

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
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Newsletter

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

Meeting: February 3, 2024 at 9:45 AM

He Came from the Land Down Under

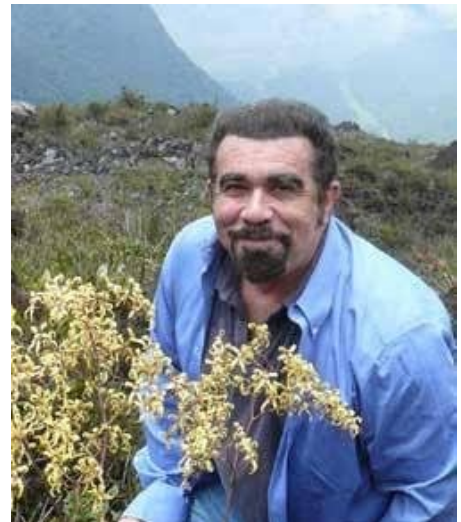
A webinar by Tom Mirenda

Join Tom Mirenda for a fascinating trip to the land down under. See orchids in the wild hinterlands of Australia as well as many other floras that are fascinating as well

Tom has been an orchid grower since 1980, and was the Smithsonian Gardens' orchid collection specialist for more than 15 years. Besides maintaining and curating the Smithsonian's collection of 9,000 orchids, Tom helped develop educational displays for the Gardens' exhibits. He frequently travels around the U.S. and internationally, giving talks and presentations about orchid ecology, pollination biology, and strategies for orchid conservation.

Originally trained as a marine biologist, Tom could no longer resist the lure of the flower and made the switch to plants and orchids while living in Hawaii in his 20s. He has worked with orchids at the New York Botanical Garden, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and with the extensive private collection at the Greentree Estate in Long Island. He also served as floor manager at the New York International Orchid Show for several years.

Tom has published articles in the American Orchid Society, the Orchid Review (UK), Orchid Digest and the Dutch publication, Orchideeën



President's Message

Thank you to Gen Gundersen and Espi Quinn for helping out at the meeting while I was under the weather. Speaking of the weather, we finally got some rain, although today its almost 75 degrees in Costa Mesa. Rain is in the forecast so manage your watering. Find those plants that need repotting and leave the rest for springs warmer days.

Fall-Spring culture: I have once again started repotting the plants that need to be done during the cold and rain. Cool and damp nights are your plant's worst enemy. I'm still cleaning my orchid growing area of weeds, old fallen leaves and dead plants; will this ever end? No! If you haven't done you pest management, wait until around the end of March-April, when the buggies start to become active again. I've reduced watering while it's rainy and cool at night. 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

Editor's Notes

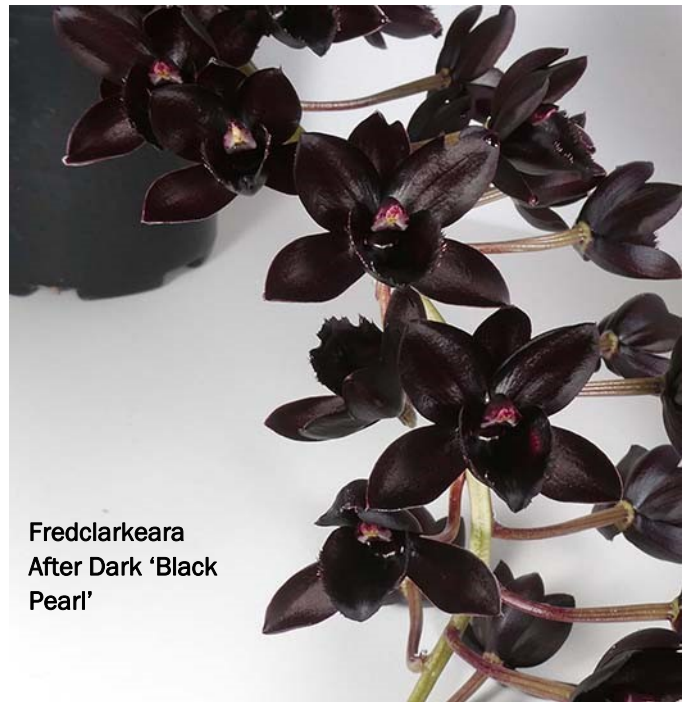


It's raining, turn off the sprinklers. Now it's dry for a few weeks, turn them back on. Here comes some more rain, turn them off... No way to automate a southern California winter. But I'll take the rain whenever it shows up, February may be wet. One factor that does say "Spring is coming!"... days are already noticeably longer. That means another hour or so that I can spend in the garden, at least when it's not raining.

All of my *Catasetinae* are now dormant, with leafless pseudobulbs, and no water. The *Fredclarkearas* tend to bloom at the end of the season, no leaves in sight. *Clowesia Rebecca Northen* is always the earliest, blooming in the middle of dormancy. Leaves will start to emerge about the time the flowers start to fade, it won't be ready to water for another 6 weeks or so after that. This year, the end of season met the beginning of the next. "...And the seasons they go round and round...", apologies to Joni Mitchell.

Fredclarkeara After Dark 'Black Pearl' is approaching the end if this blooming. .It is *Mormodia. Painted Desert* x *Catasetum. Donna Wise*, which in turn is *Ctsm. tenebrosum* x ***Ctsm. Orchidglade***.

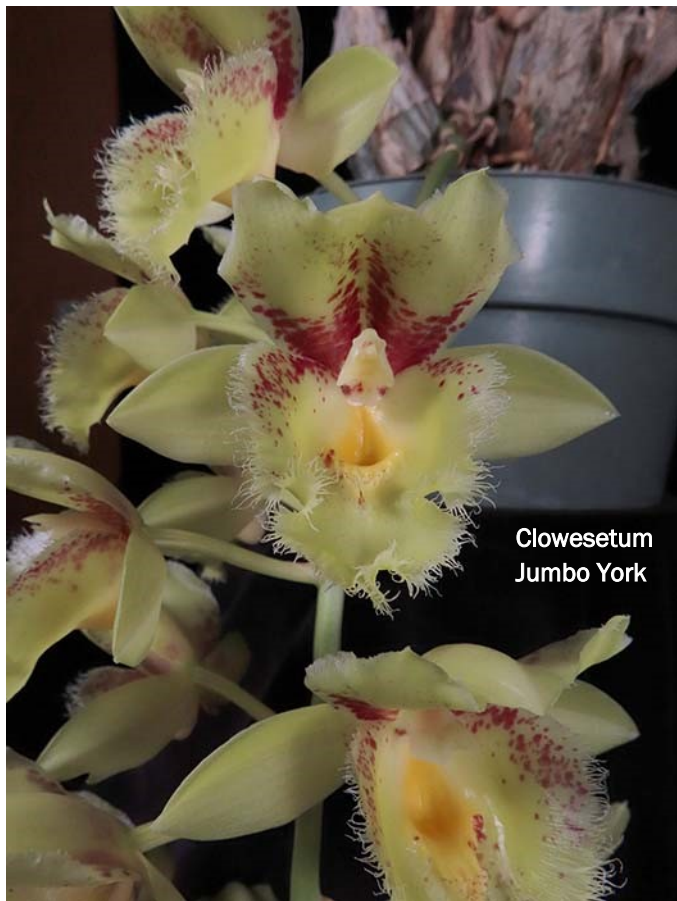
Clowesetum Jumbo York is in its full glory, bridging



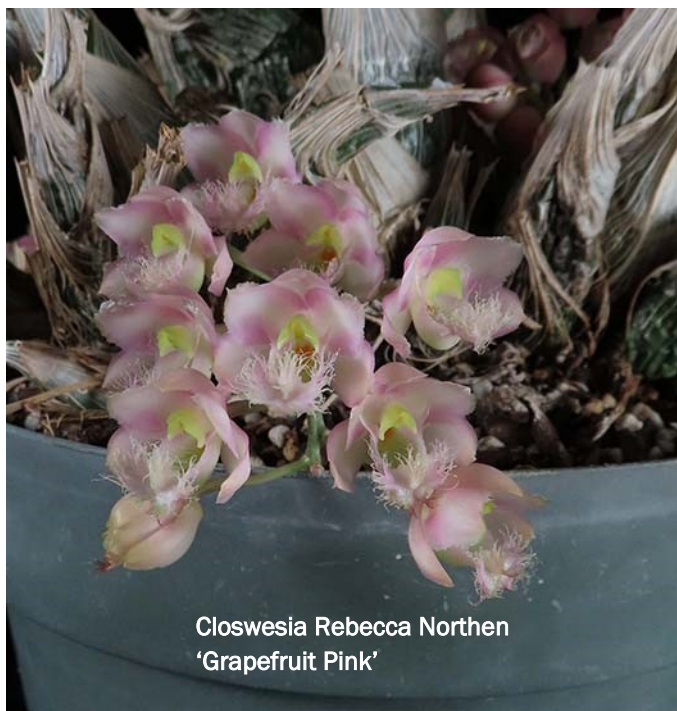
Fredclarkeara After Dark 'Black Pearl'

the seasons. It is *Clowesia Rebecca Northen 'Grapefruit Pink'* x *Catasetum. Orchidglade 'Sun Rise'* . Still opening some buds, flowering profusely is *Clowesia Rebecca Northen 'Grapefruit Pink'* herself. All three of these are fragrant. *Fdk. After Dark* is sweet and pungent. *Clo. Jumbo York* is lighter. *Cl. Rebecca Northen* has a lovely citrus aroma.

None of these want water, even though blooming. Patience...



Clowesetum
Jumbo York



Closwesia Rebecca Northern
'Grapefruit Pink'

pendant inflorescence. Then, there is the charming little Cym. Vamp with flowers about 2/3 the size, on a small plant.



Cym. Ten Pin



Cym. Vamp

Lots of Cymbidiums are getting close, with elongating spikes and fat buds. A few are already blooming. Cym. Ten Pin has Cym. Ruby Eyes 'Red Baron' as one parent, and it has the characteristic long

Dinema polybulbon, an Epidendrum relative native to southern Mexico and much of Central America, tends to ramble. I am trying to “train” the new growths, hoping that it eventually forms a ball.



Dinema polybulbon



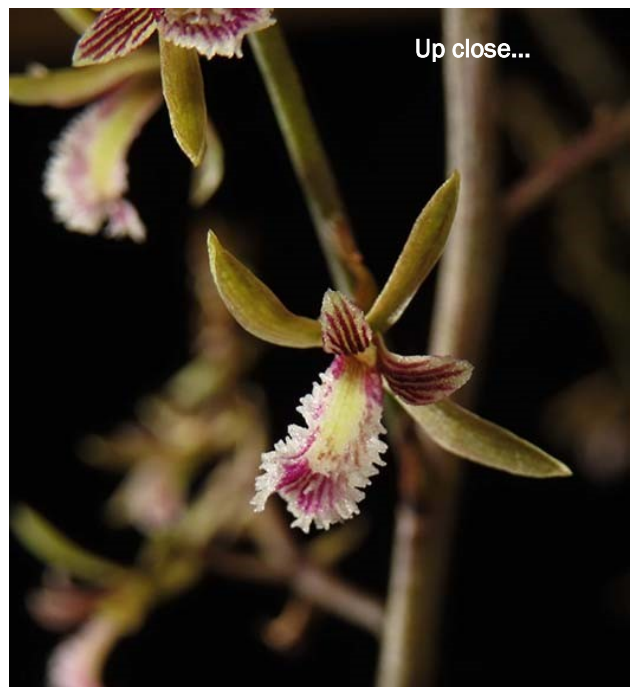
Eulophia macra



Eulophia macra comes from a range of elevations in Madagascar, making it tolerant of both heat and cold. It has hard, leathery leaves so it can withstand drought, but it doesn't seem to need to dry out in winter. From a distance, the profusion of 3/8 inch flowers don't look impressive. In fact, especially as the buds develop before opening, the spike looks brown and dead. But get in close, and the flowers are beautiful and intricate.

Cleisocentron gokusingii is truly BLUE, a color rare in orchids. It can bloom several times a year. The bloomings in cool weather are the most colorful. In summer, the flowers are more blue-gray or slate blue. It is found in nature only in Sabah, Borneo, on the slopes of Mt. Kinabalu.

Up close...



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- 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.fcso.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

Cleisocentron gokusingii

