



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

Nov 2021

www.oswp.org

Upcoming Events

November 17, 2021

Ron Kaufmann

Chair of the San Diego County Orchid Society
Conservation Committee

"Life on the Rocks"

Looking Ahead

Meetings will continue on Zoom for now

Dec.12 3032 Holiday Party

Jan 2022 TBA

" UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES "

OSWP meetings are held at the Phipps Garden Center on Shady Avenue and are open to members, their guests and the general public.
Program Calendar is also available at www.oswp.org

HOWEVER, we are on Zoom for meetings , and those interested non members could use the 'contact us ' section of the website to get a Zoom invitation

OSWP Officers

Co-President: Sheila Nathanson and Mike Lyse

Co-First Vice President: Kathleen Arria and David Springer

Second Vice President: Timothy Choltco

Directors: Brooke Decker, Peg Kalupanov, Jinghua Ou, Aaron Vitron, Tamara Wurst.

Secretary: open

Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

What's Blooming Now

Cymbidium King Arther

At the beginning of the 1900s. The English imported the first Cymbidium plants from the Himalayas in Asia. Most of the ancestors of today's cymbidiums originated from the forests of the Himalayas at a height of between 3,900 and 9,000 feet. From the mountains of India the Asiatic cymbidium belt extends to China, Korea and Japan and right down into the warmer south. There are 44 botanical species. Cymbidium can still be found in the wild in Australia and Asia and in countries such as Nepal, Vietnam and Taiwan. With all of the many cross's there are more than 1,000 varieties of Cymbidium available, with the peak blooming in autumn and winter. The Himalayan landscape consists mainly of rocks and it can cool down considerably at night. Despite its tropical appearance, the Cymbidium is not a sun worshiper being able to take temperatures down to the high 30's F. The word Cymbidium comes from Greek. The Greek word for 'boat' is 'kymbos' and the word Cymbidium is derived from that because the lip looks like a boat. A lot of hybrids are produced in California, Australia and the Netherlands and is a very popular cut floor. There is a wonderful write-up on cymbidiums in the latest Orchid Digest Vol. 85-4 (Oct.,Nov.,Dec.).



Photo by Jim Yamber

Co-President's Letter November 2021

Here we are staring bleak November in the face! There are still some warm, golden fall days ahead- the foliage flaming before falling, all the delights of this transitional season. All my remaining plants came in for the winter yesterday, since we are getting some rain, but also very chilly temperatures- they got a good watering before beginning their 'cool dry rest'. I hope to have good flowering on the callista and nobile type dendrobiums, cymbidiums, neofinetia and sarcochilus.

We are putting the finishing touches on our plan to have our next meeting, on November 14, in person. We will make an announcement early in November with details.

And we all know what comes after Thanksgiving? Our annual Holiday Party! It will be held on December 12, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Ballroom, from 2 to 6, with a sit down dinner served at 3pm. Details will be coming to your inbox, since RSVP indicating a meal choice and a payment of \$15. per person will be required. We will be asking participants to contribute a batch of their favorite cookie for a traditional Pittsburgh Cookie Table. There will be a complimentary orchid plant for all. Look for an RSVP email from our hostess, Carolyn Bolton. This promises to be a fun and relaxed gathering, I'm looking forward to it.

We continue to look for a secretary. Anyone interested in this position, or in joining the board in June, 2022, please let us know. Our nominating committee will be seeking 'A Few Good Members' come this spring. Getting involved in one of these positions is not an overwhelming responsibility, but participation is what keeps us going and growing. You will be paid handsomely in gratitude.

Happy Thanksgiving and Be Well and Think Orchids !

Sheila Nathanson and Mike Lysy, co-presidents, OSWP

Mini-class 2021 November 45 minutes prior to the O.S.W.P. meeting.

Cymbidiums: Types, care, potting etc. by Jim Yamber.

Please join myself and the O.S.W.P. for the November 2021 mini-class. This mini-class will be a discussion of Cymbidium culture. This month Jim Yamber has volunteered to discuss Cymbidiums. There are several types of Cymbidiums. Cymbidiums range in size from 12" miniature species to 30" + tall standard hybrids. Culturally they can also be tropical plants with thick textured leaves. However, the majority of those in common cultivation tend to be more cold tolerant types that require a drier cooler to cold autumn-winter to initiate their buds. For most Cymbidiums autumn to spring is their peak blooming period. In decades past standard Cymbidium flowers were often the choice spring season and Easter corsage flowers. To this day these orchids evoke an emotional response among many with memories of mum and grand mum festooned with their corsages while sporting their weekend or Sunday best attire.

Please join Jim, myself, and the rest of the O.S.W.P. for this presentation prior to the regular O.S.W.P. meeting. Timothy Choltco 2nd Vice President and all around decent sentient being.



Orchid Gems

For the love of orchids and all that flows from it: Carolyn Bolton, Orchid Gems by Norma Raiff

Long-time OSWP member, two-term OSWP president, hard-working OSWP Holiday Party event planner, original cast member of Phalaenopsis Phollies --Carolyn Bolton is all of these and more. In her "other life", Carolyn is also a highly recognized neonatal nurse at West Penn Hospital, who still stays in contact with some of her early patients.

Carolyn is remarkably knowledgeable about orchids and is a highly visible OSWP member. Doug Oster, host of The Organic Radio Show, has interviewed her on KDKA. Carolyn also reaches out directly to others. Pam Horter-Moore recalls how Carolyn approached her and her late husband Chris at their first OSWP meeting and asked him what he had in the lunch bag he was holding. Pam was so impressed



and touched that, without even knowing them, Carolyn stepped forward to offer her expertise for his sick orchid. "Thanks to Carolyn, we came to know right away the caliber and decency of the people in the organization we had just joined. Carolyn was and is an ambassador of good will for OSWP and for orchid lovers everywhere," Pam says.

As for Carolyn's most recent venture: well, she just returned from a 13-day visit to Hawaii, courtesy of the confluence of low air fares and our good OSWP friend and national orchid figure, Tom Mirenda. While Tom Mirenda's name may not resonate with everyone, many older members fondly remember Tom as a highly knowledgeable speaker, someone with a terrific sense of humor, and as the long-term curator of the Smithsonian Institution's huge and amazing orchid collection.

Tom moved to Hawaii several years ago to assume the position of Director of Horticulture, Education and Community Outreach at the Tropical Botanical Garden. It is on the Hamakua coast just north of Hilo on the Big Island, an area he refers to as an "Orchid Paradise."

Tom and Carolyn are also long-time Facebook friends and they both love orchids and achimenes (which are flowers related to African violets). "Dahlias, achimenes, and orchids are my passion, and somehow we found that Tom and I both share this fascination." Because Carolyn had shared her achimenes with the Smithsonian, she wondered if Tom would be interested in receiving some at his current address.

"Yes," replied Tom, "and my two friends are also interested." After he and his friends received the rhizomes, he invited her to come visit and added that she could stay at his place free! So Carolyn found a cheap flight (\$328 round trip) and stayed in his landlord's apartment.

Carolyn's varied itinerary included visiting Tom's friends, sightseeing, and viewing different breathtaking landscapes. She and Tom spent a lot of time touring private gardens. One of her most memorable visits was to two people who belong to the Hawaii Island Palm Society. "They each had properties that started as a jungle which they bulldozed and then added lots of plants, including orchids, which cascaded from trees and the palms."

Naturally, Carolyn visited several Hawaiian growers. However, because of Covid restrictions, some businesses had closed or were only offering limited visits, but even with this, her trip was a shopping success. Her purchasing visits included meeting Matthias Seelis, owner of Shogun Hawaii (www.catt-

leyaorchidshawaii.com} “who grows a lot of wonderful standard cattleyas” and who sells his own crosses as well as clones and hybrids imported from Thailand.

She also visited H&R Orchids (www.hrnurseries.com) whose stunning hybrids can often be purchased at AOS shows, and Kawamoto Orchids (www.kawamotoorchids.com), on Oahu, a fourth generation family of growers. As Carolyn reports, “I bought something at every place I visited.”

Carolyn also toured the islands, saw volcanos, and attended an AOS judging held at Tom’s place. Both she and Tom helped the staff at Kalapana Tropicals (www.kalapanatropicals.com) pack plants from a third party’s going out of business sale.

And here’s where you too can anticipate your very own “taste” of Hawaii. As OSWP December’s Holiday Party long-time planner, Carolyn did not leave Kalapana Tropicals without first purchasing an amazing array of genera that include papahs, cattleyas, dendrobiums and oncidiums that attendees will receive as their OSWP Holiday Party favors. If you have never come to one of these fun occasions, the date you register for the event determines whether you are one of the first or among the last to select your plant. So, looking forward to December, sign up early, bring dessert only since it will be held at the same hotel we used for the last orchid show. Come celebrate together!

In brief, this month’s takeaway is simple: Orchids are varied and beautiful; they can take you to exotic experiences, and they can forge lasting relationships between you and the universe of orchid enthusiasts.

Stay involved. Volunteer. Come to our Holiday Party and experience Hawaii for yourself.



Update on Phipps volunteering

On October 28, Demetria Marsh, Sheila Nathanson and Nancy Kline participated in a Zoom call with Margie Radebaugh and Ben Dunigan of Phipps Conservatory. We had requested this call to gain more info on the state of the orchid collection and our return.

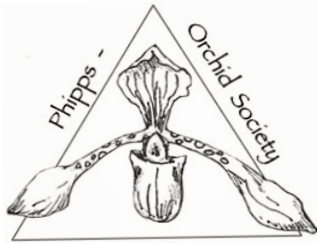
Positive notes: Ben Dunigan returned in August. He was with Phipps when we began our heightened involvement in 2013. So glad to have him back. His current position is more 'hands on' with the collections. He and Demetria will find a suitable time for them to view the collection. He gave updates on specific cultivars in the BTSOC and feels they have had excellent care.

There is a new IPM (integrated pest manager). Always a positive note as pests and their eradication are an issue with a 'green' building.

Not so positive: We will not be returning in the foreseeable future. Phipps has been very slow to have volunteers return. Their protocols are extreme but they are building-wide and in spite of vaccination and masking, they are not ready to have us back. They are especially concerned with pFun where we do come as a group of 3. We are hoping to begin our return with individual members to work directly with the orchid manager.

Both Ben and Margie stressed that we are valued members of the team and we will soon return to a 'new normal'.

Nancy Kline



November 2021

P-OSI

A joint initiative between Phipps Conservatory and the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania to create and cultivate an orchid collection of note for enjoyment, education and research.

Phipps administration is back to their offices at the conservatory full time. While we are not yet permitted to resume our OSWP volunteer work helping with the Phipps orchid collection via Pfun at Phipps and P-OSI, the orchids are being well taken care of by Gary Worthington.

We are working to get back to our volunteer work at Phipps. We have a Zoom meeting on 10/28 with Phipps personnel to work on our return.

Phipps Fall Flower Show opened on October 9. . . Always a wonderful event plus the Orchid Exhibition Room renovations should be finished and reopened.

Hopefully, in the near future, we will be able to return as volunteers working to repot Phipps orchids, Pfun at Phipps, plus our other cultural and inventory work with the Phipps orchid collection, P-OSI.

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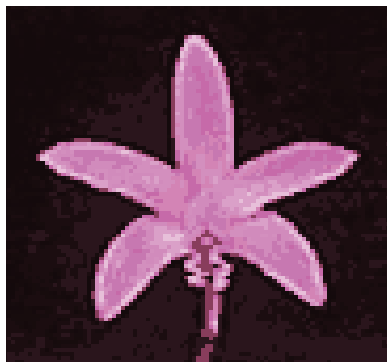
November Speaker Ron Kaufmann

Our speaker in November will be Ron Kaufmann, chair of the San Diego County Orchid Society Conservation Committee and a founding director of the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Ron has been growing orchids for more than 25 years and has travelled extensively to view orchids in the wild in Asia and South America, particularly Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia. His talk titled "Life on the Rocks: The World of Rupicolous Orchids" will explore the habits and habitats of orchids that grow on rocks, with a focus on Brazil.

Ron is a marine biologist by training, and his scientific work includes studies of Antarctic and deep-sea ecosystems as well as marine communities in coastal Southern California. His orchid collection began with a reedstem Epidendrum and progressed to a diverse assemblage that contains mostly species orchids.

Ron has a long-standing interest in conservation and has been a member of the SDCOS Conservation Committee for nearly 25 years and chair since 2004. Since 1991, the Conservation Committee has awarded nearly \$250,000 to support projects in 23 different countries. Ron also helped to found the Orchid Conservation Alliance and serves on the boards of the OCA, Orchid Digest, and Fundación EcoMinga (an Ecuadorian conservation organization), as well as the American Orchid Society Conservation Committee.

Ron grows most of his orchids in a 36 x 24 foot greenhouse and several outdoor shade-covered areas around his house in San Diego. Friends have suggested that he build a second, much larger greenhouse to accommodate the many plants that often make walking through his greenhouse an exercise requiring extensive training in gymnastics and yoga to avoid serious injury. Thus far, this recommendation hasn't been followed, although the temptation is always there.



Laelia liliputana



L. lucasiana



L. sanguiloba

Photos from AOS web page.

Current Committees Chairs,

AOS	Nancy Kline
Culture Corner	Nancy Kline
Facebook	Lance Cheuvront
Garden Club/Library Liaison	Karen Gibson
Hospitality	Carolyn Bolton
Library	open
Membership	Kathy Collins
Mini-class	Tim Choltc
Newsletter	Jim Yamber

Orchid Gems	Norma Raiff, Pam Horter-Moore, Cristina Eyer
Pfun	Nancy Kline
P-OSI	Demetria Marsh
Raffle	Natalie Turicik
Show	Sheila Nathanson, Tammy Wurst, Norma Raiff and Janet Greenberg
Speaker	Kathleen Arria and David Springer
Website	Jinghua Ou

Judges Viewpoint by Dave Miller, Great Lakes Judging Center

Issue #10

How Does My Orchid Stack Up?

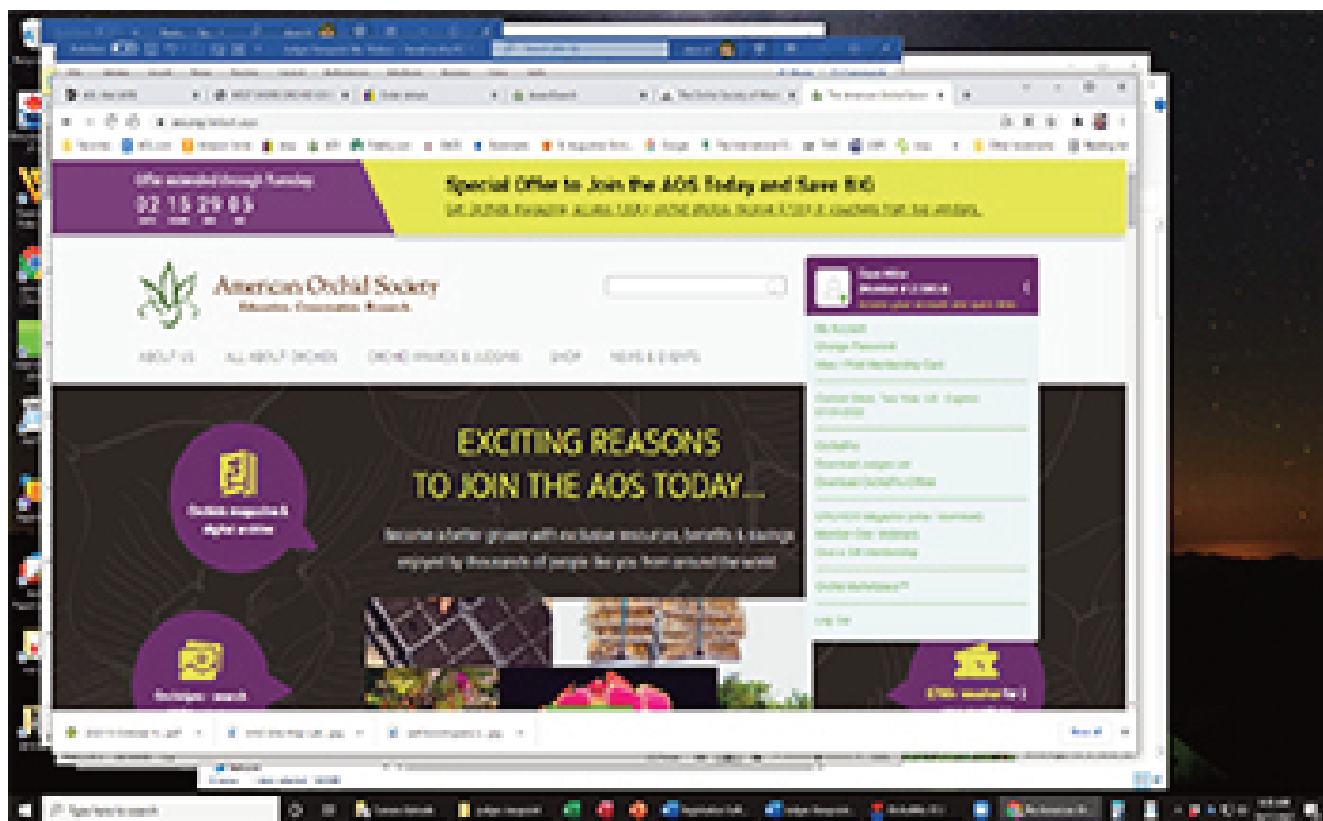
I get contacted frequently with photos of outstanding orchids that my orchid friends are growing, some to my own envy. The plant and flower(s) are so visually stunning that the discussion turns to "Is it Awardable?".

As an AOS member, you are bequeathed your own copy of the AOS Awards database, known as OrchidsPro. Not only just a repository of awards, there is also a wealth of available resource material included.

In Issue #11 next month I will share some basic guidance on how to use OrchidPro to find revealing information about orchids just like yours. It's one of the things I do regularly when I obtain a new plant or have one come into flower (sometimes just in bud is even exciting).

Getting Started

First, if you are currently an AOS member, then go to the AOS Home Page. Look on the right side for your account area and click on the right caret > to access features and services available to you.



After clicking >, your personal menu and OrchidPro will be listed as a choice for any current member. More on this next month but if the anticipation is simply killing you, just get in touch with me for a private lesson on basic How-To.

The Exciting Part

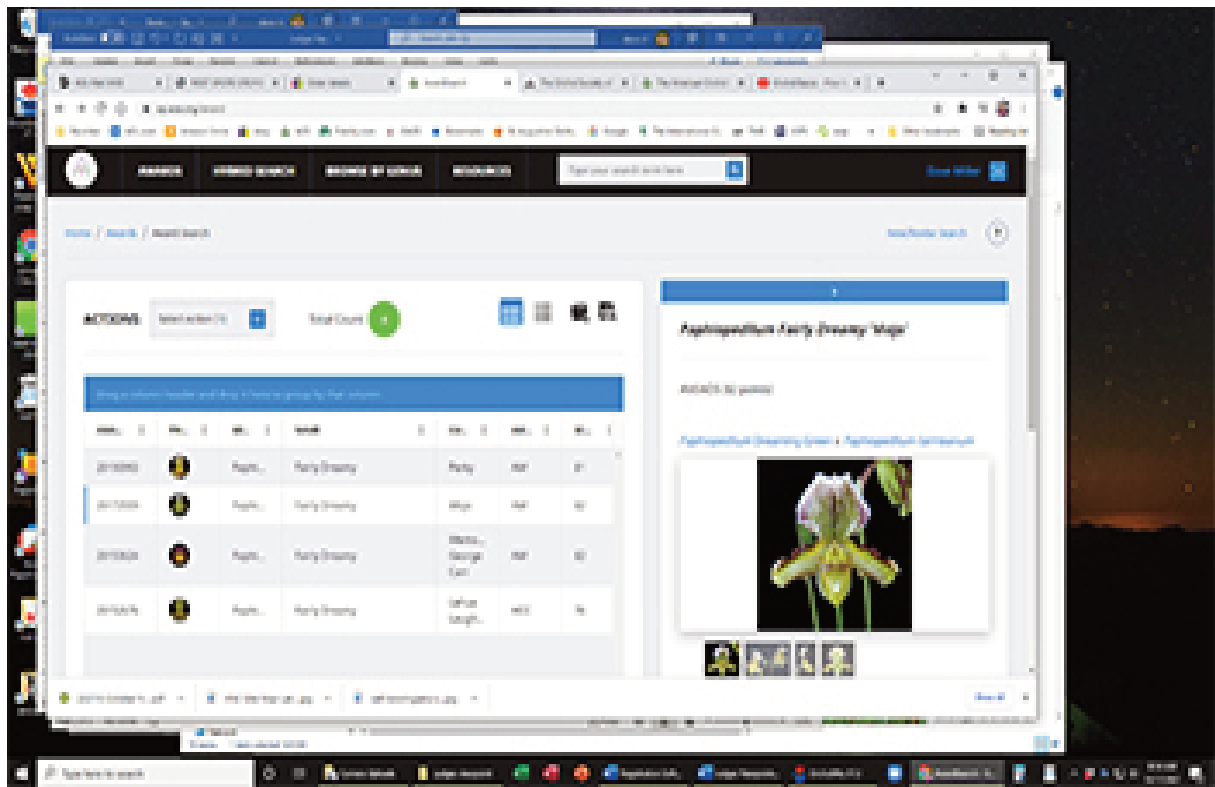
If I am not familiar with a new plant, the first thing I do is to verify the names on the label. There are frequent mis-spelling or omitted parts of the orchid name. If you are unsure of this process, you can watch my YouTube video on reading orchid labels at Reading Orchid Labels. It is short

but will give you a good idea on what you have. Although there are around twenty AOS awards, most of us focus on the Flower Quality (HCC, AM, FCC) and the Cultural Awards (CCM, CCE). As implied, flower quality focuses directly on your flowers by looking at symmetry, color, size, and floriferousness. Cultural awards focus more on the plant and how it has been grown by examining size, condition and floriferousness. One caveat on cultural awards is the plant must have been in the owner's possession for at least one year.

ONWARD.

Use a basic search to locate any existing awards for your plant. I generally start with size using flower width. All award measurements are in cm. (centimeters). This number is named NS (natural spread width) and NSV (natural spread vertical) and are measured at the widest and tallest part of the flower when facing the flower. Next, I look at how many flowers, buds and inflorescences the awarded plants have on average. There are many factors involved but this at least gives me a starting point for how well my orchid has been grown. Below, you can see a sample award page for *Paphiopedilum Fairly Dreamy*.

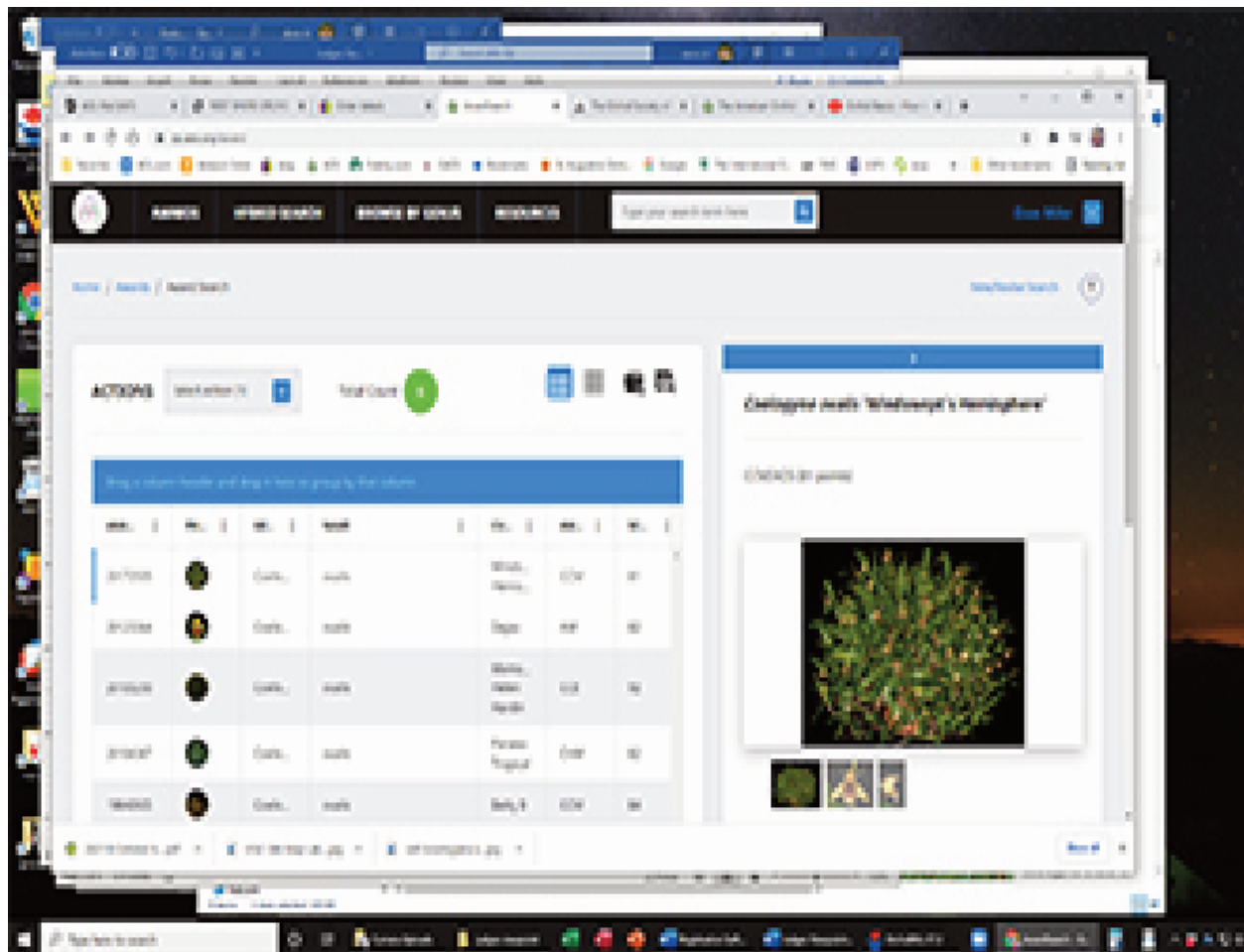
There are four awards and I have highlighted my award from 2017.



This is a nice view as it shows how many awards, photos of each award, year given and to whom, and the actual hybrid cross making this plant. Also, it shows the number of flowers, buds and spikes for each award and dimensions (cm.) for all important flower segments. There is also a

simple tool available to calculate the averages for some or all awards. This panel will show all awards but in this case there are only flower quality awards.

Looking at previous awards will also give you an idea of good flower form, color and balance for your plant. I do this frequently as my collection blooms to see how I am doing and to verify the quality of my collection. Here is one more sample showing an orchid with a cultural award. Looking at cultural awards gives you a good look at the potential of your orchid based on how other growers have cultivated them and the plant potential. This example is for *Coelogyne ovalis*, known to grow to a very dense ball.



On the award listing will be the number of flowers and buds and in current times, the size of the plant which is in a 15-cm basket (6 inches) but the plant itself is 90-cm (36 inches). Puts my 20 inch plant to shame but mine has grown larger each year.

There is lots of information about your orchids at your fingertips and this is just a toe-dip for now.

Happy Orchid'ing Contact Dave at dcmjpasmil@aol.com or 330-307-7189



First Class Mail

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The Orchid Society of Western
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corporation organized to advance
the propagation, horticulture and
preservation of orchid species and
hybrids through research, education
and scientific endeavors

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Upcoming 2021 speaker

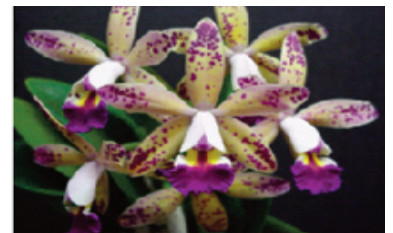
FUTURE PROGRAMS

November 17, 2021

Ron Kaufmann

Chair of the San Diego County Orchid Society
Conservation Committee
"Life on the Rocks"

More to come for the future programs for 2021



WANTED

**The American Orchid
Society Judging Program
is seeking highly
motivated orchid
enthusiasts to join the
judging ranks.**

*Work with other such people and
help maintain our awards
programs and educational efforts.*

*For more information contact Dave
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