



CLUB NEWS



Mike Sands

February 4 Meeting

By Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks.

Tom Sullivan opened the meeting at 6:50 pm with 54 attendees. He then thanked Dianne, Dottie, Celia, Julie and Christie for the treats and reminded all to remember to "Drop a Dollar" if you enjoyed the refreshments. Tom reminded all to bring their plants to the next repotting clinic of the year at SE Branch Library on March

1st. He announced that there were free cedar planks on the back table brought in by new member Andrew Bridgham if anyone wanted them to use for mounts. He also announced that there are four orchid shows this month in Boca Raton, Orlando, Naples and Martin County. Check out the website for more information.

Club Business. Rachel Biello welcomed our new members Andrew and Vicki Bridgham, Jeanne and Alexis Long, Andrea Prescod, Alan and Cheryl Williams who joined at the meeting, as well as Valerie Hurry and Mildred Carter that joined earlier this month. We are collecting the annual membership dues now. You can visit with Rachel at the Welcome Table to pay dues, send electronically via Zelle or Venmo at 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. Rachel then asked our February birthday people to raise their hands for their free raffle ticket

Show Table Voting. Christine 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, February 12th. An email invitation will be sent with link and details.



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

Library – Since it is orchid show season, Howard brought in two beginner books for those planning to purchase at the shows, *Your First Orchid* and *Growing Orchids as House Plants*. 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 by saying he remembered to bring in his book per a member's request. In addition, he will be speaking at the Jacksonville Orchid Society meeting next week. Then he started the Show Table (with Sue and Tom's helping hands) with two examples of *Rhynchostylis alba*, from the Vandaceous group. It has a peppery, spicy fragrance that you will recognize each time you smell it. A *Coelogyne flaccida*, from Southeast Asia, is known as the "Bearded *Coelogyne*" and its flowers are fragrant and last a few weeks. Next Courtney held up his *Paph. Edward of York*, which he grows in rock under the benches using ProMix with mycorrhizae as a top dressing. Harry's *Cymbidium* hybrid has smaller than usual *Cymbidium* flowers delicately patterned. *Cymbidiums* were very popular in the "cut flower" trade years ago. Bllra. Big Shot 'Pink Leopard' from the *Oncidium* alliance was next. Courtney stated that the Hawaiian hybridizers are working on mixes using this plant which has large, numerous, flat flowers. If you are not watering it enough, it will develop

Continued on page 3



CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

February

- 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, Cattleya Hybridizing
Courtney Hackney
- 12 Virtual Show Table
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 14-16 Greater Orlando Orchid Society Show
Orlando Garden Club
- 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
Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 15-16 Jacksonville Orchid Society Show
The Garden Center of Jacksonville
- 21-23 Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance Show
North Collier Regional Park, Naples
- 22-23 Orchid Society of Highlands County Show
Agri-Civic Center, Sebring

- 22-23 Deep South Orchid Society Show
Georgia Botanical Gardens, Savannah
- 23 Keiki Club Growing Area Tour, 1-3 pm
Repotting Madness at the Bottoms
\$5 Donation to Cover Cost of Supplies
- 29-30 Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society Show
Flamingo Gardens, Davie

April

- 1 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Sue Bottom, SAOS
Orchid Pests and Diseases
- 5 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
- 5-6 Port Saint Lucie Orchid Society Show
Port St. Lucie Polish American Club
- 5-6 Englewood Area Orchid Society Show

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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



CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1

accordion folds in the leaves. Adding chopped sphagnum or other water retentive media to your mix can help prevent that.

A large *C. lueddemanniana* heralds the beginning of the *Cattleya* spring bloomers. Courtney asked grower Steve Hawkins about his bifoliate *Ctt. Siamese Doll* which he had not seen around lately. Steve has had the plant for over 10 years. The flower's petals are spotted purple on a yellowish green background with a striking purple lip. Next was a large *Bc. Yellow Bird* with numerous branching inflorescences hosting many spotted yellow flowers. Courtney stated that this is easy to grow in well-draining media. An *Ett. Butterfly Kisses* was next. Courtney stated that *Epidendrum magnoliae*, a southeastern states native, was one of the parents. Lastly, Sue held up an EFG clone, *Rlc. Heather's Gold 'Main Strike'*. Courtney reminded us that yellow flowering orchids can be more difficult to grow. Remember to bring your blooming orchids to the Show Table next meeting



SAOS Program. Sue introduced our guest speaker, Mike Sands, who is Maria Sands' son and his daughter Fallon came along to chaperone him and sell her Girl Scout cookies. He is a plant person, growing bonsai, houseplants, vegetables and of course 700 or so orchids. Mike spoke about the efforts to repopulate native orchids and other epiphytes in Palm Beach County. Mike and his partners want to bring orchids back to healthy numbers and restore the orchid paradise that once graced Florida's wild spaces. He works for the Village of Wellington as a Master Naturalist. The area they are re-establishing is about 14 acres where the water table had dropped. Fairchild staff went through the 14 acres initially and did an inventory of what they had growing. Their first step in the project was to remove 90 tons of invasive plants from the area. They built a system to raise the water levels, importing water with high phosphorus and nitrogen levels and using the natural ecosystem to absorb them as nutrients. By raising the

water level they have killed many other invasive upland plants and use mosquito fish to keep the insects under control. There is a wooden boardwalk that allows the public to access the wetter areas and admire their handiwork.

They have planted many Florida native plants and orchids. Mike worked with Fairchild and Florida Atlantic University to obtain original native orchids, primarily seedlings in flasks, along with sourcing orchids from Florida orchid vendors. He showed us photos of how they use burlap and burlap twine to mount plants to Pond Cypress and Pond Apple trees. Burlap is placed over the roots and then all is tied tightly to the tree. Within six months, the burlap disintegrates and the roots have adhered to the tree. He is also introducing Pop Ash trees that he hopes will eventually host the native Ghost orchid. They have been mounting the five varieties of Florida native *Encyclia tampensis* too. He commented that the Mule ear oncidium orchids like to grow on the Pond Apple trees. He stated that at this point they have introduced 15,000 orchid seedlings into the habitat.


Mike presented a list of returning native wildlife which included model and wood ducks, rabbits, non-venomous snakes, hawks, storks, heron, owls, red winged black birds, otters, blue jays, robins, turtles, fish and woodpeckers. Next he listed the various vendors that sell native plants in case we were interested in planting on our properties. Jan, who works at Southern Horticulture, stood up and said that they had just placed a big order that should be arriving within the week and that several of the plants Mike mentioned would be available then. If you want to take a visit to see the impressive accomplishments Mike and his group have done, the address is Rotary Peace Park, 1825 Royal Fern Drive Wellington, FL 33414.



Meeting Conclusion. Christine announced that the Members Choice was Steve Hawkins' *Lc. Siamese Doll*. 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



March 1st
Orchid Repotting Clinic
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086
First Saturday of the Month
10 am til noon

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

February in St. Augustine

Spring is around the corner. Order your potting supplies early to make sure they are not sold out when it's time to repot. Observe plants (including companion plants like bromeliads) carefully for signs of disease and insects. Avoid having heated or air-conditioned drafts blowing directly on orchids. Don't bring you plants out too early. It is starting to warm but you can expect more orchid threatening cold fronts through March.

American Orchid Society Corner

Webinars

February 5, 8:30 pm, Everyone Invited

Greenhouse Chat - Ron McHatton

February 12, 8:30 pm, AOS Members Only

Inorganic Potting Media - 2 – Harvey Breneisse

Orchids Magazine this Month

My Favorite Brassavolas – Larry Sexton

Dendrobium section Calypstrochilus - Jim Cootes

Cyrtopodium punctatum – Charles Wilson

March 4 Meeting

Brassavolas and their Hybrids

Claude Hamilton, Hamlyn Orchids

Claude will talk to us about the different Brassavola species and some of their many hybrids. These mostly star shaped flowers are night fragrant, with native habitats ranging from Mexico, Central America and the West Indies into South America.



Claude has been growing orchids for more than 50 years. He and his wife, Elizabeth, founded Hamlyn Orchids in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1983, where he became a well-known hybridizer of orchids. Perhaps best known as a breeder of Broughtonia, Encyclia, Myrmecophila, Laelia and their hybrids, he has also bred award-winning Oncidiinae, Dendrobium, Phalaenopsis and Vanda.

Hundreds of plants produced at Hamlyn Orchids have won quality or botanical awards from the American Orchid Society as well as other orchid societies around the world. In May 2017, Claude was presented with an award by the American Orchid Society for excellence in hybridizing. Claude will have a preorder list available before the meeting.

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

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



What's in Bloom? February 12
Virtual Show Table

Paph. Norito Hasegawa

We'd also love to see your blooming orchids at the meeting

Send pics of your blooming orchids by the 26th



INSPIRATION



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@hotmail.com

Q1. I found this snail on one of my orchids. This is something I can treat with slug bait or some other kind of chemical.

A1. That might be one of those dreaded bush snails. When I found some on my stanhopeas, I dumped used coffee grounds on top of them and goodbye snails!



Q2. Two years ago, a couple of pseudobulbs on *Laelia speciosa* 'Cinco Flores' began to develop sunken brown areas. I showed it to several local commercial growers who thought it was just sunburn. Since then, sunken areas have appeared on a few more pseudobulbs, in spots the sun doesn't reach. All of the five new growths became watery and collapsed.

I've had 'Cinco Flores' for over 25 years, and really don't want to lose it. I learned of a plant pathology lab in Irvine, CA, Waypoint Analytical, and mailed samples. The report said the pathogen was *Sclerotium rolfsii*, and flutolanil may be effective although a bottle of flutolanil runs about \$1000. Other options I found include Mancozeb, Pyraclostrobin, Propiconazole and Azoxystrobin. I would greatly welcome your help in narrowing down fungicide options.

A2. I've sent samples to Waypoint as well, I think there



are many more pathogens that attack our orchids than are written about in the literature. Ann Chase is a plant pathologist that does a lot of testing and writing about the efficacy of different fungicides, she publishes a biannual spreadsheet rating their effectiveness. Use the crown and stem section rather than the foliar section for guidance. For southern blight, Frac groups 7 and 11 are reported to be very effective, so something like Empress (group 11) or Pageant (groups 7 and 11) are more affordable and effective. There is a product containing 70% flutolanil available for around \$250 on DoMyOwn.com called Prostar70 WG (group 7) that is reported to be effective for Southern Blight and even has curative properties, rather than just being preventative. Given that Waypoint only recommended the flutolanil, I wonder if that isn't the best choice.

Q3. While doing the cold weather shuffle last week I noticed the blemish and discoloration on the tops of the leaves, then I noticed the undersides. Will cutting off the new growth save the plant?

A3. I think that cattleya has a bacterial infection, probably



Pseudomonas. It is a lot more devastating on phals, but on young tender cattleya leaves it can do a lot of damage, as you found out. I would cut off the new damaged growth. Copper is a good preventative spray before cold weather, with, of course, the caveat about not using copper on your dendrobiums or thin leaved orchids. You could also just pour some hydrogen peroxide over the remaining plant.



CULTIVATION



Use Dilute Fertilizer by Dr. Courtney Hackney

During the past year, I have subjected most of my orchid collection to a large-scale experiment regarding fertilizers and media. How much fertilizer does an orchid actually need to grow well and produce large flowers? For the entire year of 2011, fertilizer was applied at very low levels and only during the growing season, March to September. Fertilizer was applied (1/6 or 0.07 teaspoons/gal) weekly for three weeks followed by a week of just water to flush any mineral buildup.

My water is fairly high in dissolved solids and on the basic side. Peters Excel 15-5-15 Cal-Mag provides additional magnesium and nitrogen in the form of nitrate and ammonia, both of which are immediately available to plants. This fertilizer also decreases the pH, which is ideal for my water. Most fertilizers add nitrogen in the form of urea, which requires bacteria and decomposing media before it is available to orchids. Because I grow mostly in lava rock, urea is useless.

What I learned this year is that applications of fertilizer much lower than recommended at a much greater frequency can produce excellent growth and large flowers if there are adequate roots. During my experiment, cattleyas well established in pots with a large root system bloomed with as large and as many flowers as they did with higher nutrients. They also produced nice new pseudobulbs at least as large as previous bulbs.

However, cattleyas that were recently repotted or those that had less developed root systems, often did not bloom or produced smaller flowers. Recently repotted cattleyas grew new roots under this fertilizer regimen, but not nearly as many as cattleyas that had large root systems. This is problematic for newly repotted cattleyas because new roots are important if the orchid is going to regain its previous flowering characteristics.

There were a few cattleyas in the collection that were still in organic media, albeit mostly old decomposing media. In general, these were doing OK as long as the medium was not soft and holding water. Several of these were bifoliate that are poor candidates for repotting unless they are in the process of getting new roots. Occasionally, I miss that period and leave them in the old medium.

This year begins a new experiment. One issue with using lava rock is the space within that allows large "Cucaracha" (roaches) to live in the pots. They emerge at night and eat new roots, flowers and even new growths. The latest experiment is to cover the lava rock with a thin layer of Aliflor. Aliflor is a round artificial rock-like medium. I still have a totally inorganic medium, Aliflor and lava rock, but roaches cannot move to the pot surface where new roots are found. This allows the addition of Nutricote fertilizer because the small Nutricote pellets do not fall through to the bottom of the pot. Over the years, Nutricote has provided a well-balanced and continuous level of nitrogen and other nutrients.

Repotting has begun early this year as warm conditions have caused new roots and growth earlier this year. The sun is already getting stronger so new growth now will just allow an orchid to grow more this year.

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 February 2012.



You can find a wide variety of fertilizers and supplements in small quantities from vendors at orchid shows.



CULTIVATION

Florida's Roadside Orchids

by Roger Hammer

The word "orchid" invokes images of perfumed exotic blossoms adorning moss-covered trees in humid, tropical jungles far from civilization. Therefore, most people would have a difficult time imagining orchids growing along dusty roadsides with exhaust fumes clouding the air. This, however, is a scene that can be found in Florida and many other regions as well. My wife, Lisa, hates it when we're on a road trip in our home state of Florida and she hears me shout, "Stop. Back up." She knows right away that a flowering roadside orchid has caught my eye, sometimes while we're traveling at 70 miles per hour on Florida's Turnpike or some other busy thoroughfare. She swears we saw Great Abaco in the Bahamas in reverse gear. So, if you're looking for wild orchids to photograph or simply admire, Florida's roadsides are a good place to begin searching. The only thing your modern-day orchid excursion requires is to pick the proper season and the right roadways that bisect the species' natural habitat. Oh, and you'll need a car, too.

Florida is the orchid state par excellence, with 118 species and varieties of wild orchids - 108 of them regarded as being native to the state. No other state in the United States can boast even half that number (Hawaii has only three native orchids; Alaska has 37). Some Florida native orchids are among the most rare and endangered wildflowers in the state and can be found only in remote woodlands and swamps, whereas others are exceptionally abundant and even compete with common weeds along roadsides. Indeed, some naturalized terrestrial orchids in Florida aptly fit the description of a weed, although admittedly it's difficult to think of any orchid as a "weed." But they do grow in association with weeds along roadsides, so crank up the family-car and go orchid exploring.

FIRST TO BLOOM Florida's earliest-flowering native roadside orchid is the spring ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes vernalis*). The species name refers to the vernal equinox, or springtime, so it truly is a harbinger of spring. Admittedly, it takes a trained eye to notice the 6-inch spikes of small white flowers waving back and forth in the air movement caused by each passing car. This species is common throughout the state and can be more frequent along road swales than in the adjacent native habitat. It typically begins flowering as early as February and finishes around May. If you are in Everglades National Park, check the mowed roadside just past the main entrance before you get to the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center (March is the best month). It is also common along Tamiami Trail, which divides Everglades National Park from the Big Cypress National Preserve to the north. It is as frequently seen along many other



The scarlet ladies'-tresses, *Sacoila lanceolata*, was rescued from a highway construction project, now grown by Christie Peppard and photographed by Terry Bottom

roadways throughout Florida, but it flowers a little later in the northern counties. Its look-alike relative, the lace-lip ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes laciniata*), often replaces it in the same locales in June and July. The name *Spiranthes* refers to the flowers that spiral up the flowering stem, although they are sometimes held in a single rank along one side of the flowering stem. Members of this genus are among the most common roadside orchids in Florida.

Another white-flowered *Spiranthes* that can be seen from car windows is the scented ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes odorata*), although you should abandon your car to take in the sweet, delicate aroma of the flowers. This may require you to get your feet wet, because the plant is a wetland species that often grows in standing water, sometimes even in flooded roadside ditches. In Everglades National Park, it flowers in wet prairies right along the edge of the

Continued on page 9



CULTIVATION

Continued from page 8

mowed road swale from October to December each year. A good place to check is near the Taylor Slough Bridge along the main park road just inside the park.

A favorite roadside orchid is the leafless beaked ladies'-tresses (*Sacoila lanceolata* var. *lanceolata*) that flowers in spring each year in Florida. You can easily spot its red flowers crowded atop an 8- to 12-inch stem standing above the low roadside vegetation. A green-flowered form (*Sacoila lanceolata* var. *lanceolata* fma. *albidaviridis*) may also be present. At close range you will notice that the flowers are covered with fine pubescence and that the plant is leafless when in flower. A rosette of leaves that reach about 8 inches long and 2 inches wide appear shortly after flowering. This attractive species fortunately survives the periodic mowing of roadside swales. It is locally common along the back roads of Collier, Hendry and Lee counties, but is also present along some of Florida's busiest thoroughfares, such as the Florida Turnpike, Interstate 4 and Alligator Alley (Interstate 75). Needless to say, be very careful if you plan to stop along the side of busy interstate highways.



The spring ladies'-tresses, Spiranthes vernalis, growing in roadside ditches in St. Augustine, photographed by Terry Bottom

OUT OF THE CAR You will need to park your car and look closely among the roadside vegetation from December to March to see flowering plants of the soldier orchid (*Zeuxine strateumatica*). This naturalized orchid was reportedly imported into Florida from Asia in the 1930s from seeds that had contaminated shipments of centipede grass seed. It is now common throughout much of Florida in both natural and manmade habitats, from open prairies and meadows to mowed roadsides and even greenhouses. If you want to use the words "weed" and "orchid" in the same sentence, this species fits the bill. Another common name in Florida is lawn orchid, because of its propensity to colonize manicured lawns. Small white flowers are crowded together and plants can either be small with just a few flowers, or up to 6 inches tall with many flowers. The plants sometimes grow close together, giving rise to its species name, *strateumatica*, which is Greek for "army" or "company," a fanciful allusion to a company of soldiers. It is common along the roadsides of Everglades National Park in the vicinity of the Taylor Slough bridge and can be seen flowering from December into March.

Roadside ditches are a perfect place to find colonies of the water-spider orchid (*Habenaria repens*). The green spindly flowers are crowded along the upper half of the stem and may be present year-round in the right conditions. It can be abundant in either dry or flooded ditches, sometimes growing luxuriantly among floating vegetation. It even takes advantage of floating rafts of water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), a federal noxious weed native to South America. Another good place to look, especially if water hyacinth is present, is in or around the small ponds, or borrow pits, created when constructing access ramps to Florida's Turnpike and other interstate highways.

Wild coco (*Eulophia alta*) lives up to its species name by producing flowering stems that can reach several feet tall (*alta* means tall, or lofty) making it an easy plant to see when in flower. It is actually an easy plant to see even when not in flower because of its light green, palm-like pleated leaves. The flowers are green and purple and have been described as resembling a dog with erect ears and panting tongue. It can be found right along the edges of roadsides where they bisect wet prairies or other suitable natural habitat. In Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve, it is a rather frequent inhabitant along roadsides that bisect prairies and cypress forests. Look for it flowering in the autumn.

SOUTH FLORIDA FINDS If you find yourself in southern Florida in late winter or early spring, take a drive up Turner River Road, a 21-mile dirt road that begins at the H.P. Williams Roadside Park off Tamiami Trail (SR 41), and terminates at the Bear Island Unit in Big Cypress National Preserve. Here you will likely see the pine pink (*Bletia*

Continued on page 10



CULTIVATION

Continued from page 9



The lawn or soldier orchid, Zeuxine strateumatica, photographed by Suzanne Susko in Palm Coast

purpurea) flowering among other roadside vegetation. The leaves look similar to *Eulophia alta*, but there is a round hard pseudobulb at the base, and the flowers are pinkish purple. The pine pink is also rather common along some of the firebreak roads of Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park. These trails are great for hiking or biking, especially if you want to enjoy some peaceful solitude. To avoid getting impossibly lost, however, ask for a free copy of the map, Hiking and Biking Trails of Long Pine Key from the ranger desk inside the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center or at the ranger station at Royal Palm Hammock. Unfortunately, many Florida populations of this species are cleistogamous, producing flowers that become pollinated without the flowers' ever fully opening. However, a plant in full regalia will eventually reward you if you take the time to look at enough of them.

Although it typically isn't found growing directly on road swales, you can find the grass pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*) growing around culverts that pass beneath roadways. Culverts create perfect situations for many

wetland wildflowers, orchids included, because they are placed in low-lying areas to funnel water beneath the road. I have seen the grass pink growing around culverts along the road to Royal Palm Hammock in Everglades National Park as well as in Polk County near Lake Wales. It has exceptionally pretty pink (rarely white) flowers and, unlike most orchids, it holds its lip uppermost. Bees mistake the bristles on the lip for stamens and inadvertently pollinate the flowers through mimicry, receiving no pollinator reward whatsoever. The pollinia get stuck to the back of the bee as the lip collapses under its weight and, if not too frustrated, the bee will transfer the pollen to the next orchid it visits.

Photographing roadside orchids can be fun and rewarding, but it will seem somewhat surrealistic to be standing along a busy roadway, camera in hand, with cars passing by and people staring out their window wondering what you're doing. If only you could tell them, "I'm looking at wild orchids"

Excerpted from an article that appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine in July 2004 (Vol. 73:7, pp 508-513), reprinted with permission.



The water spider orchid, Habenaria repens, purchased from Plant Delights Nursery, photographed by Terry Bottom



CULTIVATION

The Species Behind Standard Cattleyas, Part 10

Rhyncholaelia digbyana by Don Herman

Rhyncholaelia digbyana, which is also known in the trade as Brassavola digbyana, is found in Mexico and Belize. It was introduced to England from Honduras in 1845 by Mrs. McDonald. She gave a plant to a Mr. Digby, who flowered the species that John Lindley then named Brassavola digbyana. This orchid is important to the hybridizer because it is the source of the full, frilly lips that so many of today's hybrids feature. This summer-blooming species also transmits to its progeny the most wonderful lemony fragrance and a tolerance to disease that many orchids do not have. Use of the species does reduce the number of flowers per stem expected with the progeny. High light is very important in its culture.

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.



*B. (syn. Rl.) digbyana 'Looking Good'
Grown and photographed by Allen Black*



*B. (syn. Rl.) digbyana
Grown by Sue Bottom,
photographed by Terry Bottom*

*Blc. (syn. Rlc.) Ports of Paradise 'Gleneyries
Green Giant' FCC/AOS
(Fortune x Rl. digbyana),
grown and photographed
by Steve Dorsey*



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Winter Orchid Festival at Krull Smith

The Orchid Festivals at Krull Smith are a great opportunity to meet up with quality orchid vendors without having to make the trip down to South Florida. Krull Smith packs their showroom with blooming bulbophyllums, cattleyas, phals, vandas and more. They invite orchid vendors from Florida, North Carolina, California and international locales to tempt you with their blooming orchids. It's a great way to catch up with your orchid friends and bring home new varieties. Mark your calendars, the next show is April 11 to 13.



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sheila Nathanson
Cl. Rebecca Northen



Grower Suzanne Susko
Tolu. Jairak Flyer 'Leopard'



Grower Keith Davis
Pot. (Memoria Mario Lanza x
Blc. Burdekin Storm)



Grower Janis Croft
Bulb. Emly Siegerist



Grower Jeff Milkins
C. Horace 'Maxima' AM/AOS



Grower Keith Davis
Pot. Carolina Splendor 'Runt of the Litter'



Grower Sue Bottom
Zga. Limelight



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
C. Louis Chaton



Grower Suzanne Susko
Pot. Kita Karano Hana 'Volcano Queen'



Grower Leasa Codner
Bl. Yellow Bird



Grower Janis Croft
Lc. (Aloha Case x Casitas Spring)



Grower Sheila Nathanson
Cym. Snow Court 'Hawaii'



Grower Leasa Codner
Eplc. René Marqués 'Flame Thrower' HCC/AOS

Link to all Submissions: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjC1dRi>

