



Orchid News
Kentucky Orchid Society, Inc.
December 2018
Louisville, KY

Newsletter Editor: Gloria Teague, glorchid@iglou.com

December Program: Annual Holiday Dinner

Wednesday, December 12, 2018
Immanuel United Church of Christ
2300 Taylorsville Road
7:00 pm Meeting

From the President

Hello Everyone!

Please join us for our Holiday Dinner on Dec. 12th at 6:30 at Immanuel Church of Christ. As they say "Out with the old and in with the new" A way to celebrate what we have accomplished and look forward to many new things!!!! Remember to bring your food item for the pot luck dinner. The charge is \$4.00 per person to help pay for the meat, etc. Looking forward to seeing many of the faces we usually see AND many new faces too. Happy Holidays!!!!

Ruth Schneider
President
rblschnei@gmail.com

From the Vice President

Hi Everyone!

It's that time of year when the "to do list" is 3 pages long! So much to do, so little time. I do hope your orchids' care is somewhere near the top of your list! If they are forgotten, you could rob yourself of those winter and early spring time blooms. A little water goes a long way this time of year, but none can spell disaster. Happy growing.

KOS Annual Holiday Party

Date: 2nd Wednesday, December 12th

Time: 7pm

Where: Immanuel Church of Christ, 2300 Taylorsville Rd

Fee: \$4.00 per person to cover cost of meat (pay when you come)

Food: Covered dishes by members & Turkey

RSVP: No later than **December 5th**

To RSVP: pamlarocco@hotmail.com, call or txt my cell: 502-664-2355

Information Needed:

*Your full name
*# of people attending (please include spouse or guests)

* Dish you are bringing, **please bring serving spoon/fork**

Note: Please select from the following options:

Vegetable, casserole, green salad, stuffing & gravy or potatoes, rolls & butter, or dessert.

CLUB PROJECT:

The club will be purchasing Den. Pink Sparkles, a mini to compact growing orchid for all members wishing to participate. We will grow them for 1 year and return with them (alive and beautiful or dead in the pot!) to next year's Holiday Party to see who has done the best with their plant. We will also recognize the person with the plant that flowers first. This may occur before or after next December. A Culture sheet with instructions will be available. If you have any questions, please contact me.

1 plant per member will be distributed at the Holiday Party. **You must RSVP to me no later than Dec. 1st as I am ordering them at 5pm that night. To RSVP email me at pamlarocco@hotmail.com or call or txt 502-664-2355.** If you wish to participate but are unable to attend the Holiday Party, you may reserve one but will have to make arrangements to get it in and around December 12th. Please call me.

Happy Holidays!

Pam LaRocco, Vice President
pamlarocco@hotmail.com

Minutes

The KOS monthly meeting held at the Immanuel United Church of Christ at 7:00 pm. There were 22

members present. Ms. Heavrin from Gilda's Club attended, welcome to our meeting.

The Treasurer's financial report was presented and approved. President Schneider presented the October meeting minutes via the monthly newsletter. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented by the members.

Old Business

President Schneider informed members that we would be making a donation to Robert – the man who handles the kitchen duties for the Christmas party.

Members elected to support the Louisville Orchestra by our club providing plants as table decorations for a November 18th fundraising event. Six members offered to supply orchids as table decorations for the meeting. Drop-off will be at Jan Smith's house.

President Schneider announced that the Society Picnic and auction on Saturday, October 12, 2018 at Jan Smith's house was a success. Approximately \$1000 was raised from our Auction.

President Ruth congratulated members that won ribbons at the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society Fall Show on October 19 -21. Thank you to Steve Benjamin who volunteered to setup a display on our behalf.

President Ruth and Liz Smith met at Gilda's Club to participate in an Orchid Info event with them on November 7th. They talked about repotting orchids and met some new people.

Chuck Jonus reminded all that dues are due for 2019 and that picnic proceeds came to approximately \$1000.

The new slate of officers was presented and approved by membership vote. The KOS Board for 2019 are: President: Ruth Schneider, Vice President: Jan Smith, Recording Secretary: David Easley, Corresponding Secretary: Liz Smith, Treasurer: Linda Solley.

New Business

An event that will include the club will be the 2019 Home & Garden Show March 1-3, 2019. We will purchase approximately 200 plants to sell. There will be no charge to the Society for the first year at the Home and Garden Show. We will need as many members as possible to cover the 3 day event.

The Master Gardeners Club of New Albany asked if someone could make an orchid presentation on November 5th. Sal Locascio and Jim Mulloy volunteered to do this event.. Their contact is Bob Ammantan.

The Holiday dinner will be on December 12th. It will be Pot luck. Please RSVP by December 5th to Pam LaRocco. She sent around a sign-up sheet and approximately 25 people signed up.

Condolences and a card will be sent to Tanya on the loss of her mother.

Carla reminded members of the orchid info library available to all members.

Jim McCulloch asked that his phone number be taken off future printings of culture sheets.

Show & Tell Plants – Show & Tell was not held this month since only 3 members supplied plants.

Plant Raffle was held for members and guests this evening.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next meeting will be December 12, 2018.

Sal Locascio, Recording Secretary
sallocascio48@gmail.com

Cattleya maxima Lindl.

**the late Isaias M. Rolando, PhD, unravels the
history of Cattleya maxima**



Cattleya maxima 'Crownfox Delicado' AM/AOS

During the Virreynato del Peru expedition, Hipolito Ruiz, Jose Pavon and Joseph Dombey collected Cattleya maxima. This trio comprised the first botanical group assembled to document the native plants for the famous Flora Peruviana et Chilensis and arrived in Lima April 8, 1778. For 10 years they traversed the surroundings of Tarma, Huanuco, Cuchero and Pozuzo in the rainforests of central Peru. However, they never explored the areas of Quito and Loja, in Ecuador. While in Peru, Ruiz and Pavon started to train a third Spanish botanist, Juan Jose Tafalla, to carry on their exploration. Beginning in June 1785, and continuing until his death in 1811, Tafalla followed in Ruiz and Pavon's footsteps, collecting plant material and sending it to Spain. In May 1799 Tafalla set off to explore Loja, where he remained and collected for 10 years. After

the French occupation in 1816, Ruiz died in Madrid, and difficult times forced Pavon to start mailing drawings and plant herbaria of the Peruvian expeditions to London. .

As stated in Lindenia, Aylmer B. Lambert acquired this botanical material and showed the herbaria to Dr. John Lindley, who concluded that a plant collected by Juan Tafalla in the Andes near Guayaquil, Ecuador, was a new *Cattleya*. Lindley had established the genus *Cattleya* in honor of Sir William Cattley in 1821, and described three species - *Cattleya labiata* (1821), *Cattleya loddigesii* (1823) and *Cattleya forbesii* (1823) - before publishing *Cattleya maxima* in 1831.

By 1842 explorer Hartweg had sent live plants of *C. maxima* to the Royal Horticultural Society in London. In 1866 the search for this species was resumed when Linden dispatched explorer Gustav Wallis to the region between Rio Tumbes and Rio Huancabamba. Wallis obtained plants that were sent to Linden's nursery in Brussels.

Two distinct forms of *C. maxima* - the "lowland type" and the "upland type" - occur (Withner, 1988). The elevations of the habitats range from 330 to 6,000 feet (100 to 1,800 meters) above sea level. The lowland type occurs near Guayaquil in the Pacific Coastal areas near this Ecuadorian port. Vegetatively it is "...gigantic compared to other cattleyas" (Withner, 1988). It stands 28 inches (70 cm) tall and is larger than any of the *Cattleya labiata* group. The number of quite-floppy-and-small flowers rendered in soft colors ranges from 12 to 25. In contrast, the upland form is similar in size to members of the *Cattleya labiata* complex. Four to six very dark 6-inch (15-cm) flowers are borne in a cluster.

Except for *Cattleya aurea*, *C. maxima* is the only

Cattleya that grows on the Pacific side of the western slopes of the Andes in an extended area ranging from Peru northward through Ecuador and Colombia; it also occurs in Venezuela. In Peru it is called Flor de Navidad, Christmas Flower (Withner, 1988).

HYBRIDS



Cattleya maxima 'Crownfox' AM/AOS

In 1859 the famous orchid firm of Veitch and Sons registered the first *Cattleya* hybrid, and one of its parents was *C. maxima*. Named *Cattleya Dominiana* (*maxima* x *intermedia*), it honored John Dominy who first obtained orchid hybrids from seeds. This same firm registered other *C. maxima* hybrids in the last decades of the 19th century: *Laeliocattleya Amesiana* in 1884 (x *Laelia crispata*), *Cattleya Chlois* in 1893 (x *bowringiana*) and *Cattleya Vestalis* in 1899 (x *C. dowiana*). According to Sander's List of Registered Orchid Hybrids, there were 22 primary and three secondary *C. maxima* hybrids registered prior to 1925. No *C. maxima* hybrids were registered between 1925 and 1960. Since then through 1990, however, 15 *C. maxima* hybrids were registered.

According to Ernest Hetherington (1985), bifoliate cattleyas impart the shape of their lips to their progeny when hybridized with unifoliate cattleyas. However, it seems this is not the case with the monofoliate *C. maxima*. Hybrids within the genus *Cattleya*, such as *Cattleya Coloramax* (x *bicolor*), possess a *C. maxima*-like lip, as do intergeneric hybrids, such as *Brassocattleya Fuchs Star* (x *Brassavola nodosa*).

There are special horticultural characteristics to anticipate in future hybrids. *Cattleya maxima* (upland type) has been observed growing outdoors in California, Florida, Guayaquil and Lima, sometimes in full sun. We have grown *C. maxima* where it receives cool nights 40 F (5 C) and full sunshine, which suggests *C. maxima* possesses the ability to adapt to many climates, and, therefore, can be cultivated in a diversity of environments.

Well-grown plants produce two growths each year. Combining *Laelia anceps* hybrids with *Cattleya maxima* might yield improved orchids for growing outdoors where temperatures dip to freezing. Although the fragrance of *C. maxima*'s flowers is unremarkable, there are a few clones of the upland type that do perfume the air of a small greenhouse in the morning.

COLOR FORMS

var. alba There are two Ecuadorian forms. One was exhibited at the Guayaquil International Orchid Show in 1988. There is a Peruvian variety not yet presented at any show, but we have a previous record of another Peruvian *alba* form at the Botanical Garden of Heidelberg (Dr. Senghas, personal communication).

var. coerulea One of the most beautiful *coerulea* forms was exhibited at the 1991 Guayaquil, Ecuador orchid show where it received an AM/AOS (86 pts.). This *C. maxima* 'Hector', AM/AOS, was raised by Padre Angel M. Andreetta. The flowers are spaced for an attractive presentation.

var. concolor An Ecuadorian form with a lovely pure soft rose color and no veins in the lip, but with the usual yellow vein in the middle of the lip. white sepals and petals. There are no colored veins inside the lip, which is pigmented a soft rose color.

var. semi-alba From the highlands of Ayabaca, this form is published here in color for the first time. There is one division of the plant in Dr. Sergio Oliveria's collection (Sao Paulo, Brazil), from which he will prepare the botanical description.

var. superba From the uplands of Northern Peru. The shape of the flower is similar to the upland type but the flower reaches 9 inches (22 cm) in good growing conditions. This cultivar has been selfed and the seedlings are healthy.

var. venosa This has the type colors of the upland variety, but with dark venation in the petals. Without a doubt, the future appears bright for *C. maxima* - the greatest cattleya - whose true beauty is only now beginning to be appreciated.

References:

Hetherington, Ernest. 1985. The bifoliate cattleyas - 1 - purples, pinks, and whites. *Amer. Orchid Soc. Bull.* 54(10): 1210-1219.

Withner, Carl. 1988. *The Cattleyas and Their Relatives: Volume I, The Cattleyas*. Timber Press, Portland.

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Show and Tell



Wils. Martian Leather 'Berrylicious' 'DD'



Brassavola nodosa



Burr. Newy Isler



Alkra. Mem. Khun Krahit 'Stargazer'



Dockrillia rigida, formerly known as Den. rigidum