

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](http://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  
Tony Glinskas

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## Newsletter

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

***Meeting: April 4, 2026 at 9:45 AM***

## **Topic: The Cattleya Alliance in Mexico**

### ***Webinar by Ron McHatton***

Mexico is home to some spectacular orchids that are showy on their own and readily breed with the large cattleyas

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## **President's Message**

The weather is crazy this year. Hot around 80-90 plus one week, then high 60s to low 70s the next week. Night temperatures are climbing from the low 50s to the low 60s now. I am starting to water on a schedule, usually in the AM to avoid mold and crown rot issues.

Repotting areas are setup out back and are being used daily. This is a good time to do inventory to determine if you need repotting supplies like pencils, tags, clean pots, and getting the different media (bark, coconut, and perlite). Also, this is a good time of year to start fertilizing your plants.

There is still much to do around the growing area before summer (Feb-Sept. New summer range). Cleaning up all the fallen leaves and keeping the grass from growing under the benches and orchid pots is a full-time job. I am also repairing the shade areas from recent high winds to make sure they are tip-top when the sun finally decides to come out. If you haven't done your pest management, this is a good time of year to start. I try to apply pesticides in April and October for the main application and do spot applications when needed.

It is the start of the Spring Orchid Show season so check your newsletter for Shows and dates.

*Continued*

***President's message, continued***

Supplies: Last meeting we saw what OCFS has in stock for seedling (1-cuft bag) and cattleya sized barks (both 1 and 3-cuft bags). I finally received the shipment of pots from Greenhouse Megastore. They only have the 1-gal size and not the 6 x 5 I was wanting. They may have green pots that would fit but their shipping is through FedEx and it can be expensive. I'll keep looking.

As always, please let me know if you have a suggestion for future talks/demonstrations. See you Saturday 9:30 AM at the Zoo.

Theo

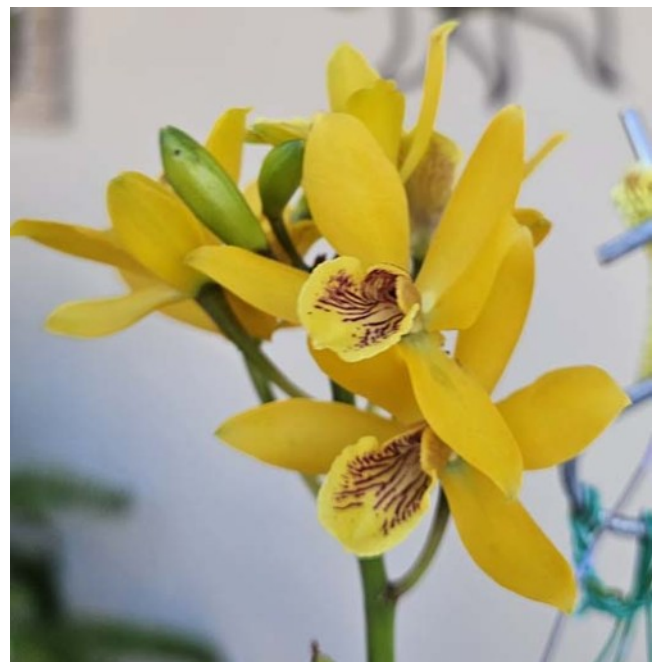
From Gisela Ferolito:



**Ansellia africana f. alba/aurea 'Garden Party'**



**Epc. Kyoguchi 'M. Sauno'  
Mutation x Sc Beaufort  
'Hartford's Elmwood ' 4n**



**Rth. Shinfong 'Little Sun'**

## Editor's Notes



The wild weather has definitely confused my plants. Many are blooming as much as a month earlier than they usually do. Some of the Mediterranean-climate terrestrials, that had been in spike, decided that it's summer and time to go dormant. A few have bloomed anyway, but it's sparse. Hope for next year...



*Cymbidium canaliculatum* 'Friends'

*Cymbidium canaliculatum* is a relatively tropical species from northern Australia. It can survive winter chill, but isn't happy about it, preferring a bit of protection. Also, it needs to be considerably drier in winter. In habitat, it collects nightly dew with the grooved leaves, directing the condensate to the root zone when there is little rain. This one spends the winter with the *Catasetinae* (getting just a little water). Now, back outside.



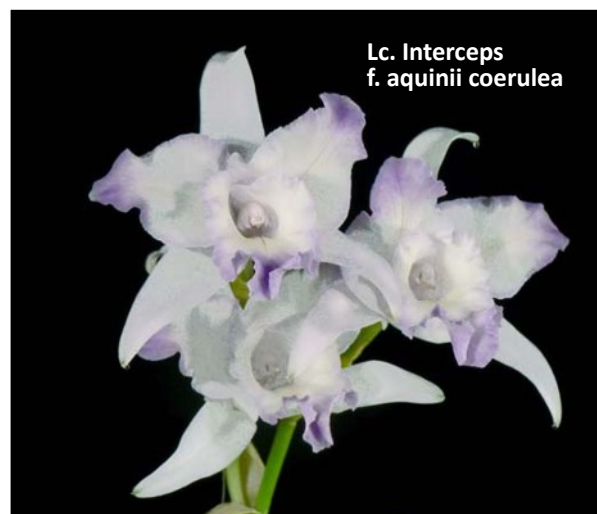
Cym. Pee Wee

*Cymbidium Pee Wee* is *Cym. madidum* x *floribundum* (*pumilum*). It grows vigorously, but stays moderate in size. The enormous pseudobulbs of *Cym. Madidum* are completely suppressed. It does need to be repotted/divided every couple of years to keep it under control.



*Cattleya intermedia*  
f. *coerulea*

*Cattleya intermedia* grows easily outside. It has multiple color forms. This one is a lovely *coerulea*.



*Lc. Intercepts*  
f. *aquinii coerulea*

*Laeliocattleya Intercepts* is *L. anceps* x *C. intermedia*. The *C. intermedia* parent of this one was the *peloric*, or *aquinii*, form where the lip pattern is repeated in the petals. Along with being *peloric*, it was also the *coerulea* form. Here is what the *C. intermedia* f. *aquinii coerulea* looks like.



*C. intermedia*  
f. *aquinii coerulea*



Cattleya (Laelia)  
Jongheana 'Mango'

One of my favorites in the Cattleya tribe is Cattleya (Laelia) jongheana. Flowers are naturally very flat (not due to line breeding, that's what the species does). 5 inch flowers on a 6 inch plant. They are also quite long lasting, 4 weeks or more. This is the largest of the hadrolaelia group, with flowers emerging as the new leaves open, without a sheath.



Cattleya  
schroederiae

Cattleya schroederiae flowers are 6 inches or more. The yellow throat reminds me of a sunny-side-up egg. It grows well outside. I do give it rain protection, but that's all.



C. Quinquecolor

Cattleya Quinquecolor is C. forbesii (small, brown, cold-tolerant, blooms 2-3 times per year) x C. aclandiae (colorful, warm growing, medium sized, can bloom 2 times per year) to make a colorful, cold-tolerant hybrid that blooms 2-3 times per year. It's a great combination



Cattleya  
harrisoniana f.  
alba ?

This was labeled "Cattleya harrisoniana alba". I suspect that it is a hybrid with the closely-related Cattleya loddigesii. The lip on some of the flowers is more tubular (like loddigesii), and the two species have somewhat different bloom times. This plant blooms twice a year or more, which isn't characteristic of either species... but if combined, very likely. There are areas where the ranges of the two species are close together, so it is possibly a natural hybrid.



Den. nobile

There are lots of non-Cattleyas blooming too. Here is Dendrobium nobile, which is in the background of many lovely hybrids. These supposedly need to dry out in winter, but our climate is very dry, and I find that the plants do better, and still produce flowers, with winter watering. The cold is likely the trigger.



Dryadella zebrina



Dryadella zebrina has flowers that blend into the foliage, so they seem to appear suddenly. Subtle, but it's a ball of 1 inch flowers.



Comparetia speciosa

Comparetia speciosa first bloomed at the end of September. The spike branched, bloomed again around January, then bloomed yet again on another branch. Flowers last several weeks. This is a very small plant, a twig epiphyte. Flowers are an inch or more. I had thought that this needed to be warmer, but obviously is doing just fine outside. Unfortunately these twig epiphytes tend to live fast but don't live long, adapted to life on small branches that fall easily. I hope it continues to thrive, but won't be surprised if it doesn't.



Maxillaria picta buds are white with burgundy spots, then when they open show the butter-yellow inside of the sepals. This is a very vigorous outdoor-growing species.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **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](http://www.southbayorchidsociety.com/Show)
- **36<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Garden Show**  
April 23 - 26, 2026  
South Coast Plaza, 3333 Bear St, Santa Ana  
Info: [www.southcoastplaza.com/gardenshow/](http://www.southcoastplaza.com/gardenshow/)
- **Long Beach Amateur Annual Orchid Auction**  
Saturday May 9, 2026; Doors open at 12 Noon, Auction 1 – 4 PM  
St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 6201 E. Willow St., Long Beach  
Info: [www.lbaos.org/events/2026auction](http://www.lbaos.org/events/2026auction)  
Registration: See website for pre-registration information



As mentioned, the season for Mediterranean terrestrials was shortened and reduced by the heat, but here are a couple of survivors. *Ophrys speculum* (little bee!) grows in a wide area of Europe near the Mediterranean. It's definitely my favorite of that group. And *Thelymitra glaucophylla* from Australia – one of the few truly BLUE orchids. These open only in bright sun, staying closed on cloudy days.

I am having a bit of success with a few spring-blooming terrestrials from Japan. These come from a monsoonal climate, with spring and summer rain and drier in winter. This one is *Amitostigma keiskei*. Possibly another species or two next month.