



St. Augustine NEWSLETTER

Orchid Society

CLUB NEWS



December Party and Auction

President Tom Sullivan welcomed 46 members to the December party and auction at 6:50 pm. Dianne arranged for Romano's to cater the main dishes, so we had lasagna, eggplant parm and sausage and peppers. Every one contributed to the food fest, bringing salads, sides and desserts. The food was yummy. A big thanks to Dianne, Dottie, Ann and Maria for organizing the food and cleaning up in the kitchen. Orchid growers sure can cook!



Linda thanked some of our unsung heroes, who are not board members but contribute greatly to the Society's function. She thanks Bob Schimmel for everything he does to keep the meetings running, Courtney for his auctioneering and show table reviews, Christine for handling the show table vote, Terry for running the computer system and taking all the photos and Howard for managing the library.

Our Directors have served their three year terms, and we hope they will continue to be active in the club management, thanks to Charlie Bridgham, Leslie Brickell and Jerry

Continued on page 3



CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

December

- 7-8 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show
Riverwalk Center
- 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, 10 am
Bob Foster Center, Mt. Dora 32757

January

- 4-5 Sarasota Orchid Society Show
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
- 7 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Keith Emig, Winter Haven Orchids
Vandaceous... but not Vandas
- 8 Virtual Show Table
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 10-12 Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show
Charles Dodge City Ctr, Pembroke Pines
- 11 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am
Bob Foster Center, Mt. Dora 32757
JOS Meeting, Topic TBA
Speaker to be Announced
- 17-19 Tamiami International Orchid Festival
Dade County Fair Expo Center
- 24-26 Apopka Int'l Winter Orchid Show
Krull Smith Nursery, Apopka
- 25-26 Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show
Seminole Recreation Division

February

- 1 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 1-2 Venice Area Orchid Society Show
Venice Community Center
- 4 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Mike Sands, Tangled Roots Nursery
Restoring Florida Native Orchids

- 8 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am
Bob Foster Center, Mt. Dora 32757
- 8-9 Boca Raton Orchid Society Show
Safe Schools Institute
- 11 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA
Speaker TBA
- 12 Virtual Show Table
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 21-23 Naples Orchid Society Show
Moorings Presbyterian Church
- 28-2 Martin County Orchid Society Show
Martin County Fairgrounds
- 9-11 Greater Orlando Orchid Society Show
Orlando Garden Club
- 17-18 Wellington Orchid Festival
11700 Pierson Road, Wellington 33414

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Tom Sullivan tomjs91@gmail.com
Vice President Communications	Janis Croft croftie1984@gmail.com
Vice President Events	Dianne Batchelder ladydi9907@aol.com
Vice President Membership	Linda Stewart bindstew@hotmail.com
Vice President Programs	Sue Bottom sbottom15@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Cathy Mayo allatoonalady@gmail.com
Directors	Judie Armstrong, 2025 judiearmstrong@yahoo.com Rachel Biello, 2025 rachelbiello28@gmail.com Kay Payne, 2025 paynekay113@gmail.com
Exhibit Committee Chair	Janis Croft croftie1984@gmail.com
Librarian	Howard Cushnir hscushnir@gmail.com
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom sbottom15@hotmail.com bottom406@gmail.com



CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1



Fowler. Incoming directors are Judie Armstrong, who will be helping with programs, Rachel Biello who will be helping with membership, and Kay Payne who will be helping with financials. Our directors are asked to help SAOS achieve its goals and give suggestions for improvements.

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

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 from EFG. Eric Milstrey, Deborah Green, Bev Vycital, Janis Croft, Sue Bottom, and Courtney Hackney donated plants this year. 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 2025 calendars and seedlings from Allen Black, Jim Roberts and Ben Oliveros.

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 2025 is the best year yet!



CLUB NEWS



2025 SAOS Calendars

The 2025 calendars are going fast! The calendars feature the Photo of the Month from the images sent in for the Virtual Show Table. They are printed on heavy paper stock, are beautiful, and make a great gift. If you want one, email us at info@StAugOrchidSociety.org to order. They are available for a \$20 donation. We'll be glad to mail calendars to you.

Culture Notes

December in St. Augustine

Winter's cool days and nights have already affected most collections; if all plants are not already indoors, they soon may be. Concerning daylight intensity and its duration, the seasonal change must be obvious by now. Don't allow daytime temperatures to rise too high before ventilating the growing area. Fresh air is important for healthy plants and their owners. Just remember that if the grower can be reasonably comfortable with the temperature and humidity conditions in the growing area, the plants are likely to be satisfied too.

American Orchid Society Corner

January 2, 8:30 pm, Everyone Invited
Greenhouse Chat - Ron McHatton

January 9, 8:30 pm, AOS Members Only
Inorganic Potting Media - 1 – Harvey Breneisse

Orchids Magazine this Month

Ancistrochilus - Judith Rapacz-Hasler

Dendrobium section Foveolatae - Jim Cootes

Cold Tolerance of Orchids – Sue Bottom

January 7 Meeting Vandaceous... but not Vandas Keith Emig, Winter Haven Orchids

Keith will talk about other varieties in the vandaceous alliance besides the vandas and ascocentrums we all love to grow. More unusual vandaceous orchids include the Aerides, Angraecoids, Neofinetias, Renantheras and Rhynchostylis among others.



Keith and Dina grow, hybridize and register plants in the Oncidium, Cattleya, Phalaenopsis, Vanda, and Dendrobium alliances, and have created their own genera (Emigara). They have received more than 45 American Orchid Society awards, so far, including nine for their original crosses. Keith's orchid journey started with a trip to the dentist where, on the receptionist's desk, was a small plant with three leaves and an inflorescence with twenty blooms suspended in a beautifully presented fashion. What resulted was an uncontrollable driving force of endless experimentation to better grow and flower these plants.

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

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



CLUB NEWS

Programs Scheduled for 2025



January 7 – Vandaceous...
but not Vandas
Keith Emig,
[Winter Haven Orchids](#)



July 1 – Epicatts
Jim Roberts,
Florida Suncoast Orchids

February 4 – Restoring Florida
Native Orchids
Mike Sands,
[Tangled Roots Nursery](#)



August 5 –
Mounting Workshop
SAOS Members
Will Help You



March 4 – Brassavolas
and their Hybrids
Claude Hamilton, Hamlyn
Orchids
tentative date



September 2 –
Summer Booming
Phal Breeding
Phillip Hamilton,
[Bredren Orchids](#)
tentative date

April 1 – Orchid Pests and
Diseases
Sue Bottom,
[St. Augustine Orchid Society](#)
tentative date



October 7– Growing &
Flowering Better Cattleyas
Courtney Hackney,
[Hackneau Art and Orchids](#)
tentative date



November 4 – Become an
80 Percentile Grower
Fred Clarke,
[Sunset Valley Orchids](#)



May 6 – Bifoliate Cattleyas
Ben Oliveros,
[Orchid Eros](#)



June 3 – Beautiful,
Unique and Weird Orchids
Nicholas Rust,
[RustyExotics Orchid Nursery](#)



December 2 -
Christmas Orchid Auction
Spread Holiday Cheer
with Orchid Friends



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@hotmail.com

Q1. I understand what I'm looking/waiting for with the leaves on this habenaria. Can I go ahead and cut the bloom now that it's turned brown?

A1. You can cut off the bloom. You can start watering a little less frequently, the tuberoids are still forming below the surface. When the leaves start to brown, reduce watering even more and stop completely when all the leaves have browned. When the top growth can be removed with a gentle tug, you can unpot the tuberoids for winter storage either in an empty clay pot or plastic bag.



Q2. My cattleya plant shows necrotic discoloration/lesions at the leaf bottom of the youngest growth. The plant grows vigorously and no other growth shows any spotting. The lesions are small (2-6mm) dark brown vertical/striations and have an outer lighter edge. The plant has been quarantined for about two months and the size, color or texture has not changed since. The leaf also shows a slight deformity (waved edge), where the top left striation is. I assume it may be CymMV, but am also hoping that there is a chance that this is an old bacterial infection only. My orchids are treated with Banrot or Zerotel and Dithane every 6-8 weeks depending on humidity levels and rainfall.

A2. If I had to guess, I would say that as that leaf was forming, there was some water pocketing at the base that caused a bacterial infection. You can see where it might have been deformed slightly as it was growing. You never know til you test it, but virus would not be my first suspicion.



Q3. I have been dealing with a lesion on the phalaenopsis leaves problem for a couple of years, but am not sure what is causing it? I have cut off leaves in the past. I had one lose all its leaves, but I kept caring for it and now it is growing new leaves. Any help you can offer would be appreciated.



A3. My guess would be you had a bacterial soft rot happening, particularly if the lesion was soft and water filled, enlarging rapidly. If it gets to the crown of the plant, the growing tip is lost and its only hope for survival is throwing a basal keiki, as happened on the pictured phal. The best precaution is to keep the phal leaves dry.



CULTIVATION



Winter Care

by Dr. Courtney Hackney

"Happy Winter Solstice"! That means the shortest day of the year arrives this month and after that, lengthening days. Unfortunately, there remain many cold days and even colder nights requiring vigilance for those of us that grow tropical orchids.

This is also a time when having flowering orchids inside the house is really nice, not just for fragrance, but a reminder that good times will return and we can enjoy spring flowers and warmer days. There are a few aspects to bringing orchids inside that require your attention. First remember that home heating takes moisture out of the air. The same thing that dries your skin in winter dries out your orchid flowers and the plant itself. If you can set the pot containing your orchid inside a larger clay pot that sits in shallow water you will help your orchid flowers to last longer. A porous clay pot will wick water up and around the orchid plant limiting water loss. The ideal is for the clay pot to be large enough that there is space between pots. Misting occasionally will also help, but be sure you are not using water that goes through a softener.

One last suggestion is that you sterilize any pot you are using to hold your blooming plant while inside. More and more orchids sold in the pot plant market are reportedly virused. While these flowers may look fine, viruses may be transferred to the next orchid that occupies the pot and lead to deformed flowers and the ultimate death of the orchid. Few hobbyists spend the time or money to test pot plants so it is best to just sterilize pot surfaces with a 10% chlorox solution.

Cymbidium growers need to pay careful attention to outside temperatures now in case there is a hard freeze. The cold should have initiated bloom spikes by now. If that has not happened yet you



Dendrobium Adastra 'Berkeley'
AM/AOS Seminobile dendrobium
requiring a coolish, dryish rest

may need a few more weeks of cool nights. A light frost will not hurt the plant, but a solid freeze will likely damage your cymbidium. Once spikes begin to form, cymbidiums should be kept from temperatures lower than 45 F. In the South, they may be moved into a garage on very cold nights and in colder climates maintained in the cool part of the greenhouse until buds open.



Dendrobium aggregate (syn. lindleyi)
Callista section dendrobium requiring a coolish, dryish rest

There are many types of dendrobiums that also need a cool, dry period to initiate buds. Some of these maintain their leaves such as *Dendrobium aggregatum*, while others, such as the nobile-types, drop leaves in response to the cold dry period. If you purchased the plant in flower and it has never bloomed again it may need this type of treatment. Unfortunately, the *Dendrobium* family is so large and found over such a wide range of environments that no single recommendation can be made. If you check the parentage of your dendrobium you can figure out its required growing conditions.

The flowering process for phalaenopsis should also be well along by now, with spikes emerging and perhaps even buds developing on larger plants. Once buds form, it is necessary to maintain temperatures above 60 F to prevent bud drop and to limit various diseases that ruin flowers. You will also need to watch new leaves for rots that flourish in a closed growing space.

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 2010.



CULTIVATION

Murder, He Wrote

by Arthur S. Kaplan

The first orchid plant I acquired still flourishes in my collection! It was given to me some 12 years ago by Mr. Frederick Heutte, founder of the Norfolk (Virginia) Botanical Gardens. He obtained this plant from their greenhouses but never bloomed it in almost 40 years. The plant had been divided and redivided, and he gave me three divisions. Apparently, he had just never been able to give it enough light in his own back yard. My wife put it in an unheated, bright, south-facing room, and we waited. To our delight, this beautiful, yellow standard cymbidium, probably Cym. President Wilson (Alexanderi x lowianum), bloomed that first winter. Each division bore a half dozen flower spikes. Mr. Heutte, a venerable and kindly old gentleman, came to see the plant in bloom. His eyes filled with tears of joy and my eyes danced with excitement. Were there other orchids like this to be had?

This first orchid acquisition was followed by another, and another and another. I soon realized that I had been afflicted by a most fascinating and pleasant obsession, that of growing orchids. Much of what has happened during the past 12 years was related to my initial expectations from orchids. I was 53 years old, had a busy medical practice and had previously grown roses, up to 300 bushes in my "spare time." Orchid growing would be a snap!

I joined our local Tidewater Orchid Society and, through it, the American Orchid Society. The AOS Bulletin began arriving monthly, along with the beautiful illustrated catalogs of its advertisers, and I bought orchids! My initial purchases were indiscriminate, like most orchid growers. Any orchid got my attention, whether at a society meeting, a regional show or in a catalog. Fellow society members were generous in giving me plant divisions.

I now have over a thousand species representing 178 genera, and although I have many fine hybrids in my collection, these have enchanted me most. But I must confess that the species have also been the source of some of my greatest frustration.

From the beginning, I kept complete records of my orchids - when and where acquired, etc. Concurrent with the growth of my collection, my orchid reference library grew. I was always looking for cultural tips. I listened eagerly to the experienced growers in my society to get some hint of how to grow orchids better. I had the good fortune to have a number of well-known orchidists visit my greenhouse when they were here to lecture to our society. I had met Milton Warne in Hawaii in the summer of 1982, and he visited us that fall when he was in Norfolk for the AOS Trustees meeting. After that, our greenhouse visitors

included Tom Barry, Bill Peters, Dr. Ben Berliner, Frank Fordyce, Dr. Alec Pridgeon, Charles Marden Fitch, Mark Werther, and Jack Webster, all experts, and each one with suggestions to improve my cultural techniques.

How then could I have killed so many orchids, or any orchids, with all the good counsel and advice I had?

The story of the first mistake I made begins with a confession to my dear wife, who followed behind all those newly acquired orchids, which had "followed me home" with the eternal question. "What do you need with another orchid plant?" Until the writing of this article, she never knew how many orchids I had purchased and how many had died in my collection. I had disposed of the "corpus delicti" and the telltale tags as quickly as possible.

What was my first mistake? I confess that I probably bought too many orchids, at least too many for my initial culture, which philosophically was that everything was treated alike. Every Saturday morning, rain or shine, everything was watered. After all, as a busy physician, when else could I take care of my plants? Every plant was watered and fertilized at the same time, flooded with a hose and left to dry. Sometimes this drying took several days, particularly if the sun was not out. Occasionally I would turn up the thermostat in the greenhouse to facilitate this drying, particularly after I learned that this would help. The first two dozen Phalaenopsis, which I purchased quickly, fell victim to this "uniculture," developed crown rot and died. No one had told me, in my rush to build that large collection so rapidly, that this could happen. After all, I did not know what crown rot was!



Crown rot can kill the growing tip of a phalaenopsis rapidly, if you're patient and lucky, it may throw off a basal keiki.

Continued on page 9



CULTIVATION

Continued from page 8



As you grow orchids, you learn to match your potting mix with your watering habits to satisfy your plants' demands.

Fortunately, I learned early in my experience that every orchid needed special conditions to survive and ideally thrive in my greenhouse. These conditions had to be tailored to each group of plants, based on the best available information about their natural habitat. The lesson was well learned. After the first several dozen phalaenopsis had exited my collection in such an ignominious fashion, the next several hundred phalaenopsis continue to flourish. In the last 8-10 years. I probably haven't lost more than three or four plants. But I continue to lose many other orchids.

Where, then, had I interfered with the normal plant physiology of my orchids? Too much sun could burn the leaves, and too little could slow the growth. I did not let them freeze or burn up. I tried to fertilize them regularly. I decided I had done something to the roots to interfere with respiration and that I was drowning my plants. My "heavy hand" at watering was murdering my plants. Or was it that simple?

Orchids can grow in a multitude of mixes, and each mix has its own characteristics which determine how much water it can retain. Some mixes remain wet and soggy while some dry almost immediately. One of the first things to do in growing orchids is to establish a balance between watering and the potting medium. It is necessary from the beginning to see how long it takes the plant to dry to determine whether to pot in clay, which dries quickly, or plastic, which dries more slowly and retains moisture. It took me a while to learn this, as many more plants died. Because of this I changed mixes many times often realizing that the newest mix was not always the most ideal. Many

times I went back to a prior formula.

Nature really made the most of the epiphytic orchids with a root system that "just hangs out." Many times we take these tender, happy roots and stuff them into a dark (and wet) pot like we stuff every inch of our shirttails or blouses into our trousers or skirts. Unfortunately, for us to acclimate many orchids to a greenhouse culture, this becomes a necessary process. But how beautiful it is when the plant triumphs and those roots that grow freely climb out of the pot and literally scream, "Leave me alone!"

Potting mixes have a limited useful life expectancy and eventually rot like all organic matter. Many plants die because the roots suffocate. The potting mix must be porous to allow free drainage of water and must be open enough to allow oxygen to enter. As the potting medium gets older and deteriorates, it drains less freely and begins to hold more water, preventing oxygen contact with the roots. If not interrupted, this cycle will result in death of the roots and the plant. Snow mold (in the potting medium) caused by the fungus *Ptychogaster* sp. does essentially the same thing, causing the orchid plant to deteriorate due to suffocation as the roots are deprived of air and moisture.

To ensure adequate drying of the medium so the roots can breathe, my friend, Ben Berliner, taught me to "pot down." He showed me how it was better to put an orchid in a smaller pot and water it more frequently than to overpot and risk drowning the plant. We do not want to give the root systems more water than can evaporate adequately through the leaves. We can always put more water in, but we cannot take it out.

Continued on page 10



Continued from page 9

Another error which I frequently made was to acquire a new plant and to assume that it was properly potted and should remain in that pot for the next one, two or three years. Several questions have to be answered before that assumption can be made. Is the potting medium of the new plant compatible with one's current watering routine? If the plant was recently potted, what is the condition of the roots? It is best to take the plant out of a pot and look. Sometimes a plant has been potted up with virtually no root system. If this is the case, pot it down. A well-established plant with healthy roots will probably do well in the mix in which it is growing. I have a favorite grower from whom I have regularly purchased plants. However, many of his plants died until I realized what was happening. Most were wrapped in New Zealand sphagnum, put in a pot and generously overpotted with a surrounding bark mix. They died because I did not look at the roots and repot to fit my own cultural patterns.

Jungle-collected plants often struggle to establish themselves, so it is best to purchase plants which are already well established whenever possible. Because cultural information on some of the rarer species is often sketchy, it is important to know at least where the plant originated, whether at sea level or high elevations and whether it needs a cold period, a resting period, more water or less water, etc., in order to thrive and bloom.

I have killed lots of "little things." Small species which need slab culture or need to grow in a small pot dry out too quickly in my greenhouse and just don't survive. I'm death on seedlings for probably the same reason, although I have also drowned many of them. Because these need such close attention and care, I will wait until I retire from my medical practice to try these again.

Does disease enter into the death of plants? Certainly, it does. We toss out a virused plant. A plant with scale can be cleaned up, but occasionally a plant is too infested, and it's best to discard it. Black rot, root rot, brown rot and soft rot creep up rapidly: in most cases, only early detection can save the plant.

Some of my orchids have died without my help. There is such a thing as a plant just wearing out and dying. Ann Jesup lectured on this subject at the 33rd Eastern Orchid Congress in October, 1988. She showed prize-winning, highly-awarded plants that were here today and gone tomorrow. These were beautifully grown orchids that just outgrew their root systems. She demonstrated plant after plant that flourished one year and was dead the next. Plants will languish without reason and eventually just "give up the ghost."



*Snow mold in the potting medium caused by the fungus *Ptychogaster* sp. deprives roots of air and moisture, suffocating them.*

We must recall the late, great wholesale murderers of orchids, the collectors of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, who pulled literally hundreds of thousands of plants from their jungle habitats and shipped them back to Europe. If five percent survived, they were fortunate. And here I am in the late 20th century, with every scientific edge for growing orchids ideally, and still killing them.

To the beginner who may read this article, please rest assured that every orchid grower loses orchids. Many died the first year, and some were dead in six months. I am certain that many experienced growers are unfamiliar with some of the rare species I have grown. There is a certain challenge to growing some of these "oddball" species. I have attempted to grow any and all of them, although it is quite apparent that I have not been totally successful. Anyone who has had 18 *Aerangis* species and has had only four plants survive should not try to grow this genus. I have tried *Aerangis luteo alba* var. *rhodosticta* five times, all unsuccessfully. In those cases when I have lost a single plant of a genus, I may well have bought it again and tried once more, simply because the flower is beautiful.

I think that I pointed out that many species are virtually impossible to keep alive in "captivity." I am certain that there is someone, somewhere, who can successfully grow many of these with his or her special conditions. It would be interesting for some of the growers and collectors to do a follow-up on some of the plants they sell to determine how many of them continue to live in the hands of the amateur grower.

In these days of turmoil in Central and South America, certain hard facts face the orchid grower. Sixty percent of

Continued on page 11



CULTIVATION

Continued from page 10

the tropical orchids of the world grow in Brazil. Slashing and burning have destroyed the natural habitat of many of these plants. The drug traffic has posed terrible problems for orchid collectors in Colombia and Peru. Part of tropical America are not safe to visit. The time may come when there will be no more orchids in the wild. The greenhouse may be the only home to these most beautiful of all flowers. We must dedicate ourselves to improve cultural techniques to preserve those species which face total extinction in our time.

The orchids which have survived in my collection have brought me enough pleasure to more than compensate for the disappointment I have experienced when some have died. So that you may minimize the untimely death of plants in your collections, I offer the following simple suggestions:

1. Buy only as many orchids as you can comfortably care for and enjoy.

2. Buy good plants, as well established as possible.

3. Learn as much as you can about the natural environment of the plants you buy, and try to reproduce that in your culture.

4. Do not overwater or overpot and never lose sight of what the root system is doing.

5. Nothing is static in orchid growing. Avail yourself of every opportunity to discuss good culture with other experienced growers. Change your culture if someone is doing a better job.

6. We do not kill all the plants that die. There is a normal attrition, and many will wear out and die in spite of all we do.

Excerpted from an article that appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine in November 1990 (Vol. 59:11, pp 1143-1149), reprinted with permission.



*A healthy root system is the best indicator that your pot, potting mix and watering habits are producing vigorous growth for future blooming.
Photographed by Keith Davis*



CULTIVATION

The Species Behind Standard Cattleyas, Part 8

C. warscewiczii by Don Herman

Cattleya warscewiczii was first discovered by Josef Warscewicz near Medellin, Colombia, in 1848. His plants were destroyed, and Reichenbach had to describe the species from pressed specimens. Dr. Triana sent plants to Jean Linden in Belgium in a few years. The species has often been called *Cattleya gigas* because of the large flower size, but *C. warscewiczii* is the correct name. As a parent it has been highly successful and is used for flower size, vigor and spectacular colored lips. The most famous clones have been 'Firmin Lambeau', a white form, and 'Frau Melanie Beyrodt', a semi-alba. One of its most important hybrids is *Cattleya* Enid, which is prominent in the breeding of whites, lavender, semi-albas and blues.

Extracted from an article that appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine in March 1997 (Vol. 66:3, pp 234-243), reprinted with permission.



C. warscewiczii var. alba 'Leo Holguin' AM/AOS
Grown and photographed by Courtney Hackney



C. warscewiczii 'Frau Melanie Beyrodt' - Grown and photographed by Courtney Hackney



SHOW TABLE REVIEW



Grower Joe Sayers
Paph. Jim Krull



Grower Allen Black
C. Randies Too



Grower Jeff Milkins
Blc. Pratum Green 'Holly' HCC/AOS



Grower Suzanne Susko
Blc. Solar Flare 'Paradise'



Grower Sheila Nathanson
Bc. Aussie Wedding Charm



Grower Suzanne Susko
Blc. Andy Urasaki 'Orange Flash'



Grower Suzanne Susko
Blc. Waikiki Gold 'Pink Spot' AM/AOS



SHOW TABLE REVIEW



Grower Sue Bottom
Ddc. propinquum



Grower Steve Dorsey
C. walkeriana var. *semialba* 'Kenny' HCC/AOS



Grower Janis Croft
Gptm. Starburst 'Parkside' AM/AOS



Grower Steve Dorsey
Slc. Mae Hawkins 'Mendenhall' AM/AOS



Grower Leasa Codner
Lc. Canhamiana



Grower Sue Bottom
C. skinneri var. *albescens*

