



## CLUB NEWS



### November 7 Meeting

by Janis Croft

#### Welcome and Thanks.

Tom Sullivan opened the meeting at 6:45 pm with 48 attendees. He

thanked Julie and Paul, Dottie and Ann for the treats and reminded all to remember to “Drop a Dollar” if you enjoyed them. Tom announced we are starting early because of the number of plants brought in for our judging presentation. He then stated that the Silent Auction plants will conclude before tonight’s presentation begins.

**Club Business.** *Welcome* Membership VP Linda Stewart welcomed our guests and introduced our new members Hookey Hamilton, Caroline Marshall and Heide Rice. She asked our November birthday people to raise their hands to receive their free raffle ticket. She asked 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](mailto:info@staugorchidsociety.org).

*Virtual Show Table.* We received so many photos for November that we changed our minds and will be hosting a Virtual Show Table on Thursday November 16 at 7 pm. Email invitations will be sent out with Zoom link beforehand. Each month’s Virtual Show Table is recorded and posted on our website. If you can’t bring blooming plants to the meeting, please send in your photos for our newsletter and website by the.

*Repotting Clinic.* We will start back up in February. Many of your orchids are slowing down, so reduce your watering frequency and fertilize less. The spring blooming dendrobiums, catasetums, habenarias and similar types are either dormant or will be soon. Phals, hard cane dendrobiums and the big two toned vandas should be in their winter homes by now.



*Christmas Party and Auction* Our annual celebration and auction will be on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Leslie Brickell will be smoking her famous pork butts and Janis

Croft will cook up Dianne Batchhelder’s Chicken Orzo. A Sign Up sheet was passed around for members to sign up for what side dishes they plan on bringing.

*Nominating Committee.* All the current board members have agreed to stay on in their positions. President-Tom Sullivan, VP’s Communications-Janis Croft, Events-Dianne Batchhelder, Membership-Linda Stewart, Programs-Sue Bottom, Treasurer-Cathy Mayo, and Directors-at-Large-Charlie Bridgham, Leslie Brickell and Jerry Fowler. Sue announced that we all need help so we would welcome anyone that wants to learn the ropes by becoming a backup to any of our board members. In particular, Sue is asking for someone that would be interested in helping her with the Programming.

*2024 Calendars.* We are ordering a limited number of wall calendars featuring the Members Choice plants for \$25 each and there was a sign up with Cathy at the back table. If you were unable to sign up, contact Sue with your quantity asap by email to [info@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@staugorchidsociety.org)

*Supplies.* Email [info@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@staugorchidsociety.org) if you need supplies.

*Library.* Librarian Howard Cushnir brought in two “orchid related” fiction books from the library, The Orchid Thief and Orchid Fever. If you would like a book or magazine, send a request to [info@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@staugorchidsociety.org) and he will bring the item(s) to the next meeting.

**SAOS Program.** Sue introduced our guest AOS judge, Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids who talked about all the plants brought to the show table, their culture and evaluated the awardability. Alan along with Courtney Hackney provided an overview of the judging process and an informal judging of the plants brought in to the Show Table. First, they talked about the difference between Ribbing judging and AOS judging. With ribbon judging, an orchid is compared to the other orchids in its same class at the Exhibit. With AOS judging, an orchid is compared to other awarded plants of the same species or hybrid. Every judging event is different depending upon location and the judges that are present. There is an official judging manual, which outlines the rules judges follow, and it is available on the AOS website.

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## Upcoming Orchid Events

### November

- 11 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am  
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 11-12 Deerfield Beach Orchid Society Show  
Safe Schools Institute
- 14 JOS Meeting, Winter Growing Tips, 6 pm  
Jax Orchid Society Members
- 16 Virtual Show Table  
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace  
Invitation Will be Sent by Email

### December

- 5 SAOS Christmas Auction, 6:30 pm  
Memorial Lutheran Church
- 9 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am  
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 9-10 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show  
Riverwalk Center
- 12 JOS Christmas Auction  
Enza's in Mandarin

### January

- 2 SAOS Meeting, C. walkeriana & nobilor  
Memorial Lutheran Church
- 5-7 Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show  
Charles Dodge City Ctr, Pembroke Pines
- 6 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am  
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 6-7 Sarasota Orchid Society Show  
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
- 9 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA  
Speaker TBA
- 11 Virtual Show Table  
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace  
Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 12-14 Tamiami International Orchid Festival  
Dade County Fair Expo Center
- 13 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm  
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 19-21 Apopka Int'l Winter Orchid Show  
Krull Smith Nursery, Apopka

27-28 Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show  
Seminole Recreation Center

### February

- 3 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 9 am til noon  
Southeast Branch Library  
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 3-4 Venice Area Orchid Society Show  
Venice Community Center
- 6 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm  
Sue Bottom, SAOS  
Orchid Pests & Diseases
- 9-11 Greater Orlando Orchid Society Show  
Orlando Garden Club
- 13 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA  
Speaker TBA

### St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Tom Sullivan <a href="mailto:tomjs91@gmail.com">tomjs91@gmail.com</a>
Vice President Communications	Janis Croft <a href="mailto:croftie1984@gmail.com">croftie1984@gmail.com</a>
Vice President Events	Dianne Batchelder <a href="mailto:ladydi9907@aol.com">ladydi9907@aol.com</a>
Vice President Membership	Linda Stewart <a href="mailto:bindstew@hotmail.com">bindstew@hotmail.com</a>
Vice President Programs	Sue Bottom <a href="mailto:sbottom15@hotmail.com">sbottom15@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Cathy Mayo <a href="mailto:allatoonalady@gmail.com">allatoonalady@gmail.com</a>
Directors	Leslie Brickell, 2022 <a href="mailto:lesliebrickell@gmail.com">lesliebrickell@gmail.com</a> Charlie Bridgham, 2022 <a href="mailto:tech@burrindustries.com">tech@burrindustries.com</a> Jerry Fowler, 2023 <a href="mailto:jayinville@gmail.com">jayinville@gmail.com</a>
Exhibit Committee Chair	Janis Croft <a href="mailto:croftie1984@gmail.com">croftie1984@gmail.com</a>
Librarian	Howard Cushnir <a href="mailto:hscushnir@gmail.com">hscushnir@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom <a href="mailto:sbottom15@gmail.com">sbottom15@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:bottom406@gmail.com">bottom406@gmail.com</a>



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Alan then listed the criteria for AOS judging. A judge looks at the plant's best flowers and compares it to the best flower that has ever been awarded. There are different awards one can earn (see chart). Alan and Courtney primarily discussed flower quality awards HCC, AM, and FCC as well as cultural awards like CCM and CCE. When Alan is judging at his center, the student judges are responsible for researching the plants. They do this by going to OrchidPro (also available to all AOS members). Here they see the awards previously given, photos of the awarded plant, the measurements of total plant and flowers including number of flowers. They then report their findings to the AOS judging team as they decide whether the plant is likely to receive a higher award if the plant is accepted for judging. Alan insists that the first comment about the plant to its owner be positive although this is not the practice at all judging centers.

The judging chart was put up on the screen and Courtney with Alan reviewed the criteria and why points were different in each category. For example, the bifoliate cattleyas are so different from the labiate type cattleyas that they are

judged under the General category instead of the Cattleya category. If a plant is awarded, you would pay a \$40 fee to get your award recorded.

Then the two judges Courtney and Alan started going through our plants discussing if one would be awarded or not. Alan discussed how to improve the growth and the display and talked about what is important to the judges. Most of the time the leaves aren't integral to the award as long as the plant is healthy and without disease or pests. Alan said staking was fine and showed us how to best stake the inflorescences even on those that naturally hang down, like the fantastic Fdk. After Dark 'SVO Black Pearl' brought to the show table. Flower count is always important for any award as it shows the age and health of the plant. Courtney suggested using a cut up sponge to separate the buds as they emerge to encourage space between flowers. They ended with a few questions and encouraged us to consider becoming student judges if we wanted to learn more about orchids.

**Meeting Conclusion.** The evening concluded with the Raffle table. Thanks to the helpful hands that stayed to help clean and store the tables, chairs and room.

AOS Awards Chart		
HCC	Highly Commended Certificate	Awarded to Orchid species or hybrids scoring 75 to 79 points inclusive on a 100-point scale
AM	Award of Merit	Orchid species or hybrids scoring 80 to 89 points inclusive on a 100-point scale
FCC	First Class Certificate	The highest flower-quality award, awarded to orchid species or hybrids scoring 90 points or more on a 100-point scale
JC	Judges' Commendation	Given for distinctive characteristics that at least 75% of the judges on a team feel should be recognized but cannot be scored in the customary ways
AD	Award of Distinction	Awarded once to a cross representing a worthy new direction in Breeding. The award is granted unanimously without scoring by the judging team assigned
AQ	Award of Quality	Awarded once to a cross exhibited by a single individual as a group of not less than 12 plants or inflorescences of different clones of a hybrid or cultivated species. At least one of the inflorescences must receive a flower quality award and the overall quality of the group must be an improvement over the former type
CBR	Certificate of Botanical Recognition	Awarded to rare and unusual species with educational interest that has received no previous awards. The entire plant must be exhibited.
CHM	Certificate of Horticultural Merit	Awarded to a well-grown and well-flowered species or natural hybrid with characteristics that contribute to the horticultural aspects of orchidology, such as aesthetic appeal.
CCM	Certificate of Cultural Merit	Awarded to the exhibitor of a well-flowered specimen plant of robust health. The plant must have been in the care of the exhibitor at least 12 months immediately prior to the award and must score between 80 and 89 points inclusive on a 100-point scale
CCE	Certificate of Cultural Excellence	Awarded to the exhibitor of a well-flowered specimen plant of robust health. The plant must have been in the care of the exhibitor at least 12 months immediately prior to the award and must score at least 90 points on a 100-point scale. Plants receiving this award represent the highest level of orchid culture



# CLUB NEWS

## Show Table – Virtual and At Meeting

We've been debating whether to continue doing the Virtual Show Table programs or the in meeting Show Table discussion. We finally realized it is not an either/or proposition. We will continue soliciting pictures of your blooming orchids for the January Virtual Show Table. Courtney will continue talking about the different varieties of blooming orchids brought to the show table at our monthly meetings. We'll reinstitute the Members Choice voting on your favorite plant starting in January. Even if you can't attend the meeting, please send high res pics of your blooming beauties by the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month so the images can be included in the newsletter and on the website.

## Repotting Clinic

The prime repotting season is over for most of the orchids cultivated in our area. Phals should be exposed to temperatures into the mid 50's this month, which will trigger the flowering process. By mid-November, they should be moved to their winter homes. Shorter day lengths and cooler temperatures are causing the growth rate of most orchids to slow, so watering and fertilizing rates should be reduced. Winter dormant varieties like *Catasetums* and *Habenarias* are either dormant or entering dormancy, so no fertilizer and water sparingly, if at all. The spring blooming *Dendrobiums* are looking forward to a coolish dryish winter. We'll resume our repotting clinics in February of 2024, hope to see you there!

### American Orchid Society Corner

#### Webinars

November 12, 10 am – 3 pm, \$35 fee  
Speakers Day on Orchid Culture  
Michael Coronado, George Hatfield, Lauren Grobler,  
Julien Baruch and Frank Smith

November 15, 8:30 pm, AOS Members Only  
Brassavola – Beth Martin

November 16, 8:30 pm, Everyone Invited  
Greenhouse Chat - Ron McHatton

#### Orchids Magazine this Month

Multifloral Paph Culture – David Sorokowsky  
*Barkeria spectabilis* – Judith Rapacz-Hasler  
Seedling Heat Pads – Carol Klonowski  
Doubling Chromosomes – Ron Midgett

[Photos of Latest AOS Awards](#)



## December 5 Christmas Auction

We are looking forward to our Christmas party and auction where we get to kick back, have fun and spread holiday cheer with our orchid friends... and come home with orchids. Hope to see you there!

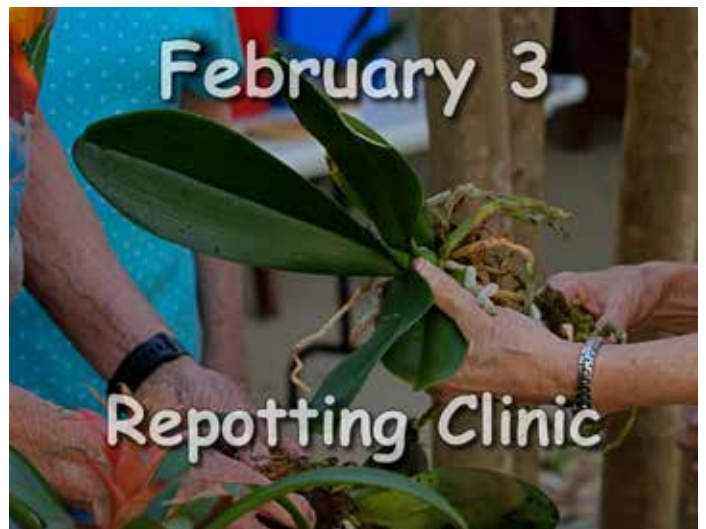
Our Christmas orchid auction is on our normal first Tuesday meeting night. We'll be setting up around 5:30 and start our social hour at 6:30 pm. This will give us a chance to exchange holiday cheer before we hit the vittles. Bring your beverage of choice. The club will provide the low octane water and coffee, but if you enjoy an adult beverage with your meal, feel free!

One thing you can always count on is all the good food. Leslie and Chip are making smoked pulled pork and Janis is making a grilled chicken and orzo entree. Bring a dish to round out the meal. Salads, pasta and vegetable side dishes and desserts have been big favorites in years gone by.

We'll have 2024 calendars and orchid plants available. We'll finish up the evening with an orchid auction where you can bid on a nice variety of different types of orchids

**When:** Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 til 9 pm

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



# INSPIRATION



*Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry' FCC/AOS*

© Terry Botta



# CULTIVATION



## Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com

**Q1.** These raised but dry blisters appeared on the underside of one leaf. What is this and what do I do about it?

**A1.** That is most likely edema, caused by watering late in the day or on a day that later turns gray or cool. Basically, the plant forms a blister because it can't transpire enough moisture. There's no treatment for it, you can read more about it [here](#).

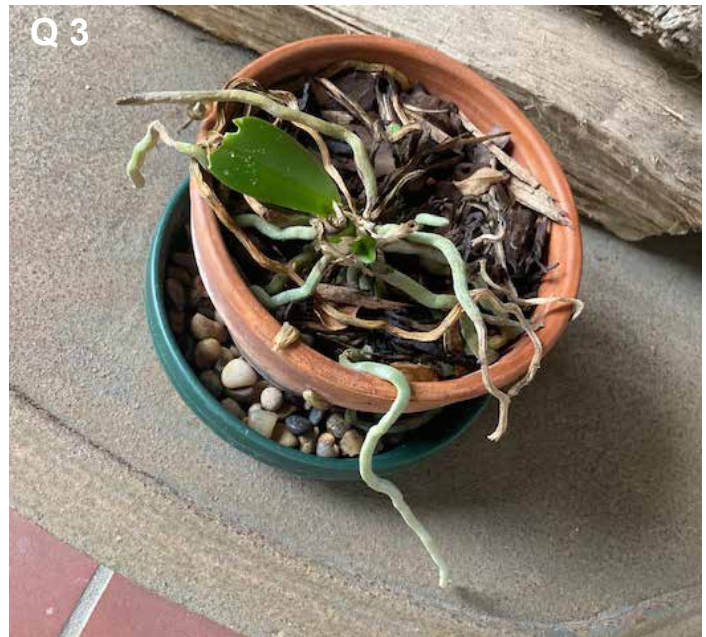


**Q2.** I have been told the blackening of a new growth stems from a calcium deficiency. Do you think that is the problem?



**A2.** It is possible that it is calcium deficiency, but my first reaction to the photo is that moisture got trapped in the emerging sheath and an opportunistic bacterial infection took hold and rotted the new growth. You can see the sheaths have open pockets where water can accumulate; these can be gently pulled down to allow water to drain away. The second youngest growth looks like it suffered the same fate. I would suspect a localized rot before calcium deficiency, which is often accompanied by an advancing yellow edge. You might as well cut it from the plant so the plant doesn't expend anymore energy on it.

**Q3.** This Phal is on a screened-in porch in Orlando. Should we leave it alone? Should we cut the dead roots?



**A3.** The mother plant is dying from crown rot, but you can see a basal keiki forming at about 4 o'clock in the picture. I would leave it alone until the keiki gets a little larger, and develops a root system to allow it to be separated from the mother plant. Bring it to the repotting clinic in February, and we'll get it situated in a new home. Until then, keep watering it and protect it from the cold.



# CULTIVATION



## Discard Non-Vibrant Plants

by Dr. Courtney Hackney

Charles Darwin would be proud if he had seen my approach to selecting phals this past year. Just a few years ago many of the phals from the new breeding lines were fairly expensive and hard to find. Today, we are inundated with large numbers of excellent clones of all types of phalaenopsis. As a result, most of us have more phals than space; hence my need for “the Darwinian approach”.

While flowers on many of these mericlones are spectacular with large flowers or spectacular spots and stripes, the plants that produce them can sometimes be difficult to grow in the home or greenhouse environment. In some cases, these phalaenopsis were never easy to grow except under very strict environments with lots of fertilizers. One recent email contact said that most of the clones he tested were virused, something I have noted in the past with many mericlones.

So how does one decide to keep some phals and discard others? This is not as easy as it sounds. Often, when store-bought phals are repotted there is a relatively long period of recovery as it gets new roots and leaves. This can take several months or even an entire growing season if the phal had lost its root system entirely. This period of recovery can mask the normal growth of a very vigorous phal.

At most commercial nurseries where these phals are grown, there is extensive use of fungicides and bactericides that can hide inherited susceptibility to disease. Unless a hobbyist has and uses some of the really effective, but restricted, products you are not likely to be able to provide the same level of protection.

Expose a bench of newly repotted phals from the pot plant trade to disease and many of



*Phal. Sir Elton John*  
(*I-Hsin Black Jack x Ever Spring Diamond*)

these mericlones will be very susceptible to diseases that are common. Other clones rarely become infected, even if their neighbor has become infected. Susceptibility to rots can be a genetic characteristic inherent in some clones, especially when they are grown in temperatures higher or lower than the ideal.

Instead of selecting phals based on the best flowers or because they have awards, I have discarded any that continually developed rots. Modern phal clones are all great, so little loss of quality resulted. There were clearly a number of breeding lines that were less susceptible to rots than others. These were selected and kept, while others were discarded with very similar genetic backgrounds.



*Phal. Sogo Vivien*  
(*Sogo Alice x Zuma's Pixie*)

The great advantage of having such a large supply of inexpensive phals with great flowers is the ability to discard those that do not grow well instead of spending lots of time and space taking care of weak phals. Years ago, phal hybridizers employed this approach and discarded weak seedlings. Now, however, disease control allows growers to mass-produce phal clones with great or unique flowers no matter how difficult the clone is to grow under normal conditions. In the past, I maintained these in my collection, but now have the ability to discard them since similar clones that grow better are available. This is a fantastic time to put together a great phal collection for what would have once cost a fortune.



*Phal. Fusheng's Glad Lip*  
(*Be Glad x Mount Lip*)

*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 November 2009.*



# CULTIVATION

## Fragrant Orchids

### Orchids to Perfume Your Collection Year Round

By Charles Marden Fitch, Courtesy of the AOS



*Angraecum sesquipedale* has a rich, complex perfume at night

Pleasantly scented orchid flowers perfume your home with intriguing exotic scents, adding to the fascination of each complex flower. Some orchids are so fragrant that you can find them in the jungle by following your nose. *Phalaenopsis violacea*, from the humid jungles of Southeast Asia, is one such species that collectors can locate easily when plants are in bloom. The flowers of members of the genus *Catasetum* and some cattleyas are also richly fragrant when warmed by the sun. On a negative note, there are a few foul-smelling flowers that few people enjoy at close range. Notorious noxious candidates are many *Bulbophyllum* species, with flowers reeking of decaying flesh or other deteriorating forms of organic matter. Fortunately, these stinky species keep their odors close but you will still notice the flowers if you are downwind on a humid day.

My favorite fragrant orchids include the genera *Brassavola* and *Angraecum*, whose members bear mostly white flowers that release their perfume at night. *Brassavola nodosa* is commonly called lady of the night because its spidery white flowers are so richly fragrant at nighttime. Even in a crowded greenhouse or plant-stuffed photography studio I know when a brassavola has bloomed: the night air smells like a lemon dessert with gardenia undertones. *Angraecum sesquipedale* and its hybrids have a rich, complex perfume at night. The *Angraecum* flowers, with their heavy substance, waxy texture and long spur are an excellent choice for a dramatic evening corsage.

Collected here are showy orchids worth growing for their pleasant perfumes. To maintain an ecologically sound balance, I have also included (with suitable warning notes) a few stinky selections, sure to delight the flies in your area.

*Angraecum*. *Angraecum* Ol Tukai (*comorense* x *sesquipedale*) and *Angraecum* Orchidglade (*sesquipedale* x *giryamae*) are both primary hybrids of white-flowered species that flower in early winter. I grow these bold 2- to 4-foot-tall wide-leaved plants under intermediate temperatures with bright cattleya-level light in my greenhouse. (Intermediate temperatures are 65 to 75 F during the day with a 10 F degree drop at night.) The plants respond well to weekly applications of fertilizer during the summer growing season, usually Dyna-Gro 7-9-5. In the autumn, I switch to a low-nitrogen fertilizer such as a 3-12-6 formula. Although one of the plants is 4 feet tall. I still carry the angraecums outside for the June to September growing season. Growth and flowering are better when the plants receive strong light, and at night, the scent of flowers is richly complex, a blend of ripe fruits with a gardenia punch.



*Brassavola nodosa* smells like a lemon dessert with gardenia undertones at night

*Brassavola*. *Brassavola nodosa* and *Rhyncholaelia* (syn. *Brassavola*) *digbyana* both thrive with strong light and intermediate temperatures. I grow my plants in pots with bark mix but these species will also thrive on cork or tree-fern slabs if the humidity is above 50 percent and you water regularly when new growths are forming. *Brassavola* flowers have a universally admired floral perfume at night. One clone of *B. nodosa* I collected in Cozumel, Mexico has a strong clove scent. Putting your nose in a *Rl. digbyana* flower to enjoy the nighttime perfume offers an added tactile tickle from the fringed lip.

*Bulbophyllum*. *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis* has flowers you'll want to admire only from a distance, as they smell like rotting flesh. Glen Decker says the odor is like a garbage can in the summer. I would add that he is not speaking of a vegetarian's garbage can. Decker grows his *Bulb. phalaenopsis* hanging up in the greenhouse where it





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*Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis* smells like a garbage can in the summer receives strong light. The foliage may drop if the roots are severely disturbed at repotting time. Many of the smaller-growing bulbophyllums with dark brown to purple flowers have disagreeable odors when smelled at close range.

**Catasetum Relatives.** *Catasetum* is a genus of strongly scented flowers whose aromas range from pleasant to odd. Several hybrids of *Catasetum fimbriatum* smell like coal tar or a blend of honey with tar. The strange perfume is strong at close range, but does not usually scent a wide area. Much more pleasant is the delicious cinnamon scent of *Clowesia rosea* and its hybrid with *Clowesia* Grace Dunn named *Clowesia* Rebecca Northen. *Clowesia rosea* and its close offspring are compact growers with pendent inflorescences bearing fringed flowers. *Cycnoches chlorochilon*, *Cycnoches warszewiczii* and their hybrids such as *Cycnoches* Cygnet (*chlorochilon* x *haagii*) have waxy yellow and white flowers with a powerful daytime scent of tropical fruits such as pineapple with guava. I grow cycnoches with catasetums and cattleyas, giving them similar culture.



*Clowesia* Grace Dunn has a delicious cinnamon scent

**Cattleya.** *Cattleya* hybrids, especially the *Brassolaeliocattleya* selections, are often pleasantly perfumed. Orchid catalogs of most commercial growers will identify hybrids that have fragrant flowers. One of my favorites for mellow rose-potpourri perfume with citrus undertones is *Brassolaeliocattleya* Raye Holmes 'Newberry' (*C. Bow Bells* x *Oconee*), which is now available at a fair price thanks to tissue-culture propagation. In contrast to the large voluptuous hybrids are the miniature hybrids such as *Laeliocattleya* Mini Purple (*L. pumila* x *C. walkeriana*), a 5-inch tall compact plant with flowers 3 inches across. The perfume is a light spicy blend with undertones of dusty cloves. *Cattleya* hybrid flowers are most fragrant when warmed by the morning sun.

**Cymbidium.** *Cymbidium* species from China, Japan, and Korea are appreciated mainly for their graceful leaves, small flowers, and lemon-toned perfumes. *Orchids* magazine, in July and August 1999, had an excellent article by expert Eric Wolff covering attractions and culture of popular Chinese cymbidium species. *Cymbidium ensifolium* emits a penetrating perfume of clean citrus fruit once flowers are ripe. The fragrance is especially powerful on warm mornings. This same lemony scent carries over in *Cymbidium* Peter Pan (*ensifolium* x *Miretta*) and *Cymbidium* Valerie Absolonova (*Golden Elf* x *Peter Pan*), a hybrid with *Cym. ensifolium* in the background of both parents. Hybrids bred from *Cym. ensifolium* and similar compact, warmer-growing species are called miniature cymbidiums although most grow 2 to 3 feet tall. The advantage of these modern miniatures is ease of growth; they will bloom under intermediate temperatures. The larger-growing standard cymbidium, sometimes cultivated in gardens where winters are above freezing, need a month or more of 45 to 50F nights to initiate flowers.

**Dendrobium.** *Dendrobium* has a few nicely scented species. One of my favorites is *Dendrobium fimbriatum* var. *oculatum* with orange flowers fragrant of tropical jungles, where wood smoke, vegetation and perhaps smoked fish at a riverside market blend in a complex reminder of rainforest adventures. In my collection, this species grows slender stems arching 2 to 3 feet out of a 6-inch hanging clay pot. Sometimes plant-lets form along the mature stems, making propagation easy, just twist off the plant-lets when roots are a few inches long.

**Epidendrum and Encyclia.** *Epidendrum*, and the species now grouped in the genus *Encyclia*, include many delightfully scented flowers. Most of the popular cultivated epidendrums have floral to spicy scents. A specimen of the pendulous *Epidendrum parkinsonianum* was given an award for fragrance at the New York Orchid Society's show in 1996. *Encyclia fragrans* and the similar *Encyclia radiata* are easy-to-grow compact choices with pleasantly

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scented flowers. *Encyclia atropurpurea* (syn. *cordigera*) has a mouthwatering perfume of chocolate and vanilla. This perfume is also present in several *Enc. atropurpurea* hybrids. The South Florida species *Encyclia tampensis*, commonly called the butterfly orchid, has honey-scented flowers. These epiphytic, compact-growing species thrive in bright light with intermediate temperatures. I find they grow best in clay pots or mounted on slabs of bark such as cork oak or hard slabs of tree fern.



*Encyclia tampensis*, the butterfly orchid, has honey-scented flowers

**Maxillaria.** *Maxillaria tenuifolia* has a strong fragrance of coconut, just like a warm coconut custard pie. The species is easy to grow under intermediate conditions and although flowers may be partially hidden by rampant foliage, the fragrance makes this a species worth growing, especially indoors under lights where the daytime fragrance can be enjoyed.

**Neofinetia.** *Neofinetia falcata* has vanilla-scented white flowers on compact 4- to 8-inch-tall plants, perfectly suited to indoor under-lights culture. The primary hybrid with *Rhynchostylis coelestis*, *Neostylis* Lou Sneary, inherits some of the perfume, having flowers with a delicious vanilla candy scent. *Neofinetia* and its hybrids do well in hanging baskets or rather small pots with excellent air circulation. I grow mine under intermediate conditions, with the hanging baskets in a greenhouse, and potted plants often under fluorescent lamps.

**Phalaenopsis.** *Phalaenopsis violacea* is famous for a universally appreciated violet perfume, most noticeable in the warm morning hours under humid conditions. Malaysian orchid expert Michael Ooi has bred a blue-toned strain that has a strong perfume. A few of the hybrids with other waxy-flowered species have a similar scent but none as potent as the pure *Phal violacea*. I grow this species warm, humid, and under broad-spectrum fluorescent lamps or in

the shady part of a lean-to greenhouse. The pure species phalaenopsis are less adaptable to cultural differences than hybrids. My plants do well in rather small plastic pots in mixtures of hardwood charcoal, bark, coarse perlite and sometimes New Zealand sphagnum moss.

**Rhynchostylis.** *Rhynchostylis gigantea*, a delightful species from Thailand, is known for richly fragrant waxy flowers on pendent inflorescences. Several strains of this warm growing species are available from nurseries, as are a few hybrids with *Rhy. gigantea* as one parent. For example, *Opistylis* Memoria Mary Nattrass (*Vdps. gigantea* x *Rhy. gigantea*) has fragrant flowers on compact epiphytic plants that do best with warm conditions and bright light. My plant, which receives 85F temperatures during the day with an 8 to 10 degree drop at night, flowers reliably in early February every year.



*Stanhopea oculata* has a strong chocolate perfume

**Stanhopea.** *Stanhopea oculata* has a strong chocolate perfume. This eye-catching easy-to-grow species bears fist-sized flowers that appear directly below the pseudobulbs. Stanhopeas all have pleasantly fragrant flowers, although they usually last in perfection only a few days. I grow stanhopeas in baskets of slatted wood or moss-lined coarse wire mesh so the pendent inflorescences can grow down and out for an unhindered display of flowers. My stanhopeas thrive under cattleya conditions, with 60 to 65F nights. In their Central and South American habitats, stanhopeas grow in the lower shady sections. In cultivation, they need less light than cattleyas, but will often bloom better if given bright light, just short of causing the broad foliage to turn light green. I fertilize stanhopeas in active growth with water-soluble fertilizer every week, as new pseudobulbs are forming.

The orchid family offers a bounty of fragrant-flowered species and hybrids from which to choose. Beginning with a few plants from this selection will provide you with a starter kit to aid in your appreciation of a new dimension in orchids - fragrance.

*Excerpted from an article that appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine in April 2000 (Vol.69:4, pp.322-332).*



# CULTIVATION

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## Cold Tolerance of Warm Growing Orchids

Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com

If you allow your orchids the pleasure of growing outside during the warm season, they will reward you with an abundance of growth and blooms though you will have to make some adjustments to protect your orchids when the cool season arrives. Some orchids are very cold intolerant and may have to be relocated to a warm winter home and others are more cold tolerant and may only need protection on the coldest nights. Each type of orchid has its preferred minimum night temperatures during the winter cool season, below which cold damage to the plant will occur.

- Most phalaenopsis, the large two toned vandas, the evergreen dendrobiums and the mule eared oncidiums are the least tolerant of cold, preferring night time temperatures above 60°F though some tolerate temperatures in the 50's.

- Most cattleyas and oncidiums prefer winter night temperatures in the mid 50's though some tolerate temperatures in the mid 40's.

- Deciduous dendrobiums bloom better after a cooler, drier winter rest period with no fertilizer tolerating temperatures in the low to mid 40's.

- Dendrocoryne dendrobiums and cymbidiums are the most cold tolerant orchids of those grown in our summer heat accepting of temperatures down into the 30's.

**Cattleyas.** As a general rule, cattleya alliance plants prefer temperatures above 55°F though many will tolerate temperatures into the mid 40's. Cattleyas from the Amazon like *C. violacea* prefer warmer temperatures, and there are many cold hardy varieties that tolerate temperatures in the 30's, like *L. anceps* and *L. purpurata*. As a general rule, protect your cattleyas when temperatures drop below 50°F particularly if they are in bud or in bloom.

**Cymbidiums.** Cymbidiums as a group are probably the most cold tolerant of all the orchids we grow in Florida. Their ideal minimum temperature is 40°F although they tolerate temperatures into the mid 30's and will survive light freezes with some cold damage. Our bigger problem in Florida is finding heat tolerant cymbidiums that will survive our summers and reward us with blooms.

**Dendrobiums.** There are over 1200 species of dendrobiums organized into more than 40 sections that grow in a wide variety of habitats and elevations. For those dendrobiums that grow in our Florida climate, cold tolerance ranges from the least cold tolerant Phalaenopsis section dendrobiums that shouldn't go below 60°F to the most cold tolerant Dendrocoryne section of Australian dendrobiums that accept temps into the mid 30's. The warm tropical growers will quickly drop leaves if exposed to too cool conditions. The more cold tolerant dendrobiums like

the spring blooming Callista section with grapelike flower inflorescences and the soft cane dendrobiums actually flower better when exposed to cooler (into the 40's and high 30's) and drier conditions during the winter. They shouldn't be fertilized after Thanksgiving until the new growth begins in the spring. The other sections grow comfortably under cattleya conditions.

**Oncidiums.** While orchids in the Oncidiinae alliance have a wide range of cold tolerance, many of the cool growers that can withstand near freezing winter temperatures are not grown in Florida because they cannot tolerate our summer heat. The thick leaved mule ear oncidiums are from lowland tropical areas and resent temperatures below 60°F. Most of those oncidinae that grow well in our summer heat prefer night temperatures in the mid 50's, but will tolerate temperatures down to the mid 40's.

**Phalaenopsis.** Phalaenopsis are fairly cold intolerant although they enjoy the cold snap we seem to get around Halloween. Allow them to chill down to 55°F for two or three weeks during this time frame when the daytime temperatures go back above 80°F during the day. This brief chilling will tell your phals that it is time for them to set their bloom spikes. After this brief chilling, you should find a winter home for your phals. As a general rule, phals enjoy nighttime temperatures above 60°F. If temperatures drop below this minimum, the standard phals will drop their buds. Phals from higher elevations or the foothills of the Himalayas are more tolerant of lower temperatures down to around 50°F.

**Vandas.** Vandaceous orchids as a whole are fairly cold intolerant although there are some species from higher elevations that withstand lower temperatures. If you are unsure of your plant's genetic background, keep nighttime temperatures above 60°F. This is particularly true of the large two toned flowers and species of the fragrant genus *Aerides*. There are varieties of the smaller-flowered Vandaceous group that are comfortable down to 50°F. *Neofinetia falcata* is probably the most cold tolerant vandaceous orchid accepting of temperature in the lower 40's. If exposed to too low temperatures, the vandaceous orchids will start dropping leaves giving the plants an unappealing palm tree appearance.

Many orchids that demand cool conditions in winter also prefer cooler summers than Florida offers so they are not good candidates for Florida growers who don't have special coolers in their growing area. Most plants suitable for growing in the Florida summer heat grow best when plants are protected from winter night temperatures below the 50's. If you cannot protect plants during the cooler weather, be careful to choose plants that both thrive during our summer heat and tolerate our winter cold.



# ORCHID ADVENTURES



## Sherrie Jenkins' Growing Area

Sherrie opened up her greenhouse to SAOS in October so we can see how she grows her orchids. What a beautiful growing area. The Florian greenhouse is a glass and metal structure attached to Lester's custom car garage. Sherrie's plants are immaculate, growing vigorously without any leaf blemishes, quite an accomplishment! She grows cattleyas, phals, dendrobiums, vandas, phrags and bulbos all in the same greenhouse. We weren't expecting Sherrie to feed us, but she also had quite a spread of food for us, fruit and cheese, chili dip and chips, and an apple bundt cake. Yum yum, she can cook as well as grow fantastic plants!



# SHOW TABLE



***Grower Allen Black***  
***C. Maximum Lust***



***Grower Gordon Cromwell***  
***Z. Jumpin Jack***



***Grower Suzanne Susko***  
***Cycd. Jumbo Puff***



***Grower Laura Kisse***  
***Ascda. Kulwadee Fragrance***



***Grower Gale Hall***  
***V. Pure Delight***



***Grower Keith Davis***  
***Blc. Dickie Brooks 'Holy Moly'***



***Grower Gordon Cromwell***  
***Lc. Loog Tone 'SD'***



# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**C. Caudabec Candy**



**Grower Bev Vycital**  
**Blc. Smiley Aoki**



**Grower Janis Croft**  
**Blc. Memoria Sally Pratt**



**Grower Suzanne Susko**  
**Bulb. flabellum-veneris**



**Grower Allen Black**  
**Vnra. Becka Ketchum**



**Grower Jeff Mikins**  
**Blc. Runnaptha Fancy**

Link to all Submissions: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjB2CVW>

