

## CATASETUM REDUX

When Gary Lensmeyer spoke about *Catasetums* he mentioned a feature that *Catasetum* species share with *Cynoches* is that they bear separate male and female flowers with occasional intermediate or hermaphroditic forms. The female flowers of all the many species of *Catasetum* are very similar in shape. It is almost impossible to determine the species from female flowers. The male flowers of *Catasetum* are highly variable among the



Ctsm. Pontagee Star 'Brian Lawson's Sunrise' HCC x Ctsm. Susan Fuchs 'Burgundy Chips' FCC/AOS. The "pink" [male] version appeared when it bloomed June 29, last year.

many species with at least 12 to 15 different basic shapes. The early confusion among the varying sexual and floral forms led to the de-



The "green" [female] version appeared May 25, 2017, when it bloomed again.

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scription of several different genera that were united into *Catasetum* around the middle of the 19th century when Charles Darwin resolved the puzzle when writing *Fertilisation of Orchids*.

Terri Jozwiak has shared photos of one of her plants, Ctsm. Pontagee Star 'Brian Lawson's Sunrise' HCC x Ctsm. Susan Fuchs 'Burgundy Chips' FCC/AOS which goes dormant in the winter. It has bloomed almost exactly a year apart, first the male form and currently, the female form.