



# San Fernando Valley Orchid Society Newsletter

September 2015

Volume 55 Issue 9



## September Guest Speaker: Peter Lin

Join us on Wednesday September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 at 7:00pm for our monthly meeting. Our speaker for September will be **Mr. Peter Lin**. He will be doing a new presentation he has been working on about Lealias Orchid genus. He will share information on their habitat and tips he has learned for growing this easy to grow and beautiful plant.

Peter started growing orchids over 30 years ago, but then stopped due to school and starting a career. It wasn't until about 11 years ago that the orchid "bug" came back and he is now heavily involved once again! He is an accredited judge with the American Orchid Society, and a hybridizer of mini-catts. He enjoys meeting with other orchid enthusiasts, and can often be found at various orchid shows and societies around the country.

Due to limited growing space, Peter likes to specialize in miniature orchids, both species and hybrids, and has received numerous AOS awards. His interests in orchids include Dendrobiums, Angraecoids, and Neofinetias. He is also known as "Mr Sophronitis" as he has a passion for growing and collecting them. He maintains a collection of a thousand or more orchids at his home in Southern California in 3 small greenhouses, outdoors, as well as an offsite greenhouse. Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for this interesting talk.

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## Membership Renewal

July 1<sup>st</sup> was the beginning of our society's fiscal year, so if you have not already renewed your SFVOS membership for the current year please contact Marcia Melcombe as soon as possible. Her email address is: [marciafm@yahoo.com](mailto:marciafm@yahoo.com). Dues are \$35.00 for individuals and \$45.00 for an entire family living in the same household. That works out to be around \$3.75 a month. What a bargain! We also want to thank our members who have gone above and beyond renewing their dues and have made cash donations to help us offset our deficit. We thank you all for supporting your Orchid Society.



Blooming now: Psychopsis memoria "Bill Carter"

## President's Message

The August meeting of the Board of Directors addressed ways of increasing income to cover the rising costs of operation such as speakers' fees and plant prices.

There was a spirited discussion considering changing our spring fundraiser from an auction to a different format: perhaps a large sale, during the day, one or two days, and with more publicity. I'm sure many members have ideas which may help. Please share them with me.

### THE HUNTINGTON SHOW

Please consider going to the beautiful Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens for their "Beautiful Orchid" show. Admission to the show is **free** if you wear your orchid society badge. However, you may wish to have some cash on hand as well. (See full page article in this newsletter for details)

Millie Peskay

## 2015-2016 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

We are putting together a new directory so please check the current one to make any changes. There will be a "Changes List" at the September meeting. If you have changes, please print carefully:

**Name**

**Address (Street, City, Zip code)**

**Telephone number (s)**

**Email address**

If you are unable to attend the meeting and/or wish to make changes, please contact:

**Marcia Melcombe (818) 349-8677 [marciafm@yahoo.com](mailto:marciafm@yahoo.com)**

**Millie Peskay (805) 532-0080 [peskay@att.net](mailto:peskay@att.net)**

# 2015 Orchid Calendar of Events

<b>Sep 2</b>	<b>SFVOS General Meeting with Guest Speaker Peter Lin</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Sepulveda Garden Center</b>
Sep 12	AOS Pacific South Regional Judging	10am	The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino
<b>Sep 16</b>	<b>SFVOS Board Meeting</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Home of Marcia Melcombe</b>
Sep 18	Orchid Odyssey	10am – 2pm	San Diego Zoo
Sep 19-20	South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale	11am - 5pm Sales start 9am	South Coast Botanic Garden
Sep 26 - 27	Fascination of Orchids	10am - 5pm	South Coast Plaza Village
<b>Oct 7</b>	<b>SFVOS General Meeting</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Sepulveda Garden Center</b>
Oct 3 - 4	Morongo Basin Orchid Festival	10am–5pm	Gubler Orchids
Oct 10	AOS Pacific South Regional Judging	10am	The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino
Oct 11	So Cal Orchid Species Society Annual Orchid Auction	12:30pm Preview 1pm Auction	Backs Community Bldg - Main Room, Kraemer Memorial Park
<b>Oct 14</b>	<b>SFVOS Board Meeting</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Home of Marcia Melcombe</b>
Oct 16 - 17 - 18	Huntington Botanical Gardens 1st Annual International Orchid Show	12am - 4:30pm; Gates close 6pm	The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino
Oct 16	Orchid Odyssey	10am.– 2pm	San Diego Zoo
Oct 24 - 25	San Diego County Orchid Society Fall Show In The Park	12:00pm - 5pm	Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park



## The Huntington's International Show and Sale

Oct. 16 - Oct. 18, 2015

Friday: noon–4:30 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday: 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

It's easy to fall head-over-heels for orchids: there's so much to love. The *Orchidaceae* family is a vast one—among the largest in the plant kingdom—with more than 22,000 species in 880 genera. Their blooms are endlessly varied in form, color, and size. If you only know orchids from the limited offerings at the local garden center, it's time to get better acquainted.

The Huntington's International Orchid Show and Sale will showcase elaborately designed floral displays interpreting this year's theme, "Beautiful Orchids." The event reflects not only the public passion for orchids but The Huntington's own dedication to the plants. A number of orchids from the botanical collections will be included in the show, including specimens from the S. Robert Weltz Orchid Collection, donated to The Huntington in 2010. [Here's a preview](#) of what flower fans can expect at this year's show.

- Exhibits by Southern California orchid societies and international growers
- Orchids and supplies for sale from vendors from around the world
- Lectures and demonstrations for beginners and experts alike

### Vendors

Aloha Botanicals Maui Inc. (Haiku, Hawaii)  
[Andy's Orchids](#) (Encinitas, California)  
[Cal- Orchid Inc.](#) (Santa Barbara, California)  
[Cal West Tropicals](#) (Carmichael, California)  
[Centro de Jardinería Manrique](#) (Lima, Peru)  
Hatfield Orchids (Oxnard, California)  
Lico's Orchids (Encinitas, California)  
[Mundiflora](#) (Cuenca, Ecuador)  
[New World Orchids](#) (Manchester, Michigan)  
[Norman's Orchids](#) (Montclair, California)  
Orchids and Garden (Fresno, California)  
[Orchid Design](#)  
[Orchid Zone](#) (Castroville, California)  
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[Sorella Orchids](#) (Oxnard, California)  
[Sunset Valley Orchids](#) (Vista, California)  
[Ten Shin Gardens](#) (Yuanli, Taiwan)  
[Tuyet's Orchids](#) (Garden Grove, California)  
Zuma Canyon Orchids (Malibu, California)

### Exhibitors

All the above vendors

Alfred Hockenmaier (North Hills, California)| [Daniel Geiger](#) (Woodland Hills, California)  
[Conejo Orchid Society](#) (Conejo, California)| [Long Beach Amateur Orchid Society](#) (Long Beach, California)  
[Malibu Orchid Society](#) (Malibu, California)| [Newport Harbor Orchid Society](#) (Newport Beach, California)  
[Orchid Society of Southern California](#) (Burbank, California)| [Garden and Floral Arrangers Guild](#) (Redlands, California)  
[Riverside - San Bernardino County Orchid Society, Inc.](#) (Riverside, California)  
[San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists](#) (Arcadia, California)

All activities will take place in the Brody Botanical Center and are included with general admission.



# AOS: Growing Healthy Orchids Indoors

Many orchids are rewarding indoor plants and once a home owner has succumbed and bought his or her first orchid, or received one as a gift, meeting a few cultural requirements will coax the plant to flower again.

Orchids are far tougher and hardier than most people think, and are, by and large, extremely adaptable. There is a long-standing myth that orchids are difficult, if not impossible, to grow, especially without a greenhouse. With at least 20,000 species and some 100,000 artificial hybrids, there are some notoriously fussy orchids. But there are many rugged, popular, easy-to-grow types that adapt to the temperatures and light conditions found on the average home windowsill. Explore the options and assemble a collection that will put forth exotic flowers year-round.



Orchids are different from other houseplants. Unlike ferns, philodendrons, palms and Swedish ivy, orchids do not grow in soil. Potting an orchid in soil is actually one of the best ways to kill it. Most orchids in the wild are not rooted in the ground, but instead attach themselves by thick roots to the sides of trees and on branches. Clinging to the bark, the plants absorb water and nutrients from the air and rain and whatever drips down the tree. They are adapted to surviving when rain is scarce, hoarding water in thick leaves, stems and roots.

## Watering

In the house, orchids are grown in pots filled with chips of bark, stones, treefern or some other loosely packed material, which keeps roots well-aerated and permits water to drain quickly. Nothing -- repeat, nothing -- kills an orchid faster than letting it sit in a water-logged pot, since a lack of oxygen will cause the roots to suffocate and rot. Water orchids thoroughly, usually about once a week, then allow them to dry slightly before watering again. Orchids are better equipped to withstand periods of forgetfulness than they are to being overwatered.

## Temperature

Another difference between orchids and many houseplants is that in nature most orchids experience a big difference between day and night temperatures. Manipulating the temperature of the home so it will drop at least 10 degrees at night, especially in autumn and winter when many orchids initiate buds, will induce the orchids to set flower buds more readily. Achieve this by lowering the temperature on the thermostat. This little trick can mean the difference between an orchid plant that merely lives, and one that thrives and flowers. Orchids are usually classified as warm growing, intermediate and cool growing, with regard to their temperature needs. Many tolerate exposure to warmer or cooler temperatures without suffering damage. The temperature groupings refer to the lowest temperature the orchid prefers during winter nights. Warm-growing orchids, such as phalaenopsis, sulk if temperatures drop much below 60 F. Intermediate growers, such as cattleyas, prefer winter nights around 55° F. Cool-growing orchids, including cymbidiums and odontoglossums, are accustomed to winter nights of 50 F. At the other extreme, most orchids perform poorly when exposed to temperatures above 90° F.

## Light

Orchids are also classified into three other groups depending on the intensity of light they require -- high (3,000 foot-candles), medium (2,000 foot-candles) and low (1,000 to 1,500 foot-candles). Most orchids require plenty of light, preferably at least six hours a day. Many orchids can withstand more or less than the amount of recommended light, but providing more light enhances flowering potential. Conversely, inadequate light prevents orchids from flowering, although they will grow.

Leaf color indicates if the amount of light is adequate. The lush, rich, dark green of most houseplants is not desirable in orchid leaves. Dark green leaves are attractive, but signal there is not enough light. A grassy green color (light or medium green with yellowish tones) means the plant is receiving sufficient light to bloom. Gauge light intensity with this simple hand/eye test: Put your hand 6 inches above the leaves and look at the shadows cast. A sharp-edged shadow means high light; a soft-edged shadow indicates medium to low light; no shadow at all means the light is insufficient for an orchid to flower.

Southern- and eastern-facing windows work best for orchids; western windows can be too hot in the afternoon; and northern ones are usually too dark. Too much direct light causes leaves to sunburn -- the leaves bleach out to white, ultimately dying and turning black -- so it may be necessary to reposition plants as the seasons change. Move plants away from or toward the window to manipulate the amount of light. A sheer curtain will cast light shade. Positioning sheets of Mylar or another reflective material in the growing area will increase usable light, a handy trick for the winter when light levels are often reduced.

### **Artificial Light**

Where windows with adequate light are unavailable; consider cultivating orchids beneath artificial light. Four 4-foot-long fluorescent tubes placed 6 inches apart side by side should do the trick. Two shop-light fixtures with cool-white bulbs will suffice. Special grow lights, sold under various trade names, are considerably more expensive and extend the light spectrum. The grow lights may reap better results, although data on this are conflicting. Place plants 6 to 8 inches below the tubes. Put the lights on a timer set to operate the bulbs for 14 to 16 hours a day. Many orchids, such as phalaenopsis and paphiopedilums, will be content. Orchids requiring more light, such as vandas and cymbidiums, however, need natural sunlight or high-intensity discharge lights to bloom. A fluorescent fixture in a dimly lit window adds extra light to natural sunlight, too, and can mean the difference between flowers and no flowers. Orchids that do not flower often require more light.

### **Fertilizing**

Orchids do not require abundant doses of fertilizer. However, to maintain healthy plants and see blooms on a regular basis, apply a weak solution of 20-10-20 fertilizer once a week. Each month, water with plain water to flush out any accumulated fertilizer salts. Dilute the fertilizer to one-quarter the strength recommended on the package. When in doubt, give less rather than more. Switch to a blossom-booster fertilizer in the autumn, when many orchids are initiating flower buds. Blossom-booster is a fertilizer ratio with higher phosphorus and lower nitrogen, such as a 10-30-20 formula. Many orchids are winter bloomers, which makes them even more special as houseplants. They fill an often otherwise flowerless void in the drabest of months. Peak of orchid bloom usually occurs between December and April.

### **Humidity**

One of the things orchids greatly appreciate is adequate humidity. Fifty percent or more is necessary, but the atmosphere in most homes, especially those with dry, hot-air heat, is far below that. Raising the humidity around orchids will result in better flowering. Some tricks to increase humidity: operate a humidifier near the plants; place the pots on flat, black pebbles set in a tray in which water is added until it almost covers the stones ("Egg crate," which is the lattice-like plastic grid sold in hardware stores for suspension ceiling lights, is a good, more steady alternative to the pebbles.); group the orchids together; or cordon off the growing area with clear plastic (but continue to provide ventilation to prevent bacteria from becoming a problem).

*The AOS thanks Judy White for this essay.*

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

If you have any questions about finances and/or wish to have a copy of the month by month report to the Board of Directors please contact me.

Bob Peskay  
[peskay@att.net](mailto:peskay@att.net)

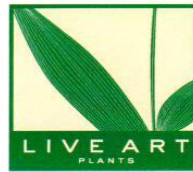
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### Tips for growing Cattleyas

- 1) Allow potting media to dry out thoroughly between watering, this helps to develop a good root system
- 2) Re-pot when the new root tips are just starting to show at the base of the newest lead growth
- 3) Use a well drained potting media and don't over-pot, the pot should allow for 2-3 years of growth

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*Polystichum munitum*  
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Dryopteridaceae  
(Wood Fern Family)

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by  
Linda Ann Vorobik

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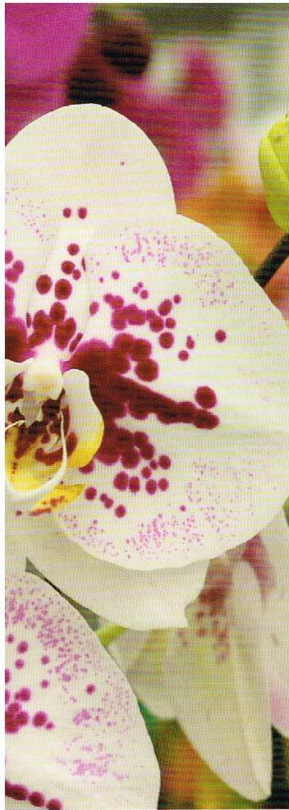
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## Refreshments

For every general meeting three members are asked to provide a healthy snack or sweet treat (two dozen cookies or healthy snacks are appreciated by all). Please participate when your name is on the "Refreshment" list. For the September meeting we have Marie Feola, Melissa Lovelady and Ed Saraffian to bring refreshments. Of course, all members are encouraged to bring snacks for all our meetings. Some suggestions are healthy snacks such as (cut up) fruit and veggies, chips, homemade goodies such as cookies and brownies and anything else you care to contribute. Thank you in advance for supporting your society.

## Plant Forum Show & Tell

**Please bring your blooming orchids for the plant forum in September. Everyone enjoys seeing what you are growing. You may enter more than one plant at a time and you will receive a free raffle ticket for each plant that you bring in to share with the group. Don't forget your cameras too!**

### The San Fernando Valley Orchid Society

meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month @ 7:00pm

**The Sepulveda Garden Center**

**16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, CA 91436**

President	Millie Peskay	<a href="mailto:peskay@att.net">peskay@att.net</a>
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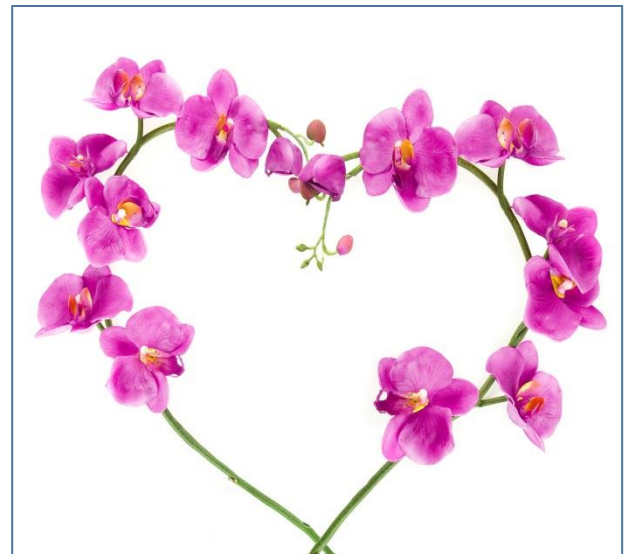
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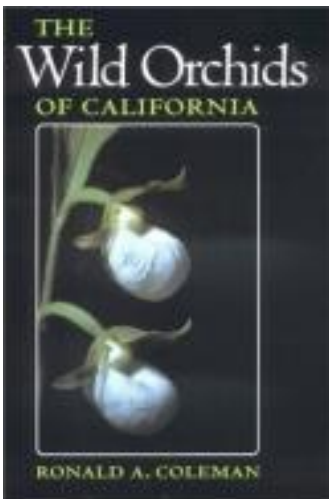
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<http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/?GCOI=80140100923120>

*Corallorhiza striata*

### Native Orchids of California

California has only 32 species of orchids (actually one is an introduced species), and one or more species can be found in every county of the state. The largest genus is *Piperia*, which has eleven species which many would call insignificant, but are actually quite beautiful under close inspection. The state is home to three species of *Cypripedium*, one of which is a near endemic (it extends its range into the southwest corner of Oregon) as well as a host of other beauties. Most of the species will be discussed, some with examples from different parts of their range, others with color forms. All photographs were taken in the wild.





SFVOS Newsletter  
% Millie Peskay  
11175 Broadview Drive  
Moorpark, CA 93021

## The Country Store

Donations are always accepted in our Country Store. If you have extra fruit, bag them in small quantities so we can sell each bag for a dollar. Bring in any unwanted plants or garden related items. Anything brought in is considered a donation to our program, the purpose of these sales is to raise funds for our society. The funds we raise helps to pay for our speakers, insurance, the rent and the plants for our POT. Please be sure the plants are in good condition and are identified.

### Advertise with the SFVOS

In an effort to raise funds for our society we are offering advertising space in our SFVOS monthly newsletter. If you have any questions or are ready to place a business card sized ad in our publication, please contact our Newsletter Editor, Pam Aitchison by sending an email with your artwork to [pam@aitchison.org](mailto:pam@aitchison.org). The cost is \$25.00 per month, or \$250.00 per year.

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