



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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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: January 3, 2026 at 9:45 AM

Topic: Brazilian Cattleya (Laelia): A Tour of the Habitats

***Webinar with Francisco Miranda
Owner: Miranda Orchids***

Miranda Orchids is own by Maria Cristina and Francisco Miranda, both born in Brazil and living in the U.S.A. since 1999. Francisco is a taxonomist, naturalist and orchid grower, traveling extensively in the U.S. and internationally, speaking at orchid-related events and meetings. He has been doing this since 1988, while still living in Brazil. The subjects of these presentations (as shown in their own page here) reflect Francisco's extensive travels to study orchids in their natural environments. Maria Cristina Miranda is a biologist, who takes care of the lab production and day-to-day nursery operation.

President's Message

It was good seeing all of you at the December meeting. Thank you to all who brought all the food for our meeting. The weather has turned cool at night hovering at around 50 degrees at my house in Costa Mesa. This week was a very rainy side with some daytime temps around 60-degrees. I'm still repotting plants that look like they need some help or if I see green root-tips outside the pot

Fall culture. I have once again started repotting the plants that need to be done before the rains (in-between the rains). You don't want a plant with broken down bark to get soaked in the cool days or cold nights. I'm still cleaning my orchid growing area of weeds, old fallen leaves dead plants; it's a never-ending task.

If you haven't done your pest management, wait until March or April, as the bugs (aphids, thrips, mealybugs, scale, slugs and snails) are in winter slowdown. Reduce watering frequency and the quantity/strength of fertilizer as the plant's metabolism is slowing down in preparation for winter hibernation. It got a little too cold and some of my plants had root rot, so be careful where, when and how often you water. I try to

Continued

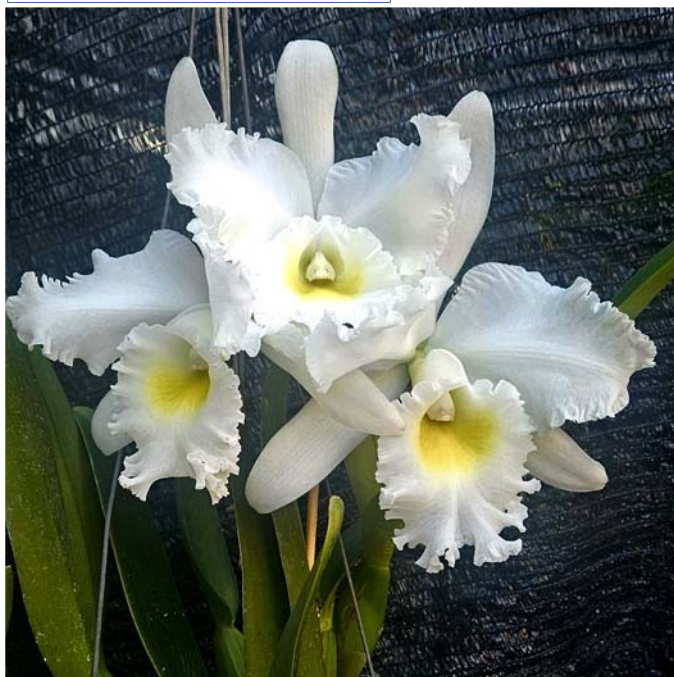
President's message, continued

wait until the temperature is around 70, but I have Cattleyas, and they don't mind being a little on the dry side. Check the culture of your orchids for when to best water.

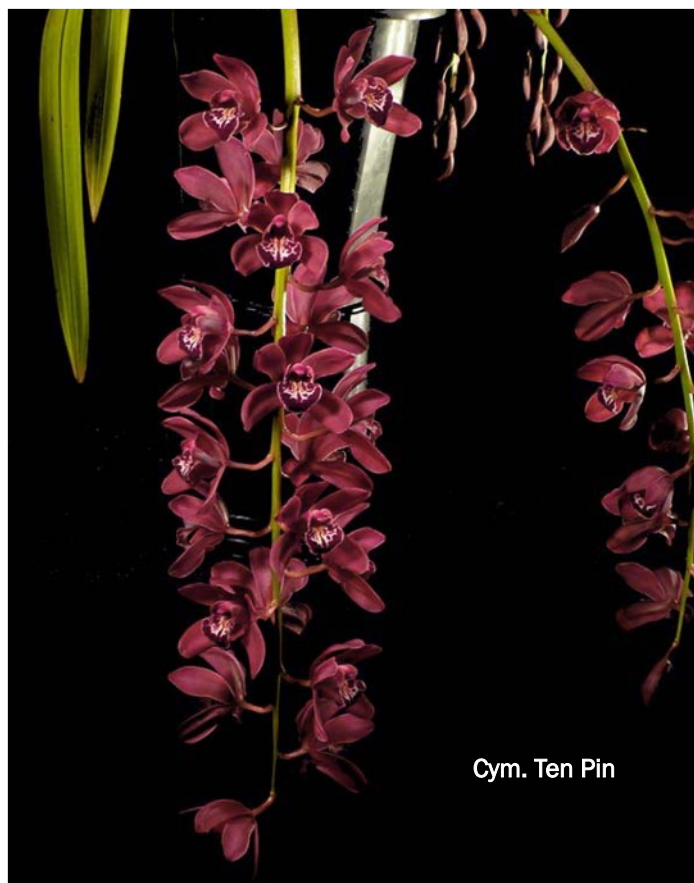
I will be asking for suggestions for future talks/demonstrations. Let me know if you have suggestions. See you Saturday 9:30 AM at the Zoo.

Theo

From Gisela Ferolito:



Blc. Beautiful American Lady (unregistered)



Cym. Ten Pin

Editor's Notes



After a dry month, more wet. I find that most of the orchids actually like their soaking, and the fact that temperatures have stayed pretty close to 60 deg. F overnight greatly reduces the danger of rot. There are plenty of blooms... we are soooo lucky in southern California! I am seeing lots of Cymbidium spikes getting close to blooming. Some of the later L. anceps are now opening. Soon that season will be past, but then it will spring – and many more flowers.

Cymbidium Ten-Pin was one of my earliest acquisitions, definitely a survivor. Its blooming time is highly variable. This is one of the earliest years – usually it blooms in February or March, occasionally as late as April, and sometimes twice. I'll take it any time... It is Cym. Ruby Eyes x Tethys. Sort of Ruby Eyes on steroids.



Laelia albida produces lots of flowers. When crossed with Laelia anceps (of which I showed you several color forms last month) you get Laelia Finckeniana. Flowers are a little larger than L. albida (and mostly pink), but it tends to be very floriferous like L. albida.



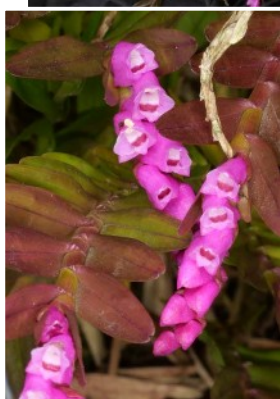
Here is Laelia Finckeniana.



Cattlianthe (Cattleya) Shady Lady is another of the orchids that go back to my earliest "orchid career". This is Guarianthe (Cattleya) Guatemalensis (skinneri x aurantiaca) x Cattleya loddigesii. It blooms twice a year with a big head of flowers, and tends to climb out of its container. I now grow it in a wood basket, more like a mounted plant. It's not a miniature... pseudobulbs are around 18 inches.



At the other end of the size range is Cattleya (Sophronitis) wittigiana. This one has a great flower-to-plant ratio, flower is about 1.5 inches, the leaves only about 3/4 inch. It likes cool, and does better with RO water. Flowers emerge as the new leaf opens, with no sheath.



The species on this Isochilus is not known for sure. It might be Iso. major, but maybe not. It blooms reliably every year about this time, and then either self pollinates or is the work of hummingbirds, but every flower produces a seed capsule.



Den.
rindjaniense

Dendrobium rindjaniense comes from the Sunda islands of Indonesia, around 2000 m (so is happy with our cool nights). It can bloom repeatedly, over several years, from the same interesting bumpy canes, mostly leafless. It doesn't need to dry out in winter.



Dendrochilum
cobbianum

Dendrochilum cobbianum reminds me of strings of pearls. It does best in a bulb pan where it can spread out. It likes shade, and to be kept on the damp side.



Bulbophyllum
lasiochilum

I grew Bulb. lasiochilum in the greenhouse for several years, then found that it does much better outside. It is mounted, gets daily watering but does dry out and doesn't seem to mind. It comes from about 1500 m in south-central China and southeast Asia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **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



*Epigeneium
clemensiae*

Epigeneium clemensiae is now *Den. mariae*. I don't like the lumping... *Epigeneium* is distinct. All of them tend to have a creeping growth habit, and hate pots.

Roberta Fox, Editor



*Epidendrum
ciliare*

Epidendrum ciliare is marginal outside, it really does better in the greenhouse. The lip is especially intriguing