



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

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Newsletter

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

Meeting: October 4, 2025 at 9:45 AM

Calming Your Fears About Repotting Your Orchids

Webinar: Janeil Payne

Janeil Payne is an AOS Education Committee member and Master Gardener . She studied Ornamental Horticulture at California Polytechnic State University and lives in Salem, Oregon

Janeil discusses the best media and techniques to use when repotting your orchids.

President's Message

Firstly, let me thank all the volunteers that worked at this year's Fascination of Orchids Festival. The weather was perfect and all the volunteers did great work and made the Show run smoothly. Also, thank you to all of you who distributed flyers. Thank you all.

It's fall now and night time temperatures are getting cooler. Good weather for repotting! With the evening temperatures consistently in the mid-to lower 60s, be more careful when you water. You want your plants to be able to dry out a bit before nightfall when the temperatures are in the low 60s or lower. The low night temperatures can promote fungus and bacterial infections.

Potting, potting, potting! Enough said. It may be too late for Cymbidiums and Cattleyas. The flowering season should be starting soon for Cymbidiums and Cattleyas are generally not pushing out new roots, but if the plants have new roots or look like they are stressed because of bark or root problems, repot them! Paphs and Phales don't care so repot to your heart's content.

Late Summer and early fall culture. Make sure the plants that really need to be repotted get done now, so they have a little time to become established in their new bark/mount. October is a good month for pest prevention as the bugs (aphids, thrips, mealybugs, scale, slugs and snails) are starting to go into winter slowdown. Reduce the quantity/strength of fertilizer as the plant's metabolism is slowing down in preparation for winter.

The bark situation is scarce but we can order from Fred Clarke #2, #3, and #4 bark. The smaller the # the smaller the bark. OCFS has Rexius bark (\$\$\$) and Pathway (3-cuft.) and Sequoia (3-cuft.) bags.

President's Message

(Continued)

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

FASCINATION OF ORCHIDS 2025





Our Display at Fascination of Orchids

Contributors:

Espie Quinn
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From Gisela Ferolito:



Editor's Notes



While days have been warm and humid and nights don't cool off much, there are hints that fall will be upon us soon. We still have Santa Ana season to look forward to, but that will bring the cooler nights with lower humidity. Pretty soon, you'll need to confine watering to the morning so plants have a chance to dry out before they get cold.

This is Miltonia season! All of them grow on my patio. Some seem to have very yellow foliage, but they thrive and bloom. First, here are two color forms of *Milt. regnellii*. The typical form tends to be larger and flatter, but the color of the aurea form is dramatic. No need to choose, grow both!





Miltonia candida supplies a nice color contrast. It's from Brazil, as are most of the others. This one grows well in a pot, the rest are in baskets or mounted.



Miltonia moreliana used to be considered a variety of *Milt. spectabilis*, but is now considered a separate species. With its saturated color and wide lip, I think it is the queen of the genus.

While the Miltonias were going crazy, the Cattleya tribe produced some lovely blooms.



Miltonia spectabilis
f. *bicolor*

Miltonia spectabilis has several color forms. This one is bicolor, I have shown the alba form a month or two ago. This is, I think, the best blooming that I have had from this plant. The petals reflex pretty badly, it's not going to win any awards, but it puts on a good show nevertheless.



Cattleya labiata
f. *rubra*

Cattleya labiata grows for me much better outside than it did in the greenhouse. The species is the "foundation" of many of the classic hybrids. It has a variety of color forms. This rubra form almost glows. The flowers are not as large as some of the other forms, but beautiful and shapely. I'm hoping for blooms from the coerulea form next month – that one is about 2 inches larger. I love them all.



Cattleya Angel Bells

Speaking of classic Cattleya hybrids, here is C. Angel Bells. These “corsage orchids” were enormously popular for all those special occasions... Mother’s Day, weddings, birthdays, prom night...



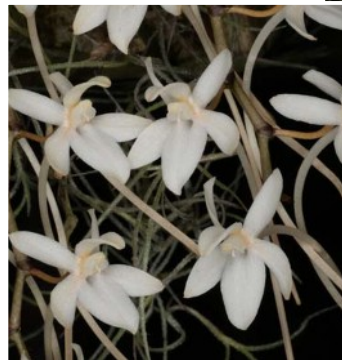
Cattleya bicolor is stately, with pseudobulbs that are almost 2 feet tall. The brilliant lip contrasts with the brown-bronze segments. Within the species, there is a fairly wide range of colors, from almost green to dark brown, but always with the hot pink lip.



Rhyncholaelia digbyana

Rhyncholaelia (Brassavola) digbyana has a lemony fragrance after dark. Most of the cultivars have a blush of pink on the backs of the segments, but this one is alba, no red pigment. Love that fringy lip!

Some other interesting things have also been blooming.



Aerangis mystacidii

Aerangis mystacidii is a charming little Angraecoid from

South Africa and surrounding countries at a range of elevations. The roots were crawling off the cork mount, so I tied it to a small wood basket to give them a bit more room and keep them from growing into other plants.



Gomesa radicans



Gomesa (Ornithophora, Sigmatostalix) radicans grows completely bare root (no moss) on a cork slab, and produces dozens (or maybe a few hundred) of these 1/8 inch flowers. It has been reclassified as Gomesa, but Ornithophora is fitting, these flowers look so much like little birds sitting on nests. I have had this plant for many years, it has survived plenty of rookie mistakes.



Catasetum osculatum

Catasetinae are maturing, some already showing signs of impending dormancy. They still have a month or more outside, until nights get down to 55 deg F. or so. Ctsm. Osculatum put on a good show.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **Riverside/San Bernardino Counties Orchid Society's "2025 Morongo Basin Orchid Festival"**
October 4–5, 2025
Gubler Orchids, 2200 Belfield Blvd, Landers, CA 92285
- **Huntington International Orchid Show and Sale**
October 17–19, 2025; 10 AM–5 PM
Huntington Library, Art Galleries, and Botanical Garden, San Marino, CA.
Info: www.huntington.org/orchid-show
- **San Diego County Orchid Society Fall Show**
October 25-26, 2025; Saturday 12:00 PM – 6 PM (sales begin at 10 AM), Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Casa del Prado Room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego
Info: www.sdorchids.com
- **Andy's Orchids Winter Open House**
December 12-14, 2005; 10 AM–4 PM
734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas
Info: www.andysorchids.com



I usually don't show many warm-growing orchids, but this *Phalaenopsis tetraspis* (*speciosa*) is fascinating because the flowers can have segments in any combination of red and white ... all red or 1, 2, 3 or 4 white ones (occasionally all white), on the same inflorescence. Also, after a bloom it will rest a bit, then produce another set of flowers, so over time the spike has a scalloped appearance where previous flowers were. Certainly don't cut spikes until they have turned brown, because they can bloom on and off for several years.

And an early *Cymbidium*, *Cym. dayanum* f. *album*. The typical *Cym. dayanum* form is getting close, will bloom early next month.

Roberta Fox, Editor

