



CLUB NEWS



December 2 Christmas Auction

We had lots of fun at our annual Christmas Auction. More than 50 members and guests met at the Moultrie Trails Clubhouse for camaraderie, food and flowers.

Our party planners Linda Stewart, Dianne Batchelder and Janis Croft did a great job reinventing our Christmas celebration, including the crafting of centerpieces that were raffled off.



Our pot luck dinner was delicious. Barbara Conrad made southern ham

and there were salads, appetizers, potato and vegetable casseroles, and smoked turkey for dinner and lots of cakes and goodies for dessert. Yum!

We installed our 2015 officers and directors, including our newest members to the Board Janis Croft, Mary Colee and Dianne Batchelder.

With our Auctioneer Extraordinaire in Las Vegas, we changed our format to a silent auction. There was some lively last minute bidding before Prez Bob declared the bidding to be closed. We had lots of people asking about

Continued on page 3



CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

December

- 7 JOS Christmas Auction, 5:30 pm
Orange Park Country Club
2525 Country Club Blvd, Orange Park

January

- 3-4 Sarasota Orchid Society Show
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
- 6 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
How to Grow Orchids in St. Augustine
St. Aug Orchid Society Members
- 8 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Speaker TBA
- 16-18 Tamiami International Orchid Festival
Dade County Fair Expo Center
- 18 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Bringing Home New Orchids
Mark and Kathy Young's Home
160 West Genung St, St. Aug 32086
- 23-25 Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show
War Memorial Auditorium

February

- 3 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Guillermo Salazar, Horticulturist
Orchids of El Savador "Country of Hidden Treasures"
- 7 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 7-8 Venice Area Orchid Society Show
Venice Community Center
- 10 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Speaker and Topic TBA
- 14-15 Boca Raton Orchid Society Show
Safe Schools Institute
- 15 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Spring into Action
Bob and Yvonne Schimmel's Home
702 Wilkes Court, St. Aug 32086
- 20-22 Naples Orchid Society Show
Moorings Presbyterian Church

March

- 3 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Peter Lin, Diamond Orchids
Neofinetia falcata and Its Hybrids
- 6-8 Englewood Area Orchid Society Show
Englewood Methodist Church
- 6-8 Martin County Orchid Society Show
Martin County Fairgrounds
- 7 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 7-8 Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show
Egypt Shrine Center
- 10 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Speaker and Topic TBA

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Bob Schimmel schimmelr55@bellsouth.net
Vice President Programs	Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Vice President Membership	Linda Stewart lindstew@hotmail.com
Vice President Publicity	Yvonne Schimmel yrs58@bellsouth.net
Secretary	Janis Croft croftie1984@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bill Gourley wgourley@bellsouth.net
Directors at Large	Dianne Batchelder ladydi9907@aol.com Mary Colee mcolee4@gmail.com Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
Exhibit Committee Chair	Harry McElroy cymbidiuman@msn.com
Librarian	Penny Halyburton phalyburton@comcast.net
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom bottomt@bellsouth.net
Operations Committee Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com



CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1

Fred, so here is his contact information if you want to wish him a Merry Christmas in the desert: Fred Keefer, 10115 Jeffreys St, Apt 1137, Las Vegas, NV 89183, phone 386-972-9660 and email fredkeefer@att.net.

We had a wonderful time enjoying some holiday cheer with good friends and fellow orchid addicts. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Feliz Navidad and a very Happy New Year to all!



Maria Yessian wins one of the centerpieces



New officers for 2015



Barbara Conrad and Mary Colee supervise Bob Schimmel's carving of the ham



Silent auction format was used in lieu of an auction



Monica Long and Mary Ann Bell gather up their booty



Members and guests line up for the wonderful buffet

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



CLUB NEWS



January 18 Keiki Club

Bringing Home New Orchids

The Keiki Club will begin meeting again in the new year. We'll meet monthly from January through November usually on a Sunday afternoon. During cold or hot months, we'll get together at a climate controlled locale. During the more temperate months, we'll meet at different members homes so you can see how others grow their orchids. Our hands on repotting and orchid mounting clinics will continue to be held at the Bottom's home. As always, our Keiki Club Get Together will begin with a short presentation on a timely orchid culture topic and then it's a free for all when we can discuss any and all thoughts or questions you have about growing orchids. No wonder everyone loves the Keiki Club!

Where: Mark and Kathy Young's Home
[160 West Genung Street, St. Aug 32086](#)

When: January 18, 1 to 3 pm



January 6 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Growing Orchids in St. Augustine

St. Augustine Orchid Society members have teamed up to give a presentation on how each grows orchids in St. Augustine, using a variety of growing areas including greenhouses, lanais, fences, porches, trees, you name it! We'll talk about each presenter's growing areas during the warm growing months and winter resting season along with lessons learned about growing orchids in St. Augustine. Members are invited to bring plants to sell.



Ace Repotting Plant Clinic

The first Saturday of the month from February through November, SAOS members are available to talk with you, answer questions and help you repot orchids.

Ace Hardware, 3050 US 1 South, St. Aug
9 am until 1 pm

Special Online American Orchid Society Membership

Only \$40

- Subscription to monthly issues of ORCHIDS magazine
- Free and discounted admission to more than 200 botanical gardens and arboreta
- Access to reliable on-line orchid information and features available only to AOS members
- 10% discount on purchases on-line at [aos.org](#) including back issues of ORCHIDS magazine and AOS published books



CLUB NEWS

Programs Scheduled for 2015



**January 6:
Growing Orchids
in St. Augustine**
St. Augustine Orchid Society



**July 7:
Summer Orchid Auction**
St. Augustine Orchid Society

**February 3:
Orchids of El Salvador
"Country of
Hidden Treasures"**
Guillermo Salazar, Horticulturist



**August 4:
Orchids 101**
Michael Polen,
Art Stone Orchids



**March 3:
Neofinetia falcata
and its Hybrids**
Peter Lin,
Diamond Orchids

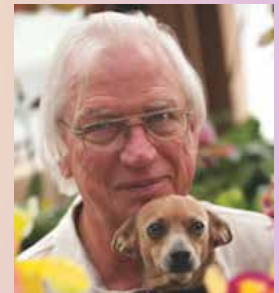


**September 1:
Orchids by the Yard...
Gorilla Growing**
Ernie Gemeinhart,
Enlightened Orchids

**April 7:
Demystifying
the Biofilates**
Keith Davis,
Keith Davis Orchids



**October 6:
Beyond Sc. Beaufort
A 20 Year Odyssey
in Cattleya Breeding**
Ron Midgett,
New Earth Orchids



**May 6:
Angraecums**
Tom Kuligowski,
Orchid Hobbyist



**November 3:
Roots, It's All
About the Roots**
Tom Purviance,
Everything About Orchids

**June 2:
Stanhopeas, Sobralias
and Calanthes**
Jill Godfrey,
Hobbyist and AOS Judge



**December 1:
Christmas Orchid
Auction**
St. Augustine
Orchid Society



CULTIVATION

Your Orchids in December

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



General Growing Tips. Winter's cool days and nights have already affected most collections; if all plants are not already indoors, they soon may be. Concerning daylight intensity and its duration, the seasonal change must be obvious by now. Don't allow daytime temperatures to rise too high before ventilating the growing area. Fresh air is important for healthy plants and their owners. Just remember that if the grower can be reasonably comfortable with the temperature and humidity conditions in the growing area, the plants are likely to be satisfied too.

Cattleyas. Plants are responding to the shorter, cooler days and less intense sun by slowing and ripening their growth, so reduce your frequency of watering as the plants dry out more slowly and have a lesser need for fertilizer. *Cattleya skinneri* should be pushing its buds up into dried sheaths for a January flowering; do not cut the sheaths off or open them. *Cattleya trianae* and its hybrids ought to be blooming for several months beginning now. Many *Sophranitis* hybrids typically flower this season. *Laelia anceps*, the Christmas orchid, will have well defined buds just waiting for nature's signal to open.



Dendrobiums. Generalizations are hard within this very diverse group. The winter resting deciduous dendrobiums of the Dendrobium (Nobiles and Seminobiles) and Callista sections can be kept dry and cool this month. Shoot for minimum temperatures of 40 F. Nobile type dendrobiums

may show some swollen nodes on their leafless pseudobulbs and flowers may appear by the month's end. Your other dendrobiums will also be resting up this month though not dormant. You'll water these half as often as you did in the summer. Shoot for minimum temperatures of 45 to 55 F and 55 to 60 F for the biggibum types.

Oncidiums. The mule-ear oncidium, *Oncidium splendidum*, and the popular thin-leaved type, *Oncidium maculatum*, should be producing inflorescences. Stake the oncidium inflorescence as it grows upward, but do not allow the tip to droop as you would for a phalaenopsis.

Paphiopedilums. Some of the mottled leaved species like *Paphiopedilum fairrieianum* and *sukhakulii* bloom now. Keep their potting medium moist and avoid getting water in the pouch.

Phalaenopsis. Groom and stake each phalaenopsis spike. Avoid excess plant movement while the buds are developing or the buds may blast (wither). High humidity in a closed house can lead to flower spotting caused by *Botrytis*; provide supplementary air circulation with fans and/or increase temperatures above 60 F.



Vandas. Vandas are starting to rest now. You can gradually reduce your watering to every other day and cut back on fertilizer. *Ascocentrum aurantiacum* may have some beautiful orange to yellow flowers in bloom by the end of the month.

Other Genera. The Catasetinae (catasetums, clowesia, cynoches and mormodes) are going dormant now and their leaves have been yellowing and dropping. Once the leaves yellow, restrict watering until the spring growth is a few inches tall. The jewel orchid *Ludisia discolor* will begin to develop inflorescences soon. Clean the foliage now before the inflorescences grow.



CULTIVATION

Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@bellsouth.net



Q1. My dendrobium flower spike split in two, one is larger and the second one is substantially smaller. I was wondering if I should cut the small one off.



A1. Don't cut off the second spike, that's how healthy and happy dendrobiums should bloom!

Q2. I am seeking assistance with a phalaenopsis that has been an otherwise virgorous and healthy grower. My suspicion is that it is a microfungial infection. Should I remove the leaf also or at least the affected part?



A2. When I first saw the affected leaf, I thought hmm, chlorotic streaking, could be virus; but the bottom of the leaf just had red pigmentation, and the whole plant looked like a healthy and vigorous grower, so maybe that's just an old leaf? Cut off the affected part of that lower leaf, spray some peroxide on the wound and see what happens.



The redness may suggest a little supplemental magnesium might be in order, say 1/2 tsp/gal or so once a month in case your water is magnesium deficient, but that plant is a very happy camper. If you start seeing the chlorotic streaking in the upper leaves, then you might think some sort of viral infection, but your bottom leaf might just be fading off into the sunset. Looks like you do a great job growing under lights!

Q3. My orchid has a funnel shaped leaf with the new leaf growing inside it. I am worried about how this will pan out as it continues to grow. Should I do anything?



A3. Hopefully that is just a strange leaf mutation and the next leaf will grow out normally and cover it up. It's also possible it could be a genetic deformity or a response to a strong chemical application.

Q4. I think I may have damaged my phalaenopsis when I left the window open when it was 50F outside. The problem doesn't appear on the part of the leaf that was protected by the leaf above it. But it could be virus too, what do you think?



A4. I think your instincts are correct, cold damage. That does not look like a virus to me. 50F is cold, but not that cold unless they were very used to being warm and cozy in the indoor environment. Usually temperatures of 55F to 60F are a good chill that encourages your plant to start thinking about sending up a bloom spike. Pour some hydrogen peroxide over the leaf so no secondary infection sets in. If it starts getting soft or mushy, you may have to remove the leaf.



CULTIVATION

Breeding Improved Species – Selfings and Sib Crosses

by Sue Bottom and Courtney Hackney

In nature, pollinators decide which flowers in a species produce seeds and the environment selects for those seeds that germinate, grow and flower best. Unusual colored flowers or clones that bloom at a different time are ignored by pollinators and so any new gene or unusual form is not propagated by Mother Nature. Mutations may disappear or lie hidden, masked by more dominant and normal genes. Species lovers would like nothing better than to improve on Mother Nature by giving these rare genes and color forms a chance to be seen and enjoyed. When one gets a wild collected orchid it is impossible to know what is hidden or masked in the chromosomes of that plant without following a tried and true approach used by hybridizers for generations. A case history from the annals of *Phalaenopsis violacea* breeding by H.P. Norton of Orchidview in South Carolina shows just how this might be accomplished.



The Standard color form of *Phal. violacea*
Photo courtesy of Courtney Hackney

In the early 1980's, H.P. and wife Katherine were given 25 *violaceas* by Michael Ooi of Malaysia. They bloomed the seedlings and selected the two best clones from the original gift and started line breeding to produce better and better *violacea* flowers. For eight generations, the best progeny were selected from each subsequent cross and used as the parents for the next generation. These sibling crosses involved interbreeding two plants originating from the same seed pod thus having common parentage.

Within a few generations both clones with intense magenta color as well as alba and coerulea clones were produced. Eventually, a small proportion of the seedlings from the series of sib crosses that aimed to further intensify the magenta color bloomed a royal purple color, and a new variety of *Phal. violacea* termed 'Indigo' was born. Somehow in the process of recombining genes from those first two clones to intensify color, a new combination arose



Phal. violacea
'Hilltop's Gabby' AM/AOS



Phal. violacea* var. *indigo
'Hilltop's Sapphire' AM/AOS

Photos courtesy of
Craig Plahn

from genes long hidden that would have never arisen in Nature. Perhaps, a double dose of the recessive blue color genes or some new mutation that changed the pH of the cells in flowers was inherited and eventually concentrated in some of the seedlings which together with the intense color saturation from the line breeding expressed itself in the fabulous indigo coloration.

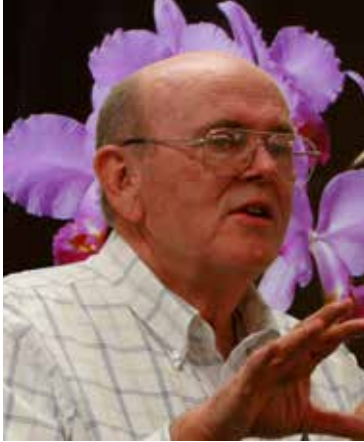
H.P. selfed the first indigo *violacea* he bloomed to produce an even greater number of the prized color form. Selfing, where pollen from one plant is placed on the stigmatic surface of the same plant, is an ideal way to express rare or recessive genes and perhaps the only way to generate more of the indigo color form because H.P. only had one indigo *violacea* at the time. It would have been possible to also create more by crossing the first indigo clone with its siblings, some of which would have also had this gene hidden by more dominant genes, though this process would have required more generations to get just a few more of the indigo form. Selfings are almost always the fastest way to stabilize a rare gene. Once a few indigo clones were generated through a selfing of the original, he started sib crossing the indigo progeny to introduce a bit more genetic diversity through line breeding.

A few orchids have mechanisms to prevent self-pollination, but most rely on Mother Nature to select clones that grow in nature, whether from cross-pollination or from self-pollination. Orchid hybridizers have employed inbreeding techniques to get rare recessive genes to express themselves in the offspring, often resulting in different colors and other traits that make the inbred hybrids unique. Selective inbreeding with a careful eye to maintaining plant vigor is a means of producing unusual color forms and/or a higher percentage of quality offspring. If you understand the hybridizer's goal, you may even seek out selfing and sib crosses in the hopes of finding that unusual plant.

Acknowledgements: Many thanks to Courtney Hackney for keeping me on the straight and narrow. Read his book *American Cattleyas* if you want to learn more about basic inheritance in orchids. The article Good Old Red, White and Blue by Katherine Norton in *Orchid Digest* (Volume 74-2, 2010) contains more information about H.P.'s phal hybridizing.



CULTIVATION



Cattleyas Around the Year

by Gene Crocker,
Orchid Hybridizer at
Carter and Holmes for
25+ Years, Reprinted
with Permission

Cattleyas remain the most beautiful of all orchids, but in many cases they are losing in popularity to others, such as Phalaenopsis, that

have longer lasting flowers. While it is true that Cattleyas usually flower for a short period each year, it is possible to have flowers the year around by choosing species and their hybrids that have fixed flowering periods. This article is based on a calendar year, beginning in January and ending in December.



Blc. Toshie Aoki 'Pizzaz' AM/AOS

January: Mid-winter flowers are always welcome, and fortunately there are some Cattleya species that are dependable for January blooms. The most important one is *Cattleya trianae* from Colombia. The flowers are large and shapely, fragrant, and usually appear in January. We have one clone, *C. trianae* 'Mary Fennell' HCC/AOS that has been in cultivation since 1888. It is not virused and flowers regularly each year, with large, round lavender blooms. Many *C. trianae* have tip flares in the petals that are darker than the base color. This trait carries through many generations and is responsible for the tip flares in Blc. Toshie Aoki and certain other yellow hybrids. A prominent hybrid that has lots of trianae in its ancestry is *C. Horace*. *C. Horace* 'Maxima' AM/AOS is a vigorous grower that also flowers in January and has been used to produce colorful hybrids that tend to flower in the January-

February time period. It is dominant for good form.

A second January flowering species is *Cattleya loddigesii*, a bifoliate plant from Brazil. It produces several mid-sized flowers that have flat form but are not overlapped. The common ones are light lavender, but there are also white and "blue" forms. A number of hybrids have been produced using *C. loddigesii*.

February: One of my favorite species, the bifoliate *Guarianthe aurantiaca* from Guatemala and Costa Rica, flowers in February. The flowers are small, but they are produced in large clusters. The typical form is orange, but there are other color variations. Flowers are waxy and the segments narrow, but when *Guarianthe aurantiaca* is crossed with other species and hybrids, the form dramatically improves. This is the parent of Slc. Jewel Box (x Slc. Anzac) and *C. Wolteriana* (x *C. schroderae*), and the grandparent of the very round Slc. Hazel Boyd and Blc. Bouton D'Or. *Guarianthe aurantiaca* gives vigor to its hybrids.

The Brazilian bifoliate, *Cattleya amethystoglossa*, also flowers in February. It is not too commonly seen in collections, for the pseudobulbs are very tall. The upright stems of flowers are bright lavender with dark purple spotting. Currently available tetraploid plants of *C. amethystoglossa* are more popular than the diploids. Not many hybrids involving *C. amethystoglossa* are available.

March and April: *Guarianthe skinneri*, the National Flower of Costa Rica, blooms in late February and early March. The bifoliate plants break multiple leads readily and result in specimens that are frequently seen in the early spring shows. The lavender flowers are produced in relatively large clusters. There are also white forms and some that are a light pastel color. The natural hybrid with *Guarianthe aurantiaca* is Gur. Guatemalensis - usually a salmon to peach color, but there are also yellow forms.



C. amethystoglossa

Continued on page 10



CULTIVATION

Continued from page 9



C. mossiae 'Alayon'

Cattleya mossiae, the "Easter Orchid" from Venezuela, blooms in March and April. The plants are very productive and were used for corsage flowers when orchid corsages were customary for Easter and Mother's Day. It makes its growth during the summer and rests during the winter, blooming when the days start getting longer. Sometimes the sheaths turn brown in the fall, but should not be disturbed, for the buds will push up through the dry sheaths. Plants can be controlled using light and temperature to flower for Easter, which may occur in March or April. *C. mossiae* is typically a light to medium lavender with a darker lip, but there are also semi-alba forms, white forms, and near "blue" forms. Hybrids made with *C. mossiae* tend to also bloom in the March-April time period.

Cattleya lueddemanniana (formerly *C. speciosissima*), from Venezuela, makes its growth in the early spring and flowers on the new growth in March or April. It is similar to *C. mossiae*, but the flowers have better form, with lips that typically have darker veining than *C. mossiae*. Since their bloom seasons overlap, there is a natural hybrid between the two, *C. Gravesiana*. *C. lueddemanniana* comes in the same color variations as *C. mossiae*. Its hybrids are not as season dependent as the *C. mossiae* hybrids, and are usually influenced by the other parent.

May: *Cattleya warneri*, from Brazil, blooms in May. It is a large flowered species that grows on a unifoliate plant. The leaves are among the widest in the *Cattleya* genus. There are lavender, semi-alba, and alba forms, and some especially nice "blue" lipped forms such as *C. warneri* 'Miranda' FCC/AOS. Hybrids from *C. warneri* can bloom any time of the year.

June: *Cattleya* (formerly *Laelia*) *purpurata* can bloom from late May through June. This unifoliate species from Brazil makes its growth in late summer and fall, so it needs to be repotted at that time rather than the late spring-early summer period for most *Cattleyas*. *C. purpurata* has a rather tall pseudobulb and long narrow foliage.

The rhizomes are short, so the upright plant does not outgrow the pot quickly and does not need as much room on the bench. The upright stems produce three to six flowers. Colors range from lavender to white, with some of the white ones having dark red- purple lips and others having flesh pink lips (carnea). The *werkhauseri* and *schusteriana* forms have slate blue to purple lips.

Cattleya intermedia is another bifoliate from Brazil that blooms in June and July. The flowers are waxy and medium in size. They tend to last longer on the plant and have heavy substance. They come in various colors and have been used to make hybrids that also bloom in early to mid summer. One form, "aquinii", is peloric, which means "regularity in anything that is normally irregular". In this form the flower is trying to make three lips, so the lip colors show on the petals. Sometimes the petals pitch forward like the lip. This color form is inherited in hybrids made with *C. intermedia* *aquinii*. Encylcias and hybrids of encylcias with *cattleyas* tend to bloom in June and July. These hybrids are now called *Cattcyclias* and can be very colorful and desirable.

July: The largest flowered of all *Cattleyas*, *Cattleya warscewiczii* (formerly *C. gigas*), blooms in July on growths made in the spring. Sometimes the buds come up in the sheaths while the growths are not mature. The plants are large and the flowers can be huge. Although it is not a bifoliate, I have seen 13 large flowers on one stem. Unfortunately, the flowers have poor substance and only last about a week. It has been used some in hybridizing. One inherited quality is large yellow eyes in the lip. This species, from Brazil, is not particularly easy to grow. There are a couple of famous clones, 'Frau Melanie Beyrodt' - semi alba, and 'Firmin Lambeau' - pure white. The 'Firmin Lambeau' clone was discovered in Brazil in the early 1900's by John Lager, and was sold by him for \$5000, equivalent to \$100,000 today.

Cattleya gaskelliana, from Venezuela, flowers in July. It is fairly easy to grow and flowers on the new growths. Flowers are not particularly large, but they are usually attractive, pastel lavender to white colors. Some of the best "blue" colors are found in *C. gaskelliana* and its hybrids.

July-August: Many of the bifoliate species from Brazil flower in July and August on the new growths. Some, such as *Cattleya leopoldii* and *Cattleya guttata*, have tall pseudobulbs and make large plants with large clusters of blooms. Their hybrids have much vigor and usually also flower in mid- summer.

A more dwarf form is *C. aelandiae*. The species is not easy to grow, but it has been used to make hybrids that have large, dark spotting on petals and sepals.

Cattleya granulosa has been used to make green hybrids. There are bronze forms, but the clear green ones

Continued on page 11



CULTIVATION

Continued from page 10



C. gaskelliana coerulea

have been used most in hybridizing. Lc. Ann Follis is one of the popular green hybrids from *C. granulosa*.

Cattleya bicolor also comes in bronze and green colorations. It has been used to give substance to yellow hybrids, and the green ones have been used to produce green hybrids such as Bc. Binosa. *C. bicolor*, like many of the bifoliate from Brazil, has a "spade" lip. This means the lip does not have side lobes but is flat and spade shaped. This trait carries forward - especially in some of the modern yellow hybrids. The flowers can still be quite beautiful.

Cattleya harrisoniana is similar to the January flowering *C. loddigesii*, and is often confused with that species. However, the bloom seasons are several months apart. *C. harrisoniana* has taller plants than *C. loddigesii*, but the flowers are flat and medium sized and about the same shape and colors as *C. loddigesii*. The alba form has been used to make the late summer "wedding bouquet" white hybrids.

All of the Brazilian bifoliate need to be repotted when they are actively growing and are about ready to make their new roots. If repotted while dormant they will frequently fail to make a new growth and remain dormant for a year or more - or just give up and die!

August: *Cattleya* (formerly *Laelia*) *tenebrosa* is also from Brazil. It has large flowers that are typically bronze colored with a purple lip. There are other color forms, including the yellow 'Walton Grange' with a purple lip and the greenish yellow 'Thanhouser's Treasure' which has a white lip. The bronze form is used to give vigor and to intensify the color in yellow and red cattleya hybrids.

Cattleya dowiana aurea is from Colombia, and is the most famous yellow cattleya species. The flowers have poor substance and only last a week to 10 days in the summer heat. The large lips are dark reddish purple with bright yellow eyes and good veining. It is a beautiful flower, but the plants are difficult for most

people to grow. It has been used a lot in hybridizing. The yellow color is recessive, but the beautiful lip is dominant. It is in the background of most of the summer blooming yellow hybrids (the yellow color coming mainly from the Brazilian rupicolous cattleyas - formerly laelias - such as *C. cinnabarina*).

Cattleya dowiana is a similar species from Costa Rica and Panama. It is easier to grow and has very different breeding characteristics. It is a color intensifier, and when crossed with lavender cattleyas will give very dark purple colors. If some *C. tenebrosa* is also present in the hybrid, the result can be large, clear red cattleya hybrids.

September-October: *Cattleya labiata* is another Brazilian species and the founding species for the *Cattleya* genus. In 1818 a Professor Swainson was collecting mosses and lichens in Brazil, and gathered some fleshy leaved plants (not in flower) to wrap around and protect his bundles. In England these outer plants were being discarded, but were saved by an amateur horticulturist, William Cattley. When they flowered the next spring they created a sensation, and the genus was named for Mr. Cattley.

C. labiata can be an excellent choice for home growing, for it makes its growth during the summer (outside) and blooms in the fall - then resting during the winter. There are many different color forms, including rich lavender, semi-alba, alba, and some nice "blue" lipped ones.

Guarianthe (formerly *Cattleya*) *bowringiana* is a vigorous bifoliate grower from Central America that has always been a good species for beginners. The bifoliate growths mature during the summer, and large clusters of lavender flowers are produced atop them in the fall. There are also white and "blue" forms, and there are some nice blue *C. Portias* made from *Guarianthe bowringiana* and *C. labiata*.

November-December: Many large lavender hybrids from *C. labiata* and *Rhyncholaelia digbyana* bloom during November. *Cattleya percivaliana*, the "Christmas Orchid", can bloom during November but frequently blooms in December. It is native to Venezuela, and makes a compact plant with 5" blooms. Most of the *C. percivalianas* are various shades of lavender with very dark lips. They have a pungent aroma which is a little bit strong for some people. Hybrids from *C. percivaliana* seem to follow the blooming season of the other parent. When crossed with fall lavenders they bloom in early November and when crossed with winter hybrids they tend to bloom in January.

Conclusion: I hope you can see the great variety available in the *Cattleya* genus. I did not include the compact growers that are bred from *Cattleya* (formerly *Sophranitis*) *coccinea*. They tend to bloom in the winter months and have flowers that are long lasting. Why don't you add some of these to your collection and enjoy all that *Cattleyas* have to give?



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Orchid Adventures Orchtoberfest at EFG

Our buddy George Hausermann goes to great lengths to make the Orchtoberfest an enjoyable event. There's lots of family stuff, hay rides and Halloween decorations, live music, food and German beer. It's always fun to tour George's greenhouse filled with tropicals and orchids, and this year he invited Bredren Orchids and Andy's Orchids to participate. Whoops, there went my budget! Phillip Hamilton had some immaculately grown phalaenopsis and paphinias that came home with me. I hadn't met Harry Phillips before so I had a good old time yakking about orchids before I escaped with some new mounted orchids. A good day all around!



SHOW TABLE 2014



Terry Bottom

Grower Hary & Celia McElroy
Habenaria medusa



Terry Bottom

Grower Courtney Hackney
Paph. Prince Edward of York



Terry Bottom

Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Taste of China



Terry Bottom

Grower Sue Bottom
Blc. Memoria Grant Eichler 'Lenette' HCC/AOS



Terry Bottom

Grower Melody Loll
Phal. Sogo Vivien



Terry Bottom

Grower Dick Roth
Den. Yellow Fancy



Terry Bottom

Grower Linda Stewart
Psygmorchis pusilla



SHOW TABLE 2014



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

Terry Bottom



Grower Sue Bottom
Stan. inodora

Terry Bottom



Grower John Van Brocklin
Paph. Oberhausens Diamant

Terry Bottom



Grower Mary Colee
Ctsm. Frilly Doris 'Sunset Valley Orchids' AM/AOS

Terry Bottom



Grower Sue Bottom
Bc. Punakea

Terry Bottom



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
C. skinneri var. alba 'Cherokee'

Terry Bottom

