St. Augustine Orchid Society NEWSLETTER
January 2025
Volume 20 Issue #1

Club News

January 7 Meeting

By Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks. Tom Sullivan opened the meeting at 6:55 pm with 48 attendees. He then thanked Dianne, Dottie, Laura, Julie, Terry & Sue, Mary Ann and Christine for the treats and reminded all to remember to "Drop a Dollar" if you enjoyed them. Tom suggested anyone with questions about their plants should come to the first potting clinic of the year at SE Branch Library on Feb. 1. He also announced that there are four orchid shows this month in Fort Lauderdale, Tamiami, Seminole and Krull Smith. Check the website for more information.

Club Business. Linda welcomed our guests and new members Shanti Bjorkman, Jonathan Cochrane and Ernie Kaminaris. We're in the annual membership renewal period. See Linda Stewart or Rachel Biello at the Welcome Table to pay dues or you can send $20 for dues ($30 family) via Zelle or Venmo to 904-501-0805, or use the PayPal link online. 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. Linda then distributed raffle tickets to members with January birthdays. *Show Table Voting*. Christine Peterson reminded all to vote for Members Choice during the break.

Virtual Show Table. Courtney Hackney will conduct the Virtual Show Table starting at 7 pm on Thursday, January 16. An email invitation will be sent.

Supplies. email info@staugorchidsociety.org if you need supplies.

Library. Howard brought in the Motes book on Vandas to complement our guest speaker's topic. He also reminded all that we have a light meter available to borrow. He then shared his experiences using Social Media for orchid information and advised all that there is great information out there, but be cautious about what you believe to be true. If you would like a book or magazine from the Library list on the website, send Howard a request to info@staugorchidsociety.org and he will bring the item(s) to the next meeting.

Calendars. A few 2025 SAOS Calendars are still available for a $20 donation. Email your request to info@staugorchidsociety.org.

Show Table. Courtney Hackney started the Show Table (with Sue and Tom's helping hands) with his cross Classic Beauty, grown by Brandon indoors under lights. Next was Goldenzelle 'Lemon Chiffon' that was made by several hybridizers at the same time in an effort to get a pure yellow, and it is used in many of today's crosses. Sue lifted up an extremely tall Laelia colombiana with its petals and sepals all twirled. This plant used to be classified as a Schomburgkia which led to a discussion about name changes. Courtney advised all to keep original tags even if the name has changed because it might change back again. Melody Fair is a semi alba with a deep purple lip and no color in the petals/sepals. This is a goal of many hybridizers and difficult to attain. Sue held up a well flowered C. percivaliana that Courtney noted was flowering all around the plant growing in a short slatted basket with beautiful markings on the lips and a nice fragrance.

Lou Sneary is a small falcata hybrid with coerulea coloring growing on a fern stick and Courtney showed the small sprouts starting to grow around the base. He said with time they would grow all around it and turn into a specimen. The intergeneric oncidium orchid had spider shaped deep purple flowers with spectacularly marked lips. A Paphiopedilum charlesworthii cross was next and

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Club News

Upcoming Orchid Events

January

10-12 Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show
Charles Dodge City Ctr, Pembroke Pines
11-12 Orchids and Tropical Plant Festival
Seminole Rec Center, Seminole 33772
11 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am
Bob Foster Center, Mt. Dora 32757
14 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA
Bill Nunez, Orchid Hobbyist
16 Virtual Show Table
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email
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
Courtney Hackney
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

March

1 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
1-2 Martin County Orchid Society Show
Martin County Fairgrounds
6670 US-1 N, 32086
1-2 Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show
Tampa Sons of Italy
4 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Claude Hamilton, Hamlyn Orchids
Brassavolas and their Hybrids
8 FL North-Central Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Garden Center, 849 West Ave
11 JOS Meeting, Show Update, 7 pm
JOS Show Chairman
12 Virtual Show Table
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace

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Courtney stated that Paphs are semi-terrestrial and many like to grow in limey soil. They need calcium and he grows his in lava rock and adds a teaspoon of lime monthly. The last two plants, Dendrochilum propinquum and Bulbophyllum miniatum need to stay moist all the time and like lower light. Both had large numbers of inflorescences. Remember to bring your blooming orchids to the Show Table next meeting.

SAOS Program. Sue introduced our guest speaker Keith Emig along with his wife, Dina from Winter Haven Orchids. Keith's talk focused on Vandaceous…but Not Vanda orchids. Throughout the talk he would have members draw raffle tickets from a container to win whichever plant he was discussing at the time. Keith started by describing the basic building blocks (species) that have been used in hybridizing Vandas, including the Vandas like sanderiana, coerulea, tricolor, denisoniana, tessellata and merrillii, along with what used to be called Ascocentrums, like miniatum, curvifolium and ampullaceum.

Keith turned to other vandaceous genera, starting with the very fragrant Rhynchostylis species. These are from India, Indonesia, and the Philippines where they grow warm in bright, filtered light. He had slides of many varieties including Rhy. coelestis which was stunning with blue and white flowers and Rhy. retusa which is a fox tail plant with purple and white flowers.

The Arachnis group are called scorpion or spider orchids. Their flower spikes extend laterally from the plant instead of vertically and their waxy flowers can last up to 8-10 weeks. Arachnis species range from India, Thailand, Indonesia, and Borneo and grow more like Vandas. Arachnis flos-aeris was an example showing patterned markings on petals and sepals.

The Papilionanthe are the terete vandas native to the swamps of Borneo, Malaysia, Sumatra, Thailand, and Vietnam. They have terete, pencil shaped leaves on long stems and put out stiff aerial roots that attach epiphytically. He showed a stunning slide of hundreds, quite tall Papilionanthe Miss Joaquin plants grown on six-foot poles and massively displayed at the Singapore Botanic Gardens.

The Aerangis group is from Africa and the adjacent islands; including Madagascar. Many of the species are not difficult to grow but you need to check each one's culture sheet for their special conditions. These plants need more shaded conditions similar to Phals. The beautiful waterfall species Aerangis biloba is a good one to try.

The Angraecum group is from tropical Africa, Madagascar and the adjacent islands. They like warm to intermediate temps, an open, well draining, epiphytic mix with monthly fertilizing and resent repotting. Their flowers are resupinate, they grow upside down. Ang. sesquipedale, referred to as Darwin's orchid, because Darwin theorized that there had to be a pollinator with a long enough proboscis to get nectar from the orchid's long spur. The sizes in the Angraecum group range from the very large Angcm. longicalcar to the small Angcm. distichum.

Keith then moved to the Aerides group known as "Child of the Air" and are from tropical Asia (especially the Himalayan region), Burma, and the Philippines. These plants are relatively fast growers in warm temperatures and bright light, in open media with daily watering and weak fertilizing. These plants have uniquely shaped lips.

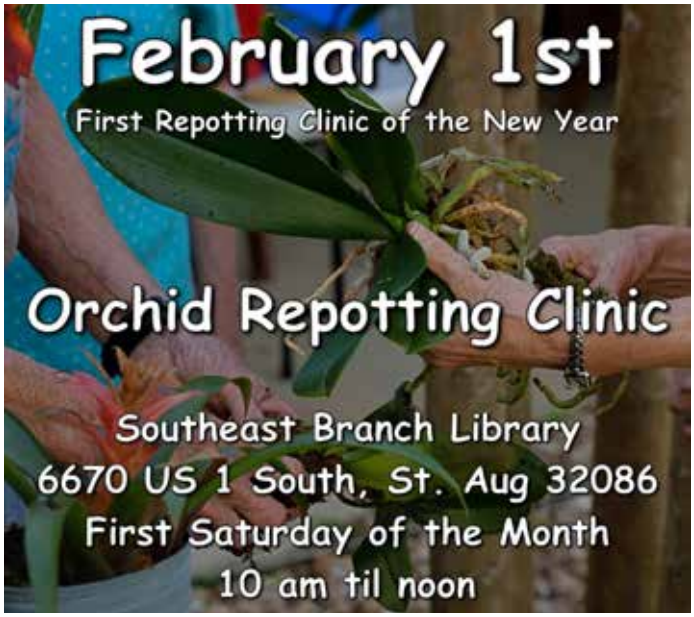
Paraphalaenopsis consists of only 4 species endemic to Borneo. They have long, pendent, terete foliage, require warm temperatures (above 70 preferably) and high humidity. He showed slides of Pps. labukensis and the stunning Pps. laycockii. Their lips are truly unique. He then showed a few plants from each of the following groups: Gastrochilus, Sedirea, Vandopsis, Trichoglottis and Holcoglossum.

Neofinetia falcata is considered the perfect orchid by the Japanese and at auctions Japanese bidders will pay from $20,000-$70,000 for rare varieties. They have an enchanting fragrance, like intermediate temperatures, bright filtered light, don't like to dry out and prefer small pots with free draining mix. He then showed several slides of Neofinetia crosses.

Renanthera, from India, Southern China, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, and Philippines, like tropical temps (60 degrees and above) with moderate to bright light. Their long, vining growths like to attach to cork, wood, tree fern totems, or open baskets. Ren. monachica showed highly patterned orange flowers with red spots. He then showed a slide of an 8' tall Renanthera hybrid next to a 6' friend holding it. Keith ended his talk with a stunning slide of Ren. imschootiana 'Crystelle' FCC/CCE/AOS (100pts).

Meeting Conclusion. Christine announced that the Members Choice was Eric Milstrey's C. percivaliana. 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



Renew Your Membership

It's that time of year! The dues are $20 for an individual or $30 for a family if paid by Zelle or Venmo (904-501-0805) or check (mail c/o Linda Stewart, 1812 Diana Drive, Palatka 32177). For an extra dollar, use the PayPal link on our website. Easy Peasy!

Culture Notes

January in St. Augustine

Plants will continue to manufacture food during the winter, albeit at a reduced rate. Everything will occur at a slower pace until spring arrives so the need for water and fertilizer is reduced. Indoor growers: pull you orchid away from the window if its leaves are touching the exterior glass. Outdoor growers: keep an eye on the minimum projected temperatures, such as the hourly forecasts by zip code from Wunderground.

American Orchid Society Corner

Webinars
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
Winter Checklist – AOS Education Committee
Dendrobium section Spatulata - Jim Cootes
Catasetinae – Let Repotting Begin – Sue Bottom

February 4 Meeting

Restoring Florida Native Orchids
Mike Sands, Tangled Roots Nursery

Mike will speak about the repopulation of native orchids and other epiphytes in Palm Beach County. Mike and his partners are passionately invested in bringing them back to healthy numbers and restoring the orchid paradise that once graced Florida's wild spaces – who knows, maybe you can help by growing native orchids in your own yard!

Originally from New York, Mike moved to Wellington when he was 17 months old-making him almost a native Floridian! He currently resides in Loxahatchee Groves with his wife Ashley and daughters Fallon and Lily. His residence is home to a wide variety of plants, including his collection of orchids that number around 700. Mike grows his orchids in both pots and mounted. He said his friends say he has his own "private nursery" that includes-among other things-bonsai, houseplants, terrariums, and vegetables.

Mike is the current President of the Tropical Orchid Society. In the past, native orchids were ripped from trees by the thousands. This along with habitat loss, brought the native orchid population to dangerously low numbers. Together with his colleague Will Gurney, they have started a project to re-establish native orchids in the Village of Wellington, a project the Tropical Orchid Society is helping to support.

When: Tuesday, February 4, 6:30 til 9 pm
Where: Memorial Lutheran Church
3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086

Inspiration

Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@hotmail.com

Q1. Are these three wrong kind of packing peanuts?

A1. Yes, those look like the biodegradable kind. If you drop one in a glass of water, it'll pretty much dissolve. You can drop that off at a UPS store, they'll reuse them gladly. If you use them at the bottom of the pot, they will collapse and not provide the air reservoir you want when repotting your orchid.

Q2. This cattleya produced a couple wonky blooms and I was thinking of tossing it. Then it produced some nice blooms. Now I've got this! What do you think?

A2. It could be bacterial blighting from moisture condensing on the flowers, but I think it's more likely to be a thrips problem. In the first pic, it looks like thrips attacked the blossom before it opened. In the pic of the open white flower, you can see one of those devils crawling on the lip, and there's never just one. The browning burned edges of the petals and sepals are another sign of thrips.

I'd say you are going to have to go to war. Some people use a pump up sprayer to spray all the buds and flowers with something like Orthene twice a week, every week. In my growing area, a bimonthly drench with Orthene so the Orthene is absorbed up through the roots kills the thrips from the inside out. I've been doing that for several years and it has overcome a very nasty thrips problem I was having.

Q3. First time Habaneria grower here. When the leaves turned brown, I gently tugged and they fell off. I then saw this tuber in the soil. I was surprised to see it already had green growth. What do I do now? Do I place it in plastic bag and winterize it until Spring or do I pot it?

A3. Pot it up, it looks like it doesn't want to wait til spring!

Orchid Potting Media

by Dr. Courtney Hackney

Given the popularity of orchids, it is hard to believe that one of the biggest issues for orchid hobbyists today is obtaining media. Most of the difficulties I have had the past few years relate to poor quality media or to the unavailability of some previously popular media. Florida's warm temperatures pose problems for organic media and Aliflor and lava rock have proven to be ideal both for the climate and for my lack of interest in repotting. Aliflor is no longer available and I haven't found a substitute with the same qualities. Several friends have suggested various plastic products that shed water. Stalite is another product that has been suggested, but it does not come in a large size as its intended purpose is as a light rock to mix with cement. If nothing new is found before repotting begins in April, one of these products may be the solution.

If you can't find long fibered New Zealand sphagnum moss like the moss shown on the left, don't bother buying it; the lower quality moss on the right won't last a year in your pot.

One would expect that the use of sphagnum by the pot plant trade would mean that there would be a good supply of that medium. However, the quality has become so poor that finding good sphagnum has become difficult. The last bale of Chilean sphagnum looked fine, but disintegrated within six months while the previous year's sphagnum remained relatively intact on the same bench. Finally, I found a supplier for New Zealand sphagnum. It was three times the cost, but is clearly much higher quality. There is even better New Zealand sphagnum available if you are looking for the longest, freshest strands. If you are uncertain how to tell quality of sphagnum there are several things to look for. It should consist of strands of moss that are at least 6" long. If there are lots of tips or broken pieces you likely have poor quality material best used for garden plants. Another technique is to just soak it for 24 hrs and then pull strands from both ends. Leave the material moist and test it each week the same way. The poor material I used offered no resistance after a month, however, New Zealand sphagnum remained strong.

Several commercial growers told me that they could not afford the high quality sphagnum and had switched to a mixture of charcoal and large sponge rock, which is a soil aerator. Plants I have had in this mixture are doing well after a year, but I have some issues with using charcoal derived from cutting and burning rain forest trees.

What is the ideal medium? A product that was inexpensive, decomposed slowly, if at all, and did not leach salts or produce extreme acidity or alkalinity in the pot would be nice. Ideally, it would be light, so that shipping would be less expensive and be useful in the garden when discarded. Where are the entrepreneurs when you really need them?

The first incident of rot showed up last month on phal leaves. This is a common occurrence each year on new phals and even some newly purchased cattleya seedlings. Orchids grown under high nutrient conditions are prone to this soft rot, easily identified because affected tissues look watery. Such rots spread quickly and must be treated before reaching the meristem in the crown, which can kill the whole plant. Remove the infected area and be sure to cut well inside the healthy living tissue, to be sure the rot is removed. Put some cinnamon powder on the cut. After such an infection, I also spray the orchid and surrounding plants with hydrogen peroxide each time after I water to be sure there are no spores germinating. I do this for a couple of weeks after treating an active rot infection.

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 2013.

Neofinetia falcata Hybrids

by James Rose

Neofinetia (syn. Vanda) falcata 'Rain-No-Hikari,' grown by Joanne Stygles
The orchid family abounds with miniature orchids that charm growers worldwide. Prime among these is Neofinetia falcata, a native of Japan. Anyone who grows under lights or on a windowsill should consider cultivating this small orchid, which covers itself with masses of fragrant white flowers from spring into summer.

Neofinetia falcata is a beautiful species from the Orient. It is an orchid with one of the longest records of cultivation, dating back many centuries to the Edo Period in Japan. The varied vegetative forms of this species have not just been grown, but cherished, by avid collectors in Japan, where this species is known as furan. Though its national popularity in Japan ebbed somewhat during World War II, the tremendous reverence on the part of the Japanese has gained momentum once again in the past few decades.

The genus was first described in 1784 by one of the first botanists to visit Japan, C. P Thunberg, and has since been wrongly associated with such African genera as *Angraecum* and *Angraecopsis* due to its similar floral parts - white flowers with long spurs and a pronounced nocturnal fragrance. In 1925, the genus Neofinetia, with one species, was published by H. H Hu.

Neofinetia falcata is native to the southern sections of the Japanese islands of Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu, as well as Korea. (There are reports of the species having been found in China, where the plants have a different vegetative habit. However, their origin cannot be verified.) *Neofinetia falcata* is predominately epiphytic, although an occasional specimen may be found in the forest-floor leaf matter. The plants are content on lichen-covered branches of older hardwood trees where they can be found in masses, having established themselves for many years undisturbed.

A Role in Hybridizing. Western growers were the first to hybridize with *Neof. falcata*. Fortunately, this concept was accepted and explored by the Japanese. *Neofinetia falcata* imparts to its hybrids compact size, distinctive flowers, clumping habit and often a sweet fragrance. As anticipated, the first hybrids merged the attributes of the introduced parent with the charm of *Neof. falcata*.

The roots of *Neofinetia* hybridizing can be traced back to Hawaii and probably came about as an outgrowth of experimenting with *Ascocentrum*. However, this ultimately proved to establish the source for great *Neofinetia* hybrids.

The first hybrid recorded in *Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids* is *Ascofinetia* Twinkle (*Ascocentrum miniatum* x *Neof. falcata*), whose bright orange flowers express the best of both parents. It was made by Reverend Yamada in 1960. The decade to follow offered significant gains in *Neofinetia* hybrids, these primary crosses later coming to the fore as invaluable parents.

Nakamotoara Newberry Apricot (Virgil x curvfolia), grown and photographed by Linda Stewart

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Ascofinetia (syn. Vanda) Twinkle (1960)
(falcata x miniata), grown and photographed by Suzanne Susko

Ascofinetias have been prodigious in producing quality hybrids. When *Ascf.* Twinkle is crossed with *Ascocenda* Meda Arnold, the infusion of *Vanda sanderiana* (from the *Ascda*. Meda Arnold parent) greatly increases flower size. This hybrid was made by Mr. Takaki of Hiroshima, who has become the leading hybridizer of this genus. Another *Ascf*. Twinkle hybrid uses *Rhynchostylis coelestis*, a prominent parent in this line of breeding. The result: beautiful tall sprays of many orange sherbet-colored flowers. *Rhynchostylis coelestis* compensates for the sparse number of flowers typical of *Neofinetia* and adds beautiful highlights of color at the tips of the petals and sepals.

One of the next *Ascofinetias* to be made was *Ascofinetia* Cherry Blossom (*Neof. falcata* x *Ascocentrum ampullaceum*), bred in Hawaii in 1961 by Ernest Iwanaga. In time, it made valuable contributions to developing superior hybrids. Those familiar with *Ascocentrum ampullaceum*, native to Myanmar (Burma) and Thailand, know it to be a showy, compact-growing species with fabulous, rich rose-pink flowers. Beautiful in its own right, it is respected as a parent for imparting not only great color, but a compact growth habit to its hybrids.

Two *Ascf*. Cherry Blossom hybrids in particular show off its capabilities as a breeding tool. The first. *Ascofinetia* Petite Bouquet (Cherry Blossom *x Asctm. ampullaceum*), may produce so many flower spikes as to nearly obscure the foliage. The other progeny from *Ascf*. Cherry Blossom described here is *Ascf*. Peaches, using *Asctm. curvifolium* as the other parent. Plant habit and flower count are similar to the *Ascocentrum* parent. The flowers are deep red-pink.

The Influence of Vandas. Continuing with ascocendas and breaking ground with *Vanda* was an obvious line of breeding to pursue. It yielded infinite combinations of color and size while retaining the character of Neofinetia. One of the best of this new generation is *Nakamotoara* Cinderella, using *Vandofinetia* Premier (*Neof. falcata* x *Vanda lamellata*) as a parent. It produces large and intensely colored yellow flowers on a compact plant. Along the same line, but dramatically different color-wise, is the unnamed hybrid Neof. *falcata* x *Ascocenda* Red Gem. Here are the most intensely colored red flowers, reminiscent in form of *Neof. falcata*, but with much fuller shape, borne on a compact plant.

Ascofinetia (syn. Vanda) Cherry Blossom
(falcata x ampullacea), grown by Linda Stewart

Briefly noted in our previous discussion of *Ascf*. Twinkle hybrids was *Rhy. coelestis*, a related species that has played a major part in the creation of Neofinetia hybrids. This native of Thailand possesses desirable qualities - round shape, compact, high flower count, upright spikes and sweet fragrance. In 1970, *Neostylis* Lou Sneary (*Neof. falcata* x *Rhy. coelestis*) was registered by Hajime Ono of Hawaii. By itself, this is an exceptional feat, exhibiting characteristics sought by hybridizers - dwarf habit, floriferousness and a candy-like fragrance. Also, this hybrid has the potential to be remade using various clones of Rhy. *coelestis* to manifest other color forms, the first seen being blue, with later attempts resulting in pink and even white as seen when using the albescent form. The next obvious step was taken in Thailand when *Neost*. Lou Sneary was

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Neostylis (syn. Vandachostylis) Lou Sneary (V. falcata x Rhy. coelestis), grown and photographed by Bea Orendorff

crossed back to what must have been a tetraploid *Rhy. coelestis*. The progeny, *Neostylis* Fuchs Ocean Spray, produced amazingly round flowers that varied from whites with soft blue suffusion to deep-indigo blue. Many of these, including the clone 'Lavender Lady' HCC/AOS have received flower awards from the American Orchid Society. These rewarding hybrids enhance the summer-flowering season.

Another exceptional *Neof falcata* intergeneric combines *Vanda*, *Ascocentrum*, *Neofinetia* and *Rhynchostylis*. Named *Darwinara*, it was made and registered by Takaki in Japan. The first hybrids, using *Rhy. coelestis* in combination with one of the first *Vandofinetia* Oriental Beauty and *Asctm. curvifolium* hybrids, resulted in fabulous displays of pastel flowers on upright spikes. The colors range from soft orange to pink and lavender.

The next generation of *Neostylis* hybrids are those that involve *Neostylis* Dainty (*Neof. falcata* x *Rhynchostylis retusa*), made in 1965 by Elliott Flynn. This is a lovely hybrid bearing predominately pink flowers, some with darker pink spots. The importance here is that *Neost*. Dainty has become a prodigious and valuable parent. One has only to note the genus *Rumrillara* (*Neostylis* x *Ascocentrum*), named for the well-known hybridizer James Rumrill from New Jersey. *Rumrillara* Cherry Shower, introduced by the Japanese, is a compact plant that helps to accentuate the impact when in flower. When *Neost*. Dainty is crossed with *Asctm. curvifolium*, however, the same effect as with *Asctm. ampullaceum* is seen, except that the color is an appealing bright orange. The charm and character of *Neof. falcata* shine through.

The last hybrid to be reviewed in this group is a combination of *Neost*. Dainty and the hybridizer's favorite, *Rhy. coelestis*. The more-upright inflorescences bear a greater number of flowers per stem. The colors tend to be in the blue tones due to the *Rhy. coelestis*. Again, highlights of color dot the tips of the tepals (petals and sepals that cannot be distinguished from one another in form or color).

Hajime Ono made another hybrid of great import in 1970, *Vandofinetia* Pat Arcari (*Neof. falcata* x *Vanda coerulea*). It quickly forms beautiful clumps that are then covered with soft pink-blue flowers in the spring. When *Vandofinetia* Pat Arcari is crossed back onto *V. coerulea* the flower size is dramatically increased, while the size of the plant remains the same. The flower is reminiscent of *V. coerulea* in shape, blue color and tessellation. Even more striking perhaps is *Vandofinetia* Pat Arcari crossed with *Ascocenda* Peggy Foo. This hybrid, bred by Takaki, puts forth vibrant pink flowers while still retaining a hint of *the Neof. falcata* grandparent. *Vandofinetias* particularly Pat Arcari, Premier and Oriental Beauty have proven to be fine parents and significant assets to new developments.

One of the most radical breeding pursuits involving Neofinetia incorporates *Vanda cristata*. a species from Nepal with smaller green flowers highlighted by an almost-black lip. *Vandofinetia* Virgil (*V. cristata* x *Neof. falcata*) boasts floriferous habit and eye-catching flowers. Yet perhaps even more striking is a recent unnamed hybrid offered by Hausermann's Orchids (*Ascofinetia* Peaches x *V. cristata*). These dwarf plants are perpetually in bloom. In addition to its flowering habit, the greatest trait of this cross is the tremendous variation of flower color, with some of the choicest being semi-albas.

New Developments. Some new hybrids incorporate Neofinetia with recent complex hybrids. The first is *Darwinara* Charm 'Blue Star' HCC/AOS (*Neof. falcata*

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x *Vascostylis* Tham Yuen Hac). The influence of the impressive dark blue *Vascostylis* created a desirable hybrid, currently one that holds its own in the competitive Japanese pot-plant market. The flower shape and sweet fragrance endear this plant to the Japanese.

Incorporating *Renanthera* introduces size, and. of course, color. *Renanetia* Sunrise x *Ascocenda* Flambeau presents the intense orange coloration of *Renanthera* on a dwarf-growing plant. The flowers are large for typical Neofinetia breeding.

Renanetia (syn. Renantanda) Sunrise 'Prasong' AM/AOS (V. falcata x Ren. imschootiana), grown and photographed by Janis Croft

Finally, one of the most unusual combinations using Neofinetia incorporates the genus Doritis. *Doritaenopsis* Kyoto (Mem. Clarence Schubert x Coral Gleam) has yielded large purple flowers on small plants. Even more striking may be *Dorifenetia* Pilialoha x *Neost*. Lou Sneary. This hybrid is more characteristic, having *Neofinetia* on both sides of its parentage, but with a unique reddish-plum color. In the future, with Phalaenopsis being such a universally popular plant, more unique hybrids of this type can be expected.

Few orchids exhibit the charm and elegance of *Neof. falcata*, values enjoyed by growers and expressed through all levels of society in Japan. Here, and elsewhere, *Neof. falcata* is much more than merely another pretty orchid - it's a species behind the development of new hybrids that are sure to reward growers for centuries.

How to Grow. *Neofinetia falcata* is one of the most adaptable orchids, making it extremely easy to grow using a wide variety of methods. In Japan, in nature, it clings to moss- and lichen-covered trunks. Hobbyists can create epiphytic conditions several ways. The Japanese use New Zealand sphagnum moss, while Thai growers cultivate the plants in teak baskets with no medium. One of these methods should work for anyone wishing to try this species. A bark medium for cattleyas is satisfactory, although most of the roots end up outside of the container. Currently, at Cal-Orchid. Inc., we have found that osmunda fiber, although more expensive than bark, is the best for plants m both pots and baskets.

Water thoroughly twice a week in late spring and summer This is typhoon season in the plant's native habitat, which is the time of active growth. Apply moderate doses of balanced fertilizer every other watering at this time. In late autumn and winter, the plants are quite dormant; give less fertilizer then.

In preparation for the spring bloom season, grow plants under bright filtered light. If too little is given, the plant will become soft and weak.

Due to its small size, *Neof. falcata* can be grown on windowsills successfully. The temperature range is best kept between 50 and 80 F, although this durable species can tolerate more extreme temperatures.

When these simple guidelines are followed. *Neof. falcata* rewards the grower with a profusion of coconut- and spice-scented flowers from spring into summer.

Excerpted from an article that appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine in April 1994 (Vol. 63:4, pp 384-391), reprinted with permission.

Darwinara (syn. Vandochostylis) Charm 'Blue Star' HCC/AOS (V. falcata x Van. Tham Yuen Hae), grown by Bill Gourley

The Species Behind Standard Cattleyas, Part 9

C. bicolor by Don Herman

A species that does not fit into the mold of standard cattleya types such as *C. trianaei, C. labiata* or *C. mossiae,* but most certainly has had an influence on the development of certain "standards", is *Cattleya bicolor*. A vigorous bifoliate that transfers good and bad qualities to its progeny, it is quite prominent in parenting yellows and greens. One of those progeny created by the Joseph Charlesworth Company near the turn of the century is *Cattleya Iris* (*dowiana* x *bicolor*). This hybrid can be found in the background of many of our greatest yellows and bronzes. In hybridizing, the good qualities of the species would include the summer flowering season, great vigor, bifoliate growth habit, heavy flower substance, strong stems and yellow to bronze coloration. Less desirable characteristics would be flower size and a ligulate or tongue-shaped lip. The green with white lip form has been used successfully in the development of some superior greens. Most of the progeny of *C. bicolor* lead to yellow or bronzy colored flowers, but with certain parents and particular lines of breeding very dark red-brown flowers result. Notable hybrids from this Brazilian species include *C.* Iris, *C.* Adula, *C.* Golden Gate, *Bc.* Binosa, *Blc.* Chinese Bronze, *Lc.* Isotta and *Pot.* Egyptian Queen.

Cattleya bicolor - Grown by Sue Bottom, photographed by Terry Bottom

Cattleya Iris 'Patina' (bicolor x dowiana), Grown and photographed by Steve Hawkins

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.

Show Table

Grower Deborah Fox
Paph. Obsession

Grower Suzanne Susko
Masd. erinacea

Grower Courtney Hackney
Pot. Teruo Nagai 'Yellow #2'

Grower Suzanne Susko
Den. Enobi Purple 'Splash' AM/AOS

Grower Diane Winters
Cym. Pebbles 'Desi'

Grower Deborah Fox
Phrag. Hai An N Le

Grower Sue Bottom
Ddc. formosanum

SHOW TABLE

Grower Leasa Codner
Bl. Morning Glory

Grower Sue Bottom
Lc. Lilac Dream

Grower Sheila Nathanson
Lc. Puppy Love

Grower Leasa Codner
Blc. Copper Queen 'H&R'

Grower Courtney Hackney
C. Nancy Off '1010'

Grower Allen Black
Bark. skinneri

Link to all Submissions:https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBX388