



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

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

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President

Theo Johnson

Executive Committee

Roberta Fox
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Newsletter

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

Meeting: March 4, 2023 at 9:45 AM



Wonderful World of Phragmipediums

(Part 2, picking up where we left off last month)

Jason Fischer

Orchids Limited in Plymouth, Minnesota

Jason discusses some of the wonderful Phragmipediums and how to grow them.

President's Message

As I write this the wind is tearing down my shade cloth over my patio and knocking down all my orchids. The next few days will be cold and wet. I luckily bought some new shade cloth pieces with brass gromets to replace the aged ones I had before.

The Cymbidiums are spiking now so keep a watch on staking the flower spikes. My Laelia anceps are either mounted or getting ready to be mounted when they first show the new roots. This enables the plants to attack to the mounting material. Remember to water your plants if you have a covered green-

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house or shade house where the rain doesn't get to the plants. I have tried to repot all my small Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums at the same time each year so I don't have to bother with them for at least 1-2 years.

Choose your watering days so the plants have a little warmth and some time to dry out a little bit. Mounted plants are less sensitive to staying wet versus potted plants. Watch plants for signs of root rot and separate those affected plants so as not to spread the bacteria.

Continue cleaning up the grow areas as this will benefit plant culture in the growing months to keep plants free from disease and pests. Repot when you see active roots are hanging over the edge of the pots. I have also mounted some of the Laelia anceps that I wasn't able to mount last year, and they seem to be shooting out new roots to attach to the mounts.

I plan on having a webinar or presentation on Neofinetia falcata in April or a Pest and Pesticide update/Culture of the orchid Growing area. If you have an orchid/culture subject you would like to see, please let me know.

Hope to see you all Saturday at the Barn at the Santa Ana Zoo at 9:30-9:45 AM.

Theo

From Gisela Ferolito:



Blc. Beautiful American Lady (unregistered)
Fragrant!

Editor's Notes



I hope that your orchids haven't suffered too much from the cold and rain and wind! So far, so good at my house. Anything that wind was going to knock over, did it with the last batch of weather. There is some compensation for the cold, with days getting longer and sun angle getting higher. Hard to believe, but the vernal equinox is not so far away! In fact, do watch the changing sun angle. When the sun suddenly clears buildings and other obstacles, giving plants that have been in shade all winter a blast of light and heat, toasted leaves may be the result. You may want to drape shade cloth over the vulnerable plants to get them through the transition, acclimating slowly to brighter light.

Some blooms are running a bit late, but there's lots blooming and many buds, promising a floriferous spring. The cool weather has prolonged the blooming of many Cymbidiums, so that many that I have shown you over the last two months are still in bloom and looking quite good. Here are a few more joining the "party".



Cym. NOID

A gift from a friend in the Midwest, it loves California!

**Cym. Knute Kid
(Knute Rockne x Cisco Kid)**



Cym. Dos Equis (Fire Water x Yowie Flame)

Cym. Knute Kid is one of my earliest orchid acquisitions, from my first Fascination of Orchids show. A few of you may remember Jimi Fox of Orchids Limited International—this was one of his. I have always loved the contrast between the creamy segments lightly brushed with red (the amount of color varies from year to year), and the velvety lip.

Blc. Zul (Orange Nuggett x C. skinneri) came to me from Theo. (Thanks!) When he put his plant in an exhibit at a NHOS show, the AOS judges awarded it even though it hadn't been entered for judging. It's extremely vigorous, so has been di-

vided several times. The flowers open peachy-yellow, then develop the deep salmon-pink color and darker picotee as they mature. It is extremely fragrant. This one does need a little winter protection to thrive.



**Blc. Zul 'Wantana'
HCC/AOS**



Mature flower



New flower

Ada (*Brassia*) *aurantiaca* flowers don't open completely, but look like orange flames. This year, 12 spikes! It will stay in bloom for another month or 6 weeks.



Bonatea speciosa is a South African terrestrial that grows very easily. I use a fast-draining combination of cactus mix, sand, and some pumice. After blooming, the growths die back, but new ones emerge soon after. I have found that the spring growths don't usually bloom, but another flush of new growth appears in the fall, which produces the February blooms.



Bonatea speciosa 'Green Egret'



Mediocalcar decoratum is a New Guinea native with flowers that look like little "Candy-Corns". It grows in a mat. I started it in sphagnum in a basket, but the plant now grows more ON the basket than IN it. The sphagnum keeps some moisture around the small, thin roots, but it has extended beyond the basket, is slowly becoming a ball of plant and flowers.

Mediocalcar decoratum



Here is a *Phalaenopsis* that is "multi-tasking" or maybe just confused. This is *Phal. schilleriana*, a lovely species with very attractive leaves. It grows under the same conditions as hybrid Phals. This one looked like it was going to make two flower spikes, then the "spikes" produced leaves (but no roots) and then also generated flower spikes. Perhaps after it is done flowering, the leaves will grow roots as normal keikis. Or not. Just watch the show.



Phalaenopsis schilleriana



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show**
 March 10-12, 2023; 9 AM–5 PM
 Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
 Info: www.sborchidshow.com
- **Long Beach Amateurs Orchid Society Annual Auction**
 March 13, 2023: 6:00 PM preview, 6:30 PM auction begins
 St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 6201 E. Willow St., Long Beach
 Info: LBAOSinfo@gmail.com
- **Andy's Orchids Spring Open House**
 March 17-19, 2023: 10 AM–4 PM
 724 Ocean View Ave, Encinitas
 Info: www.andysorchids.com
- **South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale**
 March 25-26, 2023; 10 AM–4 PM
 Palos Verdes Art Center, 5504 Crestridge Rd., Rancho Palos Verdes
 Info: www.southbayorchidsociety.com/Show/index.html
- **The Woman's Club of Orange 84th Annual Flower Show**
 Thursday, April 13, 2023; 12:00 PM –4 PM
 121 S. Center St., Orange. Free admission.
 Info: Pietra Gaw, 714-836-5919
- **AOS Spring Members Meeting**
 April 19-22, 2023
 San Diego
 Info and registration: www.aos.org

My Mediterranean terrestrials are starting to bloom. Here is *Ophrys tenthredinifera*, one of the “bee orchids”. This species is native to the European and north African countries bordering the Mediterranean, and as far north as France and Great Britain. Our Mediterranean climate (hot and dry summers, cool and wet winters) is perfect for orchids like these. They are dormant all summer, with no water. Watering resumes in mid-October, they sprout and bloom in the late winter and early spring.

Roberta Fox, Editor

Ophrys tenthredinifera

