

August 2017 Newsletter



New Mexico Orchid Guild Newsletter August 2017

Our next regular meeting will be:

August 13th at 1:30pm

Growers forum begins at 1:00pm
Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas
Blvd NE
*(Just West of Eubank on the South Side of
Lomas in Los Altos Park)*

As usual, please bring something to share.
Healthy snacks are appreciated!

Members are encouraged to wear their
membership badges



**Main Program: Ron Midgett of
New Earth Orchids will
present "Green with Envy:
Evolution of Green Cattleyas"**

Growers Forum: Growing Cattleyas in New

Mexico presented by NMOG member
Dorothy Duff
Growers Forums begin at 1:00

From the President's Desk:

President's Message

August 2017

While I was somewhat disappointed in the lower than average attendance at the July meeting, I have decided to attribute it to it being a holiday weekend, on an "off" Sunday and with no scheduled program.

I will say that those in attendance enjoyed a great selection of ice cream flavors and a really nice selection of blooming vandás. With fewer in attendance the raffle was also easier to win!

Our friend and fellow NMOG member, Ron Midgett, of New Earth Orchids in Santa Fe will be our guest speaker on Sunday, August 13th. His topic will be "Green with Envy, the Origin of Green Cattleyas". Ron always brings a nice selection of sale plants. Member Dorothy Duff will conduct the Grower's Forum at 1:00 PM in the Patio Room prior to the general meeting. She considers herself a novice grower, although I disagree after seeing the success she has. Her topic will be "Cattleyas, What Could Go Wrong?"

Our September, 10th meeting will be devoted to hands on repotting. Check the September newsletter for instructions and cost.

Save the date: December 10th will be our annual Holiday party at Season's restaurant in Old Town. More details and the menu will be forthcoming.

Keep cool and happy growing.

Keith

NMOG Website: <http://www.nmorchidguild.org/>
American Orchid Society Website: <http://aos.org>

Show and Tell Winners

July 2017
Photos by Barb Beil



Advanced 1st Place
Aerangis luteo-alba var. *rhodosticta*
Kelly McCracken



Advanced 2nd Place
Haraella retrocalla "in Dinosaur"
Kelly McCracken



Intermediate 1st place
Vanda Hiroshima Choice
Matthew Polmanter



Novice 1st place
Vanda Suksamran Sunlight 'Sunkiss'
Frannie Gaede

Meet Stinky 'Bucky,' the Bulbophyllum Orchid that Shutdown a Smithsonian Greenhouse

Orchid expert Tom Mirenda says history records the stench of this plant as reminiscent of a thousand dead elephants rotting in the sun



“Bucky” and its large leaves (Smithsonian Gardens) By Tom
Mirenda, Smithsonian Gardens SMITHSONIAN.COM
APRIL 17, 2017

Every orchid has an interesting story. Once you look beyond their beauty, other captivating qualities emerge about virtually all of them. However, there are some that stand out and make their presence known in ways that simply cannot be ignored.

Whether you like them or not, indifference is unlikely to be your response. In this regard, there is nothing subtle about a magnificent specimen of *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis*, that was donated to the Smithsonian Gardens last July. Charmed by its pendant glossy leaves and their resemblance to a beaver’s tail, donors Lynn Cook and Troy Ray of Penn Valley, Pennsylvania, dubbed it ‘Bucky;’ a name that lives on among Smithsonian horticulturalists now caring for the new plant.

At the time it was originally acquired a couple of decades ago, few people outside of Asia had seen this species, though many had read about it and its remarkable ecology. The inflorescence, or flower head, consists of a cluster of about 15 to 20 reddish-brown (meat-colored) flowers covered with fleshy projections called papillae that are said to resemble wriggling maggots. Charming!

Since it targets female carrion flies as its pollinator, engaging in ‘brood site deception,’ it also evolved a nasty fragrance to match its unsightly appearance.

Early writings about it claim that its blossoms emitted an aroma reminiscent of the stench of "a thousand dead elephants rotting in the sun." While this is surely hyperbole, staffers have been waiting for many months to experience Bucky’s olfactory charms.

Incredibly, buds were forming under one of its huge floppy leaves, which we didn’t observe until a

visitor spied them during a greenhouse tour. We certainly would have noticed them the next day when they opened and started their fragrance treat – making the greenhouse almost uninhabitable for a few days.



Bucky's flesh-like inflorescence

A monstrous plant from lowland Papua New Guinea, Bucky loves to be warm and humid all the time. Given its robust girth and thick pseudobulbs (storage organs in the stem), we water it daily and feed it frequently. It is the most famous species in *Bulbophyllum* section *Macrobulbon*, of which the Smithsonian Gardens Orchid Collection has an almost complete set.

They all share the same pollination strategy so more very stinky orchids are soon to come. Superficially the plant resembles *Phalaenopsis gigantea*, the largest *Phalaenopsis* species (native to Borneo). Other than both being in the orchid family, however, they are not at all closely related.



St. Augustine Orchid Society

www.staugorchidsociety.org

Top Ten Signs that Your Orchids Are Happy

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com



Cattleya Secure in Pot

1. You can pick up plant by the vegetation and the pot doesn't fall away. Roots are the secret to an orchid grower's success. If you want beautiful flowers, you need a healthy plant and for a plant to be healthy, it must have a vigorous root system. The rule in nature is there is a 10 to 1 ratio of the roots to the shoots. When the roots have filled the pot, you can pick up the entire plant from the leaves and the plant does not wobble in the pot.

2. The newest growth is larger than the prior growth. A great indicator of a well growing plant is that the new leads and leaves are larger than or at least as large as the prior year's growths. Don't fret too much if the year after repotting the growths are a little smaller than the prior year, that is probably just a short term case of transplant shock. If that trend continues though, ask for a consult with one of your orchid club's members.



Cynodes Jumbo Puff



Phalaenopsis with Healthy Leaves

3. Your orchid has thick, turgid leaves. If your leaves look dehydrated, they probably are dehydrated and you'll have to follow the old tried and true advice, knock it out of the pot and look at the roots. If the roots are rotten, you'll have to repot and consider whether it was overwatering or late repotting that caused the problem. If the roots are still viable, you may have to increase your watering frequency and or the amount of water you pour through the pot when you water.

4. Pseudobulbs and canes are plump. The canes and pseudobulbs on your sympodial orchids like the leaves on your monopodial orchids function similarly to the hump on a camel. They should be full of water and energy reserves to get your orchid through the dry spells as well as to make sure your plant has enough energy in reserve to develop flowers. After all, most orchids aren't grown for their foliage.



Dendrobium Golden Aya



Top Ten Signs that Your Orchids Are Happy

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com



Long Root Tips

5. Plants in growth show long green (or red) root tips. You know you are a real orchid addict when you are just as excited about a new root as you are a new flower bud. When a plant is in active growth, it throws off new roots and the faster it grows, the longer the root tip.

6. Plants are flush with new growth, trying to jump out of the pot.



Cattleya Out of the Pot

When your plant is growing well, it is throwing off new growths, more leaves on a phalaenopsis or vanda, more pseudobulbs on a cattleya, more canes on a dendrobium, etc. With each new growth, comes the potential for new blooms. Dendrobiums are the exception, many will bloom from older growths, but cattleyas will only bloom from new growth, and somehow they always seem to bloom best when they're a bulb or two out of the pot. A monthly application of seaweed or kelp which contains some plant hormones will encourage new growths on your plant.



Calanthe Baron Schroder

7. You get multiple bloom spikes. Your orchids expend a tremendous amount of energy to form flower buds and then to carry the flowers in the hopes one of their pollinators will drop in for a visit. The more energy they are able to generate and store, the more energy reserves are available when it is time for them to start flowering. A drop in night time temperature also helps many plants conserve their energy stores. Multiple bloom spikes are your reward for meeting the cultural needs of your plants.

8. Your orchids don't complain about being hungry. Orchids aren't like teenagers, they can't keep saying I'm hungry every couple of hours. Your orchids will grow fine with little fertilizer and many people proudly say they never fertilize their orchids. The real orchid food is light, but fertilizer contains the essential mineral building blocks for your plant. Get into a fertilizer routine. Use either water soluble or timed release fertilizer, whichever suits you better. Your orchids may not burp in appreciation, but you'll see an improvement in growth vigor.



Clowesetum Jumbo Circle 'Clair'
AMAOS



St. Augustine Orchid Society

www.staugorchidsociety.org

Top Ten Signs that Your Orchids Are Happy

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com



Leaves Unmarred by Damage

have to be vigilant looking for scale, mealybugs, mites and other opportunistic devils.

9. No Vacancy” for disease and pests. A vigorously growing plant is much more capable of withstanding problems. It is axiomatic that if you have found the sweet spot for your orchid, you also have found a location where there is enough air movement to keep your orchid happy which means you'll have fewer fungal infections. While orchids don't have an immune system similar to we humans, a healthy plant can mount a greater defense against disease and to some extent pests. You always

10. All your friends want divisions. The ultimate compliment is when friends come into your growing area and say I'd love a piece of that whenever you divide it. It means you've grown the plant to its maximum potential and gotten it to produce beautiful blooms. Do share your divisions with friends, it is one of the joys of gardening in general and growing orchids in particular. And who know, someday you may be asking for a piece of that plant back.



Cattleya Sue Bottom 'St. Augustine'

Classifieds

Email Kelly@dunnassoc.net to list orchids for sale or trade, orchid related items, or "In Search Of" posts

A graphic for an orchid tour featuring a close-up of purple orchids. The text is overlaid on the image.

Winning Orchid
Tour

Panama
Colombia
Ecuador
Costa Rica

For More Info Visit:
http://jonahwinn.com/orchid_tours/
Or e-mail winn0044@gmail.com



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