

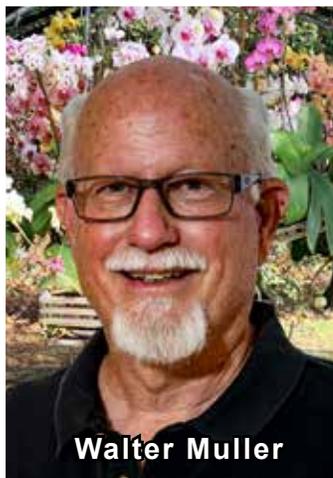


# St. Augustine NEWSLETTER

## Orchid Society September 2020

Volume 15 Issue #9

### CLUB NEWS



Walter Muller

#### September 1 Meeting

by Janis Croft

#### Welcome and Thanks.

President Tom Sullivan opened the meeting at 6:50 pm with 48 attendees. Tom thanked Dianne Batchelder and Ann McKenna for preparing the cookies and coffee in individual containers and he also thanked the team for Covid cleaning the room in preparation for the meeting.

Membership VP, Linda Stewart introduced our new members, Brandon Silvester, and Patti and Patrick Toohey. She also welcomed our guests, Becky and Deborah. Then Tom pointed out the locations of the Silent Auction Table, Sales Table, Vendor Sales Table and the Raffle Table and informed all that the Silent Auction would end after the presentation.

**Club Business.** Membership VP, Linda Stewart asked all with birthdays to raise their hands for their free raffle ticket. As our Sunshine Coordinator also, Linda announced 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 will continue conducting our Courtney Hackney led Show Table via Zoom conference video. We will try to do them on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. The photos are in for the September 15 Show Table. You can send photos of your blooming orchids for the Show Table to Sue Bottom for October's presentation. Each month's Virtual Show Table is recorded and posted on our website.

**Catasetum Competition Grow** – Sue Bottom announced the winners of the Catasetum Competition as Janis Croft for the first to bloom and Glo MacDonald for the best grown. Both received Catasetum plants as prizes. Sue told all growers in the contest to photograph your blooms and send her the



photos. When Fred Clarke visits next year he will judge the best blooms from the photos submitted and announce a winner.

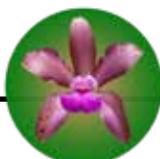
**Repotting Clinics** will no longer be held at Ace Hardware. The clinic will be held on Saturday, September 5, 9 am til noon at the Memorial Lutheran Church Pavilion Across from the Back Parking Lot.

**Supplies** - Purely Organic will arrive mid-month and orders were taken at the meeting. If you need any potting supplies, email [info@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@staugorchidsociety.org) and we will have it ready for you at the next meeting.

**Library** – Howard Cushnir brought in the new book from AOS, Orchids and their Culture by Mary Gerritsen and Ron Parsons that was immediately borrowed. He also brought in Orchids from the South and Courtney's American Cattleyas for review. He encouraged all to use the library collection listed on our [SAOS website](http://SAOS website). If you would like a book, send a request to [librarian@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:librarian@staugorchidsociety.org) and Howard will bring the item(s) to the next meeting.



Continued on page 3



# CLUB NEWS



## Upcoming Orchid Events

### September

- 5 Repotting Clinic, 9 am til 1 pm  
Memorial Lutheran Church  
3375 US 1 S – by back parking lot
- 8 JOS Meeting, Growing Cattleyas, 7 pm  
Courtney Hackney
- 12 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm  
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 15 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7 pm  
Courtney Hackney on Your Computer
- 19-20 Ridge Orchid Society Show  
IFAS Stuart Center, Bartow
- 20 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm  
Growing Area Tour  
Bob and Yvonne Schimmel's home  
702 Wilkes Court, St. Aug 32086

### October

- 3 Repotting Clinic, 9 am til 1 pm  
Memorial Lutheran Church  
3375 US 1 S – by back parking lot
- 3-4 South Florida Orchid Society Show  
CANCELLED
- 6 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm  
Transitions and Adaptations  
Linda Stewart, St. Aug Orchid Society
- 10 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm  
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 13 JOS Meeting, Program TBA, 7 pm  
TBA20 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7 pm  
Courtney Hackney on Your Computer
- 16-18 Field Trip to EFG Orchtoberfest  
4265 Marsh Road, Deland 32724
- 24-25 Gainesville Orchid Society Show  
CANCELLED
- 31-1 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show  
CANCELLED

### November

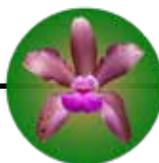
- 3 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm  
Words of Wisdom  
Sue Bottom, St. Aug Orchid Society
- 7-8? Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show  
CANCELLED
- 10 JOS Meeting, Program TBA 7 pm  
Speaker TBA
- 14 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm  
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 14-15 Deerfield Beach Orchid Society Show  
CANCELLED

### December

- 1 SAOS Christmas Auction, 6:30 pm  
Memorial Lutheran Church  
3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086

### St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| President                        | Tom Sullivan<br><a href="mailto:tomjs91@gmail.com">tomjs91@gmail.com</a>   |
| Vice President<br>Communications | Janis Croft<br><a href="mailto:croftie1984@gmail.com">croftie1984@gmail.com</a>  |
| Vice President<br>Events         | Dianne Batchelder<br><a href="mailto:ladydi9907@aol.com">ladydi9907@aol.com</a>  |
| Vice President<br>Membership     | Linda Stewart<br><a href="mailto:lindstew@hotmail.com">lindstew@hotmail.com</a>  |
| Vice President<br>Programs       | Sue Bottom<br><a href="mailto:sbottom15@gmail.com">sbottom15@gmail.com</a>   |
| Treasurer                        | Bill Gourley<br><a href="mailto:wgourley@bellsouth.net">wgourley@bellsouth.net</a>   |
| Directors at Large               | Debra Brandt, 2020<br><a href="mailto:dbb@cfl.rr.com">dbb@cfl.rr.com</a><br>Cathy Mayo, 2020<br><a href="mailto:allatoonalady@gmail.com">allatoonalady@gmail.com</a><br>Bob Schimmel, 2019<br><a href="mailto:schimmelr55@bellsouth.net">schimmelr55@bellsouth.net</a> |
| Exhibit Committee<br>Chair       | Janis Croft<br><a href="mailto:croftie1984@gmail.com">croftie1984@gmail.com</a>  |
| Librarian                        | Howard Cushnir<br><a href="mailto:hscushnir@gmail.com">hscushnir@gmail.com</a>   |
| Newsletter Editors<br>Webmasters | Sue and Terry Bottom<br><a href="mailto:sbottom15@gmail.com">sbottom15@gmail.com</a><br><a href="mailto:bottom406@gmail.com">bottom406@gmail.com</a>   |



# CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1



**SAOS Program.** Sue Bottom announced our guest speaker and club member, Walt Muller who spoke on his “Backyard Orchid Growing” process. He grew up in Miami and learned how to grow orchids there by visiting the numerous nurseries and asking lots of questions. In particular, he referred to Ruben’s mother as his main mentor—she answered all of his questions. She suggested he choose a group of orchids; something that he wanted to learn how to grow. His favorite are the Phalaenopsis but he also grows cattleyas and vandas as well as some other varieties now. Early on he experimented with seedlings and learned how to grow them to maturity. At OFE, they were experimenting with different media so they let him test various media on his plants and he would report back what was working and what wasn’t. Then Hurricane Andrew arrived and obliterated his shade house and he lost all of his plants. His orchid growing took a hiatus until he moved up to north Florida and started over again about eight years ago.

Walt purchased a shade house made out of galvanized pipe from Haymarket. It also came with a fitted plastic covering with a roll up door and one window to use during cold weather. After installing the new structure, he added a layer of 60% shade cloth over the outside of the structure. Walt decided to grow types of orchids that he could assimilate in one growing condition limited by his 10 x 10, 9 1/2 high structure. He ran several sections of insulated 3/16” stranded wire from across the ceiling of the structure. This gave him more space to hang plants. He then added vertical chains hanging down from the wire so he could add plants by hooks at lower heights. More sun loving plants were hung higher and less sun loving plants were hung lower on the chains. This helped him maximize his space instead of using a shelf system.

Walt developed a credo over the years. It starts with keep it simple—remember plants love light, they like more water and want fertilizer. He waters every other day and uses Purely Organic as well as Osmocote Plus. He started his new collection by planting all in wood baskets but due to the cost rise this year, he is shifting over to the net (plastic) baskets.

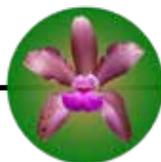
Next he showed us how he repots his Phals. In the net basket bottom he tears sphagnum moss up and puts it down first. Then he places pre-washed charcoal chunks and sprinkles over all a light coating of Osmocote. Walt then spreads the roots out over the charcoal and then adds a tea bag filled with Purely Organic. He then adds more moss, a little more Osmocote and a few more pieces of charcoal. To secure the plant he clips the old inflorescence to the hanger on the pot. His practice is to leave all green inflorescences on the plant to use for securing in the pot and also, during the next blooming cycle, he’ll often get a branch of new blooms. Because he uses an overhead watering system, he advised tilting the plant slightly so water will drain out and prevent crown rot.



During the winter months, he covers the shade house with the plastic fitted covering. Walt opens the door and back window for air circulation during the daytime and then closes at night. To keep it warm, he turns on two halogen lights on stands, and when the temperature get into the 30’s, he turns on a space heater to keep the temperature 10-15 degrees warmer than outside. His only issue now is overcrowding during the cold months when he has to bring outdoor mounted plants into his shade house. The crowding of plants reduces the air circulation which has caused him some issues to now learn about.

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

Link to pictures from meeting: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmQwjWeC>



# CLUB NEWS

## Repotting Clinics

Our orchids will have a growth spurt this month as the temperatures and humidity mediate, and you will start to see new green root tips. This is your chance to get overgrown plants into fresh media while they have a chance to reestablish their roots before the cold weather. If you need any help or just want to watch and talk, come out to the Church Pavilion Saturday morning!

When: Saturday, September 5, 9 am til noon  
Where: Memorial Lutheran Church  
Pavilion Across from Back Parking Lot  
3375 US 1 South

## Virtual Show Table

Courtney has continued his review of our blooming orchids in his mid-month Virtual Show Table presentations on Zoom. If you miss the live talk, Terry uploads the video of Courtney's presentation to YouTube, with a link posted on our newsletter page.

[Send](#) pictures of your blooming orchids by the Saturday before our meeting so they can be compiled for the newsletter and virtual presentation. Send in pictures any time before October 3rd.

## Keiki Club - Growing Area Tour

Enjoy the cooler fall weather, and use this time to get your orchids ready for their winter rest. Get their winter home prepared, and then spend some quality time with your orchids removing spent sheaths and drenching the pots to eliminate the creepy crawlers. We will talk about the cold hardiness of different types of orchids so you can develop your plan for the winter months.

Where: Bob and Yvonne's Home  
[702 Wilkes Court, St. Aug 32086](#)  
When: Sunday, September 20, 1 - 3 pm

## American Orchid Society Corner

### Webinars

September 1, 8:30 pm, Everyone Invited  
Greenhouse Chat Orchid, Q&A - Ron McHatton  
September 10, 8:30 pm, AOS Members Only  
Encyelia Species and Hybrids – Mike Curtin

### Orchids Magazine this month:

Into Africa: Mauritius by Thomas Mirenda  
Platysteie - Something Different by Larry Sexton  
Phragmipedium dalessandroi by Olaf Gruss  
Bulbophyllum caloglossum by Charles Wilson

### Photos of Latest AOS Awards

## Covid Considerations

Everyone has been schooled on the guidelines on social distancing during the pandemic. Take your temperature before attending events to make sure you do not have a fever. Attendance at meetings is limited to a maximum of 50 people, so four people can space themselves about 6 ft apart at each of the large 8 ft diameter circular tables. Face masks are not mandatory, but you may wish to bring one for when you are in close proximity to another member. Hand sanitizers and multiple cleaned pens will be available at the Welcome, Sales and Silent Auction Tables. We are looking forward to having our regular meetings, with all the personal interactions, beautiful plants and knowledgeable speakers.

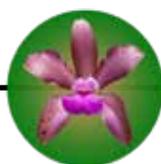


## October 6 Monthly Meeting Transitioning to a New Home Linda Stewart, St. Aug Orchid Society

Our very own Linda Stewart will talk about her orchid growing experiences at three Florida homes: the atrium of her townhouse in Plantation, the greenhouse in Palatka and backyard growing in her forever Palatka home. She will talk about the problems she encountered at each location and the solutions she hit on to grow her lovely species and hybrid orchids.

George Hausermann of EFG Orchids will be joining us, hosting the sales table. He will be selling plants as well as providing raffle plants. We will have our normal raffle at the end of the meeting. Friends and guests are always welcome!

**When:** Tuesday, October 6, 6:30 til 9 pm  
**Where:** Memorial Lutheran Church  
3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086



# INSPIRATION



*Dtps. (now Phal.) Kaoda Twinkle 'Chocolate Drops'*

© Terry Botto



# CULTIVATION



## Orchid Questions & Answers

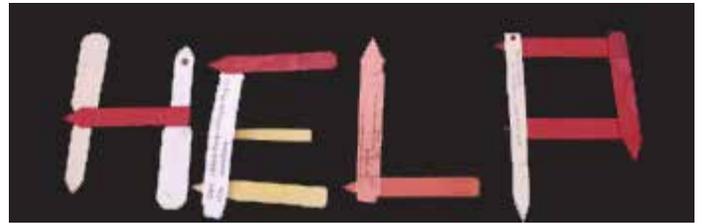
by Sue Bottom,  
sbottom15@gmail.com

**Q1.** I repotted this orchid about a month ago. A new leaf formed but had these spots on it. Medium brown in appearance and perfectly smooth. Any idea what it is?



**A1.** From the description, you might think some sort of bacterial infection if water sat on the leaf, but the blemishes would be sunken. We asked for a picture of the whole plant and the top leaf underside, and you can see the plant looks great. Just some purple pigmentation on the tender new leaf. Don't change a thing!

**Q2.** I thought you might like to see how I made a division of this phalaenopsis?

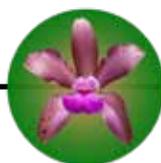


**A2.** One of our newsletter subscribers sent us a series of photographs showing how he got vegetative divisions of his phalaenopsis to form. First, he cut the top the healthy part of the phalaenopsis away from the lower stem, so the leaves and newly forming roots could be repotted into fresh mix. This left the older part of the phal with intact healthy roots in the old pot and mix. He did not disturb the older part of the plant while waiting for the basal keikis to form. You can see where the basal keikis form from the old stem and then grow into small plantlets in the final photographs.

**Q3.** What shall I do with this problem vanda. Do I throw it all out, take the keikis off or leave it alone?



**A3.** The bottom part of the plant is the future of your vanda. If all those roots are from the keikis rather than the mother plant, you could actually just cut out the top of the plant and toss it. If that seems too harsh, you can wait until new roots start along the stem and then separate the two halves. You can see that the top part of the plant is a little tired, with some sunburn and fungal issues, while the bottom part is so young and healthy. Think of all the blooms you'll get from all those keikis!



# CULTIVATION



## Fall Preparations by Courtney Hackney

Fall officially arrives this month as do cool nights. If you haven't noticed yet, the days are also getting shorter and the sun has moved considerably from its trek North. For Orchid growers, this is the beginning of a time when there is much to do and enjoy. It is time to think about where all those newly purchased plants will go when cold temperatures arrive and time to begin preparing many different types of Orchids for their blooming season.

With just a few exceptions, high Nitrogen fertilizers should either be very dilute or omitted from your fertilizing regimen. This is a good time to flush media with pure water, i.e. no fertilizers. An exception might be made for seedlings, but even they need to be hardened off to protect them from the fungi and bacteria so prevalent during long, cool winter nights. This is the season to use those other fertilizers in your cabinet, the ones with the second and third numbers (Phosphorus and Potassium) higher than the first (Nitrogen). Some growers swear these fertilizers make a difference, but the most important thing that needs to be done is to slow growth and allow the bulbs and leaves to mature.

Flushing is important now as well because the heavy summer watering and fertilizing may have allowed salts to accumulate. During winter, watering will be less frequent and media will be allowed to dry. This process will concentrate salts on the outside of media if pots and media have not been well flushed.

Changing light intensity and direction also needs your attention. Windowsill growers must check to be sure that plants moved close to the window are not overheating. New leaves often grow up against the glass and light now striking the glass will burn those nice green leaves. Greenhouse growers may have the same problem along the glazing. Under-lights growers should adjust the day length so that plants can begin their annual maturation process.

Clean and prepare your wintering area whether it is in a greenhouse, under lights, or in a window or sunspace. Clean, weed, and spray surfaces with a 10% Clorox solution to kill bacteria and fungi that will magically spring to life in the cool damp weather to come.

Plants too, need to be prepared for the crowded conditions that come with winter. Check for mealybugs, scale, slugs,

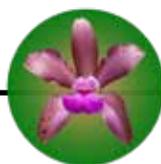


etc: You know the cast of villains to look for by now. Attend to any pest problems you find now before plants must be brought inside. Most pesticides stink for many days after spraying and some are toxic for several weeks afterward. If you wait too long you may be faced with a decision of whether to damage your health or the plants. Most scale insects require three treatments 7-10 days apart.

This summer I visited Grezaffi Orchids, a commercial nursery in Florida that specializes in Cattleyas, which are notorious for harboring scale. After a day of looking I finally accepted the fact that this was a scale free greenhouse. I expected the owner to prescribe some very expensive or now illegal pesticide, but he did not. He said that the pesticide did not matter, only the time between treatments using thorough spraying technique. Joe Grezaffi maintained that the trick was to spray three times 7 days apart, not 8, 9, or 10 days apart, but 7. He also has a rigorous quarantine and treatment program for new plants he buys. It is hard to argue with success.

Now is also the time to study the blooming requirements of your plants because some require doses of cool weather. The "Tips Column" next month will cover some of the major groups and their requirements, but each plant, especially hybrids, may vary and plants that have consistently not flowered in several years may be missing some environmental signal. There are many different environmental cues and learning about what the species or parents of a hybrid require in nature will provide clues.

*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 September 2001.*



# CULTIVATION

## The Art of Culling

Improving Your Collection through the Careful Process of Elimination

by Ken Slump, reprinted with permission

Some orchid growers prefer orchid flowers as large and gaudy as possible, while others concentrate on those with blossoms so tiny they require magnification to appreciate. Certain hobbyists favor hybrid orchids, while their counterparts cultivate only species. And then there are those orchid growers who specialize in one species or a particular branch of the orchid family, while many others seem to want to grow every orchid they see.

In addition to floral appeal, there are lots of additional reasons we add particular plants to our collections, ease of culture, hybridizing potential, geographical importance, historical significance and rarity are but a few. Sometimes we have a plant because it was given to us; occasionally we keep a plant in our collections simply because of some sentimental value.

Many of us can barely recall the moment when we owned just 10 or 15 orchid plants. For enigmatic reasons, hobbyist orchid collections often grow at remarkable rates, exponentially faster than those of any other sort of specialty horticulturist. Perhaps it is caused by a condition that, during the 19th century, was called orchid delirium.

EDITING From time to time it is important to go through your orchid collection with a critical eye and do some culling. Not surprisingly, this is one of the most difficult tasks for many to accomplish, yet it can be extremely rewarding. If you are one of the multitude who cannot seem to begin the process, there are a few easy steps to follow.

First, dispose of any plants that appear diseased or that struggle to survive. Many of us keep for months or years ailing, infested orchids that we would not give to our worst enemy. Despite all evidence to the contrary, we maintain the vain hope that they will suddenly thrive, bloom and overcome their predators. This is highly unlikely.

In fact, the reason many plants become infested is that they are under stress. Diseased plants need to be removed before they have the opportunity to infect others in the collection. Puny plants may be suffering because you do not have the correct conditions to grow them, or you may have acquired a seedling with a particularly weak constitution.

Never give such plants to an unsuspecting novice nor take them to the divisions table at your next orchid society meeting. It is enough of a challenge to keep healthy orchids growing; there is no reason to attempt to revive the nearly dead, unless the plant represents a rare species. Chalk



*Bulbophyllum medusae*

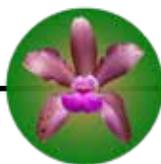
those losses up to orchid experience and dispose of them yourself, humanely — the nearest dumpster will do. You will be surprised at how much better your collection will look without them.

ORPHANS Next, consider moving out any orphans in your collection. “Orphan” is a term used for any plant that is unidentified, that is, without a name. Usually this will be a hybrid orchid whose identification tag or label has been lost. Most serious hobbyists do not devote much time to such plants. Orphan plants frustrate and challenge our human curiosity for the answer to “what is it?” Moreover, part of the joy of learning about orchids is discovering and appreciating the similarities and differences between related species and hybrids. Without a name, you have just another pretty flower.

You certainly may take orphans to your society meetings and even some orchid shows to display them, but fellow members or visitors who might like to acquire a similar plant would likely have a frustrating time. Orphans are useless in orchid hybridizing and may not receive AOS flower-quality awards. However, orphan orchids with exceptional sentimental attachment or those with flowers of incomparable beauty may justify a space in your collection.

Please do not think that if you can get your orphan plant to bloom, an orchid judge or experienced grower will be able to identify it for you. While there are exceptions, few orchid hybrids are sufficiently unique that they can

**Continued on page 9**



# CULTIVATION

## Continued from page 8

he visually identified with certainty. Disposal hint: Orphan orchids, particularly those in bloom, make great gifts for your friends who are not orchid collectors.

**THE NEXT STEP** If space is not a problem, then your job may be finished. Yet even static collections are subject to crowding as the plants grow larger and older. If you are like most, you will sooner or later find it necessary to thin the ranks beyond the sickly and unidentified. At those times you may have a challenge deciding which plants you could or would be able to live without.

Duplicates are certainly among the first plants you should give up. As long as you have room for them, it is a good idea to mark them with uniquely colored tags so you can spot them easily when you are looking for a gift for a visitor who comes to admire your collection or when you need a donation for the society's orchid auction.

Sometimes large plants become difficult to house as time goes on. Keeping a healthy, vigorous division and sharing the other divisions with friends can often solve the problem.

Over time, it is not uncommon for collections to accumulate several different plants with similar, if not nearly identical, flowers. Most of us know the sorts of orchids



*Aerides PUNCHINELLO*

we like and we just keep buying them. When it comes to choosing between similar orchids, consider frequency of bloom and how long the flowers last. Those criteria are useful when you are forced to choose between orchids with dissimilar flowers too.



*Cattleya SKINNERI*

Perhaps the most difficult plants to cull are those that, for various reasons, seem to interest you less than they once did. Parting with a decent, but perhaps unexciting plant can be agonizing, particularly if you have had it a long time. Often it is a situation where your tastes have evolved with your experience in the hobby. Ridding your collection of plants you have outgrown can make room for other orchids that you may enjoy more.

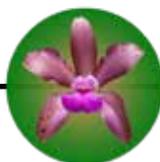
Such orchids are often ideal plants to take to your society's divisions table or to offer to friends. Everybody has different preferences in orchids and your healthy but unwanted plant may be one someone else would relish.

Every collection should be viewed as a work in progress. The goal should be to assemble a healthy collection of the highest quality possible. Since most of us have a limited amount of space and time to devote to our orchids, we owe it to ourselves to grow only those we really like and that perform well for us. While there are many good reasons for periodically culling a crowded orchid collection, perhaps the best one is that it can make space to acquire more.

*This article appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine in November 2004 (Vol. 73:11, pp. 214-216).*



*Stanhopea INODORA*



# CULTIVATION

## Bifoliate Cattleyas - *Cattleya tigrina* (syn. *leopoldii*)

by Sue Bottom

If your orchids do not bloom much during the heat of the summer, you might consider adding some bifoliate cattleyas to your collection. There are small varieties like *Cattleya walkeriana*, *aclandiae* and *violacea* that do not take up too much space and bloom several times a year. Then there are the large varieties like *Cattleya tigrina*, which was called *leopoldii* for years. It has beautiful clusters of flowers held on stems above the foliage. Courtney describes these bifoliate as multiflora cattleyas in his book *American Cattleyas*:

*A multiflora cattleya is one where the inflorescence is the focus of hybridizing instead of the individual flower. Typically there are more than seven flowers on a single inflorescence arranged as a mass instead of as a series of individual flowers. While the parent species are usually bifoliate, not all bifoliate are multifloras... Multifloras are separated from all other groups discussed because the form of each individual flower, although important, is not the focus of the hybrid. The perfect multiflora cattleya has a mass of flowers with each flower fully open and barely coming in contact with other flowers in the inflorescence so that from all sides there are no large gaps between flowers. The form of each individual flower should be as closed (petals and sepals overlapping) as possible, given the parentage. The arrangement of flowers on the stem is more important than individual flower form.*

Greg Allikas has an excellent article on how to grow [Cattleya tigrina](#) that is available to members on the AOS website. Of particular concern is the timing of repotting. You know that the best time to repot any orchid is when it is forming new roots, because it will recover most quickly from the transplant shock when the roots can reestablish quickly and stabilize the plant. Some orchids are tolerant of repotting at less than the optimum time, but not the bifoliate and particularly not the bifoliate species. These should be repotted when the new green root tips are forming, even if the plant is getting ready to bloom. If you can't bring yourself to sacrifice the blooming and repot at that time, there are a few options, like simply dropping the pot into a larger pot or letting the plant grow into a second pot attached to the first. You can also try another of Keith's tricks, as outlined in the article [Repotting Bifoliate Cattleyas - Keith Davis Style](#).



*The typical color form of *Cattleya tigrina* (syn. *leopoldii*) 'Mendenhall', photo by Keith Davis*

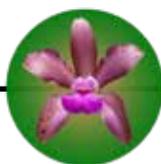
*Cattleya tigrina* has long been known as *Cattleya leopoldii* and before that it was thought to be a variety of *Cattleya guttata*, referred to as *Cattleya guttata* var. *leopoldii*. *C. tigrina* is still confused with *Cattleya guttata*. They both are tall robust plants with spotted flowers, but they have different blooming seasons. *C. tigrina* flowers in early summer from a green sheath, while *C. guttata* flowers in late summer to early autumn from a dried sheath. Courtney writes about their differences when used in hybridizing:



*Over the top repotting technique, close-up  
Photos courtesy of Keith Davis*

*For the most part, *C. guttata* has not been used with success for multiflora hybrids. Many crosses are registered to this species because the Royal Horticultural Society considered *C. guttata* synonymous with *C. leopoldii* for much of its history. Progeny from these two species differ markedly. Most catalogs list hybrids made with *C. leopoldii* as *C. guttata* var. *leopoldii*, but there is no way of telling which species was used once the hybrid name is attached to a plant. Hybrids*

Continued on page 11



# CULTIVATION

## Continued from page 10

with intense color are generally products of *C. leopoldii*, not *C. guttata*.

In his book *American Cattleyas*, Courtney talks about how hybridizers have used *Cattleya tigrina* (syn. *leopoldii*) in breeding with standard unifoliate cattleyas, as well as to enhance the bifoliate cattleya lineage:



*Cattleya* (now *Cattlianthe*) Penang 'Black Caesar' AM/AOS  
(*Cattleya Nigrella* x *Guarianthe bowringiana*)

A tact used by hybridizers has been to hybridize multiflora species and hybrids with standard cattleya forms, typically producing far less flowers although still technically multiflora such as *C. Portia*. Such hybrids are used to increase flower count in future generations of standard forms rather than to produce additional multiflora hybrids. Many of the first generation hybrids that combine the multiflora species and hybrids with standard forms have been magnificent hybrids... When *C. bowringiana* was matched with *C. Nigrella*, *C. Penang* resulted. The best known clone 'Black Caesar' AM/AOS produces a head of 6-10 deep purple four inch flowers held above the foliage. Flowers in this hybrid resemble standard cattleyas in form and substance...

Joe Grezaffi registered Lc. Allen Condo (Lc. Summerland Girl x *C. Mrs. Mahler*) to produce hybrids that magnified the *C. leopoldii* in the background of each parent combined with the characteristics of the other parents to make exceptional and unique multiflora hybrids. Some of this grex resembles giant versions of *C. leopoldii*, while others add the *C. bicolor* lip to

deep bronze petals and sepals. No two clones are exactly the same, yet all were beautiful in their own right. This hybrid is a roadmap for others interested in continuing and enhancing multiflora forms.

The big bifoliate cattleyas are not for the faint of heart. They are large, robust plants that can be temperamental if the mix is allowed to become stale. Without a doubt, the fragrant, multiflora flowers have got IT, the wow factor, regardless of whether you choose to grow the species or their hybrids. If you would like to try some seedlings, Fred Clarke at Sunset Valley Orchids is currently offering Summerland Girl hybrids on his [website](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com), including SVO 7588 (with Chinese Bronze) and SVO 7613 (with *leopoldii*). You won't regret it!

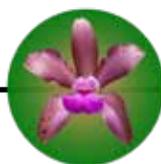
### Citations and Additional Reading

Allikas, Greg. *Cattleya tigrina*, accessed online 8/26/2020 <https://www.aos.org/orchids/collectors-items/cattleya-tigrina.aspx>

Hackney, C.T. 2004. *American Cattleyas: Species and Outstanding Clones That Define American Hybridizing*. Wilmington, NC: Courtney T. Hackney, pp. 123-127.



Lc.(now C.) Allen Condo 'Joe's Beauty'



# CULTIVATION

## Catasetinae Competition Grow

The first awards... drum roll please!

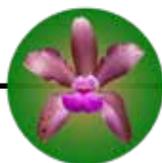
*First to Flower.* Janis Croft recorded the first bloom on August 20<sup>th</sup>. The bloom was a stem of female green helmets. Janis was rewarded with a new Catasetum Sheriff Frank Drew to add to her collection as a prize.

*Best Grown Plant.* Glo MacDonald's catasetum was awarded the best grown plant based on a comparison of pictures sent in. She has been lusting after the red, frilly-lipped Catasetum Sue Bottom, which is now hers.

*Best Flower.* Send pics when your plant flowers and we'll archive them until next year, when Fred Clarke will choose the highest quality flower. Stay tuned!

Janis Croft: First Bloom

Glo MacDonald: Best Grown



# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Onc. Sue Bottom**  
*longipes 'Woodlands'*



**Grower Debra Brandt**  
*Rhy. coelestis*



**Grower Joanne Stygles**  
*V. Suksamran Sunlight 'Orange'*



**Grower Susan Smith**  
*Slc. Rajah's Ruby*



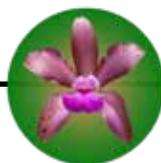
**Grower Leslie Brickell**  
*Schoenorchis buddleiflora*



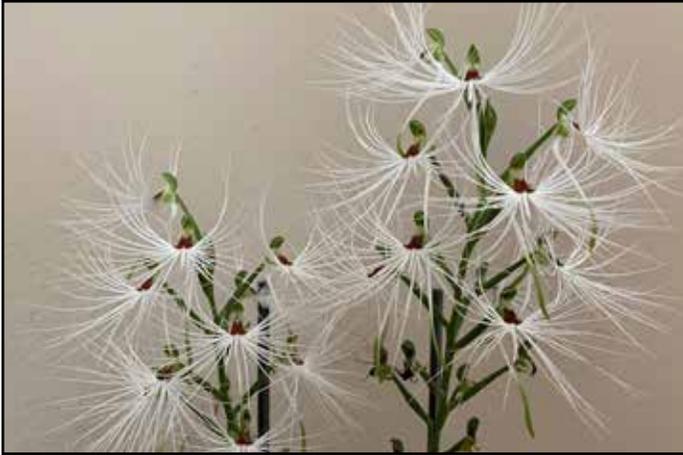
**Grower Janis Croft**  
*Den. Green Lantern*



**Grower Cathy Mayo**  
*Ctsm. Susan Fuchs*



# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Janis Croft**  
***Habenaria medusa***



**Grower Leslie Brickell**  
***Lc. Mishima Flash***



**Grower Allen Black**  
***Lc. Massangeana***



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
***Blc. Nilsa Santiago***



**Grower Leslie Brickell**  
***Bulb. A-doribil Candy Ann***



**Grower Penny Halyburton**  
***Stan. wardii***

Link to all Pictures. <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmQu5RSt>

