



Photo by Andrew H Kim  
Carole Beule with her third  
place Junihitoc

## ABOUT CAROL BEULE

Our speaker Carol Beule is an EMMY award winning Costume Designer with a Master of Fine Arts in both Costume and Lighting Design from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She has been a professional Costume Designer since 1974, and has designed for film, commercials, theatre productions and TV shows. She lived in NYC the first 15 years of her career and has just recently retired after working and growing orchids in Southern Cali-

fornia for the past 25 years.

Growing orchids in NYC was not considered a possibility, so she has grown orchids only since moving to Southern California in 1992. With temperatures ranging from 28 to 111 Fahrenheit, and humidity as low as 7% at times, growing outside with no greenhouse in Studio City at the edge of the San Fernando Valley is sometimes problematic. It has been her quest to find out what will and will not bloom and prosper under

these circumstances.

In her search to find the perfect plant for her growing area, Carol discovered the Japanese orchid called *Neofinetia* (*Vanda*) *falcata* and various other species that thrive outside in Southern California. *Lycaste* is one of those species. Carol grows various forms of *Paphiopedilum*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Cattleya*, *Laelia*, *Dendrobium*, *Sarcocylus*, Asian *Cymbidiums* and *Rossioglossum*.

*Lycaste* is a species that is native to the New World and is found from the Tropic of Cancer to the Tropic of Capricorn. While they are often thought to be a greenhouse orchid, they can be grown along side *Cattleyas* and any other outdoor growing temperate climate range orchid when their specific needs are met. They also can easily become very large specimen plants.

Carol is an AOS Associate Judge, the 1st VP of the Orchid Society of Southern California, serves on the Board of Orchid Digest and is on the committee that creates the Society's display for the Huntington's annual October Orchid Show. She has just started a new business venture: "Nichi Bachi (decorative pots) by Beule" to make *Neofinetia* (*Vanda*) and *Cymbidium* presentation pots. Carol will bring some of these pots along with her for members to see examples of her work.

## CAROL BEULE ON LYCASTE

Carol Beule graciously gave her AOS judge final training presentation to OGG on September 28 at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. The topic was *Lycaste* which included: culture, future and current hybridizing, judging criteria, and an introduction to Australian growers and their thoughts on growing. This will be a synopsis of this interesting presentation.

*Lycastes* are New World orchids found within the belt between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. They are deciduous in varying degrees. The multifloral species (*aromatica*, *cruenta*, *deppei*, *lasioglossa*, *macrobulbon*, etc.) are strongly deciduous and are warmer growers while the more evergreen species (*dowiana*, *macrophylla*, *skinneri*, etc.)

cool growers. The evergreen species tend to have fewer flowers or even single flowers. Hybrids may behave somewhere between the two species depending upon their parentage.

Presently the "Mainline" *Lycaste* hybrids



*Lycaste cruenta*, after A. Goossens, from Cogniaux, A., Goossens, A., *Dictionnaire iconographique des orchidees*, *Lycaste*, vol. 9: fascicle *Lycaste*, t. 9 (1896-1907)



with large flowers are mostly based upon *skinneri* parentage and are grown in cool and damp conditions. Many species of multiflorals have yellow flowers but there are also brown, white, with a few with pink in the flower. The evergreen species (1-6 flowers per bulb) can be white or with some brown sepals as well the pink *skinneri* varieties and with some very variable colorations. Crosses are made between the multifloral and deciduous species as well with other genera that are closely related such as *Anguloa*, *Ida*, *Zygopetalum*, *Bifrenaria*, and *Maxillaria*. There even have been crosses involving *Stanhopea*.

Judging is based upon the flower: size, shape or form, flatness, proportion, color patterning and roundness. The differences in flower count is linked to the genetic background and the age of the plant. Hybridization has increased the size of the flower over the years from 6 inches to over 8 inches. One key area of concern in judging is that the sepals are of the same size and shape, and not twisted, pinched, reflexed, cupped, tapered and curled. If the plant is very floriferous some of these traits are over-looked in judging. If the temperature is too high when the flower is developing, tearing of the petals can occur. Temperature also can affect the coloration of the flower especially for spotting on the lip and other petals.

Hybridization with *skinneri* has led to Shoalhaven (91% *skinneri*, 6% *macrophylla*, and 3% *cruenta*) which has the largest role in present hybrids. *Skinneri* dominates the shape; with *macrophylla* and *cruenta* giving floriferousness, ease of blooming and tolerance to temperature. Two Australian hybridizers that play a large role in the *Lycaste* hybridization are

Paul Sloan and Barry Taylor. They work with flasks from Japan where cutting edge hybridization is taking place. Some observations made by Paul Sloan over 25 years of growing *Lycastes* are: earlier (cool season) flowers are fewer in number but larger, later flowering in the same season produces more flowers that are smaller, and larger bulbs produce larger flowers. In the US the best blooms are in February, March and April.



*Lycaste skinneri* Lindl., after H.G. Moon from Sander, F., Reichenbachia: *Orchids* illustrated and described, vol. 1: t. 41 (1888)

Growing *Lycastes* requires bright light, 2000-4000 foot candles for the deciduous ones and slightly lower levels for the evergreen species. Carol has not found much difference in the light levels required but her major areas of concern are temperature and humidity. The evergreen do best with temperatures not over 80 degrees. Generally *Lycastes* love water and you should never let them dry out, but do not allow them to sit in water. Water heavily when in growth and spike, and water less when temperatures are cooler. Humidity is best as high as you

can but not over 80%.

Any balanced fertilizer works. Carol uses media that consists of a mix of organic potting soil, perlite and medium bark. She has also used coir that has been soaked and rinsed at least 2-3 times (to extract any salts), with perlite, medium bark and aliflor (expanded clay pellets). Any mixture that retains moisture, drains well and does not get too soggy, works well.

Carol has been using tall pots but is starting to experiment with shallower pots. She gets fantastic root growth. Her mix with coir did not break down in three years and the roots filled the pot. There is no one fast rule on the mix to use.

--- Sue Reed