

# THE SHEATH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENINSULA ORCHID SOCIETY

FRIDAY, JULY 22

## GROWING STANHOPEA OUTDOORS IN CALIFORNIA

By Brandon Tam: Best culture practices for growing Stanhopea and why you should grow them

Brandon Tam is passionate about his career as the Orchid Collection Specialist at The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California. Brandon's grandmother first introduced him to orchids when he was seven by giving him a white *Cymbidium*.

He volunteered at the Huntington during high school, and when he graduated at age 16, Brandon was offered a full-time position as the Orchid Collection Specialist. Brandon has managed the collection for over ten years. While working with Dr. Folsom to reinvigorate the Huntington's orchid collection, Brandon attended California State University Polytechnic, Pomona, and earned his Bachelor of Science in Plant Science degree in 2015.

Brandon now oversees one of the largest orchid collections in the United States, which has grown from 2,000 to over 10,000 plants in the past ten years. The Huntington has quickly built one of the five most diverse orchid species collections in the world. Under Brandon's direction, The Huntington has won over 100 awards from the American Orchid Society within the last three years, Brandon was elected as Trustee of the American Orchid Society, for a three-year term, which he finished recently.



# 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

## 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.

## July 30, 31 - Orchids in the Park

### Orchids in the Park

San Francisco Orchid Society's  
Summer Sale Event

July 30 & 31, 2022  
10am to 5pm

San Francisco County Fair Building  
1199 9th Avenue (near Lincoln Way)  
Next to the SF Botanical Gardens in Golden Gate Park



Tickets will be available at the door  
and online from  
[www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org)



A budding *Stanhopea*, grown by Chaunie Langland.

## MEETING DETAILS

6:30 PM ZOOM / SMGC DOOR  
OPENS  
7:00 PM BRANDON TAM  
8:00 PM ANNOUNCEMENTS  
8:10 NO SKILL SESSION  
8:30 PM SHOW & TELL  
END OF MEETING OPPORTUNITY  
TABLE DRAWING - SEATTLE  
ORCHIDS

## 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 *Laelia purpurata*!

We'll start with the typical, also known as type, or tipo, form of *purpurata*. In this color form, the flower segments tend to be a light to medium lavender with little to no striping or venation. This also seems to be the default color form when other color forms are crossed with each other. Note that the type form can have some differences in the lip color, but even there it's mostly different shades of darker lavender.



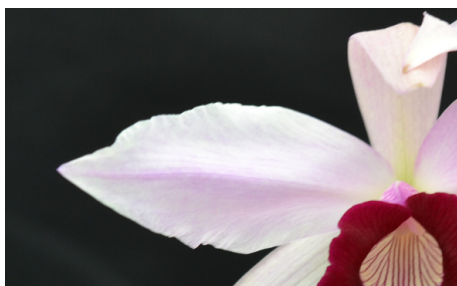
Although we can definitely see some light striping on the petals, this would also generally be termed a typical form of *purpurata*.



The other very early season blooming form of *purpurata* is the semi-alba form. This means the lip is colored, and the petals and sepals are white. Of all the various AOS awards given to *Laelia purpurata*, more have been given to this form than any other.



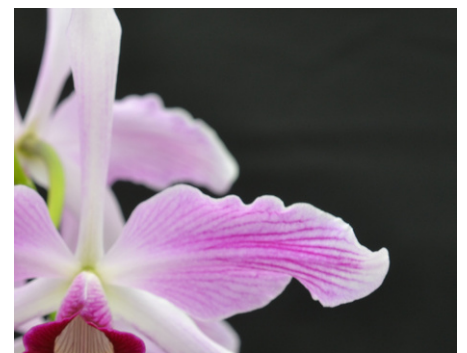
Sometimes it really isn't completely obvious which color form a flower should be given, as seen in this vinicolor form. The sepals and petals are almost white, so I would term it a semi-alba form. It clearly isn't the typical form, as the faint color in the petals and sepals is wine-colored, not lavender.



This is another hard one. The lip may be wine-colored, but the petals and sepals appear to be a very pale. It can't really be called typical because of the lip color, so it probably fits best in the semi-alba classification. In some groups of people, this is where a new term would be coined.



This is an example of a very nice semi-alba *purpurata*.



The striated and veined forms of *purpurata* are closely related, and again can be confusing in the middle ground. The biggest difference is the striated forms tend to be more longitudinal striped along the length of the petals, where as the veined forms are more defined by darker coloration following the veins of the petals. This is a decent example of the striated, or striata, form. The striations can be of any color, and might be quite pale to quite strong.



Here's an example of a striated form in a pale vinicolor.



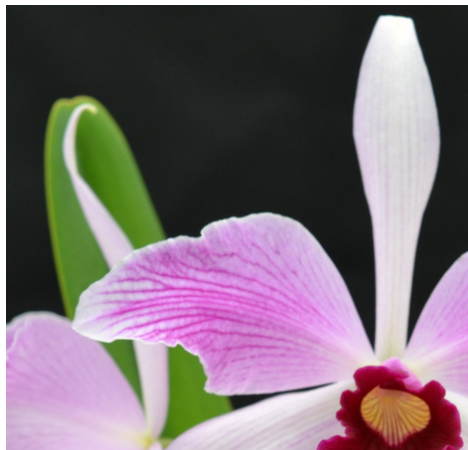
A light striated flower is shown on this photo.



An example of fairly strong striations on the petals, and almost no striations at all on the sepals.



This flower has strong striation on the petals, and on the sepals. Some people might start to call the petal color form venation, as toward the edges of the petals the color follows the veins.



Another example that staddles the boundary between striated and veined. In this case, I personally would call this veined, or venosa.



Striations are not limited to a particular color form. Here we see striations in the blue, or Werkhauseri, color of *purpurata*.



Another Werkhauseri striata.



The color in the petals of this flower follows the veins in the petals quite closely, so this is a good representation of the veined form.



Another example of the veined form in a slightly stronger color.



A still stronger colored example of the veined form.



When the color in the petals of either the striated or veined forms is very strong, but the color in the sepals is light, we have what many term the flamea, or flamed, form. There's no clear rule where the lines between classifications should be drawn, although some *purpurata* growers may indicate otherwise. It's not because no one has tried to establish the lines, but because too many people have tried to do so.



Since I don't know myself how I would classify this particular flower, I'll leave it as an exercise to the reader. Personally, I don't think you'd be wrong if you called it *tipo*, *striata*, or *venosa*.



The darkest colored forms are also the last to open, usually opening 6 to 8 weeks after the *tipo* and semi-alba forms open. These are the *sanguenia*, or blood-colored, color forms of *purpurata*.



The *sanguenia* form is also called the *rubra* form. Some growers claim they are different, but I've never been able to see a color difference in person, or in a photo. I think this is really more about where the person lives than any real difference in the flower color. In Brazil, those in Rio tend to use different color descriptors than those in Sao Paulo.



Of course, there are other color oddities. Here we see a *concolor* flower, which is a flower where the color of all the segments is the same. Although this is almost always pink, or light lavender, any color other the white could be termed *concolor* if it's the same in all flower segments.



If the flower is white in all segments, then it's an *alba* form of the species. For historical reasons, this could also be termed the *virginalis* color form.



Sometimes strange things happen in *purpurata* just like they do in other orchids. Here's an example of a *peloric purpurata* flower, which means that the petals are modified in form and color to resemble the lip. Although this form is rare, there's evidence that it is an inheritable trait, so can be used by breeders to create still more forms of *purpurata*.



Top: *Ponerorchis graminifolia* 'Bentley' AM/AOS (Ken Jacobsen)  
Bottom: *Cattleya longipes* (Dan Williamson)

## Happy birthday!

Anna Chai  
Amanda Kass  
Lisa Pace  
Jung Hee Ra  
Deadra St. Clair  
Julie Williamson  
Neal Winslow



*Vanda Motes Pixie Dust* (Dan Williamson)

## 2022 Board of Directors

President - Ken Jacobsen  
Vice President - Chaunie Langland  
Recording Secretary - Dan Williamson  
Correspondence Secretary - Isis Trenchard  
Treasurer - Steve Proschan  
Director of Membership - Olga Ostrovsky  
Director of Ways and Means - Mark Khoo  
Director at Large - Mariko Nagashima  
Director at Large - Mary Bui-Pham  
Director at Large - Leena Wang  
Newsletter Editor - Leena Wang

Have something you'd like to include in the next newsletter?  
Send an email to [penorchidsoc@yahoo.com](mailto:penorchidsoc@yahoo.com)!

# JUNE SHOW AND TELL



Clockwise from top left: *Sarcochilus ceciliae* (Anna Chai), *Ceratochilus biglandulosus* (Yi Xiao), *Chiloschista lunifera* (Viktoriiia Kolotovska), *Neofinetia falcata* Kibana (Anna Chai)



Clockwise from top left: *Laelia sincorana* (Anna Chai), *Sophrolaeliocattleya* Bright Angel 'Gracie' (Mitchell Schneider), *Dendrobium fuerstenbergianum* (Carol West), *Bulbophyllum claptonense* (Viktoriiia Kolotovska)



2022 Peninsula Orchid Society  
Membership Application or Renewal

Write checks payable to: POS

Mail to: Steve Proschan – 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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_