

CLUB NEWS



Rafael Romero

C violacea. *C gaskelliana* is found in coastal Venezuela. It is fragrant (smells like jasmine) and grows both on trees (epiphytically) and on rocks (lithophytically) in full sun. The flowers are the largest in the group, have good substance and are pale-medium lavender with a yellow throat and a darker purple blotch on the lip. *C gaskelliana* concolor 'El Hatillo' is the same color throughout with the yellow center on the lip. There is an alba form 'Cumana' and a coerulea form 'Mimi' and 'Blue Dragon'. It blooms in late summer and early fall.

C jenmanii grows in bright light near the border of Venezuela and Brazil. It has a definite fragrance of citrus, which differentiates it from *C gaskelliana*. The leaf is held at a right angle to the pseudobulb. It blooms twice a year, spring and fall. It is both epiphytic and lithophytic. *C jenmanii* coerulea 'Claudia' has narrow petals and the blotch is dark. *C jenmanii* alba 'Fuchs Snow' is not consistent with other *C. jenmanii* characteristics and is probably not a *C. jenmanii*, though some insist that it is. *C jenmanii* semialba 'La Orquidea' has narrow petals with a blotch of deep purple.

C lawrenceana is a multiflora cattleya found in southeast Venezuela. It is epiphytic, rarely found on rocks and blooms from February to April. The petals are narrow with a cerise lip. *C lawrenceana* concolor 'Karu Steiger' is a pale, white version and *C lawrenceana* coerulea 'Aulisi' is not a strong flower and is a very fussy grower.

(Continued on page 4)

September 4 Meeting Notes by Lola Stark

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by First Vice President Sue Bottom. We welcomed new members Gil and Ellen Roehrig from Ponte Vedra Beach. We also welcomed four members of the Jacksonville Orchid Society: Mike and Harriet Wright and Marv and Jan Ragan. There were 39 people present.

Sue passed out a questionnaire to everyone, to be filled out tonight if possible, asking questions about where the society would like to aim for in the future. She will collect the data and e-mail the members what the results were. She also asked if we wanted to get together at someone's home for Christmas and sent a list around for signing up.

Sue then introduced our speaker for the evening, Rafael Romero from Plantio La Orquidea, now located in Sarasota, but originally from Venezuela. They still have a nursery in Venezuela which he visits several times a year. He spoke to us about the characteristics, growing conditions and color variations in Venezuelan Cattleyas. He used a very informative Power Point program.

There are eight different species of Cattleyas native to Venezuela: *C gaskelliana*, *C jenmanii*, *C lawrenceana*, *C lueddemanniana*, *C mossiae*, *C patini*, *C percivaliana* and



Some of Rafael's offerings



Upcoming Events

- 10/6-7 Ocala Orchid Society Show
SE Livestock Pavilion
- 10/6-7 Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show, Honeywell Minnreg Building, Largo
- 10/12-14 East Everglades Orchid Society
RF Orchids, Homestead
- 10/20-21 Ft Pierce Orchid Society Show
St Lucie County Fairgrounds
- 10/20-21 Gainesville Orchid Society Show
Savannah Grande, Gainesville
- 10/20-22 4th Annual Orctoherfest
EFG Orchids, Deland
- 10/26-28 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show
Old School Square Gymnasium
- 10/27 Clay County Orchid Day
- 11/3-4 Tampa Orchid Club
USF Botanical Gardens, Tampa
- 11/3-4 Brevard County Orchid Society Show
Azan Shrine Center, Melbourne
- 11/9-11 American Orchid Society Fall Show
AOS Visitors Center and Botanic Garden
Delray Beach
- 1/4-6 Sarasota Orchid Society Show
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
- 1/23-27 19th World Orchid Conference
Miami
- 1/25-26 2008 Tamiami International Orchid
Festival, Dade County Fair Expo Center
- 2/29-3/2 Fairchild International Orchid Festival
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

October SAOS Meeting

Dr Ruben Sauledo of Ruben in Orchids will be speaking to us at the October 2 meeting about Encyclias of the Bahamas and Cuba. Ruben has a PhD in orchid taxonomy from the University of South Florida and has been growing orchids commercially since 1962. Ruben In Orchids is a leading producer and supplier of orchid seedlings and tissue culture orchid plants to commercial growers. He and his wife Claudia have moved to a new location in the Redlands where they specialize in Encyclia and Cattleya species and hybrids grown in their 6400 sq ft greenhouse. It is a team effort, Ruben hybridizes and provides flasking services and Claudia repots and manages the greenhouse. Ruben and Claudia have bought a home site in St Augustine and hope to relocate here in the next few years. Ruben will bring a good supply of plants to the meeting. Check out the web site at www.rubeninorchids.com and email him if there are any special orchids you want him to bring.

Visit [Http://www.staugorchidsociety.com](http://www.staugorchidsociety.com)

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

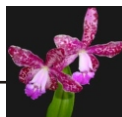


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Lc Damoneii Chicanery x Orange Nugget

September/October Checklist

By Ned Nash and James Rose

Reprinted from the American Orchid Society Website

Cattleya. Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom.

Check plants for potting needs for the last time this season. Any in dire need should be potted, even some that may be on the cusp, as there is just enough of the growing season left to allow the plants to establish before the days start to get really short and cold.

This is the month for purples derived from *Cattleya labiata* breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They are easy to grow, too.

Plants summered outdoors should begin to be prepared to be brought back into the winter growing area. Clean the plants up and be on the lookout for any pests they may have picked up during the summer. Treat as necessary.

Cycnoches. This little-known and under-appreciated genus, which can have male or female flowers, is at its best in the autumn. Two of the spectacular varieties are *Cycnoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cycnoches ventricosum*, the swan orchid. This last one has large, fragrant green flowers. The biggest problem, culturally, will

be red spider mite infestations that require immediate attention. Plants are quite seasonal, requiring heavy watering in the growing season and then a drier dormant winter season.

Cymbidium. Through diligent modern breeding programs, the cymbidium season gets stretched longer and longer. Now we can expect to have flowers open as early as September and October. Stake inflorescences and move the plants to a shadier location to help the flowers develop successfully. Because the plants will have warmth tolerance "built in" genetically, keeping the plants as cool as possible will help prevent bud curl. For the midseason varieties, inflorescences should be initiated by now. Feed plants on a regular schedule with a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20) and shade the plants lightly.

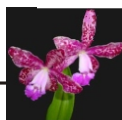
Dendrobium. This is a good season for hybrids of the *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* types. Both are capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be appropriate for this type.

Lemboglossum bictoniense. Both *Lemboglossum* (syn. *Odontoglossum*) *bictoniense* and its hybrids bloom in this season. *Lemboglossum bictoniense* is a showy species from Mexico that has three different color forms: *sulphureum* (green with white lip), *album* (brown with white lip) and *roseum* (brown with a pink lip). It is a vigorous grower with tall inflorescences of many flowers, and imparts to its progeny (as seen in *Odcdm. Bittersweet* and *Odm. bicross*) ease of culture, warmth tolerance and eye-catching patterns. They make a prime candidate for *odontoglossum* beginners and advanced alike.

(Continued on page 4)



Pot Burana Beauty 'Burana'



(Continued from page 3)

Paphiopedilum. Standard, green-leaved paphiopedilums begin to show their bloom sheaths this month. Late-season heat waves can blast these early sheaths, so be observant about proper cooling and air circulation. As with the rest of your plants that may have been summered outdoors, it is time to prepare for their move inside. Clean each plant and implement pest-control practices. Repotting, if necessary, is appropriate.

Phalaenopsis. The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences. Some night heating may be necessary in the cooler areas. Begin to watch watering more carefully, and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. An extra dose of phosphorus and potassium, such as a bloom-booster or high-acid-type fertilizer, is beneficial.

Rossioglossum grande. Once known as *Odontoglossum grande*, this is a spectacular orchid with six to eight flowers up to 8 inches across. Often known as the tiger orchid, it has bright golden yellow flowers heavily marked with chestnut brown barring. The plants are beautiful with a grey-green cast to the foliage, which is borne on succulent pseudobulbs. It prefers hot and wet summers with cooler, even down to 40 F, dry winters. Grow under filtered light. Watch for snails and slugs that eat the flowers, pseudobulbs and leaves.



(Continued from page 1)

C lueddemanniana is found in northeast Venezuela in the coastal lowlands. It is very fragrant, comes in a deep purple color with full flowers. It is epiphytic, never found on rocks. The *C lueddemanniana* *coeruleas* tend to have the best shape of all the cattleyas and is usually the one grown for the florist trade. *C lueddemanniana* 'Tina' has yellow lines at the rear of the lip which makes it easy to identify.

'Henrique' has a dark lip with yellow stripes. The alba 'Kathy' has lousy substance and is grown only to have. The semialba 'Elisa' has a deep purple blotch with a yellow edge and *coerulea* 'La Orquidea' is lavender throughout.

C mossiae is the Venezuelan National Flower and is found in the north central area. It blooms in the spring and is epiphytic. It is unifoliate, typically lavender. *C mossiae* 'Buen Camino' is droopy and has wide petals. The concolor form has a yellow lip. The alba form 'Dona Sara' has a light yellow lip. The semialba 'Tina' which is *C mossiae* (*aurora* x 'Blanca') has not been easy to work with and most believe the 'Blanca' is a tetraploid. The *C mossiae*, *coerulea* 'El Hatillo' is not a good flower and 'Rafael' has curled edges.

C patini is believed by many to be a self crossing of *C deckeri*. No one has seen *C patini* open and many believe if you get a flower, it is really a *C deckeri*.

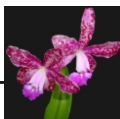
C percivaliana is found in the Andean mountains in full sun, on rocks most of the time, but can be found in the trees. It was found in the coolest part of Venezuela, but tolerates the heat the best of any of the species. It has a musty smell and blooms in the spring. *C percivaliana*. 'Karen Graf' is one of the best known. The alba form 'Liliana' has a deep mustard yellow blotch which is easily identifiable. The semialba form 'Sona' has a lighter blotch but still dark enough to make an easy identification.

C violacea is found along the rivers of the southern part of Venezuela and requires the moisture found in such an environment. It blooms twice a year, but is very hard to grow and it is recommended that you grow it in sphagnum. It is very fragrant, has wide petals with a signature flat lip. The *C violacea* semialba var *striata* 'Ikabaru' is white with purple lip.

Rafael asked us to be sure, if we have something special, to share it with at least one other person, as some of the varieties of *Cattleya* species have been lost due to selfishness on the part of the grower. It was a thought provoking and thoroughly enjoyable talk.

Following the lecture, Mike Heinz and Dick Roth showed off our show table, which was particularly full and we had our raffle and auction.

Our income from the raffle was \$178, \$133 from the plant auction, \$105 from *Innoculaid* and \$25 from new dues. Speaker fees were \$50, other expenses came to \$8.24 giving the current treasury balance as \$2608.42. Thank you, Paul and Lyudmila! The meeting closed at 9:15 pm.



SHOW TABLE



Haley Bastian

Epc Dogashima



Terry Bottom

V Robert's Delight



Terry Bottom

Coel fimbriata



Terry Bottom

Bulbophyllum claptone



Terry Bottom

Lctna Renate 'S&W' "



Terry Bottom

Epl Leeward x Enc cordigera

