



Central Jersey Orchid Society Newsletter

November 2019

President's Message November 2019

Another excellent meeting! Wade Hollenbach gave a very informative talk about different genera that you should consider growing. What was especially nice was the additional cultural information he provided to accompany the photos. Wade was also pleased with the number of orchids he sold to our members.

By now, you should have received your invitation to our Holiday Party if you have paid your dues. Please respond promptly and let Tamara and Mary Ann know what food item you will be bringing. I am happy to report that I have arranged with Newman's Nursery in Hilo Hawaii for gift orchids for everyone. They provided the orchids last year which were lovely.

Especially important is the date of our January meeting. Since New Year's day falls on the usual date of our meeting we will have our meeting the next day, Thursday January 2, 2020. Our speaker will be David Off from Waldor Orchids. David is a 3rd or 4th generation orchid grower and is a national authority on Cattleyas and their hybrids. I strongly encourage as many of you as possible to attend and hear David. I believe he will also bring plants to sell.

Orchid of the Month



**Aerides Punctinello
Joe Thomas**

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St Augustine Orchid Society

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: David Off of Waldor Orchids

Feb: Bayard Saraduke

March: Webinar

Apr: Potting party / panel discussion.

May: Auction

June: Annual CJOs Picnic

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JUDGING Nov. 2019

Cattleya:

1. *Laelia purpurata* var. *Shusteriana*
Alex Matthews



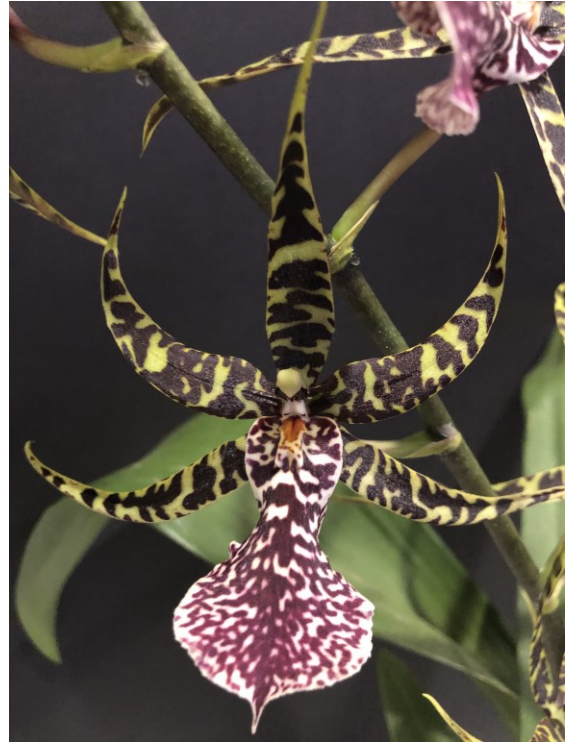
2. Blc George King 'Serendipity' AM
David Carrick



3. (C. Circle of Life x Pot. Cloud Nine)
Jim Murtha

Dendrobium/Oncidium:

- 1 .Arthura (Bakerara) Sea Snake 'Unforgettable':
Jaime Santiago



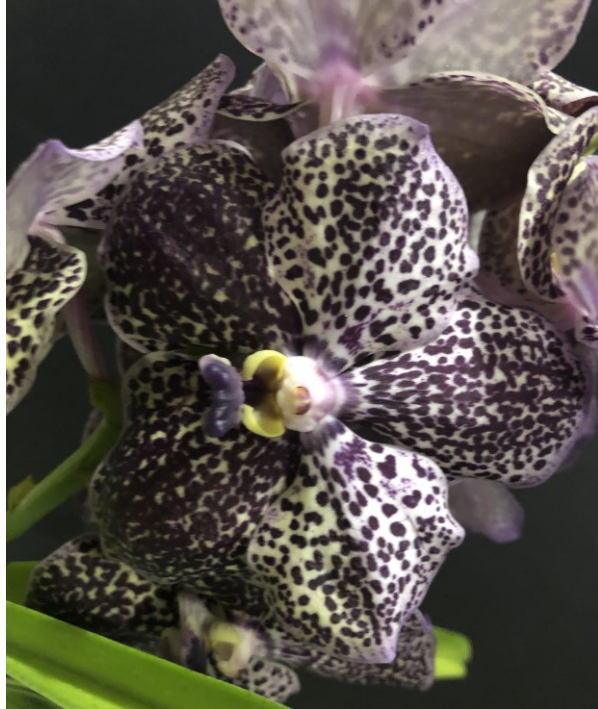
2. Oncidium Jiuhbao Gold 'NN'
Jaime Santiago



- 3 Den Enobi Purple 'NN'
Yuliye Brona

Vanda/Phals:

1. **V. Kulwade**
Joe Thomas



2. **(V. Mimi Palmer x V. Tesselata)**
George Wallace

3. **V. Suksamran Sunlight 'Sweet Orange':**
Jim M.



Other:

1. **Clowestum Joy Prout**
Chris Bevins



2. **Cycnodes Wine Delight**
Chris Bevins

- 3 **Zygopetalum Advance Australia**
Yuliye Brona



Species:

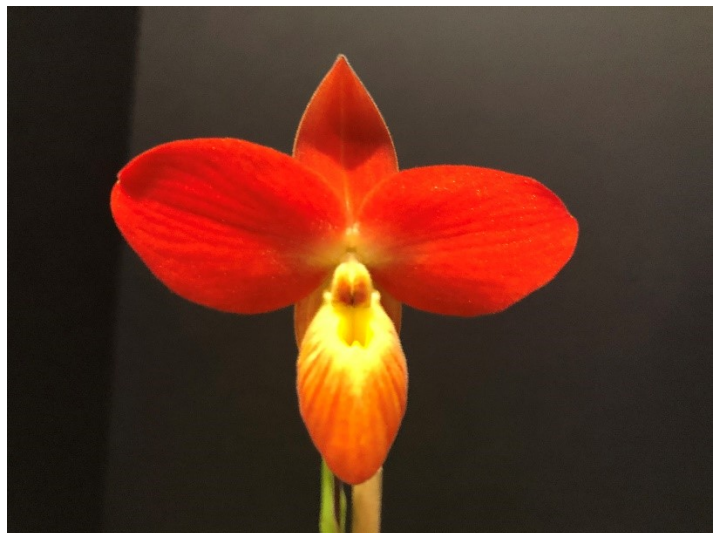
1. *Cymbidium Kanran Nak*
Shirly Li



2. *Spiranthes speciosa*
George Wallace

Paphs/Phrags:

1. *Phrag besseae*
Luanne A



Orchid of the Month:



Aerides Punchinello: Joe Thomas

Reminder

**January CJOs meeting is not the regular day.
Our meeting is Thursday January 2, 2020!**

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

American Orchid Society



Upcoming AOS Webinars for AOS Members

A banner featuring a close-up of pink orchids. The word "Webinars" is written in large white text on the left. On the right, there is a text box with the following information:

Our next webinar...

Tuesday, December 10th, 2019
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST

Conservation of *Sacoila lanceolata* in Florida, A Tale of Success

Saving Sacoila

[REGISTER NOW](#) [LEARN MORE](#)

Public Member-Only



Conservation of *Sacoila lanceolata* in Florida, A Tale of Success

Jennifer Reinoso

Tuesday, December 10th, 2019
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST

Saving Sacoila

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)



Orchid Travels in Peru with Ken Jacobsen

Ken Jacobsen

Thursday, January 9th, 2020
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST

Peru Orchids in situ

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)



ChatGreenhouse Chat January 16, 2020

Ron McHatten

Thursday, January 16th, 2020
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST

Orchid Q&A

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

The AOS site is full of information. Here is just one of their menu drop down items:

AOS Orchid Question and Answer

<http://www.aos.org/orchids/orchids-question-answer.aspx>

Tip of the month (Luanne's)

My tip of the month is "know your water". A TDS (total dissolved solids) meter can be purchased online for about \$20 and will give you an indication of how much junk is in your water. This is especially important if you have municipal water that comes from various sources, as I do. I have reverted to mixing my Orchid water using 3 parts distilled and 1 part tap water to get the TDS down below 200.

IMPORTANT AOS AUCTION



Annual anticipated event!



**American Orchid Society
Northeast Judging Center**

**Orchid Auction
December 21, 2019**

Plant Preview 9:30am, bidding starts at 10:30am

**The Frelinghuysen Arboretum
353 East Hanover Ave, Morris
Township, NJ**



FREE admission, parking
and lunch buffet.

Cash or check accepted,
sorry no credit cards



Over 100 rare and hard to find plants!

**Please support this event if
you are able**

This has become a fun and anticipated annual event as well as a chance for many orchid friends who normally don't get to see each other often, to catch up.

**This annual
fundraiser helps our
judging center raise funds
to rent space that allows us
to support plant awards for
societies, organizations and
commercial growers
throughout our region.**

And of course there are the
great orchids up for bid!

The following is reprinted with permission from the St Augustine Orchid Society

CULTIVATION



Fall Orchid Culture

by Dr. Courtney Hackney
hackneau@comcast.net

Fall is a time when some kinds of orchids need very different care from what they required in the summer. In some cases, these differences are very great, while in others, the cultural changes required are more subtle.

Standard Phalaenopsis, those with large flowers and no fragrance, require a cool down period of 7-10 days to initiate flowering. How cold should they get? Most experienced hobbyists let temperatures get into the low 60s or even upper 50s, which generally works well. This process is even more effective if day length is getting shorter and plants are allowed to get a little drier than usual. It is also a good idea to only let phals get cooler when there is some assurance that day temperatures will warm up at least 10-15 deg F. Many commercial growers accomplish spike initiation simply by providing this day to night temperature differential and do not worry about how cool the night temperature gets. Many indoor growers of phals find that their plants do not initiate spikes until much later in the year because they do not let their home get as cool or experience this temperature range. Putting phals in an unheated porch can get them to spike.

Once the first spikes appear, it is important to maintain a night temperature of at least 65 deg F to limit disease. This becomes more critical when those gloomy days appear in winter. It is also important to increase fertilizer, especially nitrogen to growing spikes and buds. Conventional wisdom used to dictate a fertilizer low in nitrogen and high in phosphorus until buds began to form and then switch to high nitrogen fertilizer to get the most and largest blooms. Recent studies point to just using nitrogen-rich fertilizers throughout the process. While commercial or exhibition growers practice this, the hobbyist is better advised to use their normal fertilizer regimen if their phals are growing well.

Catasetums and related genera are in the process of becoming dormant. Withhold water and fertilizer as their leaves begin to yellow. A light misting is OK, but let the plant and medium become much drier than when the plant is actively growing. Any orchid that loses its leaves needs to be treated similarly. Many semi-terrestrial orchids, e.g., Eulophia species, need similar treatment. Too much water at this time of year will cause the plant to lose its roots to rot and the entire plant could follow. The ideal situation is to



set orchids with this requirement in a different growing area where water can be carefully controlled until growth begins in late winter or early spring.

Many members of the Cattleya Alliance will also benefit from drying more thoroughly. Bifoliate cattleyas and cattleya species are generally grown drier in winter, although there is much variation among them. Some species are reputed to be hard to grow, e.g., *C warscewiczii* and *C dowiana*, and they need to be kept very dry from about October through February or they will not produce good flowers and might even die. Modern hybrids have had the tendency to "die if they do not dry" "bred out", but they still grow better if they are kept drier in winter. The exceptions to the rule are those small stature mini-catts that have a good dose of *Sophranitis coccinea*. They usually are generally identified by their bright red, yellow or orange flowers. These need a constant temperature, above 60 F, regular water supply, and may not experience any dormancy.

Cymbidiums require cool weather to initiate flower spikes too, but they require far cooler temperatures and lots of light. Place them outside as temperature drop and keep them there until there is the forecast for a hard freeze or hard frost. They will tolerate light frosts.

Vandas are the last group that needs to be singled out. They like it hot and bright all year long, although they are perfectly capable of surviving nights in the mid 50s on occasion. They may, however, drop flowers or buds if the cold is prolonged. The exceptions are those members that have blue flowers. The parent contributing blue color to flowers comes from higher elevations and so, tolerates or even prefers cool nights.

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 November 2006.

CULTIVATION

The V Word

A Troubling Problem for Orchid Growers
by Ken Slump, reprinted with permission



Blossom Necrotic Streak on Cattleya

There is probably no other word that elicits more confusion and fear among experienced orchid growers than virus. There seems to be no lack of experts when it comes to dispensing the truth about orchid viruses and I, like most, have heard a considerable amount of information (often conflicting) on the subject. Here is some of it. I offer these statements not as fact or fiction, just as hearsay:

- A virus-infected orchid plant that drips on another at watering time, either from a hanging basket or open shelf, can transmit virus to the plant below it.
- An infected plant can transmit virus to another orchid plant if their leaves are in contact.
- Slipper orchids are not affected by orchid viruses.
- A cattleya-type orchid that fails to produce vigorous new growth when repotted at the proper time is likely virused.
- Plant viruses do not survive long outside of their hosts and can only be transmitted to another plant through cuts or wounds.
- A mericlone produced from a virused plant may be free of the virus.
- Every plant of certain all-time favorite orchid clones carries virus.
- Orchids with viruses usually have color breaks in their flowers or recognizable patterns on their leaves.
- Virus infection in an orchid plant can be verified only by testing.
- There is no cure for a plant with a virus.
- Many, if not most, orchids carry virus and it takes a stressful event for it to negatively affect the plant.

Those first two statements are enough to strike fear into the heart of nearly any orchid grower. My first concern about

virus in orchids resulted from hearing the first statement at a time when I was growing my collection on open wire shelves - a commonly suggested and illustrated technique in some of the orchid books of decades past. It caused me to put trays with plastic grids under the plants to catch excess water, but of course, it did not prevent every drop from reaching a plant below.

Few orchid hobbyists enjoy such an extravagance of space that none of their plants touch. Nevertheless, it makes sense for the prevention of any insect or disease problem to give your plants all the room around them that you possibly can. Any plants in your collection that are known or suspected to have any serious problem ought to be isolated from the healthy ones.

I am not sure if I believe that touching plants or those that drip water on another will infect, but there is no doubt that cuts or wounds allow virus to enter a plant. For that reason, pots, pot clips and stakes should not be reused. Pruning tools and knives should not be shared among plants either, unless they are sterilized between cuts. You will hear recommendations among growers for sterilization techniques that employ chemicals or flame. For me, they have proven both inconvenient and hard on tools.

I prefer to use single-edged razor blades when making any cuts on my orchid plants. That is true whether I am dividing a plant or removing old growths at repotting time, or whether I am simply removing a spent flower stem or faded leaf from a plant. This is an important habit to develop as one must keep in mind that a fingernail pinching off spent flower stems can spread virus as easily as can the blade of a knife or pruning shears.

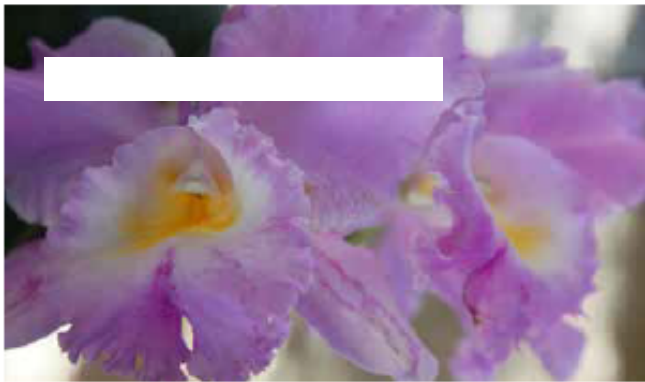


Angular Leaf Markings that tested positive for ORSV

Of course, extreme care must be used with the single-edged razor blades. Wear leather gloves for some protection if you are uncomfortable handling them. To save money, buy packages of 100 or more at hardware or home supply stores. With economy in mind, I have been known

CULTIVATION

Continued from page 8



Color Break in Cattleya

to use a single blade for trimming leaves or flower stems from two different plants, being careful to make the first cuts from one end of the blade, then turning it carefully in my hand before addressing the second plant with the opposite end of the blade. Perhaps even more important than using such blades safely is the need to dispose of them in a safe manner as well.

There is little doubt that orchid viruses manifest themselves with symptoms that are visible on the flowers or foliage of some of their hosts. Yet I am pretty confident in suggesting that not every orchid plant that harbors a virus is symptomatic. It is generally accepted that testing is the only reliable way to confirm if virus is present in a plant. Only the foolhardy would proclaim any particular plant infected without incorporating an adverb such as "likely" or "probably" into their statement.

However, if orchid viruses' only manifestations were cosmetic, we might not be so concerned about them. Indeed, some plant viruses produce desirable results. The mosaic variegations in the foliage of flowering maple (*Abutilon* hybrids) is viral in origin. Camellia fanciers introduce virus to some of their plants to produce variegations in the flowers. But the viruses associated with orchids frequently result in reduced plant vigor and flowering, a situation that nobody wants.

Which brings me to my personal situation, a comparatively small orchid collection that has been modified considerably in recent years. At the time I moved my orchids from Colorado to Florida, I had amassed nearly 500 plants, not a huge number, but plenty for the comparatively small sunroom in the high-rise building where I lived. About 150 plants came to Florida with me five years ago. Here, they are grown outdoors under shade.

The difference between the rather controlled cool to intermediate environment of my Colorado sunroom to the great outdoors of South Florida is major. Even with careful

selection of which plants to move I have had surprises. Orchids that thrive in South Florida, really thrive here, and it is foolish to bother with those that do not. There is little you can do when you leave most of the environmental controls to Mother Nature.

As my reduced collection has adjusted to life in Florida, some plants have made the transition better than others. I have seen some of them gradually decline while others flourish as never before. I have discovered spots and symptoms on plants and foliage with which I am unfamiliar. Many of these I am still trying to decipher. In some cases, I suspected that virus was the problem.

This was particularly true for some of my older plants and a few of those I had acquired from the established collections of friends and at plant raffles. Unfortunately, it seems to be that many older orchid collections are rife with virus. While I seldom saw the color break symptom appear on flowers, suspicious spots and patterns on foliage have occasionally appeared.

Another problem with an outdoor collection is that insects are difficult, if not impossible, to control. I think it is safe to say that viruses may be transmitted between plants by insects with piercing mouth parts, such as the thrip and leafhopper and perhaps even by such critters as aphid, scale and mealybug.

Certainly any plant under stress, whether it be from climatic issues, insect infestation or viral infection is likely to decline in vigor and fail to flower well or properly. As some of my plants languished or declined in their new home. I disposed of them, whether I suspected virus or not. I decided against testing every plant for virus, as it seemed that the expense and time were not worth it. I have orchids growing on tree trunks, stumps and driftwood in the landscape that are not necessarily practical to test or dispose of, so the possibility of infection to one of my potted plants from them may be only one thrip away.

After a few years I have amassed a small collection of orchids that thrive in this climate. These days, I am cultivating fewer but larger specimens. Among them I have a few old favorites and award winners that have suspicious foliage patterns that I suspect may indicate virus, even though those plants continue to grow vigorously and flower well. I am under no delusions about the archival or conservation value of my comparatively tiny collection so I wonder if it matters. At worst, they would increase the possibility of infection to my other plants. But perhaps it is time for me to have them tested and potentially be forced to make those hard decisions. It is a reality that sooner or later every orchid grower is likely to face.

This article appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine in July 2009 (Vol. 78:7, pp. 396-397).