



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
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Newsletter

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

Meeting: December 6, 2025 at 9:45 AM

Topic: The AOS Award for Culture, the CCE

Webinar with Sandra Svoboda

Sandra Svoboda will explore the latest AOS award for culture, the CCE, and view the plants that earned this highest honor for their grower/owner. Gain tips on how to cultivate an orchid to specimen size. Sandra served as past President of the American Orchid Society. She is an accredited judge in both the American Orchid Society and the Cymbidium Society of America judging systems and is the Editor in Chief of the Orchid Digest. Locally, she has served on the boards and was president of the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara and the local branch of the Cymbidium Society. Sandra served on the board of the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show and, for several years, was the show manager of this prestigious show.

President's Message

Hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving Day. As I write this, the sun is finally out after what seems like a continuous week of rain and overcast weather. My plants and yard are still wet from the rains! The daytime temps range in the mid-60s to mid-70s and the nights were in the low 50s or even high 40s. I am trying to time my watering to coincide with the 70s temperature during the day to try to give the plants time to dry out a bit before the cool night time temperatures. Good weather for repotting?

With the evening temperatures now dipping consistently around 50 degrees, 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. I saw some botrytis on some of the outdoor flowers after the heavy rain period last week.

This time of year, I am on the lookout for plants in need of repotting or plants with active root growth. I generally don't like to repot in the winter months, but if the plant needs repotting (e.g., looks like it's dehydrated or having root problems), I do a fresh bark repot. I'll wait until spring to repot most Cymbidiums and Cattleyas. You can always mount or remount plants.

Continued

President's message, continued

The flowering season should be starting soon for Cymbidiums and some Cattleyas. Generally, plants are not pushing out new roots, but if they are, and are over the edge of the pot, it may be time to cut off a division and pot it up. Paphs and Phals don't care, so repot to your heart's content. I have other orchids that are deciding to flower now. The weather must be confusing to them.

Early fall culture. November/December are good months for pest prevention, as the bugs (aphids, thrips, mealybugs, scale, slugs and snails) are starting to go into winter slowdown. I will not be using fertilizer until the spring as most of my plants are not actively growing. In the spring I will start placing the Nutricote 270 (13-11-11), time-release fertilizer for the remainder of the year (270 = days). Water early and less often.

I have also continued to clean up the growing area, removing grass, fallen leaves and staging the plants to repot when spring arrives. Give priority to those plants that have waited the longest. Get your supplies ready too. I planned ahead and covered all my bark totes so they didn't fill with water.

Speaking of supplies, Yamadas had Nutricote 270 (limited amounts) and perlite (#3 and 4) (as of 11/18). Call first to make sure they have your supplies. They also have some bark of various types.

Remember to bring some finger food to snack on at the meeting. 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.

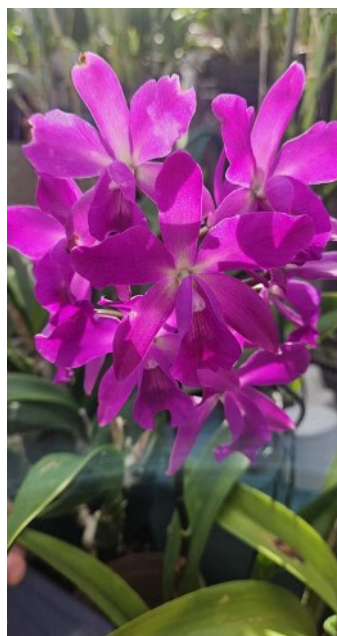
Theo

From Gisela Ferolito:

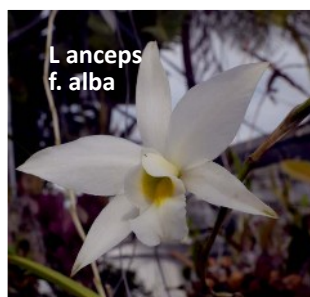


Lc. Puppy Love 'True Beauty'

Epc. Joseph Romans
'Roman Holiday'



Laelia anceps are starting to bloom profusely. These have several color forms, and different individual plants bloom at different times, extending the season. My favorite is still the lineata form (here the cultivar 'Disciplinata' but there are other cultivars of this form). It's almost like someone applied darker color with a brush and pressed too hard stretching the petals.



L. anceps
f. alba



L. anceps f. lineata
'Disciplinata'

Editor's Notes



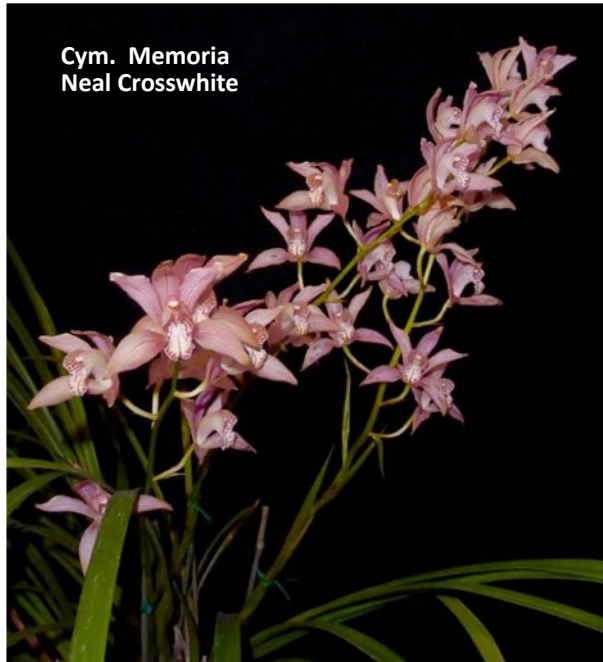
All that rain gave everything a good soaking. But the mounted plants dry out fast. A couple of days, and they're saying "What have you done for me lately?" So I have left the sprinklers off for a few more days, but watering the mounted plants with a hose. And plants that have been under shelter still need the hose treatment too. But overall, the orchids seem to be appreciative of the soaking. Sphagnum that had been hard to rewet, not a problem now. With higher humidity, I'll be trying to keep it damp.



L. anceps 'Gigas' x f. roeblingiana

That *L. anceps* 'Gigas' x f. *roeblingiana* is interesting... *roeblingiana* is the peloric form of *L. anceps*. It tends to be a rather slow grower, the other parent I'm sure was intended to give it vigor. It is definitely vigorous but shows no signs at all of the peloric characteristic. Maybe in a future generation.

A few early *Cymbidiums* are blooming, and several are in spike. Keep an eye on those, stake when necessary.



**Cym. Memoria
Neal Crosswhite**

Cym. Memoria Neal Crosswhite is *Cym. erythrostylum* x *erythraeum*. It is floriferous, and it is also very graceful.



**Cym.
erythrostylum**

Cym. erythrostylum is also blooming. Petals are held forward, so it has a "triangular" look.



Dendrochilum cootesii



Several *Dendrochilums* are blooming, just done or just starting. *Dendrochilum cootesii* is a little flower machine. This is a 4 inch pot. The flowers are relatively large for the genus, and petals curl up at the tips. It is native to high elevations in the Philippines, and grows nicely on my patio.



Holcoglossum kimballianum



Holcoglossum kimballianum is a *Vanda* relative from south-central China and nearby southeast Asian countries. It is quite cold-tolerant. It has terete leaves, and very vigorous roots that hang down 2 feet or more.



C. percivaliana

Cattleya percivaliana is very cold-tolerant, and reliably blooms in November or December. Flowers are also quite long lasting, up to 6 weeks. I love the contrast between the dark lip and yellow in the throat. I have three different cultivars, that bloom at slightly different times, extending the season.



Dendrobium (Epigeneium) nakaharae

The genus Epigeneium has been lumped into Dendrobium, but I think they grow quite differently. The plants tend to hate pots, and climb off of their mounts, rooting happily in the air. Epigeneium. Epigeneium nakaharae has flowers with heavy substance that almost look like plastic. It blooms several times per year, and is very cold-tolerant, coming from fairly high elevations in Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.



Maxillaria scalariformis

The dark green, glossy foliage and the pink flowers of Maxillaria scalariformis are a beautiful contrast. This one has been a puzzle for a long time for me. They grow beautifully outside at Andy's Orchids, and the climate is, as far as I can tell, is very close to mine. If anything, it's a little cooler, closer to the ocean. But I have had several of them die over the winter outdoors. Finally, I have moved them into the greenhouse once the nights get into the low 50's F., and they have thrived. If I keep them in the greenhouse the rest of the year they bloom poorly, so they spend most of the time outside. They bloom profusely twice a year, at least.



Dendrobium (epigeneium) treacherianum



Epigeneium treacherianum needs to be grown on the warm side. This was a great year for this plant. A couple of months ago it started a spike, then all the buds dropped and I figured I'd have to wait another year.

But then, WOW! It produce 6 more spikes, and all bloomed nicely. This one has the fragrance of coconut. I had tried growing it in a basket, but almost lost it. After mounting, it started to grow well, and this is the result. Each flower is nearly 1.5 inches.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **Andy's Orchids Winter Open House**
December 12-14, 2025; 10 AM—4 PM
734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas
Info: www.andysorchids.com
- **San Diego County Orchid Society Orchids in the Park**
January 24-25, 2026; Sat. 12 PM - 5 PM (Sales start at 10 AM), Sun. 10 AM – 4 PM
Balboa Park Casa del Prado Room 101, San Diego
Info: www.sdorchids.com
- **Pacific Orchid Exposition**
February 26 - March 1, 2026; Fri. – Sat. 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun. 10 AM – 4 PM
County Fair Building, 1199 9th Ave., San Francisco
Info: www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
- **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show**
March 20 – 22, 2026; 9 AM – 4 PM
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
Info: www.sborchidshow.com
- **South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale**
March 28 – 29, 2026; 10 AM – 4 PM
Palos Verdes Art Center, 5504 W Crestridge Rd., Rancho Palos Verdes
Info: www.southbayorchidsociety/Show



**Drosera
capensis**



Drosera capensis is not an orchid, but a great companion for them. This is a carnivorous plant ("Cape sundew"), covered sticky hairs. The leaves have little black bugs stuck on them, maybe gnats but I really, really hope that they are thrips! It has these cute little flowers that bloom on long spikes sequentially, and readily produce seeds. It is one that I hope does escape into orchid pots, there are plenty of thrips for it to eat! It does need pure water.