



## CLUB NEWS



Ben Oliveros

### May 6 Meeting

by Christine Peterson

#### Welcome and Thanks.

Tom Sullivan opened the meeting at 6:50 pm with 60 attendees. He then thanked Dianne, Dottie, Julie, Paul and Rachel for the treats and reminded attendees to "Drop a Dollar" in the container if you enjoyed the goodies.

**Club Business.** – Linda Stewart welcomed our new members Susan Allen, Julia

Worczak, and Harry & Nancy Nicol. If you know of anyone in need of a cheering up or a get-well card, let Maria Sands know by emailing her at [info@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@staugorchidsociety.org).

**Birthdays This Month** - Linda asked for our May birthday people to raise their hands for their free raffle ticket.

**Supplies** - Potting supplies and fertilizer were available on the back table. Email [info@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@staugorchidsociety.org) to preorder if you need supplies.

**Virtual Show Table** - Courtney Hackney will conduct the Virtual Show Table starting at 7 pm on Thursday, May 22. An email invitation will be sent with link and details.

**Show Table Voting** - Christine Peterson reminded all to vote for Members Choice during the break. Winners are announced at the end of the presentation.

**Library** – Howard brought in the Chadwick book on Cattleyas, Courtney Hackney's American Cattleyas and the Ultimate Orchids book. If you would like a book or magazine from the Library list on the website, send Howard a request to [info@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@staugorchidsociety.org) and he will bring the item(s) to the next meeting.

**Show Table.** Courtney Hackney and Ben Oliveros did a tag team describing the show table. First up were the cattleyas. *Schombodiacrium Buccoo Reef* has hollow bulbs as it matures and ants can take up residence. *C. Mishima Elf 'Blue'* is a first bloom seedling hybrid with a nice indigo splash.



*C. Sea Breeze* has more intense coerulea coloration in the petals and large flower count. *Bc. Sunny Delight* is a hybrid with waxy long lasting flowers. *L. dayana x C. intermedia* is a small growing cattleya with the aquinii influence so the petals mimic the lip. *C. intermedia alba* may actually be a hybrid with *purpurata*. *Blc. Pollyana 'Jennifers Favorite'* has the unusual characteristic of yellow on the petals, which brought the Waikiki Gold parentage into question. *C. Mareeba Tiger* is a primary bifoliate hybrid with great spots. *Ctna. Why Not 'Roundabout'* is a primary hybrid between *C. aurantiaca* and *Broughtonia sanguinea* with beautiful flat flowers that requires bright light, similar to vandas. *Epicyclia Serena O'Neill* is an epidendrum/encyclia hybrid with longish pseudobulbs like an epi and fragrant flowers like an encyclia.



*Aeranthes Grandiose 'Shooting Stars'* has a characteristic nectary thought to be pollinated by moths, although the downward facing flowers lead some to speculate it is pollinated by bats. *Odbrs. Kenneth Biven 'Santa Barbara'* is an oldie goldie from the 1950s with large, spidery flowers. *Maxillaria Mem. Ben Berliner 'Yellow Cape'* is from a large group of orchids in South America, many of which are fragrant and enjoy shady conditions. *Max. tenuifolia* is the very popular coconut orchid smelling like suntan lotion; often grown in Hawaii as a landscape plant. *Aranda Jairak Amber* is a vandaceous orchid with striking orange with butterscotch coloration. *Epc. Black Comet* is a compact hybrid that inherits the flower form from the *E. cochleata* and the dark coloration from the *C. bowringiana*. *Bulbophyllum frostii hybrid* has cantilever lips that aid in dropping the pollen on to the stigma.

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# CLUB NEWS



## Upcoming Orchid Events

### May

- 10 FL North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am  
Clermont Garden Center, 849 West Ave
- 10-11 Volusia County Orchid Society Show  
Volusia County Fairgrounds
- 13 JOS Meeting – Growing Cymbidiums  
Harry McElroy, JOS
- 22 SAOS Virtual Show Table  
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace  
Invitation Will be Sent by Email

### June

- 1 JOS Picnic, 12 pm  
1984 Eventide Ave, Saint Johns 32259
- 3 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm  
Beautiful, Unique & Weird Orchids  
Nicholas Rust, RustyExotics Orchid
- 6-8 Central Florida Orchid Society Show  
Florida National Armory, Orlando
- 7 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon  
Southeast Branch Library  
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 14 FL North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am  
Clermont Garden Center, 849 West Ave
- 10 JOS Meeting, Picnic on 1st in Lieu of Mtg
- 11 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm  
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace  
Invitation Will be Sent by Email

### July

- 1 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm  
Epicatts  
Jim Roberts, Florida SunCoast Orchids
- 5 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon  
Southeast Branch Library  
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 8 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 6:30 pm  
Thanh Nguyen, Springwater Orchids
- 9 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm  
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace  
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email

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

### August

- 2 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon  
Southeast Branch Library  
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 5 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm  
Mounting Workshop  
SAOS Members
- 9 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm  
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 12 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 6:30 pm  
Speaker TBA
- 14 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm  
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace  
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email

## St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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



# CLUB NEWS

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## Continued from page 1

**SAOS Program.** Courtney Hackney introduced our guest speaker, Ben Oliveros. Courtney started by noting that Ben's ancestors once owned the Oliveros house in downtown St Augustine. Ben is a premier hybridizer of cattleyas based in Hawaii. He considers growing species orchids to be a great way of conserving orchids threatened by loss of their natural habitats.

Bifoliate have 2 strict requirements. Step 1 is do not repot if you don't see new roots. Bifoliate only send out roots one time in a year, sometimes as a new growth is forming and sometimes as it finishes blooming. This can occur from the end of spring to midsummer. Only repot when you see new roots emerging from the base of the new growth. You will have a 1 to 2 week window once you see the root nubs. They do not put out massive roots, if you break the root tips you will have to wait until next year for new root growth. If the media is not starting to rot, you can often just drop them into a larger container. Ben likes to do what he calls pot mounting, where he drops the plant in a pot and stabilizes it with smaller empty pots that the roots can grow around.

Step 2 is don't kill them in the winter by overwatering. The roots need to dry out in the winter and rest. Water every other week or even once a month, particularly if they are potted in a bark based media that can stay soggy and cause the roots to rot. Plants that are mounted or in baskets without media are not as sensitive to overwatering in winter, so weekly watering would be fine. Net pots and open baskets allow a lot more air flow. Between Thanksgiving and Valentines day, keep the plants drier. Fertilize every time you water. You are still leaching out solids even if you use the fertilizer water. He fertilizes the same in the winter although he waters less frequently.

Ben covered the bifoliate cattleya species, presented in order of his preferences. His favorite bifoliate is *C. bicolor*, which has several different color forms. His first plant was a brown spotted one from John Lines in 1991. There is a *braziliensis* form with a genetic deformity that can cause crippling in its offspring, so he doesn't use this one in breeding. There are also greens, albas, and a new *coerulea* form with wider petals he just acquired from Brazil.

*C. schilleriana* is at the top of his list because they grow so well for him. He grows them in a climate similar to their natural habitat in Brazil with the added advantage of using fertilizers. He can get up to 16 flowers on a stalk, far more than Mother Nature usually produces. He prefers the diploids to the tetraploids because even though the tetraploids have broader petals, the plants lose some of their natural grace. There are several color forms, the *tipo*, *alba*, *semialba*, *albescens* and *coerulea*.

*C. aclandiae* is a cousin of *schilleriana* which doesn't carry as many flowers. He is working on breeding for very dark petals where the spots coalesce. *C. velutina* is not readily available. It needs to be staked because of the weight of the flowers, and it has an intense fragrance. *C. tigrina* (formerly called *leopoldii*) and *C. guttata* have been confused, and in the past *C. tigrina* was called *C. guttata* var. *leopoldii*, so many hybrids with *guttata* listed as the parent are more likely to have been made with *tigrina*. There are many color forms for each species.

*C. granulosa* has an attractive green form. *C. elongata* can break like glass so great care must be taken in repotting. *C. tenuis* tends to grow up so it is best to grow mounted. *C. dormaniana* is temperamental. *C. forbesii* is a Plain Jane that makes fantastic hybrids. *C. porphyroglossa* is rarely seen in the trade. *C. amethystoglossa* is a show stopper but it can take them forever to attain their potential. *C. violacea* needs to stay warm in the winter, don't let the temps drop below 60F. *C. kerrii* is a small bifoliate.

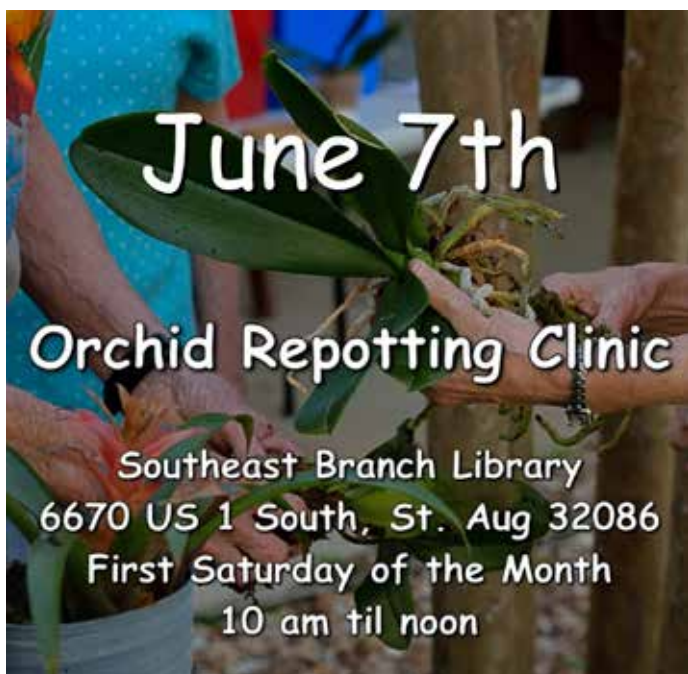
Ben's favorite plant is Blc. Little Mike 'Orchid Eros', a 3.5 ft tall hybrid between *C. bicolor* and Blc. Mem. Helen Brown. He doesn't usually self plants to tease out their recessive colors because of the potential for inbreeding and loss of vigor in the offspring. Ben made an exception for Little Mike, selfing it because he didn't feel that the plant could be improved upon.

Ben is a firm believer in sharing your plants. He has had some spectacular cultivars fall prey to virus. He sends divisions of his prized plants to a select few growers who can't enjoy them and grow them well, and if the unthinkable happens, he can get a division back from them.

**Meeting Conclusion.** Christine announced that the Members Choice was Steve Hawkin's Epc. Black Comet. The evening concluded with the Raffle table. Thanks to the helpful hands that stayed to help clean and store the tables, chairs and room.



# CLUB NEWS



## Culture Notes May in St. Augustine

Summer is right around the corner. Now is the time to maximize growth and develop the plant strength and food reserves needed for good flower production. Larger plants typically produce bigger and better flowers than smaller ones so resist the urge to divide your plants just for the sake of having more plants. Recycle your clay or plastic pots but be sure to sterilize them first along with any wire products. Do not reuse potting mix or drainage material.

## American Orchid Society Corner

### Webinars

- May 8, 8:30 pm, Everyone Invited  
Greenhouse Chat - Ron McHatton
- May 15, 8:30 pm, AOS Members Only  
Repotting Orchids - Janeil Payne
- May 18, 11 - 4 pm, \$40 Charge  
Culture Day – Four Speakers

### Orchids Magazine this Month

- Why Will It Not Bloom, Part 1 – Ron McHatton
- My Favorite Orchid - Robert Winkley
- Mediocalcar decoratum - Judith Rapacz-Hasler

## June 3 Meeting

Beautiful, Unique and Weird Orchids  
Nicholas Rust, RustyExotics Orchid Nursery

Nick will discuss over 30 different genera, including common ones like Phalaenopsis and Cattleya to the lesser-known like Porpax and Coryanthes. He will also define "what is an orchid" to explain how the vast and bizarre variation of flowers could all possibly be orchids. Lastly, there is loads of cultural information and some "tips and tricks" to becoming an award-winning orchid grower.



Nick operates a small orchid nursery based in Georgia, selling uncommon orchids such as Habenaria, jewel orchids, and Bulbophyllum as well as other unique plants like Amorphophallus. His background in biochemistry and molecular biology led to an interest in the entire growth cycle of orchids and the start of his own hybridization program. He uses rarely cultivated species and distinct variations of common species to create truly exceptional shapes and colors that will pave new directions for unique hybrids.

**When:** Tuesday, June 3, 6:30 til 9 pm

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



# INSPIRATION

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# CULTIVATION



## Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,  
sbottom15@hotmail.com

**Q1.** Can you help me? These 2 bumpy leaves just suddenly appeared on my flowering phalaenopsis.

**A1.** I think you have edema, which are blisters that form

when the plant can't shed enough water through the stomata so it puffs up like a blister. It happens when you water late on a warm day and it gets cooler at night or when you water and the day turns gray. There's no cure, and it really doesn't hurt the plant.



**Q 1**

**Q2.** I fertilize my vandaceous plants heavily, which eventually leads to a buildup of 'moss' on the roots. I plan to spray them with Physan 20. I plan to apply it through one of the green top plastic jars which dispense 20 gallons. How much Physan should I put in the jar?.

**A2.** I think that's mold growing on the vandas in the places where water accumulates from rain and fertilizer applications. If you have a hose end sprayer you can set on flat, you can water blast the mold off the vandas, and then apply a protective Physan spray. You'll use 1 to 1.5 tsp per

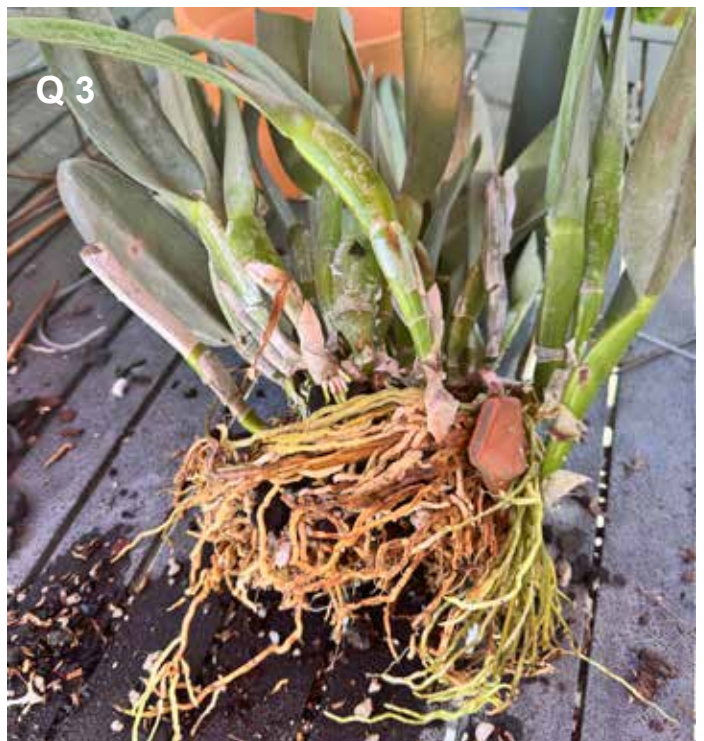


**Q 2**



gallon, so if you're making 20 gallons, you'd add 20 to 30 tsp or 5 to 6 fl oz of Physan to the jar and fill it to the top with water.

**Q3.** I am about to repot this *Brassavola digbyana*, but it has never ever bloomed and I don't want to keep on doing the same thing but expect different results. I was going to put it in a clay pot with typical cattleya mix. It's been living in my greenhouse in the winter and shade house in the summer with 50% shade cloth. I really don't know why it won't bloom. Could you give me advice as to how to treat it?



**A3.** If you have a healthy plant that you haven't been able to bring into bloom, the likely culprit is the plant hasn't been able to store up enough energy reserves to bloom because it is not receiving enough light. *Brassavola*, now *Rhyncholaelia*, *digbyana* is a very very bright light lover. The leaves will get a white starchy coating on them when the light is right, and you'll get beautiful fragrant green flowers in the spring.





## Orchid Pests in Large Collections

by Dr. Courtney Hackney

The final part of this series addresses pesticide application and products for those with large collections in greenhouses or growers that keep their orchids outside the home. Pesticides all have a prescribed reentry time on the label, which must be followed after applications. If

these products are applied inside the home there is always the possibility of contamination of surfaces where you and your family could contact the pesticide. Always err on the side of caution.

As noted in earlier parts of the series, most pesticides potentially have some negative effect on the plant. There are, however, a number of steps that can be taken to minimize damage to your orchids.

First, always use exactly what the instructions recommend. Do not use "about" 1 teaspoon. Use exactly one teaspoon. Use a dropper for quantities less than 1 tablespoon. These can be purchased at the drug store with increments on them. Never use any utensils that might accidentally be used later for medicine or anything that humans would use. Keep it strictly for pesticides and away from children and pets.

Next be sure your orchids are watered thoroughly before applying the pesticide, preferably in the early morning when the greenhouse temperature is low. Orchids should be sprayed early enough so that plants are dry by the time intense solar radiation is heating up the leaf surface and your greenhouse.

When mixing pesticides use pure water, as water that is high in dissolved solids or that has been mixed with fertilizer can alter the relative toxicity of the product. Always wear gloves and respirator when handling the concentrated form of the pesticide. Follow this rule no matter how non-toxic a product is supposed to be.

There are two hormonal insect products that have worked well for me over the years, because they are effective against cattleya (Boisduval) scale. This type of product does not kill insects directly, but interrupts their molting cycle. Both are, unfortunately, relatively expensive initially, but worth the cost in the long run. Enstar was the first one that worked well for me. Insects must come into contact with Enstar to be effective, which requires that

orchids be soaked during the application, especially the undersides of leaves. The only problem I had with this product was that it seemed to lose its potency after the concentrate was opened. Because it worked so well initially, and my collection is relatively small, it remained on the shelf for over a year before it was all used.

The second hormonal product, Distance, has been more effective because it is a systemic, one incorporated into the plant tissues. Some botanical gardens use this as a drench and claim they need only apply it twice a year. That application rate, twice a year, seems to work well when it is used as a spray as well. This product is incredibly effective to the degree that I could not find a single live scale three months after application. Most products labeled for scale suggest three applications spaced 7-10 days apart for complete scale control. Do not apply Distance more than once every 3 months as there does seem to be a toxic effect, especially in thin leaved orchids, e.g., miltonias and oncidiums. The only downside for this product is cost, over \$200/pint. Because it lasts so long and works so well it may be necessary for several growers to join together and share. So far, there does not seem to be a loss of toxicity with storage of the concentrate.

Finally, there is one product widely available and relatively inexpensive. It is Bayer's Rose and Flower Insect spray. There are two proven ingredients, an organic insecticide that kills insects on contact and one that is systemic. It is available at Lowes Garden centers for under \$10 in a premixed form. Concentrates are not usually available. The premixed bottles are ideal for smaller collections or for spot problems. Avoid reapplication within a month of application as there also seems to be cumulative plant toxicity.



*Boisduval scale is the bane of the cattleya grower's existence.*



*The tree and shrub drench containing 1.47% imidacloprid is a good choice for systemic scale control.*

*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 May 2007.*



# CULTIVATION

## Demystifying the Bifoliate Cattleyas

by Keith Davis



*Cattleya guttata 'Breckinridge' with Over the Pot Division*

*Photo by Keith Davis*

The bifoliate cattleya species are an odd sort and have a reputation for being difficult and finicky to grow and maintain. Our goal is to take some of the mystery out of this group of cattleyas so that you can enjoy their fabulous blooms.

The species range in size from cute pygmy-sized plants like the 4 inch tall *C. nobilior* and *C. aelandiae* up to the gargantuan size of *C. amethystoglossa* and *C. guttata* which can be over 5 feet tall. To understand how to successfully grow these species, one needs to learn how these plants grow in nature and what their requirements are as well as their limitations. "One size fits all" does not apply to bifoliate cattleyas.

Some such as *C. guttata* grow in very harsh conditions in full tropical sun, salty air from the sea, stiff breezes and thrive in poor soils or on rocks. Others like *C. violacea* grow in less harsh environments with little temperature changes, less light and near water or waterfalls that give rise to very high humidity and cooling mists. Take the time to do research for the specific specie you want to grow. Many of the old Bulletins, Orchids magazine, Orchid Digest issues, books, and web searches can yield a treasure trove of information on most all of the bifoliate species. The more you know about how it grows in nature, the fewer plants you will kill from trial and error.

Some traits that nearly all bifoliate cattleyas have in common is that they have a very specific growing period, rooting period and resting period. They also do not produce many new roots per growing season. Each root your plant produces is a treasure to be nurtured. They also highly resent losing their root system and often rebel by committing suicide.

To safeguard a bifoliate's root system, use a potting mix that does not break down very quickly. I like to use charcoal, large sponge rock, hard chunky bark such as sequoia or the bark from the Monterrey pine, or chunks of tree fern along with Styrofoam peanuts. Keep a close watch on the mix's condition. If breakdown starts, I remove the plant from the pot and only remove the rotting part of the old mix by spraying water up into the core of the root ball. You can pat the root ball gently to encourage loose old mix to fall out. If there are a lot of voids, you can sprinkle new mix on top of the plant's roots and pat the outside of the pot to encourage the mix to fall down to fill voids. If the voids are not too large, I just leave them and let the new roots fill those voids. If you need a larger pot, increase the pot size the bare minimum to which the root ball will fit. Never overpot a bifoliate. Some of the smaller growing bifoliate do better in baskets filled with something that won't rot such as tree fern chunks, charcoal, lava rock, etc. If the plant gets too large, just put the old basket into a larger one. Any of the above activities are best done when new root growth is visible. Remember, if you disturb the roots on a bifoliate, you are asking for disaster.



*No Stress Divisions Photo by Keith Davis*

If you ever want to take a division of a bifoliate, it is best to use what I call the pot-over system. This involves letting a front lead grow over the pot's edge and tying up a small pot just under where the next growth will start. The new roots will grow down into the pot and the new growths will then have their own root system already established in the new pot. At this point, the division can be cut loose from the mother plant and you will have a no-stress division already established. This is fool proof but takes time. *C. loddigesii* and *C. harrisoniana* are two exceptions that can usually be divided as normal cattleyas if they are in active new root growing mode. These two species are not as difficult to repot, divide or get established, but are definitely the exception in this group.

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# CULTIVATION

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There are 4 species that are often confused. Here is how to differentiate between them:

*C. guttata* vs. *C. leopoldii* (also known as *tigrina*). The first is taller, up 4.5 to 5.5 feet, blooms are often seen with a greenish background, smaller and often have a larger flower count...up to 50 per spike, blooms in the late summer or early fall from a DRY sheath. *C. leopoldii* are smaller, up to about 3 feet, blooms are usually darker, flowers in late spring to early summer from a green sheath. In the past, many people did not differentiate between the two species when breeding or granting awards. Some called their plant *C. guttata* variety *leopoldii* which is not correct, it is either one or the other. The two species are distinct.

*C. loddigesii* and *C. harrisoniana*. These two also bloom at different times, the first in late winter or early spring and the latter in mid to late summer. *C. loddigesii* has more pink colored blooms while *harrisoniana* has darker colored blooms that are rose colored and more intensely pigmented. Also, *loddigesii* are generally shorter plants. True *harrisoniana* are actually quite rare just as true *guttata* is.

Finally, hybrids with bifoliate often overcome some of the difficulty of growing species and exhibit what breeders call Hybrid Vigor. The hybrids can be every bit as exciting to grow and flower.

We have many images of the species with various color forms and a few hybrids that hopefully will entice you to want to collect these beauties of nature. One of the most rewarding adventures in orchid growing is nurturing your bifoliate cattleya to the point that you have a specimen. It will usually take the blue ribbon at a show or society meeting and make you, the grower, very proud, as you should be.



*For emergency repotting, you can secure a bifoliate over an inert media like lava rock, and then just backfill with handfuls of potting mix weekly when the new roots start to form.*

*Photos by Terry Bottom*

## Bifoliate Cattleyas -

*Cattleya tigrina* (syn. *leopoldii*)

by Sue Bottom



*The typical color form of Cattleya tigrina (syn. leopoldii) 'Mendenhall', photo by Keith Davis*

If your orchids do not bloom much during the heat of the summer, you might consider adding some bifoliate cattleyas to your collection. There are small varieties like *Cattleya walkeriana*, *aclandiae* and *violacea* that do not take up too much space and bloom several times a year. Then there are the large varieties like *Cattleya tigrina*, which was called *leopoldii* for years. It has beautiful clusters of flowers held on stems above the foliage. Courtney describes these bifoliate as multiflora cattleyas in his book *American Cattleyas*:

*A multiflora cattleya is one where the inflorescence is the focus of hybridizing instead of the individual flower. Typically there are more than seven flowers on a single inflorescence arranged as a mass instead of as a series of individual flowers. While the parent species are usually bifoliate, not all bifoliate are multifloras... Multifloras are separated from all other groups discussed because the form of each individual flower, although important, is not the focus of the hybrid. The perfect multiflora cattleya has a mass of flowers with each flower fully open and barely coming in contact with other flowers in the inflorescence so that from all sides there are no large gaps between flowers. The form of each individual flower should be as closed (petals and sepals overlapping) as possible, given the parentage. The arrangement of flowers on the stem is more important than individual flower form.*

Greg Allikas has an excellent article on how to grow [Cattleya tigrina](#) that is available to members on the AOS website. Of particular concern is the timing of repotting. You know that the best time to repot any orchid is when it is forming new roots, because it will recover most quickly

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# CULTIVATION

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from the transplant shock when the roots can reestablish quickly and stabilize the plant. Some orchids are tolerant of repotting at less than the optimum time, but not the bifoliate and particularly not the bifoliate species. These should be repotted when the new green root tips are forming, even if the plant is getting ready to bloom. If you can't bring yourself to sacrifice the blooming and repot at that time, there are a few options, like simply dropping the pot into a larger pot or letting the plant grow into a second pot attached to the first. You can also try another of Keith's tricks, as outlined in the article [Repotting Bifoliate Cattleyas - Keith Davis Style](#).



*Coerulea form of Cattleya tigrina (syn. leopoldii)*  
Photo by Terry Bottom



*Alba color form of Cattleya tigrina (syn. leopoldii)*  
Photo courtesy of Keith Davis



*Over the top repotting technique, close-up*  
Photo courtesy of Keith Davis

*Cattleya tigrina* has long been known as *Cattleya leopoldii* and before that it was thought to be a variety of *Cattleya guttata*, referred to as *Cattleya guttata* var. *leopoldii*. *C. tigrina* is still confused with *Cattleya guttata*. They both are tall robust plants with spotted flowers, but they have different blooming seasons. *C. tigrina* flowers in early summer from a green sheath, while *C. guttata* flowers in late summer to early autumn from a dried sheath. Courtney writes about their differences when used in hybridizing:

*For the most part, C. guttata has not been used with success for multiflora hybrids. Many crosses are registered to this species because the Royal Horticultural Society considered C. guttata synonymous with C. leopoldii for much of its history. Progeny from these two species differ markedly. Most catalogs list hybrids made with C. leopoldii as C. guttata var. leopoldii, but there is no way of telling which species was used once the hybrid name is attached to a plant. Hybrids with intense color are generally products of C. leopoldii, not C. guttata*

In his book *American Cattleyas*, Courtney talks about how hybridizers have used *Cattleya tigrina* (syn. *leopoldii*) in breeding with standard unifoliate cattleyas, as well as to enhance the bifoliate cattleya lineage:

*A tact used by hybridizers has been to hybridize multiflora species and hybrids with standard cattleya forms, typically producing far less flowers although still tech-*



*Over the top repotting technique, close-up*  
Photo courtesy of Keith Davis

*nically multiflora such as C. Portia. Such hybrids are used to increase flower count in future generations of standard forms rather than to produce additional multiflora hybrids. Many of the first generation hybrids that combine the multiflora species and hybrids with standard forms have been magnificent hybrids... When C. bowringiana was matched with C. Nigrella, C. Penang resulted. The best known clone 'Black Caesar' AM/AOS produces a head of 6-10 deep purple four inch flowers held above the foliage. Flowers in this hybrid resemble standard cattleyas in form and substance..*

Continued on page 11



# CULTIVATION

Continued from page 10



***Cattleya guttata*:** Very tall, graceful plants, often with three leaves per pseudobulb and  
***Cattleya tigrina*:** Tall, stocky plants, usually with two leaves per pseudobulb  
Photo courtesy of Greg Allikas



***Cattleya* (now *Cattlianthe*) Penang 'Black Caesar' AM/AOS  
(*Cattleya Nigrella* x *Guarianthe bowringiana*)**

Joe Grezaffi registered Lc. Allen Condo (Lc. Summerland Girl x C. Mrs. Mahler) to produce hybrids that magnified the C. leopoldii in the background of each parent combined with the characteristics of the other parents to make exceptional and unique multiflora hybrids. Some of this grex resembles giant versions of C. leopoldii, while others add the C. bicolor lip to deep bronze petals and sepals. No two clones are exactly the same, yet all were beautiful in their own right. This hybrid is a roadmap for others interested in continuing and enhancing multiflora forms.



**Lc. (now C.) Allen Condo, from left to right 'Joe's Beauty', 'Hackneau' and 'Rosemarie'  
(*Cattleya Summerland Girl* x *Cattleya Mrs. Mahler*)**

**'Joe's Beauty' and 'Hackneau' by Terry Bottom, 'Rosemarie' photo by Courtney Hackney**

The big bifoliate cattleyas are not for the faint of heart. They are large, robust plants that can be temperamental if the mix is allowed to become stale. Without a doubt, the fragrant, multiflora flowers have got IT, the wow factor, regardless of whether you choose to grow the species or their hybrids. If you would like to try some seedlings, Fred Clarke at Sunset Valley Orchids and Ben Oliveros at Orchid Eros have some great offerings. You won't regret it!

## Citations and Additional Reading

Allikas, Greg. *Cattleya tigrina*, accessed online 8/26/2020, <https://www.aos.org/orchids/collectors-items/cattleya-tigrina.aspx>

Hackney, C.T. 2004. *American Cattleyas: Species and Outstanding Clones That Define American Hybridizing*. Wilmington, NC: Courtney T. Hackney, pp. 123-127.



# ORCHID ADVENTURES



## Krull Smith Spring Show

Krull Smith hosts orchid festivals several times a year, and they sure know how to put on a show. This spring, the fabulous new showroom had a beautiful exhibit featuring white phalaenopsis towering over black cymbidium and Catasetinae flowers, surrounded by incredible multifloral paphs, bulbophyllums and more. Great vendors too, Besides our favorite Florida orchid growers, we visited with Waldor from New Jersey, Orchid Eros from Hawaii, Gold Country and Paph Paradise from California, Blue Ridge Orchids from North Carolina and Afri Orchids from South Africa. Don't miss these shows. Free entrance and free parking leaves you more money to spend on orchids!



# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Suzanne Susko**  
*Mps. 'Molten Lava'*



**Grower Shelia Nathanson**  
*Den. Ueang Phueng*



**Grower Deborah Fox**  
*Paph. (Boscia Impulse x Greyi)*



**Grower Allen Black**  
*C. mossiae*



**Grower Courtney Hackney**  
*C. mossiae var. semialba 'Taylor' FCC/AOS*



**Grower Keith Davis**  
*C. dolosa 'Inferno Survivor'*



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
*Epc. Florida 'Pine Knot'*



# SHOW TABLE

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**Grower Suzanne Susko**  
*C. intermedia* var. *orlata* 'Crownfox' AM/AOS



**Grower Courtney Hackney**  
*C. mossiae* var. *semialba* 'C-227-1'



**Grower Allen Black**  
*C. maxima* 'AWZ' x self



**Grower Steve Dorsey**  
*C. luteola*



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
*E. Borincana*



**Grower Steve Dorsey**  
*Oncsa. Jiaho* Queen 'Jiaho' FCC/AOS

