St. Augustine Orchid Society NEWSLETTER
August 2013
Volume 8 Issue #8

Club News

August 6 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Lola Stark, seacuter@bellsouth.net

Welcome and Thanks. President Jeannette Pacetti opened the meeting at 7:30 pm with 60 people present, and Debbie Sandy announced that we had 5 guests and 5 new members, Wolfgang and Miki Schau, Karen Ewing and Dena West. Jeannette thanked Jeanette Smith for our food table and urged that if you enjoy the food table, please help pay for it by dropping a dollar in the jar on the table. Linda Stewart reminded the July and August birthday folks to be sure and get their birthday raffle tickets tonight as we had the auction in July without a raffle. She asked that if anyone needs a sunshine card to please get in touch with her. Please be sure and vote for the best orchid on the show table, we've got a lot of outstanding orchids! Dick Roth will count the ballots and announce the winner after the break.

Club Business. Penny Halyburton has several books she brought tonight including the Cymbidium book that has been doing the rounds! She also brought the light meter for one of the members to borrow!

Keiki Club - The Keiki Club will meet on 18 August before 11 am at the Flying J on Route 206 in the northwest corner of the parking lot. They will be going on a trip to Hicks Orchid Supplies in Orlando to pick up supplies for the coming year and to take a tour of Hicks' growing area. Please call Mary Colee at 669-8760 or email her at keiki@staugorchidsociety.org to make arrangments.

Ace Repotting - The next repotting clinic will be at Hagan Ace on US 1 on September 7 from 9 am to 1 pm. If you need some help with an orchid, the clinic is the place to get it!

Orchid Events. There are no orchid shows in our area this month, it is too hot!

Program. Our program person for the month was Roy Tokunaga of H & R Nurseries in Hawaii. His topic was "The Secret Life of Orchids", or how to get the most blooms from your orchids. His example for the evening was Cattleya walkeriana, a cattleya that has gorgeous fragrant blooms that everyone wants to have, but sometimes it is hard to get to the bloom stage. The plant has its own agenda! The plant will produce hormones (cytokinins) in the root tips (that green area) that signal the plant that they are healthy and have generated enough energy for the plant to bloom. Healthy roots are critical to blooming orchids.

Roy has studied how others grow their orchids At Fosters Botanical Garden in Hawaii, the orchid plants grow in nearly full sunlight most of the day. He visited RF Orchids in Homestead, Florida where they grow a lot of orchids on trees. The roots are long and full because they get plenty of sunshine and lots of humidity and air. RF has tours of their

Roy shares his knowledge of roots

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Club News

Upcoming Orchid Events

August

13 JOS Meeting, 7 pm, Specimen Plants
Roy Tokunaga, H & R Nurseries
18 Field Trip to Hick's Orchid Supplies
Meet at Flying J by 11 am

September

3 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Mac Rivenbark, Mac's Orchids
Vandas and Vandaceous Orchids
7 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
10 JOS Meeting, 7 pm, Topic TBA
Brian Monk. BluLlama Orchids
15-16 Ridge Orchid Society Show
Lake Mirror Center, Lakeland

October

1 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Dr. Courtney Hackney
Hackneau's Art and Orchids
Orchid Growing Tips
5 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
8 JOS Meeting, 7 pm, Topic TBA
Louis Del Favero. Del Favero Orchids
11-13 South Florida Orchid Society Show
Bank United Center, Coral Gables
12-13 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show
Fort Pierce Shrine Club
18-20 Orchtoberfest at EFG Orchids
4265 Marsh Road, Deland
19-20 Gainesville Orchid Society Show
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
25-27 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show
Old School Square
26-27 Brevard County Orchid Society Show
Melbourne Auditorium

November

2 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic - tentative
3 Open House at Orchids by Del Rei
Orchids, Food and Libations, 1 to 4 pm
4270 Cedar Ford Blvd, Hastings
5 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Rafael Romero, Plantio La Orquidea
Schomburgkia Species and Hybrids
12 JOS Meeting, 7 pm, Topic TBA
Segundo Cuesta, Quest Orchids

December

3 SAOS Christmas Auction, 7 pm
Moultrie Trails Clubhouse
121 Crooked Tree Trail, St. Aug 32086

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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Roy shared his secrets on how to grow good roots

property and greenhouses on Saturdays, so if you're in the area, be sure and call to see what time and where to meet!

Day Night Temperature Change. Many orchids grow much more slowly than many other types of plants, perhaps at 1/20th of the speed of other plants. The cattleyas with thick roots and thick leaves have a metabolism much like cactus plants where they are adapted to growing in hot, dry environments. The plants compensate for the lack of water by the thickness of their leaves and roots, the few stomata or pores on the leaves and keeping the few stomata they have on the leaves closed during the day to prevent water loss. The stomata open at night when the temperatures are cooler and the humidity is higher. They absorb carbon dioxide into the leaf for storage and subsequent usage in the daylight hours when the plant is photosynthesizing and producing sugar for energy (CAM photosynthesis or crassulacean acid metabolism). This means that many orchids require a day night temperature change of 10 to 30 degrees for proper metabolism.

Light. Roy grows his orchids in the brightest light each orchid can take up to the point of burning the leaf. Read Erik Runkle's Principles of Light for more information. In Hawaii, the orchids grow best at an altitude of 1500 feet above sea level with a day night temperature difference of 30 degrees.

Air Movement. Healthy roots are the secret to good orchid blooms. Velamen is the covering of the roots that acts like a sponge to hold the moisture on the roots. It is usually white and Roy showed us pictures where the roots overwhelmed the area, with the plant blooming beautifully! If the tip of the roots are green with chlorophyll, then all is well! 50% of the plant's mass should be root. Aerial roots are different and better for the plant than the roots growing in a medium and Roy contends that all will grow better if they're grown without a medium. However, this is not practical for shipping purposes! His old friend, Wilbur Chang, who lived in Hawaii, grew his plants in clay, hanging on a swivel so the plant turns gently in a breeze all the time! Fabulous plants! Most orchids grow better in baskets. Roy grows the small plants in plastic because it's more economical, but his own plants are usually grown in clay or baskets where the leaves and roots can grow where and when they want to. Some of the best blooms come on cattleyas that have jumped over the edge of the container.

Maintaining Healthy Roots. Roy maintains that the pH of the medium will determine the health of the roots which in turn determines how well the plant will grow and flower. The pH in the root zone should be between 5 and 7. In order to find the pH of your media, take the whole plant out of its pot, put it in a plastic bag, return it to the pot for stability. Add distilled water to cover the roots. Wait one hour. Take the plant out of the water, return it to its container. Take the water, filter it through a coffee filter and then use a pH strip to determine the pH of the water. His water is quite acidic and without treatment will go down to 4. He has found that acidic water will not allow the plant to get Calcium or Magnesium which every plant needs. So he adds Dolomite to his plants to raise his pH to above 6. Calcium is, in effect, the Bloom Booster we all want!

Roy's water is naturally low in alkalinity while our St. Augustine water is high in alkalinity so a fertilizer that will generate acidity and neutralize the alkalinity is desirable, like a 13-2-13 or the more available 20-20-20. Read "What's in Your Water" by Jack and Cari Peters in the May 2012 Orchids magazine for additional information. Roy strongly recommends sending a sample of your water to JR Peters for analysis ($36) and letting them recommend the proper fertilizer for you to use.

Meeting Conclusion. Following a break, Dick Roth announced that his Grammatophyllum scriptum was the winner on the show table! Congratulations, Dick! See the picture at the end of the newsletter! We then had our raffle and auction of plants before closing the meeting at 9:30 pm.

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

Club News

September 3
Monthly SAOS Meeting
Vandas and Vandaceous Orchids
Mac Rivenbark, Mac's Orchids

Mac Rivenbark of Mac's Orchids in Ft Lauderdale will be discussing vandas and vandaceous orchids at the September 3 meeting. Mac's presentation will focus on the different types of vandaceous orchids available along with their culture. Mac and his wife Helen will bring plants to sell at the meeting, so make sure you get there early!

After many fascinating trips to the Philippines, Mac and Helen started to import plants and a business soon started. With extensive study and growing Mac has become an expert in plants from Asia. They belong to many orchid societies and Mac was the past president of the Fort Lauderdale Society.

Keiki Club on August 18
Field Trip to Hick's Orchid Supplies

Keiki Club Coordinator Mary Colee has arranged a field trip to Hick's Orchid Supplies in the Orlando area on August 18th. Hick's Orchid Supplies has pots, potting mixes, wire products and all the rest of the orchid supplies so difficult to find in our local stores. For those that want to carpool together, we'll meet at the Flying J truckstop at exit 305 off US 95 by 11 am so we can get to Hick's by 1 pm. Johnnie will be available to show us his growing area. We'll head back around 3 and should be back at the Flying J by 5 pm. Hick's Orchid Supplies is located at 11410 Judge Avenue Union Park, Orange 32813. Contact Keiki Club Coordinator Mary Colee at keiki@staugorchidsociety.org to let her know if you're going or if you have questions.

Inspiration

Growing Tips for August

Dr. Courtney Hackney,
hackneau@comcast.net
Dept. Biology, Univ. North Florida

While there are many facets to growing orchids that hobbyists must learn, there are only two real stages.

The first stage can generally be called the "learning stage". Developing familiarity with orchid names, understanding the cultural needs of different orchids groups and finally applying all of the knowledge gained from books, lectures, fellow orchid hobbyists, and experts to your own situation. It does not matter if you grow under lights, on windowsills or in a greenhouse, this "learning stage" occurs. You know you are out of this stage when your biggest problem comes from having more orchids than space.

This phase can take a few years or decades, depending on the individual. Often, the process moves from windowsill culture to lights and finally into a greenhouse. There are great differences between each requiring continual learning and cultural adaptation. Most hobbyists never finish this phase, which is fortunate for those who sell orchids. Hobbyists in this phase must continually replace plants lost as they learn proper culture, pest and disease control and repotting.

Hobbyists in the "learning stage" often lack sympathy for hobbyists that make it to the "containment stage". This stage is characterized by the need to constantly discard orchids because they keep multiplying. This stage can be confused with a process that occurs in stage one, buying more plants that there is space for. Hobbyists in stage one need to recognize stage two hobbyists because they are a source of both cultural advice and plants. More importantly, orchids from a nearby hobbyist are likely already adapted to local conditions. Their culture, i.e. potting mix, pot type, etc, also provides a model for those in the early stages of stage one.

The transition from stage one is usually not obvious to the grower. It begins when one particular group of orchids, e.g. intergeneric oncidiums begin to fill pots and are always in flower. It might seem that this would be an obvious transition point into stage two, but most hobbyists seem to enjoy the frustration of failure and begin to purchase orchids more difficult to grow.

The usual pattern is to try hybrids of other orchid groups such as Cattleyas. Once these are growing well and the challenge becomes repotting, species begin to grow as a percentage of a collection, often at the exclusion of the orchids that were once such a challenge, but now take up too much space. Hobbyists satisfied with their ability to grow the orchids that initially attracted them to the hobby could easily move into stage two, but sadly most abandon the hobby. For the rest, moving to increasingly challenging types of orchids becomes the mantra. Given the number of orchid species and groups, one may never graduate to the second stage, even though knowledge and cultural expertise becomes extensive. Ultimately, hobbyists entering stage two either specialize in one group of orchids, e.g. Bulbophylums, or some unique grouping, e.g. Classic Cattleyas. A very few make their own hybrids, which produces the greatest problem plaguing members of stage two; deciding which seedlings to keep. It is one thing to discard a hybrid purchased long ago or a clone for which there are thousands of duplicates, but discarding your own hybrid clones is like tossing your own children out. While each one may not be awardable, each has special attributes that only you as the hybridizer can appreciate.

So, weep for me this fall! Selecting from among my own seedlings that have already been selected for some special trait and/or selecting which of my favorite classic cattleyas or phalanopsis to keep must happen before it gets cold. Or… perhaps I can talk my spouse into expanding my greenhouse! Of course, than can lead to stage three; "the divorce" stage.

Your Orchids in August

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

General Growing Tips. August is the hottest month so be prepared to work diligently to ensure sufficient air circulation. Spray water on the floor, benches and outer surface of clay pots one or more times every day during the hottest times. Continue watering and using a dilute fertilizer. The warm temperatures also cause fungal and bacterial problems as well as an increase in insect populations. Observe your plants carefully and spray for both insects and disease when first noticed. It may be necessary to move unsheltered plants into an area protected from torrential rains.

Cattleyas. The extreme heat seems to discourage active growth and flowering, but many plants are either developing buds for their autumn flowering or are ripening growths that will power the winter and spring blooming season. The bifoliates and nodosa hybrids seem best able to bloom during the summer temperature extremes. The high temperatures and humidity typical of our summer coupled with tropical storm weather create the potential for black rot. Consider allowing plants to dry harder between waterings. Tie up new growths carefully to promote upright development of the pseudobulbs.

Cymbidiums. Use high potassium fertilizer in late August. The potassium level should be at 250 to 300 ppm potassium (K) and zero to very low N. Do this only two times at a two week interval. Wait a month then resume your normal fertilizer schedule.

Dendrobiums. The *nobile* type dendrobiums are popular though some growers find them difficult to flower. In order to promote the gradual shift from active growth to the flowering cycle, start withholding nitrogen now. Some growers report using a bloom booster this time of year on winter dormant plants helps prepare them for their dormancy.

Phalaenopsis. Current high temperatures are particularly stressful for phalaenopsis. Excess heat and humidity promote bacterial *Pseudomonas* infections on the fleshy leaves. Keep light levels subdued, promote sufficient air circulation and do not splash water from one plant onto another. Keep using a dilute (1/4 to 1/8 tsp/gal) fertilizer with every watering to develop the strongest roots and largest leaves prior to the winter flowering season.

Vandas. Summer growing conditions are ideal for *Aerides, Ascocentrum, Rhynchostylis* and *Vanda* hybrids. Feed aggressively and provide high humidity. Try placing a rubber-topped plastic flower tube containing stale beer on a rigid, emerging new root (in the evening and remove in the morning so it doesn't burn). Rather quickly, the root will consume the beer and utilize its carbohydrate content, producing some remarkable growth responses.

Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q1. My catasetinae leaves developed bumps, some of them may sometimes have thrips or spider mites but I'm pretty sure this is not caused by an insect though my feeling is that it is transmitted from one plant to another nearby.

A1. The catasetum has edema, which is a blistering on the leaf caused when the plant takes up water faster than it can transpire it. It happens if you water on a gray day or if you water late in the day and the night turns cool. It may look like it's being transported from plant to plant because all your plants are watered at the same time and subjected to the same conditions. Here's a link for more information.

Q2. My son found this strange flowering phal in our orchid growing area. The blooms are emerging from under the sphagnum moss with very little, if any, spike. What gives?

A2. Every once in a while, a flower spike gets trapped and doesn't grow upward the way it normally would. This one looks like it got confused and punched a hole through the leaf and grew around and under the other leaves. If you follow the flower spike back to the base of the plant, you will see the circuitous route it took. It's just an aberration that won't repeat itself next year.

Q3. I bought this Brassidium in May, keep it in bright light and am careful not to overwater. I just noticed soft and mushy rot in the center of the plant. Is it toast?

A3. It's not toast. Remove all the rot and discoloration with a sterile tool (sterilizing after each cut) and pour hydrogen peroxide on it (Banrot would be even better if you can find some). After you cut up the plant, let it dry out a for a day or two by standing it in an empty clay pot. You probably won't have any roots, so you'll end up putting it in sphagnum moss in a very small pot until roots grow. You may be able to repot it in regular mix by September or so and let it get reestablished this fall.

Q4. I have small brown dots on the flower stems of one of my three orchids that seem a bit sticky and resemble seeds. There are also a few on the back of some of the flowers. I can't find any legs, can you help me identify them?

A4. That is scale. Remove the obvious infestation with either a Q tip or toothbrush dipped in some isopropyl alcohol and scrub the scale off the plant, the flowers, etc. You'll have to repeat the treatment a few times. If you have some of the Bayer products containing imidacloprid, you can also mix some up and pour it through the potting mix for a more permanent fix.

Changes in Cattleya Nomenclature

Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

The Royal Horticultural Society *a*t Kew is the international registration body for new orchid hybrids and cultivars. The RHS had adopted changes to orchid nomenclature that affect the names we call our orchids. The orchid taxonomists who have proposed these changes are referred to derisively as the lumpers and the splitters, because they are busy lumping some species together into an existing genus or splitting species apart into separate sometimes new genera. I have happily continued to use the old Sanders names with which I am familiar and comfortable. There are many new hybrids being referred to by the new nomenclature so I decided it was time for this old dog to learn some new tricks.

Central American Cattleyas Split into Guarianthes. The splitters pulled the Central American bifoliate species (aurantiaca, bowringiana, deckeri, patinii and skinneri) out of the cattleya genus in 2003 and created the new genus Guarianthe (Gur.) to house them. Dressler and Higgins felt this group was out of place in the Cattleya genus, partly on the basis of DNA analysis, and proposed the new generic name based on Guaria, a Costa Rican word for orchid, and the Greek term for flower, anthe. This has created the need for new intergeneric names to describe the hybrids with Guarianthes. For example, the hybrid between B. nodosa and Gur. bowringiana is now known as Brassanthe (Bsn.) Maikai instead of Brassocattleya (Bc). Maikai.

Cattleyas Moved Into the Genus Guarianthe

Gur. aurantiaca

Gur. bowringiana

Gur. deckeri

Gur. patinii

Gur. skinneri

Some Brassavolas Split into Rhyncholaelias. The splitters pulled two species out of the Brassavolas (B.) and created the new genus Rhyncholaelia (Rl.) to house them. Though this change was made prior to the turn of the century, many growers still refer to them as Brassavolas. The fimbriated lip of the digbyana is very popular with hybridizers and has been incorporated into many hybrids such that the B in the majority of the old Brassocattleyas and Brassolaeliocattleyas is from B. dibyana. The addition of the Rhyncholaelia genus created the need for new genus names to describe its hybrids. For example, the hybrid between Rl. digbyana and C. dowiana is now known as Rhyncholaelia (Rlc.) Mrs. J. Leemann rather than Bc. Mrs. J. Leeman.

Brassavolas Moved Into the Genus Rhyncholaelia

Rl. digbyana

Rl. glauca

Cattleyode Laelias Lumped into Cattleyas. The lumpers moved the large flowered Cattleyode Brazilian Laelias (crispa, grandis, lobata, purpurata and tenebrosa) into the Cattleya genus. This did not result in any need for new intergeneric names, it just changed the name of many familiar orchids. L. purpurata has been in the parentage of perhaps 90% of the previously called Laeliocattleya orchids that are now known as cattleyas. For example, C. purpurata crossed with C. mossiae is now known as Cattleya (C.) Canhamiana rather than Laeliocattleya (Lc.) Canhamiana.

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Cattleyode Laelias Moved Into the Genus Cattleya


C. crispa


C. grandis


C. lobata


C. purpurata


C. tenebrosa

Other Brazilian Laelias Lumped into Cattleyas. The lumpers moved the rest of the Brazilian laelias into the Cattleya genus, including the colorful Brazilian rupicolous laelias (such as alaorii, jongheana, perrinii, pumila, sincorana, bradeum briegeri, cinnabarina, harpophylla and longipes). Only Laelias from Mexico and Central America are now still considered to be Laelias. This means the hybrid between C. pumila and C. walkeriana is Cattleya (C.) Mini Purple rather than Laeliocattleya (Lc.) Mini Purple.

Other Brazilian Laelias Moved Into the Genus Cattleya


C. alaorii


C. jongheana


C. perrinii


C. pumila


C. sincorana


C. bradei


C. briegeri


C. cinnabarinai


C. harpophylla


C. longipes

Schomburgkias Eliminated, Plants Split into Myrmecophilas and Laelias. The hollow pseudobulb Schomburgkias (including albopurpurea, brysiana, exaltata, thomsoniana and tibicinis) were moved into the Myrmecophila genus. The genus name Schomburgkia, which meant ant lover and referred to the symbiotic relationship these plants had with ants living within the hollow pseudobulbs, is no more. This also eliminated Schombocattleyas (Smbc.), etc. so the cross between C. bicolor and Myrmecophila (Mcp.) tibicinis is known as Myrmecocattleya (Myc.) instead of Schombocattleya (Smbc.) Memoria Louise Fuchs. The solid pseudobulb Schomburgkias are supposedly more closely related to the Mexican laelias such as L. anceps based on DNA sequencing. Some of the Schomburgkias including the South American Schomburgkias moved into the Laelia genus include lyonsii, rosea, splendida, superbiens and undulata. This makes the hybrid between Cattlianthe (Ctt.) Rojo and L. undulata Laeliocatanthe (Lcn.) rather than Lyonara (Lyon.) Newberry Lava Burst.

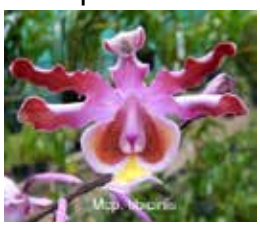
Some of the Schomburgkias That Were Moved Into the Genus Myrmecophila


Mcp. albopurpurea


Mcp. brysiana


Mcp. exaltata


Mcp. thomsoniana


Mcp. tibicinis

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Some of the Schomburgkias That Were Moved Into the Genus Laelia


L. lyonsii


L. rosea


L. splendida


L. superbiens


L. undulata

Sophronitis Eliminated, Plants Lumped into Cattleyas. The lumpers moved all the Sophronitis species (including brevipedunculata, cernua, coccinea and wittigiana) into the Cattleya genus. These mostly cool growing orchids have been used to impart intense red coloration to their progeny. Lumping the Sophronitis in with the Cattleyas did not result in any new intergeneric names, rather it eliminated the need for many intergeneric names like Sophrocattleya (Sc.), Sophrolaelia (Sl.), Sophrolaeliocattleya (Slc.) and Potinara (Pot.). This means that what was known as Sophrolaeliocattleya (Slc.) Jewel Box is now known as Cattlianthe (Ctt.) Jewel Box and what was once known as Potinara (Pot.) Burana Beauty is now known as Rhyncattleanthe (Rth.) Burana Beauty.

Some of the Schomburgkias That Were Moved Into the Genus Laelia


C. brevipedunculata


C. cernua


C. coccinea


C. wittigiana

Summary. The reclassifications of the various genera align the orchid groups more geographically. Laelias are found from Mexico through central America into Northern South America. Cattleyas are primarily a Brazilian genus with some unifoliate species extending into the northern Andes and Central America. The Guarianthe are found in Central America. The negative consequence of this new nomenclature is the renaming of so many of the hybrids in the Cattleya alliance. Having said all this, I haven't changed any of the labels on my plants.

Guarianthe Combinations with Other Genera in the Cattleya Alliance					
Combine Guarianthe (Gur.) with:		To Create This Intergeneric:		Sanders Would Have Called It:	
B.	Brassavola (B)	Bsn.	Brassanthe	Bc.	Brassocattleya
Bc.	Brassocattleya (B x C)	Bct.	Brassocatanthe	Bc.	Brassocattleya
C.	Cattleya (C)	Ctt.	Cattlianthe	C.	Cattleya
E.	Encyclia (E)	Gcy.	Guaricyclia	Epc.	Epicattleya
L.	Laelia (L)	Lnt.	Laelianthe	Lc.	Laeliocattleya
Lc.	Laeliocattleya (C x L)	Lcn.	Laeliocatanthe	Lc.	Laeliocattleya
Ryc.	Rhyncatlaelia (C x L x Rl)	Rchg.	Rechingerara	Blc.	Brassolaeliocattleya

Photo Credits: Guarianthes: Gur. aurantiaca by Gene Crocker of Carter and Holmes, Gur. bowringiana by Jean Wilson, Gur. deckeri by Michael Blietz of Exotic Orchids, Gur. patinii and Gur skinneri by Jean Wilson; Rhyncholaelias: Rl. digbyana by David Genovese and Rl. glauca by P. Nelson; Cattleyode Laelias: C. crispa by Dalton Baptista, C. grandis, C. lobata and C. tenebrosa by Mauro Rosin, C. purpurata by Woolf Orchid Culture; Other Brazilian Laelias: C. alaorii , C. jongheana, C. perrinii, C. pumila, C.sincorana, C. bradei and C. longipes by Francisco Miranda, C. briegeri by Fred Clarke, C. cinnabarina by Mauro Rosin, C. harpophylla by Maureen Puligano; Schomburgkias: Mcp. albopurpurea by Judy Cook, Mcp. brysiana by Jean Wilson, Mcp. exaltata by James Jeansonne, Mcp. thomsoniana by Fred Clarke and Mcp. tibicinis by Stephen William Swan of Burbank O. Nursery, L. lyonsii by Jean Wilson, L. rosea by Weyman Bussey, L. splendida by Jose Portilla of Ecuagenera, L. superbiens by Patricia Harding, and L. undulata by Mauro Rosin; Sophronitis: C. brevipedunculata, C. cernua and C. coccinea by John Varigos, C. wittigiana by Mauro Rosin

Home and Backyard Orchid Growing

Linda Stewart, lindstew@hotmail.com

Imagine you get your dream come true, you get to build a greenhouse to grow your beauties. Then imagine that you have an accomplished orchid grower that will help you design and build your greenhouse. Linda is quick to laud praise on her brother Steve Hawkins, The Orchid Specialist, for helping her design and build her new 20' x 30' greenhouse.

Steve's design is simple yet elegant. The wet wall is on the long side of the greenhouse facing west and the 3 exhaust fans on the east side of the greenhouse move plenty of cool air through the greenhouse for a comfortable environment even in our summer heat. The greenhouse is covered in smoked polycarbonate that has a shade factor of maybe 65% so additional shade cloth is required only for some of the real shade lovers. Steve also recommended double propane heaters for redundancy. If one fails on a cold winter night the second heater will prevent disaster in the greenhouse.

Once you step inside the greenhouse, you sense Linda's taste in orchids. Many are species but she is not a species snob, she likes any orchid that is delicate, unusual and attractive.

She has a wall of mounted orchids, many miniatures and all unusual and unique. With the automatic spray system on this wall set to spray daily, she found the orchids were staying a little too wet so she removed the sphagnum moss with tweezers.

She has an area for her tolumnias, all in small clay pots with fine charcoal that bloom and bloom with their colorful flowers. She has mastered growing zygopetalums, the fragrant blue and bronze colored orchids that tend to be cooler growing. She is even experimenting with the miltoniopsis, the beautiful pansy orchids, that can melt in our heat. She has an area for oncidiums, a big favorite with their long lived blooms and phalaenopsis that bloom for months on end.

The greenhouse has 3 rods for growing vandas. She loves the delicate Neofinetias and their hybrids with their compact habit and floriferous nature, the Renantheras with their intense red flower coloration and the Vanda tesselata hybrids with their fragrance.

Linda has a little sitting area in the middle of her greenhouse so she can spend quality time with her orchids. Incredibly, Linda also has every orchid lover's dream, room for just a few more orchids!

Show Table

Grower Denise Henry
Lc. Aloha Case x Bc. Donna Kimura
'ParadiseTami'

Grower Sue Bottom
Epc. Natura

Grower Sue Botttom
Paph. Avalon Love Stone

Grower Dick Roth
Ascda. Pralor

Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Blc. Hettie Cilliers

Grower Mary Colee
V. Fuchs Delight 'Black'

Grower Sue Bottom
Enc. radiata

Show Table

Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Pot. Al Thanhauser

Grower Dick Roth
Grammatophyllum scriptum

Grower Fred Keefer
Robiquetia Merrillianum

Grower Sue Bottom
C. Lulu Land

Grower Linda Stewart
Dtps. Kenneth Schubert

Grower Dick Roth
Ascda. Motes Hot Chestnut