



Fascination of Orchids, inc. A 501 (C) (3) Non Profit Organization

# Fascination of Orchids Newsletter

Fascination of Orchids is organized to raise public interest in, and provide funding for educational programs related to orchids and ornamental horticulture. [www.fascinationoforchids.com](http://www.fascinationoforchids.com)

Volume 1 Number 5  
November 2022

Santa Ana Zoo at Prentice Park  
1801 E. Chestnut Drive. Santa Ana, CA 92701

#### President

Theo Johnson

#### Executive Committee

Roberta Fox  
Tony Glinskas

#### Newsletter

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Newsletter deadline is the  
25th of the month prior to  
the month of issue.

**Meeting: November 5, 2022 at 9:45 AM**

## Those Amazing Masdevallias

**by Sandra Tillsch Svoboda**



This webinar teaches us about Masdevallia distribution, culture, blooming cycles and hybrids.

Growing up in Minnesota, Sandra's only exposure to orchids was that prom corsage. She began her orchid life as a pot washer for her late husband Al and became fascinated with the history of her husband's complex paph collection, which included many oldies like *Paph. F.C. Puddle*. Al's knowledge, love, and enthusiasm for orchids were contagious. When they built a second greenhouse, Sandra decided it would be hers, and that was when orchids became an important part of her life. Sandra is editor-in-chief of the *Orchid Digest*, is past president of AOS and other organizations. Besides the plants themselves and the never-ending opportunity to learn about them, Sandra loves being involved in the orchid world because it offers an opportunity to travel, meet, and work with many amazing and fascinating people.

### President's Message

I can't believe it has been a little over a month since the Show at the Zoo. As I write this, I was thinking we were done with the heat but I see it will be in the mid 80 to 90 this week. We did get an unexpected phenomenon on Sat. (Oct. 15). I think it is called rain???

Since we are supposed to be moving into the fall and winter months, you can start cutting back on watering, except this week, starting Oct. 18, with the high temperatures. Be careful not to water too late in the day to prevent possible mold or rot issues, as night time temperatures are still dropping.

See: *President's Message*, Page 2

*From Page 1, President's Message*

I have been repotting since before the heat wave stopped me in the beginning of September. I am going to stop repotting plants except those that absolutely need it or they will die or plants with active new roots coming out. Many orchids go a bit dormant in the winter and you don't want to shock the plant and then stress it with the cool weather.

At the November meeting, I will ask everyone what we want to do in December, as we usually did a holiday meeting when our meetings were in the evening. Since we meet in the day, I am open to suggestions on what you all prefer. See you on Saturday.

*Theo*

### **From Theo Johnson**



All these plants are grown in Costa Mesa in my greenhouse (50% shade), which is really a shade house in the spring through early winter (Nov.). They get watered once a week unless it gets above 85 and then I will water every 4 days. I fertilize them with either time release fertilizer once a year or soluble fertilizer three times a year. These plants in the photos bloom every year. The Susan Fender seemed to be a bit darker and better formed this year, with a wonderful fragrance. The B. tuberculata, was from a plant table with only one lead when won, but this year, it had two leads with two flower spikes. Blc. Donna Kimura is beautiful and well formed with a nice fragrance, but it

can be a little touchy to grow. Hari-Anceps I have had since they were about 3 inches tall and they have turned out to be weeds growing out of their pots and requiring repotting about every 2-3 years. The C. bowringiana was a gift from Dick Hess about 5 years ago while I was helping him repot cattleyas. C. bowringiana is a little touchy



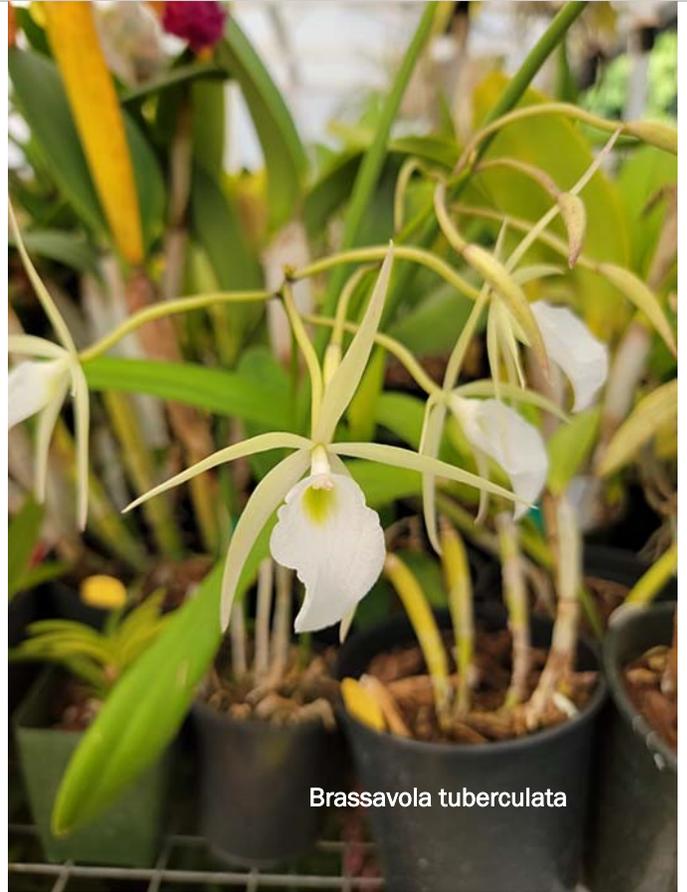
to grow, but this plant seems to bloom every year with very little care.

**Potinara Susan Fender 'Cinnamon Stick' AM/AOS**

From Theo Johnson, continued



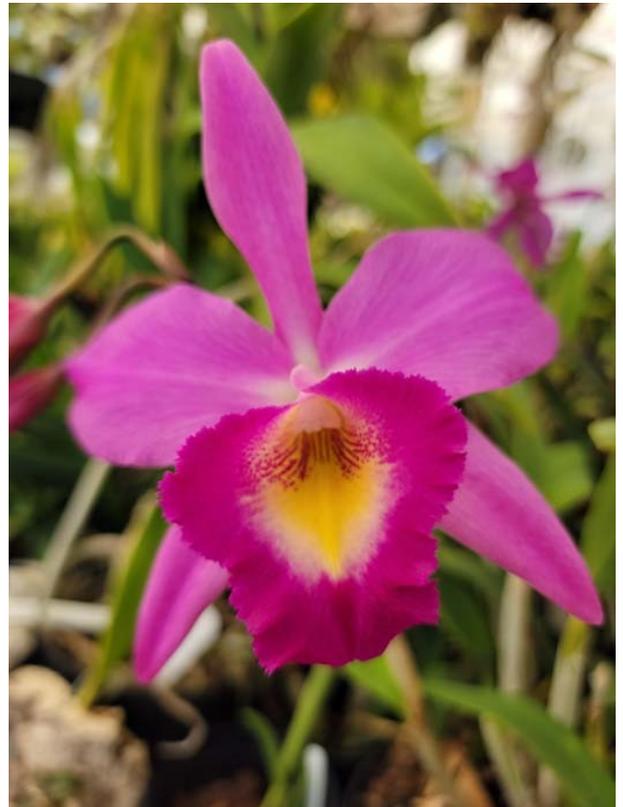
Blc. Donna Kimura 'Paradise Tami' AM/AOS



Brassavola tuberculata



C bowringiana f. coerulea



Lc. Harri-Anceps

From Tony Glinskas

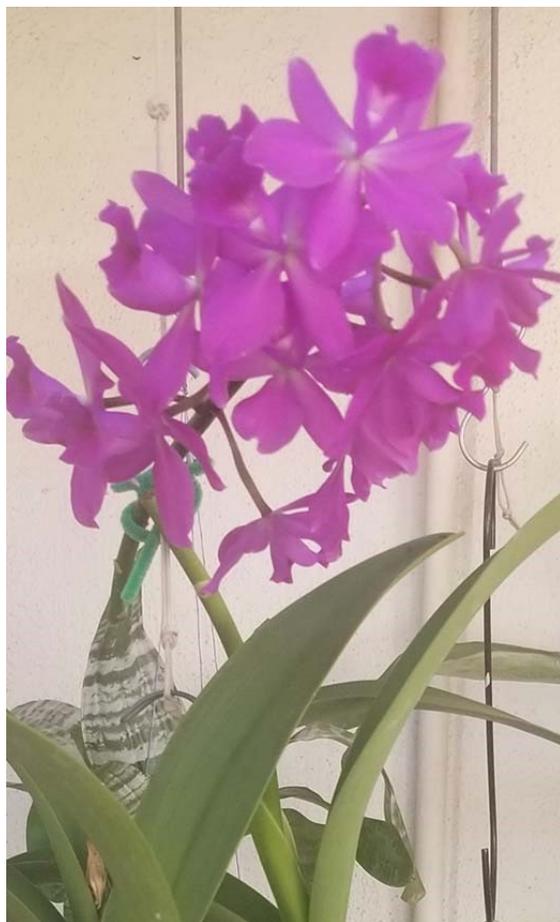


Cattleya hybrid loving the heat of mid-September!

From Gisela Ferolito



*Miltonia moreliana*  
(*Milt. spectabilis*  
var. *moreliana*)



Epc. Joseph Roman 'Roman Holiday'



## More From Gisela Ferolito



### Phalaenopsis-type Dendrobium hybrid

Note: has nothing to do with Phalaenopsis... it is a hybrid of *Dendrobium bigibbum* (*Den. phalaenopsis*)



## Editor's Notes



This is the awkward time of year. It's hot then it's cool then vice-versa. My orchids seem to take this in stride. When it's hot, I just water a bit more, and give them a little "cool-down" in the middle of the day.

We really haven't had much of an evening cool-down, so I expect that the spring-blooming Cymbidiums are going to be late this year. However, you have already seen some of my early bloomers, and here is another, the super-reliable Cym. Akaka Falls. This one is Cym. tracyanum x Cym. dayanum. I don't have a Cym. tracyanum blooming, but Cym. dayanum bloomed last month. So we know where that early-fall influence comes from.

*Miltonia moreliana* (*Milt. spectabilis* var. *moreliana*) is just finishing up. This one came to me from Gisela Ferolito many years ago. In the interim, Gisela lost her plant, much to her disappointment. I gave her a division of my plant, and she shows the result. Dividing and sharing your plants is a great insurance policy. You may be able to bring them back from the dead



Cym. Akaka Falls

that way!

This was a great year for *Cattleya labiata*. For a long time I had thought of this species a warm grower, but after



hearing a talk from Steve Champlin of Floralia, I learned that these can experience chilly winters in their native Brazil. I moved them out of the greenhouse into the back yard, and they have thrived. Here are three color forms... rubra, alba, and coerulea.

*Paphiopedilum gratixianum* is an easy outdoor-growing

*Paph.* It likes a bit more sun than many *Paphs*, growing under the same conditions as *Paph. insigne* and *Paph. villosum* (and their hybrids) Unlike many orchids, these don't like to dry out. I use small Orchista or Kiwi Bark so that the medium doesn't break down fast with the moisture. For me, these only need repotting every 3 years or so.



*Paph. gratixianum*

*Vanda Paki* is a great hybrid for outdoor growing. It is a primary hybrid of two cool-growing species, *V. tricolor* x *V. cristata*. The *V. cristata* lip is very dominant, Basically, it is *V. cristata* on steroids. The name rhymes with "hockey" - it is named for a Hawaiian god-



*Vanda Paki*



*Miltonia moreliana*



*C. labiata* forms: rubra, alba, and coerulea

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

See the [Events page](#) for further details

- **Orchids in the Park Show and Sale**

October 29-30, 2022; Saturday Noon to 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM–5 PM  
Casa del Prado Room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego  
info: [www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com)

- **Andy’s Orchids Winter Open House**

December 9-11, 2022; 10 AM–4 PM  
724 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas  
Info: [www.andysorchids.com](http://www.andysorchids.com)

dess not the British pejorative term for south Asians.

Prosthechea (Encyclia) cochleata is the “cockle shell” or “octopus” orchid. It will continue to bloom for many months, producing new flowers at the ends of the ever-lengthening inflorescences. I expect it to be in bloom at least until March (when the spikes may be 2 ft. long or more.)



Prosthechea cochleata

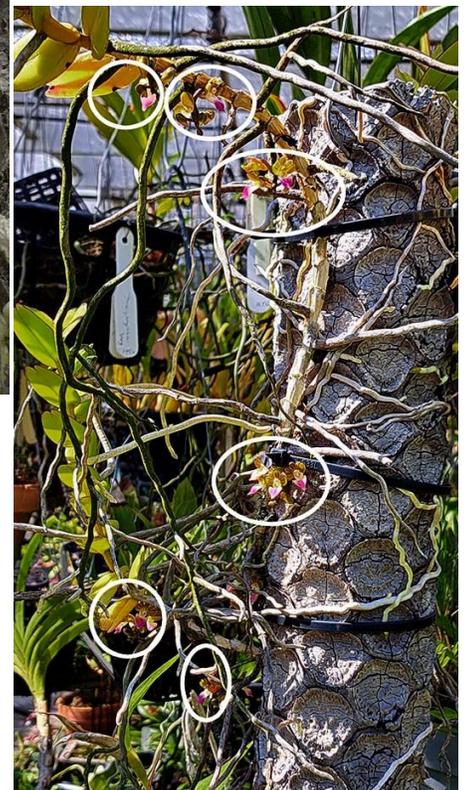


Here is a really fun \$7.50 special from SBOE. Pelatantheria insectifera is native to a



Pelatantheria insectifera

wide area of east Himalaya, northern India, southern China and southeast Asia. The plant rambles—it has grown around this piece of tree-fern trunk. The little flowers, with their bright pink lips, emerge in clusters anywhere along the stem. I have circled the clusters just on one side of the plant, there are more on the other side. It’s just cute.



Roberta Fox, Editor