



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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August 2023

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

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 : August 5, 2023 at 9:45 AM



Beautiful Soft-leaved Orchids

Tim Culbertson

Tim takes us on a tour of lovely orchids that we don't typically see in collections. These easily-grown genera include Pescatorea, Cochleanthes, Bollea, and Huntleya.

President's Message

Firstly, I would like to thank all the people who attended and helped at the July BBQ. Thank you to all who brought food and help set up the tables and clean up at the end. I hope everyone had a good time. There was lots of food and good company too. Let me know if you can think of ways we can improve the July BBQ.

The weather has turned from the June gloom to humid heat. The repotting of Cymbidiums and Cattleyas is in full swing at my house. I've set up two stations with Cym. Bark and one with Catt. Bark for ease of repotting. On another note, Orange County Farm Supply is officially out of Cattleya bark by Gardners; however, they still have the 3 cubic feet bags of Pathway bark. You will have to clean the wood out of it but it is just as good. Don't ask for orchid bark because they don't think orchids grow in Pathway bark (Don't tell my orchids).

The night temperatures are now climbing above 60, so watering late should not be an issue. Water either early in the morning or late in the evening for optimal water absorption. Also, start fertilizing plants as summer is the time of growth. I try to use a high nitrogen fertilizer during these summer months. 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 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.

See: **President's Message, Page 2**

President's Message, from Page 1

Watch for the aphids, thrips, mealybugs, and scale at this time of year. Pest management is an all-year endeavor. Oh, I almost forgot about slugs and snails. Use a non-metaldehyde type bait, like Sluggo™, if you have pets.

The Fascination of Orchids Show is coming up fast. The date is September 22-24, 2023. We will be looking for volunteers for the show days and setup and tear down. I will bring the sign up sheets to the meeting.

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

Barbecue July 2023

Thanks, Theo!



Barbecue July 2023



From Gisela Ferolito:



Oncidium varicosum var. *baldim*

From Darlene Maeda:



Lc. Mari's Song x Lc. Drumbeat x Lc. Love Knot



Editor's Notes



The last month has produced a bumper crop of blooms at my house. Along the coast, I have been spared the worst of the heat that has afflicted inland areas, and have kept everything well-watered. Some of the orchids whose blooming was delayed by the very cool spring are finally putting on their show, and the ones that normally bloom at this time are also bursting forth.

Cattleya (Laelia) purpurata usually start blooming in early or mid-June, and the latest varieties are finishing up in mid July. This year, they didn't get started until the beginning of July. But the C. (L.) tenebrosa is right on schedule at the end of July. Here are just a few C. (L) pupurata examples, there are so many beautiful varieties. And all grow easily outdoors.



C. (L.) tenebrosa

Here is *Hygrochilus parishii*, which has been reclassified as *Phalaenopsis hygrochila*. (Monotypic genera tend to get lumped). Why *Phalaenopsis*? Maybe it makes sense at the DNA level but this species grows like a cool-growing *Vanda*. It comes from fairly high elevations in southeast Asia and Himalaya foothills. My plant grows on (rather than "in") an 8 inch plastic basket with no medium, with 3-ft. roots. It does very well on my patio, in both cold and heat. The plant itself is about 2 ft. and the spike nearly as big. Not a miniature.



C. (L.) purpurata f. russeliana



Hygrochilus parishii
(*Phalaenopsis hygrochila*)

And then there is *Sedirea japonica* (now *Phalaenopsis japonica*). This is small, (if not quite "miniature"), also not looking or growing like a *Phalaenopsis*. It grows cool (on my patio) but can also be grown warmer.



C.(L.) purpurata f. schusteriana



Sedirea japonica
(*Phalaenopsis japonica*)

Before it was *Hygrochilus parishii*, it was *Vandopsis parishii*. It was crossed with *Sedirea japonica*, and the result was *Vandopireia Little One*. (Now *Phalaenopsis Little One*) So here we have both parents, and the offspring (also outdoor-growing) in bloom during the same month. Both parents are fragrant, and so is *Little One*, which looks like a smaller version of *Hygrochilus parishii*. *Sedirea japonica* reduced the size, but at least to my eyes, doesn't affect the flower appearance much.



One of the major stars of the month is *Stanhopea tigrina*. The spike grows downward (so these have to be grown in a basket), and then the buds start to expand. The inflorescence has two flowers. The buds sloooowly separate, and tease me over the course of nearly a week. Then finally, one morning (and it al-



ways seems that this happens very early) I am greeted by these magnificent, weird, superbly fragrant flowers. They only last a few days, so enjoy them in the moment. Having sever-



al plants, or multi-spike plants, extends the show. Mine produced only one spike per plant, but over the years I have acquired several of these. I love them!

Eulophia speciosa, native to much of central and southern Africa, got off to a slow start due to the cold. For awhile I was afraid that I wouldn't get blooms at all (though getting lots of new growth) because it got, and stayed, wet with all the rain. I did move it under cover for about a month, and maybe that helped, since I do now have a lovely spike. It blooms sequentially over several months. This plant grows in a mix of sand and gravel—no organic matter at all. It has hard, pointy leaves as you'd expect of a desert plant. It gladly accepts winter rain but can also survive and bloom well without it.



This plant came to me from Richard Hess some years ago. Thanks, Richard!

Eulophia speciosa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **Andy's Orchids Fall Open House**
September 15–17; 10 AM–4 PM
734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas
Info: www.andysorchids.com
- **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 Festival of Orchids and Exotic Plants**
September 22,23,24 , 2023; 10 AM–4 PM
Santa Ana Zoo, 1801 E. Chestnut St, Santa Ana
Info: www.OCorchid.com



Eulophia speciosa

Fascination of Orchids Inc.
and the
Santa Ana Zoo



**Proudly Presents the 42nd
Fascination of Orchids Festival
of Orchids and Exotic Plants**
SEPT 22, 23, 24, 2023
10 AM to 4 PM



Santa Ana Zoo
1801 E. Chestnut, 92701
Festival and Parking
Free with Zoo Admission
www.ocorchid.com

DISCOUNT ZOO ADMISSION
ONLY VALID SEPT 22, 23, 24, 2023
Adult -\$6 Senior (60+) - \$4.50
Just Show this Coupon at Zoo Ticket Booth