

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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Theo Johnson

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Newsletter

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

Meeting: April 1, 2023 at 9:45 AM

Winter



Blues

From the AOS 4th Annual Culture Day Webinar

Fred Clarke

Fred will talk about hybridizing blue (coerulea) Cattleyas and mini-Catts.

President's Message

In between the recent rains and winds, I replaced my shade cloth over my patio and side of my greenhouse. The next few days will be cold and wet which will mean my yard will be flooded again, but my orchids will be watered and happy.

The Cymbidiums spikes are starting to open now but the orchid that is putting on a show is *Dendrobium speciosum*. Both white and yellow varieties are in bloom and the smell is wonderful. I just have to keep the slugs off of them at night. I've mounted and hung most of my *Laelia anceps*, and keeping watch on the stragglers for new roots so I can divide and mount them. Some of the older mounted plants were trimmed of dead

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(dried out) pseudobulbs and the fishing line removed since the plants were fully attached to the mount.

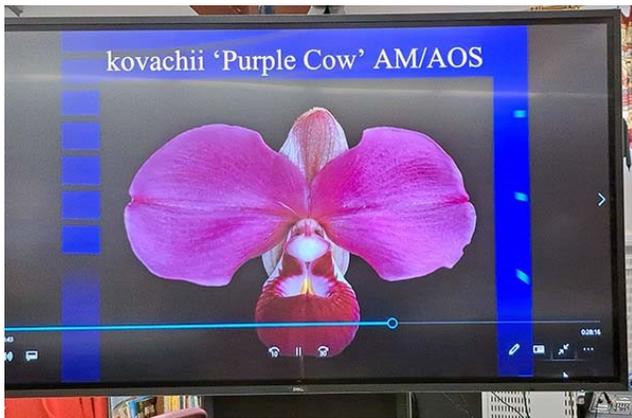
Remember to water your plants if you have a covered greenhouse or shade house where the rain doesn't get to the plants. I am currently not having to water the outside plants, since they are watered by nature the past few months.

I continue to clean the growing areas, as this will benefit plant culture in the coming. I'm getting ride of all old flower spikes, dead leaves, weeds in pots, dead plants, and arranging the plants so they have room to grow. I am also putting up some metal piping so I can hang mounted and small potted plants more efficiently. I will wait for it to warm up a little bit before I start actively repotting plants again. It's just too cold both in the day and night!

I went to Home Depot to look at their pesticide selection and will be doing some additional research on what is best, what is affordable, and what is legally available. I should have an updated Pest and Pesticide talk/Culture of the orchid Growing area soon. 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 THE MARCH MEETING



Editor's Notes



The orchids seem to just be loving the rain. It's chilly for me, but not enough to make botrytis a big problem. *Den. speciosum* is popping out all over the place. Others in the group, such as *Den. kingianum* and the Australian *Dendrobium* hybrids such as *Den. Delicatum* (*Specio-kingianum*) are still mostly in bud, but they'll be putting on a show in another week or so.



Dendrobium speciosum

Den. falcorostrum is a close relative, even a little cooler-growing than *Den. speciosum*. It has a very sweet and powerful fragrance.



Dendrobium falcorostrum

The Catesetinae are still dormant, just starting to show some new growth. It won't be time to start watering for another 6-8 weeks in most cases. But in the meantime, *Clovesia Rebecca Northern 'Grapefruit Pink'* has bloomed profusely while still dormant. So in spite of the flowers, no water. About the time the flowers start to fade, there's just the beginning of new growth. But will still be a couple of months before it's ready for water. (Note to the winner of this plant in the raffle... Don't water it yet!!)



**Clowesia
Rebecca
Northern
'Grapefruit Pink'**



Cymbidiums are still going strong, In the cool weather, the flowers are lasting as much as two months. *Cym. Whitney Houston* is a glorious standard Cymbidium, from one of George Hatfield's plant tables some years back.



Cym. Whitney Houston

Cattleya loddigesii grows easily outside. It is completely unfazed by the cold and rain.



Osmoglossum pulchellum bloomed almost two months later than usual. I expect that it was due to the unusually cool fall and winter. 9 spikes, some of which haven't even opened yet. (It usually blooms in January) Flowers are extremely fragrant. It's firmly attached to the original mount, but the part of the mount holding the hanger rotted away a couple of years ago so I just tied it to another mount. It can now hang securely, but no roots were disturbed.



Bletilla striata (the Asian Ground Orchid) actually grows better for me in the ground than a pot. This is the typical form—there is also an alba form, and a coerulea. The plant has grown into a patch in a flower bed along with the purple Statice. I started it out in some good potting soil, but it has happily grown into the surrounding heavy clay that makes up most of my flower beds. It loses its leaves in winter, and faithfully reappears each spring.



Bletilla striata

My Mediterranean-climate terrestrials continue to bloom. Some have finished, but others are newly opened. *Ophrys lutea* is very vigorous, increasing by one or two growths each year. And one of my favorites, *Ophrys speculum*, looks just like a little bug,



living up to its nickname “bee orchid”. If you were a male bee, you would find “her” irresistible.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- 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
- Orange County Orchid Society Annual Auction**
 Wednesday, April 19, 2023; 6:30 PM preview, 7 PM Auction begins
 Yorba Linda Community Center, 4501 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda
 Info: Anne-Line Anderson, 714-446-9382, anneline45@gmail.com
 Visit www.ocos.net for sale catalog on April 12
- AOS Spring Members Meeting**
 April 19-22, 2023
 San Diego
 Info and registration: www.aos.org
- South Coast Plaza Spring Garden Show**
 April 20-23, 2023
 South Coast Plaza, 3333 Bear St., Costa Mesa (Crate & Barrel/Macy's Home Store Wing)
 Info: www.southcoastplaza.com/gardenshow/
- San Diego County Orchid Society Show and Sale**
 April 21-23, 2023; Friday 3 PM–7 PM, Saturday 9 AM–6 PM, Sunday 10 AM–4 PM
 Balboa Park's Casa del Prado, Room 101 and Patio, San Diego
 Info: www.sdorchids.com

Southern and western Australia also have a Mediterranean-type climate with hot dry summers and cool wet winters. So these plants grow in southern California just as easily as the European Mediterranean terrestrials. Here are two “donkey orchids”. *Diuris orientis* comes from south-east Australia, and *Diuris manifica* from western Australia.

Next month will bring the *Thelymitras*, some of which are truly a brilliant BLUE. (*Coerulea* orchids are really lavender... sort of blue-ish, but not blue when compared with the *Thelys*.)



Roberta Fox, Editor