

Greater Akron Orchid Society

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society & the Mid-American Orchid Congress

Nov 2020

President

Jane Bush

Vice President

Darlene Thompson

Treasurer

Claudia Englert

Secretary

Lore Yu

Editor

**Brandon
Spannbauer**

Trustee

Dave Miller

Minutes of Oct Meeting

We had a Zoom meeting with Tim Culbertson, who spoke to us about Laelia anceps and Their Culture.

Full Report Below.

GAOS Meeting Goes Online!

The GAOS meeting will be online, hosted by Dave Miller and Darlene Thompson. Anyone who is interested will be able to participate in the meeting or just view it from home using your personal computer, smart TV or smart phone.

Our meeting will be from 7:00 to 8:30 pm on Monday, Nov 9 with people able to join the meeting as early as 6:30 pm where we will chat and answer questions until the meeting starts officially.

More info below.

Upcoming Business



Next Meeting

Our November meeting will be online using Zoom where we will be having a greenhouse chat and a virtual auction.

Zoom meeting details below.

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

Email: greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com

President's Corner

By Jane Bush



Greetings!

GAOS has had a challenging year with a new show site and COVID-19 forcing us to meet via zoom. However, these challenges have brought us some good things, too. Tom Dayton gave our society some fantastic advertising when he interviewed Darlene as part of his regular Saturday radio show. Our zoom meetings bought us some very interesting programs at a fourth of the cost of having someone come to a meeting in person. We have adapted to changing circumstances and, thus, continue to be a friendly, thriving society. 2021 will bring more new challenges, so I encourage each of you to consider how you can pitch in and help GAOS grow even stronger.

The board has established membership dues for 2021 as \$25 with one-member plant. The 2021 membership may include as many people as you want so it can be either a single member or a family group. We hope that this will keep our finances in good order as well as allow us to continue to provide a new orchid to each member at the end of the year.

I wish everyone a happy holiday season and many wonderful orchid blossoms in 2021.

TIDBIT: Be patient – most of my orchids bloom when I least expect them.

(Special Note from Dave Miller)

Yesterday (Nov 5), Wayne suffered a terrible fall at the greenhouse and landed on his back. He has significant rib and some vertebrae damage and is currently in intensive care in the hospital. He is awake now and coming around. No visitors are being accepted at this time. His prognosis for now is for a good recovery but the full extent is not yet known and his ability to manage current affairs is up in the air. If you have placed an order with Roberts Flower Supply please bear with them in this moment of crisis as every attempt will be made to fill existing orders. Also, keep Wayne and Nancy in your prayers for a full recovery. Dave Miller

Meeting Schedule

GAOS meets the second Monday of each month (except December) Beginner's Corner starts at 6:45pm and the meeting at 7:15pm, at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319

Members are encouraged to bring orchids from their collection for exhibit. **All are welcome; you do not have to be a member to attend.**

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Nov 9 | Orchid Greenhouse Chat & Live Auction |
| Dec | No Meeting in December |
| Jan 11, 2021 | TBD |



Photo of the Month: *Trichopilia suavis*

Photo © Jorge Gastin

Greetings GAOS members!

Our November meeting will be Online. Here are the details on how to enter the meeting (this info will also be emailed to you so you can follow the links that way).

You can use your Windows PC, Mac, iphone or android phone to connect and participate in the meeting. Preferred equipment will be speakers and a microphone but members have connected using only phone or computer screen and no camera attached. People have found it beneficial to test their equipment prior to the meeting so if you have questions contact Dave Miller at 330-307-7189 or dcmjpasmil@aol.com or Darlene Thompson at 901-210-5502 or darlenejthompson@gmail.com.

The meeting will open early at 6:30 pm to allow everyone plenty of time to connect to the Zoom Conference room we are using. You can text or email either of us if you have trouble connecting using the information below. The actual meeting content will start at 7 pm and end at approximately than 8:30 pm.

Agenda

6:30pm – Virtual Doors Open for Member Mingle

7:00pm – Meeting Starts with Society Updates

7:15pm – Virtual Show Table

7:30pm – Greenhouse Chat & Virtual Auction

If you have any pictures of your blooming orchids for the show table, please send them to me (darlenejthompson@gmail.com) by Saturday, October 10, 2020. I would love to showcase your beautiful orchids. (Darlene Thompson)

Dave Miller is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Greater Akron Orchid Society November Meeting

Time: Nov 9, 2020 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting (Click the link below to join the meeting, you will have to install Zoom software for the first time, it is quick and easy, just follow the prompts)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81495248875?pwd=RWQwc2MxbGdTK3JQcVVRVlhsOGI5QT09>

Meeting ID: 814 9524 8875

Passcode: 775966

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,81495248875#,,,,,0#,,775966# US (New York)

+13017158592,,81495248875#,,,,,0#,,775966# US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 814 9524 8875

Passcode: 775966

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81495248875>

The American Orchid Society Judging Program

**is willing to teach you
to become an AOS
Judge and is actively
seeking orchid
enthusiasts**

IF YOU

- **Have a love of orchids**
- **Are willing to learn more about orchids**
- **Would like to work with other like-minded enthusiasts**
- **Can contribute to the long-term health of AOS & Affiliated Societies**
- **Are able to teach the public about orchids**

THEN

***contact us for more
information at 330-307-
7189 or dcmjpasmil@aol***



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
dcmjpasmil@aol*

Tim Culbertson: Oct. Meeting Secretary Report

By Lore Yu

Greater Akron Orchid Society Minutes for October 12, 2020

The meeting, held on Zoom, opened with the discussion of officers. The current slate of officers was named. Jane is stepping down as president and will become a trustee and Pam will fill the position of secretary. The election of officers will be held at the November meeting. There is a question about what should be done concerning the role of president. The list of tasks for this office was posted. Darlene is program coordinator. She arranged for Tim Culbertson to speak at the October meeting on the topic of *Laelia anceps*. Following is a summary of the talk.

Laelia anceps

The *Laelia anceps* is called the Jewel of Mexico and is very popular in California where it can easily be grown outside all year. It comes from an area that very much resembles California. It is a true *Laelia* and the name has not been changed like so many others. It is easy to cross with others in the *Cattleya* family, is fragrant, has a narrow distribution, grows in full sun, and the long-stemmed flowers are often used in Catholic ceremonies.

Laelia anceps has been divided into several types depending on form and/or color. The Tipo types were the most common in the beginning as they were easier to collect for those traveling to Mexico. Many of the modern tipo look very different from the original ones. A selfing produced 4n Mendenhall and this greatly improved the quality of the flowers. It brought about longer lasting and larger flowers, that were rounded and had wider petals (not as star shaped). All modern awarded are descended from Mendenhall

Guerrero do not bloom as well in California as they want warmer growing conditions during the winter. These would be better for Ohio, where they are brought inside, or parts of Florida that have mild winters. These have very nice colors.

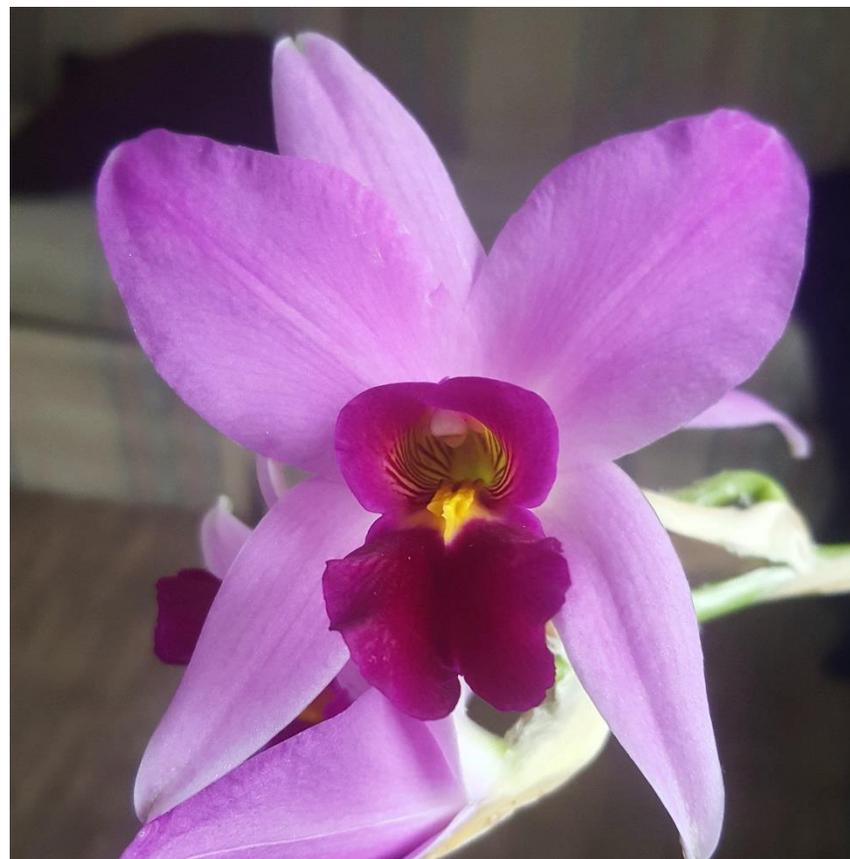
Dawsonville are naturally rounder, white, and have a fuller form. Some have pink markings and are named depending on the location of the pink. Their names often come from the nurseries or people who grew them.

There are a few that are unique. The *vestalis* was found in nature with a lip that mimics the petals. There are true albinos, ones with blue lips (from Fort Caroline), the true *pelorics*, *roeblingiana*, and the *lineata*, which have beautiful feathering.

Santa Barbara Estates is known for their Pink Perfection strains.

The hybrids of *Laelia anceps* tend to be easy to grow, temperature tolerant, have vigorous growth, have longer stems, gain potential color combinations, but sometimes two generations are necessary to see the best results.

These need bright, filtered light, typical of most *Cattleyas*, plenty of water during spring and summer, drier in autumn and winter and brought inside when temperatures go below freezing.



Laelia anceps and its Hybrids

By Cal Orchid

For us, another group of the most beautiful orchids are the Laelias of Mexico. (Of course, some people today consider only the Mexican Laelias to be true Laelias.) We think none of these laelias have the charm and beauty as does *Laelia anceps* however! *L. anceps* was first described by John Lindley in the Botanical Register in 1835. This fairly common species grows on Mexico's Eastern mountain range, the Sierra Madre Oriental, which extends from the northern areas near Jalapa to the southern areas near Oaxaca. The subvariety *dawsonii* (the white varieties) extend north from Oaxaca on the Sierra Madre Occidental to the state of Guerrero in much warmer areas. They are found in the mid-elevations of these mountain ranges making them a very durable plants withstanding temperatures from the high 20's to the low 100's! Another reason this species is so special is because it can be found in many different color varieties; lavender, pink, blue, and white. It was written by John Day in 1888 that "The varieties of *Laelia anceps* are endless". When the species was first collected and sold in England in the 1880s, it created a huge frenzy. It is recorded that Mr. de Barri Crawshay tried to corner the market of *L. anceps schoerderae* by buying every plant that was imported! Today we know that plant as *L. anceps chilapensis* which is now extinct in nature. One of these sub-varieties is var. *Dawsonii*, which was first collected in 1865. This plant created a huge sensation as it was the first of the white varieties. It was remarked by the collector, John Tucker, that the area where it was found was "remarkable for it's extremes of temperature", one of the reasons we cite as lending to it popularity today, but to give you an idea of their popularity in the 1800's, the Royal Horticulture Society gave close to 30 awards leading right up to 1915 just to *Laelia anceps*, recognizing almost all different color varieties. Today, this is a very special plant for us in Southern California as it is the best plant for introduction into our gardens whether in pots or as mounts on trees of all description.

The primary interest for these nurseries was to develop a line of temperature tolerant cattleyas that grew well in the gardens of California. The hybrids are extremely durable and able to withstand extremely difficult temperatures. Probably no hybrid is more well-known than Lc. Puppy Love 'True Beauty' AM/AOS that was created during this period. Today's modern *L. anceps* hybrids are nothing short of spectacular. Because we now enjoy such a large group of high quality cattleya cultivars and, even more so, high quality man-made *L. anceps* varieties due to selective breeding of the species, the future of *L. anceps* is very promising. Hobbyists and commercial growers can look forward to very exciting new hybrids in a wide variety of types to continue to dazzle.

Culture

Temperature-- Because *L. anceps* grows in nature under a very extreme temperature range, both it *and* it's hybrids are very durable plants. They easily take temperatures down to freezing or as warm as the 90's. If grown in intermediate greenhouses, they will really. For us in Southern California, they are quite comfortable under outdoor conditions.

Light-- *Laelia anceps* can be found in nature growing in near full sun, teaching us that the plants prefer quite bright conditions. Both the species and its hybrids will do best in bright cattleya light. If the foliage is too green the plant is not receiving enough light and will not grow strongly or flower well.

Humidity and Air Movement-- Though the plants prefer humidity in the 40-60% rang. Under these dry conditions, it is advisable to mist your plants daily, especially if mounted. The summer months in Mexico are a time of very high humidity and high temperatures if grown inside good movement of fresh air is recommended.

Watering and Fertilizing-- One needs only to look at the weather of Mexico to learn about the watering schedule of laelia. The late spring, summer, and early fall months are a period of heavy tropical rains. Make sure to keep your plants well-watered during this period. Just the opposite happens during the other times of the year, when temperatures are lower and it is quite seasonally dry. Water less at this time. Laelias love ample fertilizing during their rapid growth season in the summer. We apply fertilizer almost every watering.

Potting-- This is a very important factor for attaining good culture of *L. anceps* and its hybrids. They are quite susceptible to root loss if they are kept to wet in the dry season or if the potting mix is old. Very course mixes work well with Laelias. We use a high-quality medium grade of fir bark, even occasionally adding some charcoal for durability. Other inorganic additives will also work. The time of potting is also very important. It is best done right when a flush of new roots appear. If you wait too long, the spikes will actually begin to appear, even though the bulbs are not mature. It is essential that the roots given a chance to get established in the new mix in order to get a strong flowering. Don't worry, the plant will establish very quickly. If you miss this time, your plant will sulk and not thrive. These plants are wonderful candidates for mounting. We prefer cork bark for mounting. *L. anceps* and its hybrids root so well on cork and grow extremely well making a beautiful specimen.

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.

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 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 dcmjpsmil@aol.com or call /text to 330-307-7189.

The Best Yellow Cattleya

By Chadwick Orchids

There is nothing easy about breeding large yellow cattleyas.

Hybridizers have been trying fervently since 1901, when the very first attempt at combining two lemon-hued species took place. Since then, there have been hundreds or even thousands of pairings – mostly with disastrous results.

The first problem, as breeders soon discovered, is that the color yellow in cattleyas is hopelessly recessive and is nearly always lost when another color is introduced. For example, a yellow flower crossed with a white flower does not yield any yellows. In fact, it yields purple.

The second problem is that there are only a handful of yellow cattleya species in existence and these few have flowers that are either poorly shaped, very small or exhibit traits that are altogether unsavory. For example, the most well known yellow species, *Cattleya dowiana*, has petals that are narrow, fall forward, and fold in a week.

So it is not surprising that, even after a century of breeding, there are limited highlights to report. The stories of countless misses and near hits are beyond the scope of this article. Instead, the focus is on one of the shining stars and what many consider to be the foremost yellow hybrid in recent memory. It all started with a little pollen trading in the early 1980's.

Masa Chen and his wife, Gloria, had recently moved to Hawaii from Taiwan to escape martial law. He had been an agricultural researcher of bananas with a keen interest in orchids. Together, they transitioned from his orchid hobby to a business.

The first five or six years were challenging for the enterprising couple as they invested in land, shade houses, and stock plants. Their close friends, Eddie and Williette Wong, whom Masa had gotten to know from previous trips to Hawaii, lived nearby and assisted with the new venture.

“They helped find the property in Waianae and even gave us their registered company name, Orchids of Waianae” said Gloria. “I think it was their dream to be commercial but they never acted on it because they had full time regular jobs.”

When it came time to make the first hybrids, Masa and Eddie collaborated. They traded pollen and took turns setting seed pods using tooth picks and steady hands. One such combination proved to be a winner.

Yellow with red-lipped cattleya hybrids were popular in Hawaii at the time with several prominent breeders in the area and a number of fine stud plants in circulation. Blc Toshie Aoki (Faye Miyamoto x Waianae Flare) and Blc Tassie Barbero (Stewart Fortune x Faye Miyamoto) were both promising yellows and were created by the local orchid legend, Masotoshi Miyamoto.

As luck would have it, Masa had one plant and Eddie had the other. Masa contributed the pollen from Toshie Aoki and Eddie applied it to Tassie Barbero and they waited. It would take 6 months for the seed pod to ripen and another few years for the seeds to fully germinate in sterilized flasks.

It was decided that Masa would grow the seedlings of this new un-named hybrid to maturity in one of his commercial shade houses – a process that, even under the ideal tropical conditions, would take five years. He raised 500 seedlings and patiently observed their flowers with the ultimate goal of selecting the best for cloning.

As the plants started to bloom, it became apparent that this was a special hybrid. All the seedlings had large yellow flowers with various shades of red lips and fantastic shape. They were an improvement on the parents which is the hope of every breeder.

Masa offered to name the new hybrid, *Williette Wong*, after the wife of their friend and breeding partner, Eddie who had helped so much in the early days of the orchid business.

Soon, however, rumors spread that there was a grower on the island with a shade house full of never-before-seen large yellow cattleyas. Collectors from the mainland started showing up, having travelled for hours, hoping to buy the plants. Masa looked the seedlings over and chose the one that had all the outstanding traits. He simply called it, '*The Best*'.

The initial cloning of *Blc Williette Wong 'The Best'* was 5,000 plantlets which were carefully potted in 1992. By the time they matured five years later, there was a long list of standing orders from the mainland. Masa avoided distributing the clones in Hawaii for fear that a big wholesale nursery would obtain a plant and mass produce it.

'*The Best*' was later shown to the American Orchid Society judges who gave it their coveted Award of Merit. The complimentary description read "Sepals and petals bright lemon yellow with slight red flaring at the tip." Forevermore, the botanical name of the hybrid would now carry the accolade suffix, *AM/AOS*.

Twenty years have passed and Masa has cloned his prized summer-blooming hybrid several more times. There are undoubtedly tens of thousands of *Blc Williette Wong 'The Best' AM/AOS* in circulation today and specimens can regularly be found at flower shows, orchid events, and in private and public collections.

Masa and Gloria Chen are now approaching retirement age and are winding down their wholesale nursery, Orchids of Waianae. She looks back fondly on their nearly forty years of "fun with orchid lovers, collectors, hobby growers, and friends." Orchids have a way of leaving legacies and the big yellow cattleya named for their friend, Williette, is theirs.



Cattleya dowiana var. *aurea* by 陳淙裕

Photo Gallery

Home Displays
Oct 2020



Lockhartia
oerstedii
LHTA04



Paph. Nancy DePauw
P259



Encyclia Cindy
Chester K.



Paphiopedilum insigne
Darlene T.



Lc. Tanya Duncan 'Seattle Blues'
Chester K.



Potinara My Orange 'NN#2'
Chester K.



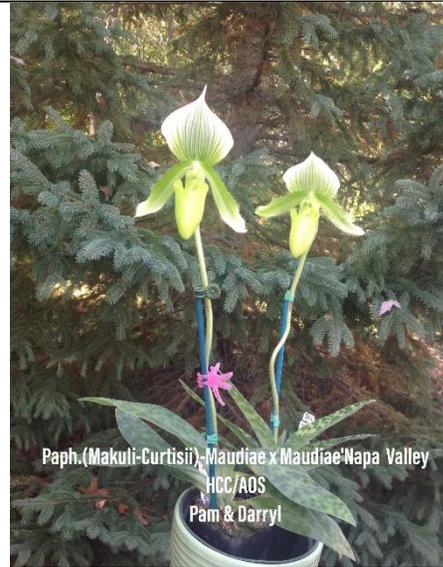
Paphiopedilum Maudiae
Mandy B.



Paph. Francisco Baptista
Darlene T.



Coelogyne ovalis
Pam & Darryl E.



Paph. (Makuli-Curtisii)-Maudiae x Maudiae Napa Valley
HCC/AOS
Pam & Darryl



Vanda (Varakorn x merrilli) 'Carmela'
Pam & Darryl



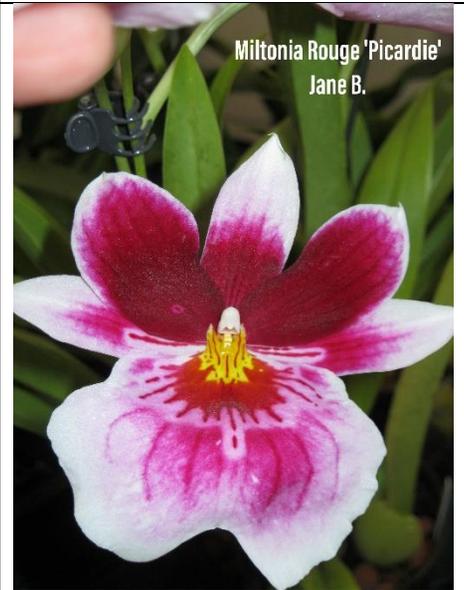
Odontocidium Everglades Elegance
Pam & Darryl



Wils. Martin Leather 'Berrylicious'
Jane B.



Cat. Sierra Doll x Fort Motte
Jane B.



Miltonia Rouge 'Picardie'
Jane B.





Lc. Robert Strait 'Islander Delight' AM/AOS
Jane B.



Lc. Big Time
Jane B.



Blc. Mari's Glory
Dean P.



Bletilla striata
Brandon S.



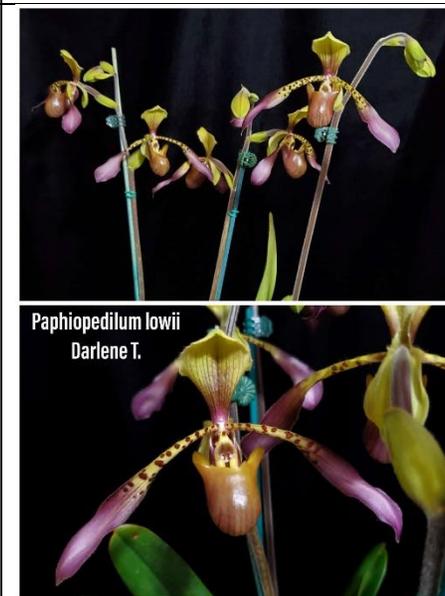
Blc. Claudia Cotarelo
Brandon S.



Brassavola nodosa 'Mas Mejor' x nodosa 'Remar'
Lore Y.



Habenaria
Darlene T.



Paphiopedilum lowii
Darlene T.

