

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: May 4, 2024 at 9:45 AM

Greenhouse Chat

**Pots, Potting Media and their Interrelationship, Everything You Wanted to
Know About Pots and Potting Media**

Webinar with Dr. Ron McHatton

Ron is the Director of Education & Regional Operations at American Orchid Society, Inc. Prior to that position, he was Apopka production manager for Kerry's Nursery, one of the largest wholesale orchid nurseries in the United States. Ron has a PhD in Inorganic Chemistry from Iowa State University. He hosts the popular and educational AOS webinar Greenhouse Chat with Dr. Ron McHatton and previously worked with the Orchid Alliance Project. In addition to his professional positions Ron is an accredited AOS Judge.



President's Message

The weather is finally starting to dry out a bit and warm up at nights (above 60 degrees) and during the day. I still am picking when to water rather than on a schedule trying to hit the warmer days (above 65 degrees) to avoid mold and crown rot issues.

Potting my collection is in full swing these days. I selected which plants to repot first, sort of a triage, based on necessity. I have setup two different areas to repot; one for Cymbidiums, which should be finishing flowering by now, and one for Cattleyas. Good thing I arranged all the necessary materials to repot, which allows the process to go much smoother. I have used the mantra "Do a little at a time and the job will get done," instead of looking at all the work to do and just giving up (the easy way out!).

I still have not completely cleared out the weeds and grass from under the bench but I am getting there. Remember, April/May are good months for insect prevention. I have to clear out a greenhouse I've managed for over 20 years and transport my plants to my home greenhouse. Where did all these orchids come from?

In between repotting orchids and cleaning up, I planted my vegetable garden. Tomatoes, zucchini, squash, peppers and cucumbers. My next challenge is to beat the vermin to the harvest!

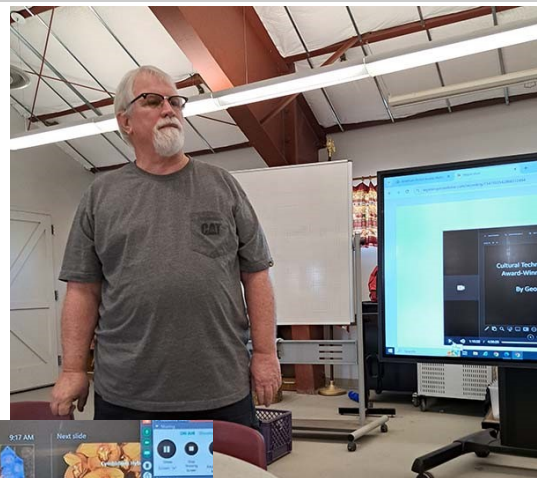
It is the start of the Spring Orchid Show season so check your newsletter for Shows and dates. I hope everyone got a chance to go to one of our local events. Save the dates for the **Fascination of Orchids International Festival of Orchids & Exotic Plants, September 20-22, 2024 at the Santa Ana Zoo.**

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

April Meeting





From Gisela Ferolito



Rth. Shinfong Little Sun



Dendrobium Delicatum
(Specio-kingianum)



Vandachostylis (Darwinara) Charm
'Blue Pacific'

Editor's Notes



While the Cymbidiums are past their peak, there are still a few putting on a show. This is the best bloom that I have had in a very long time from Cym. Cali Night—6 pendant spikes of velvety, dark burgundy flowers. And Cym. Whitney Houston has big flowers, with nice form and sunset colors.



Cym. Cali Night
'Geyserland'



Cym. Whitney Houston

Cattleya intermedia grows very easily outside, and this is its season. It comes in a variety of color forms and patterns. Here are two coerulea forms—*orlata* (a ring of color on the lip) and *aquinii*, the peloric form.

C. intermedia
f. *aquinii*
coerulea
'SVO Blue
Flare'



C. intermedia
f. *orlata* coerulea

Dendrobium papilio comes in a large-flower and small-flower form. While the small flower form tends to be more floriferous, this large-flower form put on a spectacular show. Each flower is about 3 inches. It blooms on bare, leafless canes. Imagine

these flowers, on wire-thin canes, floating in the breeze in the forest. Both forms grow quite easily outdoors for me.



Dendrobium papilio



Floriferous gems come in all sizes. This little *Dryadella zebrina* is a ball of flowers—they aren't dramatic, but quite beautiful—and long lasting.



Dryadella zebrina

My Mediterranean-climate terrestrials are getting ready for their summer dormancy, most are done. But the blue *Thelymitras* from Australia finally got enough sun to bloom. It's a color that isn't common in nature generally, rare in orchids especially. "Coerulea" isn't blue, it's violet. These are definitely blue.



Above, a bunch of *Thelys*.
Left, *Thelymitra nuda* 'Royal Blue'

When it's cloudy, they close up. So one will never see them at a night meeting, and at least so far not at any judging center.

Here is one of the last of

my European terrestrials, *Ophrys speculum*. It's a perfect little bug.



Ophrys speculum.

The majority of *Bulbophyllum*s are warm-growing, and need to be quite wet. *Bulbophyllum hirsutinum* is tolerant of winter cold, and also doesn't seem to need to be sopping wet, since it is mounted. It's watered daily like the rest of my mounted plants, but it's dry by afternoon.



Bulbophyllum hirsutinum



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists Orchid Auction**
May 16, 2024; 6 PM Preview, 7 PM Auction begins
Los Angeles Arboretum—Palm Room, 301 Baldwin Ave., Arcadia
Info: www.sgvo.org
- **Orchid Society of Southern California Orchid Auction**
June 17, 2024; Doors open 12 PM, Auction 1-4 PM
First Christian Church Meeting Hall, 221 S. 6th St., Burbank
Info: www.orchidssc.org
- **San Diego County Orchid Society Orchids in the Park**
July 27-28, 2024; Sat. 12:00 PM-6 PM, Sun. 10 AM-4 PM
Balboa Park's Casa del Prado Rm. 101, San Diego
Info: sdorchids.com
- **South Bay Orchid Society Fall Show and Sale**
September 7–8, 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

Cattleya schroederiae grows hanging, under polycarbonate cover so it is a little bit protected from cold rain, but it still gets cold in winter. The flowers are about 7 inches across, a soft, delicate pink. And then the intense egg-yolk yellow in the throat is a dramatic contrast.

Roberta Fox, Editor

