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Outstanding blooms from our members

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Orchid growing toolbox



V. Yellow Butterfly 'Yellow two tone'

*The
American
Orchid
Society
celebrated
in October*

OSM PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear member of the Orchid Society,
The first issue of the new OSM Newsletter has received a warm welcome from all members. We shall do our best to share, as much as we can, information and advice on orchids, until we are able to meet again.

In October last, the American Orchid Society (AOS) celebrated its 100th anniversary. Its President, Robert F. Fuchs highlighted the following milestones:

- The first society of its kind in the USA.
- The first society to have a show in 1924, in Boston.
- Set standards for orchid study, conservation, and culture.
- Established judging standards and kept photographic records of awarded orchids.
- The AOS commitment for the dissemination of knowledge about growing orchids

We are indeed very proud to be affiliated to the American Orchid Society since 1983.

Photo gallery

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR MEMBERS' JEWELS

More photos from OSM members' collections. Remember, it's a golden opportunity to see these blooms which we might not have seen in any of our mini shows.



Bulbophyllums
Grower: Gerard Leung



Caularthron bicornutum
Grower: Jay Ramma



Bulb. Saltatorium var. albocillatum
Grower: Gerard Leung



Papilionanda Josephine Van Brero
Grower: John Davy



Dendrobium farmeri
Grower: Shahrukh Bundhun-Puddoo



Bulb.
corolliferum

Bulb.
mastersianum

Bulbophyllums
Grower: Gerard Leung



Dendrobium difforme
Grower: Gerard Leung



Pleurothallis teaguei
Grower: Joseph Sam Soon



Paph. philippinense

Grower: Shahrukh Bundhun-Puddoo

Tips for your *Phalaenopsis* by John Davy

We have had gorgeous *Phalaenopsis* hybrid flowers since September, and they will soon begin to fade. Some spikes go on for years and others may produce baby Keikies.

If your plant is weak, or the spike is dead, or you have recently re-potted you will need to cut off the whole flower spike. However, if you have a good strong spike, you will soon have to make a choice to make for your next flowering: if you want a stronger stem and you are prepared to wait for a whole year then cut the whole stem off as close to the leaf junction as you can without injuring the leaves.

If you are impatient to see another set of flowers and induce the same stem to produce offshoots from this stem that will re-flower within a year, then cut off the flowering stem above the second node that has a bract that did not carry a flower. Do this operation before the terminal node has withered. They will however produce less and smaller flowers than cutting the whole stem.

You may have noticed where the petals overlap the junctions go brown and paper-thin. If you prise apart the affected petals, you might see the 2mm long insect there. These are thrips! We will explain to you how to use "Thrip Traps" in our next issue.

Changes in orchids' names by Gerard Leung For Sang

From time to time, we hear that there have been changes in such and such orchid name, but why should this happen? As if their latinized names were not difficult enough for us to pronounce, let alone remember them, now they must change them! Well, there have been notable changes in the *Cattleya* alliance and the Vandaceous family that I know of, and surely, there will be more to come. In the past, botanists and taxonomists relied primarily on the physical characteristics of plants and flowers for classification and nomenclature. But nowadays, thanks to advances in technology they use DNA analysis for better classification. Thus, changes have been brought about and genera have thus been split apart, lumped together, or scrapped altogether based on their DNA analysis.

For example, the genus *Neofinetia* no longer exists, the three species that it contained have all been moved to *Vanda*. So, no more *Neofinetia falcata*, now it's *Vanda falcata*. Well, the story does not end here, this change triggers further changes in all hybrids made with the genus *Neofinetia*... Remember *Neostylis* Lou Sneary? Its new name is now *Vandachostylis* Lou Sneary.



Vanda falcata

Rhyncholaelia digbyana and *Rhyncholaelia glauca*, these two species are separated from the genus *Brassavola*. (No, *Rhyncholaelia* is not a cross between *Rhynchostylis* and *Laelia*). They were formerly known as *Brassavola digbyana* and *Brassavola glauca* respectively. It is from *Rhyncholaelia digbyana* that many of our *Cattleya* hybrids get their lovely, frilled lip. Remember Blc. yes, those 3 letters that start the names of many of our beloved *Cattleyas*, well, this also has changed for those hybrids that have either *Rl. digbyana* or *Rl. glauca* in their parentage, now it has become Rlc.. Blc. stands for *Brassolaeliocattleya* and Rlc. for *Rhyncholaeliocattleya*. Brasso which stands for *Brassavola*, is now replaced with Rhyncho for *Rhyncholaelia* for those hybrids having a *Rhyncholaelia* in their parentage. Hope this is making some sense now.



Rl. Digbyana



Rl. glauca

Some bifoliate (having two leaves) *cattleyas* from Central America have been moved to the genus *Guarianthe*, the abbreviation of which is *Gur.* *C. skinneri*, *C. aurantiaca*, *C. bowringiana*, *C. deckeri* and *C. patinii*, these are all *Guarianthes* now. Yes, the familiar *Cattleya skinneri* is now known as *Guarianthe skinneri*.



Yes, this one! It is a regular award winner in our annual shows It is the national flower of Costa Rica where it is known as *guaria morada* meaning purple country girl. *Guarianthe* is hence derived from the word *guaria* and the Greek word *anthea* meaning blossom.

And changes in orchid names will not stop here, or should I say, it's only the beginning...

Membership subscription

We wish to thank members who have responded favourably to our appeal to settle their outstanding subscription.

We kindly invite those of you who have not yet done so to please contact our Treasurer, Youvraj on 57667084 or

email him at: ash777live.com to clear any arrears on membership subscription. We thank you in advance.

Editorial team: Serge L'Ecluse, Shashi Puddoo, Gerard Leung For Sang and John Davy.

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