



## *The President's Potting Bench*

October is here! The growing season is coming to an end. I'm reorganizing my greenhouse and grouping all the plants that need a dry winter rest together. Ed Lysek, our Vice President wrote an article last year and listed the orchids known to need a dry winter rest from Halloween to Valentine's Day. (Find the article in the new FCOS website).

Ed, Chris and I just returned from a day trip to the Pleurothallid Alliance in Pacifica. What an amazing trip! Met some wonderful people and visited 5 different greenhouses. The variation in greenhouse styles was amazing.

We visited Dan Newman's greenhouse which was like walking into an orchid jungle. <http://hanginggardens.org/en/>. His greenhouse seemed like it couldn't fit one more plant and had just about every type of orchid one would want. He had plants on benches, tall Sobrailias reaching for the ceiling, hanging plants with roots hanging down (that you had to part as you walked down the aisle), plants mounted on the walls and plants growing on the benches themselves. We spent at least an hour wandering through the jungle and talking with Dan. I bought an Ornithocephalus and a Cleisocentron gokusingii, which has the most unique blue flowers.

We then walked downhill about 500 feet to Joe and Kathy Parker's greenhouses, <https://www.flickrriver.com/photos/lightgardening/48521084857/>. Yes, there were his and hers' greenhouses. Kathy has an incredible variety of cool growing orchids, mostly mounted and hanging pleurothallids. Kathy was great. She walked with me, looking at all the plants and commenting on their flowers and growth habit. She used cut redwood boards as a backboard for hardware cloth that lined the walls of the greenhouse. Ed and I walked away with a few divisions of some massive hanging Masdevallias.

Joe Parker has his own cool growing greenhouse and they were full of Draculas. All the orchids in his greenhouse were Dracula species and hybrids. Joe likes to put his Draculas in hanging baskets which he makes himself. We had a great conversation about Draculas and to my delight Joe gave me a species, Dracula Woodwardii to take home and grow.

The meeting of the Pleurothallid Alliance was mostly social, and began with a potluck which featured many culinary delights from the members. Afterward, they had a meeting and an incredible raffle table. I walked away with 3 plants for my \$1 raffle ticket, one of which was a Dendrobium Cuthbertsonii that was in bloom with pink flowers. Score! Really fun and satisfying day.

We will keep you informed of any future orchid field trips, which are one of the favorite benefits of membership in our orchid Society.

**JEFF**



# October, 2019 Guest Speaker Program



## BRAZIL: BLACKWATER ORCHIDS

In June, Christina and I travelled to Brazil for an Orchid Conservation Alliance trip on the Rio Negro River. The Rio Negro is the largest tributary of the Amazon. While the Amazon is a muddy yellow, the Rio Negro is the color of very dark tea (from tannic acid). We toured the very same areas the renowned botanical illustrator Margaret Mee. She made several trips to this area in the 50's and 60's.

Our trip was timed to coincide with the flood season. The water level was about 30 feet above "normal. As we cruised around in our small boat, orchids that were high in the treetops were now at eye level. Very cool.

## SPEAKER NOTES

### SEPTEMBER 2019 FCOS MEETING

FCOS was pleased to be able to have Sandy Tillisch Svodoba speak to our group at the September meeting. Her topic was AOS Certificates of Cultural Excellence (CCE) and Merit (CCM). These awards are given to the grower and not to the plant. The orchid must be in robust health and appearance and have an unusually large number of flowers. The person must have owned the plant for at least 12 months. A CCM is awarded to an orchid that is given a score of 80-89 points and a CCE is given to one that is given at least 90 points. The point breakdown of the maximum number of points per category is as follows: size and condition = 50 points, number of flowers = 30 points and flower condition = 20 points. The flaws that the AOS judges look for are obvious signs of virus, many trimmed leaves, and good flowers on non-cleaned plant, mechanical damage to leaves or flowers, and excessive number of back bulbs. From 1965 through 9/12/19 there have been 8,646 CCMs and 1,129 CCEs awards. For contrast, the number of flower quality awards given during the same time period are 33,586 HHCs, 32, 419 AMs and 1,202 FCCs. For this period the genera with the highest number of awards is as follows: *Dendrobium* 990 CCM and 171 CCE, *Paphiopedilum* 680 CCM and 88 CCE, *Phalaenopsis* 624 CCM and 63 CCE and *Masdevallia* 382 CCM and 29 CCE./

### Five Cities Orchid Society Board of Directors 2019

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## Shows, Plant Sales and other Events

- Oct 5-6, 2019 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Show and Sale, Napa Valley Orchid Society, Las Flores Community Center, 4300 Linda Vista Ave, Napa details [www.nv-os.org](http://www.nv-os.org)
- October 25-26-27, 2019: Gold Country Orchids & Paph Paradise Open House
- November 2-3, 2019: Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Fall Open House.

## SANTA BARBARA ORCHID ESTATE

# FALL OPEN HOUSE NOV 2-3, 2019

Cymbidium and Laelia anceps season is here!

**2019 Fascination of Orchids  
Sep 28 - 29  
10 AM - 5PM (Santa Ana, CA)**

View orchids on display from local growers and purchase plants and supplies from vendors from all over the world

**Santa Ana California**



**Fascination of Orchids  
International Show & Sale**  
SEP 28 & 29, 2019 10 am to 5 pm  
South Coast Plaza Village  
1621 West Sunflower  
Santa Ana CA 92704  
**Exhibits - Seminars - Sales**

Experience the Beauty  
& the Fragrances of  
Thousands of Exotic  
Orchids from many  
Different Lands



**International Orchid Show & Sale  
At the Huntington (Pasadena - CA)  
Oct 18-20 / 10am - 5pm**

The Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens, known as The Huntington, is a collections-based educational and research institution. Discover what makes the Huntington a truly remarkable destination..

### THIS AND THAT

During this month you should be seeing signs of flower spikes on early blooming Cymbidiums and winter blooming Laelias. Some Cattleyas will be blooming or putting out a sheath for a winter or spring bloom. By now, unless it is a desperate situation, you have finished repotting for this year. October is a good time to coax Phalaenopsis to bloom. If you don't have a greenhouse in which to trigger bloom naturally, it may help to place them on an east facing window sill touching the glass.



September, 2019  
*Show and Tell*  
 We had an incredible variety of orchids being shown off