

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

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: January 6, 2024 at 9:45 AM

Becoming an 80-Percentile Grower

Fred Clarke

Sunset Valley Orchids

Ever wonder what the most important requirements are for growing the best orchids? Learn about the underlying reasons of how and why orchids grow as they do. Then explore the fundamentals and advanced growing techniques to best grow them. Orchid plant culture is explained so you can become an 80-percentile grower.

Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in Vista, California has been growing orchids for 42 years and hybridizing orchids for 38 of those years. With over 34 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery.



Fred is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids is his sustaining interest, Fred also is actively creating new Paphiopedilum and Aussie Dendrobium hybrids, in addition to others. His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced "the blackest flower ever witnessed". This grex has received over 100 awards worldwide with nine FCC's and thirty AMs from the AOS.

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.

President's Message

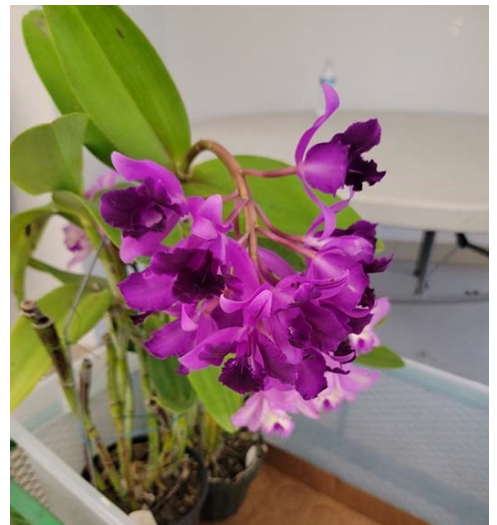
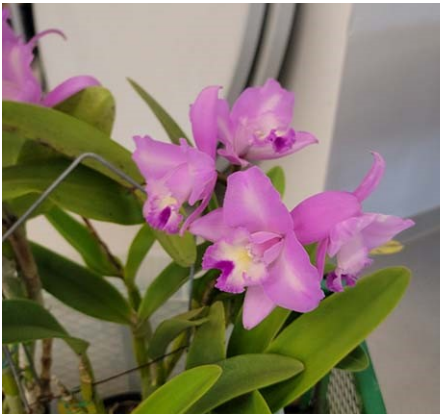
It was good seeing all of you at the December meeting. Thank you to all who brought goodies for our meeting. The weather has turned cool at night hovering at around 50 degrees at my house in Costa Mesa. This week was a little on the rainy side with some daytime temps around 65 to 70-degrees. I'm still repotting plants that look like they need some help.

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 or cold nights. I'm still cleaning my orchid growing area of weeds, old fallen leaves dead plants; it's a never-ending task. If you haven't done you pest management, you still can, 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.

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 December Meeting:



From Gisela Ferolito:



Blc. Beautiful American Lady (unregistered)



C. harrisoniana 'Volcano Queen' x
Lc. Pink Treasure 'Chalice of Life'

Editor's Notes



With the holidays behind us, can Spring be far? At least for those of us fortunate enough to live in southern California, it never really went away. If it rains, you can turn off the sprinklers, but the cloud cover keeps the night temperatures up a bit. Do reduce the frequency of watering (beyond what Mother Nature provides) since with cool days and higher humidity, things just don't dry out as fast. If you haven't done so lately, take a look around your Cymbidium area. The ones that bloom in the late winter or early spring are in spike now, and this is the time to start to guide them with stakes. Otherwise, you'll be surprised by spikes sticking out in odd directions or getting caught in a tangle.

While the peak blooming of the Australian Dendrobiums

is still a couple of months away, a few of the early ones are already blooming. Here is a robust unnamed hybrid, Den. Autumn x (Regal Affair x Aussie Victory) that will be in bloom for at least another month.



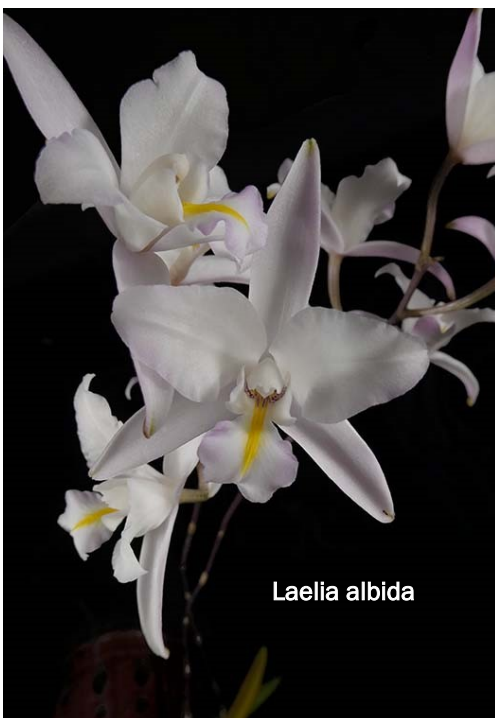
Laelia anceps are blooming profusely. The ones in bloom now are primarily the pink/lavender ones. The alba, semi-alba and coerulea forms will likely bloom next month. This is one of the easiest species to cultivate in our climate. They tolerate winter temperatures down to freezing or a bit below, summers over 100 deg F, and need to dry out, very drought-tolerant.



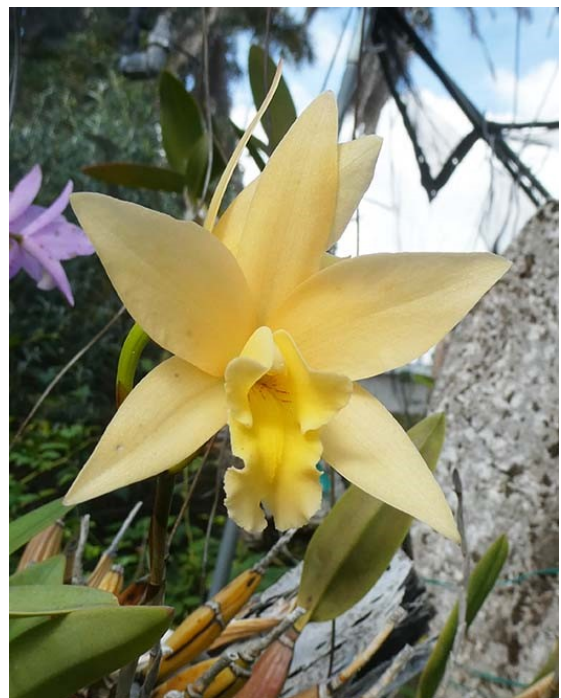
Laelia anceps



Also in bloom is Laelia albida. The primary hybrid between L. anceps and L. albida is L. Finckeniana, which I showed you last month.



Laelia albida



Lc.
Canariensis

Here is what one gets when L. anceps is crossed with C. harpophylla, a dark orange epiphyte or lithophyte from Brazil. This is Laeliocattleya Canariensis. It grows under the same conditions as L. anceps.

Cross the coerulea form (veitchiana) of *L. anceps* with the complex Cattleya hybrid Cattlianthe Sir Jeremiah Colman (coerulea form) and you get this lovely unregistered hybrid that grows well unsheltered.



L. anceps f. *veitchiana* x
Ctt. Sir Jeremian Colman

Here's another cold-tolerant Catt (that doesn't involve *L. anceps*) Cattleya *Quinquecolor* is *C. aclandiae* (a colorful warm grower) crossed with *C. forbesii*, which is cold-tolerant. *C. forbesii* is not that exciting to look at, but along with cold-tolerance, blooms several times a year. The result is an easy-to-grow orchid with



C. Quinquecolor

very attractive flowers that blooms several times a year.

Most of the Catasetinae have lost their leaves. I have stopped watering all of them, the few that still have

leaves will drop them soon. I showed you Fredclarkeara After Dark 'Sunset Valley Orchids' last month. It is just finishing. A close relative, Fredclarkeara Gemstones is in full bloom. Fdk. After Dark is Mo. Painted Desert x Ctsm. Donna Wise (*tenebrosum* x Orchidglade). Fdk. Gemstones is Mo. Painted Desert x Ctsm. Orchidglade.



Fdk.
Gemstones



Just plain fun is *Mediocalcar decoratum*. The flowers remind me of little Candy Corns. This plant grows more ON than IN its basket, and it is gradually growing over sides. My goal is to have a ball of flowers. It grows hanging on my patio.



Mediocalcar decoratum

Dendrobium glomeratum (*sulawesiense*) is a warm-grower according to all the documentation that I

Dendrobium glomeratum



could find. But it grows very well on my patio, blooming about twice a year. The hot-pink flower with the contrasting orange lip seem to

almost glow, especially in bright sun.

Dendrobium serratilabium blooms on old bare canes. It never seems to have very many leaves. The “teeth” on the lip are the source of the name. I don’t dry this, or my other deciduous dendrobiums, in winter. The cold seems sufficient inspiration for blooming. It is in a basket so does dry quickly after watering. .



Dendrobium serratilabium

Paphiopedilum insigne and *Paphiopedilum gratixianum* grow outside easily. They benefit from higher light than most Paphs.



Paph. gratixianum



Paph. insigne

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **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, San Diego
Info: www.sdorchids.com
 - **Five Cities Orchid Society Orchid Fest**
February 3-4, 2024; Saturday 10 AM–5 PM, Sunday 10 AM–4 PM
Nipomo High School, Olympic Hall; 525 N Thompson Ave, Nipomo
Info: www.fcos.org
 - **San Francisco Orchid Society Pacific Orchid Exposition Show and Sale**
February 16-18; Friday and Saturday 10 AM–5 PM, Sunday 10 AM–4 PM
County Fair Building, 1199 9th Ave., San Francisco
Info: www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
 - **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show**
March 8-10, 2024; 9 AM–5 PM
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
Info: sborchidshow.com
 - **Andy's Orchids Spring Open House**
March 15-17, 2024; 10 AM–4 PM
734 Ocean View Ave, Encinitas
Info: www.andysorchids.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
Info: www.southbayorchidsociety.com/Show
 - **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
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