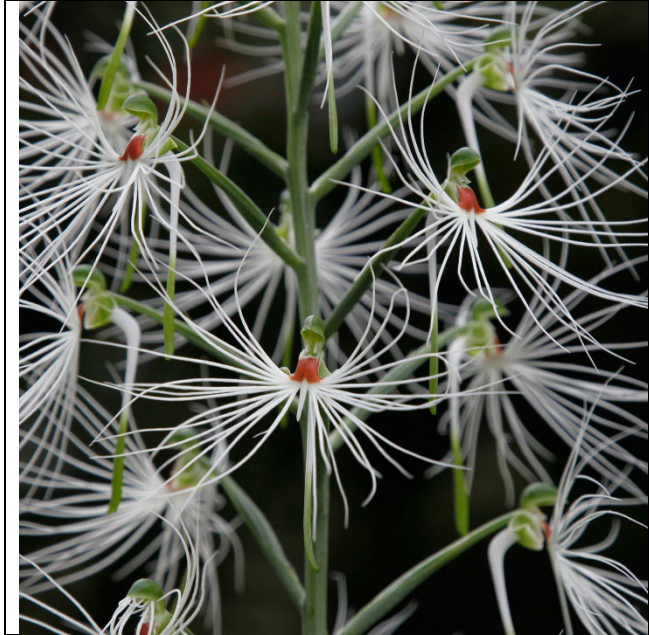




## Habenarias in Fall

by Sue Bottom, [sbottom15@hotmail.com](mailto:sbottom15@hotmail.com)



Habenaria medusa in bloom. Who could resist this flower? During the growing season, Habenarias like to stay evenly moist. Good quality water and plenty of dilute fertilizer will help produce beautiful blooms.



Reduce watering frequency once the flowers begin to fade, then cut the spike. Let the plant dry slightly between waterings. The leaves will start to yellow as the nutrients are reabsorbed back into the tuberoids.



Once the leaves have browned, let the plant and potting media dry out. Once the leaves and the base of the growths are dry and crispy and the media has dried out, the stems pull away easily from the pot with no resistance. The tubers are ready to be stored for dormancy.



It is easier to bring habenarias through dormancy if you unpot the tuberoids and store them either in clear plastic bags or an empty pot during the winter months. Find a warm, somewhat humid area where you can easily see new growth sprouting in the spring. This is Sarah Hurdel's photo of her set up.