

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society



October 2019

Next Meeting

Wednesday
October 16, 2019
7:30 pm

Fellowship Hall
Trinity Lutheran Church
909 N. La Cumbre Road
(at Foothill)

*Remember to arrive early
to help set up the meeting*

Refreshments Reminder

Oct

Daniel Ortega
Heidi Kirkpatrick

Nov

Russ Jones

Dec

Potluck

OSSB Officers

President – PJ Sanderson
Treasurer – Angela Watt
Secretary – Nancy Augustine
Board Member – Don Brown
Board Member – Wayne Ferrell
Speaker Chair – Maryanne Schrier
Hospitality Chair – Frank Methmann
Silent Auction Chair – Art Denk
Raffle Chair – Alice Gripp
Web Master – Bryce Augustine

OSSB Website
orchidsb.org

Facebook
Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

This Month's Program

The Ghost Orchid and Other Spooky Orchid Tales

This month's meeting will feature a video on the Ghost Orchid. Known also as the Palm Polly or White Frog Orchid, botanically speaking it is *Dendrophylax lindenii*, or the Ghost Orchid.

Clinging to tree trunks, this leafless orchid was first discovered by Belgian plant collector Jean Jules Linden (hence *lindenii*) in Cuba in 1844 and was later discovered in the Florida Everglades.

A network of flattened photosynthetic roots provides the energy for this orchid to grow without leaves in moist, swampy forest areas in southwest Florida and on Caribbean islands such as Cuba. Look for its pneumatodes (distinctive white track marks) on the roots which are thought to function partly like leaf stomata enabling the roots to perform gas exchange that is required for respiration and photosynthesis. These specialized roots contain chloroplasts to perform photosynthesis and have an outer layer of velamen (typical of most epiphytic orchids) that absorbs nutrients and water while allowing admission of light for photosynthesis. Yes, they are endangered and are listed in Appendix II of CITES and protected by Florida state laws against wild collecting. Their host tree of preference is pond-apple or sometimes pop ash where they grow on the central trunk or large main branches of living trees at about eye level. Blooming season is between June and August with one to ten white 3-4 cm x 7-9 cm flowers that open sequentially. If you want to catch their fragrance you will need to visit them early in the morning to appreciate the fruity scent that resembles apple. The roots are well camouflaged on the tree so that the flower seems to float in mid-air, giving this orchid its ghostly epithet.

Upcoming Orchid Shows & Events

18-20 October – 5th Annual Huntington Orchid Show & Sale 'Orchid Safari', Friday, Sat & Sun 10-5, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Exhibits by Southern California orchid societies and international growers, vendors from around the world. The show is full of local orchid society grower plants in their Fall prime.

2-3 November – 61st Annual SBOE Fall Open House, 8-5 Fri & Sat, 9-4 Sun. Santa Barbara Orchid Estate, 1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara. Mexican Laelias and Cymbidiums in bloom and bud. This is your chance to pick up some new Fall blooming orchids!

Cancelled – OSSB Fall Show and Sale. Challenged by a renovation at the usual location at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and the inability to find an affordable substitute location, our mid-November show will not take place this year.