



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
Tony Glinskas

Newsletter

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

Meeting: June 6, 2026 at 9:45 AM

Topic: Growing Cymbidiums

Webinar by George Hatfield

George discusses cultural techniques for growing award-winning Cymbidiums

President's Message

Firstly, I want to thank John Marzolino and Jeff Dollie for helping out at the Zoo's Party for The Planet on May 17. The event was well attended and we had a table full of orchids, large and small, and bromeliads. We fielded a lot of questions about both types of plants with lots of people interested in the wonderful smells of the Lc. Stonehouse Leonard and Maxillaria tenuifolia. Thank you again for all your help.

This time of year, in Southern California, we experience a phenomenon called "May gray" or "June gloom," where the mornings are characterized by overcast skies and cooler temperatures and sunny afternoons and cooler nights (high 50s and low 60s). There may be times when there is a fair amount of moisture in the air due to the marine layer, which may produce heavy mist and/or rain. Be on the lookout for crown rot and or botrytis (bacteria) which shows up as brown spots on the flowers. These two issues can occur when there is enough moisture to produce a lot of dew on the plants and flowers and the temperature is below 60 degrees, with little or no air movement.

Potting, potting, potting! It just seems to never end but it gets me out of the house and I know the orchids appreciate it. I am glad I bought enough potting media for the season. Orange County Farm Supply still has good quality orchid bark, cattleya size, and they just got a shipment of the larger bark, Sequoia (Medium size) Decorator Bark. Has anyone gone to Yamadas to see what's available? Report in at the meeting please.

On another bark note, I bought some cattleya size bark, Pathway small size [Blue Bag 3 cuft.] from Orange County Farm Supply (two separate purchases) and the bark looks fine, but I could see some fungus/ mycelium on some pieces. You don't want to use bark with mycelium growing because when the fungus gets wet it will

Continued

President's message, continued

spread to other bark and infect your plant's roots and kill the orchid. My solution is to take the bark and load it into the mesh bark bags we got from Fred Clarke, fill a 30-gal. trash can, lined with a plastic trash bag, with Physan 20 and water. I soak the bark in the solution for 1 hour and then set it out to dry. Problem solved and the bark is about \$25 for 3 cu ft.

In between repotting orchids and cleaning up, I planted my vegetable garden. Tomatoes, zucchini, and peppers. Mixing all that soil almost killed me! Again!

Next month is when we usually have our summer BBQ in place of our regularly scheduled meeting. Let me know at the June meeting what you all want to do.

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:

Editor's Notes



The late winter/early spring heat wave is continuing to have an effect on my orchids. Many are blooming 4-6 weeks earlier than usual. Beyond that, I think that we have all seen warming weather patterns, especially in summer. Climate change is real! I just got a major surprise... *Brassia arcuigera*, which I got at a society auction in 2007 and had never bloomed, BLOOMED! It had always looked healthy, so never got culled, it hid out in my "jungle" and I just stopped noticing it. It comes from southern Central America and northern South America (near the equator), mostly at elevations lower than 1000 m. The Baker sheet gives the habitat minimum of 55 deg. F., so our area is really on the cool side for the species.

I did verify that the ID is likely correct (something I don't take for granted on donated plants from auctions and plant tables). It's HUGE! Lateral sepals are about 8 inches, the dorsal sepal around 5. So, 6 13 inch flowers! It likely is responding to the overall warming weather pattern, not just a short hot spell which it has experienced before.



**Cattleya (Laelia) Zip
(milleri x tenebrosa)
Brazilian Laelias are all now
Cattleya**

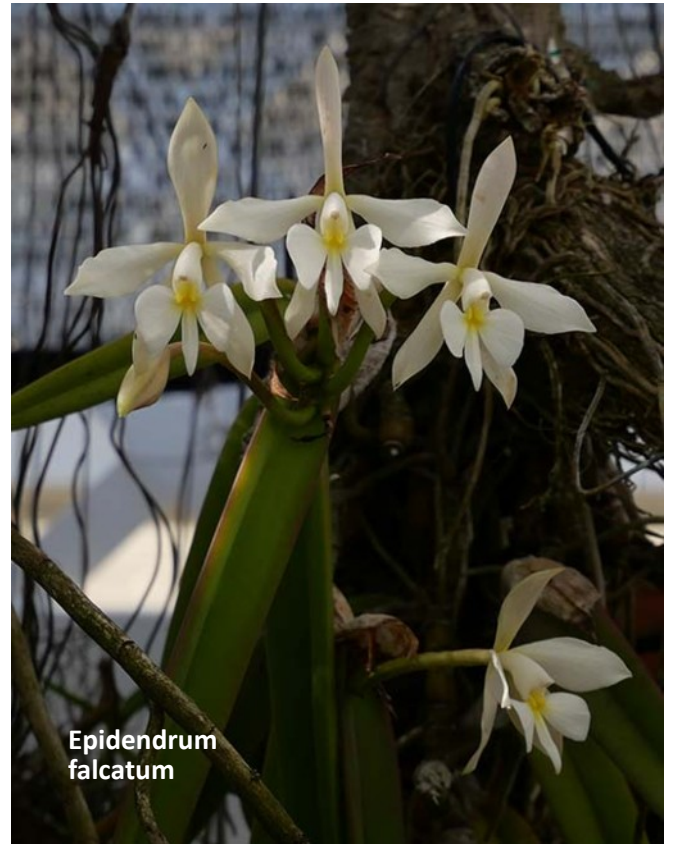
Brassia arcuigera





Cym. Kuranda

I don't know if I consider Cym. Kuranda (*maddidum x suave*) to be the last Cym of the season to bloom or the first of next season. It always blooms in the May-June timeframe, with multiple pendant spikes. Flowers are long-lasting, well into June. The late summer Cymbidiums like Golden Elf and Chen's Ruby start in late August or early September, so I only have about 6 weeks of no Cyms.



Epidendrum falcatum



Den. crepidatum

Here is another of my deciduous Dendrobiums that doesn't read the literature... I don't dry it out in winter, and it blooms anyway. New growth is just starting. There's not much medium in the basket so it dries out fast, and it also gets a winter chill, and that seems to be sufficient for flowers.



Epidendrum parkinsonianum

Epidendrum falcatum and *Epidendrum parkinsonianum* are closely related. Both have thick, succulent leaves and a pendant growth habit. But *Epi. parkinsonianum* growth is soft, and predominantly vertical – it branches only when it gets quite large. *Epi. falcatum* branches freely, and is also very brittle. Every time I try to move it, pieces break off, so now, I just take pictures of it where it hangs. Broken pieces root and establish on new mounts quite easily.



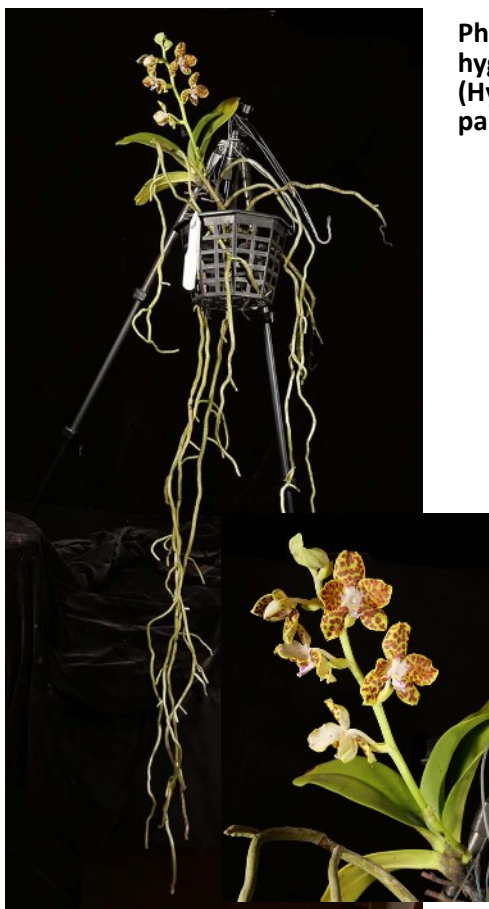
Epidendrum lacustre
AM/AOS "Wow Fireworks"

Epi. lacustre (purple Panama form) bloomed almost a month earlier than usual. I love seeing this robust orchid put on its annual show!



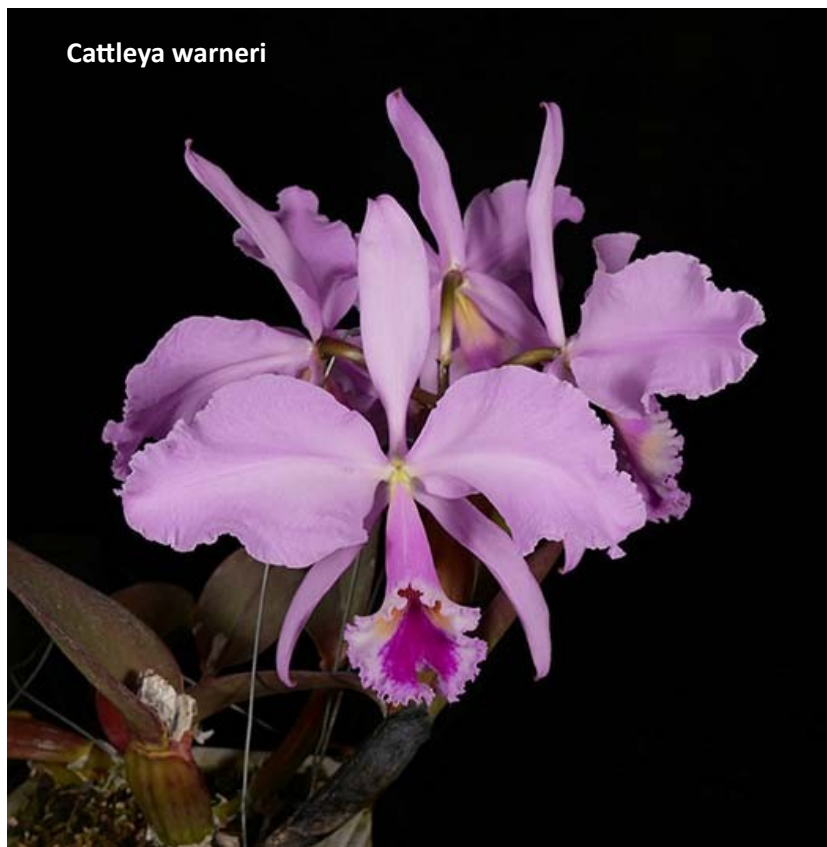
Cattleya
(*Sophronitis*)
coccinea ssp.
pygmaea

Cattleya (*Sophronitis*) *coccinea* ssp. *pygmaea* has flowers that are only about 1 inch, but so bright! Last year there were 5 flowers, and this year it tried, but one blasted and one got eaten, so I had only 3. But still bright and cute.



Phalaenopsis
hygrochila
(*Hygrochilus*
parishii)

Last month I showed you Phal. (*Vandopirea*) Little One. This is one of its parents, *Phalaenopsis hygrochila* (*Hygrochilus parishii*). It may have been classified as *Phalaenopsis* but it grows like a cool-growing *Vanda*. It is native to East Himalaya, China SC, and much of southeast Asia. It grows in an empty basket, with roots that are nearly 5 ft long.



Cattleya warneri

At the other end of the *Cattleya* size spectrum, *C. warneri* has 7 inch flowers. I have grown in in the greenhouse, then outside. It grows and blooms better outside. It hangs in a wood basket, essentially a three-dimensional mount.



Stanhopea embreei



Lockhartia oerstedii



This Oncidium relative has leaves that look braided. The individual growths break off and establish easily as new plants. It started in sphagnum in a 4 inch basket, but now is pretty much just growing in its own root ball.



Stanhopea tigrina var. nigroviolacea

Expected in mid-July... But there are more spikes, so I'll probably have some then too. I grow the Stan. tigrina var. nigroviolacea in a wire basket. When I started it, I used newspaper to block the big holes of the basket, then used sphagnum. Over time, the newspaper disintegrated and the remains of the sphagnum are held in place by roots – in effect, it has created its own medium.



Oncidium (Odontoglossum) naevium

Oncidium (Odontoglossum) naevium originates in Colombia and Venezuela at elevations 1200-2000 m. It is highly endangered if not extinct in the wild. Fortunately there are nursery-grown examples of this beautiful species (like this one), though those are a poor substitute for naturally-growing ones.



Jumellea Comarbo

Jumellea Comarbo (comorensis x arborescens) is a cute little Angraecoid that tolerates cool temperatures due to the influence of J. arborescens, comorensis is more of a warm grower.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **Andy's Orchids Summer Open House**
June 12-14; 2026 ; 10 AM – 4 PM
734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas
Info: andysorchids.com
 - **Cal Orchid Summer Hummer**
July 17-19; 9 AM – 4 PM
1251 Orchid Dr., Santa Barbara
Info: calorchid@cox.net
 - **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House**
July 17-19, 2026; Friday, Saturday 8 AM-4 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 3 PM
July 19 Paul Gripp Memorial 4 PM –6 PM
1250 Orchid Dr., Santa Barbara
Info: www.sborchid.com
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