

Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society Newsletter
April 2012



Reserve Champion at the Vancouver Orchid Society Show
Coelogyne cristata var. hololeuca owner Mike Miller
Judith Higham, the photographer

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Meetings are held September through June on a Saturday at the Harewood Activity Centre, 195 Fourth Street, Nanaimo, in the hall on the second floor, doors open at 11:30, with the business meeting starting at 12:00 noon.

Coming Meeting Dates: , April 21, May 26, June 16, Sept 22, Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 8,

Program for April 21st

Re-potting. Demonstrations

by

**Bryan on Masdevallias,
Donna Paphs and Phrags),
and Don will do Cattleyas**

Coming Events:

CVIOS Show and Sale, Country Club Center, April 13th – 15th 2012

Editorial:

Well the shade cloth is on and the vents are potting open. After all the rain the heat was a surprise to me and the plants. More watering is definitely needed with the drying sun. The gardens are still slow as the soil dries and warms, but we will have spring. The hardy orchids are all up through the mulch and things are looking good. The Cyps all survived and now I will have to buy one more. That is becoming an expensive tradition.

The Vancouver show went well. Please see the report farther down.

There are minutes from March as it was our auction and there was no formal meeting as such. But from Sandra some thank you s and reminders about the goodies. People who brought goodies for the March auction were: Fred & Hilary, Donna McDonnell, Sandra Millen and Margaret Mann. Those who volunteers for April are: Deborah Ulmer, Bev Morrison and Maureen Hawthorn.

On the topic of Goodies Margaret man has been asked for this recipe and has brought copies but is still being asked so here it is in print.

Cranberry Apricot Oat Bars.

Crust.

2 cups quick cooking rolled oats
1 ½ cups all purpose flour
1 ½ cups packed brown sugar
1 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. Cinnamon
1 cup cold butter, cubed

Filling.

2 cups apricot jam
1 ½ cups dried cranberries
1 tblsp grated orange zest

Topping

2/3 cup slivered almonds

Crust

Combine oats, flour, brown sugar, baking powder, baking soda and cinnamon. Cut in butter until it resembles coarse crumbs. Set aside 1 cup for topping. Press remainder in greased 13 x 9 cake pan. Bake at 350 until golden round edges, about 10 to 12 minutes.

Filling. Combine apricot jam, dried cranberries and orange zest, mix well. Drop spoonfuls over hot crust and spread gently.

Topping. stir almonds into reserved crumb mixture, sprinkle evenly over filling.
Bake at 350 until golden, 20 to 25 minutes. Let cool completely in pan before cutting into bars. Feel free to substitute different jam (I used peach) nuts and fruit.

Cheers Mike

Report on the Vancouver Orchid Society Show and Sale

The Vancouver Show, April 13th through 15th was a beautiful collection of amazing plants. Our display was four tables in the shape of a printed capital 'I'. Nine members supplied plants: Bev Morrison, Donna McDonnell, Dora Glover, Laurie Forbes, Maureen Hawthorn, Mike Miller, Shelley Rattink, Shirely McClare and Vivian Heinsalu-Burt. Thank you for volunteering your plants. There were 47 plants in all ranging from a huge *Coelogyne cristata hololeuca* to a tiny *Dendrobium peguanum* in a 1" pot, both were Mike's. The display was given the Best Visiting Society Trophy and the collection won 9 blue 1st place ribbons, 10 red 2nd place ribbons and 8 white 3rd place ribbons. A cheeky little *Aerangis* hybrid (*fastuosa* x *articulate*) with five blooms on two spikes won Best *Angraecum* Family and Best under Lights. The two rosettes were very overpowering on the 4 inch pot. This was also one of Mike's. The huge *Coelogyne cristata hololeuca* was voted Reserve Champion of the show placing second to Vancouver's huge *Paph. sanderianum* with two great sprays of blooms.

The other "Best Ofs" were well scattered around the hall. There were only 8 AOS Nomination, none in our display. Only one plant *Phrag. Woessner Supergrande* was awarded and it got two. A cultural award CCM of 83 points and a quality award Am of 84 points. The plant was owned by Joe Chow of Victoria.

There was a good crowd through the doors each day and the sales were brisk for most of the vendors.

Altogether a great show.

By Mike Miller

Judith Higham, the photographer



The monthly judging on March 10, 2012, the granted:

Mormodes punctata CHM/AOS 81pts
Award is provisional pending species identification
Exhibitor: Calvin Wong / Tropical Gardens Orchids

Judith Higham, the photographer



Pot Culture of Native Orchids of North America

by Dr Wilford Neptune, transcribed by Inge Poot

This is a summary of portions of the excellent talk given by Dr Neptune as part of the MAOC Speaker's Forum, Sunday, August 24, 2003. Dr. Neptune is a retired thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon who has been growing a mixed collection of orchids (155 genera) since 1972. Since 1982 he has received 102 awards, one from the RHS and 101 from the AOS, of which 20 were for cypripediums! Challenged by Dr. Carson Whitlow's success story with calopogons he has spent the last ten years perfecting his pot culture of native North American orchids. Dr Carson E. Whitlow published "Fun



Flowers" on the culture of Calopogons in the September 1992 issue, pages 860-865 of the Bulletin of the American Orchid Society and the information should help with attempts at culture in pot.

Calopogon, Grass Pink is grown by Dr Neptune in 50% peat moss and 50% perlite. In spring, he uses a 5 inch (10cm) pot with drainage material on the bottom, plants the tuber two times its width deep, and places the pot in a saucer of water in full sun. He fertilizes once a week with one quarter strength fish and seaweed fertilizer. After the first frost he digs up the tuber, puts it into peat moss and over winters it in a 30 to 35 degree Fahrenheit (minus one to plus two degrees Celsius) fridge for its dormancy period.

Calopogon tuberosus

There are some interesting hybrids being developed with the species in this genus. Crossing the sequentially flowering *C. tuberosus* that has one to two flowers open at a time, with the small flowered, but simultaneously opening *C. multiflorum* results in a hybrid with large sequentially opening flowers where 2 or more flowers are open at the same time. (Source of plants: Carson Whitlow, see 1. below)

Dr Neptune also mentioned that the October blooming *Spiranthes odorata* 'Chadds Ford' CCM-AOS is grown like the Calopogons, but unlike the Calopogons should be wintered in the fridge **in the pot**. (Sources of plants: Barry Glick, see 2. below, Roslyn Nursery, see 3. below). Charles Sheviak, the taxonomist for the state of New York feels that it is not necessary to place calopogons and spiranthes in the fridge for dormancy.



A **Rose Pogonia, Pogonia ophioglossoides** collected in a Florida swamp was grown in an artificial bog. To grow it in a pot, the roots should be wrapped in live sphagnum, the pot should be set into a saucer of water, it must not receive any fertilizer and the undisturbed pot should be over wintered in the fridge. The plant grown this way, produced one leaf the first year, two leaves the second year, three leaves and one to two flowers the third year, while in the fourth year the flowers were fewer, but larger and darker. Owen Robinson of Jacksonville VT has an artificial bog in which he grows pitcher plants and white and pink Rose Pogonias. (He sells wholesale only)

Ladyslippers:

Cypripedium formosanum a native of Formosa, now called Taiwan, is the easiest to grow and has been in pot culture for over 100 years in China, Japan, Germany and England. Dr Neptune is puzzled by the fact that it has not caught on in North America. It is hardy outside to WI and VT but because of January and February thaws tends to die in the New England states. With a rise in temperature this plant will start to grow and can flower in 14 days. Unfortunately, the thaw only lasts for 5-7 days, during which time the flower bud is up out of the foliage. With the drop in temperature the bud is destroyed, the plant survives, but there will be no flower for that year. A few growers are successful growing it outside by mulching it and this seems to work out well on Long Island, NY.



Cypripedium mix:

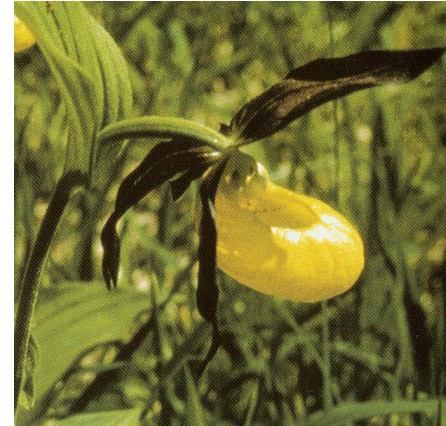
1. 3 gallons of woods soil taken from the top two inches (5 cm) of a mixed forest, mostly white pine. This is hand rubbed through a 1/4 inch (0.5 cm) wire screen. The result is a light, fluffy, fairly fine soil which does not compact even when wet. To this add:
2. 8 cups fine peat moss for water retention
3. 8 cups fine perlite and
4. 4 cups medium perlite for aeration
5. 1/2 cup oyster shell and
6. 1/4 cup pelletized lime to buffer the mix to a pH of 7.2 to 7.4
7. Use a one inch (2.5 cm) layer of marble chips as drainage in the bottom of the pots.

Most commercial sources of cypripediums ship the plants bare root after they are dormant in the fall. In contrast to most other orchids a generously sized pot is used. For a single growth plant a two gallon (8 litre) pot is used, with the one inch (2.5 cm) layer of marble chips on the bottom for drainage. Fill the pot two thirds full with the mix described above, then make a mound up to about one inch from the top and wind the roots around the mound and leave the eye for next year's growth at the centre of the mound. Fill the rest of the pot and water thoroughly with pure water (water from an RO unit supplies enough water for all of Dr. Neptune's the North American native orchids) and set aside to drain over night. The next day place the pot inside a double plastic bag, to guard against drying out, and then put it into a refrigerator at 35 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit (3 to 4 degrees Celsius) for a minimum of 10 -12 weeks of cold dormancy. This period is frequently called vernalization, a term which is now being accepted in horticulture; however, this is technically incorrect. In botany, vernalization, by definition, means to initiate a flower bud by exposure to cold, as in a lily. None of the cypripediums need vernalization as the flower bud is in the eye for next year's growth when it becomes dormant in the fall. All cypripediums do, however, need a period of cold dormancy to initiate growth and leaf production when the temperature rises in the spring. When the plants are brought out in the spring, Dr Neptune grows them in the cool house with a minimum night temperature of 46 degrees Fahrenheit (8 degrees Celsius) through their period of flowering, and then they go outside on a wall beside the east side of Dr Neptune's greenhouse until fall dormancy.

Depending on the location Dr Neptune can vary the amount of sunshine the plant receives. He tries for between 1500 and 2500 foot candles of light. They are kept evenly moist with pure water and fed 1/4 strength fish meal and sea weed until August and then no more fertilizer. After they enter

dormancy, or by November, all foliage is cut off and the plants are again placed inside a refrigerator. He has used a cold frame for the period of cold dormancy, but the temperature outside is so erratic in the spring that he prefers the refrigerator with better control of the temperature.

Of the 11 *Cypripedium* ladyslippers that Dr Neptune has in cultivation at present, about 10 do fine with the same treatment as *C. formosanum*, but *C. acaule* needs special treatment. *Cypripedium acaule*'s accepted method of transplanting according to Scott Durkee was, that it should be collected with a huge earth ball to have even a 10% success rate. The theory was that one would thus get the micorrhiza it is associated with in nature, as the latter grows along the surface of the soil within the evergreen or deciduous tree duff. One would thus get both the undamaged roots and the micorrhiza containing soil. Scott Durkee of VT Ladyslipper Farm worked out how to get a 90% success rate with this species. The micorrhiza is essential in nature for the germination of the seed, but after the plants have developed roots they usually are infected with the micorrhiza, but don't need them anymore. Scott Durkee has grown plants of this species from seed to flowering in flask without any exposure to micorrhiza. Furthermore the plants are not truly terrestrial as the roots grow out radially from the base of the plant and are on the surface of the soil and covered over with one or two inches (2 to 5 cm) of duff.



To transplant a plant with a 90% success rate, fork it out with a manure fork in the fall after it has become dormant, by sliding the fork under the duff along the soil surface and lifting up. The duff will fall through the tines and the roots will remain on top of the fork. Place the plant flat onto moist newspapers and move to a suitable new location. There, remove the duff, scarify the soil surface, lay the plant flat onto the bed, add one to two inches of duff plus for this first year a mulch of one to two inches (5 cm) of wood chips and water in. Continue watering when needed for the whole first year to prevent the stress of drought. Once established the plant can tolerate severe drought and nutrient poor soil. However, a pH above 5 kills it. Therefore use pure water acidified to a pH of 3.5 to 4 with cider vinegar for watering. For pot culture use all duff as the medium, do not feed and keep it evenly moist with pH 3.5 to 4 pure water. Over winter in an unheated garage or cold frame and cover with oak leaves. Success with this *cypripedium* cannot be claimed until one has grown and flowered it for at least three successive years.

Cypripedium macranthos does not like the conditions that Dr Neptune is able to give them and of the three different plants he tried from three different sources he flowered one, but all three were dead at the end of two years.

The other *cypripedium* species Dr Neptune grows like *C. formosanum* are :*C. calceolus* *C. pubescens*, *C. parviflorum*, *C. kentuckiense* (3 foot stems with flower size 2x that of *C parviflorum*, hardy to VT & WI) *C. Gisella* (*C. ventricosum* x *C. parviflorum*) *C. cordidgerum* *C. tibeticum*, *C. montanum*, *C. reginae*

Sources for hardy terrestrials: (recommended by Dr Neptune or the Conservation committee)

1. Carson Whitlow, slipperguy@aol.com , seedling cyps and rescued plants, calopogons
2. Barry Glick, Sunshine Farm, Renick, WV, www.sunfarm.com , Spiranthes and a few others at times.
3. Roslyn Nursery, 211 Burrs Lane, Dix Hills, NY 11746 , www.roslynnursery.com , Spiranthes cernua 'Chadds Ford', occasionally *S. sinensis* and *Cyp. calceolus*.

4. Dr Heinrich Beyrle, Postfach 1129, 86316 Friedberg, Germany, www.myorchids.de , Extensive list of European hardy terrestrials.
5. Bill Steele, Spangle Creek Labs, www.uslink.net/~scl/ , Only seedlings out of flask.
6. Scott Durkee, VT Ladyslipper Co., www.vtladyslipper.com , Cyp. seedlings and flowering size plants.
7. Tom Nelson, Woods End Nursery, 807 College Street, Northfield, MN 55057, (507)663-1544
8. Werner Frosch, (Cyp hybrids), Hohenweg 8, 63303 Dreieich, Germany, www.wfrosch.onlinehome.de/menue_e.htm
9. Owen Robinson, Raising Rarities, Jacksonville, VT, wholesale only. Dr Neptune feels he would be remiss if he did not mention Owen Robinson, since in his opinion he has superb plant material. Unfortunately he no longer deals with retail, but his plants are now sold by a number of garden centres such as #10 below;
10. White Flower Farm, CT. May have *C. kentuckiense*.
Dr Neptune can be reached at wneptune@aol.com

Orchid Society of Nova Scotia January 2004

Pictures taken form Botanica's Pocket Orchids

- Calopogon tuberosus* Wayne Harris
- Pogonia ophioglossoides* Howard Wood
- Cypripedium formosanum* Wolfgang Rysy
- Cypripedium calceolus* Wolfgang Rysy

Cattleya walkeriana and Cattleya nobilior

By Sra. Amalia Hermano Texeira
(Translated from the Portuguese version in
Orquidea, Vol. 29, No.3, May-June, 1967)



Cattleya nobilior var. huueneyi

Cattleya walkeriana var bulbosa

Cattleya walkeriana Gard.

This orchid was discovered by the English doctor, George Gardner, between 1839 and 1840 while on his second trip to Brazil. He gave it the name "Walkeriana" in honor of Edward Walker who was not a person versed in natural science, but who was his dedicated and inseparable companion on the trip. Gardner, the superintendent of the royal botanic garden of Ceylon, described and classified not only *C. walkeriana*, but about a hundred other plants, among them, many from Goias.

In 1847 a *Cattleya* flowered in England and on examination by the famous Lindley was described as a new species under the name of *Cattleya bulbosa*. After the prior description by Gardner became known, the name given by Lindley was considered to be synonymous in accordance with the international rules of botany.

C. walkeriana is generally considered to be a relict form, corresponding to a very early stage in the biologic development of the species. Epiphytic, or rupicolous, it is the queen of rocks or tree trunks in the less humid forests. It is found in all of the southern zones of Goias, living on the trunks and in the forks of jatobas, aroeiras (*Lithraea*), cajazeiros, on granite rocks and at times on tapiocangas along the banks of rivers or in shady places. With more or less creeping rhizomes, elongated pseudo bulbs thickened at the center, and a single leaf, it flowers in May - being one of the few winter-flowering species. On the Morro Feio near the town of Hidrolandia hundreds of clumps of *C. walkeriana* have been collected including the variety *alba*. Some grow on rocks near Mairipotaba (96 kilometers from Goiania) others on the trunks and branches of mango trees covered with algae but ventilated by the pruning of interior branches in the dry season (May). They show their flowers in our farmlands of Goiania in February and March.

Brought from their habitat, the *C. walkeriana* grow and bloom on pieces of cork wood, always preferring a living support, although they are not a parasite. They cling to areca-bamboo palms, dracenas, manacas, murtas, coitezeiros, and erythrinas. They require sprinkling from time to time. For best growth they do not do well in pots.

In the rural districts people persist in calling them "parasites" giving them the name of "the marvel" for their color and "the divine flower" because of the form which reminds them of the divine image.

Cattleya walkeriana belongs to the section *Gymnochila* (lateral lobes of the lip small or absent revealing the column in part or altogether). It is also in the subsection *Rhizanthemum* (flowers springing from the rhizome that is alternating pseudo bulbs with leaves.) The flowers, reaching about one third of the size of *Cattleya labiata*, are stiff, durable, purplish rose, or rosy lilac with the end of the lip purple red. They give out a perfume of scented roses. The flowers rise almost always from a leafless pseudobulb, which is quite small. The floral tube is short and the huge lip flattened at the front and widely spread. The end of the lip extends forward and has in the center a spot of light rose or yellow or rose streaked with yellow.

Twelve hybrids are known using *C. walkeriana*, four being with Brazilian plants: *C. aclandiae*, *granulosa*, *guttata* and *harrisoniana*. Much appreciated is the hybrid *C. Sororia* (*walkeriana* with *aclandiae*).

A collection of our *Cattleya walkeriana* was taken to Europe in 1848 by the Belgian explorer Libon. There it was cultivated and divided between Linden, Binot and Sanders. Many commercial establishments imported the plants growing them and later making hybrids with them.

Cattleya nobilior Rchb.f.

A different species known then as "*C. walkeriana*" showing side lobes of the lip more strongly developed and closing over the column (a characteristic which approximates the ideal in orchid beauty) was considered superior and more noble than the type and received the name of *Cattleya nobilior*. Endowed with more robust pseudo bulbs and with two leaves, *C. nobilior* produces two to six flowers in each raceme. The flowers are larger than those of *C. walkeriana*, have wider petals, are adorned with a rose-lilac color or occasionally bluish or completely white and have a yellowish lip. The variety *alba* is most beautiful. All give forth a pleasant perfume. Also those related to the subsection *Rhizanthemum* show in some regions a purple color with the lip intensely red at the end and the disc a beautiful clear yellow.

Hoehne grouped *C. walkeriana* and *C. nobilior* and *C. dolosa* together as characterized by a more or less creeping rhizome, elongated pseudo bulbs thickened at the center and purple flowers very firm and well-formed

with a reddish end to the lip. He made it clear that in *C. walkeriana* and *C. nobilior* the inflorescence almost always arises from a very small leafless pseudo bulb and in *C. dolosa* it emerges between the leaves of which there are one or two on each pseudobulb. He called attention to the lips of the three, which are accurately described as follows: the lateral lobes are short and hardly cover the lower half of the column (*walkeriana*), which is raised above the disc like a thick callus similar to a horse's hoof leaving the lobes protruding and plainly visible.

The *C. walkeriana* of Goias with the end of the lobes very short and wide, purplish red, seeming to be the color of wine, shows two or three narrow central stripes of a light" lemon color separated by wine colored bands. Our *C. nobilior* with its huge lateral lobes almost covering the column has a narrower lip but more elongated, the lateral edges turned back again. The center is sulfur-colored with light wine colored stripes.

The emerald green color of the tips and the light reddish purple apex of the lilac petals with silvery scintillations give the flowers an irresistible charm.

Botanist and chemists have reached the conclusion that the magical brilliance and fascinating color of these orchids are the result of two factors: their cellular structure and the presence or absence of pigments in the floral fabric of each one.

Since axe and fire are devastating our species the urgent attention of all Goianian authorities should be given to *C. walkeriana* and *C. nobilior* because of the beauty of their coloration, the grace of their form, their sweet perfume and the enchantment they give to our forests, fields, scrublands, lath houses, glass houses, plazas and gardens. Such species when collected and cultivated, preferably on living trees in an Orchidarium, should demonstrate to native Goianians, to their friends and to foreigners the vegetation discovered by Martius & Spix, by Pohl, Gardner, Ule and others in the lands of east central Brazil.

C. nobilior is found on the banks of -the Araguaia, on the border with Matto Grosso, in the dry forests and heights in the environs of Corumba, in the north of Goias near Uruacu, and in the swamps of the Tocantins.

They live in jacarandas, mirindiba , pau terias, all trees which lose their leaves or which are dead already. There we find blooming clumps of *C. nobilior* on the forest floor or at the base of trees which have been cut and plundered. They also occur in mossy forests and on rocks near rivers such as the Natividade in the northern part of the state. In Bolivia they prosper on the pitchfork like branches of *Cereus peruvianus*. In Goias they also grow when fastened on old trunks of dracena, *Brunsfelsia uniflora*, palms, and pieces of vochysia not cut too short because the roots of these orchids may extend to ten or twelve feet looking for moisture near the base of the tree which results from light showers on the top. Every six months we should plunge all the mounted specimens for twenty minutes in a water solution of the timbo (*Serjania curassavica*) vine. The rotenone contained in the vine kills harmful insects. A powdered fungicide along with a foliar feeding applied each month to Laelias and Cattleyas when they are in growth will be much appreciated by these plants.

We often find examples of *C. walkeriana* with two leaves and *C. nobilior* with three or rarely with only one. The omission of one of the leaves by atrophy could be the first state of development of a new growth or also that a flower bud will begin to swell. The phenomenon also occurs from lack of water, when there is a high temperature or from the absence or scarcity of nutrients. Locally, the appearance of the third leaf shows the presence of favorable growth conditions, ideal temperatures, a regular supply of water and an abundance of nutrients.

This variability in the number of leaves is shown also by *Laelia purpurata* which subject was treated fully by the taxonomist Pabst on the occasion of the XVII Congress of the Botanic Society of Brazil.

To Dr. Luys de Mendonca, founder and indefatigable Director of this magazine who has for more than a quarter of a century given so many lessons to Brazilian and foreign orchid lovers, goes my appreciation for his opening to me of the pages of *Orquidea* to discuss these flowers of mystery from my homeland and to describe the living jewels of Goiania.

(Translated by Ralph Spencer.)

Orchid Digest, March 1969

CLEISOCENTRON MERRILLIANUM (AMES) CHRISTENSON

Harry Zelenko



Harry Zelenko moved to Cumbaya, Quito, Ecuador from New York City three years ago after many trips to Quito over the past decade. He lives there much of the year and raises about 6 - 7,000 orchids (mostly species), including seedlings propagated in a small laboratory in his home. He is the international contact for the Quito Orchid Conference & Show planned for February of 2004.

Every person interested in orchids finds blue orchids fascinating, as much for their rarity as for their beautiful color. However most "blue" orchid flowers are considered to be shades of lavender and purple "trying to be blue." A recently discovered *Maxillaria* from Peru has blue and white flowers, its hue being somewhere between ultramarine and Prussian blue. I have seen flowers of *Dendrobium victoria-reginae* ranging from sky blue to deep blue with a slight purple cast. Other blue-flowered orchids were featured in a recent *Orchid Digest* article. I know of only one orchid in the world, *Cleisocentron merrillianum*, whose diminutive flowers are a delicate aqua blue.

Cleisocentron merrillianum is a member of a group of five or six *Cleisocentron* species found in Burma, Vietnam, and Sabah in northern Borneo. It was formerly known as *Sarcanthus merrillianus*, and more recently as *Robiquetia merrilliana*. On Mount Kinabalu in Sabah, it is usually found growing in montane forest, often on moss-covered trees at elevations ranging from 1100 to 3000 meters. In cultivation, the plant seems to do well with warm to intermediate temperatures, ranging into the low 90s°F during the day down to about 60°F at night.

The flowers of *Cleisocentron merrillianum* can vary in color from pale grayish-pink to aqua blue. The plant that I am cultivating, shown in the photographs, has blooms that are aqua blue with a touch of lavender at the base of each flower.

A flower cluster, one inch in diameter, appears on the terete leaves every five or six months, emerging about two inches apart running up the main stem. Although each flower is by itself rather small, a round cluster of 36 to 40 flowers on an inflorescence is a beautiful sight to behold. I'm not usually into making hybrids, but I've often wondered whether the aqua color would be dominant in the progeny if *Cleisocentron merrillianum* were crossed with a white phalaenopsis.

Orchid Digest, Jan.-Feb.-Mar., 2003