

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

Santa Ana Zoo at Prentice Park
1801 E. Chestnut Drive. Santa Ana, CA 92701

Volume 4 Number 2
February 2025

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 1, 2025 at 9:45 AM

Topic: "Growing Vanilla"

Jason Fischer (Orchids Ltd.)

With the species population in decline and their habitat undergoing reduction and over-exploitation, the vanilla orchid is listed on the endangered IUCN Red list of Threatened Species. This talk will cover various vanilla species, how to grow and produce the seedpod, harvest and create your own vanilla extract.

Jason Fischer's life-long passion for orchids started at age 5 when he began working in his father Jerry's business, Orchids Limited in Plymouth, MN. He began breeding at age 14, first with Phals. and later other varieties. He now helps manage the business and is heavily involved in breeding and marketing.

Following his return from working in Japan as an English teacher, Jason began importing Japanese orchid species, adding a new niche to the family business. Interests include hybridizing *Vanda falcata* varieties and Phragmipediums. Jason has traveled extensively presenting lectures and photographing orchids in situ.



President's Message

We are having typical weather for this time of year, meaning, cool days in the 50–60-degree range and nights at around the mid-40s, contrasting with daytime temperatures in the mid-70s to low 80s. Where is the rain you ask? Up north! As I write this, it's supposed to rain this weekend, maybe 0.5 inches. I'll believe it when I see it. I'm still repotting plants that look like they need some help, and watering when we get the Santa Ana warmup.

Culture. I have once again started repotting the plants that need to be done. Some are fairly easy as they have crawled out of the pot! You don't want a plant with broken down bark to get soaked in the cool days, cold nights, or worse rainy night. Seems like I never stop cleaning up the grow area of weeds, old fallen leaves and dead plants; it's a never-ending task. If you haven't done your pest management, you still can, as the bugs (aphids, thrips, mealybugs, scale, slugs and snails) are in winter slowdown. You should have already reduced the watering frequency and the quantity/strength of fertilizer as the plant's metabolism has slowed down for the winter. If you're using time release fertilizer, wait until the plants start to grow/throw roots out before placing the pellets (Spring). It got a little too cold and some of my plants had bulb-rot (that browning that starts at the leaf tip or top of bulb) or root rot (along the roots to the rhizome), so be careful where, when and how often you water, and the condition of your bark.

I bought some pots from Greenhousemegastore.com and I will bring them in to let you see them. I bought 1 gal. and 6x5 black pots.

I will be asking for suggestions for future talks/demonstrations. Let me know if you have suggestions. See you 9:30 AM Saturday at the Zoo.

Theo

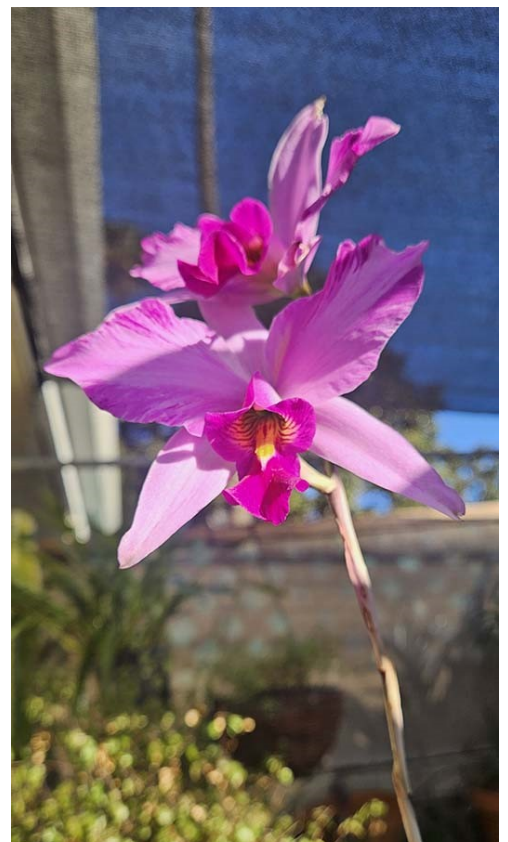
From Gisela Ferolito:



Epc. Joseph Romans
'Roman Holiday'

L. Finckeniana
(L. anceps
'Disciplinata'
x L. albida 'SVO'
HCC/AOS

Ed.: Notice that the
"lineata" pattern of L.
anceps
'Disciplinata' comes
through in this pri-
mary hybrid.



Editor's Notes



The year has begun on some sad notes. I have friends in the Malibu Orchid Society who have lost homes as well as their orchid collections in the Palisades fire. It will be a long recovery. Also, we lost James Rose of Cal Orchid after a long illness.

My orchids tolerated the weeks of bone-dry Santa Ana winds, though a few blooms were substandard. The temperatures stayed low, so that the desiccating effect of the low humidity was reduced somewhat. I definitely watered more than would be typical for this time of year.

Here is an Australian Dendrobium hybrid that is starting the season early. I am seeing spikes on Den. speciosum plants, and think this will be a good year. Last year was rather sparse for those (other people has the same experience) and I think they will make up for lost time.



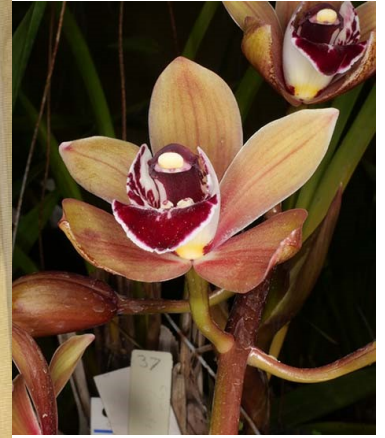
Den. [Autumn x (Regal Affair x Aussie Victory)]

I'm seeing lots of Cymbidium spikes and some are blooming. Cym. Knute Kid (Knute Rockne x Cisco Kid) is one of my earliest acquisitions, and still one of my favorites. It stays quite compact, and I love the effect of the red blush "brushed on" over the cream background, and the contrasting dark red lip.

This Cym. dayanum is blooming a couple of months later than my other ones. It has 8 spikes, but rather than a flush bloom, it is opening them a few at a time.— a longer bloom but not as showy.



Cym. Knute Kid



Cym. dayanum

Sc. June Bug is now just Cattleya June Bug since Sophronitis is now lumped in with Cattleya. This is a very cute miniature, only about 2 inches.

Another interesting Cattleya is Bc. Tetradiip 'Junko'.. The flower opens pink/lavender, then the background color fades to white in a week or so, leaving just the spots of color on the lip. After turning white, flowers last several weeks more.



C. (Sc.) June Bug

My two Fredclarkearas didn't bloom until they were completely dormant. Fdk. Gemstones just finished, Fdk. After Dark is still blooming. Both lost their leaves nearly two months ago. These do live in the greenhouse during the winter months. They'll move outside in the spring, when they are actively growing and nights are above 55 deg F. They'd do just fine in the house in the absence of a greenhouse.



Fdk. Gemstones



Bc. Tetradiip 'Junko' newly opened

Fdk. After Dark
'Black Pearl'



Bc. Tetradiip after about a week

Laelia anceps and progeny are still going strong. Here is L. anceps f. lineata 'Disciplinata', one of the parents of the L. Finckeniana that Gisela contributed. Those markings are natural. (It isn't virused!).



Here is another *L. Finckeniana* cultivar. This one looks like it was made with the peloric form of *L. anceps*, to get that little splash on the petals. The tag doesn't give the exact parents, so I'm guessing.



Lc. Canariensis is *L. anceps* x *C. harpophylla*. The latter is a small orange species that used to be *Laelia*.

A few more interesting things are blooming. *Dendrochilum cobbianum* is an easy outdoor grower.

Dinema polybulbon rambles all over the mount and into the surrounding air. It is covered with half-inch flowers.



Dinema polybulbon



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Newport Harbor Orchid Society Exotic Plant and Orchid Festival**
 February 7-9, 2025; Friday and Saturday 10 AM–8 PM, Sunday 10 AM–6 PM
 1025 Westminster Mall, Westminster
 Info: <https://nhosinfo.org>
- Pacific Orchid Exposition Show and Plant Sale**
 February 28, March 1-2, 2025; Fri.-Sat. 10 AM-5 PM, Sun. 10 AM-4 PM
 County Fair Bldg., 1199 9th Ave., San Francisco
 Info and tickets: www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
- Santa Barbara International Orchid Show**
 March 7, 8, 9, 2025
 Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
 Info: www.sborchidshow.com
- South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale**
 March 29-30, 2025; 10 am–4 PM
 Palos Verdes Art Center, 5504 Crestridge Rd., Rancho Palos Verdes
 Info: southbayorchidsociety.com/show
- Orange County Orchid Society Auction**
 April 16, 2025; 6:30 PM registration and preview, 7 PM Auction begins
 Yorba Linda Community Center, 4501 Casa Loma Ave. Room C, Yorba Linda
 Info: www.ocos.net (Catalog available April 13) or Sharon Rockwell srockwell@writeme.com

Coelogyne mooreana has pure white flowers with a fascinating lip.

Maxillaria tonsbergii has lovely sunset colors, and powerful, sweet fragrance.



Roberta Fox, Editor

