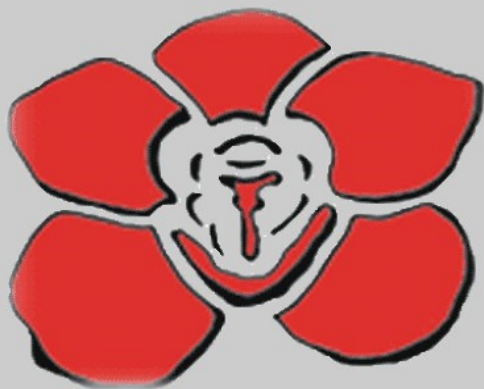




Fascination of Orchids, inc. A 501 (C) (3) Non Profit Organization

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

Volume 5 Number 9
September 2026

President

Theo Johnson

Executive Committee

Roberta Fox
Tony Glinskis

Newsletter

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

Meeting: September 5, 2026 at 9:45 AM

Topic: "Sarcochilus"

Webinar by Jean Allen Ikeson

In this webinar, Jean will present an overview of the species and hybrid directions of these popular monopodial orchids.

President's Message

It's hot and humid! Most of August, day-time temperatures were in the mid-80s to lower 90s, with the evening temperatures consistently in the upper-60s to mid-70s where I live. This time of year, you can water either early in the morning, when the sun goes down or at night to avoid the daytime heat and rapid evaporation. Watering at night ensures the plants have enough time to adsorb the water before it evaporates. I have also increased my watering frequency from once a week to 2-3 times a week. It's very hot these past 2 - 3 weeks. Fertilize more frequently with your increased watering for soluble fertilizers or use a time release for constant fertilizing based on the temperature.

Potting never seems to end. I find I can only pot in the early mornings or later in the evenings because the rest of the day it's too blasted hot and humid. I have constructed a shade area on the side of my greenhouse to house my Cymbidiums, which were spread all over my backyard. I will repot them before I put them into the new area. Having them in one place will make it easier to take care of and have a proper shade area. Maybe they will start blooming better in the new area. Finding room for all those plants was getting difficult.

I went to OCFS after our August meeting and bought some bark. The Cattleya bark medium size looks good but I'm still soaking it in Physan-20 just to make sure it doesn't have any fungus. The large bark looks good and is ready to use.

See: **President's Message**, Page 2

President's Message, *continued*

Next month (October) is the second annual pest control month for me. I try to keep April and October as pest control months as the bugs are either coming out of winter and becoming active or going into winter and slowing down. With our funky weather patterns being about a month off, I may change to March and November. I'll let you know.

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

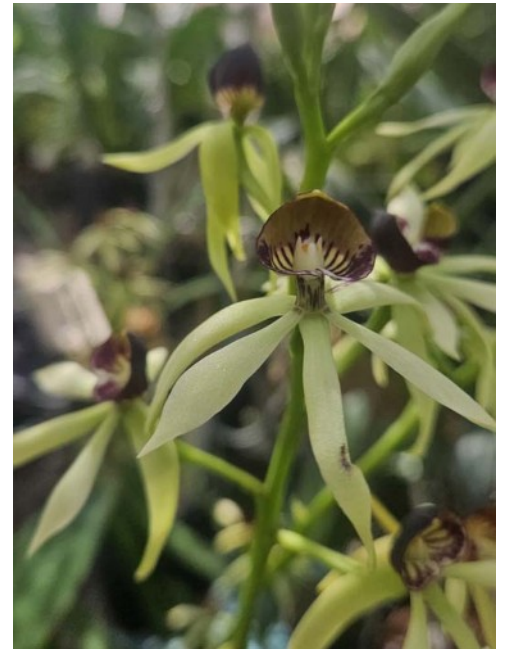
From Gisela Ferolito:



Dendrobium Hibiki



**Miltonia Goodale Moir
'Golden Wonder'**

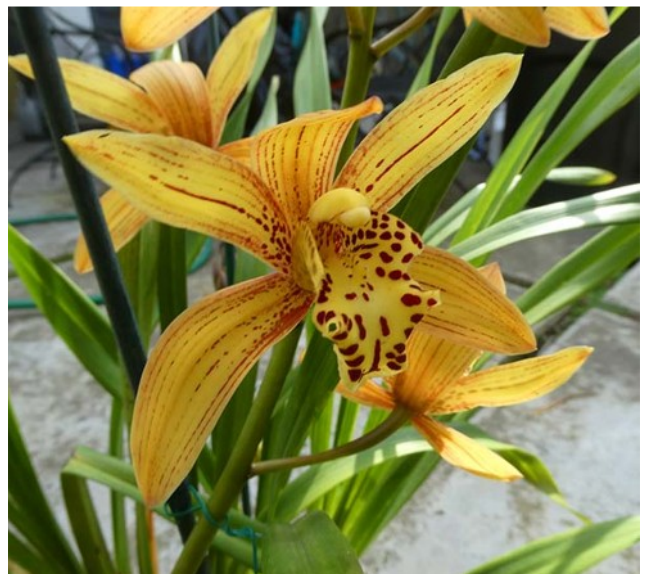


Prosthechea cochleata

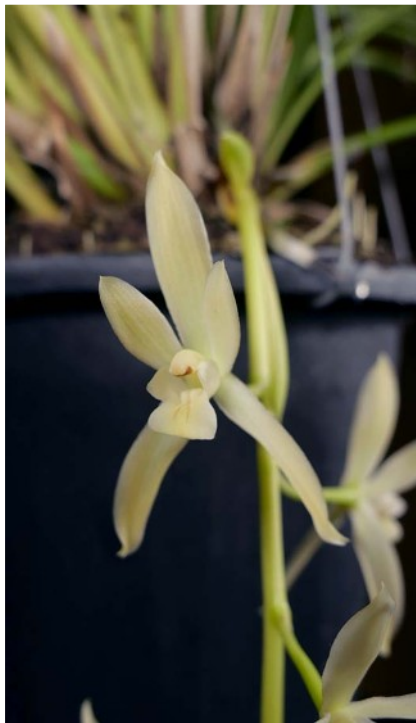
Editor's Notes



It's not the heat, it's the humidity... the air is so heavy with moisture, I think that I need to grow gills. Some of the orchids love it, but most, I think, are just tolerating it. I have not lost anything yet, but it's particularly rough on the Pleurothallids and other high-elevation orchids. Normally, they manage summer heat because we have evening cooling, and that's not happening. Hopefully, soon. I suspect that Cymbidiums that need a fall cooldown will be running late this year. But the summer-blooming Cyms that have some tropical ancestry are doing fine. Cym. Chen's Ruby, a Cym. ensifolium hybrid, has been early this year. Go figure... This one is quite fragrant.



Cymbidium Chen's Ruby



Cymbidium dayanum
typical left, alba right

Cym. dayanum is also a bit on the early side – both the typical form (with its red lines) and this alba form are in bloom.



Ctt. Hummingbird

Cattlianthe Hummingbird (Ctt. Porcia x C. loddigesii) is tall, but has a fairly small footprint so doesn't take up too much room.



Brassavola nodosa

Brassavola nodosa is wonderfully fragrant at night. I have found that it does better with winter protection, but now outside, will bloom for months.



Cattleya Quinquicolor

Cattleya Quinquicolor (C. aclandiae x forbesii) can bloom several times per year, a characteristic of both parents. This has the cold tolerance of C. forbesii, but also has color, spots, and fragrance from C. aclandiae. It definitely has the best of both parents.



Trichoceros sp.

This Trichoceros sp. (labeled hirzii but that isn't an accepted species) is a perfect little bug, with wings, eyes, and a fuzzy belly. This one struggled for some years, but I think I found a mount that it likes.



Milt. spectabilis
f. bicolor



Milt. moreliana
'Candella's
Delight'
AM/AOS



Milt.
moreliana

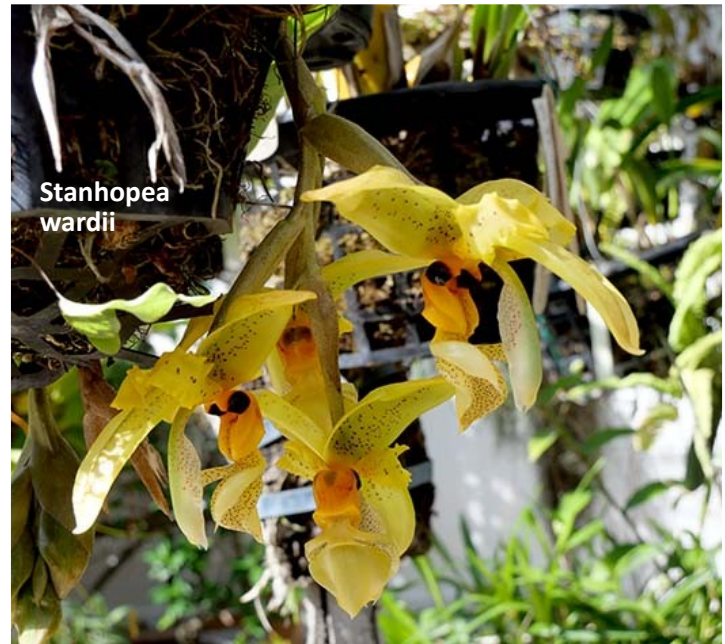
Miltonias are moving to center stage. There will be more to show next month when flowers are fully open on more of my plants. The dark form of Miltonia spectabilis is now considered a separate species Milt. moreliana. Here you see a bicolor form in one of the best bloomings I have had, about 10 flowers open at once. The middle photo is a division of an awarded plant, with a beautiful big round lip. The one on the right is a generic example of the species, doesn't have the form or size of the awarded one, but to my eyes, has much better color. It is also much more floriferous. I'll show the plant next month, it is just getting started.



Stanhopea
jenischiana



Stanhopea jenischiana is not as prolific as some of my other Stanhopeas, but as the plant gets bigger it's becoming more reliable. Earlier in the summer, Stan. tigrina var. nigroviolacea dominated. Now, the late-summer species have their turn.



Stanhopea
wardii

I have two different cultivars of Stanhopea wardii. This one typically blooms first. It has another spike that has another 3-4 weeks to go, I think. The other cultivar is not showing any spikes yet, but typically doesn't bloom until well into October, so there is still time for that one. I can hope! My challenge in the hot weather is keeping the Stanhopeas wet enough. I added sphagnum on top since the growth habit doesn't lend itself to repotting, and water both morning and evening. Leaves look good, so the direction is correct. Wetter is better.

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.comandysorchids.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/>
- **Morongo Basin Orchid Festival
and Riverside San Bernardino Counties Orchid Society AOS-Judged Show**
October 3-4, 2026
At Gubler Orchids, 2200 Belfield Blvd, Landers
Info: www.gublers.com
- **The Huntington Orchid Show and Sale**
October 9 – 11, 2026; 10 AM – 5 PM
the Huntington Library, Art Galleries, and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino
Info: huntington.org/orchid-show



**Dendrobium
hekouense**

This *Dendrobium hekousense* is blooming more than a month earlier than it usually does. Flowers are $\frac{3}{4}$ " or so, and emerge from mostly leafless (dead-looking) pseudobulbs. It never grows very many leaves, so the flowers always surprise when they emerge



**Dendrobium
fuscifaucium**

Dendrobium fuscifaucium is a bit smaller than *Den. hekouense*, and also blooms from bare, dead-looking pseudobulbs. The color makes it a bit more noticeable as it is developing. They grow under similar conditions, mounted in a shady area of my patio.