



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](http://www.fascinationoforchids.com)

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

Volume 2 Number 9  
September 2023

#### President

Theo Johnson

#### Executive Committee

Roberta Fox  
Tony Glinskas

#### Newsletter

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

**Meeting: September 2, 2023 at 9:45 AM**



## Dendrobium Species and Their Culture

**Peter T. Lin**  
(Webinar, this time for real!)

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 at my house in Costa Mesa has been rather nice with temperatures in the upper 70's to low 80's. Good weather for repotting! The big story for the last part of August was Hurricane Hillary and the resulting rains. As I write this, it's been raining since early this morning. They predict heavy winds this eve and tomorrow but it's not bad now. My plants are liking the rain.

I talked about the repotting last month so no need to repeat myself. But the one thing I would like to discuss is the bark for cattleyas. As I have mentioned previously, Orange County Farm Supply is officially out of Cattleya bark by Gardner's; however, they still have the 3 cubic feet bags of Pathway bark. Gen Gundersen called me so I sent her to OCFS for some of the type I used Sequoia Pathway (Small) 3 cubic foot bags. Gen also went to Yamada's for the same type. I have asked Gen to give us a report on what she found in comparing the two bark sources.

See: *President's Message*, Page 2

From Page 1, President's Message

The big story for September is the Fascination of Orchids Sale on Sept. 22-24. We still need some volunteers to sign up so come out and help us out, as this is our source of income to run the club. I will bring the signup sheets to the meeting.

Late Summer and early fall culture. Make sure the plants that really need to be repotted get done now so they have a little time to become established in their new bark/mount. September is the last month for full soluble fertilizer. October the amount will be reduced to account for the slowing down of the plant's metabolism in preparation for winter. If you use a time release fertilizer, like Nutricote™, this is about the time that the pellets start to run out of juice if you applied the fertilizer in January and it was the 270-day type. October is also the second application of Pest management to eliminate or control aphids, thrips, mealybugs, scale, slugs and snails.

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 Gisela Ferolito:



Editor's Notes

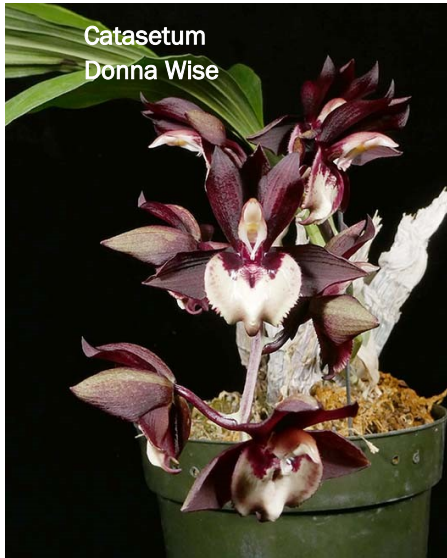


My orchids really loved the long, (relatively) warm bath that they received, and fortunately everything that might have blown around already had been dealt with during winter and spring storms. It is amazing how fast everything has dried since the rain ended, though. Time to turn the sprinklers back on.

Lots of my orchids are blooming 4-6 weeks later than they usually do, due to the long, chilly, overcast spring. Most of the *Catasetinae* stayed in the greenhouse longer than usual, and



some bloomed even before growths were fully mature. Here are two color forms of *Ctsm. expansum*, alba and red. The callus in the middle of the flowers (male on both plants) look like wax or ceramic. This is a really vigorous species, and it is very likely that the plants will bloom again toward the end of the season, or even sooner.



Catasetum  
Donna Wise

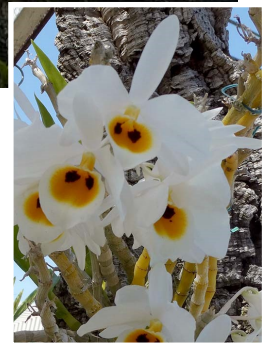
Catasetum Donna Wise is one of the parents of the nearly-black *Fredclarkeara After Dark*. But it is also a parent for many other hybrids. Here, crossed with *Ctsm. fimbriatum*, we have *Ctsm. Sue Bottom*. These are just the early bloomers!



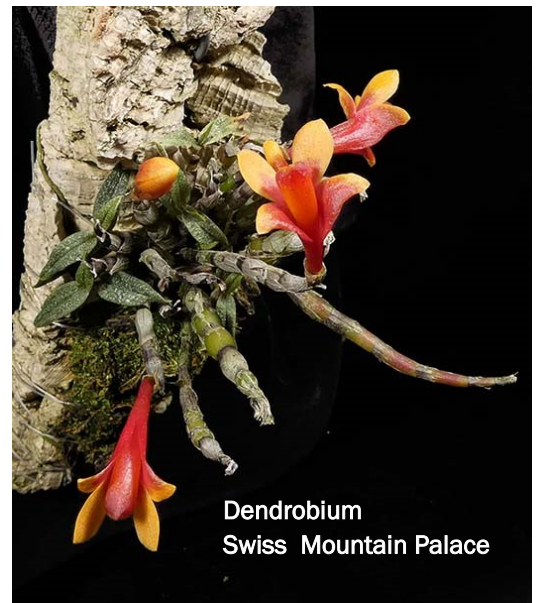
Catasetum  
Sue Bottom



Dendrobium  
bensoniae



I love *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*. Flowers can last 8 months, and it comes in a wonderful range of colors. It has no problem with our cool winters. However, it HATES temperatures above about 70-75 deg. F, and just dies. I have tried several times, and have given up. It grows nicely in San Francisco. However, here is an “almost cuthbertsonii” for the rest of us, who don’t live where summers are cool and foggy. *Dendrobium Swiss Mountain Palace* is *Den. (cuthbertsonii x glomeratum) x cuthbertsonii*, so 75% cuthbertsonii. But mixing in just a little of a warmer-growing species gives it warmth-tolerance to grow nicely here, with the appearance very close to *Den. cuthbertsonii*. There are some other hybrids, with warm-growers such as *Den laevifolium* in similar proportions, that also have these characteristics—you may find some at Fascination of Orchids, a few of our vendors have sold them in the past.



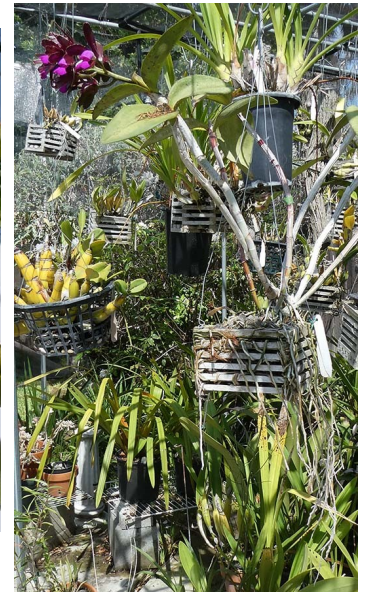
Dendrobium  
Swiss Mountain Palace

Another of the “late bloomers” was *Dendrobium bensoniae*. This is just about the only *Dendrobium* that I do keep dry for the winter. It reliably drops its leaves around November, and then just sits there all winter, and well into the spring. It produces buds on the prior year’s bare canes, then starts the new growth. The canes older than one year don’t bloom again, but continue to nourish the plant. They don’t shrivel until around year 4 or 5. This year, the buds didn’t appear until well into June, blooming in mid-July. I wasn’t worried, though, the year-old canes were nice and firm, they just weren’t ready until the weather finally warmed up.

Bc Cynthia (*Rhyncholaelia digbyana* x *Cattleya walk-eriana*) isn't big, but its fragrance is powerful and sweet. It's a reliable backyard bloomer, easier than either of its parents. It's fragrant by day, like *C. walk-eriana*.



*Cattleya tigrina* (*leopoldii*) is a stately plant, pseudo-bulbs around 18 inches. Fortunately, it's footprint stays relatively small. It is very fragrant, and the hot magenta lip contrasts with the dark, spotted segments.



**Cattleya tigrina (leopoldii)**

*Rhyncholaelia digbyana* is fragrant at night. The frilly lip gives a bit of fringing in its progeny, but nothing like the wild lip of the species. Most *RI. digbyana* show at least a bit of pink on the backs of the segments and on the leaves when grown in strong light. This one is truly *alba*, with no trace of red pigment.

*Sobralias* keep on blooming. Individual flowers only last a few days, but new ones emerge. The plants have gotten fairly large, so put on a great show over 2 or 3 months. Here's one that was labeled "*Sob. macrantha alba*"... It certainly isn't *alba* and I'm not so sure that it's *macrantha*, more likely one of the *macrantha* hybrids. Anyway, it



blooms nicely along with the rest.



**Sobralia unknown**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- Andy’s Orchids Fall Open House**  
 September 15-17, 2023; 10 AM–4 PM  
 734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas  
 Info: [www.andysorchids.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.OCorchid.com)
- Huntington International Orchid Show and Sale**  
 October 20-22, 2023; 10 AM–5 PM  
 The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino—Brody Botanical Center  
 Info: [www.huntington.org/orchid-show](http://www.huntington.org/orchid-show)

**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](http://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



Stenoglottis is a genus of South African terrestrials. They die back after blooming, but then produce new rosettes shortly thereafter so I don’t dry them out at all. They grow in small bark or a well-drained terrestrial mix. Here is Stenoglottis woodii. Flowers are about 1/2 inch.