



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

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

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: March 7, 2026 at 9:45 AM

Topic: Odontoglossum, the Lost Genus

Tom Etheridge

Tom Etheridge, accredited AOS judge, will give an overview of Odontoglossum and its close relatives, their history, discuss the current nomenclature, and talk about culture.

President's Message

Spring has sprung! The night time temperatures are still cool in the mid to high 50s here, but the daytime temperatures will reach 85-75 this week. Last week while I was repotting, it was barley 60 during the daytime. I'm not complaining! Last year at this time the Santa Ana winds were tearing down my shade cloth and knocking some of my plants over.

The Cymbidiums are flowering and spiking now so keep a watch on staking the flower spikes. Most of my Laelia anceps have come and gone. My Dendrobium speciosums and some of the kingianum varieties are in spike and open. What a very nice fragrance there is at this time of year. Remember to water your plants if you have a covered greenhouse or shade house where the rain doesn't get to the plants. We received some good rain about 2 weeks ago, so check to see if the plants are wet, too wet, or dry. While repotting this week, I noticed some of mine had become saturated/wet from bark breakdown.

This is a great week to water since the daytime temperatures will be in the 70s. Plenty of time to dry out before the cool nights. Mounted plants are less sensitive to staying wet versus potted plants. March is the time that I start fertilizing the plants. I use the lowest concentration in March and increase the concentration as the summer approaches, then decrease the concentration as winter approaches. Alternatively, you can use a time release fertilizer. Watch plants for signs of root rot and separate those affected plants so as not to spread the bacteria that causes the rot.

Continued

President's message, continued

Continue cleaning up the grow areas as this will benefit plant culture in the growing months, keeping plants free from disease and reducing pest infestations from plant litter. Repot when you see active roots are hanging over the edge of the pots. I have also mounted some of the Laelia anceps that I wasn't able to mount last year, and they seem to be shooting out new roots to attach to the mounts.

I went to Orange County Farm Supply and bought some of their new orchid bark as well as the regular bark I always buy for my cattleyas. Let's see what it looks like on Saturday. I also bought some pots from GreenhouseMegastore.com. If it arrives before the meeting, I will bring those also.

If you have an orchid/culture subject you would like to see, please let me know. Hope to see you all Saturday at the Barn at the Santa Ana Zoo opening at 9:30 AM.

Theo

Editor's Notes



The wild weather continues, alternating between multiple days of rain followed by increasing heat. It's SPRING! All the plants are responding to the lengthening days.

The Australian Dendrobiums are starting to put on a show. The queen of them all, Den. Speciosum, is leading the parade. Here is Den. x ruppiosum, a natural hybrid of Den. jonesii x speciosum.

**Dendrobium
x ruppiosum**



Cym. Cali Nights

Cymbidiums continue to produce new blooms. As the earlier ones fade, there are still plenty of later-bloomers coming along. Here is Cym. Cali Nights, with some of the darkest flowers in the genus. Photographs just don't quite capture the velvety almost-black flowers with the dark burgundy lip and its subtle picotee.



Cym. Alice Alisa

At the other end of Cymbidium color range is Cym. Alice Alisa.



C. (Slc.) Circle of Life 'Trailblazer'

Cattleya (Slc.) Circle of Life 'Trailblazer' is a classic Frank Fordyce hybrid. It is half *C. coccinea*, the source of the brilliant color. It blooms twice a year or more.



Rl. glauca



Rl. glauca

Rhyncholaelia glauca is typically greenish with white lip, but there is a lot of variation in the amount of pink blush in the petals and sepals. These are fragrant at night. They are quite cold-tolerant.



Vanda(Ascocentrum) christensonianum

Vanda (Ascocentrum) christensonianum does need some warmth in winter, so it lives in the greenhouse. It is completely bare root. It started out in a net pot, but the potted part died, it put out aerial roots and that's the way it wants to grow. Lovely soft pink flowers.



**Cattleya lueddemanniana
f. coerulea**

Cattleya lueddemanniana f. coerulea is also a warm grower, but just so pretty that I wanted to show it here. Flowers are nearly 7 inches across.



Brassia (Ada) aurantiaca



Brassia (Ada) aurantiaca almost looks like flames, especially on gray days. It certainly is cold-tolerant. It bloomed almost a month later than usual this year, no idea why. I'll take it any time!

Dendrobium (Diplocaulobium) aratriferum is unlikely to ever come to a meeting. It produces flush blooms 2 or 3 times a year and a few flowers here and there at other times. But don't blink.... Flowers only last a few hours. One can see the buds start to develop, that is the time for vigilance. The white, starry flowers open all at once, then after 5 hours or so start to turn pink and slowly close.



**Dendrobium
(Diplocaulobium)
aratriferum**



Flowers have a strong fragrance of watermelon.



**Clowesia Rebecca
Northern
'Grapefruit Pink'**



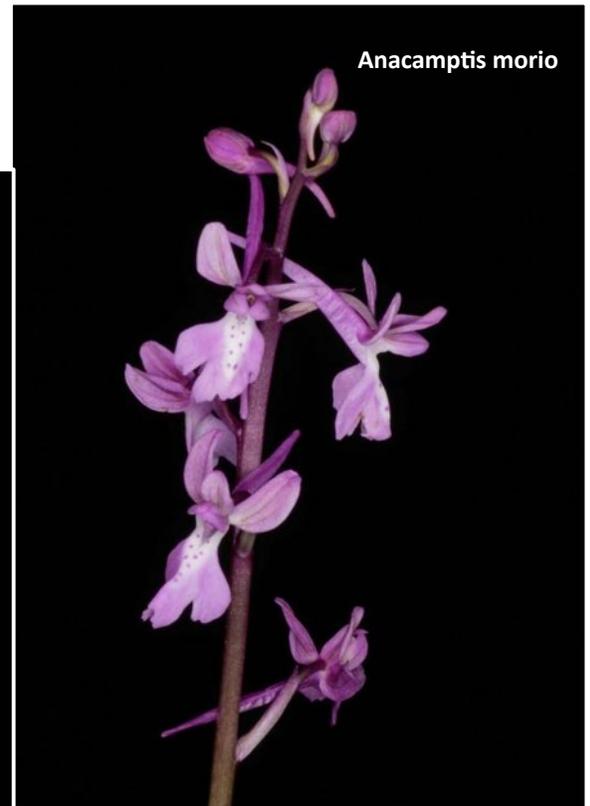
Last month I showed you Clowesia rosea. Here is one of its offspring, Cl. Rebecca Northern 'Grapefruit Pink'. It looks a lot like Cl. rosea (¾ of its parentage). Fragrance is a little different, very fresh, fills the room.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **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 Coast Orchid Society Auction and Sale**
March 23, 2026; 6:30 PM to 9 PM
Whaley Park Community Center, 5620 E. Atherton St., Long Beach
Specimens, Divisions, Seedlings, Books, Supplies and more
Info: [www.https://www.southcoastorchidsociety.com/](https://www.southcoastorchidsociety.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

The Mediterranean terrestrials are starting to bloom. Here are a few, mostly from Greece and nearby countries. The Ophrys and Serapias came mis-identified, IDs are my best guess with consultation with a very knowledgeable friend.



Roberta Fox, Editor