



# Orchid Forum

November Issue, Winter 2007

The Newsletter of the Orchid Forum of Sacramento

## Guest Speaker: Ron Parsons "Terrestrial Orchids of the World" Monday, November 26th at 7:30 pm

President:

Vivian  
Sellers

Vice President:

Jeff  
Tyler

Secretary:

Venk  
Reddy

Treasurer:

Punky  
Dias

Orchid Forum  
of Sacramento  
1109 Stanford Place  
Davis, CA 95616

### Message from the President

I can't believe it's the middle of November already. Where did the year go?

Before I forget, many thanks to all who donated plants, bought plants and to Dennis, who recommended buying plants.

Christine Rex, an orchid grower and SOS member is selling her orchid collection. She will be at our meeting with plants and books for sale. She will set up a table at the back of the room before the meeting and at the break.

Like the rest of you, I'm looking forward to our Holiday Dinner. If you haven't made your reservation with Ted, be sure and bring your check book to the meeting.

See you on the 26th! Vivian

### Forum Holiday Dinner

The Annual Christmas Dinner at the Jade Garden will be on Wednesday, December 12, 2007 at 6:30 PM. This dinner has a reputation all its own, but this year I am going to set up an extra-special menu.

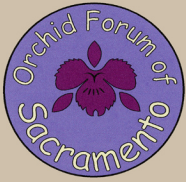
Because the gathering will be earlier than usual, I need to have a participant list (and hopefully payment at \$10 per person as well) at the November meeting or shortly thereafter.

Santa will be distributing orchids at my house afterwards. If you want to come, please try to get to the meeting on the 25th. If you can't come, please call me at 530-756-6836 or e-mail me at [tcfoin@ucdavis.edu](mailto:tcfoin@ucdavis.edu).

The current count is 31 members, with a limit of 45. Remaining places will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis (reservations + payment).  
Happy Holidays, Ted Foin

### **Calendar of Events and Regional Events: Winter doldrums? Try something new.**

- |          |         |   |
|----------|---------|---|
| November | 26th    | Orchid Forum Meeting at 7:30 pm. Garden and Art Center in McKinley Park; 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento  |
| December | 3rd     | SG & AC Board of Directors: Garden and Art Center in McKinley Park; needs a member of our club to regularly attend all board meetings. See Vivian to volunteer. The meeting time is 7:00 pm.  |
|          | 4th     | San Francisco Orchid Society General Meeting at 7:30 pm: Gerardus Staal on Orchid Pests and Diseases and their control; San Francisco County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park, 9th and Lincoln |
|          | 8-9th   | Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Show and Sale at 10 am to 5 pm: Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2599 Puesta del Sol Rd   |
| January  | 5-6th   | Peninsula Orchid Society Show and Sale from 10 am to 5 pm. Gen. \$5 Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave, Redwood City   |
|          | 12-13th | Diablo View Orchid Society: Orchids Under the Oaks from 10 am to 4 pm and Alden Lane Nursery, Livermore   |



# Orchid Forum

## Message from the Vice President

Hello and welcome to November! Hope everyone is doing well & enjoying the nice weather we are still having. I'm not sure about the rest of you, but my Bulbophyllums are blooming like crazy!

President:

Vivian  
Sellers

This month we have someone very exciting as our guest speaker, Ron Parsons. Ron is considered by many to be one of the finest flower photographers in the United States. His photography and encyclopedic knowledge of orchids is known both nationally and internationally. He has been photographing orchids, wildflowers, and almost every other kind of plant for over 25 years, and has a slide collection that numbers well over 80,000 slides! Ron loves to travel, photograph orchids and wildflowers in situ, visit orchid and other plant enthusiasts collections, and most of all, to take photographs of plants and flowers that he likes.

Vice President:

Jeff  
Tyler

Ron's photos have been featured in journal articles, book covers, and in several books. Below is a synopsis of the program Ron will be presenting this month.

I hope to see all of you there!

Jeff Tyler V.P.

## **Ron Parsons presents "Terrestrial Orchids of the World".**

Secretary:

Venk  
Reddy

There is something fascinating and mysterious about seeing orchids in the wild, particularly the many species of terrestrials. Ground orchids occur throughout the world, not only inhabiting the regions where epiphytic and lithophytic species grow, but growing further north and south into temperate and cold areas.

This presentation gives you an idea of the wide variety of terrestrial species, photographed both in collections and in nature.

Treasurer:

Punky  
Dias

## **Now Blooming!**

### **Phrag. Noirmont**

Photographer Jay Klock



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## Why Do We Need All Those New Cattleya Genera?

The short answer to this question is that reclassification of just four species (among others) from one genus into another creates new intergeneric combinations, which in turn require new names. So by the rules of taxonomy, the answer is yes.

The four reclassified species are:

- Laelia purpurata*, now *Sophronitis purpurata*
- Brassovola digbyana*, now *Rhyncholaelia digbyana*
- Cattleya aurantiaca* and *C. bowringiana*, now *Guarianthe* spp.

The problem is that these generic reassignments cascade to create the need for new intergeneric names, especially since the four species have been used in numerous hybrids. This table shows the number of hybrids made with each.

Species	Total Progeny
<i>Guarianthe aurantiaca</i>	3308
<i>Guarianthe bowringiana</i>	1772
<i>Rhyncholaelia digbyana</i>	12961
<i>Sophronitis purpurata</i>	15534

Data Source: OrchidWiz Encyclopedia 4.01

### Species Total Progeny

All four have been major contributors to *Cattleya* breeding. *G. aurantiaca* is the major contributor to orange flowers, *R. digbyana* likewise to green flowers with larger fringed lips, and *S. purpurata* imparts size and color to a whole range of well-known intergeneric hybrids in the *Brassolaeliocattleya*, *Sophrolaeliocattleya* and *Laeliocattleya* groups.

Here are the major changes in names.

*Brassolaeliocattleya* (*Brassavola* x *Laelia* x *Cattleya*) and *Laeliocattleya* hybrids remain, but those with *S. purpurata* as the *Laelia* component are now *Sophracattleya* (*Sophronitis* x *Cattleya*). A logical change with familiar names and this should not be a problem for most growers to understand.

All cattleya hybrids with *Guarianthe* spp. in the background required new intergeneric names. Here are some examples (most are new): *Guartonia* (*Guarianthe* x *Broughtonia*), *Cattlianthe* (*Cattleya* x *Guarianthe*), *Gratrixara* (*Broughtonia* x *Cattleya* x *Guarianthe* x *Sophronitis*), *Guarsophyla* (*Cattleya* x *Guarianthe* x *Sophronitis*), and *Thwaitisara* (*Cattleya* x *Guarianthe* x *Rhyncholaelia* x *Sophronitis*). *Brassavola* crosses made with *Rhyncholaelia digbyana* are now *Rhyncho-* crosses. Some prominent examples: *Rhynchoguarlia* (*Rhyncholaelia* x *Guarianthe* x *Laelia*), *Rhynchosphrocattleya* (*Rhyncholaelia* x *Sophronitis* x *Cattleya*), and *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* (*Rhyncholaelia* x *Cattleya*).

When explained in this way, it doesn't look so bad. The international Rules of Nomenclature require the changes, and since they have been accepted in RHS, get used to them because they aren't going away. The real problem is that these changes in generic names happened so long after so many complex hybrids had been made, so the cascade of name changes simply could not be avoided. Just hope that some other important parents are not reclassified in the future!

Thanks to Alan Koch for reviewing my comments. Alan reports that "the changes to *Guarianthe* and *Rhyncholaelia* will stand. *Sophronitis* will most likely change after the World Orchid Congress in Miami. The type for *Sophronitis* is *S. cernua*, and most taxonomists feel it should be a monotypic Genus. There will be two proposals presented at the scientific meetings at the WOC; one will make *Sophronitis purpurata* a sub-genus of *Cattleya* and the other will put *S. purpurata* into a new genus *Brasilaelia*."

If *S. purpurata* is reclassified as a *Cattleya*, hybrids that are represented by *Sophronitis* only by *S. purpurata* will be reclassified as *Cattleya*, but if it becomes *Brasilaelia purpurata* there will have be yet more new names to accommodate this change. Stay tuned!

Ted Foin, 1 November 2007