



## GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

# THE ORCHID COLUMN

**SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2007**  
**BUILDING OPEN AT 1 PM**  
**2 PM**



Carol Siegel, Newsletter Editor

The very good news is that Cinco de Mayo celebrations will NOT be held at Lorenzi Park this year so we should have plenty of parking spaces for our May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. No security guard needed this year! We have the very great pleasure of hosting our old friend Doug Conkin who will be speaking on basic cattleya culture. Cattleyas are everyone's idea of what an orchid should be, and it will be useful and fun to finally learn how to grow this gorgeous orchid. The talk covers the cultural needs of the genus *Cattleya* and its hybrids and relatives. Topics discussed in this presentation include light, water and humidity requirements, along with fertilizing and repotting. I have ordered BIG blooming cattleyas from Hausermann's Orchids for sale at the meeting. These will be a little more expensive than usual sale plants, but they will be BEAUTIFUL and BIG.

**DOUG CONKIN** was born and raised in Southeastern New Mexico and currently resides in Glendale, California. The son of a floral designer

and descendant on both sides from a long line of farmers, Mr. Conkin comes by his interest in orchids naturally. He began growing orchids at the age of twelve and has been avidly involved in the hobby ever since. He currently maintains a mixed collection of approximately 1,000 plants. A frequent and much-in-demand lecturer on orchids and related topics, Doug has spoken for orchid societies, botanical gardens including the prestigious Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens and orchid nurseries throughout the Western United States. Mr. Conkin is noted for his ability to present the complex world of orchids clearly, concisely and in a manner suitable for the advanced enthusiast and yet easily understandable by the absolute beginner. In the summer and fall 1998, he finished the production of the first in a series of videotapes on orchids and their culture. The video, "Anyone Can Grow Orchids...Even You" made its debut at the East West Orchid Show in October of 1998 and received wide acclaim. Doug has written a yearlong series of articles on Integrated Pest Management for the Orchid House and many other articles for *The Orchid Digest* magazine. He is the Assistant Editor of *The Orchid*

*Digest.* He is also the coordinator and primary lecturer for the "Orchids At The Huntington" lecture series for the Huntington Botanical Gardens. Mr. Conkin is Past President of The Southland Orchid Show Committee, and is Past Ribbon Judging Chairperson of the Orchid Society of Southern California. Doug is a Fully Accredited Judge in the American Orchid Society judging system, Pacific South Region.

We thank Christine De La Cruz, Beth Hewitt, Karen Fields and June Learn in advance for being our "food angels" at the meeting. Many thanks to Lee White, Nicole Gazza, Pearl Anton and Sandra Swan for the April feast.

All my gratitude to our bright, beautiful and talented vice-president Clarice Dean who ran the April meeting in my absence. Everyone told me what a wonderful job she did. Not only did she lead the meeting, but she arranged the April speaker, Paul Johnson, an old friend of hers, ordered the sale plants, and housed the speaker. AND she gave me notes about what happened at the meeting. What a lady!

The Species of the Month was *Oxalis*, related to orchids because the original plant was a gift from Betty Shriner, founder of our orchid society. If you purchased one of the 30 plants for sale for \$1 each (what

a deal!) you purchased a legacy you will be able to share with friends and family in the coming years. Betty Shriner was, as Clarice says, "Las Vegas' pioneer orchid grower."

Paul Johnson, entomology professor, gave a power-point presentation that centered on insect and orchid diversity, their predator/prey and pollination relationships. He explored why insects and orchids are so diverse on our planet and touched on pest control.

Clarice says, "Most interesting was the slide of *Myrmecophilus tibicinus* (orchid with the hollow pseudobulb) showing the entry point to the pseudobulb as an entry point for insects and other pests when the natural plant protectors (ants) were not around to protect the plants. He showed a slide of this plant with the pseudobulb split open: many insects had taken up residence like beetles, slugs, snails, and scale. He tried to impress upon us that it is important to quarantine our plants before placing them in our collections and know who we purchased plants from as this plant was purchased from a well-know, grower in the Southwest who is no longer in business."

The raffle was HUGE with Tony Billitere The Great supplying us with lots of cymbidiums, phals, paphs and

bromeliads from the hotels. We also added flowering plants we purchased from the Hilo Orchid Farm.

Despite the Grand Prix mess downtown, the Easter Show at the Cal was just lovely. Our display was incredible with so many lovely blooming orchids. Shelly North, once again, just MADE our display with her gracious creative genius. We thank me, Eileen and Alex McKyton, Clarice and Dennis Dean, Diana Smith, Ed McCormick, Tony Billitere, and Miles Hoffman for helping with this display. It was fun!

So many folks helped with the show. A special thank you to Tex and Gidget who served as judges. We thank, too, Steve Ninemire and Marilyn Short, our clerks, and our many ambassadors- Miles Hoffman, Aaron Schave, Terry Wilsey, Diana Smith, Uwe and Sharon Proehl, and Cathy Loftfield. If I forgot you, tell me, and I will mention it at the meeting. We appreciate you so much.

One of our long-time members, Norito Hasegawa, owner of Paphanatics Orchids, and a great friend of our club won TWO AOS awards at the show. (Our club has now won SEVEN AOS awards at the Easter Show at the Cal.) For his Paph. (Macabre x Red Shirt) 'Fat Handles' HCC/AOS, he got a 78.70

and and for his Paph lowii 'Jambora Violet' HCC/AOS, he received 78.1 points. You made us proud, Norito. In the past, Diana Smith, Becky Biondi, and Mike Levin have all won AOS awards.

Many thanks to Miles Hoffman, now known as "THE RECRUITER" who has just signed up the SEVENTH new member. We welcomed Nada Stepanovic to our club.

Our June speaker will be Fred Clarke who will speak on "Catasetum, Mormodes and Gongora," a change of program at his request.

In July, we are having a special event, our "Fifteen-Minute Solution," our new invention to share our expertise. We will have with presentations going on at the same time in different spots in the meeting hall, and you will have the opportunity to attend four of the presentations, each fifteen-minutes long. The speakers will be:  
Carol Siegel "Growing Under Lights"  
Diana Smith "How to Begin to Grow Orchids"  
Clarice Dean "Building A Greenhouse"  
Dan Mumau "Outfitting a Growing Area"  
Steve Ninemire "Learning to Grow by Reading"  
Cathy Loftfield "Orchid Photography"

We think that this will be a very fun day.

Our great catering team, Dan Mumau and Mike Lawless, have graciously agreed to prepare food for our August barbecue. We are so excited since they are the BEST. We thank Eldine Stevens for once again opening her lovely home in COOL Mt Charleston to our group.

I am going to speak on The Sex Life of Orchids the first of May in San Francisco, and I will be on the lookout for more great speakers for our group.

Following is a reprint of Clarice Dean's great article on growing cattleyas. There is also an article by the famous A.A. Chadwick on cattleyas that were named for famous celebrities reprinted with gracious permission of the author. Check out his great website, [www.chadwickorchids.com](http://www.chadwickorchids.com).

Keep blooming. Keep happy.

Love Carol 254-4168 [growlove@cox.net](mailto:growlove@cox.net)

## THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN:

CAROL SIEGEL- PRESIDENT

CLARICE DEAN -VICE-PRESIDENT

EILEEN MCKYTON- SECRETARY

DIANA SMITH-TREASURER

Dan Mumau, Michael Lawless, Marsha

Hawley - Membership Hospitality Chairmen

Eileen McKyton/DanHawley-Welcome Desk

Lillian Patterson-Photographer /Historian

Dan Mumau/Mike Lawless/TonyBillitere-  
Raffle Chairmen

Marsha Hawley- Fund Raising Chairlady

Phyllis Bond, Leslie Doyle, Shelly North  
and Eileen McKyton- Special Events

Jeri Lee, Myra Glassman and Gail Harris-

Nevada State Garden Club Representative

AlexMcKyton-BuildingChairmen&Webmaster

Tex Severance and Mike Levin- Show and Tell

Gurus and Judging Chairmen

Scotty Nogaim- Election & Raffle Lady

Terry Wilsey- Club Travel Agent

Steve Ninemire Library Chairman Clarice

Dean, Assistant Librarian, Trip Chairman  
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## COMING ATTRACTIONS...

Our meetings are held at the Nevada Garden Club Building at Twin Lakes and Washington between Valley View and Rancho at the western edge of Lorenzi Park. The meeting starts at 2, but I open the building at 1 for shopping.

May 6, 2007	Doug Conkin, "Basic Cattleya Culture"
June 3, 2007	Fred Clarke, Sunset Orchids, "Catasetum, Mormodes, and Gongora"
July 8, 2007	"The 15-Minute Solution"- A Culture Day
August 5, 2007	Barbecue Mt Charleston
September 9, 2007	Leon Glicenstein, "Jewel Orchids"
October 7, 2007	Helen Hersch, "Advanced Windowsill Growing"
November 4, 2007	Greenhouse Tour
December 2, 2007	Eighth Annual Holiday Party
January 6, 2008	Jim Comstock, 3D Photos of Orchids
February 3, 2008	Jason Fischer, Orchids Limited, Topic TBA
March 2, 2008	Steve Frowine, "Miniature Orchids"
June 1, 2008	Mike Blietz, Exotic Orchids of Maui, TBA

## Growing *Cattleya* Alliance Orchids in Las Vegas by Clarice Dean

*Cattleya* orchids may well be the most easily recognized and popular group of orchids in the orchid world. Many plants in this alliance are noted for long-lasting, beautiful, fragrant, BIG flowers – that is what I like about *Cattleyas*. These South America beauties that grow near the tree tops in moist tropical forests are said to be easy to grow! In fact, Judy White stated in her book, *Taylor's Guide to Orchids* that “*Cattleyas* are among the easiest and showiest of all orchids to grow.” If you do everything right, at the right time, this can be true. However, it's taken me many, many years and many, many dead plants to get the hang of growing them. I'm still learning and still killing some, but not as many as I used to.

The name “*Cattleya*” and *Cattleya* Alliance are the terms most often used for *Cattleya*-like genera that interbreed readily. Some of the more common genera included in the alliance are *Cattleya*, *Laelia*, *Brassavola* and *Epidendrum*. Hybrids common of these genera are *Brassocattleya* (Bc.), *Brassoepidendrum* (Bepi.), *Brassolaelia* (Bl.), *Brassolaeliocattleya* (Blc.), *Laeliocattleya* and many others. Plants of these genera normally require similar growing conditions and will grow well together in a mixed collection with other orchids that respond to intermediate to warm growing conditions. These conditions can easily be provided in Las Vegas with a little help from greenhouses and other modified growing areas with the use of humidifiers, swamp coolers, misting systems, fans and quality water.

Generally speaking, *Cattleyas* like intermediate to warm temperatures. That means no cooler than 55°F in the winter and no warmer than 85°F in summer. The plants need bright light to bloom well. If you are growing inside, place plants in a southern, eastern or western windowsill or a greenhouse with 2500 – 3500 footcandles. Do not provide direct sun – the leaves will burn. Touch the leaves, if they feel hot, provide more shading and air movement. Humidity in the 80% to 85% range is greatly appreciated by the plants; however, very difficult to maintain in any Las Vegas growing area. Do the best you can – your plants will adapt.

Watering, in my opinion, is the most important part of *Cattleya* culture and the most difficult to master for me. The biggest mistake that I have made over the years is underwatering! Yes, underwatering. If you want to learn how to water your *Cattleyas* correctly, learn from your plants and remember we live in an extremely arid climate and our plants know this. Even if you grow in a controlled environment, your plants will need more water than orchids grown in a greenhouse in southern California. *Cattleyas* like to be moist at the roots with excellent ventilation and some drying out between waterings. If your roots are well ventilated in a coarse mix you will have a hard time overwatering them. I know this seems to go against the “cardinal rule” of orchid watering, but the key is balance between the media and frequency of watering. Adjust your watering with the media you provide. For instance, in my greenhouse many of the *Cattleyas* are potted in clay pots with a very coarse rock-type mix. I water them everyday during the hottest summer months! If your *Cattleyas* are grown in pots provide a very open, fast draining medium that allows rapid drying and good aeration for the roots.

Grow good roots – you'll have healthy plants that reward you with abundant beautiful blooms. A good rule of thumb for repotting *Cattleyas* is to NEVER repot until you see new root growth. The plants will then establish themselves easier in a shorter time.

It's a fact that not all plants grow well in my conditions even when I feel that I've provide all the correct cultural needs. I've learned that some plants just grow better and are easier to grow than others. And then, some plants just commit suicide in my growing conditions. They arrive here from Southern California and beg to be sent home as they shrivel up and die! Nevertheless,

below you will find a list of plants that have grown well for me and I think will grow well for you. Most of these plants are readily available from the vendor list provided.

**Some easy to grow *Cattleya*'s that I like:**

**Blc. Aquifinn 'Nature's Best'** – extra large white with fuchsia splash petals, very fragrant, easy to grow. Large plant.

**Lc. Gold Digger** – Many clones are available. Of the ones I have, I like 'Fuchs Mandarin' CCM/AOS the best for it's clear yellow petals and brilliant red lip. 'Orchid Jungle' HCC/AOS and 'Buttercup' are also nice. Excellent for specimen culture, can easily double in size each year with good culture. Likes abundant water in the summer. Compact grower.

**Lc. Maikai 'Mayumi' HCC/AOS** – Blooms right on time at Thanksgiving every year. Good for specimen culture. Can double in size each year. My plant had over 100 flowers this year. Compact grower. Primary hybrid of *B. nodosa* and *C. bowringiana*.

**Bl. Petite Stars** – A *Brassavola nodosa* hybrid, this plants like lots of water, fertilizer and high light. Starts blooming in May and blooms all summer for me. Flowers start out pink and turn white. Darker pink lip. Easy! Specimen culture. Compact grower.

**C. Chocolate Drop 'Kodoma' AM/AOS**, Red waxy flowers that are sometimes fragrant. This clone blooms well, but what I like about this orchid is the roots. You cannot keep them in the pot! My plant has, what seems like, hundreds of roots about 3 to 4 feet long. Amazing! Tall plant.

**L. Minerva** – The flowers of this hybrid look a lot like *L. tenebrosa* – bronze with bright pink lip. Many 4" flowers per spike. The pseudobulbs readily branch with more than one new growth on each old bulb. Easy! Likes abundant water the summer. Very tall plant.

**Blc. Williette Wong 'The Best' AM/AOS** – Simply the easiest yellow to grow in my collection. Large fragrant yellow flowers with red lip. Excellent grower, large plant.

**Lc. Drumbeat 'Heritage' HCC/AOS** – This is an old and famous hybrid - remakes can still be purchased. Breathtakingly large pink flowers that present perfectly. Large plants.

**Blc. Pamela Hetherington 'Coronation' AM/AOS** – Another old cross that has extra large spectacularly large pink flowers that are long lasting for me. Remakes of this cross are becoming available.

**C. Dupreana 'coerulea - Kodama'** - This is a primary hybrid blue form (*C. warneri* X *C. warszewiczii*) exhibiting wonderful hybrid vigor. Both parent species are easily grown. This is an amazing grower with wonderful large "blue" flowers that make an amazing display even on small plants. This orchid may be hard to find, but I've seen it lately from Hawaiian growers at the California shows. Large plants.

**Blc. Golden Tang** – A compact growing *B. nodosa* hybrid with multiple medium size flowers – the golden color intensifies as the blooms age. Easy to grow and bloom. High light. Plenty of water when growing.

**Lc. Hausermann's Firewings 'Pegasus'** – An amazing grower and bloomer! Lots of medium white with fuchsia-splashed petal flowers easily doubling in size each year. Good for specimen culture.

**Lc. Mary Elizabeth Bohn 'Royal Flare' AM/AOS** – This is a "must have" if you like blue flowers. Many medium size flowers per spike. Can bloom more than once a year. Good grower. Easy to bloom. Likes medium to high light.

**C. Hawaiian Variable** – Tall plants that are easy to grow. They bloom once a year with medium somewhat waxy flowers with variable color forms; I have two – one is pink with spots and the other is green with spots. Fragrant. Lots of flowers per spike.

**Lc. Stonehouse** – This orchid is easily found in Santa Barbara. Large easily grown plants with amazing white flowers with huge fuchsia lips. At least three large flowers per spike!

**Eplc. Charlie Brown** – Compact growing with many deep red flowers on tall spikes. Good for specimen culture. I grow mine in a wood basket so it will completely dry out between waterings. High light.

**C. Artic Star 'Snow Queen'** – One of my most favorite whites. Many medium white fragrant flowers on tall pseudobulbs. Once a year blooms. Easy

**Blc. Memoria Vida Lee 'Limelight'** – Amazing grower. Nodosa hybrid with many green large nodosa-shaped flowers with bright pink large lip. Excellent for specimen culture. My plant blooms all summer on every newly matured pseudobulb.

**Blc. Empress Worsley 'Roman Holiday' HCC/AOS** – Easy grower that can bloom anytime, but not usually in winter. Medium size purple flowers with unusual color. The flowers appear white on the back and diffused purple on the front.

**C. Bactia 'Grape Wax'** – Tall primary hybrid bifoliate ( *C. bowringiana* X *C. guttata*) with amazing medium waxy purple multiple flowers on tall spikes. The older the plant the greater the flower count.

**Some easy to grow Cattleya alliance species:** In general these species like to be slightly cooler and drier during the winter months and well watered during the growing period.

**C. amethystoglossa** – The tallest Cattleya species, up to 40 inches, mature plants can produce as many as 30 flowers per spike. White magenta spotted flowers with deep purple lip. Lots of water while growing with warmer temperatures and more light. Spring blooming.

**C. aurantiaca** – Small brilliant orange flowers on bifoliate plants. Other color forms can be found – ranging from yellow to red. Vigorous grower. High light.

**C. bowringiana** – Tall stems on easy growing plants with characteristic swollen bulbs at the base make these easy to identify. Up to 20 rose-purple satiny flowers can be produced on mature plants that are tolerant of heat, sun, and poor humidity.

**C. forbesii** – Strong growing and free flowering heat tolerant bifoliate with pale yellow-green flowers that are not spectacular but the plants are rewarding to grow because of their ease of culture.

**C. gaskelliana** – Large light purple flowers suffused with white and trumpet-like fringed rose lip. Spring blooming. Easy to grow and bloom.

**C. guatemalensis** – Natural hybrid between *C. skinneri* and *C. aurantiaca*. Many colors available – white, yellow, orange, salmon, pink, rose, purple and red. Grown similar to both parents.

**C. guttata** – These tall bifoliate plants can be 40 inches tall when well grown with up to 10 waxy flowers per spike that are yellow-green with deep purple spots. This is one of my favorite *Cattleya* species. They have long unbranching roots. The plants just look tall and majestic to me. Water heavily when growing. Otherwise grow on the dry side.

**C. harrisoniana** – Floriferous! Bloom in late summer with rose-lilac flowers with heavy substance. The plants can be 20 inches tall. I water heavily when the plants are growing and producing new roots.

**C. jenmanni** – Labiata type flower, unifoliate plants with fragrant rose-purple flowers with a darker central patch of coloring on the lip with orange and yellow veining in the throat. Winter blooming with up to three flowers and wonderful. Easy to grow for me.

**C. labiata** – Unifoliate free growing with typical double bud sheath that produces two to five rose-colored flowers with wavy petals. The throat is yellow with a white "eye" on either side. Very beautiful. I grow mine mounted and it gets watered twice daily in summer with medium to high light. Grow this plant drier in the winter and provide short days in the autumn to stimulate blooming. If you are growing in a greenhouse without use of artificial lighting, the natural shortening of the days will stimulate blooming; however, be careful in the home, even added light from a desk lamp can throw off the blooming cycle. Provide complete darkness.



*C. maxima* – Labiate type flower on unifoliate plants that are easy growing and easy to bloom. Flowers can appear anytime but usually in early spring and sometimes in fall too. The pale rose flowers have an amazing deep crimson network of veins and a yellow band on the throat with a pale ruffle around the border. Very easy to grow. Water heavily when growing and producing roots.

*C. percivaliana* – Christmas blooming unifoliate. Easy. Medium size rose-lilac flowers with maroon shaped lip. The front of the lip is crimson and becomes intense yellow in the throat. Likes high light and lots of water when growing.

*C. schroderae* – Almost always blooms in April with many light pink blooms on vigorous growing unifoliate plants. Fragrant.

*C. warneri* – Large 6 to 8 inch rose-shaded flowers with a darker fringed lip and a winged shape. Easy to grow and bloom

*C. warscewiczii* – Large beautiful flowers up to 9 inches across. Rose-mauve petals and very large rich purple lip with bright yellow “eyes” which is a characteristic of this species. Easy to grow and bloom; however, this species needs a dry winter resting period with much decreased watering. High light. Can grow cooler than other species.

I listed the above species because I’ve had success growing them. There is much to know and learn about *Cattleya* species. If you have an interest in growing these plants, Carl Withner’s book is a good starting point to begin your study. Study each plant’s individual habitat and try to duplicate its conditions in your growing area and you will be successful.

Happy growing and blooming. Good luck.

Clarice Dean

#### Some suppliers of Cattleya orchids:

Hausermann’s  
2N134 Addison Rd.  
Villa Park IL 60181  
(630) 543-6855  
[www.orchidsbyhausermann.com](http://www.orchidsbyhausermann.com)

Norman’s Orchids  
11039 Monte Vista Ave.  
Montclair CA 91763  
(888) 4orchid  
[www.orchids.com](http://www.orchids.com)

Oak Hill Gardens  
37W550 Binnie Rd.  
P.O. Box 25  
Dundee IL 60118  
(847) 428-8500  
[www.oakhillgardens.com](http://www.oakhillgardens.com)

R.F. Orchids  
28100 SW 182 Ave.  
Homestead FL 33030

It was seven years in the making. But the result, Art Chadwick says, was worth the wait. Chadwick, president of Chadwick & Son Orchids Inc. in Powhatan County, last month presented Margaret Thatcher with a cattleya orchid hybrid that was named in her honor. Cattleya orchids grow for seven years inside a greenhouse before they bloom. Then they bloom annually. "There's not much we can do about the seven years," Chadwick said. "We just have to wait. Once it blooms you realize why you waited so long.



It's spectacular." The large blooms are often used in corsages because of their size. So Chadwick & Sons made a corsage out of the orchid named for Thatcher and presented it to her. She pinned it to her blazer. "She said it was lovely," Chadwick said. The ceremony took place last month during Thatcher's visit to the Jepson School of Leadership Studies at the University of Richmond.

Naming orchids in honor of famous women is nothing new for Chadwick & Son Orchids. Previous recipients include Laura Bush, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Tipper Gore and the late Princess Diana. The orchid named for Thatcher was registered with the Royal Horticultural Society in England. The flowers are light lavender with a darker lip. They have a sweet fragrance. The botanical name is *Brassolaeliocattleya Margaret Thatcher* (Lc Princess Margaret x Blc Summer Bay). "This keeps the cattleya on the front pages," Chadwick said. "It's an orchid that is not as popular as it once was." The cattleya was popular in the 1940s and 1950s. It is not as easy to grow as other varieties, said Chadwick, whose orchid column appears monthly in Saturday's Home & Garden section. He usually has thousands in production at a time because of the seven-year wait for blooms. "You don't know until they bloom whether they will be any good," he said. "So you have to have a lot in production."

In addition to naming orchids for women in politics, Chadwick & Son has also named them after friends, as well as Indian tribes. "It's an exciting thing," Chadwick said. "Who wouldn't want an orchid named after them? It's such an honor."

### Laura's Orchid

The 'Laura Orchid,' grown and registered with the Royal Horticultural Society by Chadwick & Son Orchids Inc. of Powhatan, was presented to Laura Bush at the United States Botanical Garden in Washington, D.C. The event took place on Tuesday May 9 as part of the "First Lady's Luncheon" which is an annual gathering of the wives of the U.S. Senators. Assisting in the presentation was the garden's Executive Director Holly Shimuzu.



The new orchid hybrid is a classic Cattleya with medium sized white flowers, a

contrasting purple throat, and a sweet fragrance. Designed to bloom twice a year on a compact plant, the official botanical name is *Brassolaeliocattleya* Laura Bush.

'First Ladies have a long tradition of being honored with *Cattleya* orchids which dates back to the 1940's' said Art Chadwick, President of Chadwick & Son Orchids. Previous recipients of Chadwick hybrids include former First Ladies Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barbara Bush as well as former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and, most recently, Martha Stewart.

### The First Orchid (by Chad Anderson, *Richmond Magazine*, June 2004)

It's a safe bet that Laura bush isn't often kept waiting but even the first lady can't rush mother nature. And so she, along with art Chadwick of powhatan's Chadwick & son orchids, awaits the blooming of a *cattleya* orchid that Chadwick registered with the royal horticultural society in honor of the first lady, in order to complete a presentation ceremony postponed last summer due to scheduling conflicts.



*Brassolaeliocattleya* laura bush features a white flower (sometimes overlaid by a lavender starburst) with a dark purple lip and is only in bloom for a few weeks each summer. Chadwick's growers are currently caring for about 20 of the prized hybrids. 'I'm looking for several that look very good and very fresh' says Chadwick, who hopes to let the first lady pick her favorite, which will be dubbed variety 'first lady'.

This isn't the first time Chadwick has presented a first lady with an orchid. He and his wife, Rebecca, presented then-first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton with her own namesake orchid. 'She was the first first lady in history to be presented and photographed with her namesake orchid while in office' says Chadwick, who notes that a tradition exists for naming orchids after first ladies such as Nancy Reagan and Bess Truman among those so honored. Laura bush should join them sometime in August, and may have by the time you're reading this, says Chadwick. "It's entirely up to the flowers."

### An Orchid for the First Lady (*Orchid Digest*, Vol 60, reprinted with permission)

In the nearly century and a half that the world has been naming orchid hybrids, kings, queens, princesses, presidents and first ladies have been honored by having someone register a beautiful orchid to bear their name. In the United States, C. Bess Truman, C. Pat Nixon, Lc. Mamie Eisenhower and Lc. Nancy Reagan are examples of first ladies so recognized. On October 21, 1995, a magnificent semi-



alba Cattleya was presented to current first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton. This orchid, Blc. Hillary Rodham Clinton 'First Lady', is a hybrid of C. Kittiwake 'Brilliance' AM/AOS adn Blc. Meditation 'Queen's Dowry' and is a cross originally made by Carmela Orchids of Hawaii. The particular cultivar, 'First Lady', was raised and registered by Art and Rebecca Chadwick of Powhatan, Virginia, where they have a nursery named Chadwick and Son Orchids. The couple named it for Mrs. Clinton because of their admiration of her. The orchid in the form of three corsages was presented to the First Lady at the \$500 per plate Kennedy-King dinner in Alexandria.

One would think it would be easy to name an orchid after someone, but the Chadwicks found that not necessarily the truth. First they had to obtain permission from Carmela Orchids, the breeder, to name the hybrid. Secondly, upon the recommendation of the Orchid Registrar in England, they had to obtain permission from Mrs. Clinton. How does one obtain permission from within the White House? A direct request to the White House and an appeal for help to their U.S. Senator failed to bring a response. Finally through the efforts of the Lt. Governor of Virginia, contact and permission were obtained. Now the concern was to find a time when the orchid was in bloom and when the Chadwicks could present the flower to Mrs. Clinton. A small opening in her busy schedule allowed the presentation to be made after she had spoken at the Kennedy-King dinner. Art and Rebecca have said that it was not an easy fete to achieve but experiencing the security, meeting the First Lady and seeing her pleasure made it all worth the effort.

### Barbara Bush



Barbara Bush grew up at a time when Cattleya corsages were the standard for fashion. The 1940's, 1950's and 1960's saw cut orchids at their heyday and it is only fitting that Mrs. Bush be honored with her



namesake flower. The lovely hybrid is a blend of white petals and a soft lavender and yellow throat. The parents are pedigree as well - Lc Josephine Robinson x Blc Apparition and all are registered with the RHS.

### A Special Cattleya

Flowers of Cattleya Tipper Gore (Pearl Harbor X General Patton) were presented to Tipper Gore on October 21, 1999. This grex, created by Chadwick and Son Orchids, Inc., of Powhatan, Virginia, and registered with the Royal Horticultural Society, bears impressive fragrant white flowers with a yellow throat. "We usually name orchid hybrids



honoring first ladies and heads of state, but Al and Tipper Gore have been such a great inspiration to us through their environmental efforts that we just had to name an orchid after her," says Art Chadwick, president of Chadwick and Son Orchids, Inc.

The event took place at the vice president's residence at 34th Street and Massachusetts Avenue Northwest in downtown Washington, DC. The estate is part of the United States Naval Observatory and has been home to each vice president since 1974. The residence's greenhouse contains a variety of orchids, including six purple-flowered cattleya specimens that were in bloom when the cattleya flowers were presented to the vice-president's wife.

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