

SWROGA News

A Publication of the Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association

34 Affiliated Societies

Spring 2002

Volume 34, Issue 1

SWROGA SPRING SHOW

Come on down to the big bend in the muddy Mississippi River, where the fun time goes on for twenty-four hours - if you can last that long! It's been a long time ago for me.

The buds are popping, and the food is cooking. We are going to eat, drink and brag about our flowers that are like children or grandchildren. There is not one better formed, more beautiful or better smelling than mine. What about your flowers? That will be determined Friday night. Then the bragging will begin in earnest. We all are looking to pass a good time with 'yall' the first weekend in March, 1st-3rd at the Radisson Hotel, 2150 Veterans Blvd., Kenner, Louisiana. Don't forget!

Call me if you need information.

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Spring SWROGA Show & Sale

Hosted by
Orchid Society of Jefferson

Schedule of Events

Thursday, February 28

6:00 pm

Commercial area opens to set up & bring
other plants in out of the cold

Friday, March 1

7:30-5:00

Hospitality room open

8:00-5:00

Sales open, exhibit & commercial setup,
plant registration

5:00-7:00pm

Judges dinner

7:30-?

Ribbon & AOS judging

Saturday, March 2

7:30-8:30

Affiliated societies breakfast

9:00-4:00

Hospitality room open

9:00-5:00

Show & sales open

9:00-10:00

SWROGA committees

10:30-12:00

SWROGA directors & members meeting

1:00-3:00

Lectures

4:00-4:30

Preview auction

4:30-6:00

Auction

Sunday, March 3

8:30-3:30

Hospitality room open

9:00-4:00

Show & sales open

4:00-5:00

Removal of exhibits & sales

**Summer Issue Deadline
April 19, 2002**

Since 1959

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL ORCHID GROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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The Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association, Inc. covers the states of Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas with a total of thirty-four affiliated societies. Subscription price of SWROGA News is included in the regular dues of the association. One dollar and fifty cents of the \$2.00 yearly dues goes to cover the yearly subscription to SWROGA News.

"We print all the news that fits"

President's Message

As I write this the weather has warmed up a bit around the region and we are not experiencing the frigid and sometimes wet weather we had in late December. Our orchids have made it through okay so far, and I hope yours did, too. Of course, when you receive this, or between now and that time, we *could* have plenty more winter weather!

This is my last President's Page for the SWROGA NEWS. I would like for every SWROGA member to know that I have enjoyed being your president. You have some hard-working folks on the SWROGA committees who have accomplished several things on your behalf. A LOT of these things can be viewed on our SWROGA web site. If you haven't visited it lately and clicked on all of the links, why don't you take fifteen minutes and go look at it. You'll be glad you did!

To each person who has served on a SWROGA committee, I say a heart-felt "Thank You." Please keep volunteering for SWROGA because your work is greatly needed and greatly appreciated.

Finally, I hope to see lots of you at the SWROGA show in New Orleans. No matter WHAT the weather, New Orleans is always fun!

Lena Parker
SWROGA President

Treasurer's Corner

By Carolyn McCabe

Nine of our 34 societies have submitted their 2002 dues and membership lists for a total collected of \$1,074.00. My thanks to those society treasurers.

Trophy expense for the spring show was \$730 paid to the Orchid Society of Jefferson for their upcoming show. The South Texas Orchid Society submitted \$257.00 for SWROGA's share of the registrations (\$1.00/registant).

The newsletter costs continue to climb. Printing for the winter issue was \$1,001.89 and postage was \$410.24 for a total cost of \$1,412.12. There was only one full-page ad – Thank you Oak Hill Gardens.

SWROGA Funds as of January 16, 2002

General	\$20,511.01
Trophy	<u>\$37,701.50</u>
Total	\$58,212.51

WERE YOU THERE?

By Kathy Wright

Where were you October 28 thru 30, 1960? These dates marked the *very first* SWROGA Orchid Show and Meeting held at the Central Power and Light Building in Corpus Christi, Texas. The Driscoll Hotel was considered the show host hotel. Your SWROGA Historian is attempting to develop an extensive article about this show, based upon an extensive file of show chairman Bill Barfield. This file was provided to us by Will Bates. It includes correspondence, budget, etc., leading up to the show, post-show correspondence and full financial records.

Now, we need HELP, HELP, HELP. Please put on your thinking cap: any recollections or memories of events connected with this show will be greatly appreciated. We're interested in who was there, funny things that happened, impressions of a fledgling organization – anything that will add warm interest to the file of facts. We hope to have a great article or series suitable for SWROGA NEWS from this effort.

Send your input to Kathy Wright, SWROGA Historian, 223 Larkwood Drive, San Antonio, TX 78209-2909. You can also send email to orched@texas.net or FAX to 210-824-9657. Informal notes and rough drafts are most welcome. We'll put it all in the mix and stir gently! Thank you.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN... Search your closets for items that you would like to donate to the SWROGA Auction this Spring. Remember, your donation does not have to be orchid related. This will be our first Auction in awhile for SWROGA Funds. Your generosity is greatly appreciated in all that you have available to donate. Please contact one of the SWROGA Affiliated Societies Committee members (names located on inside front cover of this issue) to let it be known that you are bringing something. This information is needed to make our organization of the auction easier. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

See you in Gretna, LA (March 1-3, 2002). Show is hosted by Orchid Society of Jefferson and will held at the Radisson Hotel on Veterans Blvd. in Metairie. Contact Ann Levy (504-737-5180 or email alevy94241@aol.com). A reminder - there will be no banquet after the auction, so you can make your plans to have dinner at the restraurant of your choice after the auction. Again, I remind you to please take time to find items to donate for the auction. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Mavis Klehm
mklehm@swbell.net

Check out the SWROGA website at www.SWROGA.org

An Orchid Trek in the Gran Sabana, Part 2

by Nina Rach

The first part of this traveler's tale, published in the Winter 2001 issue of SWROGA News, covered the background and most of the first three days of a week-long trip to the Gran Sabana of southwestern Venezuela, in the world's largest national park -- Canaima. One of the most notable experiences on the second day of our trip was coming across large clumps of *Phragmipedium klotzscheanum* (Rchb.f.) Rolfe. These were prospering and blooming on rocks downstream from Quebrada de Pacheco ("Arapán-merú" in Pemón), at 1100m elevation, near km 238. We were swimming in the sandy-bottomed pool below the falls and found the plants while walking downstream afterwards. The water of the Gran Sabana streams is very pure and acidic, and the roots of the plants, as well as the grass-like leaves, are no doubt often inundated by the flowing water. The flowers are very attractive, with a greenish-yellow lip and rosy-striped sepals and long petals. According to Garay's classification, *Phrag. klotzscheanum* is in Section Himantopetalum, allied with *caricinum*, *pearcei*, *pearcei* var. *ecuadorensis*, *richteri*, and the unusual *tetzlaffianum* and *christiansenianum*. Of these, only *Phrag. caricinum* grows in the vicinity, in both Venezuela and Brazil. [More information on this species can be found in: Christenson, EA & T. Henkel (1995). "*Phragmipedium klotzscheanum*," in: AOS Bulletin 64(10): 1100-1101; and "Hunting *Phragmipedium klotzscheanum* -- An Agony in Eight Fits," in: *Orchid Hunting in the Lost World* (And Elsewhere in Venezuela), a compilation of articles by G.C.K. and E. Dunsterville (1988). It was originally published in the AOS Bulletin Vol. 51, pp. 709-712 (July 1982).] In and around the same stream, in full sun, were large clumps of *Sobralia stenophylla* Lindley. Dunsterville referred to this as an "indicator plant" for *P. klotzscheanum*. But the *sobralia* clumps that grew in the semi-shade of the cliffs were truly massive, more than 2 meters high and wide and completely covered with rosy-lavender flowers. This suggests to me that this *sobralia* is better cultivated in filtered sunlight, with an effort made to keep the roots shady and moist. *S. stenophylla* has very narrow leaves on sturdy stems, and one of the distinguishing characteristics of the flowers are the fine, white hairs covering the callus. [Photos and add'l information at: http://www.geocities.com/avosite/Sobralia/Sobralia_stenophylla.html]

After viewing the phrags and *sobralias*, we continued on to Quebrada de Jaspe, "Jasper Creek," at KM 273. This is a remarkable site, not to be missed; for over 300m, the bed of the creek is a glistening mass of solid red and gold jasper with no pebbles or sand, surrounded by tall forest. The water is shallow and you can walk on the jasper, quite entranced by the spectacular setting.

Part 1 ended as the group in three SUV's reached Santa Elena de Uairén (alt. 907m; km 315). We spent two nights at the ecotourist camp "Ya-Koo," in the hills overlooking the town of Santa Elena and the surrounding Rio Uairen valley. The accommodations at Ya-Koo are first-rate, in individual rondels with comfortable double beds, hot-water showers, and attractive gardens. There were numerous orchid species growing in the trees and used as bedding plants. "Ya-Koo" is a word from the Yanomami language (not Pemón), meaning to go on a trip. Pemón Indians are the native tribe in the Gran Sabana, while the Yanomami are found in Venezuelan and Brazilian Amazonas.

On Thursday we took a trip west from Santa Elena to the colony of El Paují at 950 m. altitude (km 74.5), an alternative community founded in 1989. Several miles before reaching El Paují, we stopped on the crest of a hill at a rustic homestead near Cathedral Pool (KM 62). An Israeli couple runs a small shop, selling home-produced honey, baked goods, and some supplies. Their honey is famous and has won international awards. The focus of this day-trip was to have lunch at Pozo Esmeraldas "Emerald Pond" at km 75 (a lovely sylvan pool with a small waterfall) and examine plants in the surrounding forest. We were pleased to find several nice epiphytes, in particular, we found a tree covered with the long winding rhizomes of *Bifrenaria longicornis* Lindley, growing in deep shade. This warm-growing species with quadrangular pseudobulbs is also found in Guyana, Suriname, Brazil, Peru, and Colombia. At the end of the day, we returned on the long, dusty, red road to Santa Elena and took a quick side-trip to the Brazilian border. Another family-style dinner and comfortable night at Ya-Koo.

On Friday, we packed our belongings and left Ya-Koo. In the daylight, we could better see the plants of *Vanilla palmarum* Lindl., just north of Santa Elena. This vanilla has rounded, subovate leaves with acuminate tips, spaced closely on the vines. The plant we observed was not in flower, but was growing across the mat of older, brown palm fronds, at the base of the growing crown of fronds. *Catasetum longifolium* Lindl. grows with its roots between the leaf bases of the old fronds and its long, narrow greenish-gray leaves hang down, peeking below the old fronds. The flowers are very beautiful, in big clusters of orange-yellow, making this a desirable species in horticulture.

Farther along the road, we stopped at a Pemón Indian village displaying blooming plants of the native *Cattleya jenmanii* Rolfe (published in 1906). This very pretty species is found growing between 400-1000m altitude in the Roraima area of Bolivar State, southern Venezuela and in neighboring Guyana. This species was "lost" between 1906 and 1969, until Garay identified plants collected by the Dunstervilles. The plants are compact-growing with a pleasant fragrance and they are well-suited to cultivation. Typically the sepals and petals are a rich rose-purple; the lip has orange-yellow veins in the throat and two white eyes and a darker purple spot toward the apex. In addition to the plants we saw, which had apparently been collected by the Pemón Indians, there are several other color forms, including *alba*, *semi-alba*, *concolor*, *coerulea*, and *aquinii*. Armando Daniel Betancourt, a Venezuelan "orquidiotas" who resides in SE Florida and is currently an AOS Student Judge, recently wrote an excellent article about this species which was posted to the AOS website in late summer 2001 [orchidweb.org].

We continued retracing our path north to Rápidos de Kamoiran. There we dropped our baggage and headed north to KM 147 (Road to Kavanayén, a.k.a. Luepa airport road). We took the difficult dirt road past the scientific station at Parupa, then turned left at KM 32, to the village of Liworiwó ("Iboribó" in Spanish) on the Aponwao River, where we rented long, narrow, wooden canoes (curiaras) with outboards and traveled downstream to Chinak-Merú Falls, with a straight 105m drop and continuous rainbows in the spray. The curiaras stopped about a half-mile from the falls ("salto" in Spanish, "merú" in Pemón) and we walked the remainder of the way between the edge of the river and the scrubby grasslands. There were many catasetums, sobralias, and the occasional plant of *Eriopsis biloba* Lindl. blooming along the way. This species is found throughout the Gran Sabana and Amazonas. It grows as a terrestrial, rarely as a lithophyte or epiphyte, and has a maroon or tawny-colored rachis and plate-like ridges on the yellow callus of the lip. *E. biloba* is difficult to distinguish from *Eriopsis sceptrum* Rchb.f. & Warsc., but *E. sceptrum* more often grows epiphytically and has a light green rachis with a cream-colored callus. [See Dunsterville & Garay Vol. 3, pp. 126-129 for a more detailed discussion.]

On Saturday, the plan was to drive from Rápidos de Kamoiran back to Upata. But first thing in the morning, we further explored the terrestrials in the field across the road and among the beautiful rapids behind the hostel. Then we took several stops along the Escalera, examining the plentiful epiphytes and terrestrials. We saw more plants of *Sobralia stenophylla* Lindley in grasslands in full sun, and *Sobralia infundibuligera* Garay and Dunsterville in sandy, rock-strewn areas [http://www.geocities.com/avosite/Sobralia/Sobralia_infundibuligera.html].

On Sunday, four of us caught a flight from Pto. Ordaz back to Caracas. Crossing the Orinoco in early afternoon, we saw the dramatic demarcation where the clear blue waters of the Caroni River meet, but do not mix with, the thick brown waters of the Orinoco River. The demarcation even looks dramatic in the photos taken through the windows of the plane. The "black-water" rivers occur to the east of the Upper Orinoco river basin. Their water is clean, free of sediment, the color of dark tea. Black-water rivers derive color from humic acid of decaying vegetation and they support few fish. These are distinguished from the "white-water" rivers of the Orinoco and its lower tributaries, which have clear-colored water, full of sediment.



Cleistes rosea



Sob. liliastrum

IF YOU GO...

Timing. Might want to time a field trip to coincide with one of the interesting orchid shows. In Caracas, SVCN usually holds a spring show, and SOEM holds a fall show. AVO may also sponsor a spring show. Outside of Caracas, there are shows in the cities of Barquisimeto (dedicated to *Cattleya lueddemanniana*, each February) and Merida, as well as in Tachira (each January), near the Colombian border.

Easier to go with a group, arranged by a local outfitter. Purchase maps and guidebooks. Note that the Audubon Bookstore in the Las Mercedes area of Caracas, previously a cherished source of maps, topo sheets, guidebooks and natural history material in different languages, went out of business in the summer of 2001. Some useful books have been available at Haansi, in El Hatillo, but the stock there wavers. Bring along:

1. Guide to (Guia de) La Gran Sabana, by Arturo Garbizu (1997)
Published by Oscar Todtmann Editores in Caracas.
Convenient double wire binding and waterproof covers with excellent maps.
2. Orchids of Venezuela, An Illustrated Field Guide
First Edition by Dunsterville and Garay (1979)
Second Edition edited by Romero and Carnevali (2000)
Three soft-cover books in a slipcase, excellent line-drawings, weighs about 4 pounds.
3. Ecograph Maps: Gran Sabana/Canaima; Roraima, published by INPARQUES
Concise, full-color folders showing schematics, text in either English or Spanish.

If you want to make arrangements on your own, suggest that you purchase the most recent edition of Posadas... It is available in English as well as Spanish. Arrangements need to be made in-country for accommodations. Reservations generally need to be prepaid, charged against a national (Venezuelan) bank account, although some of the larger places may allow credit cards.

Vehicles. Take an SUV, preferably with 4WD, and travel in a caravan. There are long-distances to cover, and beyond the main paved highway, the roads are in questionable state. These can be rented in Caracas or Pto. Ordaz. Bring fuel canisters, water. Walkie Talkies and cell phones are handy. Snake anti-venom serum. DEET. Sun-protection lotion. Altimeter or GPS.

Cameras, film, binoculars. Recharging units subject to the hours that the generators keep the electricity flowing at any given posada. The light varies from quite bright on the savannah to deep shade of the forests. Bring a good flash and consider film speed. Consider a waterproof camera.

Clothing: Prepare for savanna, jungle, and river trips.

Laws. Remember that the majority of this area is national park. There are National Guard roadblocks every 25 kms throughout the country. A knowledge of Spanish is most helpful, as is a benevolent and understanding attitude.

Shopping. There is not much to purchase in the way of souvenirs, but consider that both gold and diamonds are found in the area south of the Orinoco River. If you are driving from Ciudad Guayana to the "beginning" of the Gran Sabana at KM 88, you will be passing by the town of El Callao, where there are a large number of gold shops, selling locally panned nuggets, as well as chains and all manner of jewelry fashioned of 18K gold. Excellent souvenirs. Closer to the Brazilian border, especially in the town of Santa Elena de Uairén, locally mined diamonds are also offered for sale, along with cut stones. Cash only.

Food. Bottled water, sodas, tea and coffee, along with simple meals including rice, arripas (corn or wheat), fruits, soft cheese, beef ("bistek") or chicken ("pollo") are available throughout the Gran Sabana.

Reminder!!!!

Starting with the summer issue of the SWROGA Newsletter, Amanda Saar will be the publisher. You may contact her at the following address:

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Fuuran and Fuukiran

By Tom Mulhollan

Part 1: What does this mean in relation to *Neofinetia falcata*?

Unchanging is the incredible intrigue and mystique surrounding much of the Japanese culture, especially to those of us in the Western World who have little to no knowledge of this ancient civilization. Many reasons for this phenomenon are understandable, and could include the significant language barrier, lack of easy information exchange between Japan and the Western World, geographical distances making travel incontinent at best and mistrust of anything that is not easily understood, a basic human frailty. Therefore, the possibility of limited access to the wealth of knowledge in Japan is notable, and the orchid world is no stranger to this process. From the little information that is known about Japanese orchids, the entire plant (not only the flower) is of great value, culture is well documented and the presentation of the orchid is the difference between a common and uncommon designation.

The earliest records in Japanese history probably come from the Chinese book of “Senkaku Ruisho” (published before 1600) and “Kashi Sahen” (published in 1617). Within these texts, *Neofinetia falcata* was called “Keiran Ichimei Fuuran” which was later shortened to “Fuuran”, a term widely used today to represent the wild form of the *Neofinetia falcata*. The earliest culture information is found in the “Kadan Komoku”, which was written in 1665, confirming cultivation since the Kanbun Period. Within this text, that discusses general culture information about many different types of plants, the Fuuran is referenced, but lack any statements about the different forms found in cultivation today.

Therefore, while the European orchid enthusiast was frantically purchasing the many “different” genera that were collected from all parts of the world (with little if any information in relation to the culture of these orchids except for a trial by error basis – many orchids failed to survive), the Japanese had already studied and cultivated the Fuuran for over 100 years with earnest and surprising results. One discovery is that both demonstrable and reproducible differences exist between the Fuuran and can be linked to strict geographical locations. The Fuuran is not the only orchid to have this characteristic. *Dendrobium moniliforme*, *Cymbidium goeringii* and *Sedirea japonica* also share demonstrable and reproducible differences among each species. A division in terminology was then required to distinguish between the “common” and the “uncommon” orchids. Below is a table that shows the Common and the Uncommon (Garden Name) for the orchids discussed above.

Genus / Species	Common Name	Garden Name
Neofinetia falcata	Fuuran	Fuukiran
<i>Dendrobium moniliforme</i>	Sekkoku	Chouseiran
<i>Cymbidium goeringii</i>	Shunran	Nihon Shunran
<i>Sedirea japonica</i>	Yabukouji	Yabuk (sic)

To the Japanese, beauty is found in all types of alterations of the “typical form” and is extended to not only the flower, but to other parts of the plants, such as the stem (jiku), flower stalk, nectary (kyo), leaves (tennba), junction between leaves and stem (tsuke), roots and even root tips! An elaborate classification system has been created by the Japanese to explain and catalog all of these differing characteristics. Therefore, the “garden name” is a celebration of those plants that are uniquely different from the common plant of that species. The former are the plants that are highly desirable by the Japanese orchid growers and the Fuukiran is no exception in Japan’s rich and colorful history for the last 342 years.

The geographical distribution of the common *neofinetia falcata* (Fuuran) and the uncommon *neofinetia falcata* (garden name – Fuukiran) is a matter of record maintained by the Japanese, and reveals many differing geographical regions of Japan (not ignoring the fact that this genus (composed of two recognized species) is also found in Korea and China). Remembering that Japan is divided into eight Regions and the Regions are divided into sixty Prefectures, tabulating the origin the Fuukiran orchids reveals the following table.

Japanese Region	Number of Prefectures in each Region	Number of Prefectures with known Fuukiran	Number of Fuukiran in the Prefectures
Tohoku Region	6	1	6
Chubu Region	9	2	3
Chugoku Region	5	2	2
Hokkaido Region	14	0	0
Kanto Region	7	0	0
Kinki Region	7	3	5
Kyushu-Okinawa Region	8	2	2
Shikoku Region	4	2	9
Total	60	12	27

Although this data is preliminary, it is clear that Fuukiran can be found in Japan ranging from the Northern aspects to the Southern regions. Most of the Fuukiran have originated from harvesting the mountainsides in these Prefectures, not dissimilar to the collecting techniques in use today by modern orchid collectors. From the table above, twelve of sixty Prefectures are known to contain distinct Fuukiran (12/60 or 20%), and the total number of Fuukiran in those twelve Prefectures is twenty-seven (27).

According to the standards of the Japanese Fuukiran Society (JFS), the discovery of a new Fuukiran does not always result in the immediate designation of a new Fuukiran. Several generations of the prospective new Fuukiran must be grown as well as several separate and unique specimens. This is needed so the JFS can determine if the candidate Fuukiran is truly different, maintains the uniquely identifiable characteristics, passes its characteristics onto its offspring and, eventually, is deserving of the status of Fuukiran. However, it is not enough for the plant to have different vegetative or reproductive differences - it must have cultural characteristics that are pleasing and suitable for a Fuukiran. In other words, the plants must be grown in suitable pots with artistically sculpted moss. It is true that some of the Fuukiran candidates have been denied Fuukiran status simply due to a deviation from the expected presentation, such as a non-elegant pot, poorly sculpted moss, etc. If the Fuukiran candidate passes the rigid evaluation process, then the lowly Fuukiran is assigned a "Registration Judgment" and a new Fuukiran is formally documented in the Fuukiran manifest.

The origins of the Fuukiran have been traced back to the Edo Period in Japan, at about the time of the Bunka-Bunsei epoch (late 18th Century to early 19th Century). At this time, horticulture varieties were "all the rage", and included many flora, ranging from grasses to trees and the Fuukiran was not exempt from this practice. The result of this flurry of interest was a high price to pay for these unusual Fuukirans was great. One source states that the same price for an unusual Fuukiran equaled the price paid for an entire home with a garden! During this Period, the Shogun Tokugawa Ienari was a very compassionate collector and grower of the unusual Fuukirans. He placed great importance upon these small green plants and went so far as to cover his valuable Fuukiran with gold or silver netting to protect the plants. Admirers who came to see his plants had to wear paper masks so as to not breathe on his prized plants. This obsession trickled down to the regional warlords who commanded their clan members to scour the countryside so as to find unusual Fuukirans. The warlords competed for the Shogun's attention by finding more unusual Fuukirans than the next warlord. And it is from this period in Japanese history that the term Fuukiran came into being. Literally, this word means "The Orchid (admired by those with) Wealth and Rank". Today, the translation is sometimes shortened to "Wealth and Rank Orchid". Popularity for the Fuukiran decreased at the end of the Edo Period only to be revised after the Meiji Restoration (about 1868).



The Meiji government embraced much of the beliefs held by Western civilization, and orchid growing was no exception. Unfortunately, this meant that most of the Fuuran and Fuukiran were ignored or forgotten, replaced by new and growing interest in the orchids coveted by the Western world. Fortunately, lists of Fuukiran could still be found, but the earlier popularity remained modest, at best, and little if any advances in availability, culture or discovery of new varieties occurred.

Nonetheless, at the beginning of the Showa Period (in the 1920's), a second wave of popularity for the Furan and Fuukiran began, although the country was caught up in the problems of World War II. Books on Fuukiran as well as societies devoted to the classification, culture and harvesting of Fuukiran emerged in earnest. Unfortunately, most of the Fuukiran were only available to (or could be afforded by) the upper classes. This, plus the problems in the Pacific resulted in a severe decline in the Fuukiran's popularity.. However, the popularity of the Fuukiran begin to once again gain momentum 28 years following the end of WWII, and continues to do so today. The most dramatic change that the Fuukiran has undergone is an increased availability of most of the Fuukiran for Japanese and non-Japanese orchid growers. This is largely due to the fact that many of the current day Japanese Fuukiran growers are encouraging the Western World to learn about the wonderful world of the Fuukiran. The result is that the Fuukiran are no longer only enjoyed by the select few, as seen during the times of the Shougun.

Reference:

1. Personal communication with Kiyoshige Negi
2. Personal communication with Shinichi Tanaka
3. Personal communication with Itsukushima Shizukichi
4. Personal communication with Masahiro Tomioka
5. Personal communication with Ms. Chiseko
6. www.linkclub.or.jp/~chiseko/
7. www.fuukiran.jp
8. www2.newweb.ne.jp/wc/NEGI/
9. www.neofinetia.com
10. Translation of Japanese text by George Schuhmann, Holly HK Ogren and Akiko Yoshida.

Web Site Update January 2002

Many new changes have occurred surrounding the SWROGA website. Some of the changes are easy to see, and some are not. Here is a summary of the events:

- 1.REMEMBER: Your link to the SWROGA web site is www.swroga.org (not case sensitive). Please feel free to visit and let us know if you have any questions, problems, suggestions, corrections, etc. We are here to hear from you!
- 2.The SWROGA web site has been hard at work preparing for the upcoming events in the year 2002. Many updates can be found throughout the web site, and includes

[ADVERTISERS](#) [CHANGE OF ADDRESS](#) [LINKS](#) [NATIVE SPECIES](#) [PLANT REGISTRATION](#) and [SOCIETY SHOWS](#).

Please take a few minutes to explore these pages. We are excited about the information on these pages. A hearty thank you goes to Melba Butler for her dedication in the SOCIETY SHOWS page. She has spent many long hours helping with this crucial update.

- 1.Change of Address? Please follow the link on the index page that will direct you to an electronic form. Katherine Burns now has email access, and all of the address requests will go automatically to her. Please let her know if you have a name change, change of address, etc.
- 2.Our new host also allows for rather interesting information gathering on the web surfers that visit our site.
 - a.To date, we have had 1807 visits since 12/29/1999!
 - b.We can view the distribution of traffic by Continent (from the last quarter in 2001 - October 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001.)

Breakdown of Traffic by Continent
North America with 958 sessions. (84.33 % of traffic)
South America with 0.00 sessions. (0.00 % of traffic)
Europe with 3 sessions. (0.26 % of traffic)
Asia with 7 sessions. (0.62 % of traffic)
Australia & Ocean with 0.00 sessions. (0.00 % of traffic)
Africa with 0.00 sessions. (0.00 % of traffic)

There you have it. These are most of the changes and improvements on which we have been working so as to improve your web site. Should anyone have any suggestions or comments, please email us at sge@brightok.net or phone 580-226-7290. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Eagle, R.S.
Tom Mulhollan, MD
Co web masters for SWROGA

THE SWROGA LEXICON

BY

GLENDIA McINTOSH

NAME: *Aspasia Epidendroides*

PRONUNCIATION: as-PAZ-ee-ah ep-i-den-DROY-deez

DERIVATION OF NAME: *Aspasia* is Greek for happy, charming, delightful, and it is supposed that the genus is named for the wife of Pericles. The species name is taken from the Latin word "like an epidendrum". *Aspasia*, a member of the Oncidinae, is allied to *Brassia*, *Miltozia*, *Helicia* and *Trichopilla*, but has the distinction of having the lip margins united to column to about the midpoint of the column. Because of this connection the lip sometimes bends to become perpendicular to the column.

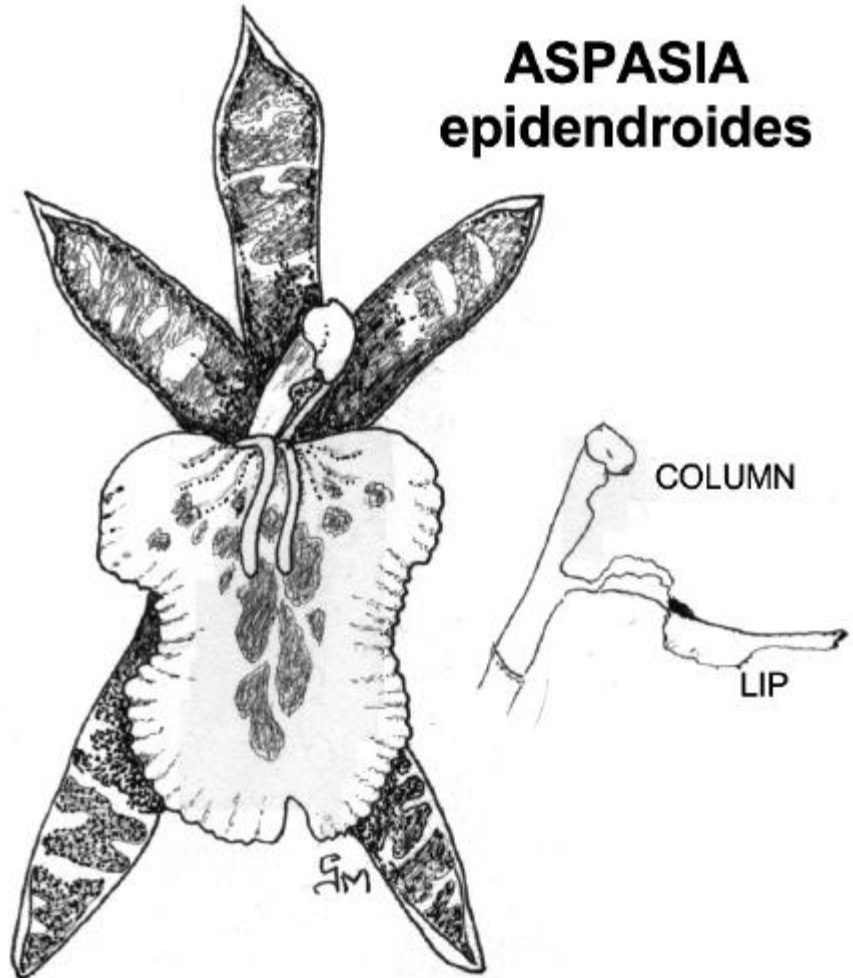
DESCRIPTION: The plant can grow to more than 40 cm high. The elongated and flattened pseudobulbs are 5.5 to 12.0 cm long and from 2.5 to 4.5 cm wide. At the apex there are two fleshy leaves with acute tips measuring 15.0 to 30.0 cm long, and there are 2 or 3 leaf bearing sheaths around the base. One or two erect inflorescences emerge from the base of the pseudobulb and usually have 4 to 6 showy flowers. The flowers are arranged distichously and are variable in color; sepals greenish with transverse bands of bronze; petals greenish or brown with bands either white or reddish; lip dull white marked with pink or purple blotches; column white stained purple; anther cap white sometimes with pink or purple markings. Dorsal sepal obovate-elliptic, adnate to the column base, erect, concave, obtuse, 2.0 to 2.5 cm long and 0.7 to 1.0 cm wide; lateral sepals oblanceolate, reflexed, concave, obtuse, up to 2.5 cm long and 1.0 cm wide; petals obovate, elliptic to spatulate, obtuse, 1.9 to 2.2 cm long and 1.0 cm wide; lip clawed, claw united to the column base at a right angle, unequally trilobed, subquadrate-pandurate, shallow notch at apex, constricted in the middle, edges rippled, disk adorned with 2 or more elevated, radiating keels, 1.7 cm long and wide; side lobes convex. Mildly fragrant at mid day.

DISTRIBUTION: Widespread, but not common in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Columbia.

FLOWERING SEASON: Summer.

At the Spring SWROGA Show held in Shreveport in 1988, there was a spectacular *Aspasia epidendroides* 'Lena Lorine' awarded an HCC/AOS of 78 points which had 41 flowers and 46 buds on 6 inflorescences.

ASPASIA epidendroides



WRIGHT THINKING

By Ed Wright

One of the fun things about January weather is “setting the thermostat” in the greenhouse. We all do this pagan ritual, but what is really involved. Let’s explore a bit.

Item One: thermostat settings have little to do with growing temperatures. At best, they simply record our most recent guess. Growing temperatures are the readings taken at or just above plant level – the so-called “bench readings”. Plants do not move sufficiently well to seek out the best temperature. Granted, they do pretty well at chasing light but temperature is beyond them. For this reason, we must bring an appropriate temperature to the plant. A thermostat may help but it does not do the entire job by a long way. Good air movement is much more effective at regulating plant temperature than the best thermostat ever made.

Item Two: Temperature readings are a composite of the many temperatures within a greenhouse – or a people house, for that matter. We all know how the floor can be icy while air near the ceiling makes our face flush. The same thing happens in a greenhouse. In winter, the floor is cold and clammy while warm air we would like to have on our plants concentrates at the ridge and refuses to come down. In summer, desirable cool moist air stratifies at the floor while hot, dry air stratifies from the eaves up. This is all very apparent to us, very apparent to the plants and totally beyond the comprehension of a thermostat. If we set our temperature controller for readings ideal at the plant level, readings up high or down low are ‘way out of line. So what must we do?

Item Three: Quit asking the thermostat to control the temperature in your greenhouse. Instead, buy two or three good thermometers and place them in critical areas. For what it is worth, we prefer Taylor thermometers and especially like their stainless steel models for greenhouse use. We like to sample air temperature just above plant tops by suspending these thermometers from a short length of chain. Readings are obtained from the northeast corner, center and seedling area of the greenhouse. We don’t truly average these readings but we do consider all of them in setting a temperature we would like to maintain. With that in mind, we then set thermostats to provide that temperature **regardless of where the thermostat must be set to produce this result**. In short, we don’t care how the thermostat must be set; we do care what result is produced.

Finally, we observe several rules for thermostats and thermometers. First, we never mount a thermostat or a thermometer on a wall or other surface. We don’t care what temperature the wall is, we want to know what the temperature is at plant growth level. All our temperature devices are suspended on chain or wire so they record air temperature. Second, we buy good thermometers and thermostats. Taylor thermometers and Penn-type heating and cooling thermostats. These thermostats are little gray boxes with a black coil extended from one end. Penn makes many brands but the style is consistent. We avoid waterproof thermostats. They fill with water and short out just when you need them. A nice accessory in this area is a remote reading thermometer available at Radio Shack. We got one as a present and are spoiled to rolling over in a nice warm bed to read greenhouse temperature without getting up.

Our thermostats get no special consideration. With or without maintenance, a good thermostat will last about 5 years. The first time they stick or fail to function, we junk them. By that time, they are rusty and hard to read or set anyway, so no great loss. It seems to help to slot a frozen potpie container and slide it over the chain like a hat to protect thermostats from direct hose streams. Mostly, though, we just let them take their chances and expect a five-year replacement cycle. Good temperature equipment is sturdy and reliable but don’t expect it to do your growing for you. When you need to know what therm it is, adjust what you have against what you need and set a thermostat to produce the answer.

CENTRAL EAST TEXAS ORCHID SOCIETY

We published a history of the Central East Texas Orchid Society in the Fall of 2001 SWROGA NEWS. Subsequently, Joan Blackstone, who sent the article, wrote that the article was researched and written by Charles Shelton, a new member of the Society. Charles, a Tyler native, had recently retired and wanted to get back into raising orchids. Shortly after writing the article, Charles became ill and died unexpectedly. We sincerely appreciate his effort – he prepared a fine story of another great SWROGA society. We also wish to take this belated opportunity to extend SWROGA sympathy to Charles’ family. Thanks, Joan, for bringing this information to our attention.

Kathy Wright
SWROGA Historian

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oncidium Alliance Judging Workshop

February 9, 2002
Michelson Museum of Art
216 North Bolivar
Marshall, Texas 75670
Wilton Guillory WGuill@aol.com
Patsy Boersma pboersma@shreve.net

Orchids on Parade

February 22-24, 2002
Central Louisiana Orchid Society
Alexandria, Louisiana
Alexandria Mall
Wilton Guillory WGuill@aol.com

SWROGA Meeting and Show

March 1 -3, 2002
Orchid Society of Jefferson
Gretna, Louisiana
Radison Hotel
Veterans Blvd. Metairie, Louisiana
AnnLevy
504-737-5180
alevy94241@aol.com

Orchids in Bloom

March 22-24, 2002
Heart O' Texas Orchid Society
Zilker Botanic Gardens
2200 Barton Springs Road
Austin, Texas
Dave Levine 512-502-1145
dlevine1@earthlink.net

Orchid Society Show and Sale

April 12-14, 2002
Alamo Orchid Society
San Antonio Garden Center
3310 N. New Braunfels
San Antonio, Texas
Dalton Watson (210-826-0010)
223 Northridge
San Antonio, TX 78209

Orchid Show and Sale

July 12-14, 2002
Baton Rouge Orchid Society
Baton Rouge Garden Center
7950 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
John Huner 225-7672234(H) 225-275-7419(W)
jbhuner@msn.com

Upcoming Events Continued:

Orchids for Everyone

August 2-3, 2002
Houston Orchid Society
Holiday Inn Select Park 10 West
14703 Park Row
Houston, Texas
Dr. Jerry Stephens jerryhs@hal-pc.org

2002 Space City Orchid Adventure

AOS & Fall SWROGA Show
October 16-20, 2002
Houston Orchid Society
Adam's Mark Hotel
2900 Briar Park Drive at Westheimer
Houston, Texas
Melba & Jim Butler melba.jim@pdq.net

Spring SWROGA Show

Spring, 2003
Baton Rouge Orchid Society
Ervin Granier
920 Arthur Drive
Gabriel, LA 70776
225-642-2026 egranier@worldnet.att.net

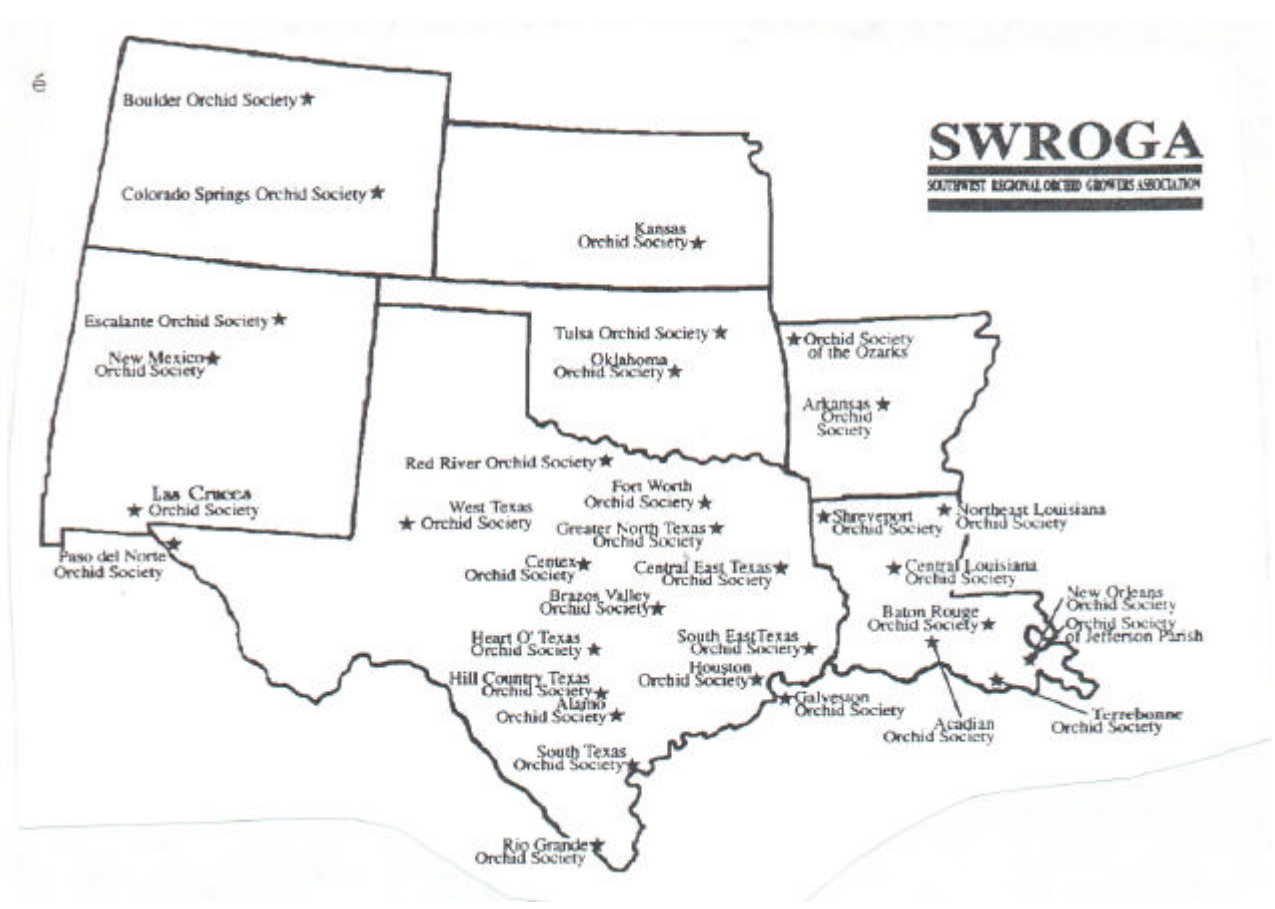
Continuing List of Orchid Shows

Be sure to contact Melba Butler (281-492-1437; melba.jim@pdq.net) before scheduling your societies' orchid show. She is keeping an updated list of all shows in the SWROGA region. Checking with Melba first will prevent your show from conflicting with another one in your area. More than one show in an area can limit the number of judges and growers that attend.

***Summer Issue Deadline
April 19, 2002***

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