

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: May 2, 2026 at 9:45 AM***

## **Topic: Novelty Cattleyas**

### ***Webinar by Fred Clarke***

Learn about what used to be called, "Novelty Cattleyas." Fred will explain what parents are best used to create fanciful spotted and splash-petal Cattleya hybrids.

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## **President's Message**

The weather is finally starting to warm up a bit but some days are still on the cooler side. Night time temperatures are still below 60 degrees, so watch how and when you water to avoid crown rot and mold or fungus conditions.

Repotting at my house is in full swing these days. I try to switch from one type of orchid to another to try not to get burnt out. I have setup two different areas to repot; one for Cymbidiums and smaller rooted orchids, like Oncidiums, and one for Cattleyas. Good thing I arranged all the necessary materials to repot, which allows the process to go much smother. I have used the mantra "Do a little at a time and the job will get done," instead of looking at all the work to do, and just giving up (the easy way out!).

Be careful of our occasional rain or sprinkles, as you don't want your bark to get wet. I use the bags we received Fred Clark's bark in, the mesh ones, to put my bark in before the rains. Keeps the bark from sitting in water.

I still have not completely cleared out the weeds and grass from under the bench but I am getting there. Remember, April/May are good months for insect prevention. I'm going to go nuclear on the thrip population before they really get active. It will be a multi-month effort using rotating products. I will use a systemic, such as Orthene, along with a bug growth inhibitor, such as Bonide granules [Imidacloprid]. After my second application (once every 7

*Continued*

**President's message, continued**

days), I will switch to two different products to prevent any chance of the bugs getting immune to the insecticide. Once I have controlled the infestation, and after a brief waiting period (one or two months), I will try some biological methods.

In between repotting orchids and cleaning up, I planted my vegetable garden. Tomatoes, zucchini, watermelon, and peppers. I think I need to start cultivating in the ground instead of in 20 gal. pots.

It is the start of the Spring Orchid Show season so check your newsletter for Shows and dates. I hope everyone got a chance to go to the Garden Show at South Coast Plaza.

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

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**Editor's Notes**



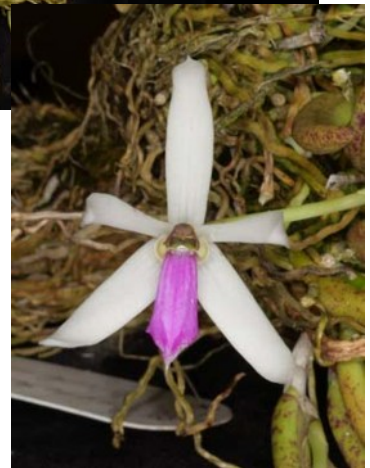
While we're experiencing more normal spring weather now, I am still seeing many blooms 4-6 weeks earlier than usual, due to the heat that we experienced a month or so ago. Plants aren't drying out as fast as they did in the heat, but many are in rapid growth and are happy to get regular watering.



In its native Venezuela, *C. mossiae* is "fleur de Mayo", and this one is right on time. It grows outside with just a bit of overhead protection.



Leptotes bicolor needs to grow mounted. The mount is totally encased by roots. With its succulent leaves, it really needs to dry out between waterings. It also wants bright light. This one gets direct morning sun.





Den. farmeri



Den. jenkinsii

A couple of Himalayan/SE Asian Dendrobiums that don't read the instructions... They get watered all winter, and bloom anyway. There are others... Den aphyllum bloomed early in the month, several more are in bud. Being mounted likely helps, since they dry fast. I am also convinced that the winter cold is a trigger, and seems to be sufficient.



Coelogyne speciosa



Coelogyne speciosa is not particularly colorful, but has large flowers and lots of them. The contrasting fuzzy keels on the lip are dramatic. Also, each inflorescence can produce several flowers in succession so it stays in bloom for a long time.

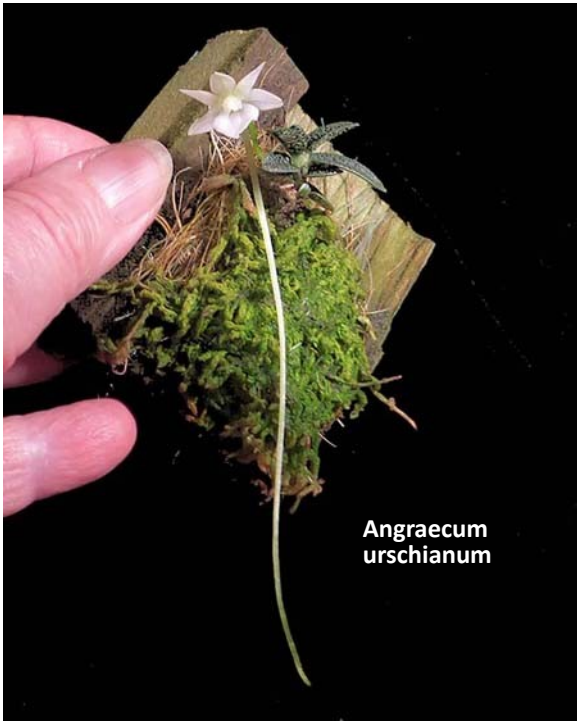


Coelogyne nitida

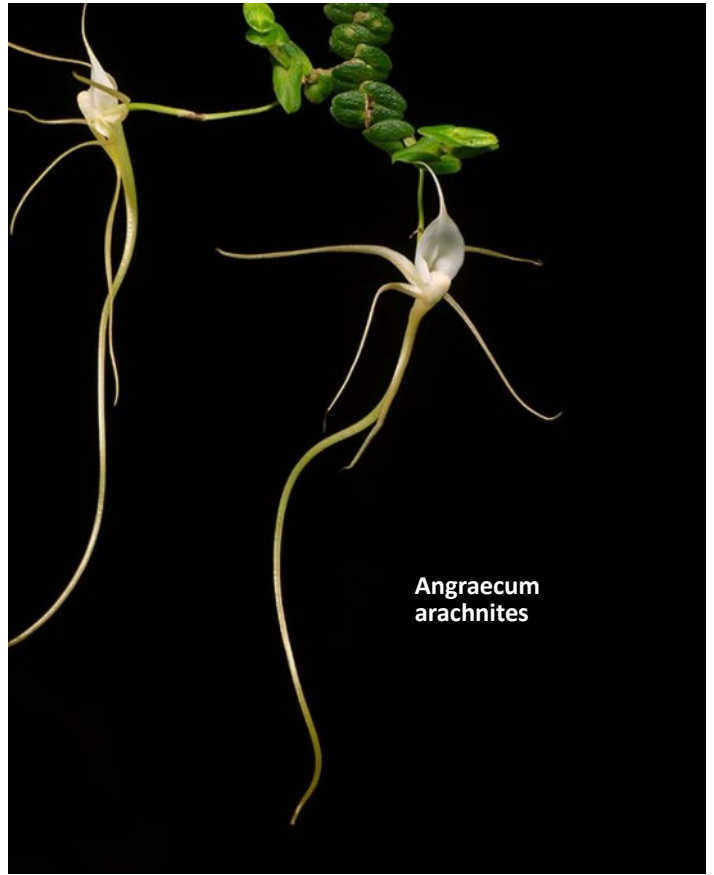
Coelogyne nitida (ochracea) is beautiful in the sunshine with its crystalline white flowers and lovely sunny lip pattern.



Den. aphyllum



**Angraecum  
urschianum**



**Angraecum  
archnites**



**Angraecum germinyanum**



**Angraecum equitans**

What a month for Angraecums! These are all so different, but all grow on my patio. The members of the genus are mostly white, since they are pollinated by night-flying moths. Angcm. urschianum is an adorable miniature, half inch flower and leaves, with a 4-inch nectary. Angcm. germinyanum has 2-ft. roots, growing "on" (rather than "in") – and far beyond – its 6 inch basket. The golden sepals and spur of Angcm. archnites is a nice variation. And this is the best show that I have seen from this Angcm. equitans. All of them are night-fragrant.



**Barbosella  
cucullata**



Barbosella cucullata is a ball of 2 inch flowers. Since the flowers are greenish, they're not obvious until they open, then it's a mini-show.



**Renanthera  
pulchella**



I can't find much habitat information for Renanthera pulchella other than that it comes from Myanmar. It is listed on [IOSPE](#) as growing warm, but it is very happy on my patio. Clearly it comes from a range of elevations.

**Maxillaria cucullata**



Maxillaria cucullata is a rambler. Fragrance is coconut. Don't be tempted to clean up those brown bracts around the pseudobulbs, they protect the root system that runs throughout the plant. Pseudobulbs on top of pseudobulbs can lead to very long growths, and the roots run all the way up.



**Phalaenopsis  
(Vandopirea)  
Little One**

Phalaenopsis (Vandopirea) Little One is a primary hybrid between Phalaenopsis (Sedirea) japonica and Phalaenopsis hydrochila (Hydrochilus parishii). The hybrid and its parents all grow more like cool-growing Vandas than Phalaenopsis. The taxonomic lumping into Phalaenopsis is probably because of the distaste for monotypic (single-species) genera, but why that one? Above my pay grade...

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **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
- **San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbists Annual Orchid Auction**  
May 21, 2026; Preview 6 PM, 7 PM auction begins  
Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Palm Room  
Info: [www.sgvoh.org](http://www.sgvoh.org)
- **Andy's Orchids Summer Open House**  
June 12-14, 2026 ; 10 AM – 4 PM  
734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas  
Info: [andysorchids.com](http://andysorchids.com)



**Guarianthe (Cattleya)  
aurantiaca**

Guarianthe (Cattleya) aurantiaca has several color forms. The solid orange one is most common, then there is this spotted form, and a lemon yellow one as well. Flowers only last 2-3 weeks, but they are so bright and cheerful!



**Neobenthamia gracilis**

Polystachya (Neobenthamia) gracilis is a terrestrial from Tanzania, Africa. It is supposedly a warm-to-hot grower. However, when I grew it for several years in the greenhouse it didn't do much. When I moved it outside, it took off and now grows well, blooms regularly. It stays in bloom for several months, and is very fragrant.