

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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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: December 2, 2023 at 9:45 AM

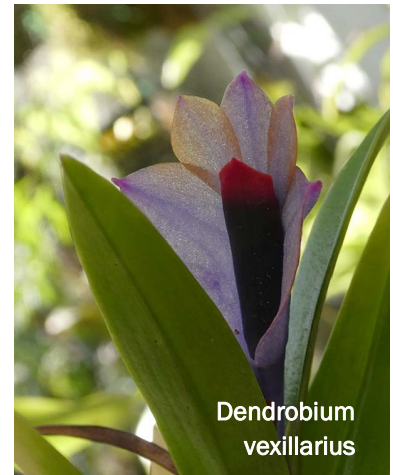
Beyond the Wallace Line: New Guinea Dendrobiums

Carol Klonowski
(Webinar—Really this time!)

Carol Klonowski, an AOS judge, takes us to the jungles of New Guinea for a fascinating tour of orchids that grow nowhere else.

Carol has been growing orchids since the 1980's when a friend in Berkeley, California, gave her a cattleya orchid and it bloomed out with three big, dark lavender flowers and an intoxicating fragrance. She built an entire greenhouse in her backyard to accommodate the precious plant, which only led her to buy more orchids. Then another friend gave her a gift membership to the Orchid Society of California, and it's been a serious hobby ever since.

Carol has served as Director, Vice President, and President of the Orchid Society of California for most of the past two decades and is currently a Fully Accredited Judge with the American Orchid Society in the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center.



**Dendrobium
vexillarius**

President's Message

Sorry I missed the last meeting but I caught the ick and wasn't wanting to give it to you. I am better now. Thank you to those of you who helped out and for the well wishes. The weather has turned cool at night hovering at around 50 degrees at my house in Costa Mesa. This week was a little on the dry side with spots of 80-to-85-degree weather. Not bad for orchid growing and some late year repotting.

Fall culture. I have once again started repotting the plants that need to be done before the rains. You don't want a plant with broken down bark to get soaked in the cool days

See: *President's Message*, Page 2

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or cold nights. That's an invitation for root rot or mold. I cleaned some of my orchid growing area of weeds, old fallen leaves dead plants, but I still have a lot to do. You can still apply pest prevention methods, as the bugs (aphids, thrips, mealybugs, scale, slugs and snails) are in winter slowdown. Reduce watering frequency and the quantity/strength of fertilizer as the plant's metabolism is slowing down in preparation for winter. It got a little too cold and some of my plants had crown rot, so be careful where, when and how often you water.

Bark update

I have secured bark from Fred Clarke. Those of you who indicated you wanted bark, I will have it at the next meeting (Dec 2, 2023), so be prepared to take it home. I have some extra bark bags incase you need more. Great idea Gen!

This is our last meeting of 2023, so if you want to bring something to the meeting to munch on, please do!

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:



Epicattleya Joseph Roman
'Roman Holiday'



Editor's Notes



A few of my Catasetinae have dropped their leaves already, and I have stopped watering those. Others are showing signs of approaching dormancy, with browning of leaf tips and some of the leaves dropping. I have slowed down the watering for all of the Catasetinae, and most of them will be leafless (and waterless) by the end of December. By that time, I will have stopped watering all of them, pushing the reluctant ones into dormancy. They need that "nap" for good growth next year. On the other hand, the Mediterranean-climate terrestrials are starting to sprout. *Pterostylis curta* has been getting water since early August, and the new leaves are well developed. I expect spikes in the next month or so. The rest of the Australians, and the Europeans, I only started watering in mid-October when nights finally cooled off to stay. They'll be blooming mostly in February and March though this year some may be earlier.

Speaking of Catasetinae,,, Fredclarkeara After Dark 'SVO' gave me two lovely long spikes, should have had 4 but two of them got caught between the newest pseudobulb and the one next to it. The plant is a beast...its 8 inch bulb pan is stuffed with fat pseudo-bulbs. I have two choices when it goes dormant—either up-pot and end up with a plant that I can barely lift, or divide it. Probably will do the latter. There are a couple



Fdk. After Dark "Sunset Valley Orchids"

more of the genus that will be in bloom next month.

Mormodes Mark Mills is a very reliable late-season bloomer. It's another "not a miniature".

It's time to bring the Catasetinae indoors because of our chilly nights. Since they aren't



Mormodes Mark Mills

growing, they're fine in the house, and as they lose leaves they also won't take up that much space.

I'm starting to see Cymbidium spikes. One of the earlier ones is



Cym. Strathbraan

Cym. Strathbraan. It sometimes grows its spikes horizontally (not quite pendant), sometimes vertical. But it reliably produces several, and the flowers last two months or more.

The buds on Laelia anceps spikes are filling out. My first one this season is L. anceps 'Disciplinata'. This is an example of the form lineata, looking like the deeper color was brushed on, as though the "brush" pulled the margins of the petals. It's not virused, that is just what the color form looks like. It is also a bit peloric, with a yellow stripe echoing the color of the throat appearing on one of the petals.

The primary hybrid of L. anceps with the smaller L. albida is L. Finckeniana. This tends to be very vigorous, with

multiple spikes. Here is one that came from Sunset Valley Orchids, *L. albida* 'SVO' x *L. anceps* 'Disciplinata'. The stripe pattern of the *L. anceps* is absent, it is likely a recessive trait. Here is another one, with unknown parents, labeled *L. Finckeniana*. However, note that the lip shape is

very different from the known *L. Finckeniana*. Lots of people have this one. Fred Clarke suspects that it is actually *L. anceps* crossed with *Guarianthe bowringiana*, *Laelianthe Wrigleyi*.

One of my favorite *Cattleya* species is *C. percivaliana*. It is very cold-tolerant, and reliably blooms just before the end-of-year holidays.



Laelia anceps
'Disciplinata'



Cattleya percivaliana
'Summit'

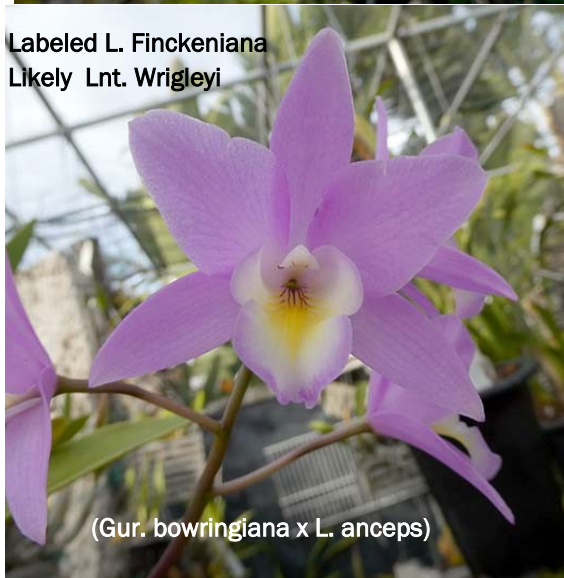


L. Finckeniana

(*L. albida* 'SVO' x *L. anceps* 'Disciplinata')



Maxillaria sophronitis blooms on and off during much of the year, producing a flush bloom like this one about twice a year. The flowers are only about 1/2 inch, but the brilliant red against the background of the dark green leaves almost glows in the sunlight. This plant started out in a 4 inch basket, graduated to a 6 inch basket, and now extends 6 inches or more on both sides, growing happily in the air.



Labeled *L. Finckeniana*
Likely *Lnt. Wrigleyi*

(*Gur. bowringiana* x *L. anceps*)



Maxillaria sophronitis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **Sunset Valley Orchids Winter Open House**
Saturday, December 2, 2023; 9 AM to 4 PM
1255 Navel Place, Vista
Info: www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com or (760) 310-0778
Awsome discounts, best tacos north of the border!
- **Andy's Orchids Winter Open House**
December 8-10, 2023; 10 AM–4 PM
734 Ocean View Ave, Encinitas
Info: www.andysorchids.com
- **San Diego County Orchid Society Orchids in the Park Show and Sale**
January 27-28, 2024; Saturday 12-5 PM, Sunday 10 AM–4 PM
Balboa Park Casa del Prado, Rm, 101
Info: www.sdorchids.com
- **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show**
March 8-10, 2024; 9 AM–5 PM
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
Info: sborchidshow.com
- **South Bay Orchid Society Spring Show and Sale**
March 16 -17, 2024; 10 AM–4 PM
Palos Verdes Art Center, 5504 Crestridge Rd, Rancho Palos Verdes
- **Fascination of Orchids Festival of Orchids and Exotic Plants**
September 20-22, 2024; 10 AM–4 PM
Santa Ana Zoo, 1801 E. Chestnut, Santa Ana
Info: www.ocorchid.com



Dendrobium hookerianum is native to Nepal, northern India and Yunnan, China. It mostly blooms on bare canes. As with most of the rest of my deciduous and semi-deciduous *Dendrobiums*, it doesn't get dried out in winter, but the cold seems to be adequate to be considered "rest". In the habitat, they may not get much rain in winter, but it's humid and so they get overnight dew.

Dendrobium hookerianum

Roberta Fox, Editor