

THE SHEATH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENINSULA ORCHID SOCIETY

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

RISKY POLLINATION STRATEGIES?



Rod Peakall is a Professor in Evolutionary Biology at the Australian National University. As ideal subjects, orchids have featured strongly in his research for exploring a range of interesting ecological, chemical, molecular, and evolutionary questions. His research on sexually deceptive orchids, in particular, has captured the imagination of the public, educators, and scientists around the world.

In this talk he will build on his talk of 2021 entitled 'Deceptive Orchids of Australia', to explore the question of whether or not the often highly specialized deceptive pollination strategies of so many Australia orchids might place them at risk of extinction. The talk will focus on some of the beautiful spider orchids belonging to the genus *Caladenia*. His talk will be illustrated with superb photos and video.

A collage of just a handful of the more than 300 *Caladenia* spider orchid species of Australia.



Rod Peakall investigating *Caladenia excelsa*, one of the largest spider orchids of Australia.

MEMBER NEWS

Show and Tell:

If you plan to attend via Zoom and want to share pictures of your orchids during the meeting, please send up to 4 photos to Mark Khoo (mklkhoo@gmail.com) and be prepared to talk about your plants when your photos are shown. You may also prepare your own slide presentation - perhaps even stage a show-type display, photograph it and talk about your various plants.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 18 - American Orchid Society Judging

Located at the Filoli Historic House, 86 Canada Road, Woodside. Plant entry at 9:00 AM. Enter through the front gate and bring your plants into the administration building.

June 28 - Peninsula Orchid Society Meeting

At the San Mateo Garden Center; our speaker will be Rod Peakall (read page 1 for more information).

July 5 - American Orchid Society Judging

In San Francisco at 6:30 PM. For more information, visit: <http://www.paccentraljlc.org>

July 22 - Peninsula Orchid Society Meeting

At the San Mateo Garden Center; our speaker will be Brandon Tam, who will be speaking about growing Stanhopea outdoors.



Paphiopedilum Gold Dollar, grown by Chaunie Langland, and *Coelogyne prolifera*, grown by Dan Williamson.

MEETING DETAILS

6:30 PM ZOOM / SMGC DOOR OPENS
7:00 PM ROD PEAKALL
8:00 PM ANNOUNCEMENTS
8:10 SKILL SESSION - BUILDING AN
INEXPENSIVE SHADE AWNING
8:30 PM SHOW & TELL
END OF MEETING OPPORTUNITY TABLE
DRAWING - SEATTLE ORCHID

REMINDER

Our general meetings are the fourth Friday of every month, except for December when it's the third Friday.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KEN JACOBSEN

Instead of the usual, longer, text-heavy message from our club president, Ken Jacobsen will show the various color forms of Brazilian *Cattleya*. This month will cover *Cattleya intermedia*!

This (right image) is *Cattleya intermedia* '0416L', and represents a fairly nice version of the typical form of this species. Note that the mid-lobe of the lip is colored, but there is little coloring up along the edges of the side lobes of the lip. This is also the typical lip color for the species. You'll also notice that many of my plants have strange names. These strange names are place holders, until I need to put a real name on the plant. Making up cultivar names is hard work!



This is '20-26C' and is another representation of the standard flower for this species. In this example, there's slightly more color on the edged of the side lobes of the lip. There's also a little spotting on the sepals and petals.



Carrying on with the theme of spotting, '09040205' has much more spotting and is a good example of the 'punctata' form of *intermedia*. No, these aren't botrytis spots, but part of the coloration of the flower itself. If the spotting is relatively uniform, it can be an enhancement to the flower. Punctata spots can exist for any of the curious types of *C. intermedia*.



Sometimes the color from the mid lobe lip extends up along the edges of the side lobes forming a ring of color surrounding the column. This is called the Orlata form of *C. intermedia*, and is demonstrated here by plant '20-26CC'.



On occasion, the Orlata coloration extends even further along the edges of the mid lobes of the lip, coloring that edge all the way back to the base of the lip. This is called the Marginata form, as seen in plant '20-26U'. This color form is somewhat rarer than Orlata, but can arise from seed created from two Orlata parent. The genetics for this coloration on the lip edges are not understood at all, often leading to interesting 'discoveries' when blooming out seedlings.



Perhaps a better example of the Marginata form can be seen in '0401M'.



Sometimes in *C. intermedia*, extra tissue develops in the petals leading to a somewhat peloric form. This extra tissue is typically colored the same as the lip, and such a flower is called the Aquinii form of the species. It can also be referred to as a Flamea form when the effect is not extreme, as demonstrated by '20-26GG'. Here you can clearly see the coloration on the extra tissue, somewhat mimicking the lip, but the effect is relatively subtle.



'20-26J' shows a more pronounced version of the Aquinii form. The most extreme examples have petals that cannot open properly because all the extra tissue becomes entangled with other parts of the flower.



A particularly nice flower with both Aquinii and Marginata characteristics is 'Oriental Flame'. This is a plant we obtained at Oriental Orchids Nursery outside Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2009, and is one of our favorite *intermedias*.



Another plant obtained from Oriental Orchids Nursery, but in 2007, is 'Oriental 2007'. This shows how extreme the Aquinii can become. These flowers must be opened by hand, or the petals will just stay locked together over the column.



If this isn't enough to remember already, we can look at the different colors that can tint the flowers for *C. intermedia*. A beautiful, delicate, light amethyst color suffuses the lip of 'Aranbeem', originally from Aranbeem Orchids in Australia many, many years ago. Despite the age of this plant of the form Amethystina (little amethyst), and the narrower flower segments than seen in modern plants, this is still a perennial favorite.



Of course, there are also coerulea forms of *C. intermedia*, such as seen in 'J150401'.



And coerulea Orlata forms, even extending into coerulea Marginata. 'Amy(5)' is coerulea Orlata and came from Floralia Orchids near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



It shouldn't be a surprise that there are coerulea Orlata Aquinii forms as well, as seen in 'Perfeita', which also came from Floralia Orchids.



A color that exists in some groups of Brazilian *Cattleya* that is very difficult to find in other orchids, is the Vinicolor color form. 'Amy' displays a lip that is very different in color from the typical color form, and unmistakably red. Vinicolor plants are rarer than coeruleas, and hard to find.



Vinicolor Orlata examples also exist as shown here in 'Margaux'. I have yet to see a vinicolor Orlata, or vinicolor Orlata Aquinii, and I suspect they would be very hard to produce because of the very recessive nature of this color form for *intermedia*.



Albas do exist and can be found from several vendors, but 'Genezio' is a real rarity. It's an alba Aquinii form. There is extra tissue on the petals mimicking the lip, but since the flower is alba, there's no coloration to that tissue and it's hard to see. Although this plant isn't a stunner on the show bench, it has very interesting potential as a breeder. Alba flowers often allow the color of the other parent in a cross to be expressed crisply and brightly.

PARADISE IN PERIL!

Help protect the Dracula Reserve from the damage caused by gold miners.

The Dracula Reserve is a conservation area in northern Ecuador, near the border with Colombia, managed by the EcoMinga Foundation. A lush green landscape of forests and mountains currently covering over 2800 acres, it is a hotspot of diversity for the orchid genus *Dracula*, for which the reserve was named.

Since the establishment of the reserve in 2015, the Dracula Reserve is now known to contain an incredible diversity of flora and fauna, many of which are endemic to the valley in which the reserve is located. Early surveys of the Dracula Reserve identified over 160 different orchid species from 55 different genera, and this list continues to grow. Recent animal discoveries include new species of mice, shrew opossums, frogs, toads and lizards. Of great interest to the OCA, the reserve also contains new orchid species, including *Scaphosepalum zieglerae*, *Pleurothallis chicalensis*, *Trevora* sp., *Pseudolepanthes bihuae*, and *Lepanthes tulcanensis* as well as a number of new *Lepanthes* and *Pleurothallis* sp. that have yet to be described.

Biological field research is being carried out here by several national and foreign institutions, and there are sure to be more exciting discoveries as they explore this incredible place. But today the very existence of this incredible area of biodiversity is under threat.

The Orchid Conservation Alliance is a grassroots organization, founded in 2006. Its mission has been to conserve and protect orchid-rich habitats (thus preserving not only the orchids, but the trees, environment, animals, other plants, fungi, insects etc.). Since our founding we have worked with local foundations in Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador to create multiple reserves that have permanently protected large tracts of primary, orchid rich environments. However, one of our most precious reserves, the Dracula Reserve in northern Ecuador, is now under considerable threat from gold mining.



Some of the new species discovered in the Dracula Reserve (top to bottom): *Pseudolepanthes bihuae*, *Lepanthes tulcanensis*, and *Pleurothallis chicalensis*.

Gold mining is one of the most destructive industries in the world. It displaces communities, contaminates drinking water, and destroys pristine environments permanently. Gold mining pollutes both the water and the land with mercury and cyanide, pollutants that are damaging to all flora and fauna, including the human inhabitants. The resulting erosion clogs streams and rivers, and can even taint marine ecosystems far downstream of the mine site. Most forms of gold mining involve moving massive amounts of soil and rock. Miners have already started mining on two privately-owned properties adjacent to the Dracula Reserve, and we desperately need your help to purchase one of these large lots (274 acres) from the landowner. The second parcel will be purchased by another foundation also currently raising funds. The owners want to sell to us, and not the mining companies, but we need to raise \$100,000 (USD) to complete the transaction.

We are just over half way to our goal. Please help us get there! And time is of the essence as we must get our funding together to create a counter offer to the gold mining companies. You can donate online through the Orchid Conservation Alliance website, and any donation you can give, no matter how small, will be welcome! If you are a US resident, your donations are tax deductible. If you are interested in making a transformative donation, there are several new species of orchids available for a species naming donation (\$15,000/donation). For more information, please contact Mary Gerritsen. mary@orchidconservationalliance.org (you can also mail a check, payable to the Orchid Conservation Alliance, and send to Mary Gerritsen, Treasurer, 541 Parrott Drive, San Mateo, CA 94402).

Happy birthday!

Anne Abramson
Ann Benniger
Ginger Creevy
Deej Guevarra
Diana Hallesy
Amy Jacobsen
Mary Jensen
Elizabeth Lee
Steve Lipson
Tom Mudge
Olga Ostrovsky
Sue Rose
Paul Satara Bever

2022 Board of Directors

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Newsletter Editor - Leena Wang

Have something you'd like to include in the next newsletter? Send an email to penorchidsoc@yahoo.com!

MAY SHOW AND TELL



Clockwise from top left: *Lycaste* Reina del Cisne (Chaunie Langland), *Disa* Veitchii (Anna Chai), *Sarochilus* Kulnura Fireball 'Robin' x Kulnura Gryffin 'Special' (Leena Wang), *Cattleya* Joyful Heart 'Rachael' (Yi Xiao), and *Cattleya* 'Sierra Dell' (Dan Williamson).



Clockwise from top left: *Comparettia speciosa* (Chaunie Langland), *Epilaeliocattleya Magic Wand* (Tom Waugh), *Paphiopedilum Prince Edward of York* (Chaunie Langland), and *Rossioglossum williamsianum* (Chaunie Langland).

2022 Peninsula Orchid Society
Membership Application or Renewal

Write checks payable to: POS

Mail to: Steve Proshan – POS Membership
326 El Paseo, Millbrae CA 94030

(Membership chairperson for 2022 is Olga Ostrovsky - checks are being mailed directly to the treasurer)

Member Information (Please Print):

Name(s) (1) _____ BirthMonth _____
(2) _____ BirthMonth _____

Address: _____
_____ ZipCode _____

Phone: _____

Please Note: We need your current e-mail address to send you *The Sheath*. Also, you will receive last minute information about orchid related events if we have your e-mail address. Your contact information is never shared except in an annual directory sent only to current POS members.

E-mail: (1) _____
(2) _____

Type of Membership:

- Individual \$20.00 Household membership additional \$10.00
 Payments can be made by Paypal on POS website penorchidsoc.org/membership.html

Our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. Everyone is encouraged to renew before the end of January each year.

Membership Chair's area

Date paid _____ Check No. and amount _____
Receipt No. _____ Cash Amount _____