



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
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President

Theo Johnson

Executive Committee

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Newsletter

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

Meeting: August 1, 2026 at 9:45 AM

Topic: "Why Won't It Bloom?"

Webinar by Ron McHatton

Watch the AOS webinar by Ron McHatton and find ways to encourage your orchids to bloom to their full potential. Why won't some of your plants flower? Come and explore the subtle, and sometimes not so subtle, environmental clues that many orchids depend on to trigger flowering.

President's Message

Firstly, I hope you all had a fun and safe 4th of July celebration. Sorry we couldn't have our annual BBQ, but the Zoo is making much needed improvements in our picnic area.

The weather has turned from the June gloom to July heat and humidity. I am lucky and live in the coastal area where highs range from 75 to 85 during the days and 65 to 70 at night. The repotting of Cymbidiums and Cattleyas is in full swing at my house. I've set up two stations with Cym. bark and one with Catt. bark for ease of repotting. Some plants I have left too long in the bark and the bark has broken down. This enabled mycelium to grow in the bark and attack the roots. During repotting I use a fungicide (Physan 20) on the roots, plant, and pots, to prevent the spread of the fungus.

I discussed the bark situation last month. I am soaking my cattleya bark in Physan 20 for about an hour to make sure there isn't any fungus. I can't tell you how many plants I have lost to bark with fungus or just plain fungus attacking the roots.

The night temperatures are now climbing to around 70, so watering late should not be an issue. Water either early in the morning or late in the evening for optimal water absorption. Make sure the plants are in an area where you can easily water them. I am in the process of moving some of my Cymbidiums closer to the greenhouse to make it easier to water them.

See: President's Message, Page 2

President's Message, *continued*

Also, start fertilizing plants as summer is the time of growth. I try to use a high nitrogen fertilizer during these summer months. I like to use extended release Nutricote™ fertilizer pellets [Yamadas] (I use 18-6-8; 270 days) for each newly repotted plant. You can also use a soluble fertilizer like GrowMore 20-20-20 or 10-10-10 [OCFS].

Repotting is also the time when you want to divide, or not, and clean up the plant, as it will probably not be repotted for at least 3 or more years. Don't forget to replace old or damaged labels and use a #2 pencil to write on the tags as pencil does not fade in the sun.

Watch for the aphids, thrips, mealybugs, and scale at this time of year. Pest management is an all-year endeavor. Oh, I almost forgot about slugs and snails. Use a non-metaldehyde type bait, like Sluggo™ [OCFS], if you have pets.

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:



Rlc. Yuan Dung Python

Editor's Notes



This year, winter and spring were far warmer than normal, and summer monsoonal weather has also kicked in. My orchids have been consistently blooming 4-6 weeks earlier than they have in the past, and I have also has some plants bloom that have rarely done so. Even though there have been some normal cool days and nights in spring, the averages are still warmer than normal, and the plants seem to be responding to that. I see lots of L. anceps spikes already. I have been watering a lot!



Cattleya Angel Bells is a classic "corsage orchid". One of its grandparents, C. Bow Bells, was an important foundation of this type of breeding, with a fascinating back story. Check out this article about the ancestor of this beautiful, fragrant orchid.
<https://chadwickorchids.com/content/bow-bells-revolution>.

**Phragmipedium
Jason Fischer
'Mojave'**



Phragmipedium Jason Fischer is $\frac{3}{4}$ Phrag. besseae. The color in the photo is pretty accurate – “stop sign” red. It is a sequential bloomer, so it stays in bloom for several months. The old flower drops still looking perfect, as the next one opens. This one I do grow in the greenhouse.

Cattleya bicolor



The contrast between the bronze/brown segments and fluorescent pink lip makes Cattleya bicolor one of my favorite species. I think it really likes the heat... this year, two inflorescences, one with 6 flowers and one with 4. Under greenhouse conditions it can get much larger and more impressive, but this isn't bad for a backyard-grown plant.



**Lycaste
tricolor**

Lycaste tricolor is a flower machine. It goes almost deciduous, then puts out flowers and new growth at the same time. It's grown shady in a hanging basket. The “three colors” are a bit subtle... the bronze sepals, pink petals and lip, with burgundy markings in the throat.



**Cattleya
harrisoniana
'Volcano Queen'**



Cattleya harrisoniana 'Volcano Queen' grows vigorously outside in a hanging wood basket. At this point, it's basically a mounted plant, which appears to suit it well.



**Anguloa
clowesii**

Anguloa (closely related to Lycaste) is nicknamed the "tulip orchid". Flowers don't open fully. This one is Anguloa clowesii. Flower is almost as big as my fist, with heavy substance.



**Bulbophyllum
frostii**

This has been my best blooming ever of Bulbophyllum frostii – 3 inflorescences of 4 flowers each and a 4th with 3 flowers. Overall, the plant has grown much better outside than it did in the greenhouse. It is mounted with no medium, seems to get enough water... higher-elevation Bulbophyllums don't seem to be as thirsty as the more tropical ones. These flowers look like Dutch wooden shoes.

Since the flowers aren't dramatic in color, I often smell Ada (Brassia) glumacea in bloom before I see it since it is powerfully fragrant. The fragrance reminds me of very ripe fruit.



Ada glumacea



Gongora maculata

Gongora maculata was a SBOE \$7.50 special. Well worth it! Gongora is a close relative of Stanhopea, but the weird flowers last longer, nearly 2 weeks.

Maxillaria marginata has small flowers but lots of them. I love the contrast of the velvety burgundy lip and flower margins with the creamy background. It is related to the spring-blooming Max. picta but blooms later (like now)



**Maxillaria
marginata**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **Andy's Orchids Fall Open House**
September 11 - 13; 2026 ; 10 AM – 4 PM
734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas
Info: andysorchids.com and mandysorchids.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/>
- **The Huntington Orchid Show and Sale**
October 9 – 11, 2026; 10 AM – 5 PM
1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino
Info: huntington.org/orchid-show



First Catasetum of the season, and it has 3 more spikes (which could be male or female). This one is male. I grow the Catasetinae in the greenhouse in winter when they are dormant but once in active growth, they move outside, where they benefit from the sun and air movement. They also get more room, which they need when fully leafed.

Schoenorchis juncifolia mostly uses the mount to help hang it up. The roots are as much in the air as they are on the mount. The red terete leaves hide clusters of flowers that look like little wisteria. I grow it quite shady, but the leaves have little green. It gets daily watering on the patio.



Roberta Fox, Editor