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

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Newsletter
Roberta Fox
roberta@orchidcentral.net
(714)435-8015

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

Meeting: November 7, 2026 at 9:45 AM

Topic: "Orchid Pests and How to Manage Them "

Theo Johnson

Theo's presentation is based on notes from the AOS webinar by Ron McHatton. Learn how to identify pests and what you can do to control or eradicate them.

President's Message

The weather has turned cool at night hovering at around 55-60 degrees at my house in Costa Mesa. Last week and the next week we are in for some rain. I hope everyone survived the hellish first part of October with 100 plus days followed by the normal, for this time of the year, Santa Ana winds with hot, dry weather. My plants are confused. I have a Cym that blooms in the summer blooming in Oct. because of the unusually hot weather.

Early fall culture. I have once again started repotting the plants that need to be done before the rains. Remember to clean the orchid growing area of weeds, old fallen leaves dead plants and other culture items that will enhance your growing area and wintering over of your plants. October (now November) 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 watering frequency and the quantity/strength of fertilizer as the plant's metabolism is slowing down in preparation for winter.

Re-Potting: It may be too late for Cymbidiums and some Cattleyas. The flowering season should be starting soon for Cymbidiums and Cattleyas and the plants are generally pushing out new flower spikes.

Paphs and Phales don't care how cold it is, so repot to your heart's content. I have started to select plants where new roots are showing and the roots are outside of the pot. I will carefully repot these plants and be careful not to damage the roots. Also, be on the lookout for any plants that look poorly or in stress. Repot those plants that you think may be at risk due to broken down potting mix. Don't leave these stressed plants in bad potting mix when it rains or the plant may be susceptible to root or leaf rot. Best to repot.

If you want to do something for the December meeting, let's talk about it at the meeting. I will be asking for suggestions for future talks/demonstrations. Let me know if you have suggestions. I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving.

See you Saturday 9:30 AM at the Santa Ana Zoo.

Theo

Editor's Notes

Finally, we have a little relief from the heat. On close inspection, I have found a very few spikes on the non-summer Cymbidiums. So maybe we'll have a Cymbidium season after all. I was pleasantly surprised that I lost very few plants to the heat, even among Pleurothallids. Orchids are TOUGH! Laelia anceps are running a bit late (I usually have one or two that bloom by now or are at least close) but there are lots of spikes. It will be a good season, just perhaps a bit late. And the Pterostylis curta are finally coming up, I was starting to worry that I had lost them all.



Vanda (Aerides) flabellata is a cute little Vandaceous species from southeast Asia and Yunnan provice of southwest China. It grows at elevations from 600-1700 m., so it tolerates a wide range of temperatures. If grows and blooms on my patio.



Vanda (Ascofinetia) Peaches gets its cold tolerance from both parents: Vanda (Neofinetia) falcata and Vanda (Ascocentrum) curvivolia(um). Taxonomic changes do complicate the naming.



Cattlianthe (Cattleya) Shady Lady has been blooming regularly for more than 20 years, so it has survived a move and many rookie mistakes. This one is Guarianthe Guatamalensis (aurantiaca x skinneri) x C. loddigesii, so all of its ancestors handle winter chill with no problem.



This Angraecum, from the highlands of Madagascar, grows in nearly full sun in habitat. I grow it in an area that gets very bright morning sun, shadier later in the day. It has been in bloom for about 6 weeks and shows no sign of slowing down.



Ansellia Africana 'Fascination'



Ansellia Africana is native to a large variety of habitats across Africa. There is a wide variety of color forms, mostly variations on the yellow and brown theme. This cultivar is particularly colorful, with the red sidelobes of the lip. It likely would bloom better if kept drier in winter, though it seems to do OK with whatever Mother Nature throws at it



Polystachya neobenthamia (Neobenthamia gracilis) is a terrestrial species native to Tanzania in tropical east Africa. I grew it in the greenhouse for several years, and it didn't do much. I moved it outside, and it is growing much better. This year it has bloomed twice. So much for "tropical" … it clearly does not object to our winter nights.



I had long thought that Cattleya labiata was a warm grower, but I learned in a talk by Steve Champlin of the Brazilian grower Floralia, that it does experience winter chill in nature. I moved it out of the greenhouse, and this (and other examples of the species) did much better. This coerulea form is particularly lovely, of Sunset Valley Orchids breeding.


Comparettia speciosa

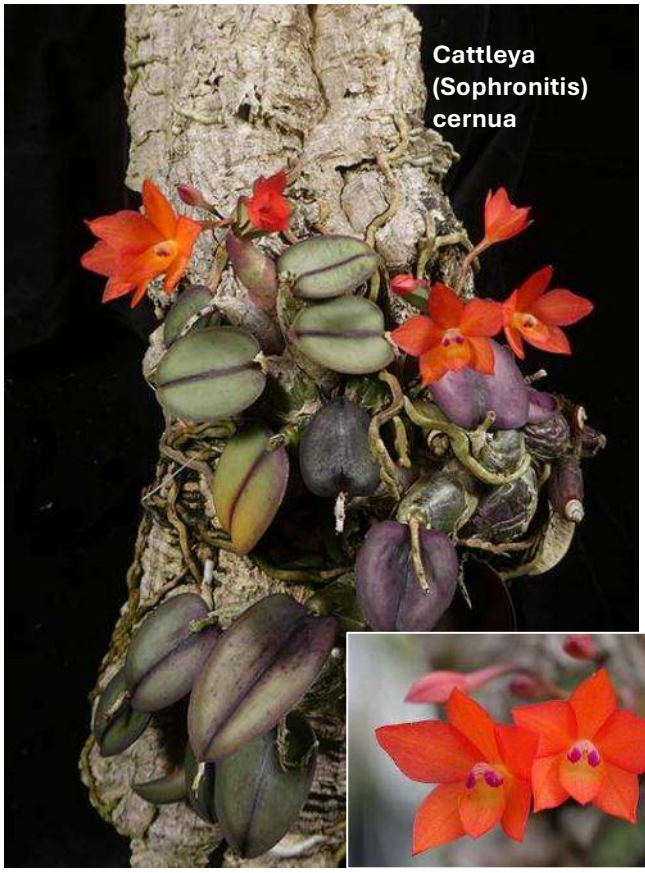


The colors of Comparettia speciosa are perfect for the season. This little twig epiphyte grows over a range of elevations from 800-2000 m. in Ecuador and northern Peru, so it can adapt to a range of conditions. It does like to be kept shady and damp.


Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry'



While many Bulbophyllums, especially the larger ones, tend to be warm growers, Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry' (Bulb. rothschildianum x longissimum) tolerates winter cool on my patio. It grows on a big tree-fern log. Flower texture is crystalline, and it glistens in the late afternoon sun, though shady through most of the day. At the moment it has two spikes (on opposite sides of the mount, can t get both in a photo), and there are two more coming that will bloom about the time these are spent.


Cattleya (Sophronitis) cernua

Also fitting the seasonal color scheme, though more red-orange, is Cattleya (Sophronits) cernua. Flowers are only about a half-inch across. The purple pollen caps are a nice accent. This plant blooms reliably every November, and this year is no exception.


Brassavola tuberculata (perrinii)

Continuing the theme of "better outside" is Brassavola tuberculata (perrinii). It grows in, or mostly on, a wood basket. Flowers are sweetly fragrant at night. It's another one that I moved out of the greenhouse, based on what I learned about its habitat. It does fine outside,





Epidendrum purum flowers are small, but the plant is vigorous and produces large spays of pristine white blooms. The plant lives in a 2-gallon pot, and will outgrow that soon.



Holcoglossum kimballianum is a moderately high-elevation species from Myanmar, northern Thailand and Yunnan, China at elevations from 1200-1600 m. It can experience winter temperatures down to freezing. Leaves are terete. Mine grows in a plastic Vanda basket with no medium. Flowers last 6-8 weeks, and it has some new spikes coming which will extent the blooming even more.



Vanda denisoniana is a spot of sunshine. It is native to southeast Asia and Yunnan, China at elevations from 400-1200 m, and can experience winter temperatures down to freezing. It can get quite large, but mine is only about 12 inches tall, and clearly blooming size. (It also bloomed last year) It is in a plastic Vanda basket with no medium and roots that are about 3 ft. long.



This is Stanhopea wardii 'Los Vientos Encinitas'. The meaning of the cultivar name became clear when it bloomed as the Santa Ana winds were howling. It does typically bloom in mid-October. While I got it from Jan Hennessey, I suspect that it originally came from Bob Marlin, who lived in Encinitas.

Roberta Fox, Editor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

See the **Events Page** for further details

- **2026 Cattleya Orchid Symposium**
  Presented by The Orchid Digest and the Huntington
  December 14, 2026; 10 AM – 6:30 PM
  The Huntington, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino and online
  Info and registration: orchiddigest.org/2026-Cattleya-Symposium

- **Tiny Treasures of the Orchid World**
  An American Orchid Society Virtual Speakers Day
  December 15, 2026; 8 AM – 1 PM PST
  Online
  Info and registration: AOS 9th Orchid Culture Day

- **Andy's Winter Open House**
  December 11-13,2026; 10 AM – 4 PM
  734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas
  Info: andysorchids.com

- **Orchids in the Park Show and Sale**
  January 30-31, 2027; Saturday Sales 10 AM – 5 PM, Exhibits 12 PM – 5 PM; Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
  Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego
  Info: sdorchids.com

- **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show**
  March 12-14, 2027
  Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara
  Info: sborchidshow.com

- **South Bay Orchid Show and Sale**
  April 3-4, 2027; 10 AM – 4 PM
  Palos Verdes Art Center, 5504 Crestridge Rd., Palos Verdes
  Info: southbayorchidsociety.com