (a conservation foundation based in Ecuador) and Orchid Digest

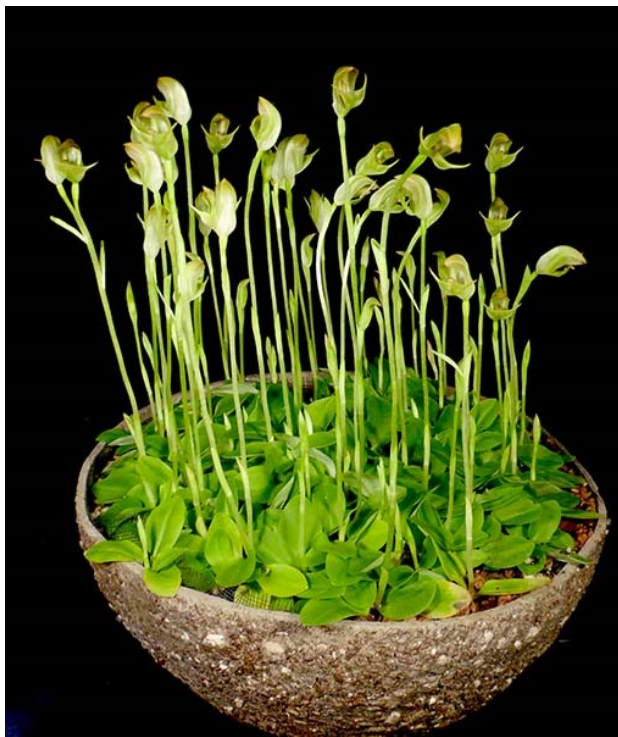
Ron is a marine biologist by training, and his scientific work includes studies of Antarctic and deep-sea ecosystems as well as marine communities in coastal Southern California. He has been growing orchids for nearly 20 years, starting with a reedstem *Epidendrum* and progressing to a diverse collection that contains mostly species orchids. Ron grows 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 rationale grows stronger every day.



Speaker's Choice

February speaker Phyllis Prestia selected *Pterostylis curta*, grown by Roberta Fox, as her Speaker's Choice. This plant (or actually collection of plants) puts on a good show each year. This one was in a shallow 12" ceramic bowl (with a drain hole... very important). The plants (one or two flowers per plant) grow from tubers that can range in size from a BB to a marble. Each year they tend to double at least, sometimes even triple. The secret to growing this species is to approach it like a daffodil, not a tropical orchid. (Dormant and dry in late spring to summer, growth in fall and winter) It is a



native of Australia, at a latitude similar to ours, with a similar climate. After blooming, it goes dormant in late March, April, or early May. At that point, it needs to be put some place where it won't get watered. It needs to be ignored until about mid-July. At that point, unpot the tubers and repot into fresh mix (cactus mix with some added small perlite and sand, some of that terrestrial mix from Mr. Fertilizer goes into the brew) They do seem to do better with fresh mix each year. About half the tubers go into small pots to be donated to several clubs' auctions or silent auctions

(many of you have these plants), the other half into the big bowl and a few shallow bulb pans. Start watering lightly to keep damp at that point, then water well once the little green shoots appear above the surface in about 6 -8 weeks.



Pterostylis curta



From the Member's Corner

Thank you to all those who have recently mailed and brought in their 2017 membership dues. There's still a few people out there that we're waiting to hear from; maybe they can bring along a friend or two to the next meeting - we would love to see both long-time and new faces at the Whitten Community Center. There's always an interesting show and tell portion of the meeting and I, for one, have learned a lot from the members. The guest speakers bring their expertise, knowledge, visual displays and often humorous insights into our world of species orchids. We did have a guest sign in at the February meeting but we think they may have gone to the Westminster Show after Edie told them it was going on. Edie stood up to announce Elizabeth Schulz and we realized that she and her male companion had disappeared! Elizabeth had mentioned that she liked cymbidiums, so maybe she will come to the next meeting.

Holly Hillman

President's Message

Spring is Near!

If the state measures our rainfall on an annual basis, we should have all saved enough water in the last four months to feel good about watering our Orchids, once they start to grow. Or did you save rainwater to use for all your plants? I'm not sure what to tell you, when your water bill shows penalties this summer?

There are so many resources out there to guide us and provide insight on growing Orchids. I enjoy the AOS website, it is full of interesting information. Take a look at things to do in March...

<http://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/march-april-checklist.aspx>

I reached out to the Mayor of a local city to attend our meeting last month; she is working on her schedule. Help increase our membership by inviting your friends to be guests at our meetings. We have a great group of volunteers working hard to keep our meetings interesting and informative.

See you in March!

Dana Seelig, President

Editor's Potting Bench

It has been a busy month . I just returned from the San Francisco show. That's orchid species heaven. Although it was held in a much smaller space this year, there were plenty of excellent species vendors to choose from. Naturally, a nice selection of plants followed me home, and I have everything logged, potted where necessary, researched and placed in growing areas. As I wander among my orchids, I find distractions ... this one needs to be potted NOW, that needs to have old spikes trimmed. So routine tasks take a long time. It's hard (or even impossible) stay focused on one thing. With the approach of spring, there's lots of new root action which means more potting. Catasetinae are showing some new shoots. It is not quite time to start watering them, since roots are not yet very long, but any that are going to get repotted need it immediately before any new roots get any farther along. The rain has been especially beneficial to Pleurothallids— a few seem to have returned from the dead. That's a clear sign that they really benefit from pure water, so I will do my best to provide RO for them.

In the coming month we have both the Santa Barbara show (along with the open houses at the nurseries), and San Diego. There's always room for one more orchid...

I have been nurturing *Lycaste lasioglossa* for about 4 years, and it finally bloomed—spectacularly. When I got it, it was a rather young plant. It has been up-potted twice, and I guess it finally reached critical mass, producing 7 flowers and a couple of buds that blasted. It has a delightful fuzzy lip, and a nice fragrance. It was

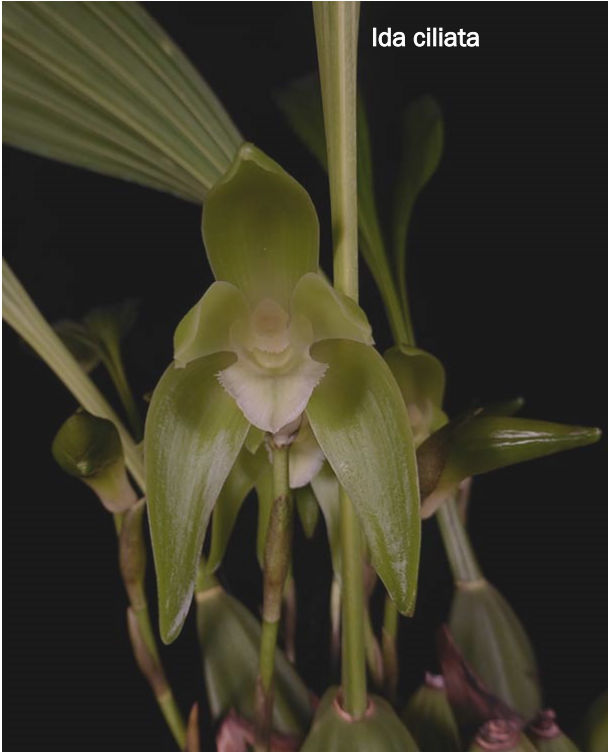
well worth waiting for! Also in the *Lycaste* group, *Ida ciliata* is blooming nicely. I wondered whether the genus was pronounced *Eeda*, as I heard it in Ecuador, or if it should be *Eyeda* in English. However, all the references show it as *Sudamerlycaste*. The whole genus has been renamed. In general, most of the *Lycastes* are actually from Central American while *Ida* (*Sudamerlycaste*) are, as the name implies, South American. The latter tend to nod downward, so the presentation is not as attractive. However, these are clearly quite attractive enough to their pollinators.



Lycaste lasioglossa

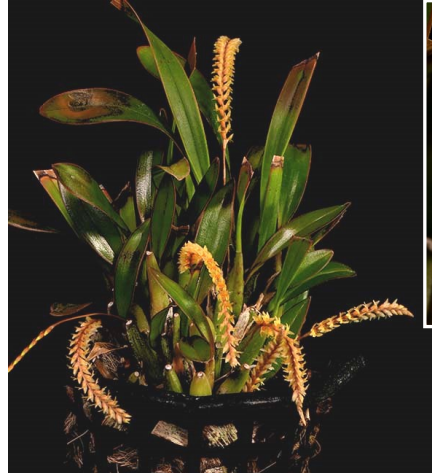
See: Editor's Potting Bench, Page 4

Editor's Potting Bench, from Page 3



Ida ciliata

Dendrochilum pulcherrimum is a charming miniature species. It produced 19 or 20 spikes in a 4" basket. It grows outside nicely, in filtered sun or bright shade.

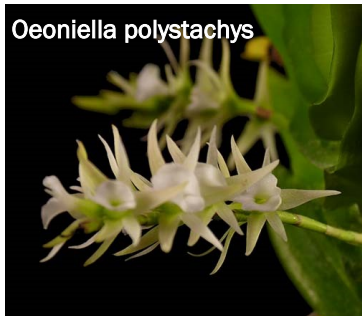


Dendrochilum pulcherrimum

One of the signs of spring is the blooming of Bletilla striata, the Asian "ground orchid". I have some growing in large bulb pans, and some in the ground. the ones growing in the ground are doing much better than the ones in pots. These definitely belong in the landscaping. Like other terrestrials, they die back in the fall, to emerge with both new growth and flowers in the spring. Since they grow in the ground (in whatever dirt they find), they get watered when they are dormant, and that seems to do no harm at all. I start them

in the ground with potting soil, but they grow into the surrounding clay soil with no apparent problem.

Room for one more... My little Oeoniella polystachys is blooming in the greenhouse. It's an Angraecoid from Madagascar. It has roots that are 12" to 18", but the plant is only about 4" tall. In Madagascar I saw some of these up in trees that were several feet across and long—big balls of plant with hundreds of long spikes. Clearly my greenhouse does not give it what it REALLY wants. However, it does survive.



Oeoniella polystachys

Roberta Fox, Editor



Bletilla striata, typical and alba forms



Oeoniella polystachys in Madagascar



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

- **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, 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
 - 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
 - Cal-Orchid Open House, 1251 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara, Info: 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 or (619) 543-9078
 - **Central Coast Orchid Society Show and Sale**
 April 1-2, 2017; Saturday 9 AM–5 PM, Sunday 10 AM–5 PM
 South County Regional Center, 800 W. Branch St, Arroyo Grande
 info: www.FCOS.org or (805) 929-5749
 - **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
 - **Andy's Orchids Spring Open House**
 April 7–9, 2017; 10 AM–4 PM
 734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas
 - **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
 - **Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale**
 September 23-24, 2017 - It's official!
 South Coast Plaza Village, 1621 W. Sunflower, Santa Ana
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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 & 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>
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