

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

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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 7, 2026 at 9:45 AM

Topic: Orchid Care and Culture

Demonstration and discussion, led by various members

This month we will be discussing orchid culture. We will discuss the care and culture of several orchid genera (Cattleyas, Cymbidiums and Oncidiums). We will also have a repotting demonstration. Bring your culture and care questions to the meeting. Participation is encouraged.

President's Message

We are having atypical weather for this time of year, meaning, daytime temperatures in the 70–80-degree range and nights at around the mid-50s. Some weeks we have some Santa Ana winds where the daytime temperatures are in the mid-to low 80s. We had some good rain in January, but the Santa Ana's dried things out a bit. I'm still repotting plants that look like they need some help, and watering when we get the Santa Ana warmup.

Fall/Spring 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 in October, you still can, as the bugs (aphids, thrips, mealybugs, scale, slugs and snails) are in winter slowdown.

Watch out for Santa Ana days as the humidity will plummet, so you may need to water some plants. You should have to watch the weather and adjust your watering frequency and the quantity/strength of fertilizer. Most plants are still in a slowed down metabolism for the winter, but this crazy 80-degree Jan-Feb weather will shock the plant back into Spring mode. If your using time release fertilizer, wait until the plants start to grow/throw roots out before placing the pellets (Spring). During the rainy period, the temperature was a bit 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.

Continued

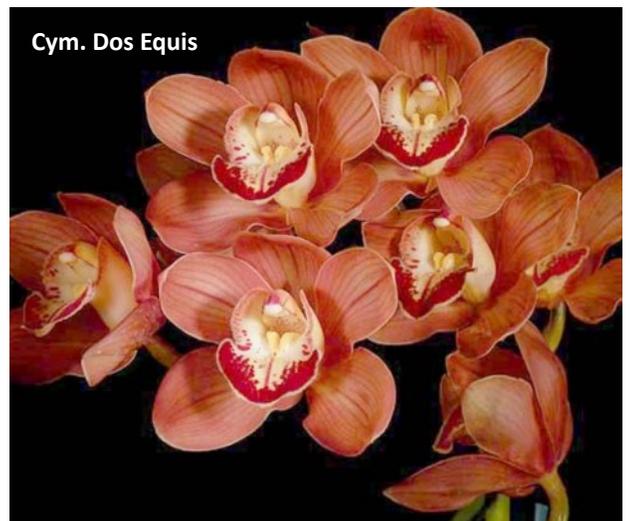
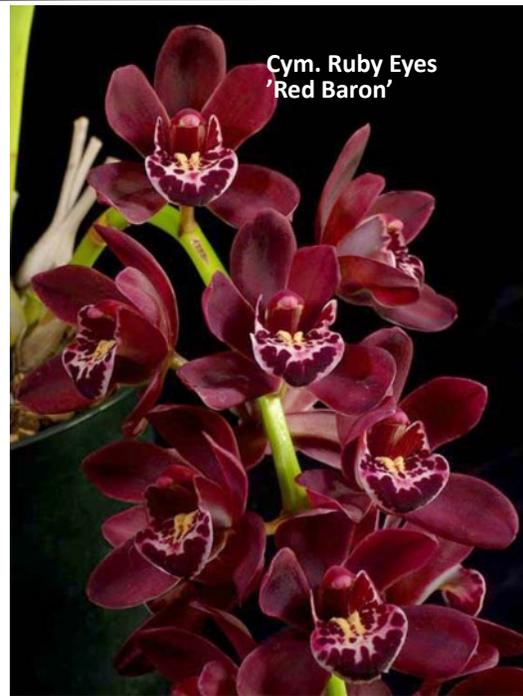
President's message, continued

Has anyone checked the bark at Orange County Farm Supply? If so, give us a report. Has anyone tried to go to Yamada's? Roberta reported they are still open and Hatfield Orchids is having Cymbidium sales there again. Let us know what you find out.

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:



Editor's Notes



Weather whiplash? After a soggy December, we had a mostly bone-dry January, temperatures approaching 80 deg F and 20% humidity! Water based on the weather not the calendar. It's not summer, though... nights are chilly and days are still short (though noticeably lengthening), so the ideal time for watering seems to be mid-morning after the early morning cold has dissipated, but with time for plants to dry out before it gets cold again.

More Cymbidiums are blooming. And there are more buds for next month. Cym. Ruby Eyes is a classic, with its pendant dark red flowers. Cym. Dos Equis is a big, round standard. Orchids like these remind us why we keep plants that consume lots of space... they are beautiful and long lasting, brightening up the winter.



Lc. Santa Barbara Sunset
'Streaker'

My *L. anceps* are all done for the season, but this vigorous *L. anceps* hybrid is in full bloom. It's a mutation that occurred in the mericlone of the cultivar 'Showtime', with a subtle peloric pattern on the mid-rib of the petals.



Epidendrum purum

Epi. purum started out as a small division, now lives in a 2 gallon pot. The mass of small white flowers makes a good show.



Dinema polybulbon

Dinema polybulbon is related to *Epidendrum*. It has small flowers but lots of them, and they're fragrant, especially in the warmth of mid-day. It does best mounted, since it rambles in all directions, and grows just as well with roots in the air as on the mount.



Mrv. Lucinda Nott

Marvingerberara [Mrv.] Lucinda Nott came from one of the plant tables of a few years back. It contains 3 genera: *Caularthron* (*Diacrium*), *Laelia*, and two species of *Brassavola*. It contains more warm-growers than cool, so I have kept it in the greenhouse and it has grown very well. I suspect that it does need that protection.

Mediocalcar decoratum



Mediocalcar decoratum, a New Guinea native, grows ON rather than IN its basket, is slowly growing into a ball. Flowers have candy-corn colors. I have also seen them described as “exploding bowling balls”. It grows on my patio, doesn’t mind the cold.



Look up *Dendrobium glomeratum*, and everything indicates that it needs to be warm. It comes from the island of Sulawesi. But there must be higher elevation populations of it – this plant grows very well outside. Andy Phillips grows it in his unheated shadehouse. The flowers, with their bright orange lip and hot pink segments, almost glow in the sunshine. It blooms at least twice a year.

Clowesia rosea



Clowesia rosea blooms while it is completely dormant (so little or no water). Flowers have a somewhat citrus-y fragrance. Like the rest of my *Catasetinae*, this is moved to the greenhouse for the winter, but spends the rest of the year outside, once new growth is well underway. This species is a parent of Cl. Rebecca Northen and Cl. Grace Dunn.

Restrepia sanguinea



Restrepia jesupiana

Here are two examples of *Restrepias*. I love the “little bugs”. They grow shady and damp, and prefer RO water. They love the cool weather though they’ll tolerate summer with plenty of water.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **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
- **Andy's Orchids Spring Open House**
March 13 - 25, 2026 10 AM – 4 PM
734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas
Info: www.andysorchids.com
- **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**
April 18-19, 2026; 10 AM – 4 PM (Note new dates!)
Palos Verdes Art Center, 5504 W Crestridge Rd., Rancho Palos Verdes
Info: www.southbayorchidsociety.com/Show



This *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* grows like any other Phal, on the warm side (lives in the greenhouse but would likely be fine in the house if it got adequate light). This plant is an overachiever, though. Along with 2-foot new spikes, it has produce a keiki on an old spike that also produces its own spikes. The species has beautiful mottled leaves, so it is attractive even when not in bloom.