



St. Augustine Orchid Society

www.staugorchidsociety.org

My Favorite Orchid

May 2013

by Penny Halyburton, phalyburton@comcast.net

A simple request: "Would you write "My Favorite Orchid" article for the newsletter?" After much thought, I conclude that one either has a favorite orchid or one does not. I obviously fit into the "does not" category. For a normally decisive person this is a choice I just can't make.

Why would anyone in their right mind choose a single orchid as their favorite? Why does anyone need to have a favorite? After way too many hours pondering this and sitting at the computer attempting to write about my favorite orchid, the only thing I've accomplished is a major pain in my back - literally. I still don't have a favorite to write about, the loss of sleep has put my retired brain into a tailspin and I am totally irrational. I'm a mess!



I am the first to say that this should not be difficult! It's a flower! And, it's not like I'm under oath, am I? It would be so simple to just fabricate a favorite for this article. I could say that Cattleyas, Cymbidiums or Stanhopeas are my favorite. That would be easy and, if I changed my mind tomorrow or next week, no one would remember, nor would they care. So, why do I? Perhaps I am just troubled because I don't have a favorite orchid and feel



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like I should. Does everyone have a favorite? Maybe I'm worried by the fact that I'm unable to choose a favorite from so many beautiful orchids or by choosing just one my choices will be limited. WORSE YET my other orchids would find out they weren't chosen and OMG become sick! That would be devastating. I need psychological counseling! Do they even have counseling for "FODD" (favorite orchid decision disorder)? I'm not sure what my issue is; I just know I need help. I am so stressed about what should be a simple question.

Am I the only person who doesn't have a favorite orchid? My husband, Michael, has a favorite. He likes Oncidiums, and doesn't particularly care for Phalaenopsis-type



Stanhopea wardii

Dendrobiums. They get too "leggy" for him to easily hang in the garage on cold nights. My goodness, our cats, Myka, Targa and Symba, even have favorites! They also love Oncidiums. Not because their human dad does, but they like any orchid with long thin leaves that they can chew, eat and completely devour in mere minutes. "Plant rye grass for them and they won't bother your orchids", I was told. They're indoor cats. Can you imagine the mess in the house when they eat rye grass? Not pretty! But being the good kitty mom I try to be, and wanting to save my orchids, we have two flower pots of rye grass constantly available to them. Now they have the best of both worlds: rye grass and orchids. Boy do they love me now! Perhaps "normal" cats would prefer rye grass over orchids, but not my precious little well-house rescues. And, the potting media....well, that makes a really fun toy! At least they're decisive.

Suffice it to say I am the indecisive mess in our family. I just love all orchids including... Bulbophyllums. Perhaps my next orchid acquisition will be my favorite?