St. Augustine NEWSLETTER Orchid Society November 2020

Volume 15 Issue #11

CLUB NEWS



November 3 Meeting

Welcome and Thanks. President Tom Sullivan opened the meeting at 6:45 pm with 38 attendees and informed us that SAOS members had sanitized the tables and chairs prior to the meeting. He then thanked Dianne for organizing coffee and treats and reminded members to "drop a dollar" to help defray the costs. He also pointed out the locations of the Bingo Prize Table, the SAOS Sales Table and the Raffle Table.

Membership VP Linda Stewart welcomed new members Alex Romero, Beckie Burkett, Jackie Wolfe and Deborah Newman: Acting as our Sunshine Coordinator, Linda asked us to let her know by email at info@StAugOrchidSociety.org if we knew of anyone needing a cheering-up or get-well card.

Club Business. Sue Bottom informed us that we had

an exceptional number of blooming orchid photos sent in this month. Courtney Hackney's Virtual Show Table will happen on November 17th, the third Tuesday of this month. Everyone will receive their invitation via email.

We held our election for 2021 officers. With one exception, the management will remain the same. Tom Sullivan will continue as president, so Dottie will continue her reign as First Lady. Our current Vice Presidents remain unchanged. Janis Croft is our Communications Veep, Linda Stewart is our Membership Veep, Dianne Batchelder is our Events Veep and Sue Bottom is our Programs Veep. Bill Gourley will continue as our long distance Treasurer and auditor, and Director Cathy Mayo will learn his system during this next year. Our immediate Past President Bob Schimmel is going into his third and final term as Director. Debra Brandt is stepping down from her position as Director, and we thank her for her ideas and suggestions this past year. Charlie Rowell is our newest Director and we look forward to his input on club activities. What a great group! Many thanks to all the other committee members and volunteers that make this club so much fun.

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CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

November

7-8? Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show **CANCELLED**

JOS Meeting, Program TBA 7 pm 10 Speaker TBA Mandarin Garden Club

14 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.

14-15 Deerfield Beach Orchid Society Show **CANCELLED**

17 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7 pm Courtney Hackney on Your Computer

December

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

Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show 5-6 **CANCELLED**

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

Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm 12 Clermont Judging Ctr. 849 West Ave.

January 2020

Sarasota Orchid Society Show 2-3 Sarasota Municipal Auditorium

SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm 5 Brandon Silvester and Charlie Rowell Home and Backyard Orchid Growing

8-10 Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show War Memorial Auditorium

Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm 9 Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.

12 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm Speaker TBA Mandarin Garden Club

15-17 Tamiami International Orchid Festival CANCELLED

30-31 Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show Seminole Recreation Division

February

SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm Jim Roberts, Florida SunCoast Orchids Encyclias and their Hybrids

6 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 9 am til noon Behind the Memorial Lutheran Church 3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086

Venice Area Orchid Society Show 6-7 Venice Community Center **CANCELLED**

9 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm Speaker TBA

Mandarin Garden Club

12-13 South Carolina Orchid Society Show? Riverbanks Zoo&Botanical Garden West Columbia, SC

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CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1



SAOS Member Bill Bodei was recognized for his contributions to the American Orchid Society at the annual AOS Meeting of the members and Town Hall on Saturday, October 24th. AOS President Robert Fuchs bestowed Bill the prestigious President's Award which recognizes those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the AOS. In addition to being an SAOS member, Bill currently serves the AOS as both Trustee and Chair of the Membership and Marketing Committee. We look forward to Bill and Deb's visits to St. Augustine from their New Jersey home. Congrats Bill!

Howard brought several books from the library You can email him at librarian@StAugOrchidSociety.org to reserve a book that he'll bring to the next meeting.



SAOS Program. We decided to have fun and play games on Election Night. We played Bingo for Orchids, with Charlie Rowell as our Disk Jockey. Many of the prizes were donated by Deborah Green, one of our Ormond Beach members that has had to limit her visits because she lives with her Mom. She donated a blooming Brassavola Little Stars, Dendrobium Green Lantern, some mounted phalaenopsis, and several other plants, including the Catasetum that was raffled last month. Sue Bottom added a few to the mix, so we had great prizes.

Meeting Conclusion. The winners of the Raffle Table plants were announced. The fun evening concluded at 8:15 pm and everyone left to go watch the results of the other election that evening. Thanks to all who assisted with cleanup after the meeting!









CLUB NEWS

2021 Calendars

Terry prepares a SAOS calendar each year featuring the Member's Choice orchids from the Show Table. Here's a link showing the featured orchids. Calendars are \$15 each or 2 for \$25 if paid by cash or check, or \$16 each if purchased though this PayPal link. We will deliver calendars at the SAOS Christmas party or make arrangements to get your calendar to you.



Silent Auction

We are going to have an online silent auction with about half of the plants we are gathering for our Holiday auction. We hope to have our list compiled well before Thanksgiving and bids will be accepted until the auction closes on November 30th. We'll post the list of plants to be auctioned and a link to the auction site on the website. You have to register your email address with the auction site in order to bid. You can make your payment when you pick up your plants, either at the Christmas auction or at Sue and Terry's. You will have the option to pay using PayPal, but of course then the club will incur payment charges, so cash or check is preferred.

American Orchid Society Corner

Webinars

November 5, 8:30 pm, AOS Members Only Colombian Orchid Adventure – Ron Parsons November 10, 8:30 pm, Everyone Invited Greenhouse Chat Orchid, Q&A - Ron McHatton

Orchids Magazine this month:

Phal malipoensis and Its Hybrids – Olaf Gruss La Reserva Orquideas – Duque and Arias Silicon Supplements - Sue Bottom Bulbophyllum macanthum - Charles Wilson

Photos of Latest AOS Awards



December 1 Monthly MeetingChristmas Party and Orchid Auction

We are going to have our Christmas party and auction on December 1st at the Memorial Lutheran Church. Traditionally, we have the club provide a main course and members bring a dish to share, but that was before Covid. The club will make arrangements to have a preboxed meal for all attendees. You are encouraged to bring your libation of choice. The club will provide coffee and water.

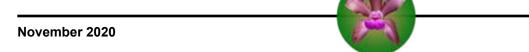
We will send out the menu options in a survey format mid-month. You will have to respond to the survey to preregister for the meeting, so we can make sure to have enough food for all.

After the meal, we will have a live auction, offering budded and blooming plants. We will also have unbloomed cattleya seedlings and 2021 calendars for sale.

We understand that some of our members are not comfortable attending an indoor event, even though they would enjoy the camaraderie and jocular bidding. In an effort to please, we will have an online silent auction in the days before the party. Details are provided in the Silent Auction side article. Whichever approach works best for you, we wish you and yours a wonderful Thanksgiving and Holiday Season.

When: Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 til 9 pm

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



INSPIRATION





Orchid Questions & Answers
by Sue Bottom,

sbottom15@gmail.com

Q1. My orchid has been growing many new roots and leaves, but recently this has been growing. I can't tell if it is a new spike, or if it is just a root that has grown in strangely.



A1. I would guess that is a root that has gotten turned around and is growing back on itself. I would be inclined to let it just sort its way out. It is very easy to break if you try to guide it out of its confusion.

Q2. The bottom leaves of this phal have a white silvery look and a couple leaves also have black on them. What should I do to keep this alive?





A2. Whoops, I think you have an infestation of mealy bugs, they're all over the plant. Remove and discard the bottom leaf and then spray isopropyl alcohol on all leaf surfaces upper and lower. Knock it out of the pot and see if they are on the roots. I would leave it out of the pot for a week and spray with alcohol every day to treat those that hide in all the crevices. Alternatively, one of the 3 in 1 products containing the active ingredient imidacloprid could be used, 3 drenches 1 week apart. Mealybugs are very difficult to get rid of, and this plant has it bad.

Q3. What are these spots?



A3. That looks like soft brown scale. The flowers on that phal are about done, so I think I'd cut the stem at the base. Then start looking for more scale, in the leaf crevices and the roots. You can spray the plant with isopropyl alcohol, and do it weekly for say a month getting all the aerial parts of the plant wet. I think I'd also knock it out of the pot to take a peek at the roots, hopefully they aren't there but just to make sure.





Fall Considerations by Dr. Courtney Hackney

Winter in the temperate zone is alien to most tropical Orchids. For the most part, tropical Orchids experience nearly 12-hour days and nights with only slight differences in day length and or temperature. With the exception of species at the end of the tropical zones or those from high elevations, the most likely seasonal

variation many species will experience is that of a wet/dry variation during the year. Remember, for tropical species, dry may simply mean less wet, while in other cases there may be little or no moisture for months in their natural habitat. Failure to recognize this aspect in both species and hybrids leads to either poor growth or death in many Orchids.

If you have graduated to species or have primary hybrids (those made by combining two species), you may find that a little research can lead to much improved growth and flowering in these plants. If you find that the natural habitat offers clear days during winter, take this as a hint that the species requires bright light and less water during that time of the year. Some species are more forgiving than others and so are more common in cultivation, while hybrids have been selected that withstand conditions in greenhouses. There are some common groups of Orchids that respond to simulated, pronounced seasonal change and that give many growers, novice and experienced alike, difficulty.

In Paphs, the diminutive Brachypetalum group (concolor, niveum, etc) grows in limestone outcrops subject to dry periods and rapid drying. In winter, when day length is short and light intensity low, members of the Brachy group must be watered less. This group has thickened leaves that store water. If the root system is intact, let the leaves shrink a little before watering. The same is true of most of the Parvisepalum group; water them less in winter and watch the leaves for a sign that they need water.

Many Cattleyas, including hybrids need to be drier in winter. Increasing light intensity in greenhouses will assist in drying the plant and simulates aspects of their natural environment. Encyclias and other Caribbean species are in the hurricane zone with heavy summer rain ending in late November or early December. For the next six months there is little rain, but high humidity. Sunlight remains relatively intense and days near 12 hours long. Failure to



limit water leads to the loss of many Caribbean Orchids in temperate greenhouses each winter.

Under-lights growers have an advantage this time of year as they can more effectively control both day length and light intensity. If you grow hybrid Orchids inside, do not try to replicate the day length here in the Carolinas. Eleven hours of light is a short enough day to convince your plants that they are at home. Depending on the heating system in your home there may even be a need to add humidity to your growing area. Orchids prefer the kind of humidity that people like, about 60%.

Some Orchids grow in habitats that experience little seasonal change. Vandas and Phals will grow great under the same conditions year-round, 65 F at night and 90 F during the day. Both of these groups like long days with Phals preferring lower light levels. Remember that standard Phals need large day/night temperature change, and/or lower night temperatures to initiate flowering. After that period of flower spike initiation, these Orchid groups need conditions similar to the warm tropics.

One final warning before winter officially arrives. If you have discovered a few more critters missed before moving plants inside or into the greenhouse, there is still time to spot-treat them on a nice warm afternoon. Some pesticides are not approved for inside the greenhouse and some that simply stink. Move affected plants outside in an area away from pets, children and bright light and treat following directions. The low humidity will help the plant dry and lose at least some of the smell that often accompanies these pesticides. After plants have passed the "no contact period" (see pesticide directions) move them back inside or in the greenhouse and place them where you can watch them during the winter in case some of the beasts survive.

Note: Dr. Courtney Hackney wrote a monthly column of his orchid growing tips for about 20 years; we are reprinting some you might have missed, this one from November 2001.



Orchid Scents

Flowers Stimulate the Senses with Fragrances Ranging from Foul to Flattering by Ken Slump



Most corsage buyers and recipients would probably tell you that while orchids are commonly regarded as the most exotic and choice of blossoms for that application, they are, unfortunately, not fragrant. But orchid growers know that this is far from the truth. While many orchids do lack perfume, there are plenty with remarkably strong and distinctive scents.

However, floral aromas have not evolved for the amusement of humans. Their sole purpose is to attract a pollinator to the flower. Many fragrant orchids release their scents only during certain hours of the day or night to attract specific pollinators.

One of most popular and best-known fragrant orchids is Brassavola nodosa, frequently called lady of the night. The orchid's common name is derived from its sweet perfume, which is released as the sun goes down so that its pollinator can locate it.

The pollinator is a moth. Like many evening-pollinated blossoms, the flowers are also white, making them easier to differentiate in dim light. I knew one orchid grower who enjoyed the B. nodosa fragrance so much that he would take his plant to the bedside table when it was in bloom in order to enjoy the aroma while he slept.

Most other Brassavola species have similar fragrances that are released during the evening hours. Happily, many of their hybrids share the characteristic. The genus Brassavola belongs to the larger group of orchids commonly called the Cattleya Alliance. There are quite a number of fragrant species and hybrids within this group that possess variously sweet floral aromas that are mostly fragrant by day.

CATTLEYAS The subgroup popularly known as bifoliate cattleyas includes a number of fragrant species. Some of these include Cattleya bicolor, Cattleya aclandiae, Cattleya schilleriana, Cattleya walkeriana and Cattleya guttata.



Hybrids derived from these are frequently scented as well, particularly when crossed with each other or with scented species and hybrids from the unifoliate Cattleya and Laelia groups.

Two of the sweetest-scented Cattleya relatives are Rhyncholaelia digbyana and Rhyncholaelia glauca, which are typically most fragrant in the evening. (Both of these were previously classified in the genus Brassavola.) Their scents have been likened to lemon and lily-of-the-valley. Hybrids derived from these species often carry fragrance as well.

All orchid scents are not pleasing, or perhaps I should say they are not pleasing to all people. While I have not studied it scientifically, it seems to me that each person's sense of smell may be unique. Repeatedly, I have found fragrances that are pleasing to me are less well received by someone else, and sometimes the reverse is true.



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There have also been times I have enjoyed a blossom's floral scent when another person nearby could detect no fragrance in the same flower. Perhaps that is the crux of the perfume industry.

BULBOPHYLLUMS Fortunately, the majority seems to agree on which flowers smell good and which do not, and most concur that some of the least pleasant orchid scents are offered by some of the species belonging to the large amalgamation of orchids from the diverse genus Bulbophyllum. These real stinkers of the orchid clan have evolved to be pollinated by flies, which, to no one's surprise, are strongly attracted to flowers that smell like feces or rotting flesh.

Some of their aromas are legendary and I have seen more than one novice unsuspectingly coaxed into taking a good whiff of one, to the delight of those goading them. Bulbophylhun beccarii, Bulbophyllum echinolabium and Bulbophyllum rothschildianum are but a few of numerous offenders. Even the fascinating tufted blossoms of Bulbophyllum medusae have a scent that is less than pretty, though not as foul as some. This is not to say that every Bulbophyllum flower has an obnoxious odor, but beware before you stick your nose into an unknown one.



THE VANDA CLAN Better scents are offered by numerous of vandaceous orchids. In fact, a number of scented species in the genus Vanda itself have aromas frequently described as fruity or spicy. These include Vanda dearei, Vanda denisoniana, Vanda merrillii and Vanda tricolor, to name a few. Some are surprised to learn that there are fragrant species in the genus Phalaenopsis as well, because it is unusual to encounter a fragrant example among the ubiquitous hybrid swarms that seem to be offered by all types of retail establishments these days. Plus, fragrant phalaenopsis tend to have a delicate scent that is not heady, so fragrant examples may go unnoticed. Among the fragrant Phalaenopsis

species are Phalaenopsis violacea, Phalaenopsis bellina, Phalaenopsis amboinensis, Phalaenopsis schilleriana and Phalaenopsis lueddemanniana. A few of their hybrids are scented too.



If it is a stronger fragrance you seek, you need look no further than the vandaceous cousins from Africa and Madagascar that compose the genus Angraecum. Most feature white, cream- colored or pale greenish starry flowers with a conspicuous nectar spur at the base of the lip. The almost overpowering fragrance of some helps to lure moth pollinators during the night. The fragrance has been likened to jasmine. If you have room for a somewhat sizeable plant, Angraecum sesquipedale is one of the most impressive.

If space is a problem, look for a diminutive cousin Neofinetia falcata. This miniature comes from Japan and produces a lot of scent for such small flowers. Unlike the Angraecum, however, these are fragrant during the day as well as the night. This species has been a parent of compact-growing fragrant offspring as well.

AND MORE There are particular orchid species with flowers possessing such a distinctive fragrance you can nearly identify them by it. Maxillaria tenuifolia carries the strong odor of coconut, while Lycaste aromatica smells like cinnamon. Paphiopedilum malipoense offers a light raspberry scent.

Fragrant flowers are rather common in many other branches of the orchid family. There are a number of scented species in the large and varied genus Dendrobium. The same is true for the genera Stanhopea, Gongora, Aerangis, Catasetum, Oncidium, Rhynchostylis, Lycaste and Miltoniopsis. With so many from which to choose, it is easy to build an orchid collection that stimulates not only the eyes, but also the nose, and that makes good sense.

This article appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine, in January 2006 (Vol.75:1, pp 20-24), reprinted with permission.



Blackened Leaf Tips on New Cattleya Leaves by Sue Bottom



What causes the black tips on newly formed cattleya leaves?

Some of the newest growths of several cattleyas in the greenhouse had black leaf tips, suggestive of calcium deficiency. Calcium is an essential nutrient required for optimal growth of your orchids. A brief refresher from an earlier article:

Calcium is absorbed through the roots and moved upward through the xylem via the transpiration process. It increases cell wall thickness and strength among other things as well as a plant's resistance to fungal and bacterial disease. The plant requires calcium the most during periods of active growth, while it is building new tissue. It must be supplied to the plant ratably in proportion to its growth rate. Calcium is mostly immobile in the phloem so the plant cannot translocate it from the older growths to the newer growth, like it can some of the other essential elements... The most obvious sign of deficiency is rapidly expanding tissue that becomes necrotic, such as a newly forming leaf...

It is easy to mistake calcium deficiency for the symptoms of other disease or cultural problems. Black rot is a very rapidly moving disease that often starts in the pseudobulbs and moves upward through the plant killing within days. Bacterial rots from excess leaf wetness during the rainy season is likewise very rapid and tender young tissue is commonly affected. The black necrotic tissue from calcium deficiency is a slowly advancing problem that takes weeks rather than days to traverse down the leaf. It is unsightly, but does not produce the putrid odor of the water molds or bacterial rots. Anthracnose in thin leaved orchids also starts at the leaf tip and moves down toward the base of the leaf, but you can tell it is a fungal problem by the tiny spores in the necrotic tissue. The necrotic tissue from calcium

deficiency slowly continues to blacken. It is unsightly but not fatal to the plant

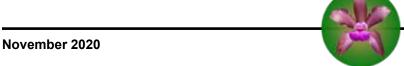
The plants in the greenhouse receive plenty of calcium in their diet. Between the Cal Mag fertilizer and calcium nitrate supplements, they feast on about 60 ppm nitrogen, 40 ppm calcium and 20 ppm magnesium each time they are watered during the growing season. So, can they really have a calcium deficiency? Once you accept the fact that they are exhibiting signs of calcium deficiency despite the fertilizer regimen, it is time to explore whether there is some cultural issue contributing to the problem.

Was it the hot summer temperatures causing the problem? Poole and Sheehan postulated that the black tips are from a possible calcium deficiency brought about by failure of the roots in pots that are too warm to absorb calcium in the necessary amount. They suggest increasing the frequency of watering to keep the medium cool. This summer the under bench misting system did a great job keeping the temperatures from getting much over 98F, so temps probably weren't the issue.

There were only 5 or 6 plants in the whole greenhouse with this problem. The black leaf tips weren't restricted to one type of cattleya, like the fast growing Central American cattleyas now called Guarianthe. The problem affected different types of cattleyas with no obvious connection to one another. The aha! moment came after checking the plant tags and discovering that each of the affected plants had been repotted earlier that spring. Another mystery solved!

Despite your best efforts to supply sufficient calcium, your plants can still suffer from deficiency if something interferes with the uptake of this critical element. Calcium

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This plant is growing vigorously, except for the two new growths with the necrotic tissue.

is mostly absorbed through the roots so a compromised root system can easily manifest itself in signs of calcium deficiency. Root function can be disrupted for many reasons, most obviously from the repotting process itself, particularly when orchids are repotted when new roots are not actively forming. The older roots are damaged in the repotting process and the plant must send out new roots to stabilize.

How to prevent this from happening again next year? Repot orchids when they are just beginning to grow their



new roots. Consider spraying root stimulators on the roots and rhizome to encourage root growth, and perhaps add some root stimulator or seaweed to the irrigation water for the next month or so to encourage root growth.

References and Additional Reading:

Bottom, Sue. 2017. Calcium Deficiency in Cattleyas, accessed online 10/23/20 https://staugorchidsociety.org/PDF/CalciumDeficiencyInCattleyasbySueBottom.pdf

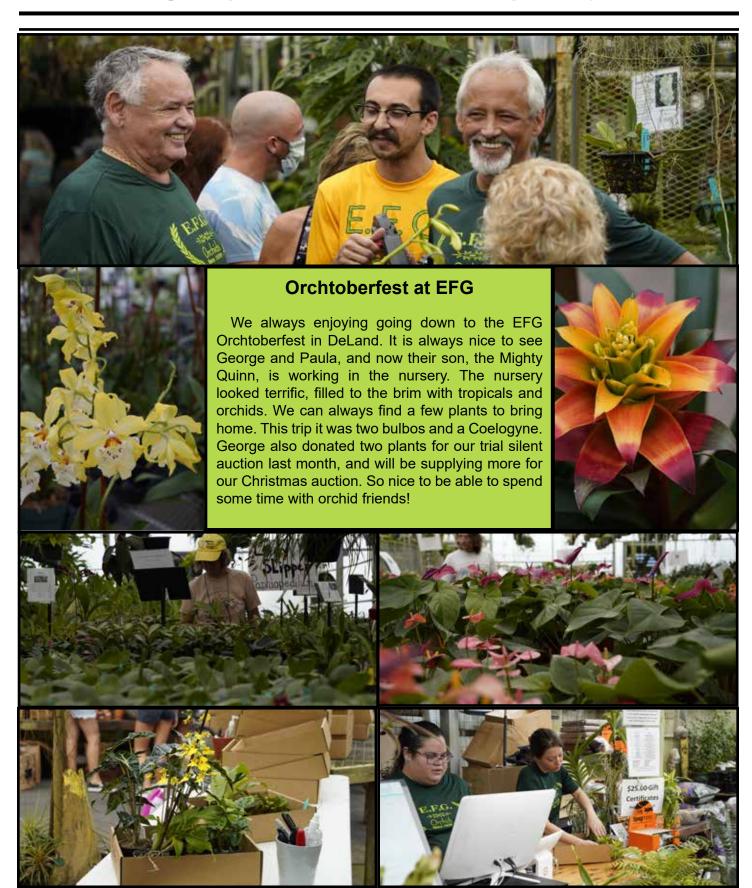
Poole, Hugh A. and T.J. Sheehan. 1973. Leaf-tip Die-back of Cattleya — What's the Real Cause? *Am. Orchid Soc. Bull.* 42(3): 227-230.



These are healthy plants, except for the black leaf tips on the newest leaves of plants that were repotted earlier in the year and had not reestablished their root systems sufficiently when the new growths formed.



ORCHID ADVENTURES



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sheila Nathanson Neost. Fuchs Ocean Spray



Grower Courtney Hackney Lc. Higher Ground 'Hackneau' AM/AOS



Grower Susan Smith Liparis condylobulbon



Grower Suzanne Susko Mps. Lillian Nakamoto



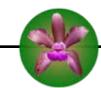
Grower Leslie Brickell Aergs. biloba



Grower Sue Bottom
Blc. George King 'Serendipity' AM/AOS



Grower Allen Black
Blc. Mem. Helen Brown 'Full Moon' AM/AOS



SHOW TABLE



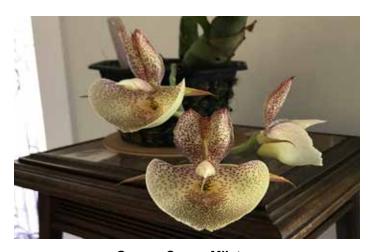
Grower Glo MacDonald Ascda. Memoria Gary Henington



Grower Steve Hawkins Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry' FCC/AOS



Grower Brandon Silvester Reed Stem Epidendrum



Grower Susan Milstrey
Ctsm. (Raspberries and Cream x pileatum)



Grower Leslie Brickell Bulb. mastersianum



Grower Joey Hopkins Bc. Maikai 'Mayumi' HCC/AOS

Link to Pictures. https://flic.kr/s/aHsmRUHGMZ

