



Next Meeting
December 15

4:00 PM

Rudy & Emily's Home
1291 Spring Valley Drive E

Christmas Dinner &
Orchid Bingo

*Affiliated with the
American Orchid Society
since 1950*

November Blooms



**Cattleya Walkeriana
Semi Alba 'Carmela'**
grown by Joe Paine



Lc Sylvan Sprite 'Blythe'
grown by Joe Paine



Mormodes Mark Mills
grown by
Harry & Bev Stephens



Brassavola nodosa

December 2018



Christmas Party & Orchid Bingo

Rudy and Emily Boutwell are our
Christmas Party hosts at their home
1291 Spring Valley Drive East.

Thanks, you two, for having us!

Please call as soon as possible to let them
know whether or not you will be able to
attend, and if you are bringing a guest,
so Emily can purchase

Ham enough for all of us!

251 666 1516

We are responsible to bring sides and
drinks. Please decide what you plan to
bring ASAP, then **reply all** to this email
so those of us who sign up last will not
duplicate what you are bringing.

Be fairly specific, please.

Someone has already signed for

Potato Salad

Green Salad

AOS Events



December 8 & January 12

Atlanta Judging Center will hold monthly judging on the
second Saturday of the month at the Atlanta Botanical
Gardens, 2:00 PM, 1345 Piedmont St. NE, Atlanta, GA

Cattleya Species Culture January 10 Bill Rogerson
8:30 –9:30 PM EST

Greenhouse Chat January 29 Dr. Ron McHatten
[http://www.aos.org/all-about-orchids/webinars/chat/
greenhouse-chat-january-2019.aspx](http://www.aos.org/all-about-orchids/webinars/chat/greenhouse-chat-january-2019.aspx)

TOM'S MONTHLY CHECKLIST

November: The Month of Murmurings

Watchful Eyes Notice Details

Necessary to Grow the Best Orchids

by Thomas Mirenda, *originally published in
ORCHIDS, November 2011*

Communication can take many forms;
talking, writing, singing, tweeting (and not
just for birds). Then there are the nonver-
bal ways we connect with each other:
body language, facial expressions, pher-
omones, even possibly psychic phenom-
ena. Sometimes I think writing — sitting
alone at a keyboard trying to compose a
salient and engaging communicate to per-
sons unknown — is a strange and soli-
tary, even a lonely, endeavor. One might
ask, "Are these just murmurings in the
dark?" Of late, I've come to realize that
writing for Orchids is a powerful thing.
I've learned that the earnest industry of
writing for my readers each month has
earned me friends around the world that
I would never have met in a thousand life-
times without this platform and opportuni-
ty. Recently, a dear friend of mine going



December 12

Darla Dean



more

November Blooms



Blc Dean Martin "Gigas"
grown by Joe Paine



Bulb Elizabeth Ann
'Buckleberry'
grown by Joe Paine



grown by Joe Paine



Cattleya Yellow Bird



Cattleya Mai Tai

Cont'd from page 1

Many Cattleya species, i.e. *Cattleya percivaliana* 'Teresa' HCC/AOS bloom reliably at specific times of the year. Their dependence on seasonal temperature and photoperiod must be understood to bloom them successfully, especially in the house.

WINDOWSILL WOES: One mistake many growers, particularly those who grow indoors, often make is to provide their plants with constant temperatures and watering year-round. Even in tropical orchid habitats there are seasonal changes. Granted, these are not as radical as the changes we see as we approach the poles, but those subtle fluctuations in temperature, rainfall and light levels are the factors that allow plants to thrive and bloom in season. Allow cattleyas and standard dendrobiums to get much drier than you would in summer when they are in active growth. *Catasetums* and other orchids from seasonally dry habitats are deciduous (losing their leaves during the dry season) and serious damage can occur if they are drenched with water at this time. Your plants will murmur their needs to you by dropping some leaves or sprouting some new roots or growths. You must learn what those murmurings mean for the individuals in your collection.

EVER SO LIGHTLY: Another pitfall of the winter for indoor growers is our propensity to stay up late. Orchids that bloom in season are sometimes triggered by photoperiod. In other words, they are genetically programmed to bloom when the day length shortens in midwinter. Think of poinsettias and Christmas cactus, for example. If your lights are on until midnight where your plants are growing, they might sense they are experiencing a long summer day rather than the long cool winter night that would trigger blooming. Many cattleyas are like this, producing blooming sheaths by the autumn, but not developing buds until the nighttime temperatures and daylengths are right. Greenhouse growers rarely experience these kinds of problems because they don't cohabit with their orchids day and night. Greenhouses

tend to provide more naturalistic seasonal and daily temperature and photoperiodic fluctuations than we can provide for our houseplants. But just being aware of this potential drawback is often the cure. While not always possible, keeping your orchids in a room you rarely use at night can help them bloom in season.



MITE Makes Right ?

I think not. Mites are probably the most insidious pest you may come across on orchids during the winter. Encouraged by the lower humidity situations of most winter growing spaces, less frequent watering and less likelihood of getting washed away by a strong spray of the garden hose, mites can proliferate quickly in such conditions and cause serious damage. While softer-leaved orchids, such as *miltonias* or *lycastes*, seem especially susceptible, I believe mites can damage the new tender growths of more succulent orchids too and may be responsible for many abnormalities we see later on when these damaged growths mature. Look especially on the undersides of leaves for what appears to be dust or even tiny cobwebs. These tiny arachnids can suck the life out of individual cells from underneath and damage will eventually appear on the upper surface of leaves as an almost silvery effect. Mites are ubiquitous and can't really be completely avoided, but a gentle washing of the underside of affected leaves with a solution such as Safer Insect Killing Soap will seriously slow them down. Larger collections infected with mites may require the use of a commercial miticide for adequate control.

Thomas Miranda *Orchids* 11/11

Merry Christmas

If you haven't read Luke 2:1-20 lately, gather your family and read it to them before you open gifts this year. For my family, the memory of our Dad doing that for us is a treasure. Perry continues today with our family and with our church's youth group who eat with us each holiday season! You'll be glad you did. pat