



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

Nov 2020

www.oswp.org

Upcoming Events

November 15 2020

Growing Catasetums

by Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids

Looking Ahead

December 6th: Dr. Lawrence Zettler,

Conservation of North American Orchids

January 19: Peter Lin of Sunset Orchids

speaking on mini vandas and related species.

" 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 : Lance Cheuvront

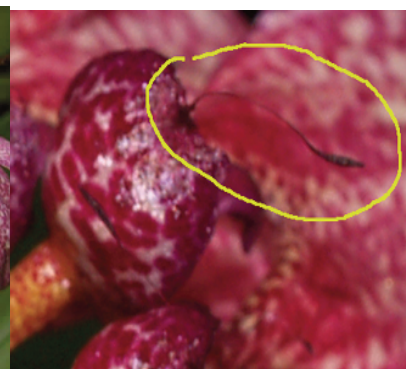
Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

What's Blooming Now

Bulbophyllum

The genus *Bulbophyllum* was described by Louis-Marie Aubert Du Petit-Thouars in 1822, with the name coming from the Greek bulbos (bulb) and phyllon (leaf). *Bulbophyllum* and closely allied genera (especially *Cirrhopetalum*) are considered to be the largest group of orchids. Taxonomists have described at least two dozen allied genera, which have been combined with, and separated from, *Bulbophyllum*, over the years. Some of

the most commonly encountered allied genera are; *Cirrhopetalum*, *Ione*, *Mastigion*, *Megaclinium*, *Rhynchostylis* and *Trias*. The plants are typically small to medium (although some have leaves up to a meter long) creeping epiphytes, having a sympodial growth habit with prominent pseudobulbs, with one or two fleshy leaves. There is a wide range of fantastic flower shapes and sizes (2 mm to 400 mm). All have a hinged lip that aids in pollination. The pollinator (most often a small fly) lands on the lip, which tilts and causes the pollinator to fall back in to the sticky pollina. The flowers are usually short lived (5-7 days) and are occa-



continued on page 2

Photo by Jim Yamber

continued from page 1

sionally fragrant (while the fragrance can be pleasant it is often quite foul). Some commonly encountered species are: *Bulbophyllum dearei*, *echinolabium*, *falcatum*, *fasinator*, *flabellum-veneris* (syn. *lepidum*), *guttalatum*, *lasiochilum*, *lobbii*, *longissimum*, *makoyanum*, *medusae*, and *putidum*. Until recently little hybridizing has been done in the genus however, two particularly attractive hybrids are *Bulbophyllum* Daisy Chain; an example of the smaller umbellate-flowered group, and *Bulbophyllum* Elizabeth Ann; an wonderful example of the large-flowered group.

These orchids have a wicked smell and we now know the part of the flower from where it originates. In the photo I have circled the small filament with the knob on the end. This little knob is the origin of all the foul smell. If this part of the flower is removed there is no odor.

(AOS Web site to read the entire article on *Bulbophyllum*)

Co-President's Letter October 2020

Here we are - almost out of the woods with 2020- a year that will live in infamy for most of us. We have been constrained in our activities, separated from distant or fragile loved ones, and deprived of the company of friends. I'm very grateful we have the technology of the internet for some social interaction. We will come out of this more appreciative of the small social interactions that add richness to our lives.

In the meantime, we have our monthly meetings via Zoom, Show and Tell to enjoy, and the company of our plants. Remember that even *phalaenopsis* benefits from a drop in nighttime temperatures at this time, to initiate flower spikes for spring. About 55 -60 for a couple of weeks should do it. Just watch the forecast for drops any lower than that.

Thank you to David Springer for the very informative expert's panel on windowsill growing- thanks also to Demetria, Brooke, Tammy and Lance for sharing their growing spaces with us. It was like getting out of the house and visiting a friend!

Our November 15 meeting will feature a talk on growing *Catasetums* by Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids. I hope you all got the email about his offer of 20% off on plant orders with the promo code 'ZOOM'. If you have never been on the SVO website, you're in for a treat. He specializes in *catasetum* and *cattleya*, and does a lot of breeding.

We hope to see you on Zoom. If you know anyone in the society who hasn't tried it, encourage them to give it a whirl. It's so easy, I can do it.

Take care, be well and continue to think orchids.

Sheila N and Mike L



Mini-class 2020 – November 15

1:15pm. Prior to the O.S.W.P. business meeting.

Growing Cattleyas – Mike Lysy and Sheila Nathanson

Please join myself and the O.S.W.P. for the mini-class prior to the November 2020 meeting.

Our illustrious and infamous co-Presidents Mike Lysy and Sheila Nathanson have offered to discuss the culture of Cattleya-type orchids. The Cattleya-type orchids offer a vast assortment of Colors, shapes, and sizes. They range in size from large 7" – 8" complex x Rhyncholaeliocattleya hybrids to small ½" flowered Cattleya [Sophronitis] cernua. Some hybrids flower once a year and others can flower 2-3 times per year on mature plants. Generally the plants prefer an open potting mix that dries between watering. Some flower best with a cooler fall – winter period. Mike will be discussing culture under lights while Sheila will be discussing greenhouse culture. Both are expert level Cattleya growers, as exhibited by their plants often found exhibited in O.S.W.P. show displays and the O.S.W.P. show and tell table.

Please join 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.



Cattleya Betty Ford 'York' [syn. Lc.]
(Barbara's Delight x Nigrescent)



Cattleya Tropical Pointer 'Cheetah' AM-AOS, BM-JOGA [syn. Lc.] (Tropic Glow x intermedia)



Cattleya. Red Jasper [syn. Slc.] (Red Jewel 'Naranja Jewel' x coccinea 'Marlow Orchids').

Pfun at Phipps Still Watching and Waiting

I thought we would be back by now but Phipps is opening slowly for volunteers. Things should open up soon and I will let everyone know when we can return to our favorite place. Stay well and in touch.

Nancy Kline

nancyk412@gmail.com 412-367-1556



November speaker Fred Clark of Sunset Valley Orchids

We are super lucky to have one of the more interesting and respected growers in Orchids give us not one talk but two this year. At our November meeting Fred Clark of Sunset Valley Orchids will be talking to us about Cynoches, Mormodes, Catasetums recent trends” A review of the amazing world of Catasetinae. A lively and entertaining presentation, amazing pictures and the making of Fredclarkeara After Dark ‘the blackest orchid seen.’ Also includes a thorough review of plant culture.

Cynoches, Mormodes, and Catasetums are three related genera from the Tribe Cymbidieae. Individually, each has been considered an orchid oddity, or “botanical”, of interest mainly to the seriously addicted enthusiast. These plants have a brief deciduous period in winter, when the plants need a definite dry rest period bordering on neglect. These robust orchids are native to lowland tropical forests in Central and South America and are usually grown in warm or intermediate conditions. Commercially, Catasetum, Cynoches (or ‘Swan’ orchids) and Mormodes (or ‘Goblin’ orchids) have occupied a small market niche on the edge of a sea of Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis, Dendrobiums, Epidendrums, and so on. Until recently, they have not attracted much attention from hybridizers, but in the past several years some spectacular hybrids have been produced, receiving great acclaim and an increasingly large collection of awards from the American Orchid Society.

Fred 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.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Paphiopedilum and Aussie Dendrobium hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out!

His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced “the blackest flower ever witnessed”. This grex has received over 100 awards worldwide with nine FCC’s and thirty AM’s from the AOS judges! Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.

Fred will be back for our April meeting with his talk on Becoming an 80 Percentile Grower.

Sunset Valley Orchids ZOOM Meeting Discount

Sunset Valley Orchids offers a 20% discount on all plant orders from your club members. The special voucher code is ZOOM. When you check out, type ZOOM into the voucher code box on the shopping cart page and click 'RECALCULATE' to apply the discount. This special discount is additive to the existing discount schedule, making for an excellent opportunity.

Current Committees Chairs,

AOS	Nancy Kline	Orchid Gems	Norma Raiff, Pam Horter-Moore,
Culture Corner	Nancy Kline		Cristina Eyler
Facebook	Lance Cheuvront	Pfun	Nancy Kline
Garden Club/Library Liaison	Karen Gibson	P-OSI	Demetria Marsh
Hospitality	Carolyn Bolton	Raffle	Natalie Turicik
Library	Rosa Graudins	Show	Sheila Nathanson, Tammy Wurst,
Membership	Kathy Collins		Norma Raiff and Janet Greenberg
Mini-class	Tim Cholte	Speaker	Kathleen Arria and David Springer
Newsletter	Jim Yamber	Website	Jinghua Ou

Judges Viewpoint by Dave Miller

I get a lot of questions about the judging process and how to pick the right plant from the sales table as well. Hopefully over the next few months, I can demystify some of that and pass along information as well. First things first though. Congratulations are in order to Wayne and Nancy Roberts on receiving an orchid award for their beautiful Laelia orchid at the Great Lakes Judging Center in Michigan October monthly AOS judging.

Laelia Finckeniana ‘Roberts’ HCC/AOS

This was a stately 40” tall Cattleya Alliance plant with two spikes and a number of flowers on each. Be sure to give them a congrats next time you see them or go for a visit to Roberts Flower Supply while the flowers are still fresh.

Let us take a quick look at this name. Firstly, it IS still a Laelia and Finckeniana is the hybrid name. It is a primary hybrid of Laelia albido x Laelia anceps. Because they received this award, they have the right to give this what is called a clonal or cultivar name, always enclosed in single quotes, by which this plant and all divisions and clones will be known. They chose ‘Roberts’. At the end is the award type and awarding authority and is now always part of the name. So, HCC/AOS means a Highly Commendable Certificate given by the American Orchid Society. This was an award for the quality of the flowers as compared to all other L. Finckeniana’s in all recorded orchid history. It is quite a good achievement. HCC is the flower quality award for a flowering orchid which scored in the range of 75-79 points out of 100 on the AOS Quality Scoresheet. This plant received HCC-77. More information about AOS awards can be found in the “Judging Handbook” which is publicly available on the AOS website.



How to Get Your Orchid Judged

Great question and perhaps not as well known as I would want. The AOS conducts “sanctioned” judging sessions during AOS-registered shows and also at what are called “monthly” judging sessions conducted by all AOS Judging Centers.

Around our areas, there are regional JC’s located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Cincinnati, Ohio, Washington D.C., Toronto Canada and Chicago, Illinois. Each JC conducts an official judging session every month on the same day of the month. Each of these sessions are published on the AOS website (www.aos.org) and also in the Orchids magazine. I am a member of Great Lakes Judging Center so we hold our sessions the 3rd Saturday of every month at 1 pm. The public is welcome to observe but may also submit orchids to be judged by the AOS team.

I am always happy to carry your plants for judging if you cannot attend but you can make arrangements for me to get your plant(s). During non-COVID times, I have been known to select plants off the show table but there are no in-person society meetings or shows at this time.

AOS judging at shows is similar except the AOS judging team is right onsite and it occurs as soon as ribbon judging ends. The judges will select plants from the displays they deem possibly awardable and enter them into the AOS judging process at the show. Exhibitors may also submit their own plants for judging; usually it is wise to ask one of the judges for a quick review prior to doing so.

There are fees for AOS awards and the fee is less if the recipient is a current AOS member. For more information about this, contact Dave.

Contact Dave at dcmjpasmil@aol.com or call /text to 330-307-7189.



First Class Mail

Orchid Society of
Western Pennsylvania
James Yamber (editor)
380 Western Ave.
Oakdale, Pa. 15071

quail1@verizon.net

The Orchid Society of Western
Pennsylvania Inc. is a non-profit
corporation organized to advance
the propagation, horticulture and
preservation of orchid species and
hybrids through research, education
and scientific endeavors

Materials under copyright
use or reprint by permission.

Upcoming 2020 speaker

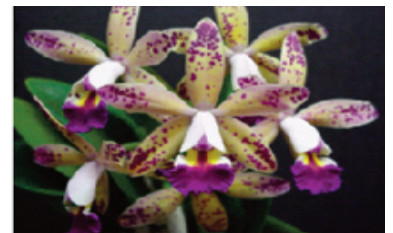
FUTURE PROGRAMS

November 15, 2020

Growing Catasetums

by Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids

More to come for the future programs for 2020



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
Miller at: 330-307-7189 or
dcnjpsmil@aol*