



CLUB NEWS



December Party and Auction

President Tom Sullivan welcomed 56 members to the December party and auction at 6:50 pm. Dianne is recovering from an ankle injury, so she organized our annual party and auction with a huge assist from Janis. Janis made a sautéed chicken and orzo dish and Leslie Brickell smoked some Boston butts for pulled pork. Every one contributed to the food fest, bringing salads, sides and desserts. The food was



yummy. A big thanks to Janis Croft, Dottie Sullivan, Ann McKenna, Kym van Konijnenburg and Maria Sands for organizing the food and cleaning up in the kitchen. Orchid growers sure can cook!

We voted for our returning slate of officers, and took the opportunity to thank all our helpful volunteers:

Tom Sullivan will continue as president, with backup by our immediate past President Bob Schimmel. Tom chairs

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CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

December

- 9 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 9-10 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show
Riverwalk Center
- 12 JOS Christmas Auction
Enza's in Mandarin

January

- 2 SAOS Meeting, C. walkeriana & nobilor
Memorial Lutheran Church
- 5-7 Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show
Charles Dodge City Ctr, Pembroke Pines
- 6 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 6-7 Sarasota Orchid Society Show
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
- 9 JOS Meeting, Topic What's in a Name
Phillip Hamilton, Bredren Orchids
- 11 Virtual Show Table
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 12-14 Tamiami International Orchid Festival
Dade County Fair Expo Center
- 13 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 19-21 Apopka Int'l Winter Orchid Show
Krull Smith Nursery, Apopka
- 27-28 Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show
Seminole Recreation Division

February

- 3 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 9 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 3-4 Venice Area Orchid Society Show
Venice Community Center
- 6 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Terry Bottom, SAOS
Orchid Photography

- 9-11 Greater Orlando Orchid Society Show
Orlando Garden Club
- 10 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 10-11 Boca Raton Orchid Society Show
Safe Schools Institute
- 13 JOS Meeting, Topic Prepping Plants for a Show
Speakers Eric Cavin and James Arnold
- 15 Virtual Show Table
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 16-18 Naples Orchid Society Show
Moorings Presbyterian Church
- 17-18 Wellington Orchid Festival
11700 Pierson Road, Wellington 33414
- 23-24 Englewood Area Orchid Society
Ann and Chuck Dever Regional Park

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Tom Sullivan tomjs91@gmail.com
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Vice President Events	Dianne Batchelder ladydi9907@aol.com
Vice President Membership	Linda Stewart bindstew@hotmail.com
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CLUB NEWS

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the meetings, making sure the meeting runs smoothly and on time, as well as charming our members.

Janis Croft will continue as Communications Veep, preparing the monthly minutes of the meeting for the newsletter, creating the Instagram posts for upcoming events, putting together the PowerPoint presentation for the Virtual Show Table and organizing any exhibits we do at out of town shows. Karen Ford is Janis' go-to person for backing her up. If you would like to get involved in any of these projects or would be interested in helping with social media posts and publicity, talk to Janis.

Dianne Batchelder will continue as Events Veep, organizing the annual picnic and holiday events and monthly meeting refreshments. Dottie Sullivan, Ann McKenna, Maria Sands and Kym van Konijnenburg always help with setting up the refreshments. If this is something you are interested in, talk to Dianne.

Linda Stewart will continue as Membership Veep, maintaining the membership list, welcoming guests and new members, making nametags, managing the mentoring program and sending well wishes to members. Dottie Sullivan and Maria Sands help at the Welcome Table. If you want to welcome guests or link up mentors with mentees, talk to Linda.

Sue Bottom will continue as the Programs Veep, scheduling speakers for our monthly meeting, organizing the potting clinics, keiki club events and auctions. Tom and Dottie Sullivan, Bob Schimmel, Ann McKenna and Dianne Batchelder are integral members of the potting clinic. Jerry Fowler is valiantly trying to resuscitate our beginners programs. Courtney Hackney talks about the plants brought to the show table each month, as well as the monthly Virtual Show Table. Steve Hawkins has been a great back up for Courtney at the monthly meetings. If you would like to interact with our speakers, talk to Sue.

Cathy Mayo will continue as Treasurer collecting money at the meetings, handling banking arrangements

and regulatory filings, and preparing financial statements. Dianne Batchelder, Ann McKenna, Christine Peterson, Christie Peppard and Linda Stewart help with the supplies table, raffle table, and auctions. If you would like to help with any of these items or sell raffle tickets, talk to Cathy.

Charlie Bridgham, Leslie Brickell and Jerry Fowler will continue as directors. Our directors are asked to help SAOS achieve its goals and give suggestions for improvements. For example, Charlie's suggestion to bring orchids to the SE Branch library to raise awareness has increased attendance at the potting clinics. If you want to learn more about how SAOS operates, talk to Tom.

Howard Cushnir is our librarian, and he brings a selection of books to the meeting for members to borrow. If you are interested in helping, talk to Howard.

Sue Bottom and Terry Bottom are our newsletter editors and webmasters. Sue writes the words and Terry creates the music with his photographs. They are responsible for sourcing articles and reporting on orchid events. Janis Croft writes the monthly minutes with her backup Karen Ford. If you are interested in help with education programs, talk to Sue.

Sue Bottom organized the auction, obtaining a nice selection of plants. Bill Gourley, Rebecca Storey, Sue Bottom, Courtney Hackney, Leslie Brickell and Ellen Fay donated plants this year. We also got a great selection of plants from Phillip and Liz Hamilton of Bredren Orchids. The auction was tons of fun with Courtney at the helm. Courtney was in rare form and his good humor spread through the group, encouraging lively bidding. A beautiful thing, because the proceeds from the auction fund our speakers' honorarium and travel expenses. We also had our 2024 calendars and seedlings from Allen Black, Jim Roberts and Alan Koch.

Thanks to all our volunteers that planned the event and made the auction a success. We are really lucky to have such a fun loving group. Enjoy your friends and family over the next few weeks, and here's hoping 2024 is the best year yet!



CLUB NEWS

January 2 Meeting A Tale of Two Cattleyas, Francisco Miranda

Francisco Miranda will talk about the dynamic duo, *Cattleya walkeriana* and *Cattleya nobilior*. These Brazilian cattleyas grow in dry habitats, and Francisco will have lots of pics showing how they grow in situ, to guide you in your growing area.



Francisco is a taxonomist, naturalist and orchid grower, who travels extensively in the U.S. and internationally speaking at orchid-related events and meetings..Miranda Orchids started in 1999. It is a nursery specializing in growing select *Cattleya* alliance species. In a sense, it is a continuation of Boa Vista Orchids, a nursery he ran in Brazil from 1986 until he and his wife Cristina moved to the USA.

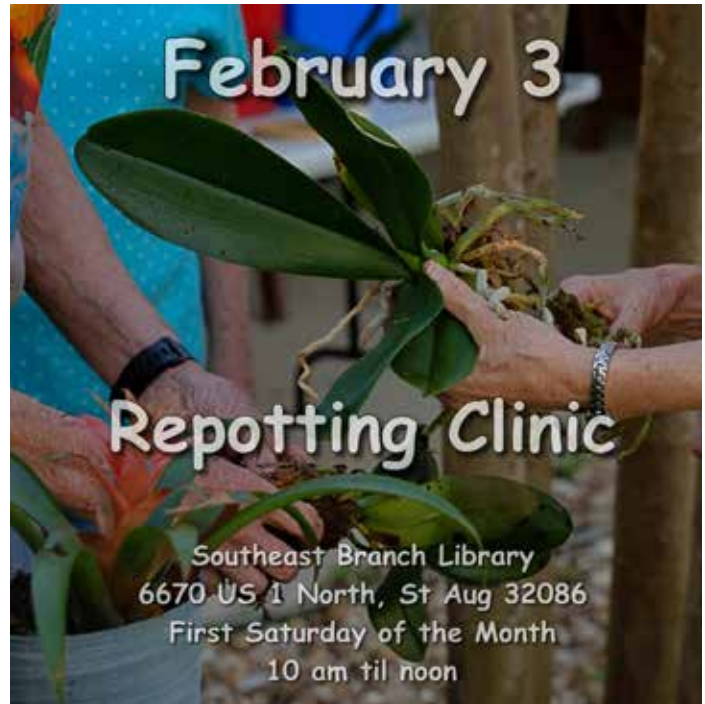
When: Tuesday, January 2, 6:30 til 9 pm

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



Repotting Clinic

Your orchids are not too demanding this time of year. They will be perfectly happy if you keep them warm enough and water them occasionally. Enjoy family and friends over the holidays. Eat, drink and be merry!



American Orchid Society Corner

Webinars

None scheduled for December

Orchids Magazine this Month

Ghost Orchids – Jay Loeffler

First Ladies Orchids – Arthur E. Chadwick

Elusive Eulophia - Clare and Johan Hermans

[Photos of Latest AOS Awards](#)



INSPIRATION

Programs Scheduled for 2023



January 2 – Tale of Two Cattleyas
Francisco Miranda, [Miranda Orchids](#)
Cattleya walkeriana and Cattleya nobilior



August 6 – To Mount or Not to Mount
Thanh Nguyen, [Springwater Orchids](#)
Some Orchids Grow Better on a Mount

July 2 – Bulbophyllums
Julien Baruch, [Krull Smith Orchids](#)
Weird and Wild Flowers that Move



February 6 – Orchid Photography
Terry Bottom, St. Augustine Orchid Society
Using a Phone or Camera



March 5– Growing Specimen Sized Orchids
Bill Nunez, Orchid Hobbyist
Growing Orchids Loaded with Blooms



September 3 – Become an 80 Percentile Grower
Fred Clarke, [Sunset Valley Orchids](#)
The Basics of Growing Orchids



April 2 – Tolumnias
Courtney Hackney, [Hackneau Art and Orchids](#)
Growing Equitant Oncidiums

October 1– Angraecoids
Edgar Stehli, [Windswept in Time](#)
Mostly White with Spurs from Africa & Madagascar



May 7 – Multifloral Paphs
David Sorokowsky, [Paph Paradise](#)
Grow with Your Cattleyas



November 7 – Orchid Bingo
St. Augustine Orchid Society
Orchid Opportunities on Election Night

June 4 – Giant World of Miniature Orchids
Tomas Bajza, [Tarzane Group](#)
You Always Have Room for One More



December 3 - Christmas Orchid Auction
Spread Holiday Cheer with Orchid Friends



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com

Q1. The first three flowers of this young cattleya hybrid formed normally and were a very pleasing red. The fourth flower looks very different. Is this a mutation of some sort?



A1. We had to ask Courtney about this one, he says there are many possibilities. Perhaps it is a somatic mutation, that resulted in a section of a chromosome being lost. Maybe a chimera (in Greek mythology, a chimera is a fire-breathing hybrid with a mixture of parts of different animals such as snakes, goats and lions), so it would mean the plant carries the genes of two different individuals. It remains to be seen whether future blooms will be true to form or distorted.

Q2. I have what I think is a healthy cattleya. It has a flower sheath that was reddish and now it's turning black. Last year it did the same thing, produced a healthy growth and a flower sheath that just dried up. Why?



A2. This time of year when the nights are a little cooler, condensation can form inside the sheath and rot the bud primordia. When I see the sheath turning that sickly yellow color and then it browns, I gently pull the sheath apart and down so any condensation can drain away from the bud. Open it up and see if the bud is still viable. You may have to wait a bit for the flower, but that will prevent it from rotting while it develops.

Q3. One of my phals looks like sandpaper on two leaves. Is this mites?



A3. You should rub a white kleenex against the leaves, see if you get reddish/browning markings that would be red spider mite poop. The leaves are suggestive of mites, maybe not the red spider mites but flat or false spider mites that feed on leaf upper surfaces. Break out the Bayer 3 in 1 product that contains a miticide and treat them. I'd be inclined to give it a thorough bath under the sink, let it dry, and then spray with the Bayer product. You may have to repeat this process, and consider treating all your phals. Better yet, why don't you order some Avid, or the generic abamectin, it works great on mites. Spray everything with it, top and bottom leaves, all your plants. You have to wipe out the mites from your growing area. It may seem expensive, but think of the pleasure your blooming phals give you!



CULTIVATION



Winter Growing by Dr. Courtney Hackney

Cool, gloomy weather is characteristic of winter, which begins this month. Many of the problems that surface in late winter or early spring in greenhouses can be avoided now with just a little effort. Bacteria and fungi thrive in the wet, cool conditions of winter, but are vulnerable to simple sanitation procedures. Brown spots on flowers (*Botrytis*) and soft wet spots (*Pseudomonas*) on leaves that spread and kill small plants if untreated can be avoided or, at least minimized with good sanitation.

Clean all non-growing surfaces with a 5% Clorox solution. Walkways, concrete surfaces, and even walls can be safely cleaned eliminating spores that can be a problem later. Avoid getting this solution on clothing and plants as it will bleach plant materials. Alternatively, you can also use Physan that is approved for sterilizing surfaces. Physan is relatively inexpensive and available. There are different formulations for treating surfaces and plants. Physan is a surfactant and keeps water from standing on surfaces and leaves of plants.

If you have thin-leaved phals or other sensitive species use the recommended formulation for plants at half strength. Also spray before the greenhouse gets hot. Spray bench surfaces, sides of pots containing plants, and even walls of greenhouses with the formulation specified for plant application if the product is likely to get on your orchids. If you have problems with water condensing on the ceiling of your greenhouse and dripping onto plants, spray the ceiling as well. The idea is to kill as many of the spores that float around your greenhouse so they will not begin to grow on plants.

Be sure you clean all dead plant materials from under benches, in pots, etc. That includes soft bulbs or leaf material. Hard brown plant parts can be left alone. This is a good time to survey your plants and space them so that leaves are not touching each other and will dry quickly. In summer, you increased air circulation to prevent overheating, now, do the same to help leaves dry quickly and prevent spores from beginning to grow.

It is now more important than ever to water early in the morning on days when your greenhouse will gain enough heat to vent and pull in fresh air. Your goal is for all plants to be dry by nightfall when temperatures drop in



To prevent *Botrytis* from ruining your flowers, keep air moving and temps above 65F

the greenhouse. Are there drip spots in your greenhouse? Most greenhouses will have places where condensation drips from the ceiling and rafters. Check plants below and arrange them so the drips are not falling on leaves or sensitive buds. This is especially critical for phals and paphs. Conversely, I put phrags and dendrochilums that have suffered all summer in my hot greenhouse directly under these drips and they thrive as long as they are in well-drained media. Generally, though, avoid drips on plants.

What temperature is best for orchids? This is another commonly asked question. Phals should be kept at a minimum 65 F to avoid problems. The key for phals is to keep them growing, which tends to stop when the media and roots get below 65 F. This is also the point where *Botrytis* begins to grow. Vandas and ascocendas also like 60-65 F as a lower temperature limit. Standard cattleyas and paphs tolerate 55 F or even a few degrees cooler with no problem. Lower temperatures mean that your orchids will require less water on these short days so adjust watering appropriately. This can be especially difficult for phals and paphs in soilless or dense media as they may never dry out. Many phals drop flowers and buds prematurely in spring because they lose their roots to overwatering in early winter.

Indoor growers, lucky enough to have full spectrum lighting, have an easier time in winter as they can control light levels and the excess heat from lights is an asset. Humidity problems are now the major problem, but not much different than in summer when air conditioners were causing the same problem. Under light growers may need to stimulate spikes by lowering temperature or changing day length if this has not been done already. Duplicating seasonal changes of the tropics is not necessary as long as the orchid experiences an environmental change that stimulates flowering and growth. Learning how to do this is not hard, but does require some trial and error-type experience.

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 December 2005



CULTIVATION

Cattleya percivaliana, Perennial Christmas

Gift: by Art Chadwick, [Chadwick Orchids](#)



It wasn't too many years ago that you could buy flowering plants of *C. percivaliana* at the local florist shop for Christmas. When I was a teenager in the 1940s, I earned my Christmas money selling *C. percivaliana* plants to these shops. I bought newly established, imported plants in sheath in September for \$2.50 each and sold them in flower in December for \$5. No matter how many plants I bought in September, I never had enough to meet the demand in December. It seemed no one wanted a poinsettia when they could have an orchid for the same price.

Cattleya percivaliana was a late arrival on the orchid scene compared with most of the other important *Cattleya* species. It took 46 years after the discovery of *Cattleya mossiae* and more than 20 years after the discovery of *Cattleya trianae*, *Cattleya warszewiczii* and *Cattleya lueddemanniana* before someone found *C. percivaliana*. By the time it appeared, the orchid world was more than ready to receive it. Growers were desperate to find a cattleya to fill the flowering gap between *Cattleya labiata*, which finished blooming in November, and *C. trianae*, which did not begin flowering until January. *Cattleya percivaliana* flowered during this empty December period and orchidists everywhere responded with excitement and pleasure. Frederick Sander of the English orchid firm Sander's Ltd., proclaimed elatedly that "with the discovery of *Cattleya percivaliana* and *Cattleya gaskelliana*, we now have cattleyas flowering the whole year." It was all very wonderful.

The glow, however, did not last long. As the newly discovered species began flowering in hundreds of greenhouses throughout Europe and the United States,

people soon discovered that, despite its good shape, rich dark coloring and desirable flowering season, *C. percivaliana* produced flowers that were only half the size of the other major *Cattleya* species. The disappointment was intense, and Sir Trevor Lawrence, president of the Royal Horticultural Society, chastised Frederick Sander publicly for misleading his customers with such high praise for the plant. In disgust, Lawrence simply referred to *C. percivaliana* as "mossiae minor."

As a *Cattleya* species, *C. percivaliana* is distinct and easy to identify. Frederick Sander, its greatest promoter, felt no one could mistake it for any other species and "a boy could pick it out blindfolded in a greenhouse." Saying this, Sander must have assumed the boy would smell it, because its fragrance is unique and you have only to smell it once to be able to identify it from then on.

Cattleya percivaliana's fragrance is usually described as "spicy" and most people like it. But, not everyone does, and it is the only *Cattleya* species about which there is any doubt at all about the fragrance's being pleasant and desirable.

Another important identifying feature of *C. percivaliana* is its lip color. The lip typically has an intense deep orange color in the throat that seems to underlay even the deep purple of the lower labellum. Sander described this color as having "extraordinary richness," and Reichenbach likened it to "a Persian carpet in which dazzling colors prevail." The lip color is an important reason why *C. percivaliana* was used in early hybridizing, but unfortunately, the color did not produce the same effect in the hybrids as it did in the species itself, so most *C. percivaliana* hybrids were not too successful. Even its natural hybrid with *C. mossiae*, *Cattleya Peregrine*, is not an exciting event in this respect.

The only primary hybrid of *C. percivaliana* that has received significant recognition, and is really noteworthy, is *Cattleya Leda* (*percivaliana* x *dowiana*). *Cattleya percivaliana* has good shape and rich dark color. Add to this *C. dowiana*'s well-known effect of intensifying the color of other purple cattleya flowers, and *C. Leda* becomes not only a beautiful flower in its own right, but also a promising parent for dark purple hybrids. *Cattleya Leda* is a parent of such famous dark crosses as *Brassocattleya Hartland* (*Bc. Hannibal* x *Leda*) and *Laeliocattleya Hyperion* (*Lc. General Maude* x *Leda*). Its cross with *Laeliocattleya Cavalese-Laeliocattleya Bloody Mary*- gives a good description of the purple-red color it can produce in its hybrids.

Cattleya percivaliana was not much of a success in the cut-flower market of the 1930s, 40s and 50s because a single flower was too small to make a good corsage. Only a few fine clones with large flowers like *C. percivaliana* 'Summit' FCC/AOS, were grown for cut flowers by such growers as Lager and Hurrell, who had at least 200 plants

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C. percivaliana var. *alba* 'Charita' AM/AOS, grown and photographed by Keith Davis

of the clone for Christmas cut flowers the last time I saw them.

As a pot plant, however, *C. percivaliana* was ideal. It was a relatively small plant that produced two or three flowers per lead and a plant in a 5-inch pot made a beautiful display for the holiday season.

Although *C. percivaliana* is thought of as a small cattleya, there have been clones that had a 7-inch petal spread, but these have been very rare. The typical flower is about 4 ½ inches across, compared with 6 or 8 inches across for the typical *C. mossiae*.

Although there was a fine clone of *C. percivaliana* named 'Grandiflora', AM/RHS (1916), that term is applied today to any large-flowered clones, particularly those with good shape and a wider than normal lip.

Cattleya percivaliana produces some of the better-shaped albas of the *Cattleya* species and John Lager had one that he considered as good for shape and size as his famous lavender 'Summit', AM-FCC/AOS. His alba clone, however, had no clonal name and was apparently lost after his death. In addition to R.P. Percival's alba that received an FCC/RHS in 1884, the clone 'Lady Holford' received an FCC/RHS in 1913.

The most famous semialba is *C. percivaliana* 'Charlesworth', FCC/RHS (1913), which has a classic deep-reddish-purple lip that makes a striking contrast against the white sepals and petals. The commonly available semialbas today, like *C. percivaliana* 'Jewel' lack the intense coloration of 'Charlesworth's' lip, but are still a nice addition to any Christmas arrangement.

The lavender forms of *C. percivaliana* have lips that vary in color from almost black-purple to medium orange-purple, and there are, of course, pale lavender albescens and concolors. The lip is usually narrow except in the Grandiflora forms. The most famous lavender clone is

undoubtedly 'Summit' FCC/AOS, which has a squarer shape than most other clones of *C. percivaliana*. Even the very dark, narrow-lipped *C. percivaliana*, however, are wonderful flowers.

If I could ask Santa Claus to bring all my orchid friends one holiday gift, it would be a plant of *Cattleya percivaliana*, filled to the brim with a dozen rich purple flowers - a plant that could stand on their coffee tables by their Christmas trees and welcome holiday guests like an outstretched hand of the genial R.P. Percival of times gone by.

How to Grow Cattleya Percivaliana. *Cattleya percivaliana* is one of the easiest members of the *Cattleya* genus to grow and is normally a vigorous, trouble-free plant. It begins growing in late winter to early spring in the United States and will usually make two growths in succession. Both growths will flower at the same time in late November into December. A sturdy, well-established plant will stay in flower at least four weeks.

Cattleya percivaliana grows in nature at relatively high altitudes from 4,000 to 6,000 feet. It is often a lithophyte found on rocks and receives considerable exposure to the sun. Under greenhouse conditions at sea level, however, it will require at least 30 percent shade in the summer to prevent the leaves from burning. *Cattleya percivaliana* requires lots of sun and air to obtain the best growth and the most flowers. Repotting should be done in the spring before the plant is in active growth.

Because of its vigorous growing habit and small size, *C. percivaliana* makes a great exhibition plant if potted on into the next larger pot without disturbing the rootball. Under these circumstances, you can have a plant in a 6-inch pot with 10 or 12 flowers- and you can have it for Christmas.



C. percivaliana var. *coerulea* 'Ondine', grown and photographed by Keith Davis

Extracted from an article that appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine, in December 1999 (Vol. 68:12, pp 1206-1212), and the Chadwick Orchids website, reprinted with permission.



CULTIVATION

Bringing Home New Orchids

Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com



Dreaming about what you might find at an orchid show?

I love bringing home new orchids. Sometimes I buy large plants in bloom but more often than not I bring home seedlings that I can watch grow up and bloom for me the first time.

Selecting Blooming Plants. You buy plants for any number of reasons; because you like the flower, you like the plant growth habit or you like the parentage and have great hopes for the future flower. If you are buying a plant in bloom, be sure to look beyond that gorgeous flower and take a careful look at the plant itself.

Healthy Root System. You know a healthy root system is the key to a plant that will bloom well for you. Any plant you buy should be fully established in the pot. Pick it up by its



Orchid Society shows and festivals are great opportunities to shop for orchids

vegetation and the pot should lift with the plant. If the plant is wobbly in the pot, it is either newly repotted and thus not established or there is a problem with the roots and you will have to nurse it back to health.

Fat and Happy Bulbs and Canes. You'll get the best blooms from plants that are vigorous growers. Look at the pseudobulbs or canes to see if they are plump, hard and full. If the bulbs are shriveled or wrinkled, the plant could be dehydrated from root problems or suffering from a disease like fusarium.

Turgid and Unmarked Leaves. Leaves should be full and hold themselves upright. Fleshy leaved phal leaves should be thick and turgid, with no droopiness or other sign of dehydration. Mature cattleya leaves should be hard with the texture of cardboard. Thin leaved orchids like the Oncidiinae should be unwrinkled. The leaves should be a healthy green with no markings, except possibly for



If you're selecting seedlings from a tray of similar seedlings, choose for vigor, the biggest bulb, the widest and thickest leaf, etc. Then ask the orchid grower which one he thinks you should choose and why.

the reddish pigmentation that happens when orchids are grown in very bright light. Yellow, brown or black markings or edges may be indicative of a bacterial or fungal disease. Do not be overly concerned if there is an occasional blemish on the plant if it otherwise looks happy and healthy.

Absence of Pests and Diseases. You want a plant this is pest free. Check the base of the plant, in leaf axils and other hidden spots and make sure there are no scale, mealybugs or other crawling insects present. A diseased orchid may have yellow or black spotting, shriveling, soft spots, etc., all of which should flash a warning sign to you when you are selecting a plant to bring home. If in flower, make sure there is no color break in the flower that can be a sign of virus.

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Don't bring scale or other problems home to your growing area

Seedlings and Near Blooming Size Plants. Seedlings are fun to bring home because you can spend hours imagining what the bloom might look like when it finally opens. If you are selecting a plant from a seedling tray, look for the one with the thickest bulbs and leaves. I often ask the orchid grower which seedling he would select and why, you'll get lots of interesting insights. One grower said to choose a plant that had not yet bloomed, under the assumption that if it had bloomed and had a great flower, that plant would no longer be for sale.

Bring New Plants Home. If you grow cattleyas, scale is your arch nemesis. After many years of battling scale, the growth inhibitor Distance (it isn't cheap!) finally allowed me to declare the greenhouse a scale free zone. Imagine my surprise when I noticed scale emerging on some of the new plants I brought home. They appeared clean when I selected them, but several months later I noticed the tell tale chlorotic spotting and white patches. Clearly scale was lurking under the rhizome or paper sheathing of my new plants.

The books all tell you to isolate plants for several months when you bring them into your growing area so you can catch problems without spreading them to the rest of your collection. I find I can't resist the urge to group plants together as soon as I bring them home, new phals with old phals, new cattleyas with old cattleyas, etc. so the plants all get the proper light and water. I obviously needed a better plan for handling new orchids.

Apply a Protective Drench. Once you get home and before you introduce your new plant to the growing area, apply a protective drench through the potting media. There are a variety of pesticides that contain the active ingredient

imidacloprid, a systemic insecticide that can be introduced to the plant via the roots and absorbed throughout the plant. It will kill scale, mealybugs, etc. from the inside out without your having to spray it on leaf surfaces like you would a contact pesticide. There are granular formulations containing 0.5% Imidacloprid that can just be sprinkled on top of the pot, sold as Generic Merit, Grubs Away, etc. There are also liquid imidacloprid-bearing pesticides that come in a wide variety of strengths. The Bayer Three in One product also contains a systemic miticide for residual control of spider mites as well as a systemic fungicide although this particular fungicide may not offer much protection against common orchid diseases. There are better protective fungicidal drenches, like Banrot or Subdue, available from specialty horticultural outlets albeit at a fairly expensive price.

Repot into Your Mix of Choice. If you bought a plant in bloom, let it bloom out and then repot it in your mix of choice. If it's a seedling orchid, you may want to repot immediately upon bringing it home. This way you won't have a hodgepodge of plants in sphagnum, bark and whatever else that all require watering at a different frequency. The only caveats are try not to repot in the fall when plants are going into their winter rest and be careful not to repot bifoliate cattleyas unless you see the initiation of new root growth. It is best to repot when new roots are just beginning to emerge because the plant will reestablish the most quickly when it is in a period of active root growth.

A new orchid should be a welcome addition to your collection, not a problem waiting to happen. Develop a system to make sure that your new beauty will live to bloom again along with all your old favorites.



After you find an orchid that you just can't live without, take a moment to inspect the plant to make sure it is healthy so you'll still love it in the morning.



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Krull Smith Fall Orchid Festival

Krull Smith hosts orchid festivals in the fall, winter and spring. Bredren, Gold Country, Miranda, Paph Paradise and Springwater set up sales booths for the event, a great opportunity to get their special orchids. Of course, Krull Smith has an incredible variety of orchids as well, from bulbophyllums to vandias, with plenty of cattleyas to boot. Entry is free to these events, as is the parking, and there are always food trucks to fuel your orchid frenzy. It's an easy drive down to Apopka, much easier than going down to the big south Florida shows. We'll keep you posted on the next show opportunity!



SHOW TABLE REVIEW



Grower Janis Croft
Fdk. After Dark 'Black Pearl'



Grower Suzanne Susko
B. Little Stars



Grower Keith Davis
Blc. Dickie Brooks 'Holy Moly'



Grower Leslie Brickell
C. Measuresiana



Grower Bev Vycital
Ctsm. (Melana Davison x Diana's Dots)



Grower Bob Schimmel
C. intermedia var. alba 'Lines'



Grower Sue Bottom
C. skinneri



SHOW TABLE REVIEW



Grower Suzanne Susko
Neof. falcata var. Kousaikou



Grower Allen Black
Pot. Pamela Ann Oliveros 'Mom's Best' AM/AOS



Grower Sue Bottom
Ddc. bicallosum



Grower Bev Vycital
Blc. Smiley Aoki



Grower Allen Black
C. Mareeba Tiger



Grower Steve Dorsey
Pot. Carmen Cortes

