



St. Augustine Orchid Society

www.staugorchidsociety.org

Orchids Month by Month in 2017

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@gmail.com

Terry is always taking pictures of something, including the greenhouse. Sometimes it's frogs, lizards and snakes and sometimes it's some pest, disease or other problem, but the best pictures are the flowers. Every year he goes through and selects the best picture each month and compiles them into a calendar. This is the retrospective of 2017 in bloom.



January - Bc. Great Hero 'Black Hole'
(Bc. Waikiki Gold x Bc. Love Sound)

Who doesn't love flares? Bc. Great Hero 'Black Hole' has flat flowers and a lipstick pattern. As the flower ages, the color changes. Color variations also can happen depending upon ambient temperatures while the flower is developing. Sometimes when buds develop during the cooler season, the color is more intense than when the plant reblooms in the hotter seasons.

The first time I ever saw a Clowesia in bloom was at an orchid show in Gainesville, and I went into a swoon. Those delicate pink flowers are long lived and fragrant, and amazingly bloom in midwinter from leafless pseudobulbs. This one has grown up to a ripe old age with many bulbs in one of Joanna Shaw's baskets.



February - Cl. Grace Dunn 'Chadds Ford' AM/AOS
(Cl. warczewitzii x Cl. rosea)



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March - Schom. Undulata x Lc. Gold Digger

Many of the Schomburgkias are huge vigorous plants that throw off long inflorescences with a cluster of twisty-twirly flowers at the end. Breeding them with cattleyas often results in a more manageable sized plants with somewhat shorter spikes. Schombocatts are very popular and if you have the room for them, go for it!

The fragrance of a walkeriana is sweet and irresistible, reminiscent of rose, lily of the valley and jasmine. This delicious fragrance is imparted to many of its progeny (but not when interbred with Sophronitis!). You tend to get relatively large flowers on smallish plants and lavender, white and coerulea color forms are available.



April - C. walkeriana var. coerulea 'Wenzel Sam'



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May - Bc. Pollyana 'Jennifer's Favorite'
(Bc. Waikiki Gold x C. Brabantiae)

The flower opens up pale and darkens over the next several days darkens into an unusual spotted peach with yellow midribs on the sepals. It has been a reliable bloomer for many years, until this year when I notice the evil color break. I gave Jim Roberts a piece several years ago, maybe I'll be able to replace my virused plant.

I'm no species snob, but I have never met a purpurata that I didn't like. The beautiful pink lipped coerulea form, the red lipped cernua form, the blue lipped werkauseri form, the purple lipped schusteriana form... we could go on. In Brazil they have orchid shows dedicated solely to purpuratas and they recognize over 100 color forms.



June - L. purpurata var. flammea



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July – Lc. Atalanta 'Hawaii'

(C. warscewiczii x Lc. x elegans)

One look at this flower and the hunt was on. A greenish white cluster of flowers on mostly bifoliate shaped plant. Mom was the alba form of the more pronounceable gigas and Dad was the alba form of the primary hybrid between leopoldii and purpurata. This one should be on your list.

The first stanhopea I had was a grandiflora, and even though each flower only lasted two or three days, it bloomed nine times that summer. That was it, I needed more. Pot them in baskets with wide spaces so the flowers can find their way through, and then you'll find yourself checking the bottom of the baskets each day... just in case you have to rearrange your schedule to make sure you're home when they open.



August – Stan. King Kong

(Stan. tigrina x Stan. gibbosa)



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September - Lc. Spotted Doll x C. guttata alba

Bifoliate cattleyas rank up there in the favorites department, particularly the tall growing types that have spotted clusters of flowers.

You just must be diligent to only repot them when you see new roots forming, which unfortunately is often when they're about to flower. Dropping the pot into a larger pot can be the answer to this dilemma.

What's not to like? Coerulea coloration, check. Flares, check. The bifoliate Cattleya leopoldii in the background to encourage clusters of flowers, check. Courtney lusts after this one, so his name is on the back of the tag for the next time it is divided. Interestingly, I have two of these mericlones and the second one is not nearly as vigorous.



October - Lc. Indigo Mist 'Cynosure' HCC/AOS

(Lc. Dellensis x Lc. Lorna Dene Whitlow)



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November – Hab. Regnieri
(Hab. carnea x Hab. rhodocheila)

All it took was for that first Habenaria medusa to rebloom, and I was hooked. Next step, I had to have the other species, and their hybrids. Finding habenarias is a challenge, even at orchid shows. The nice thing is they go dormant during the winter months and can be ignored, just look in on them once a week in late spring when the green starts to emerge.

I love flared cattleyas, but the blush flowered ones usually leave me cold, except for this one. This came from a collection grown by Mary Hollingshead, a lady who I learned a lot from posthumously when I ended up with some of her plants... the way she staked her orchids, repotted using the over the pot method, grew in tree fern baskets, all things I added to my repertoire.



December – Lc. Fall Drama 'Autumn Flare'
(Lc. Kingstree x Lc. Eau Claire)

Clearly I love cattleyas above all other orchids, but don't let that stop you from admiring and growing the other types. We've only just begun!