



Orchids Month by Month in 2018

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@gmail.com

Terry is always taking pictures of something, including the greenhouse. Sometimes it's frogs, lizards and snakes and sometimes it's some pest, disease or other problem, but the best pictures are the flowers. Every year he goes through and selects the best picture each month and compiles them into a calendar. This is the retrospective of 2018 in bloom.



January - Cattleya Schroeder's Catt
(C. Ruth Gee x C. schroederae)

First bloom seedling of one of Courtney's hybrids. Large, flat, translucent white flowers with a lovely yellow throat, as well as the long-forgotten characteristic that hybridizers loved a century ago, the longevity of flowers.



February - Cattleya Lulu Land
(C. Lulu x C. aclandiae)

Roy Tokunaga of H&R bred aclandiae onto Lulu to produce smaller plants with spotted flowers that bloom several times a year. Typical of Roy's genome breeding, the progeny are very similar and the flowers are uniformly high quality.



March - Fergusonara Chichiriviche Sunset
(Pot. Orange Pocket x Schom. undulata)

Schomburgkias are large, vigorous growers that often throw off long spikes with twisty floral parts. Interbreeding with cattleyas can make the size and spike length more manageable. Plantio la Orquidea is a great source for Schomburgkias.



April - Phaius Dan Rosenberg
(Phaius tankervilleae x Gastrochis tuberculosa)

These Nun Orchid hybrids are terrestrials that can be grown in a pot or in the ground. In a cold winter, the naturalized Phaius may die back, but will come back in the spring. EFG Orchids is a great source for Phaius.



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May - *Cattleya skinneri*

This species grows quickly into specimen size with closely spaced pseudobulbs and long lasting spring flowers. The very floriferous plant has many color forms, including this lavender tipo form.



June - Lc *Canhamiana* 'Azure Skies FCC/AOS' (*Cattleya mossiae* x *Laelia purpurata*)

Canhamiana is a famous primary hybrid with many color forms, including this coerulea form. The semialba form was known as the wedding orchid back in the cut-flower days.



July - *Laelia tenebrosa*

Almost extinct in the wild, AA Chadwick says "most of the fine old clones of *L. tenebrosa* have been lost to cultivation and appear only in the rich coloring of our *Cattleya* hybrids."



August - *Cattleya Bactia* var *coerulea* (*C. bowringiana* x *C. guttata*)

A primary hybrid typically seen with lavender coloration. Michael Blietz of Exotic Orchids of Maui remade the cross with coerulea parents producing blue flower clusters.



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September – Catasetum Jamie Lawson XOXO
(*Ctsm. pileatum* x *Ctsm. John C. Burchett*)

This Sunset Valley Orchids hybrid by Fred Clarke hybrid combines the beautiful large flat pileatum species with the dark John C. Burchett, the best of both.



October - Cattleya Bow Bells 'Elzada' AM/AOS
(*C. Edithiae* x *C. Suzanne Hye*)

A gift from Helen Hoffman, Bow Bells was registered in 1945 and was considered the pinnacle of white cattleya hybridizing. This cultivar was awarded in 1952.



November – Habenaria rhodocheila 'Nora'
Habenarias are winter dormant terrestrials that bloom in the fall. This large-flowered bright orange cultivar came from H&R in Hawaii, named for Roy's wife Nora.



December - Potinara Memoria Mario Lanza '#20'
(*Pot. Carolina Splendor* x *C. Chocolate Drop*)

This hybrid is a cross between a unifoliate and bifoliate cattleya, producing deep red flowers, from Lenette's in North Carolina.