



CLUB NEWS



Alan Koch

September 2 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks.

President Bob Schimmel opened the meeting at 7:15 pm with 60 attendees. Bob welcomed our 8 visitors and returning members. He also thanked Jeanette Smith, Dianne Batchelder and Christie Peppard for their wonderful refreshments

and reminded all to enjoy while dropping a dollar in the jar.

Linda Stewart recognized our birthday people with free raffle tickets. She showed a St. Augustine Record article describing Sue Bottom's beautiful collection of blooming epiphyllums. Linda also commended Courtney for naming a cattleya after Sue.

Sue then announced that the AOS is now offering a new online membership available for \$40 annually. This digital membership gives you access to the online magazine and the members only content on the website.

Club Business. Penny Halyburton, SAOS Librarian, advises members to just email her with your book selection and she will bring your requested book(s) to the next meeting.

For those in need of supplies, there are a variety of potting mixes and fertilizers for sale at the side table every meeting.

Bob reminded all to attend the next Keiki Club on September 14 at Mary and Louis Colee's home, 855 Oak Ridge Road in St. Augustine. The topic will be "Fall Preparations".

The next Repotting Clinic at Ace Hardware on U.S. 1 is this Saturday from 9 am – 1 pm.



Orchid Events. There's is an auction on September 23 at the Flagler County Orchid Society. Fred will be the auctioneer.

Mark your calendars for the Gainesville Orchid in the Garden show, October 25 to 26. Our club will be participating and setup

is the 24th starting at 9:30 am with tear down on the 26th at 5-7 pm. Harry McElroy is organizing our group's efforts. Everyone was reminded to start preparing their orchids for the Gainesville show. Harry stood up and demonstrated how we should start staking our plants for better presentation of the flowers.

Program. Sue Bottom welcomed our speaker Alan Koch, owner of Gold Country Orchids in Lincoln, Ca. whose talk was entitled "Species Habitat, Hybrid Culture". Alan started by showing us photos of orchids in situ and he described a field trip to Veracruz, Mexico where he was able to observe orchids in their natural habitat. He was stunned to see orchids he had always been told needed low light growing in full sun in arid conditions. From then on he always reminded himself to study the location of the orchid's original cultivation. He stressed that the way you want to grow your orchids is to match their original climate conditions. Then you will have success with more blooms and a more vigorous plant.

Alan gave several examples of plants that he grew based on their presumed cultural requirements with minimal success. After studying their habitat and either visiting or conversing with growers in the native area, he then started



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Upcoming Orchid Events

September

- 6 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 9 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Phillip Hamilton, Bredren Orchids
- 14 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Fall Preparations
Mary and Louis Colee's Home
855 Oak Ridge Road, St. Aug 32086

October

- 3-5 South Florida Orchid Society Show
BankUnited Center, Univ of Miami
- 4 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 4-5 Home and Garden Show
Agricultural Center, St. Aug
- 4-5 Florida West Coast Orchid Society
St. Pete Garden Club
- 7 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Spotted and Splashed Cattleyas
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
- 11-12 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show
Fort Pierce Shrine Club
- 14 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Catasetums
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
- 24-26 Orchttoberbest at EFG Orchids
4265 Marsh Road, Deland 32724
- 25-26 Gainesville Orchid Society Show
Kanapaha Botanical Garden
- 26 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 11 am
Gainesville Orchid Society Show
Meet at Flying J to Carpool
- 25-27 East Everglades Orchid Society Show
Gardens at RF Orchids
- 26-27 Brevard County Orchid Society Show
Melbourne Auditorium

November

- 1 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 4 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
A Hybridizer's Perspective
Jamie Lawson, Hummingbird Orchid Lab
- 11 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Schombo Sex
Paul Storm, Meke Aloha Orchids



St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Bob Schimmel schimmelr55@bellsouth.net
First Vice President Program Chair	Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Second Vice President Publicity Chair	Yvonne Schimmel yrs58@bellsouth.net
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Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom bottomt@bellsouth.net
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growing his orchids in a similar environment to their original habitat and they doubled in size within a year. He found his plants grow faster and stronger when they are allowed to grow the way they want.

Alan then described some of the adaptations that can occur in the natural environment. One species, *Cattleya intermedia*, grows as smaller, less robust plants at lower elevations and stronger, taller plants at higher elevations. Overtime, as imported honeybees pollinated species growing at the two altitudes, natural hybrids between the two species started growing at intermediate elevations and thrived. If a plant growing at the lower levels was moved higher, it would start growing like the other high elevation plants.

Another species had mosquitoes as its natural pollinator. Once while he was enjoying his friend's orchids growing well he was bitten by numerous mosquitoes, and he concluded that he needed to move his plants from the west to the east side of the greenhouse where wetter conditions would prevail. Subsequently, they doubled in their flower count.

Within a given group of orchids, different species respond differently to the typical growing conditions for that genus. Many cattleyas grow best in very bright light, but there are some like *Cattleya luteola* that enjoy shadier, cooler conditions. If it is grown in bright light, it is also warmer than it likes and has to use more energy to cool itself off. The net result is that it diminishes the production of flowers. Another example is *Cattleya schilleriana* that breathes and photosynthesizes through its roots. If you put it in a clay pot, you reduce the carbon dioxide uptake to the plant. Accordingly, it's best to mount the *C. schilleriana*. A tip he shared was to use pantyhose and you can get them cheap at the dollar stores. After a year the pantyhose, used to hold the plant to the mount, disintegrates and the roots are beautifully and firmly attached. Any plant that photosynthesizes through its roots should be put into clear pots with good ventilation.

Another tip Alan shared was how to use sphagnum moss in a collar method for planting to facilitate drying out of the medium and good air circulation around the roots. When potting, you take a ball of the moss and shove it up under the base of the plant around the roots. Next you



Art cleaned up on the raffle



Post meeting huddle with Fred Keefer

wrap the longer strands of the moss in a circular fashion around the roots and put it down into the pot. This leaves the bottom half of the pot void of plant material. Then as the plant grows the roots pull down the sphagnum which allows air to continue to flow around the roots and the moss to dry between watering.

Alan discussed the hot season which is when he uses more calcium nitrate. The higher the heat, the higher the humidity, the higher need for calcium. The calcium nitrate will also react with some accumulated salts in the root zone so they can be flushed from the pots. Any plant that gets lots of rainfall is very salt sensitive therefore it's better to mount those types of plants so they leach their salts quicker. He also noted that all fertilizers are absorbed between 20 to 25 minutes after being placed on the plant. After that time period, nothing more is absorbed so if you flush your pots with a purer water source after watering you can reduce the salt content in the pot.

In ending, he reminded everyone that there are numerous resources ranging from search engines such as Google, world maps, weather sites and your friends at your orchid society. Any information you can get from people who actually live where your orchids are grown is even better but the best is to travel to your orchids natural habitat yourself.

Meeting Conclusion. After a short intermission, our hale and hearty Dick Roth announced the Member's Choice Award, a tie between his Lctna. Renate 'S&W' AM/AOS and John VanBrocklin's *Ctism. tenebrosum*. The raffle table was the final event of the evening with Fred, Christie Peppard and Dianne Batcheldor presiding. Thanks to all of those that stayed and cleaned up the room.

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



CLUB NEWS



September 14 Keiki Club Fall Preparations

It may not feel like it, but winter is coming and it's time to start your fall preparations. We'll talk about getting your plants ready for their winter home and the minimum night time temperatures your plants can tolerate in winter. We'll also talk about those orchids that require special winter care, like the deciduous dendrobiums and the catasetinae. Call Keiki Club Coordinator Mary Colee at 669-8760 if you have any questions.

Where: Mary and Louis Colee's Home
[855 Oak Ridge Road, St. Aug 32086](#)

When: Sunday, September 14, 1 to 3 pm



August 17 Keiki Club Growing Different Types of Orchids

About a dozen guests and visitors met in the air conditioned Moultrie Oaks Clubhouse. Bob Schimmel filled in for the planned speaker and brought flowering samples of orchids from Yvonne and his collection including cattleyas, vandas, dendrobiums and oncidiums. Bob highlighted the various ways to grow orchids outside in our summers including how often to water and fertilize the various types, lighting needs and different methods of hanging the plants. We also discussed when to bring in certain plants based on cooling temperatures. After Bob's presentation, we opened up the floor to any questions one had on raising orchids and a lively discussion followed.



October 7 Monthly SAOS Meeting Spotted and Splashed Cattleyas

Crowd favorite Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids located in Vista, California will speak about Spotted and Splashed Cattleyas at the October 7 meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. If you like spots, splashes and flares on your cattleya flowers, this talk is for you. Fred will also cover the cultural practices for growing these remarkable plants. Fred is an AOS judge and orchid hybridizer, who created Sunset Valley Orchids in 1995 as a natural outgrowth of his hobby. Sunset Valley Orchids is a boutique style nursery dedicated to excellent customer service and unique offerings of award quality orchids. Fred is offering a 10% discount on preorders from his website. Just email your order and tell him to bring your new plants to the St. Augustine Orchid Society meeting.

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INSPIRATION



Encyclia radiata

Terry Botta



CULTIVATION

Your Orchids in September

based on Robert Scully, Ned Nash & James Rose checklists, courtesy of the AOS



General Growing Tips. The welcome transition to fall is upon us. Once the temperature and humidity mediate, you'll notice many of your plants putting on a second growth spurt, reward them by watering a little more frequently with dilute fertilizer. You can expect the emergence of buds on many orchids from the cattleyas, evergreen dendrobiums and vandas to cycnoches, catasetums and miltonias. Select the ideal spot for the plant and place pendulous bloomers atop an inverted pot. Support the inflorescence as it emerges and open the sheath to prevent the accumulation of moisture around the developing buds.

Cattleyas. Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, you will see a flush of new root tips. Keep water and fertilizer in balance with heat and light. Check plants for potting needs for the last time. Any in dire need should be repotted as there is just enough of the growing season left for plants to establish before the days get short and cold. The spectacular, multiflowered *C. bowringiana* should be in sheath. Observe the puffy sheath structures often, they may need to be opened at the tip to encourage evaporation of condensation that forms around the buds. *C. labiata* and its hybrids will begin to flower this month along with the spectacular and fragrant forms of the species *C. percivaliana*.

Cymbidiums. Through diligent breeding programs, the cymbidium season gets stretched longer and longer. *Cym. ensifolium* hybrids will bloom first with the winter blooming standard sized hybrids soon to follow. Stake inflorescences and move plants to a shadier location to help the flowers develop.

Dendrobiums. This is the season for the phalaenopsis

and canaliculatum type dendrobiums. The long, arching sprays of flat dark red-purple to white or pink saucer-like blossoms provide weeks of satisfaction. Fertilize with low nitrogen fertilizer for the best flowers. Nobile-type hybrids should continue to be maintained on a nitrogen free fertilizer program. You can start to gradually reduce watering frequency on the winter dormant dendrobiums.

Oncidiums. Of the three popular pansy orchids *Miltonia xbluntii*, *roezlii* and *spectabilis*, the latter is probably the most showy. The reddish purple flowers of *Milt. spectabilis* var. *moreliana* usually appear singly and last for weeks.

Paphiopedilums. Standard green-leaved paphiopedilums begin to show their bloom sheaths this month. Late season heat waves can blast these early sheaths, so provide proper cooling and air circulation.

Phalaenopsis. The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month. Begin to watch watering more carefully and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. *Phal. hieroglyphica* flowers reliably in the autumn. Its fragrant pale yellow flowers are distinctively marked with well defined brown lines on the sepals and petals. *Phal. equestris* and *Phal. lindenii* may also show their best now, the former may be everblooming through spring and the latter will arouse curiosity with its attractively striped lip.

Vandas. This is the principal blooming season for *V. sanderiana* that is the foundation for large flowered modern vandaceous hybrids. Position plants so the inflorescences will grow out of the leaves toward the light. Help uncooperative types by placing a thin bamboo stick between the emerging inflorescence and the flattened form of the leaves, thereby forcing the raceme outward.

Other Genera: Catasetum Relatives. Autumn is typically the end of the growing season for the catasetum relatives. Plants may produce flowers from pseudobulbs with leaves, or in some instances, from bulbs that have already lost their leaves. Watch the undersides of the leaves to control spider mites which seem to find these delicacies just as the foliage reaches its prime or plants are about to bloom. Support the basal racemes of catasetums as they emerge and consider placing the pots on inverted pots to provide room for them to hang freely.



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q1. I have been given the task of saving these orchids for a friend. I don't even know what they are. Any info you have would be appreciated.



Q 1

A1. I think those are reed stem epidendrums. Some people actually grow them in the ground, although they may need protection from cold at temperatures below 40F. I put them in a pot with a tomato cage type wire structure around them to hold them up. You can use your choice of potting mix, whatever works for your other plants.

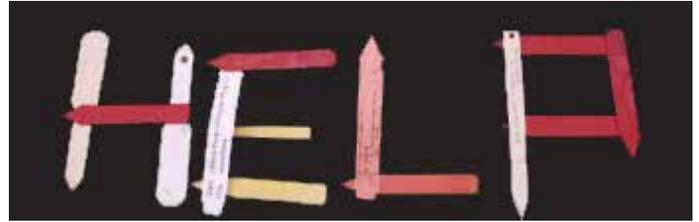
Q2. I got this as a gift two months ago. I only watered it once so far and did not realize that I over watered until seeing the purple flowers drop. I flipped over the pot and there was actually water flowing out! Apparently it affected the purple side only.



Q 2

A2. I think the phal with the pretty purple flowers has crown rot and it probably is not going to make it. Sometimes "arrangements" are sold where plants in individual pots are combined into a larger pot with a decorative moss topping and no drainage. As you have found out, this makes them "disposable" like cut flowers because the plants will not grow well without drainage. If you pull the plastic pots out, you can water that separately and after watering it, drop them back into the decorative pot. Better yet, keep each plant in its own pot with a drainage hole.

Q3. I bought a Zygopetalum about a month ago. It has been doing well at our bay window facing south-east where I keep all my orchids. All of a sudden all the flowers started to drop one by one and I noticed some browning on the



leaves and stems. Is this a sign of some disease?

A3. You got a month of pleasure from the flowers. That's about how long they bloom so don't be concerned about the flower drop. The brown streaking on the leaves is not a good thing though. I think it is perhaps bacterial because it looks a little sunken and has the yellow halo around it. Get



Q 3

some hydrogen peroxide out of the medicine cabinet and pour it over the leaves, maybe tip it over the kitchen sink so the peroxide doesn't drip on the roots. Cut the old flower spike off at the base. You have a nice healthy new growth, and that is the future of your plant.

Q4. I recently acquired a terete vanda when its host plant was cut down. I have put it into a pot with coco husk chunk and dried twig. It is in bright but not direct sunlight and is watered daily in the morning. It is shriveling. What am I doing wrong?



Q 4

A4. I bet the plant just has to adapt to its new home and grow new roots. You could spray the plant a couple times a day until it grows new roots. Good quality cypress mulch is another good option for potting up terete vandas.



CULTIVATION

Why Grow Species Orchids

By Gary Hart, [Sutherland Shire Orchid Society](#)

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Species orchids are those orchid plants that are found growing as indigenous plants that have evolved in the wild over the centuries. There are estimated to be in excess of 30,000 species worldwide, making them one of, if not the, largest of the flowering plants families. They are found across the world in environments from the tropics to semi-deserts and come in an enormous variety of colours, shapes and forms.

So why should orchid growers keep at least some species orchids in their collections? Species orchids were first on the scene, with all the approximately 100,000 registered hybrids coming from them. If you are a grower who loves a certain genera, there are species available for you. Therefore *cattleya* growers can also keep some of the original species the modern day hybrids were produced from.

As the biodiversity of the world shrinks and as forests are cleared and plants are lost forever, orchid growers can be instrumental in keeping a plant alive that has taken thousands of years to evolve. If all orchid growers, worldwide, kept some species orchids an enormous and irreplaceable gene pool would exist. *Paph. delenatii* is a good example of a plant that was down to what was thought at the time to be the last plant until it was propagated and distributed around the world. It is exciting to see it has recently been rediscovered in the wild.

Species orchids are fascinating in their colour, shape and habit. All these features are the result of generations of evolution and adaptation to both an environment and in many cases a specific pollinator. A *stanhopea* flower is the shape it is for a reason, not some weird fluke of nature. Investigating why species orchids are the way they are is a fascinating educational experience. We as growers really should spend more time looking at our plants, I mean really looking at the details of the plant and in particular the flowers we treasure so greatly. They really are fascinating, not just attractive!

Often species orchids are a greater challenge to grow than hybrids, which have the increased benefit of vigour. You have to adapt your conditions to reproduce and maintain an artificial environment similar to their homeland. Species orchids in cultivation are often faced with the dilemma of "adapt or die!" This is a challenge for both plant and grower, but so rewarding when you see them thrive. When species orchids flower for you it is fascinating to imagine the plant growing and appearing in the wild.

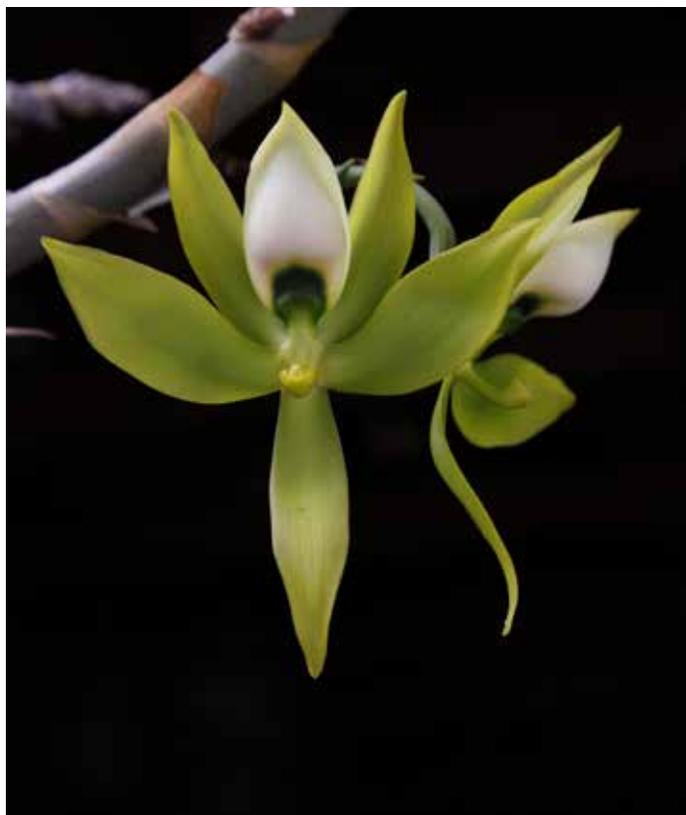
There are specialist clubs, internet sites, and literature on species orchids. This ranges from the most technical

to the marvelous coffee table picture books so inviting to the dedicated species lover. There are orchid stamps from around the world, rare and reproduced orchid prints, orchid jewelry and the list goes on.

Orchid species collecting is cloaked in the most fascinating stories of adventure, deceit, bravery and intrigue known in the plant world. Edwardian and Victorian English gentry scored some of the greatest collectors of plants (and animals) the world has known. The tales of the plant collectors makes for wonderful reading, and adds a "romance" to species orchids that excites the imagination to this day.

Worldwide there is a great upsurge of interest in species orchids. They are the symbols of the old new world, the emblems of countries and the remnants of an untouched world we once all shared. As people globally clear the land to live, the flora of countries, like Madagascar for example, are destroyed, never to be replaced. Surely part of our responsibility is to preserve this plant diversity so that our lives, and those of future generations can be enriched forever.

Species orchids offer growers the greatest challenge in a world where plant diversity is shrinking daily. They are the gems our hobby is based on, and the "raw material" for future developments. If you don't already grow species orchids give the idea some thought. You will not regret the experience



CULTIVATION

Understanding Your Plant Tag

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Which one of your children is your favorite? Maybe it will be easier for you to pick your favorite seedling from this cross of *C. Mrs. Mahler* 'Mem. Fred Tomkins' x *C. Fort Motte* 'Leopard' made by John Stanton of [The Orchid Trail](#) in Morrisville, North Carolina.



Cultivar #2



Cultivar #3



Cultivar #4



Cultivar #5



Cultivar #6



Cultivar #7

Knowing how I like the bifoliate, Courtney Hackney forwarded me John's pictures of several cultivars from this grex. All the progeny of a hybridizing event are referred to as a grex. Individual plants within the grex may be given cultivar or clonal names. As of this writing, John just assigned numbers as clonal names for various cultivars. The colors of individual cultivars in this grex range from orangey bronze to purple, and some have lots of spots and others just a few.

The first name of any cross is always the pod parent and the second name is the pollen parent. This means that the pollen from *C. Fort Motte* was placed on the stigmatic surface of the *C. Mrs. Mahler* and the seed pod formed on the mother plant. This hybrid had not yet been registered with the Royal Horticultural Society when I wrote this article, but once it is any hybrid between *Mrs. Mahler* and *Fort Motte* will carry the same registered name regardless of which is the pod and which the pollen parent.

You can learn a lot about a plant's genealogy from its name. The abbreviation preceding the plant's name tells you the plant genus, in this case a *Cattleya* as designated by the abbreviation *C.* A genus is a grouping of plants with similar characteristics that interbreeds easily. The information on the plant tag will allow you to generate your plant's family tree.

Mom is *Cattleya Mrs. Mahler*, a name registered in 1901 for the primary hybrid between *Cattleya bicolor* and *Cattleya guttata*. A primary hybrid is simply a cross between two species parents. Species are subdivisions within a genus of similar orchids that are reproductively isolated from their closest relatives. You can tell that the *C. bicolor* and *C. guttata* are species because the first letter of their species names is not capitalized (species names should also be italicized though this rule is not followed rigorously). You know *Mrs. Mahler* is a hybrid from the plant tag because the first letter of her name is capitalized.

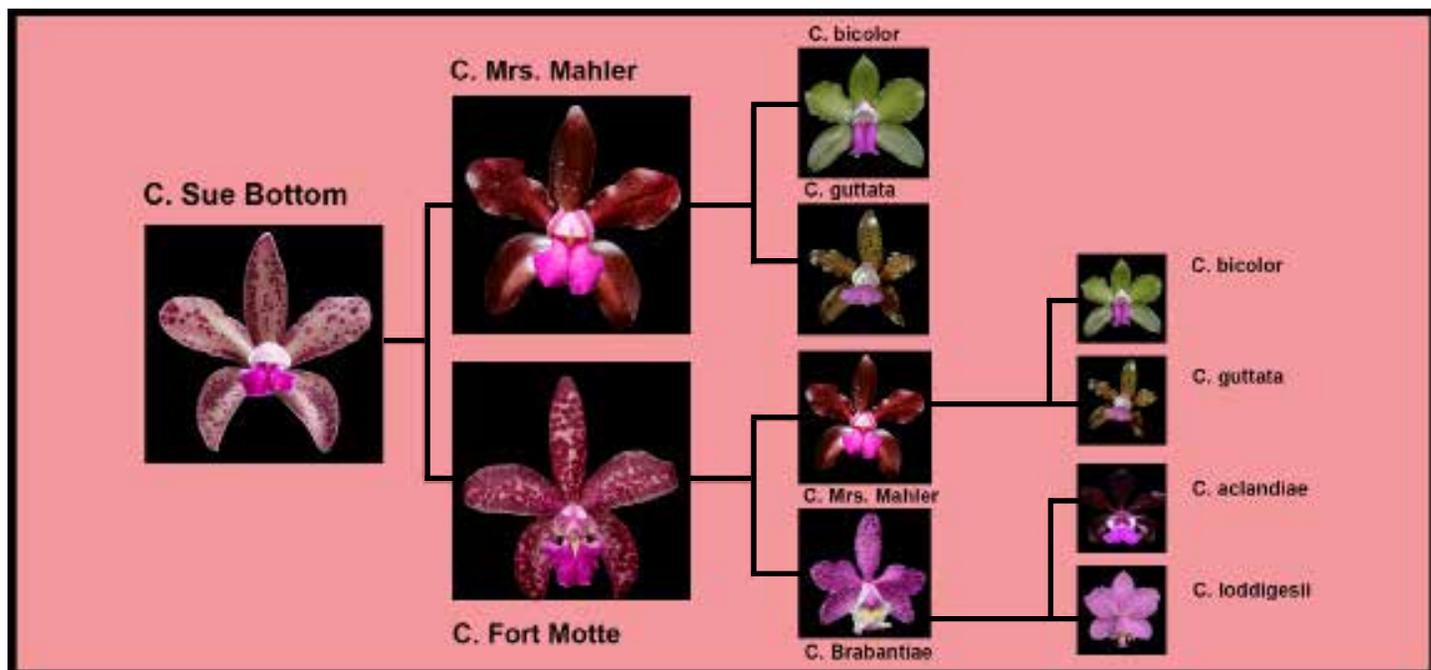
A specific cultivar of this grex was taken to judging by the American Orchid Society by George Off & Sons in 1977 who named the cultivar 'Memoria Fred Tomkins' after it was given an Award of Merit (AM), a flower quality award. Any division or mericlone from this cultivar should be genetically identical so it will carry the same name as the mother plant. Mom's full proper name is *C. Mrs. Mahler* 'Mem. Fred Tomkins', AM/AOS. Six years later, George Off & Sons were given a Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM) for the same plant, a cultural award given to the grower.

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If John Stanton's Hybrid Was Human...		
Orchid Term	Using John Stanton's Cross as the Example	The Human Equivalent
Pod Parent	C. Mrs. Mahler 'Mem. Fred Tomkins', AM/AOS	Mom
Seed Parent	C. Fort Motte 'Leopard'	Dad
Grex	C. Mrs. Mahler x C. Fort Motte	All the Children in the Brood
Registered Name	Seedlings: C. Sue Bottom Mom's Name: C. Mrs. Mahler Dad's Name: C. Fort Motte	Surname or Last Name
Clonal or Cultivar Name	Seedlings: Identified only by numbers '#2', '#3', etc. as of this writing Mom's Name: Mem. Fred Tomkins Dad's Name: Leopard	Given Name or First Name
Genus	Cattleya	Homo
Species	bicolor, guttata, aclandiae and loddigesii are all present in the bloodlines	sapiens

Cattleya Fort Motte, the pollen parent or Dad, is the offspring of Cattleya Mrs. Mahler and Cattleya Brabantiae. John Stanton used the cultivar C. Fort Motte 'Leopard' in making his cross. This cultivar was never awarded but it carries a clonal name because Carter and Holmes, the grower who made and registered C. Fort Motte, thought the flower was special enough that they wanted to be able to distinguish it from its siblings. The grandparents are Brabantiae, a primary hybrid between the great grandparents *C. aclandiae* and *C. loddigesii*, and Mrs. Mahler, a primary hybrid between the great grandparents *C. bicolor* and *C. guttata*.

Imagine my surprise when Courtney told me that John has allowed him to name this hybrid, and he chose the name Sue Bottom. This cross has been registered with the Royal Horticultural Society as Cattleya Sue Bottom, what an honor!



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C. Sue Bottom

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ORCHID ADVENTURES



Orchid Adventures The Orchid Trail in Morrisville, NC

No road trip would be complete without a few stops to orchid nurseries, this time the [Orchid Trail](#) in North Carolina. It was August and the bifoliate cattleyas were putting on their show. I ended up with two trays of new cattleyas to bring home, some in bloom picked for their beautiful flowers and some picked for the hoped for blooms based on the plant tag information. We shall see how they bloom out. The greenhouse housing John and Paul's personal collections was incredible, with an extensive variety of dendrobiums, not to mention oddballs including many pleurothallids. What a treat!



SHOW TABLE



Grower Courtney Hackney
Pot. Susan Fender 'Newberry'



Grower Linda Stewart
Alcra. Hilo Ablaze 'Hilo Gold' AM/AOS



Grower Linda Powell
Onc. Sharry Baby



Grower Sue Bottom
C. Sue Bottom 'St. Augustine'



Grower Linda Stewart
Aeranthes grandiflora



Grower Yvonne & Bob Schimmel
Lc. Tainan City



Grower Sue Bottom
Onc. longipes 'Woodlands'



SHOW TABLE



Grower John Van Brocklin
Ctsm. tenebrosum



Grower Dick Roth
Lctna. Renate 'S&W' AM/AOS



Grower Sue Bottom
Blc. Lake Murray 'Mendenhall' AM/AOS



Grower Courtney Hackney
Blc. Stan Hutto



Grower Courtney Hackney
C. Xanthette 'Krull-Smith' AM/AOS



Grower John Van Brocklin
C. Laurie Lynn Westernberger 'July'

