

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

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## President

Theo Johnson

## Executive Committee

Roberta Fox  
Tony Glinskis

## Newsletter

Roberta Fox  
[roberta@orchidcentral.net](mailto:roberta@orchidcentral.net)  
(714)435-8015

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

**Meeting: March 2, 2024 at 9:45 AM**

## Pests and Pesticides

*Theo Johnson*

*and*

## Cattleya Culture

*Espie Quinn*



Geologist, Theo spends his spare time repotting and caring for his 400 plus orchids and other plants which he grows at his home in Costa Mesa, both in his greenhouse and outdoors.

Espie has grown orchids for many years. She is a good grower as can be seen from her show and tell and display plants she grows at her house. She is a member of many orchid Societies and can be seen at most orchid shows. Better listen closely, as Espie has some culture tips and tricks you will want to learn.

Theo started growing orchids after being given an Epidendrum in 1988. As many of us do, he has accumulated many different genera of orchids ranging from Angraecums to Zygopetalums. Theo manages the P.G. Barnett collection in Newport Beach where he has worked for over 20 years and learned the finer points of cattleya culture and hybridizing. He is the current President of the Fascination of Orchids, Inc. Following retiring from the State as a



## President's Message

The weather is still on the fall cycle with cool nights (below 60 degrees) and cool and/or rainy days. I try to water on the warmer days (above 65 degrees) to avoid mold and crown rot issues. I am looking for the plants I missed that needed repotting and are now looking stressed. I will repot them or just remove them from the potting media and wait for warmer weather.

It seems that there is still a lot to do around the growing area before Spring. Cleaning up all the fallen leaves and keeping the grass from growing under the benches and orchid pots is a full-time job. I am also repairing the shade areas to make sure they are tip-top when the sun finally decides to come out. If you haven't done your pest management, this is a good meeting to find out what to do and when.

It is the start of the Spring Orchid Show season so check your newsletter for Shows and dates. We have sent out the Save the dates for the **Fascination of Orchids International Festival of Orchids & Exotic Plants, September 20-22, 2024 at the Santa Ana Zoo.**

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



Cymbidium season is in full swing. Rain was relatively warm, so I didn't get too much botrytis spotting on flowers, though there is some. But the yard is a riot of color. Spring is in the air. Dendrobium speciosum spikes are starting to emerge, so next month will likely have a great show, along with the Cymbidiums that are continuing to appear. So first, here are a few of the Cyms that are putting on a show.

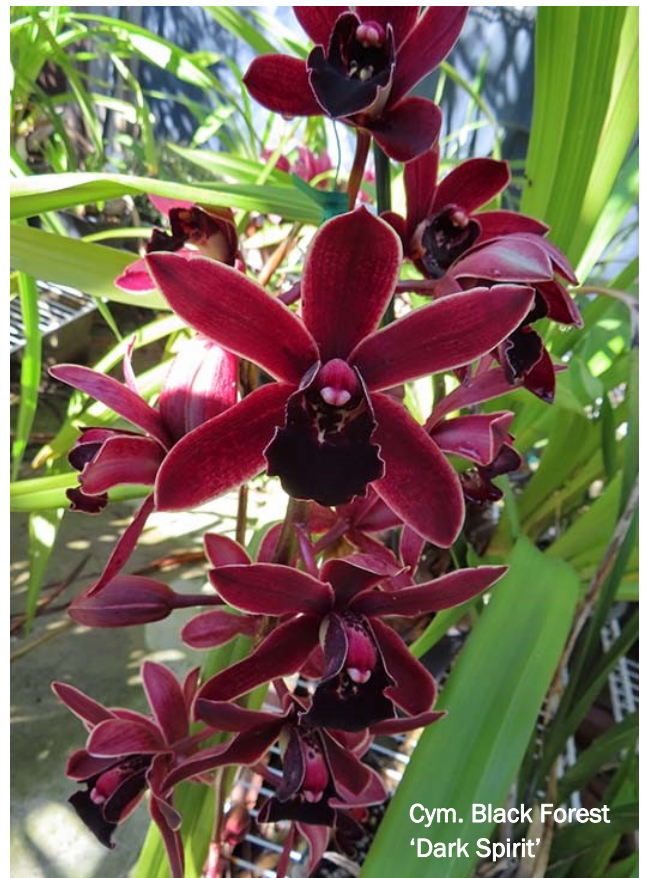
Cym. Claude Pepper 'Purple Splendor' is a classic. This plant has been divided several times so some of you



Cym. Claude Pepper  
'Purple Splendor'

have pieces of it from auctions. I think my original plant came from Theo.

Cym. Black Forest 'Dark Spirit' has long, arching spikes. The flowers are very dark, with a white picotee that makes them really "pop" and the velvety lip is almost black. A photo doesn't do it justice. Divisions of



Cym. Black Forest  
'Dark Spirit'

this have been on plant tables, so a few of you may also have this one. The spikes are quite heavy, it's important to get them staked or you may find them lying on the ground.



Cym. Shanghai Gesture

For a contrast here is Cym. Shanghai Gesture.

Theo had Blc. Zul 'Wantana' awarded at a show because the judges decided that it needed recognition though he had not registered it for judging. It does need some winter protection, but is very vigorous.



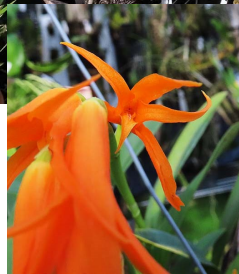
Blc. Zul 'Wantana'  
HCC/AOS

Cymbidium canaliculatum is native to northern Australia, from a warm and seasonally dry area. So this one needs some winter protection both from cold and rain. I move it to the green-



Cym. canaliculatum  
'Friend's'

house in winter, and greatly reduce watering.



Brassia (Ada) aurantiaca grows on the patio, and puts on this show each year. The flowers don't open fully, but look like orange flames, especially brightening dark, cloudy

days. 10 spikes this year.

Cattleya loddigesii grows easily outside, is very tolerant of cold. I do grow it in the area protected by polycarbonate, so that it's shielded from cold rain. It is outgrowing its wood basket, growing essentially like a mounted plant. The flowers are very flat and well-shaped.

*Cattleya loddigesii*



*Dendrochilum parvulum* has a great flower-to-plant ratio. The leaves are about 2 inches, it's growing on a 4-inch stick.



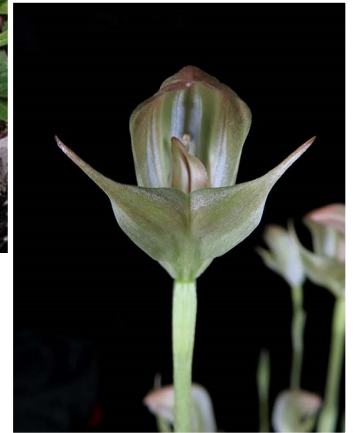
*Dendrochilum parvulum*



*Pterostylis curta*



The Mediterranean-climate terrestrials are growing fast and starting to bloom. *Pterostylis curta* has been blooming for a month already, it has a shorter dormancy than most of the Aussies and the European terrestrials.



*Ophrys cretica* (Ariadne)



*Ophrys cretica* (Ariadne) comes from Crete and the Aegean islands. This was the first of the group to bloom this year. And then *Ophrys tenthredinifera*, one of my favorites, is joining the party. There will be lots more next month.

*Ophrys tenthredinifera*



Roberta Fox, Editor

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **American Orchid Society Orchid Culture Day**  
Sunday, March 3, 2024; Online at 8 AM PST  
Learn about growing Maxillarias, Phalaenopsis, Angraecoids, Cymbidiums  
Info and registration: [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)
- **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show**  
March 8-10, 2024; 9 AM—5 PM  
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara  
Info: [sborchidshow.com](http://sborchidshow.com)
- **Cal Orchid Spring Open House**  
March 8-10, 2024; 9 AM—4 PM  
1251 Orchid Dr., Santa Barbara  
Info: [www.calorchid.com](http://www.calorchid.com)
- **Andy's Orchids Spring Open House**  
March 15-17, 2024; 10 AM—4 PM  
734 Ocean View Ave, Encinitas  
Info: [www.andysorchids.com](http://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](http://www.southbayorchidsociety.com/Show)
- **Long Beach Amateur Orchid Society Annual Auction**  
Monday, April 8, 2024; 6 PM preview and registration, 6:30 PM Auction begins  
St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 6201 E. Willow St., Long Beach  
Info: [LBAOSinfo@gmail.com](mailto:LBAOSinfo@gmail.com)
- **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](http://www.ocorchid.com)