

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

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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: June 3, 2023 at 9:45 AM



Dendrobium Species and Their Culture

Peter T. Lin
(Webinar)

Peter T. Lin is an avid orchid hobbyist, hybridizer, and AOS judge. He specializes in mini-Catts, Angraecoids, Neofinetia, Dendrobium, and miniature orchids in general. He frequently gives talks at local orchid societies, and has also written articles for Orchid Digest and Orchids Magazine.

President's Message

The weather has turned from the spring sun to June gloom in May. The repotting of Cymbidiums and Cattleyas may commence. Set up repotting stations for large medium or small bark mixed with perlite and pull plants requiring repotting. I try to do about 10 - 20 plants at a time. Of course, if you're talking about Cymbidiums that are well grown or heavily rooted you may get through about 5 - 10 plants.

On a side note, I was recently made aware that Orange County Farm Supply will no longer be carrying the small (1/8 - 1/4-inch) seedling bark we use for cymbidiums and other orchids during repotting. Yamada's is carrying the small size bark but only in 1 cubic foot bags.

Now is the time to start fertilizing plants for when the sun actually does come out. I like to use 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

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From Page 1, President's Message

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.

I have also worked on the grass and weeds growing in my garden area. With all the rain you know that the seeds deposited last summer have grown into new grass or weeds and will be reseeding the area again. Get ahead of the cycle and remove these pests from your growing area.

Speaking of pests, this time of year is also a good time to spray for pests that attack your orchids. Scale, thrips mealybugs, slugs and snails to name a few.

Next month will be open houses at the Santa Barbara orchid vendors so keep an eye out for their announcements.

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 MAY MEETING



Editor's Notes



My orchids are totally enjoying the May Gray leading to June Gloom. The nights aren't exactly "warm" but they're temperate, and days about the same. If you have some orchids that are healthy but not blooming, consider moving them to an area that will get more light. Since you want to make the transition gently it's quite easy now—just move the plant to where you want it, and the brightening will happen gradually since the marine layer lifts earlier and earlier as summer approaches. By the time the days dawn bright, the plant will have adjusted. When I acquire new plants that should be able to grow outdoors but were in a vendor's greenhouse, I keep them inside (house or greenhouse) through the winter, and this is the time that I move them outside, since nights are now staying close to 60 deg. F. They'll acclimate slowly, and by next winter, will not be shocked as cold returns.

I'm still reaping the benefits of the rainy winter, which many orchids just loved. Blooming is running a month or so late for some, because of the cold, but I'm seeing some spectacular displays of flower power. Cymbidium Devon Railway is a flower machine, best blooming in many years.



Cymbidium
Devon Railway

I have had mixed results with Sarcochilus. The ones that bloomed, bloomed especially well. But some didn't bloom at all. Sarco. Kulnura Warmer was spectacular. This is a complex hybrid, but when looking at the percentages, it's nearly all Sarco. hartmannii and Sarco. fitzgeraldii. The latter is the

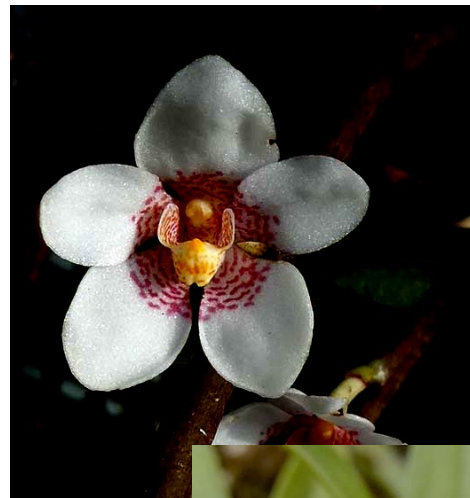
source of most of the color. It's highly variable, and cultivars with lots of pink and red were used again and again to produce this beautiful hybrid after many generations.



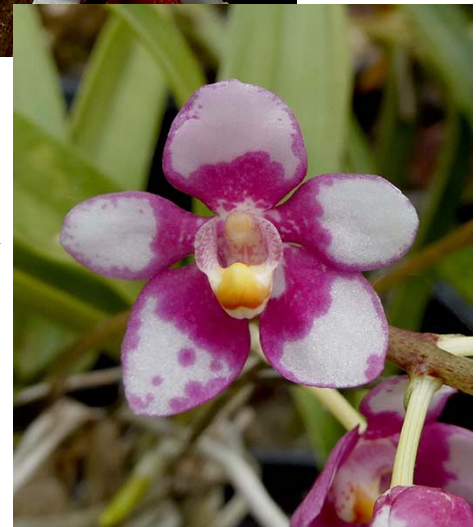
Sarcochilus Kulnura Warmer
(Sarco. Rosella x Kulnura Sweetie)



Sarco. hartmannii



Sarco.
fitzgeraldii



Sarco.
fitzgeraldii
'Lorraine' x
'Red Eye'

Cattleya Quinquicolor can bloom several times a year. It is a primary hybrid of *C. aclandiae* (beautiful colors, fragrant, warm growing and fussy) x *C. forbesii* (dull color, blooms several times a year, cold-tolerant, generally bullet-proof) to produce this robust, colorful, cold-tolerant, fragrant orchid with frequent blooms. The best features of both parents are evident.



Cattleya Quinquecolor

Labeled *Cattleya harrisoniana* f. *alba*, I suspect that it is a hybrid with *C. loddigesii*. It blooms twice a year which is not characteristic of either species. It could be a natural hybrid, the ranges of the two closely-related species overlap somewhat.



C. harrisoniana
f. *alba* (?)

The bloom season for some deciduous *Dendrobium*



Den fimbriatum
var. **oculatum**

species is starting now, There will be more next month. In winter these look dead (not a leaf in

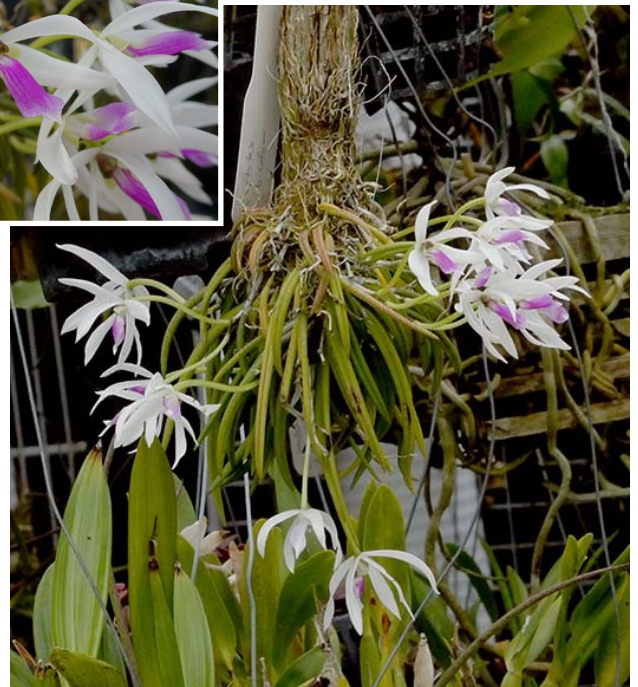
sight) but they're very much alive and proving it now. This group supposedly wants a "dry winter rest" but in their habitat in the Himalayan foothills they get humidity and dew even if rain is scarce. I don't dry them

out at all, and they bloom well. I am convinced that winter cold is the trigger more than dryness. I learned that the hard way with nobile-type hybrids... was told "No water from Halloween to Valentine's Day". I lost several before I figured out that this was really bad advice. California "dry" is a lot drier than Asian "dry".

Several *Leptotes* species are blooming now. This is one of the best blooms so far for my *Leptotes bicolor*. It grows best mounted. There may be a bit of moss under the root ball someplace, but the mount is totally covered with roots. It loved the rain.

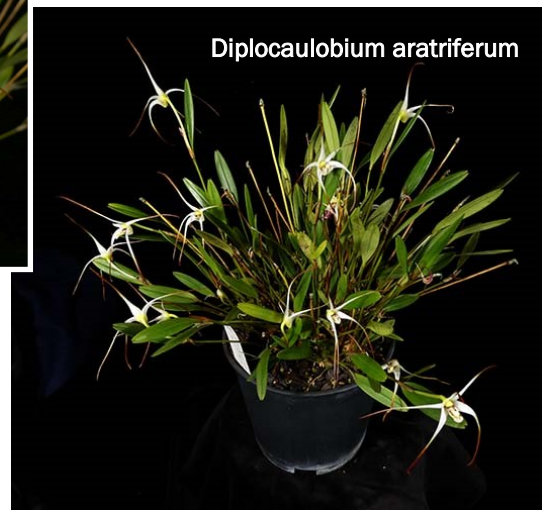


Leptotes bicolor



Diplocaulobium atriferum is weird one. Flowers last less than a

day, but they're lovely and have the fragrance of watermelon. It does bloom mul-



Diplocaulobium atriferum

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **Sunset Valley Orchids Open House** (After the meeting, head down for some great deals!)
June 3, 2023; 9 AM—4 PM
1255 Navel PI, Vista
Info: www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com
- **Andy's Orchids Summer Open House**
June 16—18, 2023; 10 AM—4 PM
734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas
Info: www.andysorchids.com
- **Newport Harbor Orchid Society Exotic Plant and Orchid Festival**
August 18-20, 2023
Westminster Mall
Info: www.nhosinfo.org
- **South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale**
September 16-17, 2023; 10 AM—4 PM
Palos Verdes Art Center, 5504 W. Crestridge Rd., Palos Verdes
Info: www.soutbayorchidsociety.com
- **Fascination of Orchids International Show and Sale**
September 22,23,24 , 2023; 10 AM—4 PM
Santa Ana Zoo, 1801 E. Chestnut St, Santa Ana
Info: www.OCorchid.com

tiple times a year, Just don't blink when you see the buds or you may miss the bloom. The genus has been lumped into Dendrobium.

And once again, Epidendrum lacustre 'Wow Fireworks' AM/AOS is putting on its show. This is the purple Panama form of the species. To get the deep color, it needs to be grown as bright as possible, but also needs to be sopping wet. To hold the moisture, there's a lump of sphagnum in the middle of the pot, and filled in with small bark, It grows hanging with the L. anceps.



Roberta Fox, Editor