



East Texas Orchid Society

"Creating a common bond between orchid enthusiasts in east Texas..."



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ETOS Goals for 2010

In an attempt to bring exciting programs and speakers to our monthly meetings, we have outlined a tentative calendar for 2010. Using only ETOS members, we could easily present brief slideshows highlighting a particular group of orchids or conduct an orchid mounting demonstration. Bring your ideas to the next meeting so we can start working towards filling our calendar.

An additional focus for 2010 will be a continuation of a goal for 2009 – participate in nearby events and make our presence known as a new and active society. As an extension of this goal, we are planning our own orchid show to be held here in Nacogdoches this fall. This will be a huge undertaking, requiring us to dedicate much of our time and energy. In the end, I trust it will have all been worth it.

One last (personal) goal that I have for the group is to continue to help build each other's collections. While programs and research help us to care for our orchids, they don't put more orchids in our windowsills or in our greenhouses. The more plants that our members grow, the more blooms we will have at our meetings and on our show display tables. Our meetings are a good place to pick up a plant or two but selecting your own plants and building a personal collection that suits your own style and preferences is even more rewarding. In order to help our members familiarize themselves with different orchid groups, I will try to include a small introduction to various orchid genera in each of this year's newsletters. If anyone has any special interests or requests, send them my way. ~

The Genus *Brassavola*

A member of the *Cattleya* alliance and named for Antonio Musa Brassavola, an Italian physician, the genus *Brassavola* is comprised of 20 species native to Central and South America. Abbreviated "B." in journals and on plant tags, this genus is characterized by its singular, long, apical leaf borne atop elongated, often cylindrical pseudobulbs. The night-fragrant, nocturnally pollinated flowers of most *Brassavola* are white or greenish-white, arranged on a few-flowered raceme. In 1698, *Brassavola nodosa* (top left) was the first tropical orchid to be brought from the Caribbean to Holland, prompting the early European fascination with the orchid family.



Culture: *Brassavola* are relatively easy to grow and flower in cultivation provided they receive ample light. Many species and hybrids are forgiving and adapt to a wide range of conditions. Provide temperatures in the intermediate to warm ranges and average humidity. In nature, many *Brassavola* experience heavy rainfall during active growth in the warmer months punctuated with a cool dry winter. Many species bloom in response to this seasonal shift in temperature, water, and available nutrients.

Species and Hybrids: Some species that are readily available include: *B. nodosa*, *B. subulifolia* [syn. *cordata*](right), *B. perinii* (left), and *B. cucullata*. Especially important in hybrids, *B. nodosa* has been bred extensively with *Cattleya*, *Laelia*, and others in the *Cattleya* alliance. *Brassavola* imparts its dominant growth habit and vegetative appearance to its hybrids, and usually accepts the flower color of the other parent. Star shaped blooms and a heart shaped lip are also dominant features in *Brassavola* hybrids, as are ease of culture, temperature tolerance, and vigorous growth.

Note: Another genus closely related to and formerly included in the genus *Brassavola* is the genus *Rhyncholaelia*. While they share some similarities, they have recently been separated into their own genus. New technology has allowed researchers to shed new light on orchid family trees, which often times conflict with current classifications. Many hybrids with a "B" in the genus abbreviation (Bl., Bc., Blc.) were actually made with either *Rhyncholaelia digbyana* or *Rhyncholaelia glauca* under the old naming system. Many growers are creatures of habit and prefer the old nomenclature, but that's a whole different article!

February ETOS Meeting

DATE: Sunday, February 7, 2010

TIME: 1:30 pm

PLACE: Unity Church, Nacogdoches, TX

REFRESHMENTS: Open

AGENDA ITEMS:

- CETOS Show in March: available plants
- ETOS Show this fall: assignments
- 2010 Meeting Programs
- Orchid Books: ETOS Library

SPEAKER/PROGRAM: Open

March Meeting: 3-7-10

www.aos.org

www.EastTexasOrchidSociety.com

www.swroga.org