

# Venice Area Orchid Society News

Feb. 2013

**Next Meeting: Wednesday  
February 6th at 7:00 p.m.  
Speaker: Doris Dukes  
Topic: "How Plants Are Judged"**

Doris Dukes was born in Florida and lived in Texas, New York, Alaska, Virginia, Colorado, etc. She has been an AOS judge for 25 years and served as the Florida North Central Chair for 4 years and Vice-chair for 3 years.

She and her husband, Bill Thoms, have been orchid hunting in Ecuador, Brazil, Jamaica, Venezuela, Thailand and Belize. Together, they have over 96 AOS cultural awards in every major genus and have lost count of the AOS quality awards they received. She won the Riopelle Award in 1996 and 2000 for the best miltoniopsis, the AOS Gold Medal for a 100 sq. ft. exhibit as well as the AOS Show Trophy for a tabletop exhibit.

Her most exciting moment was receiving an FCC for a Paphiopedilum Booth's Sand Lady and while she grows all kinds of orchids, paphs are her first love.

Doris will be bringing plants, fertilizers and books for sale.



## Ghost Orchid Highlights

Our next newsletter will feature the trials and tribulations encountered by one of our members, to be identified, as he/she ventures into the uncharted waters of ghost orchid flasking and culture.

Meanwhile, the January 2013 edition of Orchids, the AOS monthly bulletin, has two excellent articles about these rare and famous orchids. The first, by Fred Clarke, "Ghostly Encounters", provides insights into unusual conditions under which some ghost orchids not only manage to survive, but actually thrive. The second, by Lawrence W. and Jennifer A. Zettler, "Boisduval Scale in the Fakahatchee", describes the rapidly increasing infestation of many of our native orchids, including the ghost orchid, by the scale and other pests and diseases. The article also details the role of parasitoid wasps in their control.

## A Message from your President:

Happy New Year to everyone and welcome back, snowbirds! As I reflect on 2012, I realize that our Society had many new accomplishments. We had a wonderful 50th anniversary celebration in which many guests praised our work.

Nancy Severson joined with us to honor her husband, Jack Severson, the first president of VAOS, as we created the Jack Severson award for our annual show. We named a new hybrid "C. Memoria Jack Severson" in his honor and all attendees received seedlings. We received excellent news coverage of this event in the Gondolier and in December we had an article in "Discover Venice" as well as a recap in the Gondolier.

We greatly increased attendance at our Growers Clinics, "Orchid Growing Made Easy", averaging 25 per meeting. Why? The meetings focused on relevant topics which were promoted heavily and Jimmy Thomas provided enthusiastic and knowledgeable leadership. Carol Wood, Rich Amos and Ted Kellogg also gave fine presentations. We also initiated our Mentor Program which has 14 experienced growers who coached 25 new members to be successful growers. Thank you, Peggy Fahrenback!

We joined the Venice Chamber of Commerce, attended their networking events, and had a display at the Chamber Expo. Thus, we gained more members and found 3 new sponsors for our Show. Our membership is up to an all-time high of 185 households, thanks to Judy and Jay Loeffler, who cheerfully encourage guests to join VAOS.

As an important part of our mission, we contributed more to orchid conservation, by supporting both a science club project at Venice High School and a project of the American Orchid Society. Thank you, Ali Hicks, for managing our finances and ensuring that our expenditures stayed within or below our budget.

Thanks to Rich Amos and Jimmy Thomas, we have lighter 'handmade' materials to set up our Orchid Show displays. We also had a profitable Orchid Show last year and look forward to another spectacular one next month. Thank you, Barbara Wagner and Carol Wood, for



Cynthia Vance

[WWW.VAOS.ORG](http://WWW.VAOS.ORG)

Venice Area Orchid Society, P.O. Box 443, Venice, FL 34284-0443

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## Officers 2012 - 2013

### **President**

Cynthia Vance, [pres@vaos.org](mailto:pres@vaos.org)

### **Vice President - Programs**

Jim Thomas

[programs@vaos.org](mailto:programs@vaos.org)

### **Vice President - Social Affairs**

Gerry Thomas, [social@vaos.org](mailto:social@vaos.org)

### **Vice President - Show Displays**

Richard Amos, [disp@vaos.org](mailto:disp@vaos.org)

### **Treasurer**

Ali Hicks, [tres@vaos.org](mailto:tres@vaos.org)

### **Recording Secretary**

Peg Fahrenback, [rsec@vaos.org](mailto:rsec@vaos.org)

### **Membership**

Jay & Judy Loeffler, [memb@vaos.org](mailto:memb@vaos.org)

### **Directors At Large:**

#### **Annual Show Chairs**

Barbara Wagner

Carol Wood

[showchair@vaos.org](mailto:showchair@vaos.org)

### **Immediate Past President**

Ted Kellogg, [tmkellogg@gmail.com](mailto:tmkellogg@gmail.com)

### **Volunteers**

Donn Smart, Communications

The Cullens, Raffle Table

Judy Russell, Plant Table

Jerry Manegold, Technology

Bryan Herd, Librarian

### **Newsletter Editor**

Steve Vogelhaupt

### **Newsletter Production**

Barry Zack

### **Website Maintenance**

Ted Kellogg

### **VAOS Printer**

Creative Technology of Sarasota

## *Venice Area Orchid Society News*

P.O. Box 443, Venice, FL 34284-0443

- Published monthly.
- Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the prior month.
- Please direct comments to:  
Steve Vogelhaupt, [newsletter@vaos.org](mailto:newsletter@vaos.org)
- Written submissions are appreciated.

## Minutes of the January 2, 2013 VAOS Meeting

President Cynthia Vance opened the meeting with announcements. Society dues of \$15 are required to continue membership during 2013. We also are asking members to become Patrons for the annual orchid show, with donation levels beginning at \$25 per household. Business Sponsorships for the Show are now at \$3850, which is 40% higher than past levels. VAOS membership in the Venice Chamber of Commerce has resulted in increased sponsorships. She directed members' attention to printed flyers of upcoming events. This includes the Growers Clinic on Jan. 9th and the Annual Orchid Show "Rhapsody in Hue" Feb. 2-3. Members were asked to help promote this Show, as it provides income used to provide speakers, pay rent at the Community Center and other Society expenses.

Carol Wood presented information about the upcoming annual show and passed around sign-up sheets for volunteering at the Show. She presented a Show promotion flyer created by Carol Marcus. The flyer and promotional cards will be distributed by members. Committee Chairs made announcements about the Show. Toni Marie requested donations of floral oasis for wet arrangements and asked members to bring cut greenery to the Community Center one day prior to the Show. Richard Amos announced that he will need blooming orchids for the Sarasota Show.

Cynthia thanked Carol Marcus for her artistic creation of the poster and promotion cards, and thanked all Show Chairs. She then introduced the speaker Bill Fender, who is also a VAOS member. Bill has been a local orchid grower until recently, but is now retired and enjoying orchids as a hobby. He is known for developing hybrids that grow well in this area. He discussed tips for selecting orchids when purchasing.

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### **Treasurer's Report January 2013**

#### **Checking Account**

Starting Balance

12/16/2012.....\$450.65

+ Income.....\$1,307.56

- Payments.....\$455.61

Balance (1/15/13).....\$1,302.60

#### **Show Checking Account**

Balance (12/16/2012.....\$4,144.95

+ Income.....\$3,381.52

- Payments .....\$1,009.00

Balance (12/16/12).....\$6,517.47

#### **Cash Account**

Balance (1/15/2013).....\$40.00

#### **Money Market Savings**

Balance (1/15/2013).....\$23,013.11

#### **Total Assets**

1/15/2013.....\$30,873.18

*Submitted by Ali Hicks*

### **Support our 2013 Show Sponsors**

#### **Platinum**

- Advanced Window Concepts
  - Edgewood Nursery
- Herald-Tribune Media Group
  - Raleigh & Associates
  - Stanley Dean State Farm

#### **Gold**

- AAA Auto Group
- Burgundy Square Cafe
  - Center For Sight
  - Daiquiri Deck
- Dr. Frederick Bloom
- Drs. Davis & Beyer, DDS
  - Happy Puppy Pet Spa
  - The Ramada Venice
  - Silverstein Institute
  - Jacaranda Trace
- Retirement Community

#### **Silver**

- Valenti's Allegro Bistro
- Scottie's Dawghouse
- And Catering Co.

## Plant Table Awards January 2, 2013

The First Place was awarded to Hank Irvine's beautifully grown Bc. Princess Teresa 'Princess Michiko' HCC/AOS. There were about 18 light pink flowers proudly presenting yellow throats. Oh, by the way, this plant was also awarded the Speaker's Commendation as well as being voted Member's Choice. I think it should also have been awarded 2nd place and 3rd place, but the judges thought otherwise. Great Growing, Hank!



*Bc. Princess Teresa 'Princess Michiko' HCC/AOS*

Peg Fahrenback earned the Second Place award with an outstanding Ascda. John De Baise 'Blue Krairit'. This is Vanda Kasem's Delight crossed with Ascda. Yip Sum Wah. A really nice plant with about 25 purple blossoms, each about 3 inches across. Peg's plant went to the Sarasota Orchid Show where it earned a blue ribbon and the AOS judge's trophy for Most Outstanding Ascocenda



*Ascda. John De Baise (Blue Krairit')*

Plant at the show! Congratulations Peg!

Cynthia Vance brought in C. Green Emerald for us to admire. This is C. Elizabeth Mahon x C. Thospol Spot. A great cross which produced this neat plant with 4 ½ inch blossoms, green with dark purple spots and pleasing red lips. The judges awarded the Third Place ribbon to this beautiful plant.

I believe this was the first time I have not seen any species plants on our Plant Table. Let's not let this happen again. Remember, a species plant crossed with the same species plant is still a SPECIES, even if the two parent plants have different clone names.



*C. Green Emerald*

*Plant Descriptions by Bill Timm*

### President's message continued from page 1

managing this huge task. And thank you, our members, who have become patrons and/or have volunteered for our upcoming show, "Rhapsody in Hue". Without the support of all our members, including those who bring refreshments, support our Raffle Table, or handle the many little tasks at every meeting, we could not have had these successes. Indeed we have a smooth functioning and fun Society by working together!

### Minutes of the January VAOS Meeting continued from the previous page

Cynthia Vance, Bill Fender, Jane Camarota and Roberta Williams celebrated their birthdays. Toni Marie presented a cake for all to enjoy and members sang Happy Birthday during intermission.

Plant Table awards were given and the meeting was adjourned after the Raffle.

*Respectfully submitted, Peg Fahrenback*

### Final Notice 2013 Membership Dues

The deadline for paying your annual dues is February 6, 2013, the date of our next meeting. Dues are only \$15 per household per calendar year and can be paid to Ali Hicks, Treasurer, at the next meeting, at the Membership Table during our February show or by mailing your check, payable to VAOS to:

Ali Hicks, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 443  
Venice, FL 34284-0443

Please pay ASAP so that you will continue to receive important emails, the monthly newsletter with culture supplement(s) and be included in the 2013 Membership Directory.



## VAOS Exhibits at Sarasota Orchid Show



Rich and Mary Amos and their team put together a gorgeous table top exhibit at the annual Sarasota Orchid Show on January 5-6. Our exhibit consisted of 33 plants exhibited by 11 members.



We received a total of 13 ribbons:

Debi Wolfe - 1 red  
 Bill Timm - 2 red, 2 yellow  
 Peg Fahrenback - 1 blue  
 Jim Thomas - 1 blue, 2 red  
 Donn Smart - 3 blue  
 Tony Nacinovich - 1 red

The Sarasota Orchid Society awarded just two trophies for best exhibit: Sarasota took 1st place and Manatee River Orchid Society took 2nd place.

Thanks to display team members Jim Thomas, Ken Dolan, Carol Wood, Bill Timm, Tony Nacinovich and Peg and Bill Fahrenback for their work in set up and take down of the display, as well as to all of the members who contributed plants for the exhibit.

Of special note - Peg Fahrenback's plant Ascda. John De Biase 'Blue Krairit' not only took a blue ribbon, but was awarded the Most Outstanding Ascocenda Plant trophy by the AOS judges. Way to grow Peg!



## VAOS 2013 Annual Show February 2-3

We're pleased to announce that 115 members have signed up to work the show - WOW! Well known as an active society, this is still impressive! Thank you committee chairs, volunteers and all who have signed up to bring food for the show.

Here's the schedule:

Thursday 1/31/13 - Venice Community Center (VCC) staff will set up all rooms except for the stage side of the ballroom between 4 - 7pm. Orchid Boutique volunteers can access their space that evening to set up.

Friday 2/1/13 - Set up begins at 12:00 noon and ends at 7pm. Volunteers who have signed up to help with set up should arrive by 11:30am in the event that the SILLS lecture lets out early - once they have vacated we will set up the exhibit side of the ballroom. Greenery will be delivered at noon and vendors will start arriving at 1pm, setting up their sales area first and then their exhibits.

Saturday 2/2/13 - Volunteers who have signed up to clerk should arrive at 7:15am for judging. Doors open to the public for sales at 10am and the exhibits at 11am.

Sunday 2/3/13 - Doors open at 10am and close at 4pm. Volunteers who have signed up for take down/clean up should arrive by 3:45pm. All available members are requested to help with show take down and clean up.

Committee Chairs are listed below. Volunteers should contact their chair directly if they have any questions:

**Arts & Crafts:** Noreen Chervinski  
 505-1304.....pgifolks@yahoo.com

### Awards & Trophies:

Carol Wood  
 497-4995.....cwood12@msn.com

### Classification:

Ted Kellogg  
 475-7029.....tmkellogg@gmail.com

### Clerks:

Mary Anne Digrazia  
 697-9237.....tommaryanne@centurylink.net

### Corporate Sponsors:

Cynthia Vance  
 483-9165.....facilitationfla@aol.com

### Entries:

Ted Kellogg  
 475-7029.....tmkellogg@gmail.com

### Front Lobby:

Elaine Ortt.  
 485-5313.....lhottt@verizon.net

### Hospitality/Kitchen:

Bruce & Linda Hahn  
 408-7646.....lindawwfl@verizon.net

### Individual Displays:

Bill Timm  
 426-1133.....billytim@aol.com

### Judges:

Ted Kellogg  
 475-7029.....tmkellogg@gmail.com

### Membership Table:

Judy & Jay Loeffler  
 485-9569.....nvrbdun@verizon.net

### Orchid Boutique:

Jane Camarota  
 488-7283

### Patrons:

Barb Wagner  
 923-7706.....barbjwag@verizon.net

### Publicity (Carol Wood).

497-4995 .....cwood12@msn.com

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## VAOS 2013 Annual Show continued from page 4



Venice Area Orchid Society  
Annual Show & Sale  
February 2 & 3, 2013

*"Rhapsody in Hue"*

Venice Community Center  
326 Nokomis Avenue South  
Venice, Florida

Show Hours:  
Saturday, Feb. 2nd      Sunday, Feb. 3rd  
Sales: 10-5pm      Sales: 10-4pm  
Show: 11-5pm      Show: 10-4pm

Admission: \$5 (under 10 free)  
an A.O.S. Judged Show

Sponsored in part by  
  
Advanced Window Concepts • Raleigh & Associates  
Stanley Dean State Farm

AAA Auto Group • Burgundy Square Cafe  
Center for Sight • Daiquiri Deck  
Dr. Frederick Bloom • Drs. Davis & Beyer, DDS  
Happy Puppy Pet Spa • Jacaranda Trace  
The Ramada Venice • Silverstein Institute  
Edgewood Nursery

**Security:** Bob Czarnomski  
612-554-8256 .....redharlequin.cindy@gmail.com

**Set Up & Take Down:** John Masters  
474-3701.....orchidboy1@msn.com

**Signs:** Jay Koths  
485-7521.....bobb\_koths@verizon.net

**T-Shirts:** Barb Wagner  
923-7706.....barbjwag@verizon.net

**VAOS Exhibit:** Rich Amos  
552-6723.....richmary10@yahoo.com

**VAOS Exhibit:**  
**Plant Pre-Registration:** Jim Thomas  
966-2479.....pis2ces4@verizon.net

### Arts & Crafts:

Enter up to 3 items with an Orchid Theme into the Arts and Craft display. Sewing, painting, woodwork, photos, quilting, knitting or any other craft that you have made. Bring your entry to the Venice Community Center on Friday, February 1st at 1 p.m. Craft display table will be in front of the stage. Chair: Noreen Chervinski (505-1304 or pgfolks@yahoo.com)

### Hospitality/Kitchen:

Members are requested to bring in their "tastiest" dish – hot main dishes, interesting salads, cheese and vegetable platters, devilled eggs and desserts. The kitchen is our volunteer gathering place where we have a lot of fun talking and sharing. We also need people to help serve and clean-up. Bring your food items to the kitchen on Friday by 9:30am or Saturday and Sunday mornings at 10am. Chair: Linda & Bruce (408-7646).

**T- Shirts** - T- shirts for volunteers will be available from committee chairs or at the Membership/Information Desk starting Friday.

### Blooming Plants Needed For VAOS

**Exhibit** - All members are encouraged to bring blooming plants for the VAOS exhibit at our show. Plants should be cleaned, staked, free of pests, and marked with both the plant name and owner's name. Bring your plants to the VCC on Friday, 2/1/13 at 12:00 noon (but no later than 1pm) to the Registration room next to the kitchen. **All plants must be pre-registered** - email or call in your plant name and description to Jim Thomas no later than Thursday 1/31/13 5pm. (Jim Thomas 966-2479, pis2ces4@verizon.net)

### Foliage For Floral Arrangements Needed

Jane Camarota and her team need your plant foliage and greenery from your yard to create their floral arrangements at the Orchid Boutique. Bring in your foliage Thursday evening between 4pm and 7pm or on Friday 2/1/13 between 8:30am and 9:30am.

**Old AOS Magazines** - Please donate your old AOS magazines to sell at the Membership Table at our show. Bring them into the Membership Table Friday 2/1/13 between 2pm and 5pm.

Please direct questions to show co-chairs Barbara Wagner or Carol Wood (phone and email addresses above). We look forward to working with you to produce a successful show!

# Venice Area Orchid Society News

P.O. Box 443  
Venice, FL 34284-0443

## Next Meeting:

**Wednesday, March. 6, 7:00pm**  
**at Venice Community Center**

- **Speaker:** Hal Hills
- **Topic:** "Orchid Fragrance"
- Show table entries welcome
- Bring Plants for the Raffle Table
- Bring treats to share

## Upcoming Events

### February 1, 2013:

**VAOS Show Set Up**, 12 noon-7pm,  
Venice Community Center, 326 Nokomis Ave., Venice, FL.

### February 2-3, 2013:

**VAOS Annual Show & Sale**,  
"Rhapsody in Hue," at the Venice  
Community Center. Sales: 10-5pm  
Saturday; 10-4pm Sunday. Show 11-  
5pm Saturday; 10-4pm Sunday.

### February 13, 2013:

Growers Clinic, 7pm, Venice  
Community Center. Presenter: Jim  
Thomas. Topic: Orchid Growing  
Made Easy with open Q & A. Bring  
your problem plants for expert help.

## Planning Ahead

### April 12-13, 2013:

Englewood Area Orchid Society  
Orchid Show and Sale. Englewood  
United Methodist Fellowship Hall.

## Ongoing:

Mentor Program: help for be-  
ginning growers, contact Peg  
Fahrenback, [rsec@vaos.org](mailto:rsec@vaos.org)

Orchid Judging takes place at the  
Tampa Garden Center, 2629 Bay-  
shore Blvd., Tampa, FL at 7:30pm  
on the fourth Wednesday of every  
month.

## Newsletter Supplements

For those members who receive  
their monthly newsletter by email,  
look for extra content which began  
in June. Included are culture  
articles and handouts from our  
monthly Growers Clinic. This  
supplemental information will only  
be available in our full color email  
edition of the newsletter.

## Patronize Our Local Growers

Honey Bee Nursery (941-474-6866)  
Jeff Higel  
2383 Englewood Road (Rt. 776)  
Englewood

Plantio La Orquidea (941-504-7737)  
Tina & Rafael Romero  
3480 Tallevast Rd, Sarasota  
[www.plantiolaorquidea.com](http://www.plantiolaorquidea.com)

~More orchid show listings can be found on the American Orchid Society site, [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org); Events page~



## **Touring the Latourias: An Overview of New Guinea Dendrobiums**

Dendrobium is the second largest orchid genus after Bulbophyllum, with over a thousand species stretching from Australia to Northern India. The Latorias, aka the New Guinea Dendrobiums, are a small group of about 24 species, mainly from the warm, wet lowland areas of the island, although some species occur in the Solomon Islands, the Philippines and other nearby islands. They received their name from early orchid taxonomist C. Blume, who described *D. spectabile* in 1850 as a new genus *Latourea*, which is no longer recognized as separate from *Dendrobium*. I prefer the term “Latourias” to “New Guinea Dendrobiums” because, obviously, there are plenty of other *Dendrobium* species from New Guinea, many with completely different growth habits and cultural requirements, and not all of the Latourias are from New Guinea.

They are related to the Australian *Dendrobiums* of the *Dendrocoryne* section (*speciosum*, *kingianum*, etc.), but do not interbreed well with them, or with most other *Dendrobiums* either. They usually have long, club-shaped pseudobulbs with leaves on the top, and one or two flowering spikes coming out between the leaves. The flowers are usually white, yellow or green, often with purple spots. They’re not really huge, but they pack mass appeal when they reach mature size; multiple spikes per growth are not uncommon. Because of their remote habitats, very little was known about many Latourias until quite recently, when several species that had been ‘discovered’ early in the century and then pretty much forgotten were rediscovered and described in the 1970s and 80s. Hybridizing among the Latourias is likewise a recent phenomenon and still confined to just a couple of growers, mostly in Hawaii and Australia.

And yet there is every possibility that Latourias will join phal-type Dendrobiums as the most popular groups of the whole genus. Here's why: they're pretty easy to cultivate and flower, a bunch of them are minis or compact in habit, and in many cases their flowers can stay in perfect shape for 3 or more months! They flower quickly from seed and are not seasonal in their flowering habit, so twice a year blooming is quite possible. Second generation hybrids are now coming onto the scene, promising even better flower colors and presentation on compact, fuss-free plants. You have to wonder why they remained little known for so long. One issue, as with so many new areas of breeding, is that not only were there few species in the hands of commercial growers, but the species and their breeding potential were not well known—and their relatively low fertility with other Dendrobiums made hybridizing look like a bad bet. Another is that Latouria species do have their bad points: their tall, narrow pseudobulbs make for ungainly plants that tip over if you breathe too hard on them, and the flowers can be hidden under the top leaves. These shortcomings are being addressed by both line-breeding of species and hybridizing.

As early as 1909, breeders were crossing Latourias with other Dendrobiums, but modern breeding within the section didn't start until the 50's and 60's, with only a handful of hybrids registered by pioneering Australian grower Hermon Slade and a few others. Then in the late 80's and 90's, hybridizers began hitting their stride. Roy Tokunaga, the 'R' in H & R Orchids and one of the top Latouria breeders, relates that he and others saw the potential of Latourias as specimen plants, and started looking for species that could grow well in warmer climates and were not too tall and spindly, with good flower counts and presentation.



### *Latouria Species and Hybrids*

Let's look at the individual species and the magic they can make when crossed. Possibly the most popular species for modern hybridizing is *D. atrovioleaceum*; it's compact, has nice purple-spotted white flowers that are large for the size of the plant, grows easily and can remain in bloom for up to six months. A pretty plant in its own right, it is the parent of a number of well-known hybrids such as Andree Millar, Roy Tokunaga and Wonder Nishii. Roy Tokunaga went one better and found a particularly dwarf clone of this species, 'Pygmy', and is remaking old crosses with it to produce more compact plants, as well as new hybrids.



D. Roy Tokunaga

Next up is a charmer, *D. aberrans*, a true mini with pseudobulbs only a few inches tall. From the tips sprout little white flowers, blush pink around the labellum; they last and last and last—some claim up to 9 months! Its primary hybrids, Maiden Charlotte and Mini Snowflake, are near-perfect windowsill orchids, being under 6" high, with clusters of long-lasting pretty white flowers that dance above the leaves.

*D. alexandrae* has red-spotted, twisted petals and a red-veined, dagger-shaped

lip. It was once suspected of being a hybrid of *D. spectabile*, but is now considered a valid species. It is one of the taller-growing species in the section, but its size can be controlled in hybrids such as Green Elf and Spider Lily. It's also fragrant, with a warm, honey-like scent that may be passed on to its progeny!



*D. alexandrae*

*D. convolutum* is the best known warm-growing, green-flowered species; many of the others come from high cloud forests and are more difficult to grow. It stands about a foot high, can flower any time during the year, and the flowers typically last 4-6 months. Growers use it to extend the flowering season and longevity in hybrids, although its green-to-chartreuse color combined with a wine-red lip is not everyone's cup of tea. Combined with *D. atrovioleaceum* it produces Andree Millar, and with *D. aberrans* makes Aussie's Pixie. Other well-known hybrids include Gerald McCraith, Green Elf and Key Lime.

*D. johnsoniae* may be the most gorgeous *Latouria*: its large white flowers have upswept petals and tepals like wings, and red lines in the lip. These qualities have earned it awards as a straight species, unusual for a *Latouria*; it's a parent of such

distinguished hybrids as Roy Tokunaga and Stephen Batchelor. Its flowers also last for months and can occur in any season.

*D. rhodostictum* is another compact gem similar to *D. johnsoniae* in size and looks: its white flowers have purple spots on the lip margins and are held above the foliage, they may have a light fragrance. Roy Tokunaga liked it so much he named one of its primary hybrids Nora Tokunaga after his wife; it's also the other half of the popular Maiden Charlotte.

*D. spectabile* is weird. Really weird. Its flowers look like alien monsters, with bizarrely corkscrewed petals and sepals, yellow-green with heavy maroon spotting. It has a strong, sweet fragrance, rare in this group of species. It grows upwards of 2 feet tall, with spikes rising up above the leaves. As a parent, its twisted habit becomes more dramatic than grotesque in hybrids like Adara Nishii and Woodlawn. It appears to be growing more popular in the latest crop of hybrids, perhaps as growers look for something completely different.



*D. spectabile*



*D. macrophyllum* is very common in New Guinea and surrounding islands; its wide native habitat means it grows well in a variety of conditions. It's one of the tallest, with pseudobulbs over 2 feet high. Like many *Latourias*, its flowers are covered with hairs on the backs of the petals and tepals. Flower count is up to 25 per spike, and its green-to-yellow flowers have a good size and shape. It was parent to many early *Latouria* hybrids, such as New Guinea, Nellie, and Caprice. It also appears to be more fertile with *Dendrobiums* from other sections, leading to interesting breeding possibilities.

One of the things that makes *Latourias* interesting to me is that their breeding potential has barely been tapped. The vast majority of registered hybrids are simple primary crosses, but more complex second generation hybrids are starting to show up. As with many orchids, a number of *Latouria* species show a lot of variation among seedlings, which growers like Roy Tokunaga are exploiting as they gain more experience with breeding and growing. Introducing parents from other sections has the potential to open up new colors, flower shapes and scents, much as the hot/cold Australian hybrids brought new shades and shapes to the tough, cool-growing *Dendrocoryne* species. The future is looking mighty bright for *Latourias*!

### ***Culture***

So, now how do you grow all these *Latourias* you're about to buy? The basic conditions are warm, humid, and evenly moist: they don't like daytime temperatures above the 80s or nighttime temps below the high 50s. They appreciate good humidity and air movement but tolerate dry air so long as they're well watered. Watering well means keeping the medium moist but not

soggy; new growths are particularly susceptible to rotting if water gets inside the unfolding leaves, so be very careful when watering from above. Mounted plants need a good soaking 3-5 times a week, depending on conditions. Weak fertilizing once every week or so is recommended. Latourias do best in bright but not full sun; I have found that Latourias will get leaf burn in a south-facing window without adequate shading at midday; a sunny east or west window should do fine. The smaller species and hybrids are particularly fine candidates for growing under lights. All need a fairly loose, well-draining mix, so that roots stay moist but are well aerated; baskets or clay pots are best. I've seen very dramatic mounted Latourias, but keeping them moist indoors is likely going to be a challenge. As always, small plants in small pots need more frequent watering than specimen-size orchids in large pots.

Reprinted with permission: Jim Freeman, The Dean Street Orchid Blog