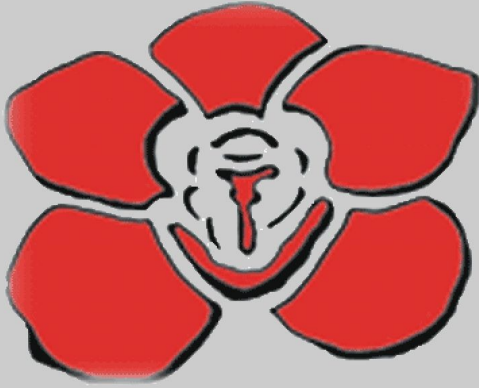




Fascination of Orchids, inc. A 501 (C) (3) Non Profit Organization

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
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Newsletter

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

NO MEETING IN JULY

President's Message

July meeting is canceled!

We will not be having our annual BBQ this year, as the meeting day falls on the 4th of July and the location at the Zoo is under heavy construction.

June gloom is here, but burns off in the afternoon. Typical summer weather. Nighttime temperatures are above 60 degrees and daytime temperatures are in the mid to high 70s where I live. Increase water and fertilizer, as needed, with temperature increase as summer progresses. Keep your eyes out for bugs (thrips, aphids, scale, and slugs), as they are becoming more active with the higher temperatures.

Potting, potting, potting! Enough said. I am trying to get my Cymbidiums done first since they need it the most. Get your Cyms done early if you want blooms this winter. Some of the Catts have gone too long as they have grown outside the pots. I'm trying to organize plants so I have more room when I repot. Some plants that didn't have roots last year are now fully rooted. Yay! I am getting more cattleya bark from Orange County Farm Supply. They have got a new supply of larger sized bark I use for my big Cattleyas. I'm still soaking the regular Cattleya size bark in Physan 20 before I use it just in case it has any fungus/mold.

We are getting into the Summer Orchid Show season, so be on the lookout for your favorite shows in the newsletter. I will be asking for suggestions for future talks/demonstrations. Let me know if you have suggestions. See you next month at the Zoo.

Theo

Editor's Notes



The orchids are LOVING June gloom. Cool nights and mornings, bright and temperate afternoons, a lovely sea breeze as evening approaches, and comfortable humidity. I like it too. I continue to see plants blooming 4-6 weeks earlier than they have in prior years.

Sobralias are blooming in profusion. The flowers only last a couple of days, but new ones are produced sequentially, so the bloom season is nearly 2 months.



Sobralia xantholeuca

Sobralia xantholeuca gets bigger and better each year. The butter-yellow flowers seem to glow, even on cloudy mornings.



This one was labeled Sobralia sanderae. It's not, more likely a Sob. macrantha hybrid, A beauty, at any rate. Prolific, and the color stays saturated as the flowers age.



Sobralia macrantha or rogersiana

This one came with no tag, but it is either Sobralia macrantha on steroids, or Sob. rogersiana, a closely-related species. Color is intense, and the flowers are huge – note my hand for scale.



Dendrobium phlox

Dendrobium phlox is native to the highlands of Papua New Guinea, and like many other species from that area, they struggle with summer at my house. This one is blooming for the first time in about 6 years. At times I thought it was dead, but clearly not. May gray into June gloom is perfect for this one.



Cattleya maxima

Cattleya maxima has a lowland form that is tall, with large (but paler) flowers, and this highland form with more flowers per inflorescence and deeper color on a compact plant. While the lowland form needs a greenhouse, this one grows well outdoors. Love that lip!



Cattleya purpurata
f. *carnea*



Cattleya purpurata
f. *ubatuba*

It's *Cattleya* (*Laelia*) *purpurata* time! There are many color forms so you need lots of them! The downside is that they tend to get large, but the big ones are spectacular. This is form *ubatuba* (named after a region in Brazil). These semi-albas tend to bloom fairly early in the season.



Cattleya purpurata
f. *werkhauseri*

The *carnea* (pink lip) and *werkhauseri* (gray-blue-violet) forms tend to bloom later.



Dendrobium papilio

I got this Den, papilio as a seedling, it has grown up to bloom more reliably. It is the small-flower form, but has particularly strong-colored stripes on the lip. It blooms on thin bare canes – imagine walking through the forest and seeing this white flower appearing to float in the air (like their namesake butterfly). It grows on my patio.



Dendrobium bensoniae

Den. bensoniae is one of the few that I do dry out in winter. The buds appear in early June and I start watering. It blooms on last year's bare canes. Those from prior years give energy to the plant, finally shriveling to near nothing in about 4 years. It has a lovely vanilla scent – I have also heard it described as "cookie dough".



Angraecum magdalenae

Angraecum magdalenae has heavy, waxy substance. At night it has a lovely fragrance.



Barkeria melanocaulon



Barkeria melanocaulon spike comes from a bare cane. The new growth starts at the same time. Barkerias need to dry out completely, so do best mounted, or in a basket with no medium.

Most of the year they look quite dead but only the tip of the old spike actually dries out. I leave the old spike until the following year when new growth starts, and just break off the brittle part. Then there is no danger of accidentally cutting living tissue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **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
Saturday July 18 Paul Gripp Memorial 4 PM – 6 PM
1250 Orchid Dr., Santa Barbara
Info: www.sborchid.com
- **Orchids in the Park San Francisco**
July 25-26, 2026
County Fair Building, 1199 9th Ave, San Francisco
Info: <https://orchidsanfrancisco.org/orchids-in-the-park>
- **Orchids in the Park San Diego**
July 25-26, 2026; Saturday sales 10 AM – 6 PM, exhibits 12 PM – 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego
Info: <https://sdorchids.com/>
- **South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale**
September 19-20, 2026; 10 AM – 4 PM
Palos Verdes Art Center, 5504 Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes
Info: <https://www.southbayorchidsociety.com/>

**Bulbophyllum
hirundinis**



Bulbophyllum (Cirrhopetalum) hirundinis blooms several times a year. It's little, but the color is a "notice me" standout. While many Bulbophyllums need warmth, this one comes from higher elevations, and grows fine outside.



Roberta Fox, Editor