



St. Augustine Orchid Society

www.staugorchidsociety.org

My Favorite Orchid

July 2013

by Mary Colee, coleem2009@comcast.net

When I was asked to write "What is your favorite orchid?" I thought it would be easy. Being the newbie I am, the standard answer would be "One I haven't killed yet!" but I needed my own answer. So notepad in hand I headed out to write down all the names of my orchids and get reacquainted with everyone.



Since the majority of my orchids up until the last few months have been Phalaenopsis that's my answer. Oh wait. They require low light and not too much water... and that was the first one I killed. Nope. Not the answer.

Dendrobiums! I have a few of them...Oh wait. They need more light and fast draining mix so they don't rot. They defy everything I know about flower growing. Nope. Not the answer.

Stanhopeas! How I love them! My first "fancy" orchid. It was a birthday gift from a friend that has been very helpful in my orchid education. Oh wait. Talk about fussy! With just the right amount of water, fertilizer, and light you might get a bloom once a year that lasts 2 or 3 days tops. Nope. Not the answer.



Zygopetalums! First one I couldn't spell. Oh wait. Major fussy but reliable. Nope. Not the answer.

Paphio-something-or-others! Still can't spell them and talk about fussy! Oh wait. I have one in every window in the house trying to figure out the "right" light. I have finally figured out the difference between damp and drown. Nope definitely not the answer.



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Cattleyas, Blc. & Pot.! Gave up spelling them but have discovered if I mumble the name it sounds like I am saying it right. My collection of them has grown quite a bit in the last few months. Oh wait. Full sun vs. partial light vs. bright light... Mounted vs. potted vs. basket... bare rooted or with medium... Too many choices. Nope. Not the right answer.

Vandas! Oh my! These are the latest orchids I have begun collecting. Oh wait. Water all the time. Full sun but not really. Nope. Not the answer.

My newest Gramm-what-cha-ma call it (another one I can't spell) must be it! Well not really. I haven't quite figured out this monster yet. Nope. Not the answer.

After a long hard think I have decided my favorite orchids are the ones that have died. I learn something new every time one goes to the big trash can at the curb. Whether it was too much or too little water, fertilizer or sun or the wrong potting mix, they have all taught me how to be a better orchid grower. Just wait until next year! I'm going to be bringing orchids to every meeting to put on the monthly show table!



Ghost Orchid courtesy of Keith Davis