

LOGAN & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

NEWSLETTER



August 2016

Foundation Date January 1976.

Thelymitra ixioides

Spotted Sun Orchid

Postal Address

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Queensland Australia

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and Graham Oldham*

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JUDGES' CHOICE SPECIAL INTEREST PLANT OF THE MONTH



Plant Name: Epidendrum (*Epi.*) chlorops

Exhibitor: Haase K

Owners Comments:

Housing: Orchid is grown in a covered shade house with 60% shade on roof, including solar weave and 50% on sides. Four fans run during daylight hours to circulate hotter air that gathers in the gable roof.

This orchid is a cool to warm grower and requires high light at around 2000 to 3000 foot candle

Feeding: Orchid is fertilised using Horticultural Solutions HSO22 and HSO12 alternating fortnightly between both 12 months of the year. Rate is 1 gram per litre. On alternate fortnight, orchids are foliar fed using HSO22 and HSO12 at same rate as above but also adding Amino K and Hysan to the foliar feed.

Watering: In summer, at least daily and sometimes more in excessive heat. Watering or misting is less in winter but would be misted on average every day in mid morning after it has warmed up a little. However take note of the prevailing weather conditions and alter the frequency depending on whether it is extremely hot summer days or cooler than normal conditions. The orchid house is also misted regularly especially on hot days.



Grow in bright indirect light conditions.



Grow in cool to hot conditions, or 15°C to 29°C at night.

Next Monthly Meeting:

Tuesday 16th August 2016

Commencing at 7.30pm.

Logan Central Community Centre

Cnr Jacaranda Ave & Wembley Road

Logan Central.

Next Committee Meeting:

Tuesday 6th September 2016

Commencing at 7.30pm.

Logan Central Community Centre

Work Roster for Aug 2016

Hall Set-up at 6.30pm

Those that can come early.

Supper: Mary Pincott and Beryl Brown.

Editorial

This months Newsletter has most of the usual information and format as in past Newsletters. Check out page 7, 8 & 9 the article from the AOS on Seedlings Versus Mericlones this is very informative on that subject.

We will be doing a session on repoting at the cultural group on page 6 see you there for a good morning.

Ken said there has been no notification on this years Bunnings sausage sizzle, we could have earned dollars to help with the prizes at the show. The Sausage Sizzle is a few hours to help the society.

There are not many shows in August the most important one being the LADOS Show at the end of this month and all members are expected to help in the running of it.

With this Newsletter you will receive a copy of the Show Schedule, bring it with you to the show to help you benching your plants. Benching Tags will be available at the August meeting, see Pam for any requirements in that regard.

The show will be really good at our new venue and I hope you win a few prizes, it makes it all worthwhile.

There is a new QR symbol (it stands for "Quick Response") on this page and it will take you to our Facebook page, any problems see Kurt or Phil McCallum.

Happy growing

Reg

COMMITTEE NOTES

August 2 2016

Pam Price (Show Organizer) gave a comprehensive report on show preparations. Bus Trips are coming from Bribie Is. Orchid Society, Southport Orchid Society, Palm Lakes Retirement Village and another possible one. Phil advised all show advertising has been done but was going to follow up on Logan News. Ken has purchased 20 extra tables. Kurt advised our Face Book Page is up and running. Club Shirt situation is on going.

Pam Price Assistant Secretary



Web Address:
www.lados.org.au



Facebook Address:

Link to our [FaceBook](#) page. Place mouse on Facebook operate Control key and click on left mouse button.

Judges for the August Meeting

There will be four Judges and any associate Judges that request to observe the procedure.

If there are sufficient plants on the benches the Judges will operate in 2 teams.

The Judges are Don Nitschinsk, Michael Billiau, John Roberts & Lynda Rapkins. Associates Gordon Grant and Jan Teufel. Members wishing to help with the stewarding please see Maree as she will be selecting them on the night.

COUNCILLOR

Phil Pidgeon

Division 9

Proud to support the Logan and District Orchid Society



FOR ANY HELP WITH COUNCIL MATTERS

Telephone: (07) 3412 5402
Mobile: 0411 869 109
email: philpidgeon@logan.qld.gov.au

SHOWS TO COME

Logan & District O.S. 27/28 August, Springwood Road State School, 94-120 Springwood Road Springwood

The LADOS show is the most important show of the year for LADOS members, make sure you attend

North Brisbane O. S. 27/28 August, Auditorium, Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha.

ANOS Kabi 27/28 August, Tom Petrie Room, 119 Gympie Rd Strathpine.

Gold Coast Dist. O. S. 2/3 Sep, Albert Waterways Community Centre.

Lockyer Valley O. S. 8/10 Sep, Cultural Centre Laidley

Beaudesert Dist O. & F. S. 10/11 September, Canungra School of Arts Hall.

West Brisbane O. S. 10.11 September, Mt. Coot-tha Botanic Gardens.

GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE AUGUST MEETING

The Guest Speaker for the July meeting is Ken Haase with a Power Point program explaining his growing technique.

MINUTES LOGAN & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY INC GENERAL MEETING

19th July 2016

OPENING: President Ken Martin opened the meeting at 7.40pm.

WELCOME: to members, visitors, and to our judges Michael Billiau, Nick Woolley, Associate Judges Gordon Grant and David Poulgrain. Scribe John Simons

APOLOGIES: as per register

MINUTES: The minutes of the June meeting, published in the Newsletter were accepted. Moved Norm Roulstone. Seconded Jim Zimmerman.

CORRESPONDENCE INWARDS and OUTWARDS accepted. Moved Jan McKenzie. Seconded Margaret Tierney.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Treasurer Doug Mogg moved and Margaret Tierney seconded that the statement showing balances of: \$8453.45. Investment Account \$ \$6246.63

Additional accounts for payment R. Illingworth \$67.96 Postage L.Baxter \$504.00 plants
D. Mogg \$294.40 AOS Bulletin 2 yrs. Full break down of accounts on file.

NEW MEMBERS: Sangee (Information still to come).

GENERAL BUSINESS:

OUR SHOW 27th and 28th AUGUST. Pam Price circulated work rosters and food donation sheets. Floral Art teams of three are forming.

ADVICE: Return Cancer Council Raffle tickets at the next meeting.

Prepare plants for sale and for benching.

Read your schedule and bring it to the Friday set-up.

Bring plastic bags and boxes.

Trade Sales Report: Adrian Bergstrum showed the members the new 140mm pot. Going well.

Website Report: Kurt Raup Facebook Page link will be in the next newsletter.

Club Badges: available from Doug Mogg \$9.

Phil McCallum: new club shirts - This is a work in progress. Kurt Raup is getting some transfers from Officeworks.

KITCHEN DUTIES ROSTER FOR THE AUGUST MEETING:

1. Mary Pincott and 2. Beryl Brown

CULTURAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Meeting on Catesetums was well received.

GUEST SPEAKER: Nick Woolley spoke on what judges are looking for from plants benched at the show. Key point :- Members are responsible for ensuring their plants go into the correct class. Read your schedule. Read the handout that Nick presented. Thank-you Nick.

JUDGES' CHOICE AWARDS:

Exhibitor's Prize: Ticket No 88 Bev Pritchard

CULTURAL AWARD: Non Given

SPECIAL INTEREST AWARD: *Epi. chlorops* Haase K

POPULAR VOTE Open V. Gordon Dillon 'Lea' Mogg D

Novice /Intermediate *Angem.* Unknown Hocking R

CLOSURE: Meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Secretary

Jan McKenzie

POTTING SUPPLIES

ORCHIATA Bark is available FROM Ken Martin, Phone 3341 5474. 9 Dianna Street UNDERWOOD.

It is available in 4 sizes, Small 6-9mm, Medium 9-12mm, Large 12-18mm and Extra Large 18-25mm.

The price to LADOS members is \$25.00 per 40L bag

Coconut Chips are available from Garden City Plastics 188 North Road WOODRIDGE, Ph 3443 7700

Adrian has sourced Charcoal in 10L bags @ \$10 a bag and is available from Ken.

When buying a quantity of any product, Adrian has requested that you ring him so a suitable supply of stock can be brought to the hall as it makes it possible for other members to purchase product.

You can call him, Adrian Bergstrum ☎ 3805 8224 or Email abergstrum@hotmail.com. It is probably best to call before lunch as Adrian works an afternoon shift at WW bulk store.

JUDGES CHOICE RESULTS FOR JULY, 2016

<p>1 <u>DENDROBIUMS:</u></p> <p>1 <i>Den.</i> Burana Jade Mogg D 2 <i>Den.</i> Candy Stripe 'Clifton' McKenzie J & I</p> <p>2 <u>CATTLEYAS Over 100mm:</u></p> <p>1 <i>Rlc.</i> Druinn's Karen Haase K 2 <i>Rlc.</i> Dal's Passion Haase K 3 <i>Rlc.</i> Budekin Bells 'Mary' Zimmerman J & M</p> <p>3 <u>CATTLEYAS 60-100mm:</u></p> <p>1 <i>C.</i> Dal's Choice Haase K</p> <p>4 <u>CATTLEYAS Under 60mm:</u></p> <p>1 <i>C.</i> Dal's Good One 'Janelle' Haase K 2 <i>C.</i> Dal's Good One 'Janelle' Haase K 3 <i>Rlc.</i> Hawaiian Passion x <i>Epi.</i> Bees Knees Pritchard T & B</p> <p>5 <u>CATTLEYAS Novelty or Cluster:</u></p> <p>1 <i>C. amethystoglossa</i> x Aussie Sunset 'Cosmic Fire' Haase K 2 <i>C. amethystoglossa</i> x Aussie Sunset 'Cosmic Fire' Haase K 3 <i>C. Intrtmedio - flava</i> Maggs G</p> <p>6 <u>PAPHIOPEDILUM:</u></p> <p>1 <i>Paph. fairrie anum</i> x Sorcerer's Stone Tierney M 2 <i>Paph.</i> Macbeth's Ghost x bellatulum Tierney M 3 <i>Paph. Double Delight</i> Tierney M</p> <p>7 <u>VANDACEOUS ALLIANCE Flowers up to 40mm:</u></p> <p>1 <i>Van.</i> Precious Krishnamoorthy Dr S 2 <i>Rhy.</i> Silvia Haase K 3 <i>Rhy.</i> Unknown Krishnamoorthy Dr S</p> <p>8 <u>VANDACEOUS ALLIANCE Flowers over 40mm:</u></p> <p>1 <i>V.</i> Gordon Dillon 'Lea' Mogg D 2 <i>V.</i> Lucky Man Udom Mogg D 3 <i>V.</i> Viboon Sunset Haase K</p> <p>10 <u>ONCIDIINAE:</u></p> <p>1 <i>Odh.</i> Cherry Fudge 'Carmela' Haase K 2 <i>Onc.</i> Twinkle Haase K 3 <i>Onc.</i> Spaceman 'Red Rendezvous' Haase K</p> <p>11 <u>MISCELLANEOUS LARGE 50mm and over:</u></p> <p>1 <i>Phrag.</i> Noirmont Haase K</p>	<p>12 <u>MISCELLANEOUS SMALL Under 50mm:</u></p> <p>1 <i>Epi.</i> Topaz Special Kapernick G 2 <i>Cym.</i> Canned Magic McCallum P 2 <i>Epi.</i> Unknown Pritchard T & B</p> <p>13 <u>AUSTRALIAN NATIVE HYBRID DENDROBIUM:</u></p> <p>1 <i>Den.</i> Hilda Poxon Kapernick G 2 <i>Den.</i> Bronsan 'Bronze' x Star Sheen 'Botanic Fireworks' Haase K 3 <i>Den.</i> Balnarring Haase K</p> <p>15 <u>AUSTRALIAN NATIVE SPECIES:</u></p> <p>1 <i>Den. liparis condylobulbon</i> Haase K</p> <p>16 <u>SPECIES EXOTIC SYMPODIAL:</u></p> <p>1 <i>Ddc. wenzellii</i> 'Yellow' Haase K 2 <i>Epi. chlorops</i> Haase K 3 <i>Bch. schunkeana</i> Copley-Bishop J</p> <p>17 <u>SPECIES EXOTIC MONOPODIAL:</u></p> <p>1 <i>Rhy. gigantea</i> 'Beetroot' Haase K</p> <p>21 <u>NOVICE CATTLEYA ALLIANCE:</u></p> <p>1 <i>Rth. Netrasiri</i> Starbright x Pennitone Hatzirodos J 2 <i>Lc.</i> Angel Heart x <i>Ctt.</i> Susan Holcombe 'Jaffa' Hatzirodos J</p> <p>23 <u>NOVICE ANY OTHER GENUS:</u></p> <p>1 <i>Paph.</i> Macabre Cheeseman B 2 <i>Bulb. allenkerrii</i> 'Gordon' Simons J 3 <i>Angcm.</i> Unknown Hocking R</p> <p><u>Cultural Award</u> No Cultural Award granted</p> <p><u>Special Interest Plant of the Month</u> <i>Epi. chlorops</i> Haase K</p> <p><u>Popular Vote—Open</u> <i>V. Gordon Dillon 'Lea'</i> Mogg D</p> <p><u>Popular Vote—Novice & Intermediate</u> <i>Angcm.</i> Unknown Hocking R</p>
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Hymn #365 Amen!

A minister was completing a temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said, 'If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river. 'With even greater emphasis he said, 'And if I had All the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.' And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, 'And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.' Sermon complete, he sat down.

The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, nearly laughing, 'For our closing hymn, let us sing together Hymn #365, 'Shall We Gather at the River.'

Smile - life is too short not to!!

If this brightened your day Don't let it stop here Pass it on with a smile Keep spreading the Cheer.

See you at the river!

Bring your own glass!

CORRECTION TO PLANT TAGS

Would all Members who will bench orchids at any future meetings, please change their plant tags as

necessary, so that we do not have to do these alterations continuously.

Changes are marked in **Red** and with an *

First placed orchids at the July meeting photos by Reg Illingworth



1. Dendrobium
1st. *Den. Burana Jade*
Mogg D

2. Cattleyas – Over 100mm
1st. *Rlc. Druinn's Karen*
Haase K

3. Cattleyas – 60mm to 100mm
1st. *C. Dal's Choice*
Haase K

4. Cattleya Under 60mm
1st. *C. Dal's Good One 'Janelle'*
Haase K

5. Cattleyas – Novelty or Cluster
1st. *C. amethystoglossa* x Aussie
Sunset 'Cosmic Fire'
Haase K

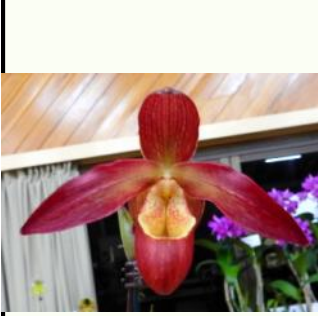


6. Paphiopedilum
1st. *Paph. fairrieianum* x Sorcerer's
Stone Tierney M

7. Vandaceous Alliance Flowers up to 40mm:
1st. *Van. Precious* Krishnamoorthy Dr S

8. Vandaceous Alliance Flowers over 40mm:
1st. *V. Gordon Dillon 'Lea'* Mogg D

10. Oncidiinae
1st. *Odh. Cherry Fudge 'Carmela'*
Haase K



11. MISCELLANEOUS LARGE
50mm and over:
1st. *Phrag. Noirmont* Haase K

12. Miscellaneous Small Under 50mm:
1st. *Epi. Topaz Special*
Kapernick G

13. Australian Native Hybrid Dendrobium
1st. *Den. Hilda Poxon*
Kapernick G

16. Species – Exotic Sympodial
1st. *Ddc. wenzellii 'Yellow'*
Haase K



17. Species – Exotic Monopodial
1st. *Rhy. gigantea 'Beetroot'*
Haase K

21. Novice Cattleya Alliance
1st. *Rth. Netrasiri Starbright* x Penitone
Hatzirosos J

23. Novice Any Other Genus:
1st. *Paph. Macabre*
Cheeseman B

ANNUAL SHOW UPDATE

Just a few reminders about our Show. When benching plants please make sure when writing benching and sales tickets that they are **legible and accurate**.

Plants should be free standing (not toppling over) and up to the standard expected of sales plants, i.e. clean, weed free pots, no scale or mealy bug etc., and well established. **Plants not up to standard will not be accepted.** If you are selling plants you must also work at the Show. Cardboard boxes and plastic bags are needed for plant sales. Remember, owing to the show being in a school hall, benching has been put back to 5.30pm-8pm on Friday 26th.

We looking forward to seeing a lot of Floral Art benched. The theme for Novice is "Think Pink" and Open "Candle Magic"

We still need lets of helpers on all days but especially Saturday morning. The work roster will be going around again at the August meeting but if you are unable to attend the meeting you can ring Pam on 3345 6143

Please return your Cancer Raffle tickets to Trish Roulstone at the August meeting – apparently there are 24 books still outstanding – are yours one of them?

Pam Price

Owing to our Secretary Jan McKenzie being unavailable to attend meetings for the rest of the year we are looking for a member (male or female) to take on the job of Minute Secretary at the Meetings. This requires you taking down the minutes and forwarding them on to Jan. Jan will prepare the Agenda for the meetings. Please assist the Club by taking on this position. See President Ken at the meeting.

HOW DO I ? BENCH PLANTS AT THE LADOS AUGUST SHOW

1. Be a financial member of LADOS or another Orchid Society.
2. Ensure your plant is in show bench condition
 - (a) Free standing (not toppling over).
 - (b) Foliage is clean and the pot is weed free.
 - (c) No scale, mealy bug or a nest of ants.
 - (d) Clean any salts around base of pot (wipe with vinegar to clean).
3. Fill in benching card with:
 - (a) Name of plant.
 - (b) Growers number.
 - (c) Class entered into (Seek help if not sure about class).
4. Obtain a wire card holder, insert card and place in pot.
5. Place plant on bench in the appropriate class.
6. If this procedure is followed you have every chance for a 1st, 2nd or third prize and maybe a champion.

The Logan and District Orchid Society Inc. Saturday Cultural Information Meeting

Invitation to all Logan & District Orchid Society Inc. members to attend the meeting of the The Logan and District Orchid Society Saturday Cultural Information Meeting, at 51 Lionheart Street, Forestdale 4118

The meeting will be at 9.30 am on Saturday the 4th of September 2016

The topic for the September meeting is - Potting on and repotting.

Please bring along any problem plants or a plant in need of a repot and if time permits we can discuss these problems and repotting methods.

As with previous meetings it would be appreciated if you would contribute \$1.00 towards the cost of photocopying.

Our phone number is: 3800 3213
Our address is: 51 Lionheart Street
Forestdale 4118

Maree and Reg are looking forward to seeing you on the day.

BEGINNER'S SERIES

ORCHID Culture — 11 — Nomenclature, and Seedlings "Versus" Mericlones

STEPHEN R. BATCHELOR

BEGINNING and inveterate orchid growers alike are constantly being offered either seedlings or mericlones as possible additions to their collections. Both are available either in flasks, community pots, or individually in two to three-inch, and larger, pots, but they are produced by fundamentally different propagation techniques. This difference has an important effect on the flowering outcome of each, something every potential buyer should be well aware of.

SEEDLINGS

Seedlings are a result of the sexual propagation of orchids. This process begins with the placement of pollinia on the stigmatic surface of a flower's column, an act called pollination. Assuming compatibility, pollen tubes will then grow down from the stigma, via the column, into the ovary. Here the fusing of genetic material from the male (pollen) and female (ovule) components will take place. Called fertilization, this event occurs some two to three months after pollination. Each of the countless seeds resulting will have its own particular set of genes. With germination, growth and flowering, these genes manifest themselves in a seedling's unique vegetative and floral characteristics.

Orchidists recognize as genetically distinct every orchid which results from seed, whether in nature or in the laboratory. When in cultivation, such sexually produced orchids are called cultivars. Exceptional cultivars, or those to be propagated into two or more plants, must be given a cultivar name. This is done to carry on the separate identity of each cultivar, a crucial distinction.



By way of illustration, consider this month's BULLETIN Front cover subject, *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Green Dagoon 'Lenette', AM/AOS. Originally, an unspecified number of seedlings were produced when one particular cultivar of *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Harriet Moseley (*Rlc.* Deesse X *Cattleya bicolor*) was bred with one particular cultivar of the species *Cattleya bicolor*. With the flowering of the first of these seedlings, the cross was registered with the hybrid registration authority, The Royal Horticultural Society of London, England, under the name *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Green Dagoon. This name was first published in *The Orchid Review* of June 1978, with the parentage (*Rlc.* Harriet Moseley X *C. bicolor*), and the registrant as Carter and Holmes Orchids. This was later reprinted under "New Orchid Hybrids" in the August 1978 BULLETIN, and will appear in the 1976-1980 Addendum to the Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids, now available.

Following proper registration, all the seedlings resulting from the original cross of (*Rlc.* Harriet Moseley X *C. bicolor*) could then be tagged *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Green Dagoon. Of this population of *Rlc.* Green Dagoon seedlings, certain cultivars distinguished themselves, most notably the cultivar which was exhibited by Lenette Greenhouses at the A.O.S. Regional Monthly

Judging in Atlanta, Georgia on January 14, 1978, the description of which appears in the AWARDS QUARTERLY, Volume 10, Number 4. In order to officially receive its Award of Merit, this cultivar had to have a cultivar name. The name 'Lenette', AM/AOS distinguishes this particular cultivar from all other seedlings of *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Green Dagoon.

Several important rules of nomenclature can be noted from the preceding discussion. All identified orchids have at least two names. Whether for species or hybrids the first name is the genus and should always be capitalized and italicized in print (or underlined when handwritten) — e.g., *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* (*Rhyncholaeliocattleya*) Harriet Moseley. For the second name, the printed form differs as to whether a species or a hybrid is involved. In the case of species, the second name should likewise be italicized or underlined, but should not be capitalized — e.g., *Cattleya bicolor*. With hybrids, the second name is the registered hybrid name discussed earlier, and is never italicized, but always capitalized — e.g., *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Green Dagoon. If a cultivar name is warranted, it follows the hybrid or species name. It is always in single quotes, capitalized, and in Roman print (not italicized or underlined). If the cultivar has received an award, that award abbreviation should come last of all, separated from the cultivar name with a comma — e.g., *Brassocattleya* Green Dagoon 'Lenette', AM/AOS. Whereas species, hybrid and cultivar names should not be abbreviated, standard abbreviations of the genera are acceptable — e.g., *Rlc.* Green Dagoon 'Lenette', AM/AOS. These can be found, along with further rules of nomenclature, in the Handbook on Orchid Nomenclature and Registration, Second Edition, or in the Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids published by The Royal Horticultural Society (see BIBLIOGRAPHY).

PROPAGATION BY SEED Because of the complexity of their genetic makeup, propagation of orchids by seed is an exercise in uncertainty. Any time pollinia are put to stigma, some variation in the progeny's flowers usually results. This variation of progeny from any one cross can be seen repeatedly in the BULLETIN, particularly in articles on orchid hybridizing. Increasing this variation among orchids produced from seed is the fact that cultivar names are not recorded in hybrid registrations, despite the understanding that each cultivar used in hybridizing is genetically distinct. This means, for example, that any subsequent crosses of *Rlc. Harriet Moseley* and *Cattleya bicolor*, even though they might involve radically different cultivars such as those of *C. bicolor* pictured here, will still be called



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Green Dagoon. No doubt, even if these two illustrated cultivars of *C. bicolor* were crossed with the same cultivar of *Rlc. Harriet Moseley* used in the original cross, the variation among the seedlings resulting would be far greater than the variation within the original cross. The overriding point to be made regarding propagation by seed is that there are no guarantees, no certainties until the actual and consistent flowering of each individual seedling resulting from a seed pod. Successful crosses can be made and made again, whether with the original parents or with two other, possibly very different clones. They will be all called by the original, registered hybrid name. Again, because of the complexity of orchid genetics, variation with a seedling population is the rule, not the exception. No one, however knowledgeable, can know precisely the

results of any cross until after the fact. This can be quite exciting for those who enjoy the unexpected, while frequently disappointing for those who do not. If you intend to hybridize orchids, go about it methodically. No orchid hybridizer has ever been consistently successful without superior "genetic material" plants which have proven their desirable, transmittable characteristics year after year. Superior plants do not in any way guarantee superior progeny; they just increase the probability of at least a few pleasing results. The first step, then, is to amass breeding stock. This is an ongoing process which can take many years and many dollars. The next step is to develop the facilities needed to "grow out" the seedlings to flowering size — in other words, can you afford the bench space? Flasking services are available if you do not have the facilities or expertise to sow seed on sterile nutrient agar. But if, once the flasks are returned hopefully bristling with seedlings, you do not have the necessary space, as well as the time, for the commu-



nity pots and individual pots to follow, what is the point? You could sell or give away some of the seedlings, but in so doing, there could go one of the proportionally few improved progeny to result!

Included in the bibliography accompanying this article are several excellent sources of further information on the propagation of orchids from seed. If you would like a step by step visual explanation of the pollinating procedure, see Charles Marden Fitch's article on pollinating *Cattleya-type* flowers. Rebecca Tyson Northen provides a comprehensive, yet detailed accounting of the entire process from seed to flowering seedling in her well known *Home Orchid Growing*, Third Edition. More of the philosophy behind sensible hybridizing can be found in the article "*Stanfieldara Sarah's* Psyche — Playing in Your Own Gene Pool", by H. Phillips Jesup, also listed in the BIBLIOGRAPHY.

MERICLONES

In stark contrast to the variation and the "element of unknown" to be expected when seedlings are produced or purchased, mericlones offer the buyer the duplication of a known, flowering entity. Mericlones are a product of meristem tissue culture, a process whereby a portion of undifferentiated but explosive tissue is excised from a plant and "teased" by a fairly elaborate chemical and mechanical procedure into producing potentially thousands of plants, all identical to the original, if the process has been done carefully and correctly. Developed in the early sixties, meristemming has made available to all growers, however limited their means, many awarded or superior cultivars of orchids. (For sources of additional information on the meristemming process, see BIBLIOGRAPHY).

To carry through with the previous example of this month's front cover subject, if you were to see offered and to purchase a mericlone of Rlc. Green Dragoon 'Lenette', AM/AOS in a 2-3" pot, you could expect with some assurance that within three years or so that plant would produce a flower nearly identical to the one pictured on the front cover. The reason for some variation from the original, despite the same genetic makeup, is due to culture. Flower size and quality also varies with the condition of the plant. Naturally, healthy orchids are able to produce better, larger flowers! On the other hand, if you were to purchase a plant listed as "Rlc. Green Dragoon (Bc. Harriet Moseley X C. bicolor) . . . Seedling, 3" pot" you would have to assume that it is an unflowered cultivar resulting from another two unidentified cultivars of the hybrid and species contained within the parentheses. When the seedling eventually flowers, it could possibly look very much like the cultivar pictured on this month's front cover, or it might look quite different. The only assurance you have is that it will look in some way similar — but not the same. To emphasize the importance of cultivar names, imagine if a large number of mericlones of the cultivar Rlc. Green Dragoon 'Lenette', AM/AOS were simply offered as "Rlc. Green Dragoon", and purchases were made from around the country. None of the buyers would realize that this, their purchase, was an awarded cultivar (much less a mericlone).). They could, without knowing, go ahead and exhibit this same cultivar at an A.O.S. judging, receive an award, and give it yet another cultivar name — with serious ramifications for both the awards system and for all orchid growers. Next consider the actual instance of the commonly available mericlones of Vuylstekeara Cambria 'Plush', FCC/AOS. This cultivar was first mericloned and offered without having received an A.O.S. award. Three of these mericlones, purchased by three separate individuals, went on to receive A.O.S. awards: one an H.C.C., one an A.M. and one an F.C.C. Yet because mericlones are genetically identical, every mericlone of Vuyl. Cambria 'Plush' now rightfully carries the coveted FCC/AOS. Without the cultivar name 'Plush', how would the original owners of these mericlones of Vuylstekeara Cambria have known that their plants had received an F.C.C.? Cultivar names on all propagated orchids are essential!

CONCLUSIONS

Mericlones are propagated asexually from an established, flowering entity, while seedlings result from a sexual process characterized by an unpredictable mixing of traits. Whether the hobbyist chooses the known in the form of an already-awarded cultivar which has been mericloned, or the unknown in the form of an unflowered seedling, is perhaps a personal matter. Even so, a collection devoted exclusively to mericlones could be said to lack individuality and excitement. At the same time, a collection excluding all mericlones might be accused of lacking quality. Why not the best of both worlds — a diverse collection encompassing both mericlones and seedlings of species and hybrids? — 84 Sherman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140.

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