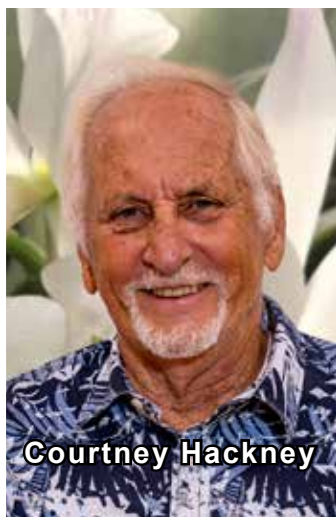




## CLUB NEWS



Courtney Hackney

### October 7 Meeting

by Janis Croft

#### Welcome and Thanks.

Tom Sullivan opened the meeting at 6:55 pm with 62 attendees. He thanked Mary, Dianne, Julie and Paul for the treats and reminded all to remember to "Drop a Dollar" if you enjoyed. The dollar helps us pay for the coffee and paper good supplies. Tom said we just had the final repotting clinic of the year; the next one will be in February.

**Orchid Shows.** Redland International Orchid Festival® is Oct 17-19 in south Florida. The Gainesville Orchid Society annual show in conjunction with the Kanapaha Gardens annual fall plant sale is Oct. 25 and the Delray Beach Orchid Society Show is Oct. 26. The Apopka International Fall Orchid Festival held at Krull Smith Nursery runs from Oct 30 - Nov 2. Featured international vendors and speakers include Fred Clarke on Catasetums; Theresa Hill, Olaf Grus and Mike Mims on Phals; and Dave Sorokowsy and Harold Koopowitz on Paphs.

**Club Business.** Linda Stewart welcomed our visitors and new members Doni Dowie and Clifford Walker. If you know of anyone in need of a cheering up or a get-well card, let Linda know by emailing her at [info@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@staugorchidsociety.org). Linda asked the October birthday people to raise their hands for a free raffle ticket.

**Supplies** - Potting mix and fertilizer were available on the back table. Email [info@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@staugorchidsociety.org) if you need supplies. We also had SAOS T shirts available with new colors, available on the back table.

**Virtual Show Table** - Courtney Hackney will conduct the Virtual Show Table starting at 7 pm on Monday, October 13. An email invitation will be sent with link and details.



**Show Table Voting.** Laura Kisse reminded all to vote for the Members Choice during

the break. Winners are announced at the end of the presentation.

**Library** – Howard brought in two copies of Courtney's book on Cattleyas. If you would like a book, magazine or light meter from the Library list on the website, send Howard a request to [info@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@staugorchidsociety.org) and he will bring the item(s) to the next meeting. Howard announced that we are looking for his replacement starting in January. If anyone would like to volunteer to be the club's librarian, please contact Sue Bottom.



**Show Table.** Courtney started with Vandas and first up was Tan Hoon Siang 'Peachy' and the numerous flowers exhibited the peach color. This hybrid has terete leaves where the next Vanda, V. Amoena, was a coerulea tessellata hybrid with broad and flat leaves. Unlike most Vandas, this hybrid can take cooler temperatures and stay out longer in our climate. V. Kultana Red Stripe is a sanderiana cross showing big purple, round flowers that overwhelm the inflorescence, a trait some consider crowded. Courtney then held up a Vandopsis Piliialoha (Phal. pulcherrima x V. falcata). This is an example of a new trend of crossing Phals with other genera. The Vndps. Piliialoha had small purple flowers on a stick like inflorescence. There were several crosses using Brassavola nodosa and Courtney commented that the species produces more flowers when the plant is grown more densely in the pot so don't be in a rush to repot. For the B. flagellaris, he suggested hanging on a swivel hook so as the air moves the plant will spin around and one will get flowers all around the plant.

Continued on page 3



# CLUB NEWS



## Upcoming Orchid Events

### October

- 11 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am  
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave
- 13 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm  
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace  
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 14 JOS Meeting, Phrag kovachii & its Hybrids  
James Arnold, JOS Member
- 17-19 Redland International Orchid Festival  
Fruit and Spice Park, Homestead
- 25 Gainesville Orchid Society Show  
Kanapaha Gardens
- 25-26 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show  
Fieldhouse at Old School Square
- 31-2 Fall Orchid Festival  
Krull Smith Orchids, Apopka

### November

- 31-2 Fall Orchid Festival  
Krull Smith Orchids, Apopka
- 4 SAOS Mtg, 80 Percentile Growing, 6:30  
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
- 8 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am  
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 11 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA  
Speaker TBA
- 15-16 Deerfield Beach Orchid Society Show  
Safe Schools Institute

### December

- 2 SAOS Christmas Auction, 6:30 pm  
Memorial Lutheran Church
- 9 JOS Christmas Auction  
Timaquana Country Club
- 13 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am  
Bob Foster Center, Mt. Dora 32757
- 13-14 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show  
Riverwalk Center

### January

- 3-4 Sarasota Orchid Society Show  
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
- 6 SAOS Meeting, Miniature Orchids, 6:30 pm  
Luis Ortiz, Orchid Hobbyist
- 9-11 Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show  
Charles Dodge City Ctr, Pembroke Pines
- 10 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am  
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 13 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA  
Speaker TBA
- 14 Virtual Show Table  
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace  
Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 16-18 Tamiami International Orchid Festival  
Dade County Fair Expo Center

### St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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



# CLUB NEWS

## Continued from page 1

Rlc. Bryce Canyon 'Splendiferous' had beautiful, lush pinkish purple leaves with a marigold throat. This is an older hybrid from the 70's. *C. jenmanii* is a species with a wonderful fragrance. The Ctsm. Jackie Lawson 'Freckles' truly lived up to its name with spots throughout the flower. Sue brought the *Habenaria Pegasus* 'Diamond Orchids.' One must reduce watering and place the tuberoid into dormancy at just the right time for the plant to wake up in the spring and grow another year. The flowers look like white birds in flight. Finally, a stunning *Cymbidium* (England's Rose x Gordon Gibbs) brought in by Harry McElroy had golden petals with deep purple spots and splash on the lip and throat.



**SAOS Program.** Sue announced our guest speaker and club member, Courtney Hackney, Professor Emeritus of Biology, UNF. Courtney specializes in Cattleyas and spoke on how to grow and flower them better. First he defined what a cattleya is by showing a slide of the pseudobulb, leaf sheath (new and old), rhizome and roots. The bloom sheath protects the flower and as the bud grows, it splits the sheath open. Then the ants and lizards will come around to eat the sugary sap oozing around the bud. Their assistance helps keep the pests from damaging the bud or young flower.

Cattleyas are a group within the orchid world that are only found in the New World including the Caribbean. Their size runs from very small miniatures of an inch or two to gigantic plants exceeding 4' tall. Cattleyas are epiphytes and grow by attaching to other things such as trees. If you understand how they grow in nature, you can then adapt your growing conditions to best match what they need. Courtney uses OrchidWiz to learn where the plant grows, its habitat and temperature preferences. Cattleya habitats range from steamy jungles to dry climates and some grow in annual wet and dry seasons. Many also grow at elevations where nights are cool and days warm.

Hybrids are a combination of species and the hybridizer picks clones to cross based on flower color, size and

durability. As hybrids are recrossed, the background species recede. It's important to know what is in the background to grow them well and one can look at the roots for help. Courtney said if the plant has thinner roots, it means it likes lots of water. Plants with thicker roots like to dry out between waterings. Roots are necessary for good growth and flowers and one's ability to grow good roots is critical.

One does this with water, nutrients and creating an environment conducive to root growth. Water is the most important element of culture. Ideal pH is between 4.5 and 7.0 and the total dissolved salts should be content dissolved salts content less than 100 ppm. Epiphytes are excellent scavengers of nutrients and nitrogen absorption is best at a pH range of 5.5 - 6.8. He suggested the ideal balance of nutrients is 8-3-13 (N-P-K) and a 5 to 1 Cal/Mag ratio. He suggested fertilizing weakly weekly and applying micronutrients quarterly if using R/O or rainwater. Courtney waters three times in a day, uses three different fertilizers in a month and does one watering with pure water and flushes the pots monthly. He then listed the main watering mistakes hobbyists make: using softened water, using ice cubes, over-fertilizing, neglecting to flush, and using the wrong media for your water quality.

Plants have an "energy budget" starting with basal metabolism. This is the energy that keeps the cells alive. Warmer conditions requires more energy. Next is growth, which is the energy needed to produce new leaves and roots. Finally, energy is needed for flowering. Light is the source of energy for your Cattleyas, not fertilizer. The range of light tolerance is based on the species but each plant can adjust to differing levels of light slowly.

Next Courtney asked how much time do you have to water. If you are a frequent waterer, choose coarse media and if you don't have much time, choose a denser medium. He closed by talking about the various pests we encounter and how he treats them.

## Meeting Conclusion.

Laura announced that the Members Choice went to Sue for her *Hab. Pegasus* 'Diamond Orchids.' Dianne then called out the lucky numbers for the Raffle Winners. Thanks to the helpful hands that stayed to help clean and store the tables, chairs and room.





# CLUB NEWS

*The Apopka International* **Oct 31 - Nov 2, 2025**  
**Fall Orchid Festival**

Featuring Speakers and Vendors from All Over The World!  
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME! • FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING!**

**AOS Judging**  
 Saturday, November 1  
 1:00pm

*Phalaenopsis hybrids yellow type*  
*©2015 International Phalaenopsis Alliance*

In Conjunction with The International Phalaenopsis Alliance Symposium

**Location: Krull-Smith Nursery**  
 2800 W Ponkan Rd • Apopka, FL 32712  
 Tel: (407) 886-4134 • orchids@krullsmith.com • www.krullsmith.com

**Speakers:**  
 Fred Clarke - Sunset Valley Orchids  
 Theresa Hill - Hillview Gardens  
 Mike Miles - Blue Ridge Orchids  
 Dave Sorokowsky - Paph Paradise  
 Olef Grus

**Vendors:**  
 Afti Orchids - South Africa  
 Blue Ridge Orchids - North Carolina  
 Brethren Orchids - Florida  
 Ching Hua Orchids - Taiwan  
 Florida Orchid House - Florida  
 Gold Country Orchids - California  
 Hillview Gardens - Oregon  
 Mainbow Orchids - Taiwan  
 Maranda Orchids - Florida  
 OPE Orchid Supplies - Florida  
 Orquideas Del Valle - Colombia  
 Paph Paradise - California  
 Sunset Valley Orchids - California  
 Tropical Exotique - Thailand  
 TropiFlora - Florida  
 Waban Orchids - Taiwan

Sponsored and Hosted by  
**Krull-Smith**

## November 4 Meeting

Become an 80 Percentile Grower  
 Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids

Fred will talk about how you can become one of the best orchid growers. Learn about the underlying reasons of how and why orchids grow as they do. He will explore the fundamentals and talk about advanced growing techniques to best grow them. Orchid plant culture is explained as you have never heard it before.



Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 42 years and has been hybridizing for 38 of those years. With over 34 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

Fred talks to our club every year or two and always brings fabulous catasetums, cattleyas and more. You can get a 10% discount on preorders from his website, if you order by October 14th. To preorder, populate the shopping cart with your selections, click Go to Payments.

- In the Shipping Address section, enter:  
 Full name: St. Aug Orchid Society.  
 Address: Nov. 4 meeting date.
- In the Billing Address section, fill out the fields indicate with an asterisk and then click continue.
- On the checkout page: indicate Cash on Delivery to pay at the meeting.

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

### American Orchid Society Corner

#### Webinars

- October 9, 8:30 pm, Everyone Invited  
 Greenhouse Chat - Ron McHatton
- October 13, 8:30 pm, AOS Members Only  
 Phragmipediums - Frank Cervera

#### Orchids Magazine this Month

- Paphiopedilum Hybrids – David Sorokowsky
- You Must Try a Chysis – David Rosenfeld
- Humidity & Vapor Pressure Deficit – Sue Bottom

## October Culture Notes

We usually receive our first cold snap around Halloween, so if you are growing outdoors, this is the time for you to make your winter preparations. Check your winter structure, test fire your heaters and start cleaning your plants. The shortening day length and cooler nights initiate all sorts of changes in your orchids. Your plants require less water and fertilizer now. Observe the rate at which your plants dry out after watering and make adjustments, gradually adding days in between your normally watering cycle. Consider removing shading from the greenhouse to allow

**What's in Bloom?**

Send pics by the 21st  
 Virtual Show Table  
 October 13th

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

Rlc. (Mem Roy Field x Rlc Raven Rock 'Hackneau')



# INSPIRATION

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# CULTIVATION



## Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,  
sbottom15@hotmail.com

**Q1.** I've isolated this phal and treated it with 3-1 Bayer and then later with Physan 20. but it's already spread to four other phalaenopsis. I don't know what it is. Nothing rubs off. The underside seems clean. Do

you have any ideas?



**A1.** That looks like mite damage on the top surface, but the bottom looks clean, so I'm thinking it's not the red spider mites but some of those much smaller mites. If you have a loupe or good magnifier, look for anything crawling. I would be thinking of spraying a miticide on all your phals, pronto, something with abamectin in it like Avid. If you don't have any miticide in your arsenal, get out the isopropyl alcohol and add some vegetable oil and dishwashing soap to it and spray all the surfaces. Then, order some Avid to keep on hand for mites.

**Q2.** What causes a new growth that starts off healthy to start browning at the tip, and then it gets stunted and eventually starts to slowly rot. I have seen that the most among orchids from the Stanhopea alliance. The growth on this Acineta started off great, a hard bulb with no sign of rot at the base. Now it has stopped growing and the tip is getting darker so I am sure it will wither away slowly.



**A2.** I haven't had that problem with Stanhopeas so I'm just guessing, but it looks like rot is setting in. Here's a trick from Keith Davis. Have you seen those little plastic cups like apple sauce comes in? You might try placing one of them over the new growth to prevent water from accumulating until it grows up a bit and hardens off, to see if that protects the tender new growth from rot.

**Q3.** Many of my dendrobiums did not get enough water last winter and did not bloom. The ones that bloomed don't have many keikis. I have a variety of stressed dendrobiums that now have many keikis. I took the keikis off when they had three leaves with three roots and planted them in precision Orchidata. Many of the keikis have died. Would ProMix or sphagnum moss have been better? Instead of removing the keikis from the stem, would it be better to cut the stem in sections for each keiki?



**A3.** The Orchidata would probably have worked if it had been watered every day or every other day until the roots grew into the mix. During the summer, the soft cane dendrobiums seem to really like monsoonal conditions before gradually reducing the water as we move into fall. Had you planted the keikis in sphag moss, it would have been more forgiving and not required that frequency of watering. I usually twist off the keikis if the cane is still plump, but if the cane is starting to desiccate, you can remove the cane and plant it with the keiki and the cane will help sustain the keiki until it becomes established. Here's a summary of [cultural tips](#) for different types of dendrobiums.



# CULTIVATION



## Share Your Orchids by Dr. Courtney Hackney

There is a saying among orchid hobbyists that “there is no such thing as a greenhouse too large”. For those addicted to orchids this will not come as a shock. All of us constantly must limit our acquisitions or face the prospect of finding more growing space. It does not matter if one has 12 or 12 thousand orchids; there

is always the need for more space.

Many of us “senior growers” like to think that we have mastered enough discipline to curate our collections so that the quality of the orchids is always improving. Favorites from long ago mingle with newly discovered special orchids so that it is difficult to find an orchid we like better. Even the super seedlings purchased a few years before do not match favorites collected over the years.

There are a few such growers in every orchid club. They look over each speaker’s sales table very carefully and only rarely purchase an orchid. These few have mastered the art of orchid collecting. Each meeting they bring a few of their favorites for everyone to enjoy and take great pride in having found old or rare clones of special hybrids or species. Such a collection takes a lifetime to build.

One of the most heartbreaking tragedies I have observed over the years has come from visiting an old orchid-growing friend or an older hobbyist whose orchid collection was well-known. In many instances, collections once carefully maintained had clearly exceeded the ability of their owner to take care of them. To see fantastic and rare orchids covered with scale or shriveled from lack of water is difficult.

Many great orchid collections were lost when their owners were rushed to a hospital or unable to spend time with their collection because of family illness. Snowstorms, power outages, and other devastating events seem to always occur during these times. One famous South Florida orchidist, Robert Scully Sr. turned his orchid business over to his son, Jones & Scully, Inc, and moved to Ocala, Florida. He selected only a small number of his famous clones to take with him; a number small enough to take care of in retirement. I always wondered which clones he selected given the fantastic collection from which he had to choose in his nursery.

At various times, I have tried to contemplate the dilemma of aging and reducing the size of my collection so that adequate care could be given to my favorite orchids. How



*Laelia purpurata*

does one reduce their collection from several thousand to a hundred or twenty five. It came as some comfort to discover that Robert Scully Sr. also could not resist adding a favorite clone or two each time he visited the family business in Miami such that his small greenhouse in Ocala was soon stuffed.

Clearly, even the strongest-willed orchid lovers among us cannot manage to slowly shrink their collection as they age. Helen Congleton, who passed away a few years ago, introduced me to a different approach. She maintained that the orchids in her greenhouse did not really belong to her. She was just taking care of these treasures for a while and was responsible for transferring them to others that would do the same.

Each time one of her cattleyas grew out of the pot, she would cut the lead three bulbs, pot the division and give the remaining bulbs in the old pot to an orchid growing friend that had expressed an interest in that orchid. She did the same with keikis of phals and cuttings or divisions for everything she treasured. Today, I am the guardian of a number of these plants and I try to do the same; search for a suitable host to whom I will someday transfer the orchid.

Most of us prepare a will or let our loved ones know our wishes when we die, but often the orchids we so diligently collected and cared for are forgotten in that preparation. Recently, I made a list of my favorite orchids. Beside each plant is the name of someone I know that expressed an interest in the clone. In the case of some sudden event, my wish is that these be distributed to those named. So many great collections are lost or sold en masse as pot plants to people who do not appreciate how unique a special old clone is or the role a clone played in breeding today’s magnificent hybrids.

The only way to ensure that others will be able to appreciate these special orchids in the future and add them to their collections is to share and be sure that there is someone designated to care for what was once very special to you. Today, my collection is full of orchids that came from special people I have known over the years and each time that orchid blooms I remember them. That is just a special benefit of being a host for “special orchids”.

*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 October 2009.*





# CULTIVATION

## The Bow Bells Revolution

by AA Chadwick, courtesy of AOS

It has been nearly 65 years, almost the length of a human lifetime, since a *Cattleya* hybrid named Bow Bells burst upon the orchid stage. The year was 1945 and the stage was the September meeting of the Trustees of the American Orchid Society. At the meeting, Clint McDade of Rivermont Orchids exhibited five plants of a new white *cattleya* hybrid called Bow Bells that had such outstanding flowers that one was awarded a First Class Certificate and the whole group received a rare Silver Medal of Excellence from the American Orchid Society. Amazingly, four of the five plants were seedlings flowering for the first time.

The next appearance of *C. Bow Bells* was at the 1948 Miami Orchid Show where two more plants received First Class Certificates from the American Orchid Society. Such awards were unprecedented, and in one brief moment in the long history of *cattleyas*, this fragile flower had revolutionized the quality of white *cattleya* hybrids. It had raised it to the rarefied level of near-perfection by all the judging standards and *C. Bow Bells* would go on to become one of the most awarded hybrids in orchid history.

*Cattleya Bow Bells* was a product of the breeding program of the British orchid company Black & Flory who gave it its name and registered it with the Royal Horticultural Society in April 1945. Black & Flory was known for breeding fine *cattleya* hybrids and Clint McDade had purchased a large number of *C. Bow Bells* seedlings before any of them had flowered. When they began blooming in his greenhouses on Signal Mountain, Tennessee, he found he was sitting on a gold mine. McDade later described *C. Bow Bells* as “a botanical phenomenon among orchid plants.” He said, “All plants grown from this one seed pod are strikingly similar in having all the superior qualities desired in orchids. The plant itself is noted for its vigor and consequently is less difficult than most plants to grow. The flowers have all the desirable qualities of a fine orchid. The wide petals and sepals have good form and carriage and the large wide lip has a ruffled edge.” Some white *cattleya* crosses before *C. Bow Bells* had produced a few good varieties, but with *C. Bow Bells* almost all the plants were worthy of an award.



*C. Bow Bells 'Honolulu' (Edithae x Suzanne Hye)*  
Grown and photographed by Courtney Hackney.

Earlier whites were often poor growers, so *C. Bow Bells* was superior on all counts to its predecessors. After giving 49 awards, including 18 Awards of Merit and 5 First Class Certificates to the first plants exhibited, American Orchid Society judges decided there was no virtue in giving additional awards to *C. Bow Bells*. They were all too good.

*C. Bow Bells* was a simple cross. It was just a primary hybrid, *Cattleya Suzanne Hye*, crossed on a secondary hybrid, *Cattleya Edithae*. The *C. Edithae* was the famous clone ‘White Empress’ which received a First Class Certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society in England in 1914. *C. Edithae* ‘White Empress’ had been used extensively in breeding white *cattleyas* over the years but with only fair results. The *C. Suzanne Hye*, however, was simply the finest white *cattleya* Black & Flory had ever seen and it is the *C. Suzanne Hye* that is credited with making *C. Bow Bells* so outstanding.

*C. gaskelliana alba* x *C. mossiae alba* = *C. Suzanne Hye*  
*C. Suzanne Hye* x *C. trianaei alba* = *C. Edithae*  
*C. Edithae* x *C. Suzanne Hye* = *C. Bow Bells*

The story of *C. Bow Bells*, of course, is not just the tale of a fine white *cattleya* hybrid, for like all good stories, there are elements of romance, sadness and intrigue intertwined in it. The hybrid was named for the bells of St. Mary-Le-Bow – a church in the financial district of London. The church was such a legend in the city that it was said that you were

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# CULTIVATION

## Continued from page 8

not a true cockney or Londoner unless you were born within the sound of its bells. The church was badly damaged by Hitler's bombers during the second world war, and it was still in need of repair when I first saw it in 1955. I suspect Black & Flory named their cross Bow Bells to help with the effort to raise money to rebuild the church and, perhaps, as a reminder of the church's survival and the survival of London itself during the war. The hybrid is certainly a worthy tribute to a great city.

But there is also the sad story of the fate of the magnificent parent, C. Suzanne Hye, which was used to make C. Bow Bells. The plant was so outstanding that Black & Flory did everything possible to see nothing happened to it. When it was clear that Germany was planning to invade Great Britain, Black & Flory took the unusual step of packing up the plant and shipping it to safety in the United States where it would be over 3000 miles from the war zone. Safe passage, however, was not in the cards for Cattleya Suzanne Hye and the boat on which it was traveling to America was torpedoed by a German submarine. The boat sank to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean and the plant was lost forever – and no one could ever remake the fine original C. Bow Bells again.

Most plants of C. Bow Bells were triploids genetically which suggests that one parent was a tetraploid and the other a normal diploid. The tetraploid parent, of course, had to be Black & Flory's C. Suzanne Hye. Since triploids are usually sterile and cannot be used for breeding, there was a lot of concern at first that C. Bow Bells could not be used to produce other hybrids. Genetic studies by a number of groups, however, turned up a few diploid and tetraploid plants that could be used to make new hybrids. The tetraploids had the best flowers and were the ones used to make the first crosses.

C. Bow Bells was primarily a fall-flowering hybrid. Although an odd plant flowered at other times of the year, these plants were relatively rare. Merritt Huntington at Kensington Orchids in Washington, D.C. had two varieties that always flowered in late July or early August and these are the only C. Bow Bells I know that flowered reliably in the mid-summer. Since most plants flowered from September through December, C. Bow Bells missed the biggest season for white cattleya cut flowers, which was in the spring with Easter, Mother's Day and June Weddings. In an effort to pull the flowering season into the



*C. Bow Bells 'St. Louis Botanical' (Edithiae x Suzanne Hye)  
Grown and photographed by Keith Davis.*



*C. Bob Betts 'White Lightning' AM/AOS (Bow Bells x mossiae)  
Grown and photographed by Leasa Codner.*

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# CULTIVATION

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***C. Princess Bells 'Betty's Bouquet' AM/AOS (Empress Bells x Bob Betts) Grown and photographed by Jeff Milkins.***

spring market, the first cross McDade made with *C. Bow Bells* was with a spring-flowering large-flowered cattleya species. The results were phenomenal. Not only did the cross flower in the spring, but some plants had even better shape than their parent, *C. Bow Bells*. McDade named the cross *Cattleya Bob Betts*, for his excellent grower at

Rivermont and registered the plant in 1950 as *Cattleya Bow Bells* crossed with *Cattleya mossiae alba 'Wagneri'*. Despite the fact that alba varieties of *C. mossiae* have notoriously poor shape, a lot of other commercial growers began remaking *C. Bob Betts*. The hybrid was, after all, the best spring white cattleya available. Growers used every

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# CULTIVATION

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fine variety of *C. mossiae* alba available to remake *C. Bob Betts*, but when the seedlings began flowering, something was wrong. All the remakes of *C. Bob Betts* had poorer shape than *C. Bow Bells* and were painfully inferior to McDade's original cross – which by then had become the most awarded white cattleya in history with 66 American Orchid Society awards – even more than its parent *C. Bow Bells*. Because of the failure of the remakes of *C. Bob Betts* and the fact that the original *Bob Betts* cross produced mostly tetraploids, speculation was rampant for years as to just what plant McDade actually crossed with *C. Bow Bells* to make *C. Bob Betts*. The intrigue was almost palpable, and by the time growers realized they could not remake *C. Bob Betts* any more than they could remake *C. Bow Bells*, white cattleya hybrids had moved on to greener pastures.

While many growers had tried to remake *C. Bob Betts*, many more broke new ground by crossing *C. Bow Bells* with every good white cattleya in sight and the bells rang out for years with new hybrids. There were *C. Princess Bells*, *C. Empress Bells*, *C. Angel Bells*, *C. Sleigh Bells*, *C. Laura Bells*, *C. Vesper Bells*, *C. Signal Bells*, *C. Tiffin Bells*, *C. Tribells*, *C. Gaston Bells*, *Bc. Heaton Bells*, *Lc. Margaret Bells* and the list went on and on. In no time at all, *C. Bow Bells* had fathered a whole new generation of white cattleya hybrids – hybrids that would dominate the genetics of fine white cattleyas even to this day. Because of its excellent shape, *C. Bow Bells* was even crossed with large purple cattleyas in the hope that it would somehow improve their shape too.

I have pictured a few of the well-known varieties of hybrids that have *C. Bow Bells* in their ancestry to show how remarkable these offspring are – but there are, of course, many more *C. Bow Bells* progeny grown by commercial growers and hobbyists that are just as good. The two originals, *C. Bow Bells* and its first born, *C. Bob Betts*, however, are still hard to beat and are often better than the multitude of white hybrids that came after them.

Lots of people have a sentimental spot in their heart for *C. Bow Bells* and I am no exception. When I went into the cattleya cut-flower business in 1955, my partner, Louis Grabosky, had just bought 600 flowering-size *C. Bow Bells* seedlings from Everest McDade. The plants were from a selfing of the famous *C. Bow Bells* 'Honolulu' and they formed the basis for our fall production of white cattleyas. In 1962, I took the finest variety from this group of *C. Bow Bells* and exhibited it at the first orchid show of the Central Florida Orchid Society in Orlando, Florida. The plant won Best of Show and I named it "variety Anne Chadwick" for my bride of just a few months. The plant, the silver bowls, the silver cream and sugar service and

the blue and multicolored ribbons along with Anne's smiling face and slender figure, were pictured in full color in the Orlando daily newspaper, the Orlando Sentinel, not once, but twice. My wife, of course, was hooked on orchids from that day to this and I can only say thank you, thank you, thank you to *Cattleya Bow Bells* – and thank you 'Anne Chadwick'; it has been a wonderful ride.

*This article appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine in June 2010 (Vol. 79:6, pp 332-335) and the Chadwick Orchids website, <https://www.chadwickorchids.com/content/bow-bells-revolution>, reprinted with permission.*



*C. Angel Bells 'Suzie' AM/AOS (Empress Bells x Little Angel)  
Grown and photographed by Suzanne Susko.*





# ORCHID ADVENTURES



## Jacksonville Orchid Society Fall Festival

The weather behaved this year for a glorious weekend at the Jacksonville OS Fall Festival. There were orchids everywhere, inside and out, and many disappeared into people's vehicles. This year JOS added a few orchid talks for orchid growers interested in learning more about their beauties. We had lots of fun talking to our orchid buddies and found a few new orchids we just couldn't live without!





# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Sheila Nathanson**  
**Cycnoches Super Cooper**



**Grower Suzanne Susko**  
**Epl. Pink Marie**



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**Hab. Pegasus 'Diamond Orchids'**



**Grower Ellen Fay**  
**Blc. Phinyophan Boy**



**Grower Eric Milstrey**  
**Eplc. Don Herman 'Gold Rush' HCC/AOS**



**Grower Courtney Hackney**  
**Blc. Volcano Blue 'Volcano Queen'**



**Grower Denise Duncan**  
**Blc. Norman's Bay 'Low' FCC/AOS**





# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Suzanne Susko**  
*C. intermedia* var. *orlata* 'Crownfox' AM/AOS



**Grower Claude Hamilton**  
*C. bowringiana* forma *alba* 'Hamlyn' CHM/AOS



**Grower Steve Dorsey**  
*C. Bactia* 'Grapewax' HCC/AOS



**Grower Deborah Fox**  
*C. Frans Hais* 'Majesty' 4N



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
*Blc. Suzuki's Yellow Flare*



**Grower Keith Davis**  
*Blc. Lenette's Snow Storm* 'Reynolda Village'  
HCC/AOS

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

