

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)

Volume 2 Number 10  
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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: October 7, 2023 at 9:45 AM**

## The Form and Color of Asian Cymbidiums

**Jack Zhu**

(In Person -Live presentation!)



**Jack Zhu** is an orchid hobbyist from Los Angeles, CA. Many of his orchid growing focuses on Asian Cymbidiums and their culture and history. Jack is currently an Associate Judge in AOS Pacific South Judging Region and with more than twenty AOS awards for Asia Cymbidiums.

Jack will give a brief history of the Asian cymbidium, as well as the main species typically accepted in the Asian Cymbidium culture. Jack will also discuss details about the various flower

forms and colors of various Asian Cymbidiums. Finally, Jack will briefly touch on another talk he is working on, The Leaf Variegation of Asian Cymbidiums.



### President's Message

Great job volunteers! We had a great Fascination Show! The weather was perfect and I was very pleased with all the volunteers and the great work you did. You made the Show run smoothly. Thank you all.

The weather has taken a turn for the cooler side of this season, but has been relatively mild with cool nights in the 60s. Good weather for repotting! They are predicting slight Santa Ana conditions for later next week so get some extra water on your plants.

See: *President's Message*, Page 2

*From Page 1, President's Message*

We talked about the bark situation at last month's meeting. The orchid societies may need to do a bulk purchase of bark and have it imported. Not sure of the solution to the bark shortage. Thanks, Gen for giving us your report on the bark sources, prices and quality.

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. October is a good month for pest prevention as the bugs (aphids, thrips, mealybugs, scale, slugs and snails) are starting to go into winter slowdown. Reduce the quantity/strength of fertilizer as the plant's metabolism is slowing down in preparation for winter.

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*

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## **Fascination of Orchids 2023**





## Editor's Notes



"Summer" was pretty short. The weather for the Fascination of Orchid Show was fantastic. Fall is in the air. We can expect to still get some heat—Santa Ana winds can happen any time in the fall and winter. But so far, so good. I am seeing spikes on a few of the early Cymbidiums, lots of *L. anceps* spikes.

I do have one Cymbidium blooming. It's Cym. Nancy Burgess' Little Red', an unregistered hybrid. It is a mini—flowers only about 1.25 -1.5 inches. But it blooms several times during the season, starting now, It's just cute. Thanks, Theo!



Cym. Nancy Burgess  
'Little Red'

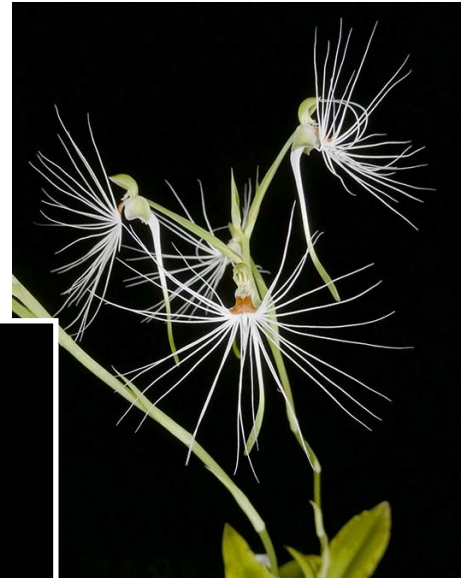
*Dendrobium Roy Tokunaga* is an almost non-stop bloomer. I started it out in the greenhouse, but it got too big. The fate of plants like that, if I think it'll be OK, is to be moved outside. It has thrived. No pampering needed.



Den. Roy Tokunaga

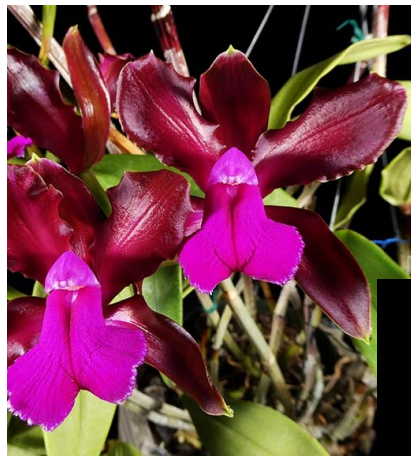
*Habenaria medusa* is one of my all-time favorites. It does need to be grown warm—I keep it in the greenhouse, but it could grow in the

house. (It needs warmth, but not much light.) After blooming, the leaves die back and it goes dormant. Often the tubers will produce a few extras, the time for repotting and dividing is during dormancy. During the winter, I give it just a little water—a bit every week or two. In late March or early April I increase the watering, and that seems to trigger the growth cycle.

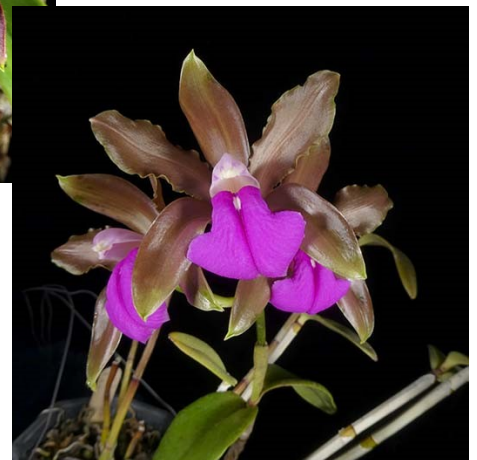


*Habenaria medusa*

*Cattleya bicolor* grows easily outside. The brown-to-greenish-bronze segments contrast with the brilliant magenta lip. Here are two cultivars of this species.



*Cattleya bicolor*



*Cattleya bicolor*  
f. *brasiliensis*

Cattleya (Laelia) crispata is the last of the L. purpurata relatives to bloom—a sure sign of fall. The narrow, rolled-up segments aren't going to win any awards, but that lip is spectacular. We are so for-



Cattleya (Laelia) crispata



somewhat sequentially. The typical form of Milt. regnellii has flowers that are larger and flatter, but the aurea form has dramatic color. Why choose, grow them both!



Miltonia candida

tunate to be able to grow the whole family (purpurata, tenebrosa, crispata) outside.

Cattleya forbesii is not colorful, but has a very lovely lip, and it's also nearly bullet-proof. It grows outdoors easily with no protection, and also blooms several times a year which is unusual for a species. It



Cattleya forbesii

imparts its cold-tolerance and multiple bloom times to its progeny, such as C. Quinquecolor (which have showed previously).



Miltonia regnellii (typical form)

Along with a nice variety of Cattleyas, Miltonias starting to put on a show. There will be more next month, but for now, here are some to enjoy. Miltonia candida is an easy one, with nice fall colors. Miltonia regnellii is quite floriferous, with flowers opening

Miltonia regnellii f. aurea



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **27th Annual Morongo Basin Orchid Festival**

Sponsored by Riverside/San Bernardino Counties Orchid Society  
October 7-8, 2023; Saturday 10 AM–5 PM, Sunday 10 AM–3 PM  
Gubler’s Orchids, 2200 Belfield Blve, Landers, CA  
Info: [www.rsbcos.org](http://www.rsbcos.org)

- **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)

This is the time of year when *Stanhopea wardii* puts on a show. Of all of my *Stanhopeas*, it’s the most vigorous. I have two cultivars, one of which I have divided in two, so I have a total of three plants. And each one has three spikes, which are at different stages of development. Each set of flowers only lasts a few days, but it looks like I am going to have this species in bloom for most of October, as the various spikes on different plants develop and bloom at different times. Here is the first of the bunch. Where *Stan. tigrina* (which blooms in July or early August) seems to open around dawn (and is fully open when I get up) this one tends to bloom a bit later in the morning. I wake up to buds, and

by the time that my coffee is brewed, I may have flowers, or even get to watch them pop open, with a burst of perfume. The flowers seem to glow in the morning sun.

*Gomesa* (*Ornithophora*, *Sigmatostalix*) *radicans* is an *Oncidium* relative that clearly has been a taxonomic challenge. The name *Ornithophora* means “bird-bearing” and that’s the one that really describes the flower when one looks closely. The individual flowers are

about 1/4 inch, but there are LOTS of them. The plant is mounted, with no moss, and grows quite well that way.



Roberta Fox, Editor