



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

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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: October 3, 2026 at 9:45 AM

Topic: “Hybridizing and Growing Catasetums.”

***Webinar: Scott Elliot
Maneki Hill Orchids***

President’s Message

Hope everyone survived the blazing September heat and humidity. That said, it’s fall now and night time temperatures are getting cooler, mid- to upper 60s. Good weather for repotting! With the evening temperatures consistently in the mid-to upper 60s, be more careful when you water. You want your plants to be able to dry out a bit before nightfall when the temperatures are in the low 60s or lower. The low night temperatures can promote fungus and bacterial infections. Potting, potting, potting! Enough said. It may be too late for Cymbidiums and Cattleyas. The flowering season should be starting soon for Cymbidiums and Cattleyas are generally not pushing out new roots, but if the plants have new roots or look like they are stressed because of bark or root problems, repot them! Paphs and Phales don’t care so repot to your heart’s content.

Late Summer and early fall culture. Make sure the plants that really need to be repotted get done now, so they have a little time to become established in their new bark/mount. October is a good month for pest prevention as the bugs (aphids, thrips, mealybugs, scale, slugs and snails) are starting to go into winter slowdown. Reduce the quantity/strength of fertilizer as the plant’s metabolism is slowing down in preparation for winter.

Orange County Farm Supply still has the 1.5 cu. ft. bark for Catts and the 3 cu. ft. Pathway bark for Catts. Home Depot has clean Catt bark but in small bags. Yamadas is still open so you can get perlite and some bark. I'm not sure about the fertilizer situation.

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

Editor's Notes



There are subtle indications of seasonal change but mostly, we seem to still be stuck in August except for the shortening days. Lots of humidity, icky-warm days and not much cooling at night. Maybe we should be growing Vandas instead of Cymbidiums??? The *Laelia anceps* don't seem to be fazed by the atypical weather, though. I have lots of spikes, a few of which are just beginning to show the buds, others still very short. The next few months should be very nice for *L. anceps* and also *L. superbiens*.



Cym. Chen's Ruby that I showed you last month is putting out more spikes, and here is Cym. Dancing Mother 'Kotone' that bloomed in April and here it is again. This is a plant that hadn't bloomed for years, and now gives me two in one year. The Cyms with tropical species in their ancestry are doing fine.



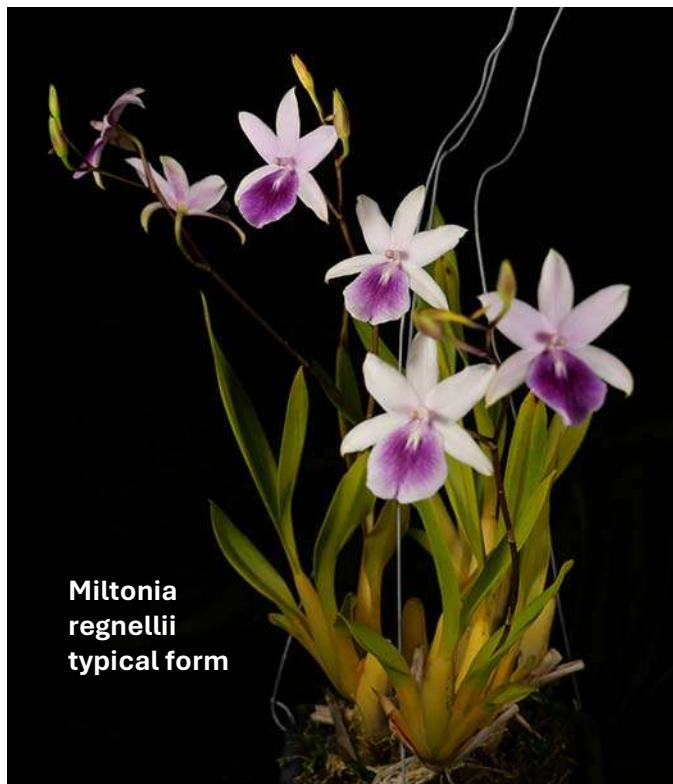
Labeled *Cattleya harrisoniana* f. *alba*, I suspect that it is a hybrid, likely with *C. loddigesii*. It typically blooms twice a year (which is unusual for most species though there are exceptions) I do love the pristine white flowers, and this blooming was particularly nice with 3 spikes of 3 flowers each.



I moved my Paphs to a wetter, shadier spot this year, and have started to see more blooming. This one is *Paph. gratixianum*. Overall I have not had great success with Paphs, but maybe I have found an improved location.



Last month, Miltonia moreliana was just opening. Now, it's in all its glory. 10 spikes, most of which have 2 flowers. All of my Miltonias tend to be very yellow – this one is extreme. They're right next to many other genera, that are nice and green, so I don't think there's a problem. This one certainly doesn't look unhappy. Miltonia candida is more symmetrical, not as colorful. This started out as a single-growth plant, and as it has matured, it has put on a better show each year. This time, 6 spikes!



Miltonia regnellii is a very robust and reliable species. For me, the typical form is a bit more vigorous, and has larger (and rounder) flowers. But I also love the aureum form, for its dramatic contrast between the golden segments and the purple lip. The Milt. candida lives in a pot, but the others are in hanging baskets with sphagnum.

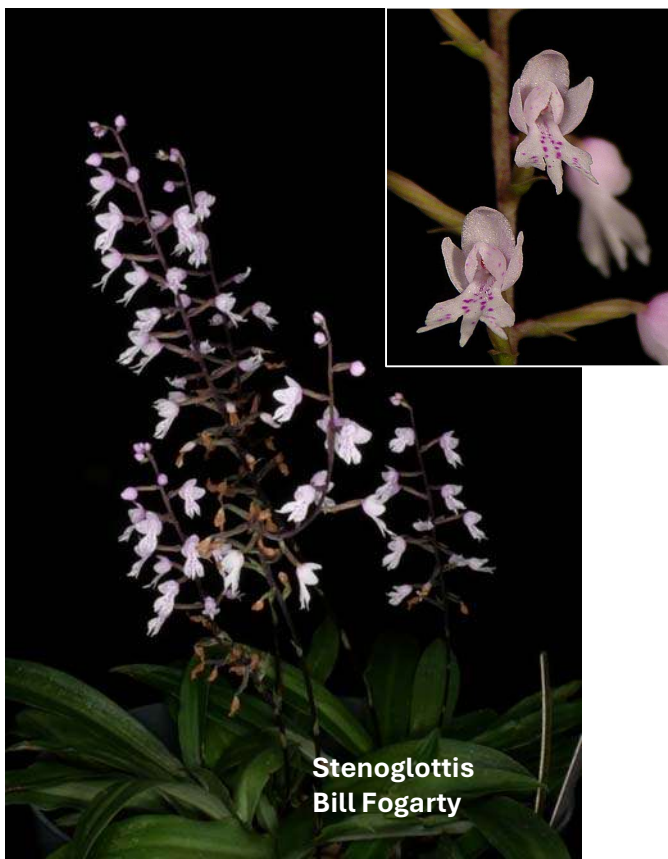


Stanhopea intermedia



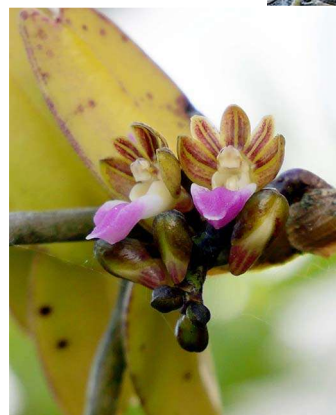
Stanhopea oculata

This has been a phenomenal year for Stanhopeas. Stan. intermedia had only bloomed for me once before and it has been several years. And it has been a couple of years since Stan. oculata bloomed. The flowers on all of the species of this genus are short-lived, only 3 or occasionally 4 days. So having lots of them has extended the season. They are all fragrant, each a bit different. It is so special to smell that burst of perfume when they suddenly open, hanging below the basket.



Stenoglottis
Bill Fogarty

Stenoglottis is an African terrestrial that dies back after blooming, but starts a new rosette of leaves fairly soon thereafter so I don't dry it out. This one is a hybrid of Sngl. woodii x Sngl. longifolia, named for a long-time local orchid grower that many of us remember. Flowers are about ½ inch.



Pelantheria
insectifera



Pelantheria insectifera is a rambling Vandaceous species from the Himalaya region of Asia. It started out as a small Santa Barbara Orchid Estate \$7.50 show special, and has grown to entwine the tree fern trunk mount with roots, and then branched and rambles in the air with wild roots. The cute half-inch flowers appear at the leaf nodes here, there, and everywhere. It can be in bloom for several months.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **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: <https://www.huntington.org/event/10th-annual-international-orchid-show-and-sale>



This is the time of year when Prosthechea cochleata (“octopus orchid”, “cockleshell orchid”) is at its most photogenic. The spikes will bloom sequentially, producing new flowers as the old ones fade, for 6 months or so – by May or June, they’ll be leggy and 2 feet tall.

Roberta Fox, Editor



Prosthechea (Encyclia) prismatocarpa is one of my earlier orchid acquisitions. It has survived many rookie mistakes, and just keeps producing. This is its second bloom this year.