

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

Volume 2 Number 5
May 2023

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

President

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: May 6, 2023 at 9:45 AM



**Mounting Orchids:
Prepping, Care, and
Best Practices**
with Michael Coronado



Michael Coronado is the Vice President and manager in charge of hybridizing and growing for R.F. Orchids in Homestead, FL. He has traveled extensively around the world to keep abreast of the newest trends in orchid hybridizing, including the nursery's specialty, vandaceous orchids. Mike is an accredited AOS judge, and has served on the Board of Directors of the South Florida Orchid Society.

President's Message

The weather has finally made a turn towards Spring and we can now start buying supplies for and commencing repotting. My Cattleyas and Cymbidiums are in need of repotting this year and I tend to rotate between the two. I set up repotting stations for each type of bark and have the bark prepared with perlite or perlite and coco chips depending on the particular plant. I have my mounting station always at the ready for any plants that need mounting.

Remember to remove any dead roots or old flower spikes/sheaths, and evaluate whether you need a new pot or need to up or down pot the plant due to its size.

See: *President's Message*, Page 2

From Page 1, President's Message

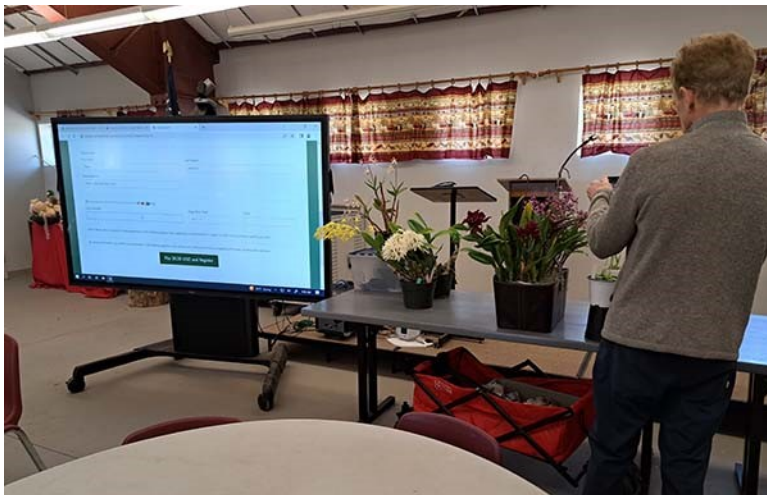
I also keep a full bag of extended release Nutricote fertilizer pellets (I use 18-6-8; 270 days) for each newly repotted plant. Repotting is also the time when you want to clean up the plant as it will probably not be repotted for at least 3 or more years. Don't forget the labels. Use #2 pencil and replace old or damaged tags.

If you can, enlist the help of an orchid friend, the repotting goes much faster and you can share stories and plants while you are repotting. Start early since it will get hot in the coming months. I was once told that "your plants you repot in the Spring will reward you in the fall." Do a little at a time so you don't get burnt out. Spring is also a good time to clean up your growing areas. Get rid of all the dead leaves, weeds and grass that can throw seeds into the orchid pots. Weeds and grasses can cause root rot through water retention, as well as attract unwanted pests.

I will be asking for suggestions for future talks/demonstrations. Let me know if you have suggestions. See you Saturday 9:30 AM at the Zoo.

Theo

FROM THE APRIL MEETING



From Gisela Ferolito:



Vandachostylis (Darwinara) "Blue Pacific"
(probably Vandachostylis (Darwinara) Charm 'Blue Pacific')

ender. But with the bright sunshine, my Thelymitras have put on a good show. On overcast or cloudy days, the buds stay tightly closed. They live up to their nickname, "sun orchid", opening only in the bright sun. These are native to southeast and south Australia. Soon, they will go dormant for the summer.



Thelymitra nuda
(or glaucophylla)



Thelymitra (grandiflora x glaucophylla)

Editor's Notes



Now that the rain has finally stopped, we have a lovely mix of marine layer followed by bright afternoons. That has inspired me to get out into the garden... for a start, clean up old, bare spikes, and start to deal with the extensive repotting effort that is going to go on for awhile. But with the bright sunshine, I also finally am able to show you some orchids that are REALLY blue. At the last meeting, you saw a webinar on new breeding of "blue" orchids, but those aren't really blue, but rather coerulea—more of a lav-



Thelymitra pauciflora

Here is a lovely coerulea Catt hybrid, Lc. (C.) Periwinkle Poetry. It has C. loddigesii 'Blue Sky' as one parent.



Lc. Periwinkle Poetry

Cattleya (Laelia) jongheana has one of the best flower-to-plant ratios around. Flowers 5.5 inches on 6 inch growths (pseudobulb plus leaf). Some cultivars can have flowers that are 6-7 inches. The flowers are very flat, and appear to almost float. These grow easily on my patio.



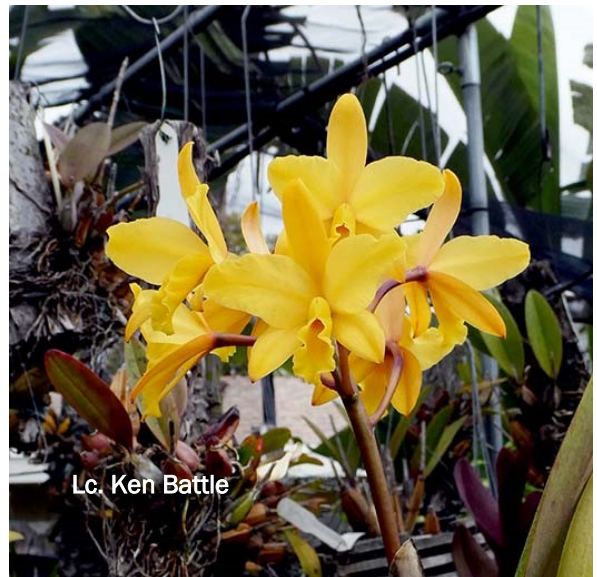
Cattleya (Laelia) jongheana

There are still some of the later Cymbidiums blooming. Cym. Cali Night is deep, dark burgundy, with a thin light picotee, setting off the flowers and velvety lip. This is a cross of Cym. Black Forest (very large) x devonianum, to make a nice compact plant with pendant spike.

Cym. Cali Night 'Geyserland'



One more Cattleya that is putting on a show... Lc. Ken Battle. This one is pure sunshine. There is another spike on the way, too.



Lc. Ken Battle

Maxillaria picta grows easily both near the coast and inland. The buds are cream-white with burgundy spots, when the flowers open the segments are bright yellow, and the spotted pattern remains on the backs of the sepals. The flowers are very fragrant. They remind me of vanilla.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists Annual Auction**
 May 19, 2023; 6 PM preview, 7 PM auction begins
 LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia—Ayres Hall
 Info: www.sgvoh.org
- **Andy’s Orchids Summer Open House**
 June 16–18, 2023; 10 AM–4 PM
 734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas
 Info: www.andysorchids.com



Maxillaria picta



Dryadella zebrina is a very floriferous miniature. The whole plant is about 2 inches across. The flowers aren’t colorful, but are very cute, and this is one of the best flush blooms that I have had from this plant. It is like a ball of flowers.

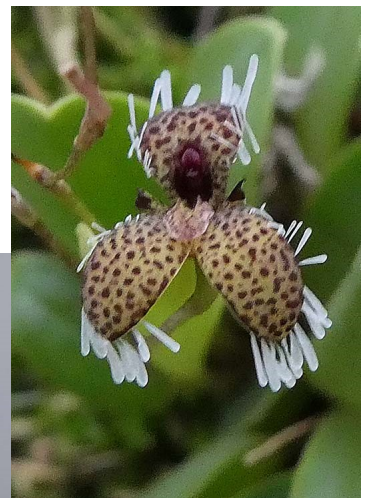
Another charming little species is Pleurothallis ornata. (It is sometimes sold as Pths. scheidei but that is incorrect)

Pleurothallis ornata



Dryadella zebrina

The little white “flags” wiggle in the smallest breeze, beckoning the pollinator to “come hither.”



Roberta Fox, Editor