

CLUB NEWS



Ruben Sauleda

October 6 Meeting Minutes

by Barbara Conrad,
brbraconrad@yahoo.com

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Heinz at 7:20 with 74 people present, including guests Joshua Nones, Becky Blaylock, Donna Person, Janis Flowers, Teresa Cauthern, Chris Klein, Jay Hester, Karen

Jurgensen, Bill Leary, Brian Esterak, Heather Wright and Pat Marganroth and new members Sandy Calvert, Scott and Trudy Endy and Larry and Pam Schultz. Mike thanked Jeanette Smith and Barbara Conrad for the refreshments and reminded those who were new that we donate a little if we eat a little.

The Keiki Club will meet on Sunday October 18th from 1 to 3 pm at Viv and Tom Rowe's. Mike Heinz will talk about getting ready for winter, before the cold weather. Bob Martin will talk about supplemental lighting for your plants while they are inside for the winter. We'll meet at Viv and Tom Rowe's home at 108 Drake Road in St. Augustine 32086. Use the side entrance and bring a folding chair. Call 797-3146 if you have any questions.

The Nominating Committee of Bill Gourley, Chair, Gail Marshall and Barbara Conrad are working on officer and director nominations for 2010. Bill Gourley explained to the membership that the committee will be seeking nominations for all positions, including directors. Bill will announce recommendations at the November meeting.

Librarian Wendy Thomas talked about the SAOS library and announced two new additions: Harold Koopowitz's *Tropical Slipper Orchids* and Greg Allikas' CD-ROM *The Potting Workshop*. She also modeled the SAOS T shirts much to the amusement of the group!

Fred Keifer of Orchids by Del-Rei handed out a flyer for his 3rd Annual Open House at his greenhouse at 4270 Cedar Ford Blvd, Hastings, 322145 (phone: 386-325-4845). Food, wine and music will be provided. Bring a new or gently used toy (unwrapped) for the children in Hastings and the surrounding area who would not be receiving any toys for Christmas.

Our speaker for the evening was Ruben Sauleda of Ruben in Orchids in Goulds who spoke about encyclias and their hybrids. Encyclias are one of the most rewarding and showy of the cattleya group and can be grown to form large, showy specimen plants. Encyclias produce clumps of upright rounded bulbs with branching spikes and showy blooms in green, brown, orange, yellow and pink. These orchids require culture similar to cattleyas, bright light and a quick draining potting mix. Ruben says they grow very well in tree fern.

Ruben's presentation consisted of many images of encyclias and their hybrids:

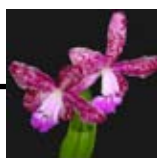


***Enc. alata* has showy flowers and a vanilla fragrance.**



***Enc. cordigera* has big spikes of showy flowers having a vibrant lip and comes in several color forms**

Continued on page 3





Upcoming Orchid Events

October

- 10-11 Gainesville Orchid Society Show
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
- 17-18 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show
Ft Pierce Community Center
Vets Memorial Park
- 18 Keiki Club – Winter Preparations
Viv and Tom Rowe's home
108 Drake Road, St. Aug 32086
797-3146, 1-3 pm
- 23-25 Orctober Fest at [EFG Orchids](#)
4265 Marsh Rd, Deland
386-738-8600
- 30-1 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show
Old School Square Gymnasium

November

- 3 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting
More IS Better, Multifloral Paphs
Brian Monk, [Blu Llama Orchids](#)
- 7 Master Gardeners & SAOS Members
Q&A, Repotting & Problem Plant Clinic
Ace on US 1, 9 am to noon
- 15 Orchids by Del-Rei Open House
4270 Cedar Ford Blvd., Hastings 32145
Noon til 4 pm, Bring a Xmas Toy
386-325-4845



Terry Bottom

Enc. Raganii alba Grown By Marv & Jan Ragan

- 18 Keiki Club – Winter Orchid Care
Coquina Crossing Clubhouse, Elkton
4536 Coquina Crossing Drive 32033
827-9536, 1-3 pm

December

- 12 SAOS Christmas Auction
Moultrie Trails Clubhouse, 7-10 pm
Bring a Covered Dish and Cash

www.staugorchidsociety.org

Thanks to Watson Realty
and Jeanette Smith for the
use of their meeting space
at 3505 US 1 South



St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Mike Heinz mgheinz@comcast.net
First Vice President Program Chair	Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Second Vice President Publicity Chair	Vivienne Rowe tomvivrowe@comcast.net
Secretary AOS/Orchid Digest Rep	Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	Bill Gourley wgourley@bellsouth.net
Directors at Large	Terry Bottom bottomt@bellsouth.net Paul Jones trjones_@yahoo.com Dick Roth rroth405@aol.com
Exhibit Committee Chair	Jack Higgins jacktravel2003@yahoo.com
Librarian	Wendy Thomas wendysthomas1@bellsouth.net
Membership Committee Chair	Gail Marshall gwpb@aol.com
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net bottomt@bellsouth.net
Operations Committee Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com



Continued from page 1



Enc. gracilis has a beautiful full lip and grows in full sun on rocks in its natural habitat.



Florida native *Enc. tampensis* is a hybrid swarm of 3 or more species freely interbreeding into one population.

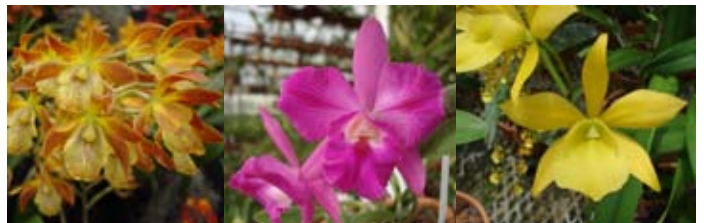


Enc. rufa is floriferous and incredibly fragrant.



Enc. mariae is a cool grower with a fabulous large white lip that is difficult for us to grow though it can be hybridized to produce progeny that thrive in our summer heat.

Then there are the epicats like:



Epc. Epiorange *Kir. Marv's Home Run* *Eplc. Golden Sunburst*

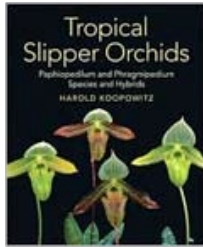
Following the presentation, we had our raffle and auction. The Member's Choice on the Show table was Pot. Burana Beauty 'Burana' grown by Dick Roth.



What's New in the Library Tropical Slipper

Orchids: *Paphiopedilum* &
Phragmipedium Species &
Hybrids

by Harold Koopowitz



The tropical slipper orchids in cultivation include *Paphiopedilum*, *Phragmipedium* and *Mexipedium*. Separate chapters address the five most important species for breeding exciting hybrids and the best and most desirable hybrids.

November 3 Monthly Meeting

Brian Monk of Blu Llama Orchids will discuss multifloral paphiopedilums at the November 3 meeting of the St Augustine Orchid Society. His talk is about the slipper orchids, how more is better.

Brian developed an intense passion for nature while growing up which led to his profession as a veterinarian and his many hobbies including bird watching, orchid growing and natural history. Because of his passion for all things orchid, he and wife Mary-Margaret formed Blu Llama Orchids in Fort Lauderdale. Brian started growing and hybridizing orchids in his backyard and now has 4000 sq ft of greenhouse space. He will grow anything green, but focuses on hybridizing projects, including the development of multifloral white and pink paphiopedilums, warmth tolerant red onciinae and standard pink cattleyas with an all white lip. He continues to pursue and perfect his orchid culture and photographic skills. Brian is currently a student judge with the American Orchid Society.

October 18 Keiki Club Meeting

We'll meet at Tom and Vivienne Rowe's home in St. Augustine South for a timely presentation "Getting Ready for Winter". Prez Mike Heinz will talk about preparing your plants and the protected area before the cold weather hits. We'll talk about things to do during the cooler weather in anticipation of winter: clean up your plants, remove any pesky hitchhikers, reduce watering and fertilizer, and start thinking about where you will overwinter your plants. Next month we'll be talking about "Winter Orchid Care", things like minimum temperatures, orchids that go dormant in winter and different types of protected areas, so we won't have to endure the "fun" of rushing around in the dark covering or moving plants whenever a cool front is heading our way. We'll gather from 1 to 3 pm on Sunday afternoon at [108 Drake Rd, St Aug 32086](#). Bring a folding chair. Call 797-3146 for additional information.



September 20 Keiki Club Growing Cymbidiums in Florida

The Keiki Club was hosted by Cymbidium Man Harry McElroy and his flower loving wife Celia, who also cooked up a storm! Harry grows cattleyas, phals, paphs, and more in his greenhouse and cymbidiums in a shade house.

Harry says one of the secrets to growing cymbidiums is to maintain the proper pH in the potting medium, around neutral, so that the macro and micronutrients will be available for uptake by the plant. He maintains a neutral pH by adding 'chicken scratch', sea shells or granulated dolomitic lime to the mix once a year.

His fertilizer regimen is unusual. Everything he adds is in solid form added to the pot:

- Timed release fertilizer Dynamite with a low phosphorus (the middle number) content, that he buys in bulk as Nutricote, once a year in October,
- Timed release calcium nitrate, available from Florikan, once a year in October,
- Magnesium sulfate, known as Epsom salts, twice a year, once in October and then in February, and
- Boric acid, which also happens to be roach poison, in very dilute form in June and November. The dilution rate is 1 tsp boric acid in a gallon of water and then 1 cup of this diluted solution in 50 gallons of water to make a very dilute solution, equivalent to 0.001 tsp/gal.

His potting and watering regimen for the cymbidiums is very different from traditional orchid growing. He pots his cymbidiums in a stalite/coconut husk blend in a Rootmaker liner pot (1-800-824-3941). He drops the pot liner into a white plastic container available from Duval Container Company into which he has drilled holes about 1¼" up from the bottom. This means the cymbidium will always have standing water at the base of the container. The cymbidiums are in the shade house equipped with an overhead spray system that goes off for 2 minutes twice a day. In the winter time if the temperature approaches 33°F, the spray system is turned on and left on until the temperature rises. This prevents the plants from freezing and even if ice forms on the plant, there is little residual damage.

You have never seen such beautiful cymbidium plants with immaculate foliage; can't imagine how glorious it must be when everything is in bloom!



Home and Backyard Orchid Growing

Lola Stark, seacuter@bellsouth.net

When I first started growing orchids, I had no idea of where to grow them, but a friend said she'd been growing hers hanging in a tree. I had a Palatka Holly on the southwest corner, so there I chose to grow. My first love was vandas and they loved the late light coming in from the west. So I kept adding to the holly.



Then I joined the Orchid Society and caught the disease, Orchid Obsession. Once you find you can rebloom an orchid, you succumb! The holly tree finally ran out of



branches I could reach and I began looking for someplace else. I saw some pot clip plant hangers at a nursery and thought they'd work pretty well, so I added them on our bell pole. Well, that only took twelve plants. So, I spread out onto the front of our house. In the meantime, I found I could rebloom cattleyas as well as vandas!

What to do? My wonderful husband came up with the idea to use an open space under

oak trees. I got more pot clips, we planted three 4x4's and decided that just putting the poles in with twelve plants each didn't leave us any place to hang the vandas. So we added 1 1/4" PVC poles at the top of the 4x4's. That was great until SAOS got the light meter and we found out that there wasn't enough light there for the vandas, the best light is under the trees in the back yard. The space between the trees was such that we had to add three 4x4's (12 plants each) between each tree. With the PVC on top and connected to the trees we now had 36 feet to hang Vandas and six 4x4's. I was in heaven! The vandas get watered for 1/2 hour every morning along with some of the phals and dendrobiums. The rest get watered once a week and fertilized shortly after being watered.



poles and laid them under our large azaleas in the back yard. The vandas we left alone. We figured if they like breezes, they'd love the hurricane!

Then the temperature started dropping and it was time to move the tribes into the greenhouse. I had built my greenhouse several years earlier from a basic carport frame from Sams, which I modified. The first year I simply hung my vandas from a piece of pipe running the length of the greenhouse. I now have four pipes, two on each side and sit the ones that don't have a lot of roots on my shelves. The four shelves on each side sit on graduated cinder blocks, so there's lots of room. I separate the dendrobiums that need to be dry all winter. The rest get watered twice a week. I fertilize in the greenhouse only once every six weeks and then use it lightly.



Until this year, I've been taking all the orchids into the greenhouse as soon as the temperature starts to drop near 50°F, which is the minimum for vandas. However, much to my delight, most of the others can be left out until it reaches 40°F or even 35°F in some cases. So, when it gets near 50°F, I'll put the vandas in and wait for the others. Phals need a week or two exposure to cool weather (around 50°F) to induce new blooms spikes. Cattleyas and dendrobiums can stand it right down to 40°F.

When they go in the greenhouse I usually clean up the pots if they need it and cut off any pseudobulbs that are no longer adding to the plant. Also, I usually group those I think might need repotting the following spring.



Then came hurricane season, I took all the plants on the





Growing Tips for October

Dr. Courtney Hackney,
hackneau@comcast.net
 Dept. Biology, Univ.
 North Florida

There is a saying among orchid hobbyists that “there is no such thing as a greenhouse too large”. For those addicted to orchids this will not come as a shock. All of us constantly must limit our acquisitions or face the prospect of finding more growing space. It does not matter if one has 12 or 12 thousand orchids; there is always the need for more space.

Many of us “senior growers” like to think that we have mastered enough discipline to curate our collections so that the quality of the orchids is always improving. Favorites from long ago mingle with newly discovered special orchids so that it is difficult to find an orchid we like better. Even the super seedlings purchased a few years before do not match favorites collected over the years.



There are a few such growers in every orchid club. They look over each speaker’s sales table very carefully and only rarely purchase an orchid. These few have mastered the art of orchid collecting. Each meeting they bring a few of their favorites for everyone to enjoy and take great pride in having found old or rare clones of special hybrids or species. Such a collection takes a lifetime to build.

One of the most heartbreaking tragedies I have observed over the years has come from visiting an old orchid-growing friend or an older hobbyist whose orchid collection was well-known. In many instances, collections once carefully maintained had clearly exceeded the ability of their owner to take care of them. To see fantastic and rare orchids covered with scale or shriveled from lack of water is difficult.

Many great orchid collections were lost when their owners were rushed to a hospital or unable to spend time with their collection because of family illness. Snowstorms, power outages, and other devastating events seem to always occur during these times.

One famous South Florida orchidist, Robert Scully, Sr, turned his orchid business over to his son, Jones & Scully, Inc, and moved to Ocala, Florida. He selected only a small

number of his famous clones to take with him; a number small enough to take care of in retirement. I always wondered which clones he selected given the fantastic collection from which he had to choose in his nursery.

At various times, I have tried to contemplate the dilemma of aging and reducing the size of my collection so that adequate care could be given to my favorite orchids. How does one reduce their collection from several thousand to a hundred or twenty-five. It came as some comfort to discover that Robert Scully, Sr., also could not resist adding a favorite clone or two each time he visited the family business in Miami such that his small greenhouse in Ocala was soon stuffed.

Clearly, even the strongest-willed orchid lovers among us cannot manage to slowly shrink their collection as they age. Helen Congleton, who passed away a few years ago, introduced me to a different approach. She maintained that the orchids in her greenhouse did not really belong to her. She was just taking care of these treasures for awhile and was responsible for transferring them to others that would do the same.

Each time one of her cattleyas grew out of the pot, she would cut the lead three bulbs, pot the division and give the remaining bulbs in the old pot to an orchid growing friend that had expressed an interest in that orchid. She did the same with keikis of phals and cuttings or divisions for everything she treasured. Today, I am the guardian of a number of these plants and I try to do the same; search for a suitable host to whom I will someday transfer the orchid.



Most of us prepare a will or let our loved ones know our wishes when we die, but often the orchids we so diligently collected and cared for are forgotten in that preparation. Recently, I made a list of my favorite orchids. Beside each plant is the name of someone I know that expressed an interest in the clone. In the case of some sudden event, my wish is that these be distributed to those named. So many great collections are lost or sold en mass as pot plants to people who do not appreciate how unique a special old clone is or the role a clone played in breeding today’s magnificent hybrids.

The only way to ensure that others will be able to appreciate these special orchids in the future and add them to their collections is to share and be sure that there is someone designated to care for what was once very special to you. Today, my collection is full of orchids that came from special people I have known over the years and each time that orchid blooms I remember them. That is just a special benefit of being a host for “special orchids”.





Orchid Questions & Answers

Where Members Share Experiences

Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q. I just bought an orchid and the plant label says Rlc. Erin Kobayashi var. Amy Chen. I have also been told it's a Blc. Now I'm totally

confused as to what to put on a name tag. Can you shed some light?



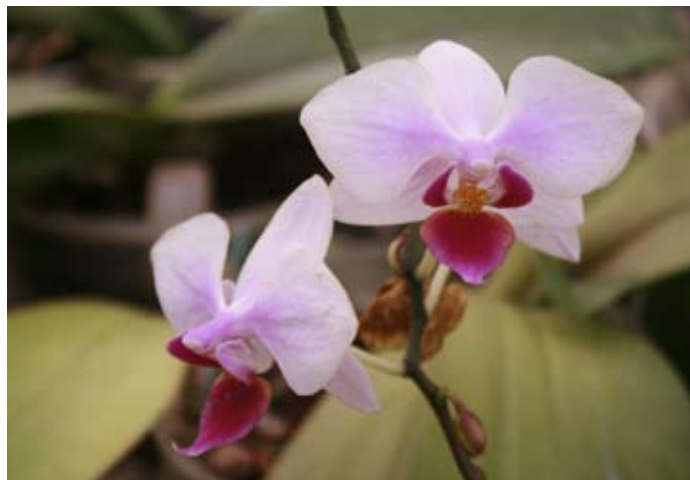
A. I use all the old Sander's names on my name tags cause I know what they mean. The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) keeps changing the orchid genera around as a result of some DNA testing which some folks don't believe is a valid approach to orchid taxonomy. In the last couple of years they changed *Laelia purpurata* to *Sophranitis purpurata* and now *Cattleya purpurata*, who knows what tomorrow may bring. So if you don't want to be endlessly changing your tags, I'd stick to the Sander's classification and wait for the dust to settle. Phew, that was the long version; here's the short version: The Sander's name is Blc. Erin Kobayashi and you must have the awarded clone 'Ami Chen' which has an AM/AOS, so if it were my plant, the tag would read Blc. Erin Kobayashi 'Ami Chen' AM/AOS. According to the RHS, the current name would be Rlc. Erin Kobayashi 'Ami Chen' AM/AOS although not too long ago they would have told you Rsc. Erin Kobayashi 'Ami Chen' AM/AOS. Clear as mud?



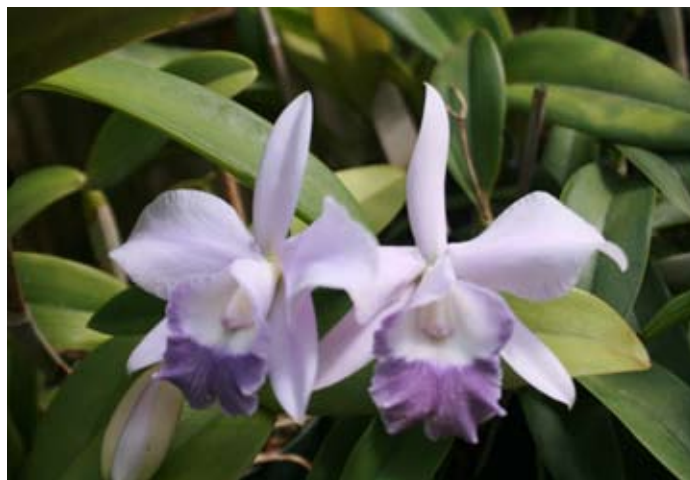
Q. This is the second time this little Den has bloomed for me. Last year and now. Does anyone of you guys know her name?

A. I think it is possible, but by no means certain, that your plant is Den. Burana Stripe. Unless you get a better suggestion, put Den. Burana Stripe ??? on the label so you know it's a possible maybe and someday you may see one in person and know for sure.

Q. Everything I read says I should go to once a week watering in the fall for my phals. They're growing inside in clay pots. Do I start now?



A. If your summer watering habit is to water twice a week, you should start increasing the time between watering gradually, pretty soon you'll be at once a week...Start by increasing to every fourth day, then fifth day, etc. Rather than adhering to a rigid schedule, try to judge when your plants look like they need water. Feel the weight of the pot, feel the potting medium, look at the leaves and general vigor of the plant and then follow your instincts. You'll be surprised at how much you know!



Lc. Mini Purple 'Blue Hawaii'



What's in Bloom in the SAOS



Lc. Golden Sun By: Bob Martin

Orchid Photography by Wolfgang Obst



**Blc. Yen Surprise x C. Penny Kuroda 'Spots' AM
By Wolfgang Obst**



**Blc. Dinh Thuy Yen 'Carmela Orchids'
By Wolfgang Obst**



C. Summer Spot 'Carmela' By Wolfgang Obst



Buy Flowering Sized Orchids

by Susan Taylor, BellaOnline.com



***Blc. Mahina Yahiro* By Wolfgang Obst**

If you are just starting out to grow orchids, buy flowering plants from a reputable dealer. They can be expensive, granted, but there are a number of reasons to go this route. Flowering orchids can last much longer than standard cut flowers or other potted indoor plants at close to the same price.

You will be able to see exactly what you are getting. There's nothing like being able to see the flower in person. Those beautiful pictures you see from vendors or on the internet cannot give you the same effect as seeing the plant with flowers on it. Even with mericlones, sometimes the flowers are not what you think they are. You will be able to enjoy the flowers for the period they're out for that instant gratification factor.



***Lc. Rabeiana* By Wolfgang Obst**

You know the plant has already flowered and will be capable of doing so again year after year when grown correctly. Your chances of re-flowering a plant are much greater than getting seedlings or near blooming sized plants to flower. Seedlings although very inexpensive are notoriously difficult for beginners to grow and can take from 5-12 years, depending upon variety, to reach flowering size. Near blooming size plants can take from 1-3 years to flower.

You will know what time of the year the plant flowers and be able to spread out your purchases so that you will have a good chance to have something flowering year round in the future. You will end up with a collection of plants that will offer something interesting at every season.



***Lc. Hawaiian Grandeur* By Wolfgang Obst**

One of the best choices is to enroll in one of the "Orchid of the Month" clubs offered by the major vendors. You will get a flowering plant every month or every other month, depending upon the offering. This is an excellent way to get quality plants to enjoy throughout the year as well as giving you a good selection of different types of flowering orchids to experiment with. Some will do better than others in your conditions and you can start learning how to grow them better.



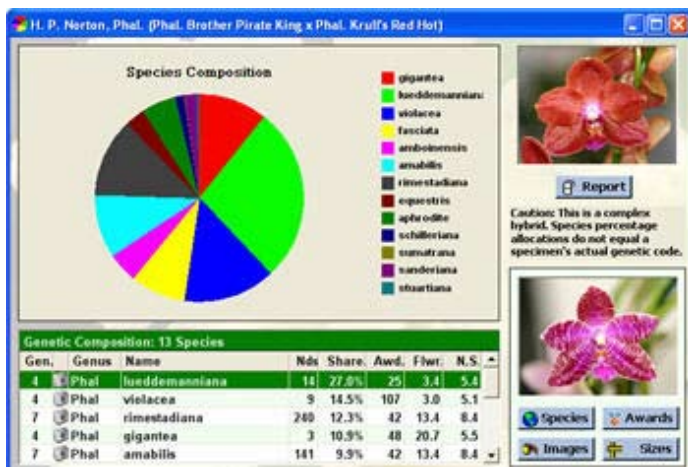
OrchidWiz Encyclopedia Christmas Auction Item

Start saving your nickels! OrchidWiz has donated a copy of the Encyclopedia program to SAOS for our Christmas auction. OrchidWiz has a new feature which allows you to keep a journal of all your plants, including your photographs for a complete pictorial record. Save your nickels, this is a \$259 value. The program requires Windows 2000, Windows XP or Windows Vista, 2 GB of disk space, and the ability to read a DVD (the CD is available for \$15).

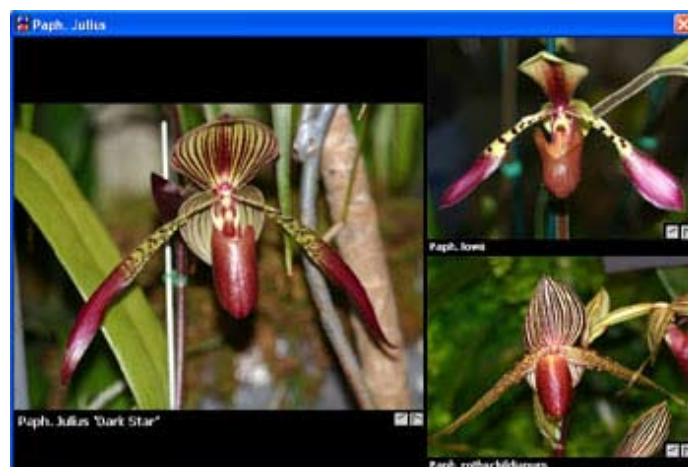
Just to whet your appetite, some of the program screens are shown below, check out the website for a tutorial on how to use the program. OrchidWiz Encyclopedia contains more than 30 different analysis windows, providing the most complete and accurate information on orchid species and hybrids ever assembled. Here are just a few examples:



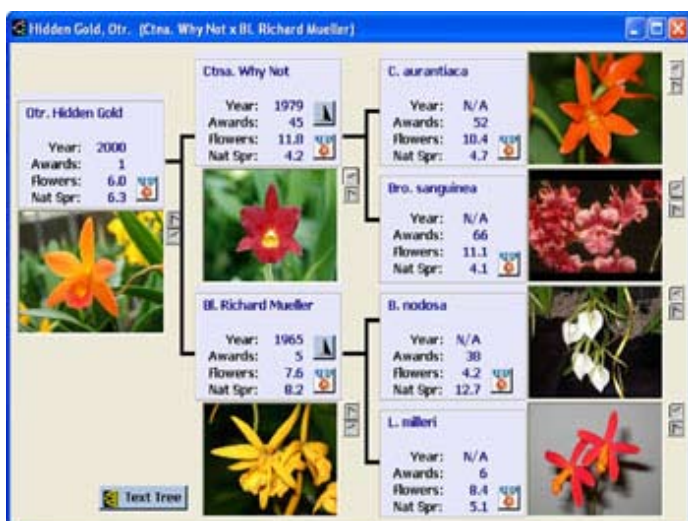
Display cultivation recommendations for *Odcdm. Wildcat*



Show species composition of *Phal. H. P. Norton*



Show the offspring of *Paph. rothschildianum*



Display image tree for *Otr. Hidden Gold*



Show the progeny of *Phal. amabilis*



SHOW TABLE



Grower John Van Brocklin
Blc. Bread Beauty 'Peach'



Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
Bulb. Jersey



Grower Dick Roth
V. Kultana Gold x
V. sanderiana 'alba'



Grower Vivienne Rowe
Onc. ampliatus



Grower Courtney Hackney
Paphinia Majestic



Grower Bill Gourley
Den. Sena Red



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Mycaranthes vanoverberguii 'Kaycee's Joy'
CHM/AOS



SHOW TABLE



Grower John Van Brocklin
Lc. Angel Heart 'Nora'



Grower Dick Roth
Pot. Burana Beauty 'Burana'



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Yellow Candy



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Cirr. Louise Sanders



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Paph. Maudiae 'The Queen'



Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
C. bowringiana semialba 'Tower Grove'

