

# Kingwood Orchid Society



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Past Pres. Dan Pitzen

February 2008

**February Meeting**  
February 9<sup>th</sup> . . . . . 10: AM

Kingwood Center Video Room

Program . . . . . "Orchid Delirium"

Discussion of By-Laws

Refreshments. . . Ken & Sue Lehner

Florida, the West-Indies and tropical America, in wet forests from sea level to altitudes under 5000 ft, with the Peruvian Andes as its center. Occurrence is mostly restricted to a certain area, but *Brassia caudata* can be found over the whole geographic area.



*Pepsis*

They have large elliptic-oblong pseudobulbs with one or two leaves at the apex, lateral, unbranched many-flowered inflorescences with small floral bracts. The lip is not attached to the column. The pollinarium shows a narrow stipe. There are two distichous, foliaceous sheaths around the base, from which the inflorescence emerges.

*Brassia* has a very specific method for pollination : it uses entomophily : pollination by insects and in this case specifically by female spider-hunter wasps of the genera *Pepsis* and *Campsomeris*. Mistaken by the mimicry of *Brassia*, the wasp stings the lip, while trying to grasp its prey without any success.

By these movements the wasp comes into contact with the pollinarium, that

then sticks to its head. By flying to another *Brassia* flower, this flower gets pollinated.

### Fertilization

In the autumn fertilize sporadically, every 30-40 days. avoid excessive fertilization during those periods with very short days, to avoid stimulating the plants which tend to have short periods of rest.

### Generalities

The *Brassia* develops like a shrub. This plant in the winter assumes a green white coloring; it is medium in size and can reach 20 in. high. It keeps its leaves in the winter.

The ramifications of these plants tend to develop downwards.

### *Campsomeris*



### Watering

To moisten the soil water them by immersion, soaking the vases up to the edge in demineralized water, and leaving it until the top part of the substratum is moist; drain the excess water and then put the containers back in place. frequent and regular watering, always wait for the soil to dry completely between watering

## Brassia

*Brassia* is a genus of orchids classified in the *Oncidiinae* subtribe. The genus was named after William Brass, a British botanist and illustrator, who collected plants in Africa under the supervision of Sir Joseph Banks. Its abbreviation in the horticultural trade is *Brs.*



### Description

*Brassia* species and its popular hybrids are common in cultivation, and are notable for the characteristic long and spreading tepals (in some clones longer than 20 in), which lend them the common name "spider orchid".

This epiphytic genus occurs in South

usually water every 1-2 weeks .

#### Exposure

The Brassia is a quite delicate plant, which can't stand cold weather; when the autumn temperatures go below 15°C bring them inside. Avoid exposing to direct sunlight, although they should be placed in a very bright location. The Brassia needs to be located in a very bright place, but far from direct sun rays.

#### Treatments

It is best to avoid spraying the flowers with an insecticide compound which could ruin them. Keep the plants in windy and damp place.

#### Potting

Brassias should be repotted about every two years before the medium begins to decompose. Young plants may benefit from being repotted yearly to a size larger pot each time.

### "What does that tag say?"

All plants and animals may be classified using the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. Without going through the entire structure, all orchids belong to the Family Orchidaceae, and are grouped into various subfamilies, tribes, subtribes, and so on. It is the next level down, the genus, which we look at.

The following delineate the proper way plants' names should be documented, and will help you understand exactly what that tag says:

#### Species

*Cattleya intermedia* var. *coerulea* subvar. *aquinii* 'Big Blush'

**Cattleya**, Genus - Latin

It is Italicized and Capitalized

**intermedia**, Species - Latin

Also Italicized, but in lower case

**coerulea** Variety - Latin

"var." not italicized, Epithet italicized

**aquinii** Sub-Variety - Latin

"subvar." not italicized, epithet italicized

'**Big Blush**' Cultivar (Clone) Not Latin, **In single quotes**, Not italicized, Capitalized

Only the genus and species names are necessary, the variety and cultivar may not exist, i.e., *Cattleya intermedia*, although if they do, it is proper to use the entire name.

Hybrid-generic names are used when more than one genus is involved in the breeding. Often, in combinations of two or three genera, **sophrolaeliocattleya** (*sophronitis*, *laelia* and *cattleya*).

When the hybrids get more complex, it is common to name the multigeneric hybrid after an individual, attaching an "-ara" to

the end, as in **potinara**. (*cattleya*, *brassavola*, *laelia*, and *sophronitis*).

#### Unnamed Hybrids

If a cross has been made, but has not been raised to blooming and registered with the International Orchid Registrar, it is common to simply list the parents.

You will sometimes see some random looking letters after the complete name of the plant, usually something like "AM/AOS." That is an indicator that the particular plant (or it's grower, in the case of a CCM) has met or exceeded certain standards and has been given an award. The characters before the slash tells the award, and those after, tell the issuing authority. The more common award levels are:

FCC First Class Certificate

AM Award of Merit

HCC Highly Commended Certificate

AD Award of Distinction

CBM Certificate of Botanical Merit

CCM Certificate of Cultural Merit

GM Gold Medal

SM Silver Medal

BM Bronze Medal

The issuing authority of the award may be a society or other convention of interested parties. Those include, but are not limited to:

AOS American Orchid Society

RHS Royal Horticultural Society

HOS Honolulu Orchid Society

JOS Japan Orchid Growers Society

JOGA Japan Orchid Growers

Association

WOC World Orchid Congress (preceded by the number of the congress)

When a plant gets multiple awards from the same society, or the same award from more than one society, hyphenation is used: CBM-AM/AOS, or FCC/AOS-RHS.

Put two labels in each plant. When you repot, bury one label at the bottom of the pot, or up the side so it doesn't stick out.

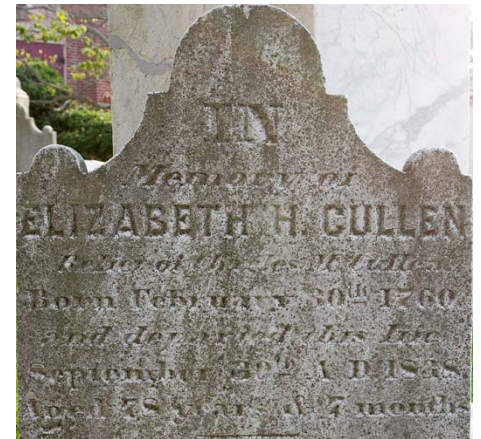
"Little helpers" can then collect all the labels for you and you will still know what your plants are!

### Quarantine new plants.

When you purchase a new plant, always place it where you can watch it for a couple of weeks away from other established plants. Water thoroughly and place it in a bright location with good humidity. Check it for insects and use an insecticide/fungicide to make sure that you are not introducing unwelcome pests to your collection.



After a hard days work, take time to relax  
"Born February 30<sup>th</sup>, 1760"



It is my understanding that this tombstone is in the graveyard at Upper Sandusky, Ohio.

February begins on the same day of the week as March and November in a common year, and on the same day of the week as August in a leap year.

Sweden had a February 30 in 1712.

February in the Northern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent to August in the Southern Hemisphere and vice versa.

(Does this mean that south of the equator, August has 28 days?)

### January Meeting

Mr. Dale Musilli, gave a talk, based on an article from the book, "Enthusiasm for orchids", by John Alcock, where plants use deception and a 'promise' of a reward to entice insects to pollinate.

Mimicry, 'The art of imitating to produce a superficial resemblance of an organism to another, for the purpose of concealment.'

This is the means by which, some plants and insects get their strange appearance and aromatic scent from.

Thank you Dale, for an informative and interesting topic.

A discussion was held, concerning the attendance of the up coming shows at Columbus, Akron and Strongsville at the end of March.

## Show Table

Dick Cumberworth:

Blc. Hawaiian Mini Island

Dan Pitzen:

Cym. Not Named

Lc. Indian Mountain

Pat and Tom Stenson:

Cym. Not Named

Masdevalia Copper Wings

Phrag. Hanne Popow

### Attendance drawing:

Blc Taiwan Gold, to Tom Stenson

## Reminder

Received an E-mail from Pat Stenson, asking that we post once more, that there is a fine article on Semi-hydroponics at “[www.firstrays.com](http://www.firstrays.com)”, this was posted in the November issue.

As you may recall Todd Zimmerman, from COOS gave a talk in October, on growing in Semi-hydroponics, and he is a contributor to the ‘firstrays’ site.

It was in August or September, when Dale Musilli and I were discussing the site.

First Rays, is a mail order only site. It houses a lot of information. Worth going to read.

With some comparison shopping, “Cropking” in Seville, Ohio is much more reasonably priced.