

The Houston Happenings



December 2020 | Volume 50, Issue 8

December 3: Jewel Orchids—Textured Terrestrials *By Sarah B*

Nina R, a member of Houston Orchid Society, will present the program at our December 3 virtual meeting. Her presentation begins at 7:30 p.m.

Nina Rach is an orchid hobbyist in Houston, Texas, with a mixed collection of species and hybrids. She has been growing for 45+ years, is a past president of Houston Orchid Society and

started the first HOS website more than 20 years ago.

Nina has served as an American Orchid Society judge for 30 years, and her first training program for the Atlanta Judging Center was about judging Jewel Orchids (using slides!). She is particularly interested in the *Stanhopinae* and *Sobralias*, and has given many talks on those genera, including presentations at two World

Orchid Conferences. She enjoys traveling to see new plants at shows and in situ, and especially values meeting so many enthusiastic growers over the years. She has learned so much from everyone and is happy to pass it on. You may contact Nina by email by [clicking here](#).

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Long, long ago (1972) on a planet far, far away (Smoky  
*continued on page 2*



## President's Message *By Bill C*

Happy holidays folks. It's unbelievable that 2020 is about over. Hopefully our families, plants and hobbies have helped diffuse much of the stress of our current social struggles. It is unifoliate *Cattleya* blooming time with the winter solstice upon us and the dry season beginning in the tropics of the northern hemisphere.

In November we had a successful auction at the church that raised \$2,200 for the Houston Judging Center, which

we support in our advocacy for promoting orchid interest in the community. I would like to thank all the volunteers, contributors and attendees who made it such a success.

At the December meeting we will be handing off the batons to the newly elected officers and board members. I will be handing my baton from my right hand to my left. I am hopeful that in my second year as president we shall be able to meet in person more.



A nonprofit organization established in 1945, HOS is a recipient of the American Orchid Society's Distinguished Affiliated Societies Service award.

### Inside this issue

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## Jewel Orchids, from page 1

Mountains National Park), I encountered a small, lovely bloom spike while backpacking to Clingman's Dome. Probably influenced by Colin Fletcher's book *The Man Who Walked Through Time*, I was focused on the experience and attempting to remember the scenery as I enjoyed it instead of taking pictures. Cheap cameras were hardly worth carrying anyway. Oh, yeah, everything I needed was on my back, but I did not go so far as to cut the tags off the teabags. I did have a sketch pad and a pencil, so I sat on the forest floor and made a little sketch.

When I was chatting with Nina on our Teams app to plan the December program, the whole experience of that long ago day came rushing back when I saw her picture of *Goodyera pubescens*. I knew at that moment the topic for the program—“Jewel Orchids—Textured Terrestrials.”

Half a century later, I am unable to put my hands on the little sketch, but I am thankful I did retain the memory and remember the sights and sensory experiences of that restful time in the cathedral of trees. And

now I am reminding each of you to stop and meditate on a peaceful memory from nature and anticipate the presentation by Nina R on December 3.

“Jewel” orchids are characterized as those with exceptionally attractive foliage, which usually has an attractive texture and pattern in shades of greens, reds and golds, with iridescent or metallic accents. The iridescence seen in many species is a protective mechanism to reflect light from the foliage. Leaf patterns include branched veins, netting or reticulations, spots, speckles, mottling, picotee (contrasting color margin) and color suffusions.

The most commonly grown (and commercially available) species is *Ludisia discolor*, which has several color variants. The upper side of the leaves can be dark red or green to nearly black, with lighter veins, and the species has reddish undersides. It has fleshy stems, like a

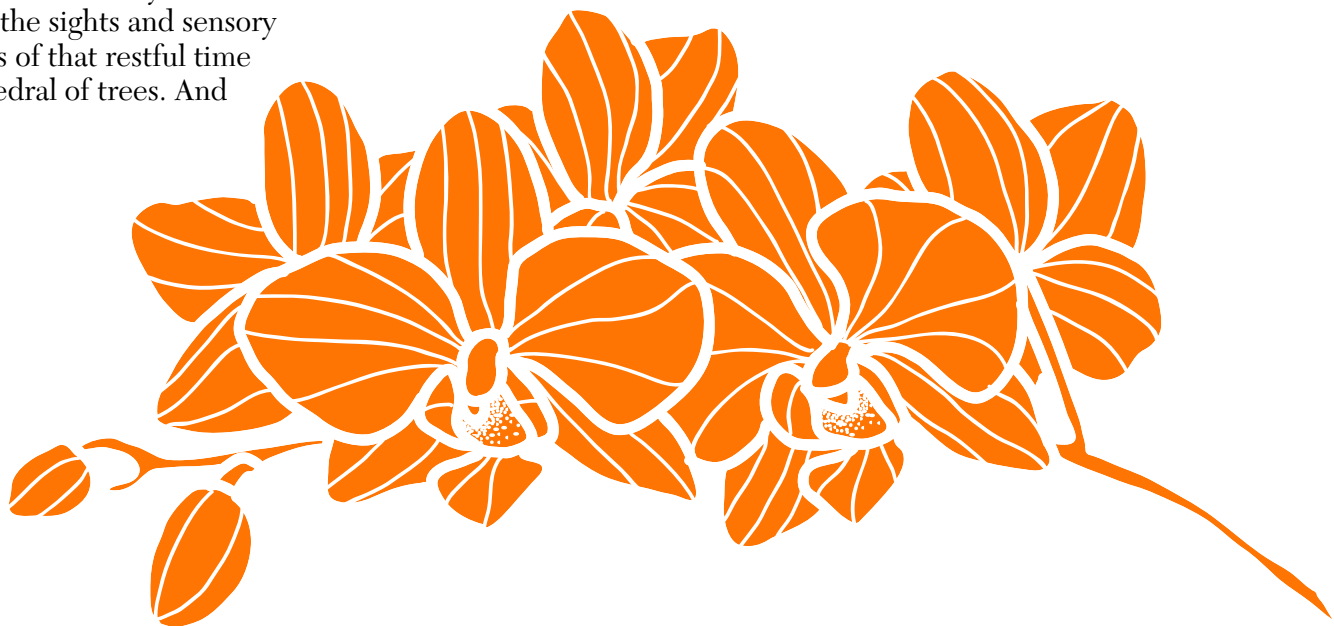
succulent, and grows terrestrially, in soil, as do most other “jewels” (some are lithophytic, growing on rocks). They like high humidity and lower light, but are best grown relatively dry (like succulents).

The plants are almost always evergreen and are often exhibited at orchid shows out of bloom, where they are usually classified as miniatures but can also be grown into fabulously attractive specimen plants.

Nina will cover the following jewel orchid genera in the presentation: *Anoectochilus*, *Aspidogyne*, *Cheirostylis*, *Corybas*, *Cyclopogon*, *Cystorchis*, *Dossinia*, *Goodyera*, *Ludisia (Haemaria)*, *Macodes*, *Malaxis (and Crepidium)*, *Nephelaphyllum*, *Nervilia*, *Oeceoclades*, *Odontochilus*, *Pelexia*, *Rhomboda*, *Sarcoglottis* and *Vrydagzynea*.

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We welcome guests at our virtual meetings. If you would like to receive an invitation to join a meeting, please send an email to [info@houstonorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@houstonorchidsociety.org).



## Another Reminder: Please Renew Your HOS Membership for 2021! *By Marsha F*

Now is the time to renew your 2021 HOS annual membership. Dues for 2021 remain \$30 for a single membership or \$45 for a family.

The Houston Orchid Society continues to make every effort to hold monthly meetings with guest speakers. Currently we are meeting online, but we intend to meet in person when it has been deemed safe to do so.

Since we are currently unable to meet in person, please take the following steps to renew your HOS membership for 2021:

- Complete the membership information online at <http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org/membership.html> so that we have all your current information.

- Then, mail your check to Houston Orchid Society, Inc., P.O. Box 66325, Houston, TX 77266.
- Make your check payable to Houston Orchid Society, \$30 for a single membership or \$45 for a family.

Be aware that if your membership has not been paid by March 1, the 2021 directory

will not have your contact information, and you may not be included in the email list for the newsletter or other announcements.

Without you, the Houston Orchid Society would not exist! Please take a few minutes to complete this task.

Stay well.

Marsha F., VP Membership

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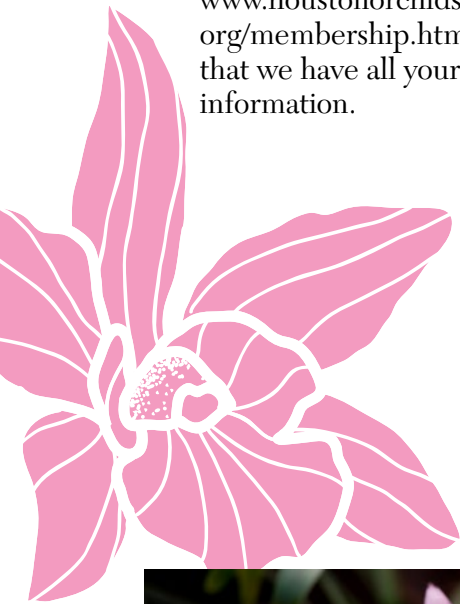
## From the Editor *By Donna D*

November was a super busy month for my family. My husband and I moved to Magnolia in late October, and I brought my mom from Alabama two weeks later to live with us. We now have an enormous corrugated cardboard collection, the result of moving two households and filling in with pandemic deliveries from Amazon. This busy-ness has contributed to my failure to include a lot of additional content in this month's newsletter. My apologies.

Please check out the

information provided for the short course offered by the Baton Rouge Orchid Society, beginning on page 10. The society has opened this year's half-day short course and invites you to attend, and it is FREE! You must pre-register, so RSVP as soon as possible at [this link](#).

I appreciate all the beautiful orchid photos that show up in my inbox. I hope we have a reliable vaccine soon and am still looking forward to the day when we can ooo-and-ahh in real time over the plant table. I wish you a safe and peaceful December.



# Stay-at-Home Orchids



*Epidendrum spp - Pier L*



*Bc. Binosa - Cristi C*



*Blc. Summer Camp - Jay B*



*White spark 'flame cat' - Jay B*

Click Here  
to Submit Pictures to  
[share@houstonorchidsociety.org](mailto:share@houstonorchidsociety.org)



*Blc. Shinfong Luchyang 'Tian Mu' - Jay B*

## Image Guidelines

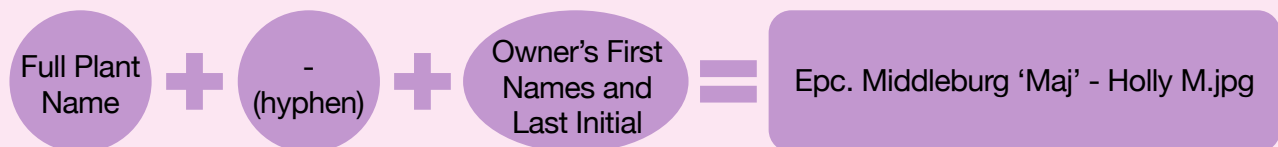
It takes a little time to prepare the images for the newsletter so we need your help. Here are some standards to follow to ensure your image makes it in the publication.

Your image should be at least 1024 pixels wide. Smaller images will be too blurry to be used. If in doubt, rotate your phone sideways (horizontal). Take your photo as close to the flower being photographed as possible, and make sure the flower is in focus.

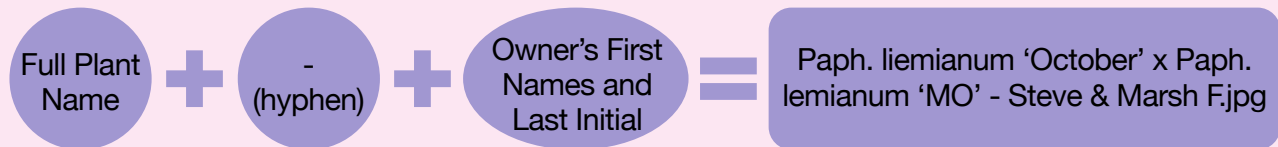
Ensure that you are naming the image file following the guideline below before attaching it to your email. Basically it is the Plant Name + Owner First Name and Last Initial (see examples below).

Send any questions you may have before submitting to [info@houstonorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@houstonorchidsociety.org).

### Example 1



### Example 2



# Stay-at-Home Orchids



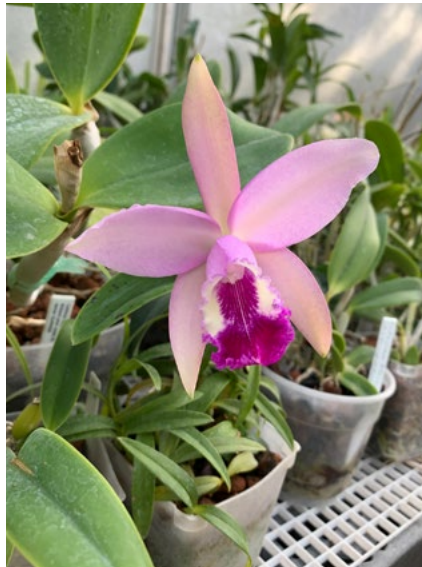
Rby. *Dosa Lemon* x *c. cernua* -  
*Derek L*



Bulb. *Elizabeth Ann 'Jean'* - *Cristi C*



*C. warszewiczii* (*coerulea*) x *C. jongheana* (*alba*) - *Derek L*



*C. maxima* - *Derek L*



*Cattleya trianae* "*Hennington*"  
SM/19WOC - *Dave H*

## Stay-at-Home Orchids



*C labiate 'Crystelle' - Jay B*



*Cattleya trianae 'Patricia' - Dave H*



*Bulb. Lovely Elizabeth 'Walnut Valley' AM - Steve & Marsha F*



*Cattleya walkeriana - Dave H*

# Stay-at-Home Orchids



*Cattleya loddegesii* - *Dave H*



*Cyrtorchis arcuata* - *Dave H*



*Cattleya trianae* v. *sangre de toro*  
*'Hernando Garcia'* - *Dave H*

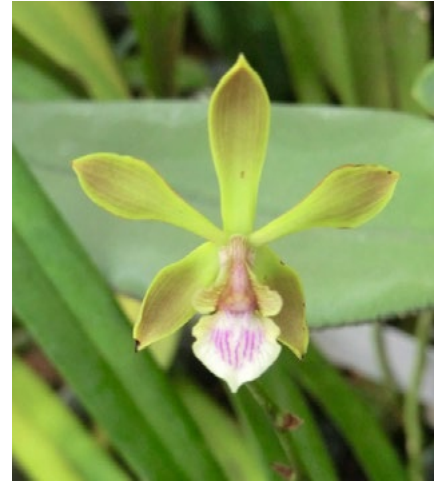


*Psh. boothiana* - *Steve & Marsha F*

## Stay-at-Home Orchids



*C. maxima* - *Derek L*




*Encyclia yauaperiensis* - *Dave H*



*Laelia anceps* 'Sanbar Ruby' - *Dave H*



# December 2020

| Sunday                                  | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday                                 | Friday                                                                                | Saturday                                    |
|-----------------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
|                                         |        | 1       | 2         | 3<br>HOS meeting,<br>7:30 pm<br>(online) | 4                                                                                     | 5                                           |
| 6                                       | 7      | 8       | 9         | 10                                       | 11                                                                                    | 12                                          |
| 13                                      | 14     | 15      | 16        | 17                                       | 18                                                                                    | 19<br>Houston<br>Judging Ctr<br>(cancelled) |
| 20<br>Newcomers<br>Group<br>(cancelled) | 21     | 22      | 23        | 24                                       | 25                                                                                    | 26<br>January<br>newsletter<br>content due  |
| 27                                      | 28     | 29      | 30        | 31                                       |  |                                             |

Due to COVID-19 concerns, a majority of meetings and shows have been cancelled or postponed, as are monthly judgments. Announcements will be made when these events are rescheduled. We welcome guests at our virtual meetings. If you would like to receive an invitation to join a meeting, please send an email to [info@houstonorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@houstonorchidsociety.org).



### AOS Greenhouse Chat (members only)

**Ron McHatton**  
**Wednesday, December 2, 2020, 7:30 p.m.**  
**CDT**

Grow your knowledge and join AOS Education and Science Officer, Ron McHatton, for a fun-filled hour of orchid questions and answers. Send questions to [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org) by November 29. [Register now.](#)



### AOS Webinar: Ghost Orchid in Florida and Cuba (members only)

**Larry Zettler**  
**Wednesday, December 16, 2020, 7:30 p.m.**  
**CDT**

A conservation update: Ghost orchid in Florida and the Guanahacabibes Cuban National Park. [Register now.](#)

## Short Course: Baton Rouge Orchid Society



### 2020 Dec Short Course

**The Sat, Dec 12, Short Course will be online and free to all judges and society members.**

**We are going to require you to pre-register so that we can assure our virtual meeting is large enough to hold all attendees.**

**Click on this link so we can get a total. (Simple. And again, it's free!)**

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAIAAIBAAAaEU9UQVE0UTFTSFhMTVpQSTdDWEFRMUU1WFJFRS4u>

*We will send a link to you later this month.*

## Short Course: Baton Rouge Orchid Society



### **2020 Dec Short Course** **Sat, Dec 12**

#### **Schedule**

**8:45 Meet & Greet**

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**9:00 Courtney Hackney [Sales Info]**

**9:05 Courtney Hackney**

***“Unappreciated Cattleya Species in  
the Background of Modern Hybrids”***

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**10:00 Tom Mirenda [Sales Info]**

**10:05 Tom Mirenda**

***“Orchid Pollination”***

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**11:00 Round Table Discussion**

***[Courtney, Tom, & Judging Chairs]***

***... followed by sales questions ...***



## Short Course: Baton Rouge Orchid Society



### DR COURTNEY HACKNEY

Dr. Hackney is Emeritus Professor of Biology and the former Director of Coastal Biology at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida. Previously he was Professor of Biology and Marine Biology at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. Courtney began growing orchids in the Florida Keys in 1962, while working for a small orchid nursery. He has continued his interest in both orchid hybridizing and orchid culture since then. He grows many different genera, but his favorite is the Cattleya Alliance. He has about 500 mature cattleyas and even more seedlings, but his favorites are classic clones, some of which appeared in orchid collections over 100 years ago. He makes 10-15 hybrids and species sib crosses per year in various genera.

He wrote a Growing Tips column for 20 years, which ended in December 2013. Growing Tips appeared in newsletters around the country. He has also published in the *Orchid Digest* and *Orchids*. In 2004, he published "*American Cattleyas*", the culmination of a decade of study and interviews with many of the "Orchid Greats", which summarizes in old photographs and print how all of the modern cattleyas came to be. The book also describes what we know about cattleyas and cattleya hybrids, how to grow them, and what to expect from modern hybrids. During the past decade he has been researching the coerulea (blue) color form of cattleya species and hybrids, which was completed and published in 2018.

He is a member of the American, St Augustine, Jacksonville, and Cape Fear, NC orchid societies. During the Pandemic he has been hosting the monthly "Show Table" of the St Augustine Orchid Society via ZOOM, many of which are available on the society web site.

He and his wife Rose live in Jacksonville, Florida adjacent to a tidal swamp. Rose retired as a professional artist in 2017, but continues painting for fun. *Epi magnoliae* (conopseum) grows in trees of the swamp in his backyard. His orchids reside in a brand new 24'x25' Florida shade house adjacent to the swamp.

## Short Course: Baton Rouge Orchid Society



**TOM  
MIRENDA**



Tom Mirinda has been cultivating plants since his early childhood and lives to create beauty with plants in botanic Garden settings for more than half of his adult life. Originally trained as a Marine Biologist, Tom moved to Hawaii in his early 20s to pursue a MB career and worked on the Trophic relationships of denizens of Coral reefs in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands (Midway and French Frigate Shoals). There he realized he was better suited to Horticultural pursuits and took positions at New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanical Garden and at the Incredible Greentree Estate in Long Island where he cared for a first class Orchid collection. During this time, Tom also was the floor manager of the legendary New York International Orchid Show. Eventually Tom accepted the Orchid Collection Specialist Position at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC where he cultivated and curated a huge diverse orchid collection for the past 17 years. The collection was used to create massive 4 to 5 month long educational orchid exhibits displayed to literally millions of visitors each year.

For the past 14 years Tom has contributed 2 monthly columns for the ORCHIDS magazine, the Bulletin of the American Orchid Society, and has developed an international following, as a writer, speaker and advocate for orchid conservation around the world. Last year Tom Co-authored The Book of Orchids with Two scientists from Kew and has done speaking tours in the British isles for the last three summers. Presented at the last 3 world Orchid conferences and several IOCC and AOCs on Conservation topics. Tom was a founding member of the North American Orchid Conservation Center and continues his support of orchids conservation there, and around the world. Last fall, Tom took a major gamble and left the security of his job with the Smithsonian to take a leadership position at the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden, an exceptionally beautiful jewel on the lush Hamakua coast just north of Hilo on the Big Island (aka the Orchid Island!). What Tom found there was an Orchid Paradise where myriad spectacular orchids of all types, both lowland and montane species and hybrids seem to thrive, simply planted in the trees, placing them thoughtfully in the landscape.

Ultimately, he believes that the concept of growing orchids in Garden settings, to be a viable model world-wide for orchid conservation and encourages the ex-situ cultivation of orchids by diverse stakeholders in the orchid community and that it is only with the cooperation of Botanical Garden Professionals, Commercial Growers, academia and committed orchid collectors and backyard growers, that orchids will survive the vicissitudes of climate change..



## Short Course: Baton Rouge Orchid Society



### Sales

#### **Hackneau Collection**

**Pre-order via [Hackneau@comcast.net](mailto:Hackneau@comcast.net)**

Still Available upon request

***“American Cattleyas”***,

151 pp text with 70 pages of color photographs

By Courtney T. Hackney

Hardback \$50.

*If you would like a copy please email [Hackneau@comcast.net](mailto:Hackneau@comcast.net). Payment can be via check or PayPal. Once payment is arranged a copy will be sent to you via Media Mail or a method you prefer.*

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#### **Species, Divisions & Seedlings on the following page**

Each year I make 10-15 hybrids and species sib crosses. In 2018, I began growing my seedlings in Hawaii, so that there would be seedlings to share. These list below includes all my un-bloomed seedlings ready to ship in various sizes. Some may be very limited in availability.

**NOTE: The grower will ship to one address for each club but not to each individual.**

**Minimum order: \$200/club**

## Short Course: Baton Rouge Orchid Society



### Hackneau Hybrid Seedlings

**Cty Red On Yellow** (Enc tampensis alba 'Mendenhall' x C Emily Clarkson 'Hackneau') – These were once called epicatts. I have flowered more than 20 seedlings and all have had bright yellow flowers with a red lip reminiscent of its dowiana grandparent. Seedlings in 4" mesh pots \$20.

**(Lc Summerland Girl x Ruby Wax) x Blc Oconee 'Mendenhall'** – The pod parent produces heads of ruby colored flowers with C leopoldii prominent in its background. Matched to the famous Oconee 'Mendenhall', expect 4-7 deeply colored flowers in the red/purple color range. 4" pots, \$15.

**Pot Mary Udell Bachrach x Blc Oconee 'Mendenhall'** – This is the third time I have made this hybrid and finally have seedlings to share. Crossing a deeply pigmented yellow with Oconee will produce mostly red flowers in the 6" size range, but a few nice orange clones may also appear. First seedling to flower and was cherry red with striking yellow and red lip and the second orange-red with solid purple lip. Large plants in 4" pots \$20.

**Ctt Princess Buttercup** (C Beaufort 'Harford's Elmwood 4N' AM/AOS x C (Gur) aurantiaca 'Golden Dew' AM/AOS - Crossing the 4N yellow Beaufort with the beautiful yellow 2N aurantiaca produced a small stature plant with lots of yellow-tangerine flowers on a nice stem. These are flowering with 3-4 flowers in 4" \$15. [1<sup>st</sup> bloom seedlings ranged from solid yellow to salmon flowers with tangerine colored lips]

**C Ivy's Blue Eyes** (C dolosa coerulea 'Gold Country' x C mossiae coerulea 'Hackneau') The pod parent was wild collected many decades ago. It has deep coerulea petals and sepals with a yellowish lip. The mossiae is an excellent coerulea clone with a large amount of yellow on the lip. The first to flower had large coerulea petals and sepals with a light blue lip with varying amounts of bright yellow often extending into the column. The cross has been so impressive that I named it after my granddaughter. Expect 4-6 coerulea flowers on a nice stem with a contrasting yellow lip. Vigorous seedling in 4" pots (blooming size) \$15.

**Lc Emily Clarkson** (dowiana x brigerii) x Lupaul (milleri x schilleriana) – Emily is yellow with a red lip and Lupaul is red. These are growing like rupicoleous laelias and I expect them to be miniatures. Expect red-yellow flowers on nice stems, some with red lips. There may also be spotted flowers. Expect lots of variation between seedlings given the parents. 2" pots \$10, 4.

**[New Release] Blc Norman's Bay 'Lucile' FCC/AOS x Blc Brunswick Gem 'Coral'** - Famous clone of Norman's Bay matched with a red clone from Australia. Expect large red-purple flowers with large lip and excellent shape. 2" pots \$10

**[New Release] Pot Lenette Splendor 'Que Suerte' x Blc Brunswick Gem 'Coral'** – Rich red clone from Lenette Greenhouse breeding with the beautiful Aussie Brunswick Gem. Brunswick Gem is Blc Owen Holmes x Horace, so expect red flowers with excellent shape. 2" pots \$10.

**[New Release] Blc Murray Spencer 'Armroy's Dark Star' FCC/AOS x Blc Fred S. Missbach 'Hackneau'** – Murray Spencer has produced great red flowers before, here matched with my intensely pigmented Fred S. Missbach, which has amazingly flat flowers. 2" pots \$10.



## Short Course: Baton Rouge Orchid Society



### Tom Mirenda (Sales)



Tom is going to auction some plants he has acquired.  
(Or we might try something else.)  
Stay tuned. It'll be interesting!





## Short Course: Baton Rouge Orchid Society

# La Orchid Connection (Sales)

### Louisiana

### Orchid

### Connection

is pleased to support the Annual Short Course.

Please visit our website at [laorchid.com](http://laorchid.com).

A discount code will be announced at the event giving free shipping on any plants ordered by Short Course attendees in the month of December.