

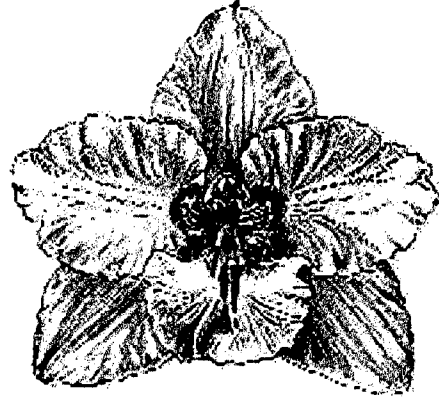
Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

Volume 5

November 2011

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Odontoglossum Alliance is in the Orchid Digest

The Odontoglossum issue of the Orchid Digest came out in October. This special issue has been in the works for over a year and is filled with current and historical information on the various components of the Odontoglossum Alliance. As a result this issue of the Newsletter is considerably shortened and I urge all of our members to obtain a copy of this well done and informative issue. Several prominent and contributing members of our Alliance have written sparkling articles.

Tom Perlite of Golden Gate Orchids has presented a very complete review of the interesting and beautiful hybrids he has generated. The pictures in this article and in fact all the articles are of very high quality. He shows what can be done with careful selection of parents to produce beautiful and varied colored odonts that meet the market conditions. Golden Gate Orchids is probably the most prolific and among highest quality of Odont Alliance material suppliers.

From the last newsletter issue you are aware of the name change of Odontoglossum to now be Oncidium. Robert Hamilton chronicles the history of Odontoglossum breeding and growing in his article: ODONTOGLOSSUM: REQUIESCAT IN PACE. The hay day of Odonts was from the late 1890's up through probably the 1960's when it's popularity and viability has a business started to decline. Bob is one of the most prolific and creative purely amateur growers and hybridizers of the Odont Alliance. His recent creation of the cross Odm Tribbles is a current and recent example.

The lost and found story of Odm naevium and Odm nevadense is told by Steve Beckendorf, our President. These two species were discovered in the late 1890's and then lost. The exception was in modern times only single plants of each species survived and the location of these in their natural habitat remained unknown.

This prevented the selfing of these species. Steve with some dedicated friends took on the task of re-discovering the location of them growing in their natural habitat. They were completely successful and Steve did a great service and tells a fascinating story. Both have now been successfully selfed and seedlings and blooming size plants are now available.

Our venerable hybridizer Howard Liebman chronicles his journey through the maze of *Cyrtorchilus* and the various hybrids. Howard created many of these and the article is complete with beautiful pictures. It encourages us to try these genera in our growing and display operations.

Jim Rassmann is his article on "The Culture of *Odontoglossums* and Related Genera" tells it like it is. He provides the needed information for all how want to grow these Alliance plants. Those who are now growing these plants, those that want to grow the Odont Alliance, will benefit from understanding the variability of conditions and treatments that produce success.

The issue rounds out with three articles that make this issue so valuable and informative to those who are and those who want to grow plants of this beautiful Alliance. Ivan Komoda's article shows his specialty, *Miltoniopsis* with its many varied forms and colors. Cordelia Head of J& L Orchids describes several of the less well known members and smaller plants. These are fascinating. Finally Cindy Coty gives a layman's description of the DNA method of putting plants into the families under more scientific and objective classification.

I urge our members if you are not already members and subscribers to The Orchid Digest to obtain a copy. Copies can be obtained from the Orchid Digest and are advertised at \$30.00. To obtain one go to their web site: www.orchiddigest.org and you will find all the needed directions. This is Volume 75-4 and the issue is for October November December 2011. This issue should be in all our libraries.

John Miller

Editor

SECRETARIAT OR MR. PROSPECTOR?

I would like to talk about hybridizing members of the *Odontoglossum* Alliance with reference to Thoroughbred racehorses. The similarities you may find interesting.

Secretariat was possibly the greatest racehorse of the 20th-Century. He won the Triple Crown, arguably the greatest trio of races in North America and he did so with a sheer excellence that has never dimmed in the memory of anyone who witnessed his feat. Sent to stud and syndicated for the then world record price of \$7,000,000, he essentially failed to make any significant genetic advance in the thoroughbred type, despite his impeccable conformation and pedigree.

Mr. Prospector was chronically unsound, standing on two of the worst-conformed forelegs of any horse that made it to the races. He won a minor stake's race, albeit in world record time. Soon he was retired, to an unfashionable stud in North Florida. From that humble beginning, he sired a dynasty with champions from every one of his foal crops, many of whom had pretty marginal conformation themselves. He ended his days serving mares for astute syndicate owners who could easily sell a no live foal guarantee service for any mare at \$250,000 a pop.

What, you may ask has this to do with orchid hybridizing? Quite a lot in my opinion. Keith Andrew has always preached that it is not the FCC orchid that is valuable but the orchid that bred the FCC. Let's consider a few examples of orchid hybrids that might fit this criterion.

Odontonia Avril Gay was registered by Charlesworth in 1930. It is a typical Odt. with so-so color and some patterning. In all but two of the hybrids with the grex, the other parent was either an Odm. or an Oda. None seem to have survived or made any enduring impression. One of the other two was another Odt. crossed to it, also unremembered. And then there was Odt. Susan Bogdanow, registered by Howard Liebman in 1977. A hybrid of Avril Gay and Miltonia Franz Wichman, I remember this plant particularly because Howard kindly gave me some seedlings of the cross when I moved to Santa Barbara in 1978. From one of them came the plant that was to be cloned by Floricultura and eventually came to be known as Odt. Susan Bogdanow 'Floricultura'. Many hundred of thousands of plants later and wide pirating by all and sundry, this one Avril Gay seedling will still catch the discerning eye with its lovely color and light, frothy patterning. It has not to my knowledge ever been duplicated or improved.

Vuylstekeara Cambria 'Plush' is a selection from the grex registered by Charlesworth in 1931. It is particularly interesting in that it is a tissue diploid despite a fairly complex parentage. Many folk do not realize that the big showy lip of Cambria has less to do with any minimal Miltoniopsis influence than a strong dose of the showy-lipped Odm. harryanum. There were other Cambrias back in the 1930's, one that was recognized then was variety 'East Burnham', more recently Martin Orenstein got 'Borde Hill' awarded. One can never be sure whether 'Plush' appeared under a previous name but by the time it reappeared in 1965, any linking had been forgotten. Superbly grown by Keith Andrew, it gained an FCC/RHS, deservedly so.

As a parent however, I can confidently state that Cambria 'Plush' has been very disappointing. A hybrid from Keith, named Vuyls. Keith Andrew by Bob Dugger, proved a truly awful grower and soon petered out despite having gained an FCC/AOS. Many mutations of the original appeared in mass cloning with names like 'Lensing's Favorite', 'Carnival', 'Yellow' etc. None were a patch on the original. However, a tetraploid mutation appeared briefly and was used in a cross or two. Tom Perlite made a crossing of the 4n form with Oda. Esteemed and some of them were fine flowers that also grew well. But suddenly even the 4n fell from favor and everything seemed to dead-end.

One of the greatest disappointments in my experience with the Odontoglossum Alliance as a group of plants was when I bloomed a seedling from the diploid Cambria in New Zealand in 1999. It was Cambria 'Plush' X Odm. harryanum diploid. It was essentially a redder Cambria, the finest plant I could imagine. It was blooming in a 2.25" pot on the first bulb so I immediately potted it up to a 4" pot. In early January 2000, it had two spikes on the second bulb so I knew we had a winner. By then I was planning to move back to the USA so I made the decision to send the plant together with many other special things to Japan for safekeeping. I wrapped the plant separately and placed it in the top of one of the shipping boxes. It has never been seen again. One must sadly conclude that somehow it just got thrown out by mistake when the packing was discarded, either at the inspection station or in the nursery. Either way the plant is only a memory now. I have tried to remake the cross on several occasions but so far, without success.

Maybe Cambria in its 4n iteration will still leave the mark I have long expected. Just last month I harvested a pod of it with Odm. Charlesworthii 4n and sent it off to Holland. I deliberately made the cross with a double-up of harryanum to see if lightning might come close to striking twice. Hope springs eternal!

Finally, I would like to talk about Odm. biconiense and Odm. uro-skinneri. When Howard and Bob and I were talking recently, we tried to comprehend what might be causing the dirty foliage seen in both biconiense and uro-skinneri with some frequency. Howard harkened back to the lovely reddish hybrids from the uro-skinneri that Artur Elle was famous for. He wondered whether with maybe a converted uro-skinneri and a clean tetraploid traditional Odm./Oda., maybe some clean-foliaged offspring could be produced. I have been fiddling around with both Bob's tetraploid and diploid Odm. Bic-ros and working along a slightly different pathway. I always coveted an Odont. called Woodroffae to try to breed with but a horse's ass in England always made sure I would never get it! Now, thanks to Bob's foresight I might reach my goal sooner and with excellent fertility for future generations.

Andy Easton

Odontoglossum Alliance Meeting

The 2012 Annual Odontoglossum Alliance meeting will be held in November 2012 in Portland, Oregon in conjunction with the Portland Orchid Society meeting and Orchid Show along with the AOS Trustees meeting. Tentative plans for the Odont meeting include a series of talks during the day and a dinner in the evening along with our well known auction of fine Alliance plants. We will be working to determine if the Alliance can put up a display at the show. Future newsletters will detail plans for the meeting along with the necessary administrative arrangements allowing people to make plans for attendance. With this venue we are hoping for a good turnout of our members. This is a fine time to attract new members to our Alliance as they see the beautiful flowers in our display.

Report on Membership

The membership in our alliance continues to shrink. We now have 64 members as 5 members last year did not pay their dues for 2012. We continue to advertise the Alliance and will look for more creative ways to let people know about the Odontoglossum Alliance. The Annual meeting in Portland which will attract a significant number of orchid growers will be an opportunity to create some enthusiasm.

Enclosed with this newsletter are the lists of Current Membership and Members Communication.



19th AOC Conference and Show Perth Western Australia

PO Box 576 Morley, Western Australia 6062. Email: aocconference@dodo.com.au ABN 14966925212

Bulletin No5. October 2011

Dear Orchid Aficionado

The 19th AOC Conference & Show to be held in Perth from 11-16 September 2012 continues to build momentum with a confirmed Speaker List of 19 world class orchid specialists, 12 of whom are from overseas. They are headed by Terry Root of the Orchid Zone, USA, who will be our **Keynote Speaker**.

The latest addition to the 19th AOC Conference Lecture Program is Isobyl la Croix of the UK, the noted author and expert on African Orchids. Isobyls' lecture will compliment that of Johan Hermans on the Orchids of Madagascar.

The unique Western Australian native orchids have not been ignored, with the inclusion of **Dr Mark Brundrett** of the University of Western Australia, and **Andrew Brown**, Threatened Flora Coordinator at the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation and honorary Curator of the Orchidaceae and Myoporaceae at the Western Australian Herbarium. Our Lecture Program is by no means done and dusted, so stand by for further updates.

Registration for the 19th AOC Conference & Show is open and the details are now available on line at.....

<http://www.waorchids.iinet.net.au/Registration.pdf>

And don't forget that Earlybird Registrations must be received by 31st January 2012. If you are unable to download the registration form, please contact the Secretary at the address above or email at.. aocconference@dodo.com.au with your postal details. We now have credit card facilities for your ease of payment.

Also attached to the Registration Form is information regarding the Conference Tours.

The conference organising committee continues to be pleasantly surprised by the level of international and interstate interest being shown by potential visitors. There is a particular interest in the 5 day South West Tour led by Andrew Brown, (see above) to see in situ, the wonderful range of unique native terrestrial orchids of Western Australia. Seats are limited, so get in soon and avoid disappointment.

Our Show Marshal, Norm Martin, has received the final approval of the Show Schedule from the WA Judges Panel and the AOC. The Schedule can now be seen on line in either a Word File or PDF.

The Show Room Floor Plan of the Burswood Grand Ballroom is complete, with exhibition and vendor spaces (some already sold) having been provisionally determined along with a café/snack bar inside the Conference area, and a public potting demonstration and cultural presentation area.

The Committee is in the early planning stages for a Photographic Competition to be run in conjunction with the 19th AOC Conference & Show. More about this in future Bulletins but start your cameras clicking away.

A number of Conference Committee members will be attending the WOC in Singapore in November and the WA team will stage an AOC display with the assistance of members from across Australia who are supplying cut flowers. The video of packing cut flowers has been produced and is in the final stages of editing and should be available on the website in October this year. We will also have a promotional booth (B30 in the marketplace) to promote the 19th AOC Conference & Show, Perth 2012. We have been generously supported in this by the State Government of Western Australia. There will be promotional material available and a unique give away to encourage visitors to Perth for the 19th AOC Conference & Show.

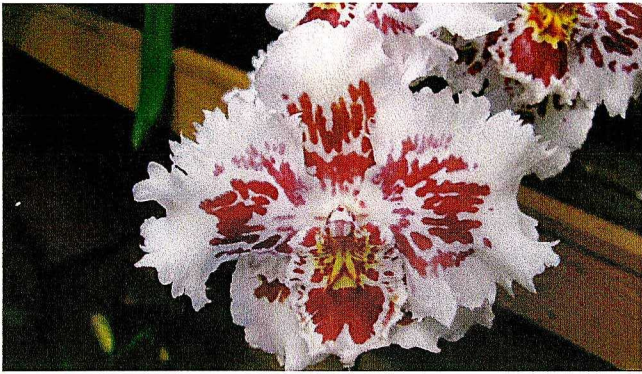
Whilst in Singapore, Conference Committee members will also make a presentation on behalf of the Western Australian Regional Orchid Organisation, in a bid to bring the 2017 **World Orchid Conference** to Perth. This bid is being backed by the AOC and the Western Australian State Government.

Further information regarding all our latest happenings can be accessed on the 19th AOC Conference web site at...

http://www.waorchids.iinet.net.au/19th_AOC_Conference.htm

We urge all orchid societies to feel free to reprint this Bulletin, and anything else from our web site, in your club newsletters.

Should you have any queries or questions regarding the 19th AOC Conference, feel free to contact the Chairman, (email) the Secretary, (email) or the Webmaster. (email)



Oda. Gabriola



Oda. pescatorei 'Lyoth Dream'
x
Odm. Cristor 'Lyoth Giant'



Oda. Sea Nymph 'Island rainbow' HCC



Mem Len Page No. 1



Oda. Burgundy Fringe 'Sunday'



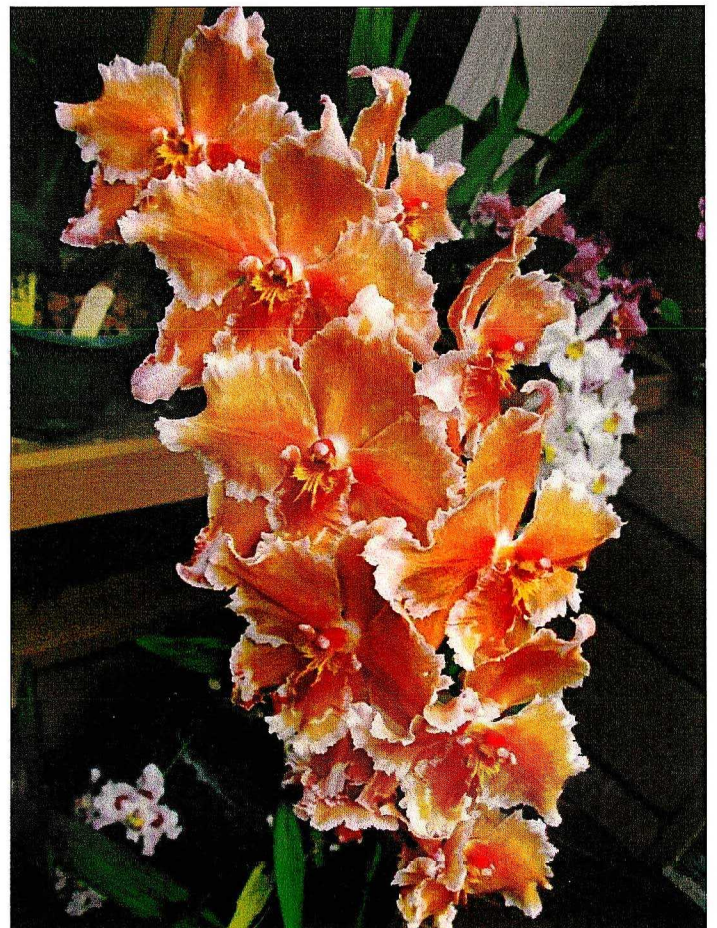
Oda. Snow Mass
x
Odm. Bogong 'Saturday'



Oda. Roslyn Little Jewel



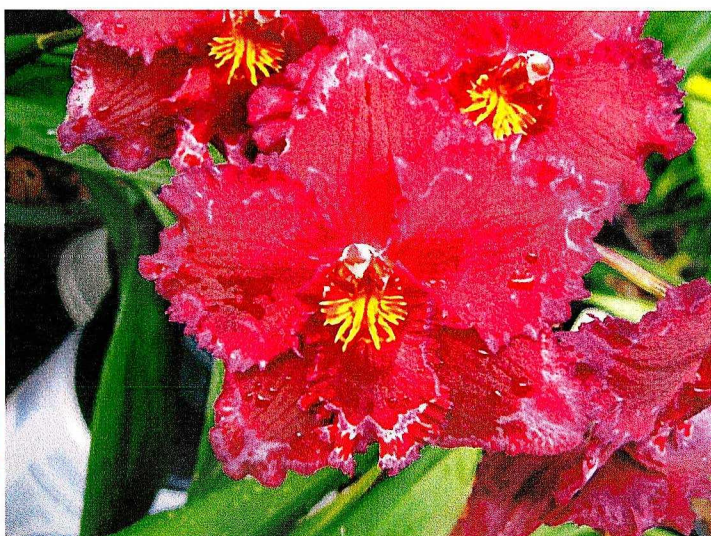
Oda. John No 1
x
Oda. Shan No 4



Oda. Savanna Barb



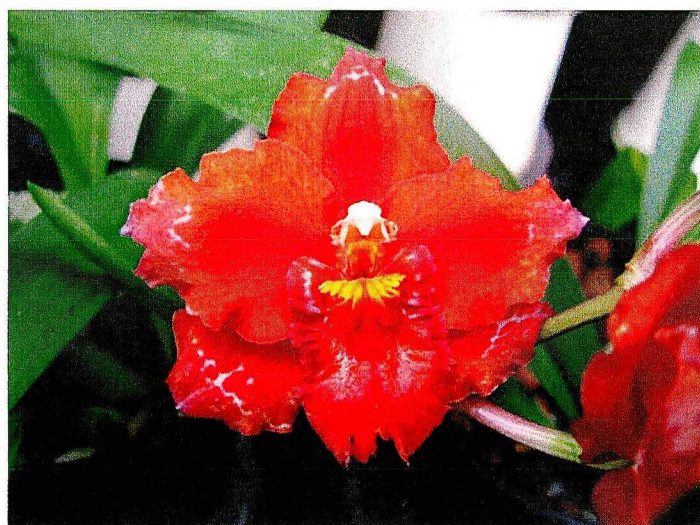
Oda. Wearside Bank
x
Oda. Island red 'Red Lady'



Oda. Susan
Oda. Floresca 'Pale Princess'
x
Oda. Island red 'First Flame' HCC/AOS



Odm. pescatoria 'Island Beauty'



Oda. Rounder
Oda. Shirley No 4 x Oda. Island Red