



Central Jersey Orchid Society Newsletter

May 2019 Issue

President's Message May 2019

I want to thank Luanne for her presentation about Karen, Luanne's and Terry's recent trip to Costa Rica. I hope it inspires more members to visit this beautiful country and experience its great botanical diversity. From the Monteverde Rainforest to the wonderful beaches and resorts, Costa Rica is just a very special place. I was pleased to see that the SACRO organization is trying to save the beautiful Guanylate skinneri orchid.

I received lots of favorable comments about the Q&A session. I think everybody gained some new knowledge of how to grow their orchids better. Many members were surprised by the answers provided by the panel about fertilizer. Everyone used a different one and at different concentrations. This just accentuates my point that it is not the fertilizer that is the critical component of orchid culture. What is most important is the orchidist overall expertise on how to best grow different genera under their conditions. You may have purchased a superior hybrid cross but that orchid will not prosper without excellent culture.

From the vote at the meeting it was clear that members want to reinstitute our annual potting party. We will schedule the event for one of next spring's meetings. There was also

a consensus that community pots are desired so members can get several of each variety.

Please make sure to reply to the picnic invite and provide info on what you are going to bring.

See you at the picnic Sunday June 2 at 5 PM



Brassia Rex (verrucosa x gireoudiana):
Jonathan Weiner

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Meetings and Events 2019-2020

Meetings are held the first
Wednesday of the month at the at
the Johnson Education Center
(D&R Greenway Land Trust) One
Preservation Place Princeton, NJ
08540

Sept: Ed Weber: Topic TBA

Oct Wayne Hollenbach Topic TBA

Nov: Richard Ho: Mounting
orchids and their Care.

Dec: Holiday Party

Jan: TBA

Feb: TBA

March: TBA

Apr: TBA.

May: TBA

June: Annual CJOs Picnic

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Vice President -Chris Bevins
njinsptr28@yahoo.com

Treasurer/Secretary -Anne Skalka
anne@skalkacpa.com

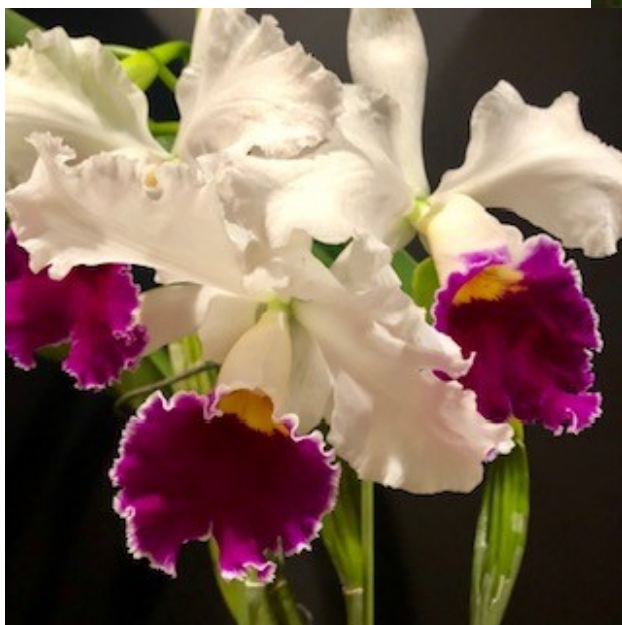
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JUDGING May 2019

Cattleya

1. **C Heathii (loddegesii x walkeriana):**
Jim M.



2. **Lc. Park Ridge: Alex Matthews**

3. **L. Brazilian Angel (angereri x milleri):**
David Carrick



Den/Onc

1. Den Roy Tokunaga: Joe Thomas



2. Brassidium Nittany Gold: Jaime Santiago

3. Den. NOID: Larry Steele



Phal/Vanda

1. **V. Margaret Starner**
(Susane Rutzke x Trevor Rathbone):
George G.



2. **V. Tricolor suavis: Jonathan Weiner**

3. **Phal. Jia Ho Summer Love: Shirley Li**



Paph/Phrag

1. Paph. lowii: Joe Thomas



2. Paph. NOID: Renee Joley

3. Paph Berenice:
(lowii x philippinense)
Joe Thomas



Species

1. **Brassia Rex (verrucosa x gireoudiana):**
Jonathan Weiner



2. **Dipteranthus pellucidus:**
George W.

3. **Ixyophora viridisepela**
Chris Bevins



Orchid of the Month



Brassia Rex: Jonathan Weiner

Luanne Arico's Trip to Costa Rica –SACRO

(SAVE COSTA RICAN ORCHIDS)

Rescuing the Costa Rica National Flowers





Rescuing the Costa Rica National Flower, Guaria Morada (a.k.a., Guarianthe Skinneri) through:

- Educating School Children about orchid culture and pollination
- Dispersion of Orchid Seeds across Costa Rica
- In Vitro Propagation and commercialization to discourage the poaching of native Costa Rican orchid species
- Regional gardens to benefit tourism and help researchers study orchids in their own habitats.

For more information on SACRO and to view the video online please go to sacro.or.cr

How Do You Grow?

Each month, I would like to show a member's growing methods/conditions. We started with ours. Please send me pictures of your growing conditions (summer/winter) edsharkf@yahoo.com No submission this month. Let's get some pictures of your growing space

May's Question and Answer Session

Lots of good information by the Society's experts at the meeting



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

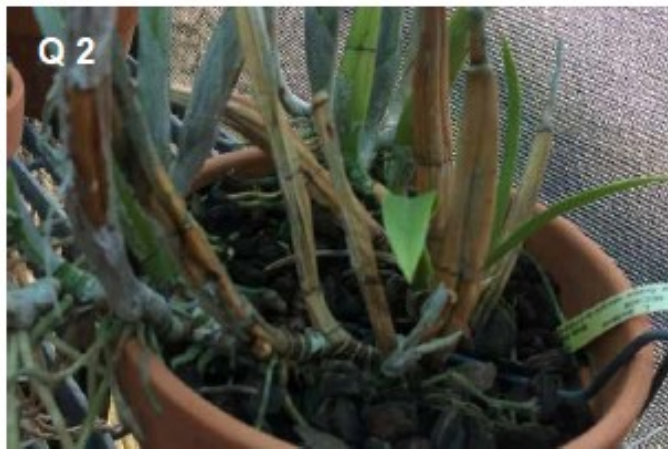
by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@gmail.com

Q1. My oncidium is firmly established in the pot but the roots are exposed and hanging over the edge. Should this be repotted in the early spring and should the roots be covered with the medium?

A1. Roots adapt to what they are growing in, aerial roots that have adapted to growing in the air will not adapt well to growing in media, roots adapted to growing in ProMix will not adapt well to growing in bark, etc. So, when time comes to repot in the spring, I would give the aerial roots a hair cut, so they would fill perhaps 2/3 of the pot. Get the plant situated in the pot, and put an inch or two of medium in the pot, and then as you see new rootlets branching from the aerial roots, you can backfill a little each week so the new rootlets will grow into the new mix and adapt to that mix.



Q2 This cattleya has soft brown discoloration, what should I do?



A2. That looks like Rhizoctonia, that is moving from the older part of the plant through the rhizome to the forward



part of the plant as well as moving up the pseudobulbs. You will have to cut away all the infected tissue and repot the healthy growing leads into fresh mix.

Q3. My orchid has been in the same position for a few years near the window facing south east by the heater. There are no sign of insects. What should I do?



A3. I suspect mites, from the stippling pattern, and the warm dry location in the house. Sometimes you have to get a magnifying glass to see them, or wipe a kleenex across the bottom of the leaf and see if you find little dark blotches on the kleenex. I would suggest you take it to the sink and give the leaves a thorough bath top and bottom with the sink sprayer and then get a spray bottle of isopropyl alcohol and spray the leaf surfaces, perhaps making the alcohol spray a weekly ritual. Belinda updated us "I just wiped it with a tissue and the tissue was a rusty color with tiny dark specks."



Plant Label

Courtney's Growing Tips

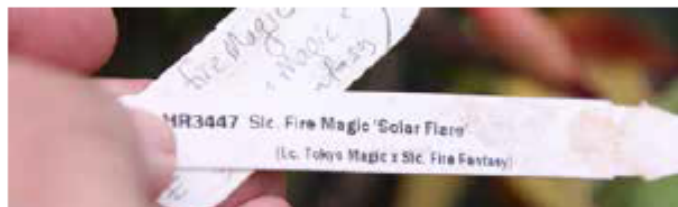
A is for apple, B is for boy. Does that sound familiar? Most of us have long forgotten that we started with the basics when we learned to read. Many new Orchid hobbyists must remember that it took them a long time to learn to read and accept that it will take awhile to learn the language of orchids. More advanced

growers must try and recall how difficult the terminology of Orchids was in the beginning and not overwhelm new hobbyists with jargon. Orchid names may seem simple now, but only because we learned the language.

Species names are perhaps the most difficult, not just because they are derived from Latin and Greek roots, but because there are underlying conventions that go unspoken, but must be understood to appreciate the language of orchids. All living things in nature are identified by two names. When naming a species this binomial nomenclature is used, e.g. *Cattleya bicolor*. The first name is the genus and the second is the species, although they both are used to describe one kind of Orchid. There may be many different kinds of *Cattleyas*, but the combination of the two names is only applied to this one type of Orchid. There may be other species named *bicolor*, but they are in other genera, e.g. *Lycaste bicolor*.

Rules for naming orchids species are long and elaborate and usually accomplished by plant taxonomists. The first one to name a new species must describe the plant, place a dry specimen in a plant museum (Herbarium), and publish the description. Often two different people will name the same new species using different names. The first published description is the one that takes precedence. Thus, *Cattleya warscewiczii* is the accepted name of the much easier to pronounce *Cattleya gigas*. They are the same species. Note that for a naturally occurring species the genus is always capitalized and the species name always in lower case. For convenience and to save space, *Cattleya* is abbreviated *C.* There is a list of accepted abbreviations accepted by the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society).

Species often have more than one color form or growth form that are given varietal status. *Cattleya bicolor* var *brasiliensis* refers to a certain population of tall growing



members of this species, while *C bicolor alba* designates a plant with green flowers and a white lip no matter what population produced it. In Orchid jargon, the varieties that refer to color often are retained in a name, while those designating a growth form or area from which a plant came are often dropped. There may be many different clones of *C bicolor alba*, each grown from an individual seed. Clones that are exceptional in some way or gain an award of some kind are also given a clonal name. Thus, *C bicolor alba* 'Orchidglade' SM/SFOS refers to a specific clone named Orchidglade that was granted a Silver Medal by the South Florida Orchid Society. Divisions of that plant, even if the divisions were made before the award, will carry the same clonal name.

Orchid hybrids also follow the same general protocol, i.e. a Genus and Specific name. The specific name is not described in a scientific journal, but is registered with the RHS. If a hybrid is a cross of two *Cattleya* species, it still carries the same genus name. If, however, the hybrid combines two or more genera an artificial Genus will also be registered with the RHS. The hybrid between *Laelia purpurata* and *C mossiae* was registered as *Laeliocattleya Callistoglossa*. Note that both names are capitalized. Clones of hybrids may also be given varietal names as well as clonal names.

There are natural hybrids that are found in the wild. Most were originally described as new species, but later recognized as natural hybrids. These are designated as follows: *Cattleya xHardyana*, the natural hybrid between *C dowiana* and *C warscewiczii*. If an orchid nursery remakes this hybrid it should be called *Cattleya Hardyana* to separate it from its wild kin.

Many modern hybrids can be traced back many generations to the original species from which they were derived. Records of who first made the hybrid, when it was made and when it first flowered are recorded in Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids that is maintained and updated by the RHS. Once you learn the language, volumes of "Sander's" can be a wealth of information and a lot of fun to examine.

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 March 2002.

Equitant Oncidium Culture – A Practical

Approach: by Anita Aldrich, courtesy of the American Orchid Society

In an earlier article on equitant culture (AOS Bulletin, July 1986, pp. 676-683), I briefly discussed pot culture and recommended using any good mix which 'drained well and allowed ample air circulation about the roots'. This is still valid advice for pot culture but perhaps not the simplest.

In the intervening years the "impossible" happened: my greenhouse wall space ran out. Although I personally prefer the mounted method for seedlings, I was forced to expand to pot culture in order to utilize available bench space. As a result, I tried several different, readily available media in search of the one that would provide the best growth under my conditions.

The bark and peat-lite mix which I had been using in the past retained too much moisture; the mounted plants over the benches were being misted daily, and the pots below never had a chance to dry out. So this mix was modified by simply omitting the peat. Although the plants grew well, the main problem was the growth of mold in the medium. This tended to cause the bark to break down quickly and necessitated yearly repotting — more work for me and more disturbance to the plants.

A seedling grade mix of charcoal, perlite and a small amount of peat was tested and provided excellent results, although the dust generated during handling made potting somewhat unpleasant. Additionally, each pot required enlargement of the drain hole because of the tendency of the medium to aggregate and block it.

New Zealand sphagnum had been highly praised, so it, too, was given a trial. Although I was quite apprehensive about the danger of overwatering, my conditions surprisingly produced the opposite problem. If the moss was allowed to dry out past a certain point, it became very difficult to rewet. However, if the right moisture balance was struck, the plants grew with great vigor. Unfortunately, so did the larvae of a small moth which found the sphagnum to be its medium of choice at egg-laying time. Any accelerated growth was offset by eventual root damage.

In spite of the fact that the few objections I had to each of the various media could have been handled, their common disadvantage was the time involved in the potting operation. I could still mount two or three plants in the same time it took to pot up one. But I figured this was the price I would have to pay for good growth.

This was about the time Serendipity - that benevolent guardian angel that watches over crazy orchid growers - stepped in. Virtually all of my seedlings are mounted and hung on wire walls throughout the greenhouse. It was during a prolonged reorganization of the wall space to



hang some newly arrived plants that the problem provided its own solution. The plants were promptly mounted on pressed-cork slabs, but having no place to hang them, I set them in 2 inch pots until I could get to them.

As it turned out, they were "gotten to" a few months later! When I began removing them from the holding pots, the painfully simple answer struck me. The plants had done very well, putting on root growth comparable to that of the hanging plants.

This "discovery" has had several advantages, not the least of which is that I can mount all seedlings as I prefer for best growth (and do it at least twice as fast as potting them in a mix). If wall space is currently at a premium, the mounted plants can be set into pots for bench growing. When seedlings selected for breeding or exhibition outgrow the holding pot, they can be moved up to three-inch pots and potted with or without medium as preferred or simply fastened to larger mounts.

The sheet moss I use for padding when mounting seedlings has proven to be a good medium in itself. It is simple to add an extra portion when moving the plant to a larger pot. It holds the right amount of moisture while remaining open for good drainage and air circulation.

And for some reason the moths don't invade it. For growers who are unsure whether their conditions are amenable to pot culture, this method allows them to sidle up to potting without totally committing the plant to a particular medium. If mounted culture seems too dry, the plant on its slab can be set into a clay pot and moisture stepped up a bit at a time. If this still proves to be on the too dry side, medium can be sifted in around the base of the plant and watering adjusted accordingly. The plant never has to be disturbed!

Commercially, this system has two distinct advantages for the client. Shipping is more economical because the pot is not needed, and trauma to the plant is minimized by eliminating unpotting for bare-root shipment or removal from the slab for potting on arrival. The grower whose preference is pot culture can simply add pot and medium. Those who prefer mounts can hang the plant as is, attach it to a larger mount or place it in a pot on the bench.

Voila! The greenhouse space available for equitants has just expanded!

This article appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine, in April 1991 (Vol. 60:4, pp 314-315), reprinted with permission.

Orchid Events

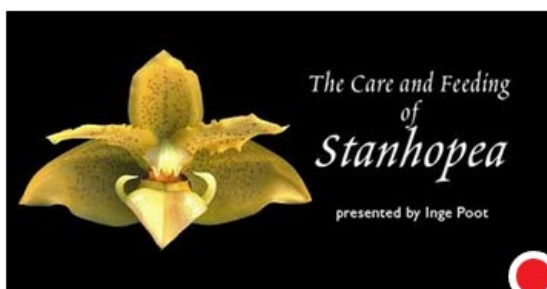


Another reason to join AOS

You get to enjoy another article by our own David Rosenfeld in the AOS Magazine



Upcoming AOS Webinars for AOS Members



The Care and Feeding of Stanhopea

Inge Poot



Wednesday, June 5th, 2019
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT



Greenhouse Chat June 2019

Ron McHatton



Thursday, June 13th, 2019
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT

Please join the American Orchid Society (AOS)

They need our support to exist. They offer many resources to new and expert growers. Membership is very reasonable and you get the Orchids Magazine plus more.

Membership is \$65 for Print/digital or \$40 for the digital only (see magazine online only)

There are many other benefits to joining. See their website **AOS.ORG**