



Larry Cox acquired his first orchid, a cattleya, in 1972. His second was a paphiopedilum, Paph. Maudiae 'Magnificum'. The cattleya is long gone, but he still has a piece of the paph. When he began with paphiopedilums, he commonly heard, "You can't grow those in South Florida," but the first one lived and bloomed, and the paphiopedilum collection continued to grow. In the mid 1980's most of the other orchids were sold or given away, all for the love of paphs.

In 1989 he moved from his South Miami residence to a more spacious property in the farming district of southern Miami-Dade County where he built his dream greenhouse of 3000 square feet. He has suffered setbacks, such as hurricane Andrew in 1992, but with perseverance and with the discovery of new paph species, and the consequent new hybrids, Larry's love of paphiopedilums has been renewed over and over again. In 1983 Larry won his first AOS award for Paph. Maudiae coloratum 'Elektra' AM/AOS, one of the first vinicolors. Since then, his orchids have earned sixty AOS awards, including five FCC's.

Eighteen years ago, Larry retired from thirty-seven years as a teacher, the last fifteen teaching Advanced Placement high school English. He now spends his time reading, traveling, maintaining his property and, of course, growing paphs. Larry has experimented with other orchid genera and has found success with lycastes, phragmipediums, and pescatoreas. He has even rediscovered the wonder of cattleyas, particularly species.