



# POS News

The Palomar Orchid Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the understanding and cultivation of both hybrid and species orchids. We welcome members of all levels to join us for orchid fun and learning! Our mission is to promote interest in the appreciation of orchids and to provide an opportunity for their display and the exchange and dissemination of information relating to their culture.

A Monthly Publication

February 2021

February Speaker  
Page 1

President's Message  
Page 3

February 'To Do' List  
Page 6-7

## Speaker's Info

### Courtney Hackney on 'American Cattleyas'



Our joint Zoom meeting on Tuesday, February 2nd will feature Courtney Hackney from Jacksonville, Florida, whose talk will start at 7:30 pm to accommodate him as he is located on the east coast, so please log in on time to catch his talk. The talk will be followed by our virtual plant forum around 8:30 pm.

Dr. Hackney will discuss the major lineages found in today's Cattleya

hybrids. In his talk, he will trace breeding trends and specific clones which have contributed to some of the best-known hybrids of today. His talk is based on the decade of research and interviews which went into his 2004 excellent book 'American Cattleyas', detailing in old photographs and new text how the modern cattleyas came to be. The book also contains useful insights about Cattleyas and Cattleya hybrids, how to grow them, and what to expect from modern hybrids.

Dr. Hackney is Emeritus Professor of Biology at North Florida University, and is a prolific author. Recently, he has been researching coerulea Cattleyas, culminating in an excellent article in the November 2018 issue of ORCHIDS. Other useful columns on breeding and culture can be found on his [website](#).

Courtney grows a variety of hybrids and species in Jacksonville, Florida, but his favorites are the great Cattleya hybrids. He has about 500 mature Cattleyas in his shade house, including some

classic clones which appeared in collections over 100 years ago.

He makes 10 to 15 hybrids and species sib crosses per year, and periodically offers them for sale.



**Bc. Deesse**



**Blc. Bryce Canyon 'Splendiferous'**



Lc. Terry Bottom 'Carmel'



Blc. Serengeti Sands 'First Bloom'

## **CULTURE CLASS ON FEBRUARY 3rd at 7:30 pm**

### **Western Flower Thrips, a Challenging Orchid Pest**

**Speaker: Kay Klausing**

Thrips are a small, common orchid pest which is difficult to identify but can damage orchid buds and flowers as well as spread viruses throughout your orchid collection. Kay Klausing, past President of SDCOS, will conduct a Zoom class on the basics about thrips, including what they are, how to detect them, how they multiply and damage orchid flowers, and how to control them.

# President's Message

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## Hello POS Members and Friends,

We started 2021 with two excellent zoom sessions. The first was a talk by Ron Parsons on "Orchid Rarities and Oddities". We enjoyed this new presentation and saw many beautiful orchids that we don't see at our local nurseries or orchid shows. Ron's talk was informative, interesting and fast paced. In the Culture Class Zoom meeting, Alex Nadzan provided an overview of "Orchid Roots for Beginners" a Free Internet Orchid Database. He walked us through the basics of the database and how to use it. It is very useful for those of us who do not have Orchid Wiz and want to know more about the parentage of orchid species and hybrids.

Our speaker for February 2nd is Dr. Courtney Hackney who is an expert on the Cattleya class of orchids. His talk will be on "American Cattleyas" that will start promptly at 7:35 pm as he is located on the east coast. More details can be found on first page of the newsletter. Our Culture Class on Wednesday February 3rd will feature Kay Klausung who will discuss "Thrips and how to manage them. See page 2 for details.

We noticed that the same members typically participate in these meetings. One of us, Bill, had the opportunity to connect with a few members recently

and asked why they didn't participate. They responded that they miss the personal interactions they get at our regular in-person meetings. They miss the live speaker presentations and the social interactions. They also miss the ability to ask fellow members questions on orchid growing. We also miss seeing each of you and hope that we can resume our meetings later this year, if possible. Since many of our members are seniors, we will be eligible for the COVID vaccine once they are available. Indeed, some of us have already received our first dose as of this writing. Until then, we will continue the zoom meetings.

If you haven't attempted to participate yet, we encourage you to give it a try. You may be surprised how much you will learn. Alex and Bill may explore having a Zoom Meeting without speaker for POS members only, if there is an interest. We would have a chance to see each of you, enjoy casual conversation and let you ask questions on orchid growing.

As part of the Zoom meetings, Debbie Halliday shows photos of blooming orchids submitted by members of SDCOS and POS, with the majority of them from SDCOS members. Last month several of the plants had NO ID labels which is a common problem for all of us. Lost or misplaced tags are a universal problem. This is a correctable

problem (to some degree) that can be remedied. Lost tags occur because we don't securely attach plant labels. Many of our members punch holes in the plant labels and attach them to the plant with a wire tie. Others place multiple labels in the pot, or one at the bottom of the mix, in case one is misplaced. Sometimes plant labels are lost during the repotting process if we are in too much of a hurry or are repotting multiple plants at the same time. To minimize lost tags, we suggest being more diligent and practice better housekeeping when handling plants.

We continue to encourage our member to send in your annual membership renewal via mail or on-line using the POS website. So far only four members have mailed in renewals. Approximately five have renewed on-line so please renew ASAP. We still have society expenses to cover such as speaker fees, storage locker, etc. Mail renewals to POS, P.O. Box 130774, Carlsbad CA 92013 or renew [online](#).

As always, we hope our members and friends remain healthy, upbeat and optimistic about the future. As always, Bill and Alex are available to listen to your suggestions, questions and concerns. Please call Bill at 760-931-0502 or Alex at 760-529-5814 or e-mail them at [billtcwong@att.net](mailto:billtcwong@att.net) or [anadzan@mac.com](mailto:anadzan@mac.com).



# Catasetanae Dormancy Survival Tip by Alex Nadzan and Fred Clarke

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In a recent SVO email from Fred Clarke, he shared an idea that was particularly relevant to my own limited success in keeping catasetanae during their dormant period, especially the younger plants that tend to excessively dry out during this period, resulting in death of more plants than I care to admit. Fred wrote "if you've had challenges overwintering your Catasetinae plants, it is most likely due to excessive dehydration, perhaps caused by long periods of low humidity. Here is a solution being used successfully by some ingenious growers to increase localized humidity around the roots while keeping the potting media dry. Set the pot in a jar with water, making a loose-fitting seal with the rim of the jar. The water should not touch the bottom of the pot (left two pics). The reservoir will maintain high humidity around the roots, even while the plant remains dry during dormancy. This innovative technique produces great results! We have had lots of positive feedback from growers who are using this method".



Rather than using glass jars as shown above (left pics), I adopted an approach used by a Facebook friend, Donna Ballard, and purchased some small plastic food containers (16oz.) from Amazon and cut out holes in the lids of the containers to fit the bottom of the pots. I also drilled a few small holes in the lids to allow some moisture to release around the bulbs (right pic). They appear to do the trick and don't take up much space, allowing me to keep more plants on a shelf in my garage. I wait until the bulbs drop their leaves, then put them in the containers with water below the bottom of the pot as shown in the pics on the center and right. This works well for 3, 4 and even 5 inch pots. As Fred indicated above, this technique should prevent them from dehydrating and facilitate initiation of root growth as the days grow longer. Maybe I will get a few more of them to survive over this winter than in previous years. If you have a similar problem, you may want to try this tip. Thanks, Fred.

## TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2021

We are asking all of our members to renew their membership for 2021 at this time, since this is our only source of income during the pandemic. We need these resources to continue to pay for our Zoom speakers, newsletter mailings and storage fees in order to remain a viable organization. Please mail your renewal membership (\$25 individual, \$30 household) to the POS mailing address (Palomar Orchid Society, P.O. Box 130774, Carlsbad CA 92013) or contact our membership chairperson, Trudy Ibbetson at (trudygro@aol.com). You also may renew and pay directly online on our [website](#), which also has membership forms for new members.

### 2021 POS Officers

**Co-President:** Alex Nadzan & Bill Wong

**Co-1st Vice President/Programs:** Tom Wisniewski & Alex Nadzan

**2nd Vice President/Raffle:** Jerry Spahn & Jim Anderson

**3rd Vice President/Membership:** Trudy Ibbetson

**Secretary:** Open Position

**Treasurer:** Vidya Sirsi

**1st Year Trustees:** Judy Dyer, Debra Funakoshi & Stewart Walton

**2nd Year Trustees:** Steve Redmond, Suzi Sandore and Cher Whelan

**Newsletter Editor:** Alex Nadzan (temporary)

**Website Editor & Publicity:** Helge Weissig

**Facebook Editor:** Debra Funakoshi

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palomarorchid.org  
facebook.com/palomarorchid  
@palomarorchidsociety  
(Instagram)

# February 'To Do' List

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## General

- In general, most orchids should still be kept fairly dry in winter even during warm periods. If you grow on the coast near the ocean, humidity is usually higher so occasional misting (with pure water, if available) or light watering in extended periods of warm or Santa Ana conditions may be warranted. If you grow further from the ocean, where orchids experience even warmer temps and low humidity and are openly exposed to Santa Ana winds, then you may need to mist and water more often to avoid dehydration, but avoid watering excessively. Too much water will encourage plants to send out new growths, which will not fare well when the weather turns cold again.
- When you do water, do so in the morning and avoid wetting buds and flowers to minimize botrytis (fungal) spotting. Also keep tabs on the ten day weather forecasts and avoid watering if cooler and/or wet weather is predicted. One wants to make sure orchids are kept on the dry side to allow them to tolerate the cold winter nights we tend to experience in Southern California. If February brings more normal, cooler weather than January, cut back on water and avoid fertilizing as cooler days and nights prevail.
- Maintain cold-sensitive, warm growing orchids (phals, paphs, toolumnias, most vandas and warm growing dendrobiums and cattleyas such as violacea, dowiana and their hybrids) inside or in a greenhouse to protect them from night temperatures below 50 degrees; however, watch under leaves for spider mites and other pests that flourish under dry, less humid conditions. An excellent article on 'Cold Tolerance of Orchids' by Sue Bottom of the St. Augustine Orchid Society can be found [on their website](#).
- Separate cold loving orchids, including odontoglossums, miltonias, pleurothallids, masdevallias, draculas, from orchids that need a drier winter rest (many encyclias, deciduous dendrobiums, catasetinae and some terrestrials) so they can be freely watered and fertilized to allow growth but also avoid overwatering and protect them from freezing temps. Take this opportunity to divide or repot these cool growers during their winter growth period to encourage new growth and avoid the stress of repotting during the warm season.
- Winter blooming cattleyas and cymbidiums should be in bud or full bloom. Provide adequate water and weak fertilizer, but do so in the mornings so plants dry out before nightfall. Avoid wetting buds and blooms to minimize fungal spotting. Stake cymbidium spikes to guide inflorescences for support of buds and blooms.
- Maintain good hygiene practices to minimize transmission of pests and viruses. Practice careful watering and remove problem plants and debris from the healthy collection. Old dying leaves even on healthy plants will succumb to diseases and decay so keep your growing area picked up.
- Watch for fungus, bacterial rot and cold burn in cold and wet weather. Remove infected tissues and treat accordingly. Diligently check pseudobulbs and canes for discoloration and firmness. Though some change is normal, it can also be indicative of black rot. If any pseudobulbs or canes are soft, mushy, and possibly exuding dark fluid, isolate and treat. An excellent article to read "Is There a Fungus Among Us?" (A.O.S. Orchids Magazine, Aug. 2012) or refer [to the AOS website](#).
- Many paphs will be coming into bloom at this time. These terrestrial orchids should be kept on the warmer side and not be allowed to completely dry out due to their sensitive hairy roots. Although they grow all year long, paphs grow more slowly in winter but can be repotted at this time if warranted, since they are one of the few orchids that can be repotted at almost any time and benefit from it every 1-2 years. Repotting should be done more carefully at this time to avoid plant damage, particularly to roots that are needed for quick recovery. After repotting, observe plants carefully to detect and intercept disease damage.
- Spring show season is beginning so be sure to stake and groom your plants to have them look their best for judging. When staking, be sure to not restrict the new soft growth tips. Permit growths to expand naturally and tie securely at the bottom and then further up when stems start to harden. Spikes and flower can be encouraged to open sooner by increasing the ambient temperatures and allowing enough time for the flowers to mature fully.
- More details on specific genera for January and February are available on [the AOS website](#).

# February 'To Do' List Cont'd

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## Indoors and Greenhouse

- Carefully monitor greenhouse temperatures and check that circulating fans, automatic vents, humidifiers and heaters are in good working order.
- Use a humidifier or mister to keep humidity up due to heavier use of fans and heaters in winter. In absence of a humidifier, wet down floor to increase humidity: however, avoid puddles of standing water and maintain good hygiene by keeping floors clean.
- Continue to provide good air circulation for indoor plants to discourage diseases and pests such as mealy bugs and scale. Be sure to check all edges of the pot and neighboring pots. Pests, especially mealy bugs also can be found on the bottom of pots. Treat early to avoid spreading to other plants.
- Cut back on watering and frequency of fertilizing in winter. Err on the side of under fertilizing as active growth is at a minimum and excess fertilizer is unnecessary. This will minimize root damage and growth of soft tissues.

## Outdoors

- Continue to monitor and control snails, slugs and other pests as cooler wet weather will bring them out. They can do considerable damage to plants in short order.
- Try not to use water that is much cooler than the plants as their tissues can be shocked. Watering early in the day will facilitate that and allow plants to dry before nightfall in order to minimize bacterial and fungal diseases.
- Most cymbidiums are now in spike or bloom and may be starting to produce new growths. They should be kept on the dry side, but do not allow them to completely dry out. If you are using a lower nitrogen fertilizer, consider increasing the nitrogen content (20-20-20 or 30-10-10) and the frequency of fertilizing as you see new growths emerging. Stake spikes early to train them to grow upright while the spikes are flexible.
- Overgrown cymbidiums should be repotted and divided after old blooms drop off or for plants where the old media has begun to break down. A excellent source of info on repotting, including pictures, can be found on the [Casa de las Orquideas website](#).
- Members of the Catasetinae family (catasetums, clowesia, cycnoches, and mormodes) are now in their dormant period as evidenced by the yellowing and loss of leaves. Note that some actually initiate spikes at the outset or during their dormant period. Eliminate water and fertilizer altogether until spring when new roots are 3-5" long, then water and fertilize heavily as recommended by Fred Clarke on his [website](#).
- Most phalaenopsis are very sensitive to cold and should be inside your home or in a greenhouse and in spike or in bloom. Stake spikes early to train them to grow upright for optimal display of blooms.



Alex Nadzan's Photos



**AMN-189J L. Santa Barbara Sunset  
'Showtime' x C. Horace 'Maxima'**



**Cym. Bob Marlin 'Rob Sam'**



**Blc. Villiage Chief North  
'Green Elf'**



**Cym. Minette 'Green Queen'  
FCC/AOS**





**Cym. Peggy Foo 'Pink Foo Foo' with close up**



**L. anceps ('Rio Verde' FCC/AOS  
x vestalis 'Figment')  
(Unusual Petaloid Form)**



**L. anceps ('Helen' x 'Tierra Del Fuego')**





**Cym. Valley Olympic 'Pink Perfection' AM/AOC with Close Up**



**Pot. Golden Circle**



**LB1784 Cym. Lotza Spots 'Miki' x  
Pywacket 'Evergreen'**



**SVO5305 Blc. Love Blush 'Love Blush' x  
Blc. Fantasy Love 'Splish Splash'**



**C. walkeriana (GC) 4N**



**Ken Campbell's Photo**



**Pot. Dal's Emperor x  
Slc. Sweet Jewel**



**Lc. Mini Purple x Pot.  
Mem. Oma Schoon**



**Lc. Aloha Case 'Ching Hua'**



**C. Tokyo Life**



**Lc. Mona Pink**



**Pot. Higher Multiplier x  
Pot. Golden Circle**



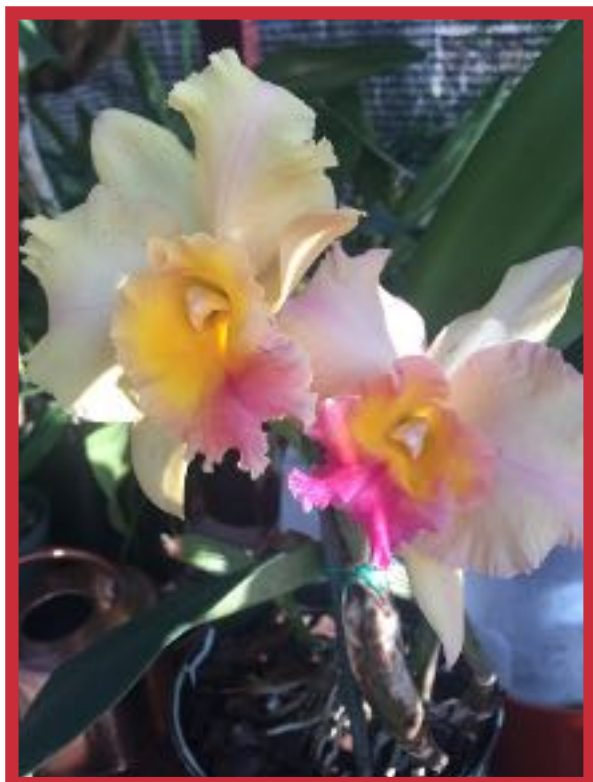
**Carl Wood's Photos**



**Lc. Susan Hye v. coerulea 'SVO'  
x Lc. Sierra Skies 'Leone'**



**L. anceps 'White Wonder' x  
L. anceps 'Marble Queen'**



**Blc. Izumi Charm 'SVO' AM/AOS**



**Cym. White Splendor**



**Cym. Jolly Gold 'Lemon' x Cym.  
Ambarino 'Highland' FCC/RHS**



**Cym. Fire Storm 'Blaze'**

**Bill Wong's Photos**



**Rhyncattleanthe Kaboom**



**Cym. Jacklyn Oysten 'Alice'**





**Lc Melody Fair 'Mishima' x L.  
anceps 'SanBar Oaxaqueana'**



**Brassanthe Maikai**

**Jerry Spencer's Photos**



**Lc. Purple Plume**



**Rhy. gigantea 1**





**Cym. White Rabbit with close up**



**Cym. Where's Wally Copperpot' with close up**





**Rhy. gigantea 2**



**Cym. Sweet & Savvy**



**Cym. Snow Court**



**Cym. Pee Wee**