

Volume 16 Issue #8

CLUB NEWS

August 3, 2021 Monthly SAOS Meeting
By Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks. Sue Bottom, Program VP, opened the meeting at 6:50 pm with 35 attendees.

Club Business. Membership VP, Linda Stewart welcomed our three visitors and new members, Cliff Bienert, Barbara Stich and Randi Sharp. Sue thanked Marv for supplying the raffle table plants, and announced he will be celebrating his 90th birthday this month. As members sang Happy Birthday to him, Bea Orendorff presented a cake decorated with an illustration of an Encyclia, his specialty. Then since Marv had served in the Navy, Charlie Bridgham gave him a lucite boat that was lit with fluorescent red, white and blue. Membership VP, Linda asked all with August birthdays to raise their hands for their free raffle ticket.

Linda also announced a sign up sheet for our Mentoring Program. If you are a new grower or new to St. Augustine, sign up for the mentoring program and we'll link you up with a Mentor that lives close to you. You'll be able to phone or email them with questions, visit each other's growing area and get general assistance. Sign up sheets at the Welcome Table.

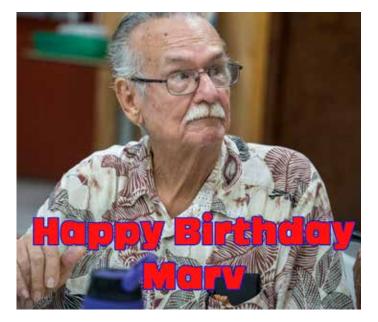
Terry Bottom displayed the new t-shirts for both men and women with a cattleya design, Blc. Toshie Aoki 'Pizzaz'. The pandemic has limited the shirt color choices. The shirts cost \$20 and there is a sign up sheet for ordering sizes.

The International Phalenopsis Alliance Symposium will be held this weekend, Aug. 6-7 in Apopka. Check website calendar for <u>details here</u>.

Librarian Howard Cushnir brought in several books for loan including Orchids for Dummies and an October, 2019 AOS Supplement on Spots and Stripes in Orchids. He encouraged all to use the library collection listed on our <u>SAOS website</u>. If you would like a book or magazine, send a request to <u>info@staugorchidsociety.org</u> and he will bring the item(s) to the next meeting.



Supplies - If you need supplies, email info@staugorchidsociety.org. We have Potting Mixes, Butterfly Clips, plant tags and fertilizer baskets.



Show and Tell Table. Courtney Hackney with Sue Bottom started the Show Table discussion with an Angraecum calceolus. This smallish plant with a profusion of smallish flowers was potted in a mesh pot with sphagnum. Courtney said most angraecoids have flowers that are usually ivory or green. Next was a C. Wendy Patterson in bloom. These types of Cattleyas were hybridized for their large pure white flowers. Bea Orendorff brought in a mounted Den. kanburiense with miniature flowers. The plant was purchased from Andy's located near San Diego. Bea also brought in a magnifying glass for all to look at the flowers. Next a Bc. Besshio was a good example of the combination of two dominant parents, B. nodosa and Laelia tenebrosa. The nodosa produces spots especially in the throat and the tenebrosa provides the beautiful color. A Vanda Motes Burning Sand was growing on an S hook with no basket, a fine example of how much our vandas enjoy our summer

We will continue conducting our Courtney Hackney led Virtual Show Table via Zoom. The next one will be August 11, the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Send your photos by end of the month so they can be included in the next newsletter and provide Sue time to prepare the September presentation. Each month's Virtual Show Table is recorded and posted on our website.

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CLUB NEWS



August

6-8 Int'l Phalaenopsis Alliance Symposium Highland Manor, Apopka

6-7 Annual Cattleya Symposium
Indian River Research & Education Ctr
Fort Pierce
CANCELLED

7 Repotting & Plant Clinic, 9 am til noon Behind the Memorial Lutheran Church 3375 US1 South, St. Aug 32086

10 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA Thanh Nguyen, Springwater Orchids

11 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace An Invitation Will be Sent by Email

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

September

4 Repotting Clinic, 9 am til 1 pm Memorial Lutheran Church 3375 US 1 S – by back parking lot

7 SAOS Meeting, You Bred What?, 6:30 pm Dave Off, Waldor Orchids

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

11-12 Fall JOS Show

Mandarin Garden Club

14 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 6 pm Phillip Hamilton, Bredren Orchids

15 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace An Invitation Will be Sent by Email

18-19 Ridge Orchid Society Show IFAS Stuart Center, Bartow

October

1-3 Tamiami Orchid Festival Fruit and Spike Park, Homestead Repotting Clinic, 9 am til 1 pm
 Memorial Lutheran Church
 3375 US 1 S – by back parking lot
 SAOS Meeting, Plant Auction, 6:30 pm

Courtney Hackney, Auctioneer

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

12 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 6 pm Art Chadwick, Chadwick Orchids

13 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace An Invitation Will be Sent by Email

15-17 Orchtoberfest

EFG Orchids, DeLand 23-24 Gainesville Orchid Society Show

Kanapaha Gardens

23-24 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show

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CLUB NEWS

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SAOS Program. This month's program "Gadget Night" included a slide show and in person demos by our members. First up was Jerry Fowler (who dreamed up this program). He noticed how Bonsai growers use a waxy paste to cover up cuts to prevent disease when grooming their plants. So, he developed a Tire Patch made with 2 tablespoons added to half of a small bottle of Elmer's Glue. He uses this on old back bulbs and any other cuts that could use protection from bacteria or other disease. He showed spray heads purchased from Publix that can be inserted into hydrogen peroxide and isopropyl alcohol bottles. He also adds cinnamon to the alcohol bottle as an extra fungicide protectant.

Jerry then held up a piece of wood that he uses to form ceiling tile wire into a hanger. He attaches this wire frame to his pot and then ties inflorescences to keep them growing up straight. The wire is available at big box stores. He uses down spout gutters which he cuts in half, hangs from ceiling of green house and uses for seedlings and smaller plants. He used to have a water wall but switched to a Swamp Cooler which is more energy efficient and provides humidity and coolness.

Up next was Bea Orendorff who discussed how she uses electrical tape and color coded tags to identify how to water her various orchids. Individual colors represent daily watering, water when dry, provide winter dryness, etc. This helps her husband care for her plants when she is unable. Her favorite use of the tape is to wrap it around the pot sticky side out. This trick catches roaches or caterpillars.

Brandon Silvester brought an infrared thermometer that he uses on his plants that he grows under lights. He reads the temperature of each plant and if any are out of the normal range of the others, he moves the plant to less light exposure. He noted that humidity does affect the temperature reading. Courtney added that he used one when he visited other's greenhouses to see what temperature they grew particular plants. It also helps him determine what areas of his greenhouse are cooler than others in the winter so he can position his orchids accordingly.

Keith Davis uses Dip 'n Grow, a synthetic rooting hormone, which has a shelf life of around 24 hours once mixed. He mixes in a proportion of 20:1 or 5 ml to 100 ml water. Sue also suggested not to buy more than what one can use in a year and she stores hers in the refrigerator. Whatever she doesn't use repotting in the day, she pours onto plants that look like they could use a boost.

Glo McDonald makes wire mesh baskets, fills with sphagnum and plant, then adds another side to enclose

the plant in a wire "box." She hangs these outside during the summer. Glo uses long S hooks for Vandas rather than baskets. Sue also uses S hooks hanging from above for very tall flower spikes, rather than trying to stake from the pot up.

JoAnn Stygles sent in photos of her "Tie Gun" which holds a spool of zip tie plastic. She can then secure a plant to a mount using exactly the right amount of zip tie. She also uses an old grapefruit knife to separate roots from the outside of pots. JoAnn grows Neofinetias and videotaped her process of Fukuran potting. She donated a plant as well as the full set up to plant up a new one for our club to auction off. Brandon Silvester won the auction.

Judie Armstrong brought in her 6 gal battery powered sprayeron wheels which she purchased on Amazon. This saves her time and effort over her older pump waterer as it is motorized and she can spray with ease. Mary Radcliffe brought in a hanging piece of cypress with cut out notches that she uses to hang her clay pots. When she has to move the plants indoors quickly, she can carry this in with 5 to 6 plants still hanging on it. Leslie Brickell sent in a photo of how she uses aluminum tags and ties them on plants. They don't deteriorate or get separated from the plant. Charlie Rowell demonstrated how to cut up panty hose stockings to make flexible ties for mounting plants. In the winter months, Lucinda Winn fills takes a large bowl and puts marbles in the bottom then adds water to provide humidity for her miniatures. She also submerges her vandas roots in a vase for a few hours, then empties the water and leaves the vanda in the vase, repeating the process twice a week in winter.

Harry McElroy showed how he trains his Cymbidium spikes to grow straight using a bamboo stake and a spool of narrow velcro tape. He grows his own bamboo, cuts a stalk, and allows it to dry. Then it can be cut up at the nodes. He makes his own bamboo stakes by notching the top end in several places with the axe and then gently puts the axe in one of the notches and taps downwards until the notched piece separates away. He has started to use foam gutter guard in place of sphagnum for mounting orchids. Harry held up an example of two plants purchased at the same time, one grown in a pot and the other in the foam gutter guard on a mount. The later plant was much better developed and larger. His last tip was to buy \$6 stainless steel cutters from Harbor Freight. The blades are thicker and his cutters have lasted much longer than the more expensive ones.

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



CLUB NEWS



Shop Smile.Amazon

Thanks to all of you who have designated the St. Augustine Orchid Society as your favorite charity. We have received over \$300 from Amazon! Click this <u>Smile.Amazon link</u> to select the St. Augustine Orchid Society as your charity and the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price to SAOS.



American Orchid Society Corner

Webinars

August 5, 8:30 pm, Everyone Invited Greenhouse Chat Orchid, Q&A - Ron McHatton August 18, 8:30 pm, AOS Members Only Leafless Orchids – Mary Mancini

Orchids Magazine this month:

Let There Be Light – Kelly McCracken Love Sound and Its Hybrids – Fred Clarke For the Novice: Pots – Carlos Macku

Photos of Latest AOS Awards



September 7 Monthly Meeting

You Bred What?
Dave Off, Waldor Orchids

Dave is focused on the best cultural practices for the heirloom cattleya collection he manages. His talk "You Bred What?" is meant to encourage people to try their hand at making their own crosses after considering what flower and plant attributes the parent plants might offer. Dave Off is the third generation of Offs specializing in growing cattleyas, cymbidiums and other orchids at Waldor Orchids in Linwood, New Jersey, a nursery started by Dave's grandfather in 1925 (originally Brighton Florist) and continued by Dave's late father Walter. We'll have our normal raffle table and sales table at the meeting. Friends and guests are always welcome!

When: Tuesday, September 7, 6:30 til 9 pm

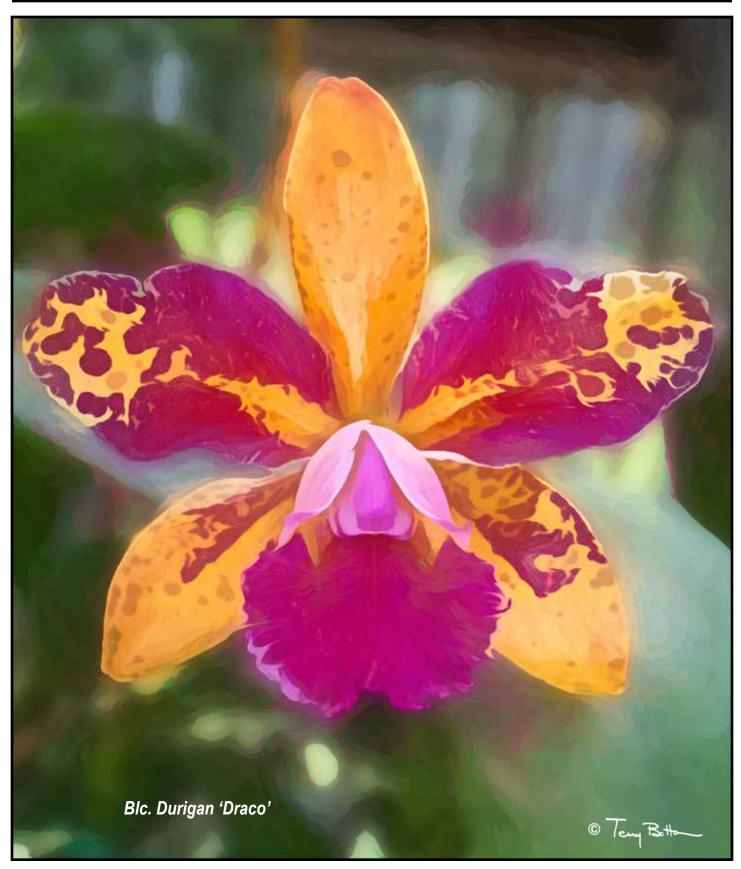
Where: Memorial Lutheran Church 3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086



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INSPIRATION



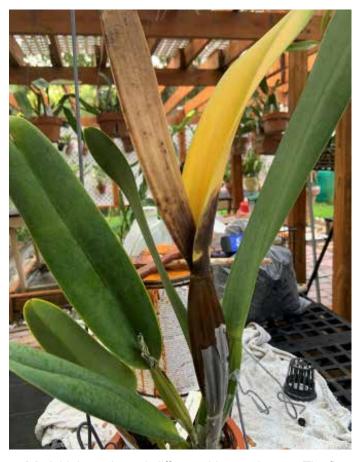


Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@ gmail.com

Q1. I am having some issues and when I think I have things under control, the problems spread. This all started when I cleaned and painted my growing area. The collection was put in the yard and left for

weeks until the job was completed. At first I thought it was sunburn. This past weekend I did spray with Aliette.



A1. I think you have 3 different things going on. The first one looks like black rot, the summer scourge of cattleyas. You should cut away the infected tissue. It travels rapidly through the rhizome so look at the base of the pseudobulbs for tissue that is creamy colored rather than green. If it has that creamy color, it has already been invaded and will have to be removed. Aliette is a great treatment after you are done cutting. Apply it as a drench through the pot. In fact, summer drenches to all your cattleyas are a good preventative.



The second pic looks like water pooled on the soft tender new leaf and a localized rot followed. Just remove the leaf. Sometimes the pseudobulb sheath acts like a pocket trapping water. Whenever I see water standing, I gently pull down the sheath so water drains freely from the top of the pseudobulb.



The third pic looks like classic sunburn. Sunburn appears on the highest point of the leaf where the sunlight impacts the leaf at the most direct angle. Sometimes secondary infections invade the damaged tissue, in which case you would have to remove the leaf. You may just want to remove it so you do not have to look at it.







Try New Things by Dr. Courtney Hackney

People are always looking for better (and cheaper) ways of doing things and growing orchids is no exception. There are always companies selling new fertilizers, potting media, pots, etc that are quickly snatched up by hobbyists. While commercial growers are less prone to trying new things, they succumb

as well. Occasionally, some new product or technique comes along that dramatically improves orchid culture, especially for certain genera. Often, it is a relatively simple idea or product. The realization that Phragmipediums, Bulbophyllums, and Dendrochilums require lots of water is largely responsible for the increasing numbers of these genera on show tables. New pots and media specifically for these water loving genera quickly followed.

On occasion, there are old methods that are suddenly rediscovered or used in a different way that dramatically improve culture. Recently, I saw an extremely well grown plant of Psychopsis (Onc papilio) at Carter & Holmes. It was hanging and growing on a tight ball of coconut fiber. Gene Crocker noted that this was the preferred way of growing this species in South America. Many years ago in South Florida I saw a greenhouse wall covered with Psychopsis papilio. They were mounted on coconuts husks cut in half. This is the same material now used to make coconut chips. This reputedly hard to grow species grew like weeds with this technique and never had to be repotted.

There was a time when many orchids imported from Hawaii would have pieces of lava rock still attached to their roots. They were shipped bare root because the lava rock in which they were grown was expensive to ship. Today, lava rock is available everywhere as a landscaping material, but few hobbyists use this medium. Cattleyas, Vandas, and even Phalaenopsis grow well in lava rock. The major problem is that it holds too much water for some genera. Some Florida growers mix lava rock with the puffed clay material sold as Aliflor to increase drainage. The ratio of each depends on the degree of drainage desired and the type of pots used, i.e. plastic or clay.

My experience with growing most Phal species with lava rock in clay pots has been very positive, with the big rewards coming in the future because these plants will not have to be repotted. Lava rock and these other nonorganic materials do not degrade.

Recently a beautifully grown plant of a Cycnoches hybrid came to our local show table grown totally in Aliflor. The grower, Ken Spackman, noted that this was the best the plant had ever grown and how easy it was to reduce water to the plant in winter without the need to repot and dry the roots. Aliflor does not hold water. Another rock product that does not hold water is StaLite, a product made in North Carolina by heating small pieces of shale until it expands. It is very inexpensive and used for roadbeds. For years I have grown Epidendrums and Encyclias in 100% StaLite with excellent results. The biggest problem is buying small quantities, as it is sold by the dump truck load. During a recent visit to Carter & Holmes Nursery in Newberry, SC, I saw Renanthera hybrids growing extremely well in StaLite mixed with a little redwood bark and tree fern in plastic pots. The difference in growth between this medium and a fir bark mix was remarkable.

Recently a fertilizer, once widely used, was advertised as excellent for orchids. This old (new) product is made from seaweed. Products coming from the ocean are sure to contain lots of micronutrients, but can also contain large quantities of salt. Overuse and quality control problems caused this product to lose favor among orchid growers years ago. Excellent flushing once a month can solve the salt problem and the new product seems to be very consistent. Forgotten, was the fact that besides micronutrients, many seaweed extracts contain small quantities of plant hormones, which stimulate new growths on orchids. This is especially important to sympodial types of orchids, such as cattleyas, but this fertilizer can also stimulate the production of keikis in vandas and phals.

If you are like most orchid hobbyists, you will try something new this year. When you do, try it only on a small number of plants and use on both those orchids growing well and those not doing well under your current culture. Keep good records and note how your orchids respond. Often it takes one or two modifications to get a new technique or product adjusted for your growing conditions. Constant experimentation and evaluation, especially with groups of orchids or individual plants that are not responding to your current culture is what makes good orchid growers better.

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 August 2003.





Tools of the Trade

by Ken Slump, reprinted with permission

There seem to be few horticultural pursuits that have more available paraphernalia than orchid growing. The need or practicality of much of the stuff is a matter of personal preference. One grower's necessity is another's frill. Still, there are two useful gadgets that I think all orchid growers should have in their growing areas, whether they grow their plants on a windowsill, under artificial lights, in a greenhouse or even outdoors. These are a hygrometer and a maximum/minimum thermometer.

MUGGY OR XERIC The hygrometer is an instrument that measures atmospheric humidity. Relative humidity is the ratio of the amount of water vapor present in the air compared with the greatest amount it could hold at the same temperature. Hygrometer readings are lower during the day when your growing area is warmest, and higher at night when temperatures are cooler.

Most of us can readily discern an atmosphere that is humid from one that is arid, and can certainly recognize the fresh, buoyant environment that orchids prefer over one that is damp and cloying. Still, the only way you can be certain of the actual level at various times of day is to have a hygrometer (or more than one) to display the relative humidity level to you.

During the cooler months, most orchids will grow well if humidity is kept in the range of 40 to 60 percent, although some prefer humidity levels a bit higher. You will find that many miniature orchids, as well as those typically grown with exposed roots (such as Vandas), appreciate a more humid environment. The same can be said tor orchids that are cultivated on mounts of wood, bark, tree fern etc., when compared with those that are grown in pots with a growing medium.

If you can achieve it, many orchids grow best with a daytime humidity level of 70 percent or more during warm weather, but care must be taken that good air movement is maintained. Stagnant, damp conditions promote fungal and bacterial diseases.

TEMPERATURE EXTREMES Most orchids need a day-to-night temperature variation of at least 10 to 15F to grow and flower properly. A maximum/minimum thermometer will record those daily temperature extremes for you. The traditional types have small markers in two mercury columns that are pushed to the highest and lowest temperatures that the instrument experiences between the times it is reset. My old gray Taylor brand maximum/minimum thermometers have magnets to reset the markers but I have noticed that newer models seem to have adopted a push-button reset style. Types with digital displays are available too, and



some of these are quite impressive for their comparatively modest cost.

Orchid growers and orchid literature generally divide cultivated orchids into cool-, intermediate- or warm-growing types based on the minimum nighttime temperature at which they thrive. A maximum/minimum thermometer will provide you with this information without your having to get up in the middle of the night to check.

You can expect to pay from \$10 to \$25 for each of these instruments, but you couldn't make a better investment for your orchids. My philosophy on such items is that you generally get what you pay for. Of course, they will only be worth their price if you monitor them and adjust your growing conditions accordingly. Depending on the size and configuration of your growing area, you will likely find that having more than one hygrometer and maximum/minimum thermometer is useful for helping to identify microclimates within your growing space.

Additionally, there are impressive digital maximum/ minimum thermometer and hygrometer combinations on the market for technology lovers. At the touch of a button, you can read indoor and outdoor temperatures, humidity levels and their extremes. Some units are wireless and feature multiple sensors for different locations in the growing area, and some have alarms that can be set if temperatures rise too high or fall too low. Many of these are inexpensive. You'll find these gadgets at most larger garden centers, hardware stores and in greenhouse and garden supply catalogs. If you do not use both a hygrometer and maximum/minimum thermometer in your orchid growing area, acquire them and find out if you are providing your orchids with the environment that you intend.

This article appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine, in August 2003 (Vol. 72:8, p 572).



Laelia tenebrosa - That tenebrosa Lip

by Sue Bottom

Ron McHatton writes about Laelia tenebrosa on the AOS website: Cattleya tenebrosa, one of the most spectacular of the former Brazilian laelias, was first described by Rolfe in 1891 as Laelia grandis var. tenebrosa in reference to its dark color compared to the yellow of L. grandis. The name tenebrosa doesn't just mean dark but rather implies a mysterious or supernatural quality. Two years later Rolfe, realizing this was a completely different species, described it as Laelia tenebrosa, a name that has effective "stuck" for nearly a hundred years...The species typically produces two or three, very large (over 8") flowers per growth. The sepals and petals of most clones is an unusual bronze or copper-brown and some clones can be exceptionally dark.

Like C. (L.) purpurata, the petals tend to reflex along the midrib giving many clones a rather open appearance to the flower although line-breeding is beginning to flatten many newer clones. In addition to the typical dark clones a couple of rare yellow cultivars exist. One of these yellow cultivars, C. (L.). tenebrosa 'Walton's Grange', FCC/AOS has figured prominently in the background of many exceptionally dark magenta and purple-red hybrids bred from C. dowiana and C. dowiana var. aurea.

Arthur Chadwick adds his insights from his book The Classic Cattleyas: Laelia tenebrosa is considered by breeders to be dominant for color, large size and deformity-free flowers, as well as excellent plant vigor. It imparts an unbelievable richness to the flowers of its hybrids... In its primary hybrids, L. tenebrosa tends to impart a brightness that en-



Laelia tenebrosa flower

Yellow form of Laelia tenebrosa in bloom



Laelia purpurata



Laela Pacavia (L. purpurata x L. tenebrosa)

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riches the color and almost makes it glow...

Courtney says the tenebrosa lip is dominant most of the time in form and color. These pictures of hybrids with tenebrosa show how the purplish tenebrosa lip carries through in its hybrids.

Chadwick closes with: Like so many of our large-flowered Cattleya species, most of the fine old clones of L. tenebrosa

have been lost to cultivation and appear only in the rich coloring of our Cattleya hybrids. Laelia tenebrosa today is like the elusive pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. It is there - but it is not there. Of the sib crosses still being made, we can only hope there are still some genes left that can unlock the grandeur of the past.



Cattleya dowiana

Laeliocattleya Luminosa (C. dowiana x L. tenebrosa)



Cattleya guttata



Laeliocattleya Issy 'SVO' HCC/AOS (C. guttata x L. tenebrosa)



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Cattleya schilleriana

Laeliocattleya Massangeana (C. schilleriana x L. tenebrosa) Photo credit: Allen Black



Potinara Memoria Mario Lanza 'Lenette #20' (Pot. Carolina Splendor x C. Chocolate Drop)



Potinara King Tut 'Hackneau' (Pot. Mem. Mario Lanza x L. tenebrosa) Photo credit: Courtney Hackney

Citations and Additional Reading

Chadwick, Arthur. Cattleya tenebrosa, accessed online 7/28/21 https://chadwickorchids.com/content/cattleya-tenebrosa-laelia

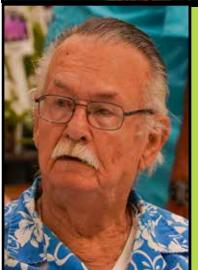
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ORCHID ADVENTURES





Marv Ragan Turns 90

Little did Jan know that giving her husband Marv a light lavender orchid for Valentine's Day in 1965 would be the beginning of a life-long love affair for both of them. Having met in California, their dating involved fishing trips, a precursor of what was to come.

Before retiring from the Navy in 1976, Marv spent his R and R time in the Philippines collecting orchids from areas that were later destroyed by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. Their marriage was filled with treks in the Caribbean and jungles of South America studying orchid habitats. Always a team, they opened MAJ (for Marv and Jan) Orchids in 1969, Jan ran the booths while Marv judged AOS shows.

Jan departed this earth in 2015 and Marv has recently downsized his orchid collection. In reflecting on his life, Marv says 'It's been a great ride so far!" Wonder what he'll do for an encore?











SHOW TABLE



Grower Mary Ann Bell Stan. Assidensis



Grower Courtney Hackney Epi. cristatum



Grower Debra Brandt Phal. Samera



Grower Steve Dorsey Miltoniopsis NoID



Grower Leslie Brickell Ddc. filiforme



Grower Sue Bottom Lc. Maui Plum 'Volcano Queen' AM/AOS



Grower Tom & Dottie Sullivan Colm. Ruth's Rainbow 'Over the Rainbow'



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom Blc. Toshie Aoki 'Pizzaz' AM/AOS



Grower Steve Dorsey Paph. Jewel Pink



Grower Suzanne Susko Milt. moreliana



Grower Charlie Rowell Brs. Nanboh Breeze



Grower Allen Black Brassokeria Rosyleen



Grower Janis Croft Rnet. Sunrise 'Prasong' AM/AOS

Link to all Pictures. https://flic.kr/s/aHsmWm3ZxR

