

# February 2021 **The Orchid Grower**

Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison

[www.Orchidgrowersguild.org](http://www.Orchidgrowersguild.org)



## **NEXT MEETING February 21st via Zoom 1:30 PM Eric Sauer, "Phragmipedium Species and a Few of Their Hybrids"**

The talk will include a discussion of most of the Phragmipedium species and their culture and a discussion of the evolution of breeding and hybrids including historical hybrids through current breeding.

Eric has been growing orchids for over 30 years under the greenhouse name of River Valley Orchids and specializes in South American species with a focus on Maxillaria and Phragmipedium. He has spoken internationally and across the United States. Eric recently had culture chapters published by Guido Braem in his book on Paphiopedilums and most recently in his book on Phragmipedium. He also has a feature article on Maxillaria in Orchid Digest and several of his Maxillaria photos published in Eric Christenson's book on Maxillaria. Eric has received over 85 awards from the American Orchid Society and has three orchids named after him including two species from Ecuador. He regularly works with other Maxillaria aficionados around the world to better understand the genus. Eric's real job is as a registered landscape architect and is the planning manager for Five Rivers MetroParks in Dayton, Ohio.



Eric Sauer somewhere in the Smokies with *Goodyera* sp. In foreground

### **Meeting Dates**

#### **Meetings on Zoom at 1 PM**

- February 21
- March 21
- April 18
- May 16
- June TBA
- September 19
- October 17
- November 21
- December 19

Meetings start at 1:30 pm at Olbrich Gardens unless otherwise noted

### **Up-Coming Events**

Orchid Quest 2022 February 5 & 6

### **Officers and Committees**

#### **President:**

Susan Reed (2022)  
[Greed@chorus.net](mailto:Greed@chorus.net)

#### **Vice President:**

Cynthia Wadsworth (2021)  
[cynthia.wadsworth@thermofisher.com](mailto:cynthia.wadsworth@thermofisher.com)

#### **Secretary:**

Keith Nelson (2021)  
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#### **Treasurer:**

Denise Baylis (2022)  
[jrbaylis@tds.net](mailto:jrbaylis@tds.net)

#### **Board:**

Lisa Linde (2023)  
[CrazyCatPlantLady@gmail.com](mailto:CrazyCatPlantLady@gmail.com)

Nancy Thomas (2022)

[mikeandnancy@tds.net](mailto:mikeandnancy@tds.net)

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Hi OGG members!

I hope all are staying safe and enjoying your orchids. I have several blooming now and a few in bud. But not a great group for Orchid Quest, if we were having it! Maybe the orchids know I won't be showing them off this year! I hope your orchids are giving you your own private orchid show!

Remember that the second Tuesday

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Carrie Weisman (2021)  
[cleocatz@msn.com](mailto:cleocatz@msn.com)

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Nancy Thomas  
[mikeandnancy@tds.net](mailto:mikeandnancy@tds.net)

**Hospitality:**  
Volunteer

**Librarian:**  
Open

**Membership:**  
Carrie Weisman  
[carrie.wiesman@dwd.wi.gov](mailto:carrie.wiesman@dwd.wi.gov)

**Newsletter:**  
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**Orchid Quest 2021:**  
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**Programs:**  
Cynthia Wadsworth  
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**Ribbon Judging:**  
Open

**Web Master:**  
Richard Jozwiak  
[OGGweb@charter.net](mailto:OGGweb@charter.net)

**Liaisons:**  
**AOS:** Nancy Thomas  
**MAOC:** Keith Nelson

(Continued from page 1)

of the month is OGG Show & Tell where you can show off your orchids and learn about others. Please try to send photos of your orchids to Denise by the first Saturday of the month, February 6th for the February 9th session. Remember this is NOT a photo contest. We have a lot of fun learning about others' successes and failures!

If you have several orchids in bloom, consider grouping them into a mini exhibit and sending us photos for Show & Tell and the newsletter.

Ken's presentation last month was great! We had about 30 attendees and hopefully our February speaker on Phrags will be well attended also. We can get more and varied speakers with the Zoom platform without the travel expenses!

The down side is not meeting in person and not having our major fund raiser of the year, Orchid Quest. We are excited about returning with a new and improved Orchid Quest 2022! You know that each year of Orchid Quest is better than the previous year! We are planning to return the lectures to the meeting room, so we need your ideas on how to utilize the atrium! Ideas are welcome especially with helping hands!

Stay well and add 7 PM Show & Tell on February 9th and OGG speakers meeting at 1pm on February 21th to your calendars! Other societies will be invited and invite your friends!

Happy Growing!

Sue

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## Re-cap of Prof. Cameron's January Presentation on the 'Samurai Orchid'

Cultivation of *Neofinetia falcata* was recorded as early as 1665, which makes it one of the oldest known orchids in cultivation. In the 18th century Shogun Tokugawa Ienari became obsessed with the it. When found in the wild, these flowers were called "furan," meaning "wind orchid." Feudal lords seeking to impress the shogun would gift him the plant. As a result, the wild *furan* became the upscale "fūkiran" meaning "orchid of wealth and nobility." For a time, samurai were the only people permitted to grow the *Neofinetia falcata* (which spurred the nickname "samurai orchid").

This plant has been cultivated in Japan for centuries. Many of these cultivars are equivalent to mutants by today's nomenclature. Plants come in all shapes and sizes, much like dogs in our cul-

ture today: all dogs belong to a single species and the vast variety of *fūkiran* are also all *Neofinetia falcata*. Recent DNA analysis has placed *Neofinetia* in the genus *Vanda* but Ken believes given to its long history it ought to be allowed to retain its name.

Over time the interest and the value of *fūkiran* diminished though they were inherited and maintained by a handful of enthusiasts. Today the popularity of *fūkiran* has rebounded as many new kinds have been found and prices have come down dramatically because of reproduction from seedlings. But some of the most prized varie-



## WHAT IS IN A NAME?

The Catasetum project headed by Gary Lensmeyer is wrapping up. Fred Clark has given OGG permission to name this cross. Club members are asked to submit suggestions and you did not have to have participated in the project. Names frequently derive from a person or thing to be memorialized, a characteristic of the cross or something that might strike the fancy of the namer. Ultimately the named cross would be something like Catasetum Guided Lips, or Catasetum Badgers Baby. Please come up with better ideas than these! Please send these to Denise at [jrbaylis@tds.net](mailto:jrbaylis@tds.net) so they can be published in an upcoming newsletter for discussion.

### ORCHID ESCAPE

**January 30 - February 28, 2021**

**10 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily**

Escape to the tropics and take in bountiful, beautiful orchids displayed throughout the Bolz Conservatory! Orchid Escape features over 250 orchids artfully displayed.

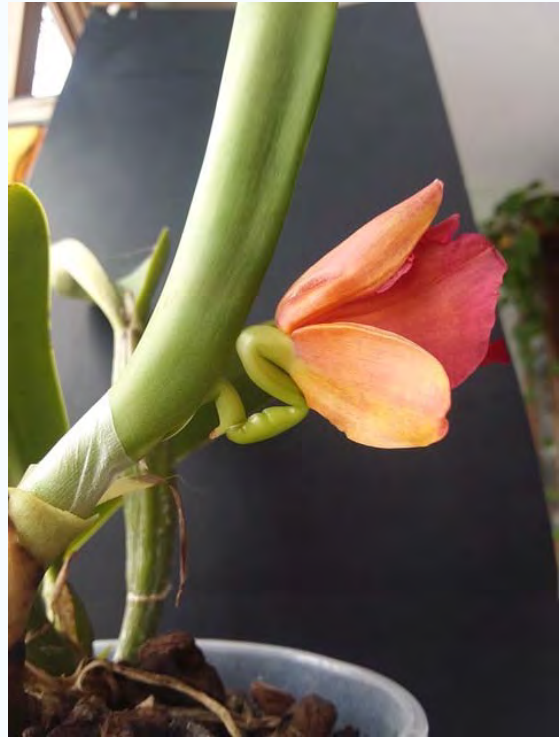
Orchids have played a central role at the gardens since the opening of the Bolz Conservatory in 1991, and the permanent collections have grown significantly over the past few decades. To reflect this, the Conservatory team set out to create new programming that would highlight the beauty and variety of this unique plant family. The show will incorporate both new orchids special ordered from vendors as well as specimens from the permanent collections.

**Orchid Escape will be held in the Bolz Conservatory from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily throughout February. Regular Conservatory admission prices will apply during this time.**

### REMINDER

OGG annual membership renewals are coming due December 31. The cost remains the same: \$10 for a student, \$20 for a single membership and \$25 for a household.

## WHAT'S THIS?



Keith: This is one of the minicatt hybrids I received from Fred Clark. I just noticed a little orange peeking out of the stem and cut it open to find this. Look at how this mini Catt stem was all curled up inside the bloom sheath. I have seen this once before with a large Catt.

Jeff: I also have seen this before on Catts and laelias and hybrids. It seems to happen when a bud secretes sugar drops and it sticks to the sheath. Only some plants do it, but they can be consistent bad actors. When they get ready to spike, you can backlight the sheath and see if the bud stem is not straight. If it is bending, I cut open the sheath with a razor blade and squirt water inside. That usually does the trick. *L. anceps* is really prone to this.

*Extrafloral nectaries secrete nectar on the outside of the buds or inflorescence (flower cluster) while the flower is developing. These play an important role in plant defense against herbivores by providing nectar rewards that attract ants and other carnivorous insects. The protection that such insects provide in exchange for the nutritional reward offered by the plants is a classic example of plant-insect mutualism.*



## January Show and Tell Participants

Cynthia Wadsworth	<i>Laeliocatonia Renate</i> now <i>Guaricattonia Renate</i> (C. Frenchy's Cheek-La x Grt. Why Not)
Cynthia Wadsworth	<i>Oncidium cheirophorum</i>
Cynthia Wadsworth	<i>Cattleya lundii</i>
Gary Lensmeyer	<i>Bulbophyllum dentiferum</i>
Gary Lensmeyer	<i>Cattleya percivaliana</i> 'Summit' FCC/AOS
Gary Lensmeyer	<i>Dendrobium</i> Gillieston Jazz 'Steven' x <i>Dendrobium</i> (Tosca x Rutherford Starburst) 'Red Wine'
Jeff Baylis	<i>Dendrobium aggregatum</i> now <i>Dendrobium lindleyi</i>
Jeff Baylis	<i>Oncidium</i> Gower Ramsey now <i>Oncidesa</i> Gower Ramsey (Goldiana x Guinea Gold)
Jeff Baylis	<i>Potinara</i> Mount Yellowthorne 'Sun Peak' (Tapestry Peak x Lc. Fabled City)
Jeff Baylis	<i>Psychopsis</i> Mendenhall
Judy Williamson	<i>Cattleya</i> unknown hybrid
Judy Williamson	<i>Oncidium cheirophorum</i>
Judy Williamson	<i>Zygopetalum</i> Debbie de Mello 'Honolulu Baby' (Imagination x Helen-Ku)
Keith Nelson	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Brassocattleya</i> Maikai 'Mayumi' now <i>Brassanthe</i> ( <i>Brassavola nodosa</i> x <i>Guarianthe bowringiana</i> )
Keith Nelson	<i>Cattlianthe</i> (Ruby Wax 'SVO' x Chocolate Drop 'SVO')
Keith Nelson	<i>Ludisia discolor</i>
Keith Nelson	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Petula's Sensation (Macabre Contrasts 'Lehua Frank's Druthers' HCC/AOS x Petula's Flame 'Petal Dominance')
Keith Nelson	<i>Paphiopedilum spicerianum</i> species
Nancy Thomas	<i>Dendrobium</i> Green Mist 'Josephine' AM/AOS CCM/AOS ( <i>johnsoniae</i> x <i>convolutum</i> )
Nancy Thomas	<i>Fredclarkeara</i> After Dark 'Sunset Valley Orchids' FCC/AOS ( <i>Mo. Painted Desert</i> SVO HCC x <i>Ctsm. Donna Wise Kathleen</i> AM/AOS)
Nancy Thomas	<i>Tubecentron</i> Hsinying Girl ( <i>Ceratocentron fessellii</i> x <i>Tubecentron</i> Niu Girl)
Sandy Delamater	<i>Pleurothallis nuda</i>
Sandy Delamater	<i>Sophronitis</i> (Catt.) <i>cernua</i>
Sandy Delamater	<i>Vanda</i> Pachara Delight 'Pachara' (Karulea x Gordon Dillon)
Sandy Delamater	<i>Bulbophyllum dentiferum</i>
Sandy Delamater	<i>Neolauchea pulchella</i>
Sandy Delamater	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> White Knight (Green Mystery x Skip Bartlett)
Sue Reed	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Eumelia Arias ( <i>kovachii</i> x <i>schlimii</i> ) & <i>Phragmipedium kovachii</i> x <i>Phragmipedium</i> Eric Young ( <i>besseae</i> x <i>longifolium</i> )
Sue Reed	<i>Pleurothallis geographica</i>

# Paphiopedilum Project: February

This month our guest growers are Sandy De-lamater, Lynn West and Sue Reed who share their techniques for watering and fertilizing the project Paph. Other classes of Paphs. are included in some cases. The project plant is a hybrid of two closely-related species (*Concobelatulum x thaianum*), both in the class Brachypetalum. It is important to recognize that there can be significant difference in culture between species in any one class as there is between the various classes themselves. Some hybrids can present growing challenges if the specie parents have diverse culture requirements.

**Sandy:** This is my usual routine for this small (project) *Paphiopedilum*. This is also how I grow my other paph's. I place my paph's on the east and southeast side of my sunroom. I use no other lighting. A ceiling fan set on low gives some air flow.

I water usually once a week, in the winter it could be less, in the summer it could be more often. I feel the weight of each pot, if heavy I do not water, not yet, if light, I water. I add ½ tsp. of fertilizer per gal. of water. I use Michigan Cal-Mag. for all watering. Once a month I use no fertilizer to "flush". The cal-mag is all-in-one fertilizer. My water is well water, I fill gallon jugs and let them sit for a couple of days before using and at room temperature.

**Lynn:** I grow the following Paphs listed with their respective Section (Class)

## Species

*Paph armeniacum* (Parvisepalum Section),  
*Paph venustum* (Barbatum Section), *Paph liemianum* (Cochopetalum Section), *Paph fair-rieanum* (Insigne Section)  
and *Paph concolor* (Brachypetalum Section)

## Hybrids

2020 project Paph (Paph *Conco-bellatulum x paph thaianum* - Brachypetalum Section), Paph In-Charm Grace (complex hybrid with Paph *niveum* -Brachypetalum Section), and Paph Michael Koopowitz (primary hybrid *Paph philippinense x Paph sanderianum* – Coryopedilum Section).



*Paphiopedilum concolor*

Based on the reference guide that I have been using for paphs, I move the Michael Koopowitz, the *armeniaccum* and the *fairieanum* to my basement greenhouse starting in November. The basement maintains a humidity of 40% throughout the winter and is very cool at a steady 50°F. The little 2

x 2' greenhouse is supplied with a 600W full spectrum LED. The timer is set at 12 hours at the start and reduced to 10 hours by December. I reduce the watering to about once every 2 weeks and stop adding fertilizer for the duration of their stay in the basement. I bring the plants back upstairs in March and start increasing water and fertilizer.

The remaining paphs stay upstairs throughout the winter and summer. They are in a south-facing window with additional LED tube lights. The lights are on a timer that is set at 12 hours from March through November. I reduce the hours gradually to 10 hours during December-February. I never take any of the paphs outside in the summer due to problems with varmints and unpredictable weather. All of the paphs are watered heavily during the summer, but water and fertilizer is reduced during the winter for those remaining upstairs. I have an RO system in my basement.

I also add Ca-Mg solution to the water based on which Paphs need more Ca as listed in that reference

The medium is a mix formulated for Paphs from Repotme. I also put a small layer of sphagnum moss on the surface of the medium. This helps to keep the upper portion of the mix from drying out between waterings.

The In-Charm Grace is the easiest of my collection to grow and flower. The leaves always look good and it flowers reliably. It often has a multi-flower spike. However, the second flower

usually is missing the lip. The plant has tested negative for virus. The *armeniacum* responded favorably to the cool winter treatment in 2019-20 and flowered in early summer. The *liemianum* is a sequential bloomer and has been in bloom for over a year. The *venustum* looks good but is not very active. I repotted the 2020 project orchid shortly after receiving it using the Repotme medium. The orchid has not initiated any new growths or leaves.

**Sue:** Basically I treat all of my orchids the same, but obviously there have to be small differences. I use rain water, so I am not so concerned with mineral build up. I water at least three times a week, but only heavily once. I try to flush out the pots once a week with a good watering the day before I fertilize. I fertilize about once a week in the summer and roughly once a month in the winter. I am probably using too low a fertilizer at ¼ tsp/gallon. I also use some micronutrients in between the fertilization. I add about a cup of well water to one gallon of rain water for calcium and magnesium in the frequent watering but not in the fertilization water. I keep my TDS around 200 for my fertilization for I have a number of Phrags.

Some paphs are grown cool (sunporch) and some more in the intermediate range in the basement. The sunporch gets morning sun, but the plants are on a second shelf so are more shaded. The basement paphs get artificial light, but the room gets sunlight during the day, so indirect sunlight for the plants. I have put some calcium tablets on the top of their mix and the paphs have grown better.

I think I should improve my orchid care by increasing the fertilization concentration and try to increase the light.

Gary: Sandy, Lynn and Sue, thank you for your valuable information.

The techniques they describe can be distilled down to the following commonalities with focus on the project plant solely.

1. Surprisingly, good results are being achieved with light from grow-light fixtures or supplied from windows with east,

southeast or southern exposures with or without added light fixtures. Caution: With a southern exposure, direct light falling on the plant could burn leaves.

2. The quality of water is very important. Rain, reverse-osmosis (RO) and a low dissolved substance-quality well water have been used successfully. Avoid using high mineral content well water or city water that can adversely affect the plant because of the high dissolved substance content (calcium etc.) and additives (chlorine, fluoride etc.) introduced by the water plant.
3. So far, the best information we have regarding the frequency of watering is that the plant should be kept moist, not soggy, but not allowed to dry out completely. Sandy's technique of evaluating the weight of the pot before and after watering gives a sense of water content and is a guide as to when to water again. Also, with clear pots, moisture can be observed.
4. Flushing pots with water appears to be a common theme. The process removes excess fertilizer, decreases built-up minerals and introduces oxygen to the roots. One approach used by commercial growers is to flush the pot with water only, wait an hour and then apply water with fertilizer.

The topic of water and fertilizer for Paphs. deserves more discussion to address the cultural commonalities and differences among the various classes. Next time the focus topic will be the types of fertilizers/additives and methods of application.

Until then, happy growing!

Gary Lensmeyer



*Paphiopedilum bellatulum*





Keith Nelson's *Paphiopedilum spicerianum* species from Orchid Limited



Sandy Delamater's *Paphiopedilum* White Knight (Green Mystery x Skip Bartlett) "I bought it from Arnold Klehm approximately 10 years ago."

Nancy Thomas' *Fred-clarkeara* After Dark 'Sunset Valley Orchids' FCC/AOS (Mo. Painted Desert SVO HCC x *Ctsm.* Donna Wise Kathleen AM/AOS). "Bought as bare bulbs at the NEWOS show in 2018, this is the first time it's bloomed for me."



Keith Nelson's *Paphiopedilum* Petula's Sensation (Macabre Contrasts 'Lehua Frank's Druthers' HCC/AOS x Petula's Flame 'Petal Dominance').



Sue Reed's *Phragmipedium* Eumelia Arias (*kovachii* x *schlimii*) & *Phragmipedium* kovachii x *Phragmipedium* Eric Young (*besseae* x *longifolium*). "I have two different *kovachii* hybrids blooming, each bought from Ecuagenera about 24-8 months ago at different times. The more *kovachii* looking one is a primary hybrid, *kovachii* x *schlimii*. The larger organ flowered one is *kovachii* x Eric Young (*besseae* x *longifolium*). *Besseae* is a small orange flowers species and *longifolium* is a larger plant and flower mostly on the classic green brown coloration. One had a bud this summer when it was hot and the bud blasted. Probably due to the heat. I grow these in the sun porch which has highs of 60's in the winter but highs in the 80's in the summer. Lows in the winter into the 50's and in the summer in the 70's. The plants are in an East window and their pots sit in water most of the time. I use rain water and low levels of fertilizer of about 1/4 teaspoon per gallon. About 1/2 of what Fred Clarke recommends, and not at every watering."



Keith Nelson's *Ludisia discolor* AKA Jewel orchid





Keith Nelson's *Brassocattleya* Maikai 'Mayumi' now *Brassanthe* (*Brassavola nodosa* x *Guarianthe bowringiana*) "18 blooms!"

Gary Lensmeyer's *Cattleya percivaliana* 'Summit' FCC/AOS. "It is known as the Christmas Orchid. I have had this plant for about 10 years from Acker's. Light is supplied with T-5 lights and moved outside during the summer in a pergola. It is grown in a mesh pot set inside a solid clear pot with a media consisting of larger-size orchid bark with a little moss interspersed to retain moisture. Reliable bloomer ."



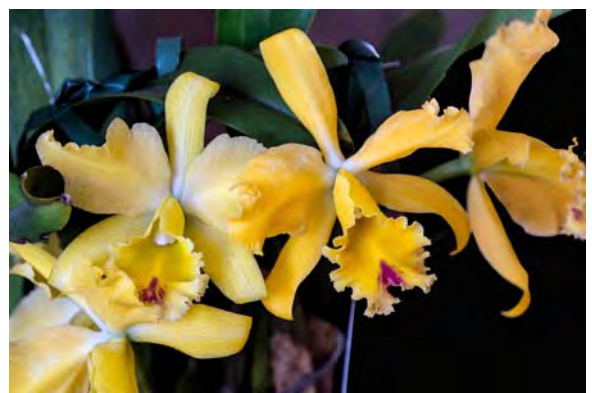
Judy Williamson's *Cattleya* unknown hybrid. "This is a *Cattleya* cross that I got from Oak Hill. The fragrance of this one is very strong and transforms my sun-room into a garden. I can close my eyes and I am immediately transported back to those exhibition halls on a **Saturday** morning when the doors would be thrown open after being closed up all night and the fragrance would almost knock you over. It takes me to a great place."



Cynthia Wadsworth's *Cattleya lundii* "This plant sprawls. 3/4" blooms and fragrant."



Keith Nelson's *Cattlianthe* (Ruby Wax 'SVO' x Chocolate Drop 'SVO') "From Sun Valley Orchids, with 1 1/2" flowers"



Jeff Baylis' *Potinara* Mount Yellowthorne 'Sun Peak' (Tapestry Peak x Lc. Fabled City)





Jeff Baylis' *Dendrobium aggregatum* now *Dendrobium lindleyi*.



Gary Lensmeyer's *Dendrobium* Gillieston Jazz 'Steven' x *Dendrobium* (Tosca x Rutherford Starburst) 'Red Wine'. "An hybrid Aussie Dendrobium. The plant is three years old. Grows under T-5 lights all year, except to initiate bloom, I move it to a north basement window in November. Bright light, cool temperature and limited watering induces blooms. The flowers are beautiful but are not long lasting (2 weeks) at room temps of 70 deg F. Cooler temps may prolong the blooms. It has a faint fragrance."



Nancy Thomas' *Dendrobium* Green Mist 'Josephine' AM/AOS CCM/AOS (*johnsoniae* x *convolutum*). "It has some flowers nearly year round, but the best bloom is in winter. This year it has 10 flower stalks with 66 flowers. Dendrobiums don't like repotting but its roots had attached to the outside of a clay pot, so I repotted it this spring, cracking the pot and burying the pot chunk with attached roots in the new medium and pot. My Latouria Dendrobiums grow best year round (on the cat tree) in my great room, about 10 feet from east windows and 20 feet from south windows."



Sandy Delamater's *Neolauchea pulchella*. "This blooms every year"

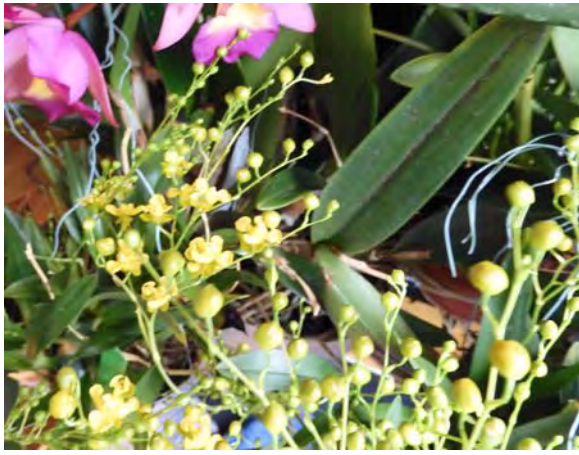


Nancy Thomas' *Tubecentron* Hsinying Girl (*Ceratocentron fessellii* x *Tubecentron* Niu Girl). "Originally from George Puboda, this miniature usually blooms in December and June."



Sandy Delamater's *Sophronitis* (Catt.) *cernua*. "I'm showing it again, this time with all six growths open and four flowers per growth."

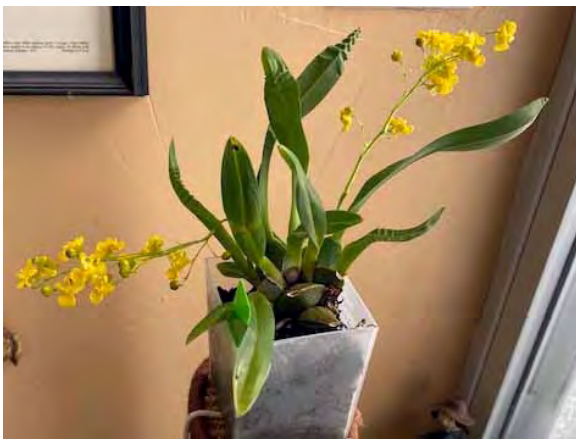




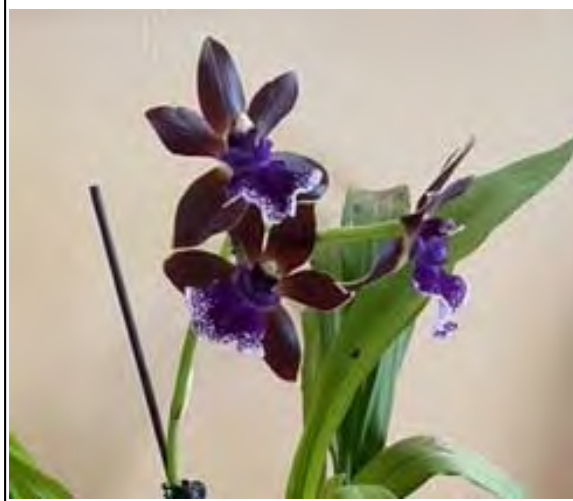
Sandy Delamater's *Vanda Pachara Delight 'Pachara'* (Karulea x Gordon Dillon). "It's 10 years old, blooms every year, sometimes twice."



Cynthia Wadsworth's *Oncidium cheiroporum*. "They are about 1/2 inch, waxy and fragrant. Reliable bloomer."



Judy Williamson's *Oncidium cheiroporum*. "I won it in the raffle at one of the NE-WOS orchid shows when they were in Oshkosh."



Judy Williamson's *Zygopetalum Debbie de Mello 'Honolulu Baby'* (Imagination x Helen-Ku). "I bought this in 2019 at the NE-WOS show. Last summer I put it outside and I think that probably helped. Otherwise it is in my sun-room with light

exposure from the east and south. It was on top of a cabinet so it didn't get any direct light. It must be very forgiving."



Gary Lensmeyer's *Bulbophyllum dentiferum*. "I obtained a cutting from Sandy Delamater at OQ 2018. I anchored the cutting into a pot of moss using paper clips. The medium is kept constantly moist and grown under the shadier portion (edges) of T-5 bulbs."



Jeff Baylis' *Oncidium Gower Ramsey* now *Oncidesa Gower Ramsey* (Goldiana x Guinea Gold)



Sandy Delamater's *Bulbophyllum dentiferum*. "I bought it at least 12 years ago at an OGG members auction."



Sue Reed's *Pleurothallis geographica*. "I bought this at 2020 OQ from New World Orchids. I love having the flowers just resting on the leaves. I think that it might bloom off of old growth but not 100% sure. Some of this type bloom several times off the same leaf. I grow this in the sun porch, relatively cool environment in an Orchidarium, so the humidity might be slightly higher than the rest of the sun porch. There is a separate fan in the orchidarium running most of the time. These like a lot of water and are watered with rain water and low fertilizer concentration."



Sandy Delamater's *Pleurothallis nuda*. "Blooms late fall through winter ."



Keith Nelson's *Brassavola nodosa* "16 blooms. Regular version."

(Continued from page 2)

ties can only be propagated by division, imagine how old and rare the plant must be!

The Japanese hobbyist focuses on details: every aspect of the plant has an individual name. For example there are many possible leaves: bean leaf (Mameba) shorter and thicker; Shima Stripes refers to variegation that runs the length of the leaf; tiger leaf (tora fu) markings are bands of color on the leaf, some distinct while others blend; and fukurin marginal variegation, striping may be along the leaf edge, as well as the center of the leaf. Other varieties are collected for their roots. The usual roots are 'mud' roots or Doro-ne. Ao-ne or green roots, are the second most common color. Rubii-ne or ruby roots are the most desirable. Shiro-ne or white roots, where the color can range from ice white to a pale greenish white is the rarest. Then there are the varieties of flowers.

The American orchid hobbyist tends to view their orchids has having aesthetic value only when in bloom. American Orchid Society judging criteria tends to focus on the flowers. Conversely mounting a *Neofinetia* is an art. As previously mentioned the Japanese consider leaf form, color and number of leaf fans; junction of leaf blade and stem/axis of plant, flower color and shape. In addition strands of moss must be draped around the orchid's root ball to create a smooth, hollow mound that elevates the plant above the pot. And the pot chosen for display must be suitably matched to the plant to be evaluated and then placed to showcase the entire result.

Ken has clearly become 'obsessed', admitting to having almost 250 specimens in his collection. Then there are is pots! Luckily *fukiran* are 'easy' to grow at home.



## From AOS Monthly Checklist for January and February

### **Cattleya**

Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

### **Lycaste**

The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

### **Odontoglossums**

Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using *Oncidium* and *Brassia*, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet.

Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

### **Paphiopedilum**

The standard *Paphiopedilum insigne*-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

### **Phalaenopsis**

Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

### **Zygopetalum**

For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

*The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.*