



CLUB NEWS



Julien Baruch

July Meeting

by Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks.

Tom Sullivan opened the meeting at 6:50 pm with 46 attendees. He then thanked Julie and Paul, Dianne, Dottie and Celia for the treats and reminded all to remember to "Drop a Dollar" for the supplies and coffee. Tom reminded all to bring any concerning plant to the next potting clinic at SE Branch Library on July 6.

Club Business. Linda welcomed our guests and new members Kathleen Kavanagh, Susan Myers, Tuesday Reaus-Duffoo, Carole Termini, Bern and Susan Wacholder, Jerry Zimmerman from Pennsylvania and Brock Thurber from Costa Rico along with his nephew from South Florida. As our Sunshine Coordinator also, Linda announced that if you know of anyone in need of a cheering up or a get-well card, let her know by emailing her at info@staugorchidsociety.org. She also gave an update on Charlie saying he is doing quite well and hopes to join us next month. Linda asked the July birthday celebrants to raise their hands for their free raffle ticket.

Members Choice Voting. Christine asked members to vote for their favorite blooming orchid on the show table. The ballots should be dropped in the ballot box before the speaker program begins.

Virtual Show Table. Courtney is back from his travels and will conduct the Virtual Show Table starting at 7 pm on Thursday, July 18. An email invitation will be sent to members.

Supplies. Supplies for growing orchids were available at the back table. Preorder ahead of time at info@stugorchidsociety.org.



Library. Librarian Howard Cushnir brought in Bill Thoms' *Bulbophyllums* book that was immediately borrowed. If you would like a book or magazine from the Library

list on the website, send Howard a request to info@staugorchidsociety.org and he will bring the item(s) to the next meeting.



Show Table Review. Steve Hawkins started the review with a large mounted *Neofinetia falcata* that was well grown. There was a miniature *Angraecum calceolus* with small green flowers, fragrant at night. Then Steve showed a *Paphiopedilum* hybrid (*philippinense* x *leucochilum*) with nice patterning and small, cute size. We had a *Bulb. jacobsonii* with its long, dark purple flowers that look like tassels. *Den. Hibiki* can bloom all summer long but prefers to be a little drier in winter. Harry brought in a large *Prosthechea cochleata* nicknamed the Clamshell or Squid orchid because of the flower's upside-down shape with the lip pointing upward. Another of Harry's cattleyas was mounted in spongy gutter guard and was growing quite well in it. *Broughtonia Cayman* is a compact plant that loves high light, humidity and warmth. Sue brought in a large blooming *Laelia purpurata* that was quite impressive.

SAOS Program. Sue introduced our guest speaker from Krull-Smith, Julien Baruch who gave a presentation on *Bulbophyllum* hybridization. He started his career at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens working as an intern for The Million Orchid Project. Afterwards he moved to Apopka to work with Frank Smith on the nursery's hybridizing program. His first slide stated that *Bulbophyllums* are the largest orchid genus with over 2,200 accepted species. *Bulbos* have a hinged lip that is used to thrust a pollinating fly into the back where the pollen is located. *Bulbos* are also known for their well documented fragrance (?). Julien noted that not all have a putrid odor and showed us that flowers with an intense, dark reddish center tended to smell the worse.

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Upcoming Orchid Events

July

- 6 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 9 JOS Meeting, Bulbophyllums, 6:30 pm
Julien Baruch, Krull Smith Orchids
- 13 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 18 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email

August

- 3 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 6 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
To Mount or Not to Mount
Thanh Nguyen, Springwater Orchids
- 8 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 10 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 13 JOS Meeting, Orchid Culture, 6:30 pm
Ron McHatton, AOS
- 16-17 Int'l Phalaenopsis Alliance Symposium
Apopka

September

- 3 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Setting Up Your Growing Area
Jeff Adkins, Adkins Orchids
- 7 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 10 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA
Speaker TBA
- 12 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email

- 14-15 Fall JOS Orchid Festival
Mandarin Garden Club, Jax 32223
- 14 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 28-29 Ridge Orchid Society Show
United Women's Club, Lakeland

October

- 1 SAOS Meeting, Angraecoid Orchids, 6:30
Edgar Stehli, Windswept in Time Orchids
- 5 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 5-6 Tampa Orchid Club Expo
USF Botanical Gardens
- 8 JOS Meeting, Paphiopedilums
James Arnold, JOS Member

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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Julian then discussed the older *Bulbophyllum* breeding lines using the *rothschildianum* and *lobbii* groups. The *rothschildianum* group of *bulbophyllums* have elongated and fused sepals that hang down to create long showy displays. The *lobbii* group has relatively large flat flowers, a high flower count, and oftentimes a pleasant odor to them. He then showed slides of species from these two groups including *Bulb. longissimum* whose flowers can get up to 1.5 feet long and the hybrid *Bulb. Doris Dukes* (named after Bill Thoms' wife) with its frills and red lip. From the *lobbii* breeding line, he showed *Bulb. lobbii* 'Kathy's Gold' that is bright yellow and has a fruity fragrance. He compared this to *Bulb. sumatranum* 'A-dorbil' whose flower shape is similar but has a red lip. This one in his opinion smells like dead meat.



He then moved on to modern breeding trends that center primarily around *Bulbophyllum echinolabium* with 62 registered hybrids and 137 awarded progeny. From this breeding line, they have obtained the largest individual flowers, some reaching over a foot and a half tall! They are breeding for sequential blooms on the same spike, large, open and flat flowers as well as more compact plants. Two examples of these hybrids are the *Bulb. Betty Kelepecz* 'Dorie's Choice' and *Bulb. Khoon Meng*.



Bulbophyllum Section *Macrobulbon* was the next topic. The most well known orchid in this group is the *Bulb. phalaenopsis* which stinks and has leaves up to 5' long. In breeding, it is used to give dark red flower coloration, a large flower size, higher flower count, and for its short internode length. He then showed a slide of *Bulb. Karen Lewis*, which is a cross between *Bulb. phalaenopsis* and *Bulb. echinolabium*. It showed all of the desired characteristics, flat flower, deep red, large flowers with a dozen on one spike. Recently *Bulb. macrobulbum* and *Bulb. agastor* have been used to breed spotted and red



flowers along with much fuller flowers with *Bulb. agastor* being more preferred to keep plant size down. As more work has been doing to breed spots, he showed one hybrid, where the spots were so numerous, the flower appears solid black with the only visible spots in the center. Julien discussed future hybridizing trends and hypothesized that new hybrids will come from working with *Bulb. beccarii* and *Bulb. ericssonii* but who knows what the future holds? He closed with an incredible picture of the FCC award winning *Bulb. cercanthum* 'Crystelle' that was in the Krull Smith display at the spring orchid festival.



Meeting Conclusion. The Members Choice went to Sue Bottom for her *Laelia purpurata* var. *flammea*. The evening concluded with the Raffle table. Thanks to the helpful hands that stayed to help clean and store the tables, chairs and room.



CLUB NEWS



July 6th
Repotting Clinic
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US 1 North, St. Aug 32086
First Saturday of the Month
10 am til Noon

Culture Notes: July in St. Augustine

The heat and humidity of summer are here. When day time temperatures rise above the 90 to 95F range, you'll see orchid growth start to slow. Water slightly less frequently than during the spring. Orchid plants require lots of fresh air to keep the plant leaves cool. Consider spraying under benches or the planting area to lower temperatures a few degrees. Pests are most active during the warm months. Be vigilant in observing signs of damage and treat quickly if they appear. The bulk of your repotting should be complete.

August 6 Meeting

To Mount or Not to Mount, Thanh Nguyen

Thanh always has the most unusual orchids in his sales booth, some seem to grow better in pots and others on mounts. Thanh will explain how you can learn whether to pot or mount based on plant growth and rooting habit.



Thanh is an owner-operator of Springwater Orchids in Melbourne, Florida. He has been collecting and growing orchids for over 30 years. He began his orchid business in 2001 selling on the Internet, as well as at orchid shows and society meetings. Thanh grows and sells all orchid genera and is particularly enamored of species plants.

When: Tuesday, August 6, 6:30 til 9 pm

Where: Memorial Lutheran Church
3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086



In Memory of Charlie Wesley
We are sad to announce the death of one of our early members, Charlie Wesley. Charlie was a retired dentist who developed a passion for orchids and photography. He served as SAOS president in 2007, and hosted our first Christmas party along with his wife Carol.

Rest In Peace Charlie



What's in Bloom?
Virtual Show Table
July 18th

Ble. Interview with a Vampire
We'd also love
to see your blooming
orchids at the meeting

send pics by the 26th
info@StAugOrchidSociety.org

American Orchid Society Corner

Webinars

July 9th, 8:30 pm

Greenhouse Chat - Ron McHatton

July 16th, 8:30 pm

Repotting and Mounting – Jay Balchan

July 16th, 8:30 pm

Orchids Magazine this Month

Dendrobium Section Dendrobiums – Jim Cootes

Habenarias – Nicholas Rust

Leaf Yellowing – Sue Bottom



INSPIRATION



Bulb. Jersey

© Terry Botta



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@hotmail.com

Q1. Late last summer I learned the hard way that afternoon direct sunlight can seriously damage orchid leaves. As the attached photos show, two of the bottom leaves of this pretty healthy orchid got severely

sun-damaged. I thought it best to leave both damaged leaves on the plant until they fall off, but they are still in place now 7-8 months later. Is it best to carefully cut them off, or should I continue to wait until they fall off?



A2. I don't think those leaves are sunburned at all. Sunburn, when it happens, occurs on the highest point of the leaf where the light hits the leaf at the most direct angle, perpendicular to the leaf. What you're seeing on your healthy phal is that the lower leaves are dying off, to be replaced by new upper leaves. If there is anything that is concerning, it is that the newest leaf seems smaller than the other leaves, but of course it may still be growing and filling out and it may still grow the same size as the others. If it doesn't, however, it suggests that the plant is not getting something that it was getting before when it grew the other leaves. Could be it is receiving lesser light, could be the bark mix is starting to degrade so the roots are beginning to suffocate, could be it is not receiving the nutrients it was receiving before.

To answer your questions, don't cut the leaves, they are not diseased and do not pose a risk to the plant. As they yellow and die, the plant will reabsorb nutrients in the leaves to fuel the new leaves. When they can be removed with a gentle tug, you can remove them.

Q2. Is the labellum of this catasetum yellow and sepals and petals the brown? Why did the lip not twist downward like my cattleyas do?

A2. The catasetum lip is yellow and the sepals and petals brown. The catasetum probably didn't rotate the way you wanted because you tried to stake it to go upright, rather

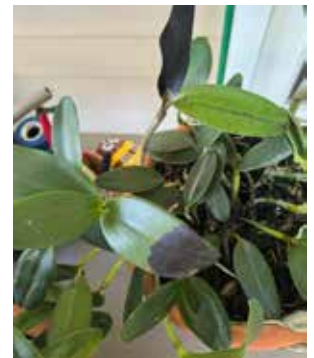


than allow it to be pendent. If it had been allowed to drape over the pot, the lips would have been oriented correctly, perpendicular to the flower spike. If you don't have it hanging, you can always put the pot on top of another pot to allow the flower spike to grow more normally.



Q3. Both of these orchids have this black disease, which travels through the leaf, top to bottom and in on case it completely contaminated the whole leaf and looks like it will do the same on other leaves that are just blackening. Do you know the diagnosis and how to treat it?

A3. Some people would call that black rot, implying that it is the disease caused by one of the water molds. I think it is black and it is a rot, but I suspect it is caused by bacteria rather than the water molds. Completely remove the leaves, and spray with either a fresh bottle of hydrogen peroxide or something containing copper. I'm guessing this happened after



the plants had lots of leaf wetness? One thing you can try after storms, and particularly after a tropical storm with lots of gray, wet weather is to spray the leaves with something like Consan/physan/pool algaecide. You can mix it up in a little hose end sprayer and just douse everything after the rain passes, that'll help keep the bacteria at bay.

The true black rot that infects our cattleyas usually happens more in the July/August time period when the humidity is way high, and the water molds infect the plants usually from the roots up into the rhizome and then pseudobulbs. I do bimonthly drenches with Aliette/Subdue starting in May to try to keep black rot away, and also keep plants drier in the high humidity months.



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Summer Watering

by Dr. Courtney Hackney

This summer has been not only hot, but hot with low humidity. If you provide the proper air movement required to keep your orchids from overheating in this weather, you are also accelerating the loss of water from your orchids. If the orchid's loss of water exceeds its ability to acquire water your orchid

experiences water stress, usually indicated by shriveled leaves or bud drop. Some of my orchids that typically love high light that are near the glass even have burned leaves because they do not have enough water in their leaves to keep the leaf cool. Most plants, including orchids, have stomata or microscopic openings on the bottoms of leaves. Stomata open, allowing water to evaporate and cool the leaf. If the orchid does not have enough water it cannot keep its leaves cool.

Over the years there are many experienced growers, many commercial growers of orchids, that told me they routinely violated one of the cardinal rules found in most books on growing orchids. Most books suggest watering orchids early in the morning so that they will be dry by nightfall. Failure to do so, according to the books, will cause rots. During the middle of summer, however, I routinely violate this paradigm.

Whenever nights are warm, I heavily water my orchids near or just after sunset. The object is for them to be soaked all night. The next morning, I water heavily again and often fertilize at this time. When I go out to water in the morning, vanda roots are swollen and green, as are the



visible roots of my cattleyas and phals. Rots are very rare and almost always on newly purchased orchids or plants that have already had problems.

My orchids had been looking water stressed, but a week after starting this regimen, bulbs have become plump and new leaves abound. There are even newly branching roots.

If you decide to try this approach keep the days between watering the same as you did before. Apply only water in the evening and fertilize only in the morning. If you live in an area where night temperatures get lower than 60 F be sure you never fertilize at night. In the morning, plants are well hydrated and there is no risk of fertilizer toxicity, even at high levels. Roots are also ready to take up fertilizer as their surface condition has changed from hard and stiff to soft and pliable. If you live in an area with hard water, salts that accumulate on the medium, pots and roots will become soluble overnight, allowing them to be flushed out the next morning.

If you ever visit the tropics where many cultivated orchids originated, it is surprising to read the prohibition to never water at night. In their natural habitat, orchids are soaked at night by rain or dew. Rarely, will you ever find an orchid with rot in nature. In the wild, orchids grow very slowly and are very limited by nutrients. Their leaves are thick and hard; even immature plants.

Bacteria require nutrients to grow and the presence of water laden with nutrients in and on leaves is an invitation for bacterial and fungal invasions that cause rots. Orchids can grow quickly if pushed with lots of fertilizer. However, cell walls are thin and soft on these orchids making it easy for fungi and bacteria invasion. Cells also are loaded with excess nutrients providing fuel to any invader.

Growing under lower nutrient conditions does cause slightly slower growth and causes orchids to put more energy into root growth. This produces a better rooted orchid, less susceptible to disease, even if you water at night.

Note: Dr. Courtney Hackney wrote a monthly column of his orchid growing tips for about 20 years; we are reprinting some you might have missed, this one from July 2010.



Growing Bulbophyllums: The Secret is Watering

by Bill Thoms



Bulbophyllum bicolor
Grown and photographed by Leslie Brickell

In the past 10 years, there has been a renewed interest in *Bulbophyllum*. More than 1200 species are native to the Old World and New World Tropics. Beyond a small number of growers with offbeat tastes, there seemed to be little interest in plants with flowers that do not last long, are small and emit fragrances reminiscent of dead rats, rotten pumpkins or other foul odors.

Times are changing and growers are finding that some *Bulbophyllum*s do have pleasant fragrances. *Bulbophyllum emiliorum*, from the Philippines, has a strong aroma of cloves, while *Bulbophyllum propinquum* from Thailand, smells like apples and *Bulbophyllum hirtum* smells like cinnamon. The majority have no smell at all. In addition, there are many with wonderful flowering styles that produce flowers for months on end, either from an elongating inflorescence such as *Bulbophyllum nigrescens*, from along the rhizome such as *Bulbophyllum blumei* or *Bulbophyllum grandiflorum*, or from multiple inflorescences coming from each pseudobulb as in *Bulbophyllum lepidum*, *Bulbophyllum putidum* or *Bulbophyllum fascinator*. There is even a 3-inch-tall plant with a 2½-inch flower - *Bulbophyllum lasiochilum* (syn. *breviscopum*). This species comes in a green form with orange spots, and a yellow form with dark red spots and dark burgundy petals. The succulent leaves are borne on pseudobulbs the size of a grape and the plant develops multiple front leads readily. It produces up to three flowers per pseudobulb, each bloom lasting three weeks.

Bulbophyllum bicolor, which we received from Thailand, is the most outstanding *Bulbophyllum* we have seen. The spectacular 2-inch flowers are held in an umbel of five, with each flower lasting for several weeks. They do not have a foul odor.

How Bulbophyllums Grow. Since *Bulbophyllum* forms one of the largest genera, it is impossible to cover all the various habitats. However, there are several main growing requirements that need to be met.

Many of these plants come from areas of the world that receive monsoon rains for months at a time, followed by a long or short dry season, or they experience other distinct wet/dry periods. Although the plants look like succulents, they need to be watered regularly with clear, fresh water. We save rain water in plastic barrels and pump it into the greenhouses using a submersible pump and a hose. We have another barrel inside where we mix fertilizers, because we do this on a large scale. Any hobbyist could bring the water inside in a bucket. If you collect water from the roof of your house, try not to use the first few gallons collected after a dry spell. Sometimes it seems that the toxins in the roofing material are washed into the container. This only appears to occur in the first rain, and then not again. It also seems that if the water is allowed to stand for a few days before use, the toxins either dissipate or sink to the bottom of the container.

By providing the plants with a variety of fertilizers at regular intervals, we seem to avoid an imbalance of any one nutrient. Fertilizing frequently with a weak solution causes everything to respond and grow wonderfully. When I fertilize sporadically, that's the kind of growth I get. We use a light combination of fish emulsion, SuperThrive, a balanced 20-20-20 fertilizer and Pro-Tekt (a silicone-based product from Dyna-Gro).

We fertilize often with a weak solution ("weakly weekly"). Tree fern provides its own food as it decomposes, so do not use too strong a solution. It is much better to use a weak solution more often, than to fertilize once every month with a triple-strength dose. Contrary to what some growers say, make sure the medium is wet when you apply fertilizer or you run the risk of burning the plants because they will take up the solution too quickly.

We try to provide the brightest conditions possible without creating temperatures that are too high, and have fresh air circulating day and night.

Potting the Plants. For plants in containers, I use a blend of assorted medium-grade aggregates (one part each fir bark, charcoal, porous rock for hydroponics, sponge rock, etc.) and to that I add a little of the fine grades of the above (about one-quarter part each). This retains water much longer than other mixes, while still allowing plenty of air to reach the roots, which is crucial. Try to make a blend using more common materials available locally. It isn't so much what you use as how the final product balances holding water and allowing air to reach the roots. Water dissolves organic material, which breaks down the fibers,



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Bulbophyllum lasiochilum 'Rob', bears 2½ inch flowers on a 3 inch plant, Grown and photographed by Janis Croft

so eventually they must be replaced. Many media in which orchids are grown, such as charcoal, lava rock and sponge rock last a long time and absorb water, causing fertilizer salts to accumulate. The trick is to balance the two. It may work to use an inorganic product like Rockwool which does not break down, if fertilizer salts are not allowed to build up. Many growers use sphagnum moss and obtain good results. We do not use this medium, because we give the plants high light, which requires more food and water, and this treatment breaks down the fibers. *Bill's 2024 Update: Just a quick note to bring things up to date. Years ago, the sphagnum moss I got was from a major retailer and turned out to be shavings of low quality, which collapsed immediately and I thought that was normal. Then I found long-fibered sphagnum moss from New Zealand or Chile which lasted for years and I used that exclusively because it provided exactly the things I wanted, namely, stayed moist for hours and lasted for years. Just sayin'.*

Hanging plants dry out faster, so to keep them wet longer I now have lots of shallow trays in which I keep rainwater. I rotate the plants between a few days in the water and a few days drying out. For most of my bulbophyllums, having water available for as long as they want has caused the back pseudobulbs to swell and many dormant eyes to sprout, giving me two and three times as much growth as I used to get. When it is time to bloom, the plants are in

better condition, resulting in more flowers. Rot has not been a problem, although algae may dry up when the plants are removed from the water.

The plants are either in shallow baskets I make by taking apart a standard-size basket and making two. or they are on tree-fern slabs, balls, totems or various kinds of wood. I line the baskets with sheet moss and put the potting mix in the center. The shallowness seems to allow the roots to get straight to the water and then dry out more uniformly.

When mounting on tree fern slabs, lay the tree fern flat and pin the plants in place with wire. Then they sit upright in shallow trays of water and they will wick it up. Cork can also be used, but I find it much harder to keep the plants wet.

I used to get one or two growths per year, and many plants both flowered poorly and looked kind of shriveled all the time. Now even the back pseudobulbs are plump, many produce double front lead growths and those fronts produce two and sometimes three growths in a season.

A shallow tray is better than a deep one because the water needs to be replenished every few days to keep it fresh, and a wide shallow tray will hold a lot of water without having the plants waterlogged. The plants like to have water available to their roots for long periods, without being soaking wet on top. The trays are on the lower parts of our tables which means they are a little darker. When it is

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time to dry them out for a few days, I hang them up higher, where it is brighter, and I have simulated dark rainy days followed by sunny drier days. The plants that were hanging get put into the water. If I simply let the trays dry out, this is okay too, but I like to let the bulbophyllums get brighter light to produce stronger growths. The faster you can harden off the new growths, the less apt they are to have problems.

When autumn arrives and the days cool off, and more important, dry off (about November in Tampa, Florida), many of the plants have finished their growing and begin their flowering cycles. By having a little water available from the bottom, their flowers last longer and are bigger. When new growth starts, in a few weeks or a few months, I begin giving them more water.

If you have plants that drop their leaves in the autumn while keeping the pseudobulbs hard, this indicates these plants go through the dry season very dry. Water needs to be withheld almost completely. Do not worry — the plants are adapted to long dry spells, which is why they shed their leaves (like *catasetums* or some *dendrobiums*). These bulbophyllums — *kanburiense*, *hirtum* and *muscarirubrum*, among them — also like to be brighter at this time because, in nature, the surrounding area is brighter from other trees and plants around them having dropped their leaves.

Hybrids. With less than two dozen registered crosses, little work has been done hybridizing among this vast group, but that trend is ending. Frank Smith of Krull-Smith Orchids made a *Bulbophyllum* hybrid (*lobbii* x *ornatissimum*, which was probably *putidum*), which combined the larger flowers



Bulbophyllum fascinator

Grown and photographed by Linda Stewart

from *Bulb. lobbii* and the floriferousness from *Bulb. putidum*. Each front pseudobulb produces up to three flowers, one at a time.

We now have about a dozen crosses in flask. Among them are *Bulb. bicolor* 'D & B', CHM/AOS x *Bulb. lobbii* 'Kathy's Gold', AM/AOS; *Bulb. bicolor* 'D & B', CHM/AOS x *Bulb. carunculatum* 'Krull-Smith', CHM/AOS; *Bulb. frostii* (syn. *bootenoides*) x *Bulb. dentiferum* 'Pink Giant'; *Bulb. fascinator* 'Hilltop', CHM/AOS x *Bulb. dearei* 'Golden Dragon'; and outcrosses of many species like *Bulbophyllum picturatum*, *Bulbophyllum biflorum* and *Bulbophyllum fascinator*.

With another 20 crosses ready to go to the lab as soon as they are ripe, it is time to begin dreaming of the future, not fretting about what might have been.

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Bulbophyllum grandiflorum

Grown by Sue Bottom, photographed by Terry Bottom



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The Species Behind Standard Cattleyas, Part 3 by Don Herman



Cattleya maxima fma. *alba*, Grown and photographed by Keith Davis

Cattleya maxima, an Ecuadorian species, consists of two types. One comes from the lowlands and is free-flowering with as many as 14 or so blooms per spike. Growths on plants from the lowlands are much larger than any of the other cattleyas, while the growths on the variety that comes from the higher altitudes are standard size. The species was originally discovered in 1777 by the Spanish botanists Ruiz and Pavón, and about 55 years later described by John Lindley from the botanists' dried specimens. It was reintroduced as living plants by Karl Hartweg in 1842 and W. Farmer in 1855. In Ecuador, it is called Flor de Navidad or the Christmas flower, which indicates that its blooming season extends from October to early spring. The color tones are especially attractive with lip background color usually being the same as the rest of the flower. The highland types tend to be darker lavender in color. White forms are quite rare. Some hybridizers feel that *C. maxima* shows its greatness as a straight species with its excellent spike habit, high flower count and general floral presentation.

Cattleya mendelii comes from the Eastern Cordillera slopes of Colombia and is a parent of many hybridizers' "building blocks." It was first introduced by the firm of Hugh

Low in 1870 and shortly thereafter by Messrs. Backhouse, who named the species after a friend, Samuel Mendel. The flowers are usually a soft shade of rose with a white throat and column. The lips tend to have a dark lavender lower portion. Considerations for the hybridizer are that *C. mendelii* usually blooms in May and therefore, can extend the flowering seasons of their progeny into late spring and



Cattleya C. G. Roebling 'Sentinel'
Grown by Harry McElroy, photographed by Terry Bottom

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ORCHID ADVENTURES

early summer. Flowers are usually 7 to 8 inches in natural spread and the plants have a desirable compact growth habit. Flowers can sometimes lack substance, but this fault can be overcome by hybridizing with the correct species. Although not used extensively today, it has parented such superb hybrids as *Cattleya Suavior*, *Cattleya Octave Doin* and *Cattleya C. G. Roebling*.

Cattleya mossiae is considered by many the finest *cattleya*. It comes from the mountains along the north coast of Venezuela, from whence it was first introduced to England in 1836 by George Green of Liverpool. It flowered first in the greenhouses of Mrs. Moss. Sir William Hooker named the flower after her. The species comes in many forms such as *alba*, *pink*, *lavender*, *coerulea* and *semi-alba*, but usually the lip, which is the color of the petals, has a characteristic



Cattleya mendelii, Grown by Marv Ragan, photographed by Terry Bottom



Cattleya mossiae 'Pretty in Pink', Grown and photographed by Allen Black

dark rose veining that sets it apart. One form is the *wageneri* type and is *alba* with yellow only on the lip. It has been used extensively through the years to produce spring-blooming flowers. *Cattleya mossiae* is sometimes referred to as the *Easter Cattleya* and has been extremely important to the cut-flower industry for many years. Not only is its blooming season important to hybridizers, but so is its compact growth habit and floriferousness. It can make spectacular specimen plants and has a strong fragrance that some liken to the smell of garlic.

Extracted from an article that appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine in March 1997 (Vol. 66:3, pp 234-243), reprinted with permission.



SHOW TABLE



Grower Joe Sayer
Phal. bellina 'Krull's Perfection'
FCC/AOS



Grower Bev Vycital
Trc. Ollie Palmer



Grower Allen Black
Blc. (Chia Lin X B. nodosa)



Grower Courtney Hackney
C. warszewiczii var. semi-alba 'Frau Melanie Beyrodt'



Grower Allen Black
B. Yaki 'Black's Best'



Grower Leasa Codner
Blc. Pauwela Spots



Grower Sue Bottom
L. Pacavia var. rubra



SHOW TABLE



Grower Steve Dorsey
Cyp. montanum



Grower Suzanne Susko
Blc. Solar Flare 'Paradise'



Grower Sue Bottom
Bulb. (grandiflorum x laciniatum)



Grower Keith Davis
C. loddigesii 'Blue Sky'



Grower Courtney Hackney
C. Ivy's Blue Eyes '#2'



Grower Jeff Milkins
Blc. Pratum Green 'Holly' HCC/AOS

Link to all Submissions: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBxNr5>

