



CLUB NEWS



Philip Hamilton

January 7, 2020

Monthly SAOS Meeting
by Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks. President Tom Sullivan opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with a 72 attendees. Events VP, Dianne Batchelder thanked Dottie for bringing in her Chocolate Pudding Cake and then thanked all who volunteered and worked so hard to make our December holiday party a success including Mary

Ann Bell for her Pork Roast (Dianne can provide the recipe) and Susan Smith for her lasagna and Yvonne and Bob for washing all the tablecloths! In addition, thanks also went to Joey, Celia and Dottie for setting up the refreshments and Tom and Bob for set up and Charlie and Doug for breakdown.

Membership VP Linda Stewart announced our six new members, Charlie Bridgham, Maggie LaCombe, Yano and Ann Serra, Lisette Taylor and returning member Sherrie Jenkins. Visitors raised their hands to receive free raffle tickets.

Tom reminded all to drop a dollar in the basket while enjoying their refreshments. Tom next informed all that the Best of Show voting would occur after the Show Table discussion and the Silent Auction would end and be announced before the presentation. He encouraged all to vote for their favorite orchid on the Show Table.

Club Business. Shows in Florida this Month - The [Tamiami Orchid Festival](#), one of the largest in the country, is Jan. 17 to 19. Two other orchid shows are the [Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show](#) in St. Petersburg and [Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show](#). Check the Calendar of Events page on website for dates and places.



The first 2020 Ace Repotting Clinic will be Feb. 1, 2020 from 9 til Noon at Ace Hardware, 3050 US 1 South. Beginner Culture Class are at 6:15 pm before the main meeting each month. Next month will be about flower blighting and bud blast.



Your catasetums are likely sleeping now so just look in on them every week looking for signs of the new growth which is the time to repot, if they need repotting this year.

If you need any potting supplies, email info@staugorchidsociety.org and we will have it ready for you at the next meeting. Potting Mix and Fertilizers, \$5 each; Durable Plant Tags, \$5 for 30 tags; 2020 Calendars, \$15 or 2 for \$25; Slotted Orchid Pots, 3 to 6 inch pots, \$1 to \$4 each.

Linda Stewart asked all of the January birthday people to raise their hands to received their free raffle ticket. Then she announced that if you know of anyone in need of a cheering up or a get well card, email her at info@staugorchidsociety.org.

Bea brought in a book on Oncidiums to augment our guest speaker's topic. She also announced that she was retiring and asked if anyone would like to be the new librarian. Remember that the library collection is listed on our [SAOS website](#). If you would like a book, send a request to info@staugorchidsociety.org and Bea will bring the item(s) to the next meeting.

Show Table. Courtney was out of town so our guest speaker, Phillip Hamilton handled the review of the show table starting with a Dracula psittacina with which he was very impressed. This monkey faced orchid isn't easy to grow in Florida as they are cool growing and like very wet conditions. There was also a Dracula lotax which is an easier version for growing in Florida. Neo. Lou Sneary 'Bluebird', half Falcata x half Vanda, is a miniature with a powerful fragrance and Phillip noted that it was grown in media.

The cattleya hybrids were well represented tonight. There was the Blc. Prada Green Deluxe with its large yellow green flower, the Blc. Hagan's Ace Mandarin Orange with its burnt orange flower, Blc. Kaboom x Pot. Golden Circle, and C. warneri v. alba with two large white flowers which

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Upcoming Orchid Events

January 2020

- 10-12 Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show
Fort Lauderdale/Broward Convention Ctr
- 11 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 11-12 Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show
Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center
- 14 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Speaker TBA
- 17-19 Tamiami International Orchid Festival
Dade County Fair Expo Center

February

- 1 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til noon
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 1-2 Venice Area Orchid Society Show
Venice Community Center
- 4 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Rare and Unusual Orchids
Arthur Katz, Orchid Hobbyist
- 7-9? Greater Orlando Orchid Society Show
Orlando Garden Club
- 7-9 South Carolina Orchid Society Show
Riverbanks Zoo & Botanical Garden
West Columbia, SC
- 8-9 Boca Raton Orchid Society Show
Safe Schools Institute
- 11 JOS Meeting: Topic TBA, 7 pm
Speaker TBA
- 15 FL North-Central Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Garden Center, 849 West Ave
- 15-16 Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show
Port St. Lucie Community Center
- 15-16 OS of Highlands County Show
Agri-Civic Center, Sebring
- 16 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 - 3 pm
Growing Area Tour - Winterizing
Susan and Doug Smith's Home
- 22-23 Naples Orchid Society Show
Moorings Presbyterian Church

March

- 3 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Growing Specimen Plants
Bill Thoms, Bulbophyllums.com
- 6-8 Martin County Orchid Society Show
Martin County Fairgrounds
- 7 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til noon
3050 US 1 South in St. Augustine 32086
- 7-8 Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show
Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center
- 10 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
JOS Show Committee Update Report
- 13-15 Orchid Society of Coral Gables Show
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
- 13-14 Englewood Area Orchid Society Show
Englewood Methodist Church

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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Phillip referred to as the queen of the species. He noted that he had seen the species parent next plant, Lc. Orange Trick x Epi. cilare, growing in the wild in Panama and it makes a great specimen plant like this one.

Phillip noted the *Calanthe Baron Schroder* was well staked to show off its white and purple flowers. Next the *Dendrochilum cobbianum* was well grown and will make a good specimen plant also. The small *Sarcoglyphis comberi*, one of Marv's unusual plants with small white and purplish flowers, is the only species that is grown in Java.

Of the hanging plants, the *Brassavola 'Little Stars'* was unusually grown in a wire basket filled with wine corks and moss. The *Bulbophyllum gracillimum 'Joy's Dancing Spider'* had small deep purple flowers with lips that grow every which way and move up and down. The very fragrant *Gongora fulva*, native to Columbia, had two spikes filled with flowers that had red markings on pale yellow green. Check out the photos of our show table examples at the end of the newsletter and on the SAOS website.

SAOS Program. Sue Bottom announced our guest speaker, Phillip Hamilton of Bredren Orchids. Phillip who has visited us before decided to develop a lecture on *Oncidiinae* Culture since he knows of no one else on the orchid lecture circuit that talks about this group of orchids which has over 70 genera and over 1000 species. The majority are found from Central to South America and in the Caribbean islands. Their natural environment varies wildly from very cool to hot temperatures.

Phillip proceeded to go through slides listing the main genera that we see at the shows. The first is the *Tolumnia* referred to as the twig epiphytes. These tiny clumping plants like warm growing conditions with bright dappled light and prefer to dry before the next watering. These plants can be mounted or planted in small clay pots with medium grade charcoal. They repeatedly flower on the same spikes so don't cut them off until they are browned and dried out.

The mule ear orchids, *Trichocentrum*, are both epiphytes and lithophytes (grow on rock) and like medium light. They prefer more water than cattleyas and mainly flower in the spring.

The next group *Psychopsis*, known as the butterfly orchids because of the flowers' appearance, grow from Central to South American and on the island of Trinidad. It is an epiphyte that likes medium light. This orchid does not like to be repotted so he uses hydroton or a cattleya mix that doesn't disintegrate. He can then carefully pick the plant up, move to a larger pot and add more hydroton without disturbing the roots. The *Psychopsis* had sequential flowering on one spike that can last up to four years. He showed slides of his first plant that won an award with 18 spikes. A few years later, rats attacked it and devoured the entire plant in one weekend.



Next he showed the epiphytic *Brassia* or spider orchid species which is often found growing in leaf litter, among rocks and at the base of trees. This warm growing orchid likes to have its roots kept moist.

Then he moved on to the group that is not at all easy to grow in Florida, the *Miltonopsis* or pansy orchid. Florida's heat is too much for them and one must grow them in cool climate controlled areas. However, their cousin, the *Miltonia* species has two leaves per pseudobulb and can be well grown in Florida under cattleya conditions, both light and mix. They do like to be watered more often than cattleyas so if you see the leaves start to accordion at the base, you aren't watering enough.

Another group that is not recommended for growing in Florida is the *Odontoglossum* which are high altitude plants that have gorgeous flowers but need cool growing conditions.

Many intergeneric hybrids grow well in Florida. The *Dancing Lady* or *Golden Shower* varieties like cattleya light and prefer to dry out between waterings. *sphacelatum*, *variosum*, *flexuosum* are examples. Another popular hybrid is *Sharry Baby* with chocolate smelling flowers but the warm temperatures cause black spotting on its leaves. He has tried several tests to eliminate the spots to no avail. Some growers also think that watering with a wetting agent that gets on the leaves also causes the spots. If they don't grow in size, they probably aren't caused by any disease.

The common pests are present in *Oncidiums* and he has the worse problem with aphids because they produce young that are pregnant before birth. This makes their eradication very difficult so you must spray multiple times. He noted that our club has the most outstanding website with detailed information on pests and pesticides as well as everything else orchids.

He repots in the spring and removes all dead roots. They don't like to be over potted so he pots for a maximum two year growth. He then drenches with Superthrive and waters sparingly with high phosphorous fertilizer for a month. This helps develop the roots.

Meeting Conclusion. Sue Bottom announced the Member's Choice Award as her own Lc. Orange Trick x Epi. cilare. The evening concluded with the Raffle table. Thanks to the helpful hands that stayed to reset the tables and chairs and clean up the room.



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SAOS Offerings

Deep Slotted Orchid Pots. Thanks to Marv Ragan and Tom and Dottie Sullivan, we have the real terra cotta orchid pots with the deep side slots for sale. They still have to be sterilized (bake at 425 for 2 hours, leave the windows open!). We are offering them to members: \$1 for a 3" pot, \$2 for a 4" pot, \$3 for a 5" pot and \$4 for a 6"; the larger sizes are almost gone. [Email us](#) if you want to reserve pots, to be picked up at Sue and Terry's. First come, first serve!

Calendars. We have a few calendars featuring the Member's Choice orchids from the Show Table left. Calendars are \$15 if paid by cash or check or \$16 if paid with PayPal. We only have a few left.

Virus Test Strips. We have two sets of 10 Rega virus test strips left from our Society order. These are available at a cost of \$35. When they're gone they're gone!

Plant Tags. We have vinyl plant tags that can be written on both sides with pencil, they don't fade or crack. We are selling them in packs of 30 for \$5.



Beginners Culture Classes

We have been enjoying the culture class for beginners, now starting at 6:15 before the meeting. In February, we'll talk about bud blasting and flower blighting. Send your suggestions for future topics to info@staugorchidsociety.org.

American Orchid Society Corner

[Webinars](#)

January 9, 8:30-9:30 pm, AOS Members Only

Orchid Travels in Peru – Ken Jacobsen

January 16, 8:30-9:30 pm, Everyone Invited
Greenhouse Chat Orchid, Q&A - Ron McHatton

[Orchids Magazine this month:](#)

One Hundred Years of Orchids – RF Orchids

Selecting New Plants – Sue Bottom

Orchid Growing in a Retirement Community

Orchids of Bhutan

[Photos of Latest AOS Awards](#)

Time to Pay Your 2020 Dues

We'll be collecting dues for 2020 from now through March. Dues are \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a family. You can mail your membership check to SAOS c/o Linda Stewart, 1812 Diana Drive, Palatka 32177. If you prefer to renew your membership online, you can use the PayPal link on our [website](#). Easy Peasy!

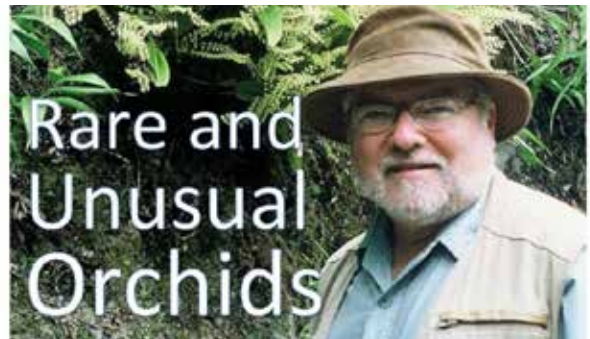
Catasetinae Competition Grow

Let sleeping dogs lie. When you see the new green growth emerging at the base of the bulb, you can repot if necessary. Don't water until the new growth is about 5 inches tall.

Keiki Club: January Road Trip Opportunity

If you are up for a road trip, one of the big south Florida shows is this month, the Tamiami International Orchid Festival on Friday January 17 through Sunday January 19. Here's a link to all the [vendors](#). You'll see orchids there you won't find in any of the local haunts, it's worth the trip!

February 4 Monthly Meeting Rare and Unusual Orchids



Arthur Katz will talk about rare and unusual orchids. Arthur has been growing orchids for over 35 years and he appreciates the orchids that are unique and unusual. He is an accredited orchid judge, was Chair of the Mid-Atlantic Judging Center and also most recently Chair of the Florida North-Central Center. Since 1994, he has taken groups of orchid enthusiasts to Ecuador, exploring for orchids in Southeast Ecuador.

Bring your flowering orchids to exhibit on the Show Table. We will have our normal raffle at the end of the meeting. Friends and guests are always welcome!

When: Tuesday, February 4, 6:30 til 9 pm

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



INSPIRATION



Psychopsis papilio

© Terry Botto



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@gmail.com

Q1. My Maxillaria has some new growths and roots but the pseudobulbs are wrinkled, should I leave her alone or repot?



A2. I couldn't tell what the problem was from the pic of the top of the leaf, so I asked Humberto to send a pic of the leaf underside. The scale infestation is clearly visible on the bottom of the leaf. The first step was to spray the obvious scale with alcohol and follow up with a drench of one of the Bayer Three in One products containing imidacloprid as one of the active ingredients.

Q3. I was given a Phalaenopsis in rotting, moldy bark medium. I removed all the medium, perched it on a plastic bottle I've punched full of holes, and it's been growing in 'air' for four or five months now. I spray it twice a day with spring water, and also spray with fertilised water. The roots are NOT sitting in water. It seems healthy enough -- new roots and a leaf are emerging, and the old leaves do not look like they are yellowing. That top big leaf grew while it was with me. While it was still in bark medium, one leaf developed these marks, but they have not enlarged. Should I trim the leaf?



A1. That looks like it would benefit from being repotted. The mix looks worn out and the pseudobulbs are probably dehydrated from the moss breaking down. You can safely repot now because new roots are forming. Keep it in a smallish pot. It will tend to grow up and out. A basket would be great.

Q2. What is this bug and how do I get rid of it?



A3. Whatever you are doing, don't change a thing! Do not worry about the bottom leaf blemish, eventually your plant will shed the leaf and you won't have to look at it anymore. It looks like something happened to it when the leaf was originally forming, but there is no active infection. Good growing!



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My Favorite Orchids

by Dr. Courtney Hackney,
hackneau@comcast.net

Hardly a month goes by without an email from someone asking what the best orchid is. Often the individual asking the question has limited space and wants to spend their money wisely. If you have been one of those asking the question, then you know that my answer has been somewhat evasive. In fact, you likely got more questions than answers. The following is how I approach the question.

My collection is a real mix of genera and reflects my personal taste, available space, and growing conditions. About half of my plants are my permanent collection, i.e. mature plants. Because there is no space for new plants, every new addition to the permanent collection requires getting rid of a plant.

New hybrid and species seedlings are acquired each year to see what various parental combinations will produce. In most cases, once they bloom, I take a photo and sell or give the plant away, hopefully creating new orchid addicts in the process. Some seedlings become mulch or are occasionally so interesting or different that I cannot part with it. Often this new discovery replaces a similar orchid that is not as good with respect to flower quality or growth characteristics. My goal is to have a collection of vigorous orchids with at least one of each color combination, especially in cattleyas and phals.

My interest in classic [old] hybrids and clones of cattleyas continues, and these are added at the expense of new hybrids. Most orchid hobbyist gravitate towards some group, color, etc. of orchid. Getting to see what types of



(Hausermann's Candy x Daryl Lockhart)



Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry' FCC/AOS

orchid each orchid hobbyist likes best is what makes club meetings so much fun.

So what are the characteristics of some of my favorites? In phals, Dtps Newberry Parfait 'Picotee' has a unique picotee around the edge of each well-formed white flower, which is an unusual combination. It grows like a weed, will remain in flower all year long, and can easily be grown into a specimen plant. Phal Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure' or 'Orchidheights' is another unique orchid. It is a non-fading, relatively large yellow flower with stripes that is extremely vigorous. Virtually all other similar hybrids grow poorly and fade as the flower ages.

These have both been made available through cloning and are inexpensive. Similarly, Dtps Martha Dolge is an easy growing white with stunning red lip with flowers as large as most standard white phals. Best of all, it is also very easy to grow, unlike many semi-alba phals. There are also clones with a unique orange lip. There are many different clones of Dtps Anna-Larati Soekardi in a variety of colors and all are desirable. This true miniature phal produces multiple spikes each year and the plant itself multiplies in the pot. After a few years a plant may produce 10 or more spikes in a 4 inch pot. Sadly, I have not seen this one available as a mericlone yet.

There are also orchids in my permanent collection that I would maintain even if the flowers were not beautiful because of their fragrance. Many, such as Phal lueddemanniana and pulchra, are extremely fragrant for months. There are also some I love despite their fragrance, such as Bulb Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry', which produces whorls of unusual flowers covered with tufts of tiny hairs, and Bulb echinolabium, with spidery red-orange striped flowers almost 30 cm in length that is almost always in bloom.

Stay tuned next month for my "A-list" of cattleyas that should be in every collection.

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 January 2007.



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Nine Ladies Dancing

Oncidium by Any Other Name

by Ken Slump



Oncidium sphacelatum is a fast growing plant, ideally suited to growing on a tree in subtropical and tropical climates. It flowers in the spring.

The genus *Oncidium* is among the largest in the orchid family. Various authors list the number of species anywhere from 300 to more than 600, depending on the taxonomic treatment. Name changes within the genus have occurred regularly in recent years, which is not surprising with such a large group.

As taxonomists grapple with the problems of sorting and making sense of this group, more than a few sections have been created that include but one genus. It will undoubtedly be some time before consensus is reached, in part because *Oncidium* is also closely related to several other genera in the *Oncidium* alliance with which it hybridizes, such as *Odontoglossum*, *Miltonia* and *Brassia*, to name just three.

Familiarly, *Oncidium*s are known in the orchid world as dancing-lady orchids, a nickname given for the appearance of the flowers. To generalize in the extreme, *Oncidium*s often yellow and brown blossoms are frequently small and occur in sizeable, branched sprays. Their most distinctive feature is usually a broad lip or labellum that dominates the flower and often resembles the full, flowing skirt of an animated dancer.

The dancing ladies belong to a remarkable and diverse group of orchids. We will take a brief look at nine types or examples. As noted, the *Oncidium* species are a variable lot, and all are native to the tropical Americas, stretching from Florida through Mexico and Central America to Brazil and Argentina. They occupy a variety of habitats and grow in a wide range of elevations. Most species are epiphytic, although a few are terrestrial.

It is difficult to offer cultural guidelines for such a large group. Many thrive in intermediate to warm conditions. Some, from higher elevations, need cooler situations. They can be grown potted or on mounts of cork or tree fern. Most have noticeably active periods of growth when they require ample water and nutrients, as well as dormant periods when watering should be withheld a bit.

A number of species can grow in a general collection. Many require good light to thrive and may become sizeable plants. I will never forget an *Oncidium* specimen that was brought to an orchid judging I attended a number of years ago. It sported clouds of flowers that reached for several feet in nearly every direction. The plant received a well-deserved cultural award, and perhaps the real marvel of it was that the exhibitor was motivated enough to devise a way to transport the monstrous flowering plant to the event. As I remember, he had suspended it from the roof of a somewhat large panel truck and had driven cautiously.

Many *Oncidium* species have been cultivated and perhaps each grower has a favorite. Some produce rather upright panicles of flowers, yet others are more arching. While yellow with mahogany patterning is the coloration most often associated with an *Oncidium* blossom, you will find *Oncidium* flowers sporting shades of pink, orange, white, burgundy and other colors.

A STARTING POINT As a first example of a more or less typical species, *Oncidium sphacelatum* will suit as well as any. It is a rather vigorous grower with a native range from Mexico to El Salvador and Costa Rica. The branched inflorescence may carry many 1-inch flowers that are bright yellow spotted red-brown. This would be a good choice if you want to produce a specimen plant in a short time. Each pseudobulb produces one or two narrow leaves that can reach 1-2 feet in length. The foliage is of the sort that in this genus is termed "soft." i.e. not succulent or rigid.

MULE'S-EAR ONCIDIUMS Another type of dancing lady, *Trichocentrum* (syn. *Oncidium*) *cavendishianum* produces a different foliage popularly called mule's ear. This species can also become a large plant and carries a flower stem that may extend 3 to 6 feet. It is unifoliate, having but one stiff, thickened leaf per pseudobulb. The fragrant, waxy, 2½-inch flowers are yellow to yellow-green with red to brown spots or blotches. The mule's-ear types grow well mounted on bark or planted in baskets. Because of their succulent foliage, they can withstand less water, but they do best with warmth, humidity and plenty of light.

COOLER GROWERS While the petals and sepals are often of reduced size in many of the more familiar *Oncidium* species, there are plenty of examples with wider segments. These could make up yet a third type of *Oncidium* species that are often found at higher elevations, thus doing best

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under cooler growing conditions. *Oncidium crispum*, *Oncidium praetextum* (syn. *enderianum*) and *Oncidium gardneri* are among them.

POPULAR HYBRIDS As a fourth example, it is important to acknowledge the multitude of hybrids among the *Oncidium* species, those cheerful, primarily yellow sorts that are most frequently encountered. Many have wide, ruffled, yellow lips. Sprays of these blossoms create an effect unlike that of any other orchid and it is hard to imagine creating an orchid display without including at least one. A few of this sort include *Oncidium Gower Ramsey* (*Goldiana* x *Guinea Gold*), *Oncidium Sweet Sugar* (*Aloha Iwanaga* x *Oncidium varicosum*) and *Oncidium Aloha Iwanaga* (*Goldiana* x *Star Wars*).



Oncidium Sweet Sugar 'Yellow King'
(*Onc. Aloha Iwanaga* x *Onc. varicosum*)

A FRAGRANT FAVORITE Another *Oncidium* hybrid, *Oncidium Sharry Baby* (*Jamie Sutton* x *Honolulu*) probably deserves a solo spot on the dance floor. The hybrid was registered in 1983 and traces its roots to four species: *Oncidium allissimum*, *Oncidium ornithorhynchum*, *Oncidium anthocrene* (syn. *powellii*) and *Oncidium leucochilum*.

I have heard that the immensely popular hybrid has been mericloned in larger numbers than any other orchid. The flowers are primarily a dark shade many describe as burgundy. The lip is white to pale pink with purple splashes near the center and hack edges. If it is the color that first catches your attention, it is the fragrance you will not forget.

Oncidium Sharry Baby has a scent that has been compared to that of chocolate. I am not certain that I concur, but have noted in my experience that the sense of smell seems to differ considerably between individuals.

While some find this orchid's perfume irresistible, others find it overpowering. This grex is an example of a successful hybrid that was produced from comparatively ordinary parents. *Oncidium Sharry Baby* has garnered 10 AOS awards, yet neither parent has received one. The cultivar *Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'*, AM/AOS, is most frequently encountered. One award was made to a mutation of *Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'* AM/AOS, about a decade ago, to a plant with variegated foliage. That plant *Onc. Sharry Baby 'Pacific Paradise'*, JC/AOS, verifies that genetic changes can and do occasionally occur with mericloned orchids.



Plants once known as equitant *Oncidium*s are now placed in the genus *Tolumnia*. Shown here is *Tolumnia Rdcm. Angel Heart* x *Rdcm. Velvet Queen*

TOLUMNIAS If you desire the *Oncidium*-type flower but do not have room for large plants, the species and hybrids of the genus *Tolumnia* may be the answer. These are frequently called equitant *Oncidium*s and were included in the genus *Oncidium* for many years. Equitant refers to the arrangement of the leaves, which are arranged fanlike in a single plane, similar to that of bearded iris. There are about 20 species in the genus *Tolumnia*. They grow as small epiphytes and lithophytes and differ from *Oncidium*s in lacking any but vestigial pseudobulbs. Most grow on twigs and some produce a somewhat tufted, stoloniferous habit. They range from southern Florida through the Caribbean. The flowers of these plants are surprisingly large for the size of plant and are often borne on a long flower stem that extends well away from the foliage. The color range and patterning available on *Tolumnia* hybrids is remarkable, ranging from dark burgundy and purple through fiery reds, yellows and oranges. Many of these trace their ancestry to the successful grex *Tolumnia* (syn. *Oncidium*) *Golden*

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Sunset (Stanley Smith x Tiny Tim) of a few decades back. Culture of *Tolumnia* species and hybrids can be a bit tricky. While they benefit from regular watering, their root system demands excellent drainage and must not stay wet too long. They are perhaps best grown mounted or in small baskets and appreciate warmth and high humidity.



Some growers liken the fragrance of *Oncidium Sharry Baby* (Jamie Sutton X Honolulu) to that of chocolate.

BUTTERFLY ORCHIDS Another fascinating genus, closely related and previously included in *Oncidium* is *Psychopsis*, popularly known as the butterfly orchid. Four or five species occur in Central and South America. They have some of the most interestingly patterned foliage among orchids. It is reddish brown in color with spots and blotches of green. But it is the flower and flowering habit of *Psychopsis* that is remarkable. The dorsal sepal and two petals are narrow and extended, resembling an insect's antennae. The winglike



Plants in the genus *Psychopsis* bear an upright spike that flowers successively. *Psychopsis* (syn. *Oncidium*) *papilio*

lateral sepals are much wider; but it is the lip that is most prominent. Much like those of the smaller dancing ladies, it is full, round and ruffled. The flowers may reach 4 inches from top to bottom and are of typical orchid coloration - yellow with red-brown bars, spots and blotches. The most popular species, *Psychopsis* (syn. *Oncidium*) *papilio* and *Psychopsis* (syn. *Oncidium*) *kramerianum*, bloom successively from the same flower stalk for many months, usually producing one flower at a time. These thrive in good light and do best with high summer temperatures. For best results, keep them somewhat potbound in a freely draining mix, or try growing them mounted.

ROSSIOGLOSSUMS The eighth dancing lady is more a tigress than a kitten, and is more closely related to the allied genus *Trichocentrum* than it is to *Oncidium*. Still, the genus *Rossioglossum* bears the coloration and patterning typical of many of its orchid cousins, although it was previously

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Rossioglossum Rawdon Jester 'Carlisle' FCC/AOS
(*Ros. grande* x *Ros. william sianum*)
Photo courtesy of Keith Davis

classified as *Odontoglossum*. The genus includes about six species of which *Rossioglossum grande* is perhaps the most notable. A well-grown flowering plant of this species is always a showstopper. The inflorescence carries four to eight waxy flowers that may each reach a 6-inch span. The sepals are yellow with bold red-brown barring; the petals are typically bright yellow, red-brown at the lower half. The lip is pale yellow or whitish, sometimes flecked with brown. *Rossioglossum grande* thrives in a rather dense growing medium that might contain a bit of sphagnum moss for moisture retention. Intermediate conditions and bright light are recommended. Water generously when in active growth but restrict water when dormant. Flower spikes develop in late summer to autumn.

INTERGENERIC Finally, it seems important to mention at least one from the abundance of *Oncidium* alliance hybrids popularly grown today, and *Colmanara Wildcat* will get the nod. The grex is the result of crossing *Odontonia Rustic Bridge* and *Odontocidium Crowborough*. It was registered in 1992 and has thus far accumulated more than 60 AOS awards. *Colmanara Wildcat*, which is



Colmanara Wildcat is widely available as a flowering potted orchid. This is the clone 'Bobcat', AM/AOS (*Odn. Rustic Bridge* x *Odcdm. Crowborough*).

now placed in the genus *Odontocidium* traces half of its lineage to two *Oncidium* species, *Oncidium fuscatum* (syn. *Miltonia warszewiczii*) and *Oncidium leucochilum*. The award winners of *Colmanara Wildcat* generally have flat, waxy flowers. Coloration varies from yellow with subtle mahogany markings to burgundy and other nearly solid colors, including some with rich patterns. Indeed, there are so many examples that a favorite is hard to choose. If none of the Colm. Wildcat cultivars catches your fancy, look to other intergeneric crosses such as *Brassidium* (*Brassia* x *Oncidium*), *Withnerara* (*Aspasia* x *Miltonia* x *Odontoglossum* x *Oncidium*), *Wilsonara* (*Cochlioda* x *Odontoglossum* x *Oncidium*) and *Burrageara* (*Cochlioda* x *Miltonia* x *Odontoglossum* x *Oncidium*), and others. Among them you are sure to find ladies that, far from being wallflowers, are ready for the dance.

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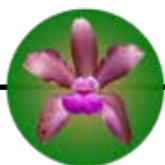


ORCHID ADVENTURES



Ecuagenera in Apopka

Orchid species lovers, start saving your money! Ecuagenera has opened a small nursery in Apopka, and has plans for expansion. You might remember Ecuagenera from their sales booth at the Redland Festival, where they feature very unusual species of orchids from Ecuador, an orchid haven in South America close to the equator. The variety of orchids at the nursery is unbelievable, some you have never seen before and whose names you may not recognize. We are talking about organizing a keiki club field trip to the nursery later in the year... make sure you bring a chunk of cash and an orchid encyclopedia and let the fun begin!



SHOW TABLE



Grower Charlie Rowell
B. Little Stars



Grower Walter Muller
Bl. Yellow Bird



Grower Leslie Brickell
Bulb. gracillimum 'Joy's
Dancing Spider' AM/AOS



Grower Janis Croft
Calanthe Baron Schroder



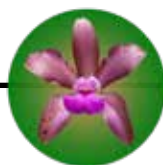
Grower John Van Brocklin
Phrag. QF Walter Scheeren



Grower Sue Bottom
Lc. Carolyn Reid 'Lynchburg'



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Enzan Sarah



SHOW TABLE



Grower Linda Stewart
Dendrochilum cobbianum



Grower Sue Bottom
Lc. Orange Trick x Epi. ciliare



Grower Bob & Yvonne Schimmel
C. Hagans' Ace 'Mandarin Orange'



Grower Leslie Brickell
Paphiopedilum spicerianum



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Neost. Lou Sneary 'Bluebird'



Grower Steve Hawkins
Blc. Prada Green Deluxe

Link to all Pictures. <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmKA4xG6>

