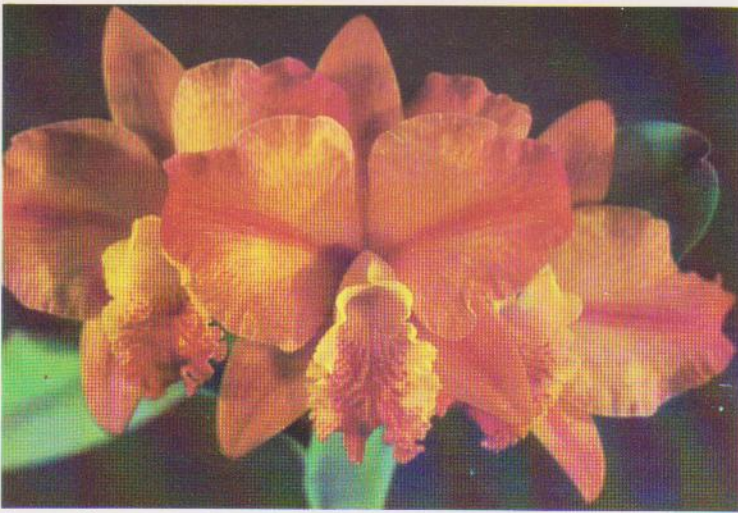


Sophrolaeliocattleya Hazel Boyd — An Experiment in Red

FRANK FORDYCE¹

EVERY HYBRIDIZER has that never-ending hope that the combination of parents he has chosen to use in hybridizing will achieve the ultimate goal of receiving the accolades of the orchid trade. The continual drive to attain this elusive goal stimulates hybridizers, both hobbyist and commercial alike, in an eternal search for superior parent clones to be incorporated into breeding programs. This ultimate achievement is experienced only a few times during a lifetime of hybridizing. The hybrid *Sophrolaeliocattleya* Hazel Boyd (*Slc.* California Apricot 'Orange Circle,' HCC/AOS X *Slc.* Jewel Box 'Beverly,' AM/AOS) is one of those rare achievements.

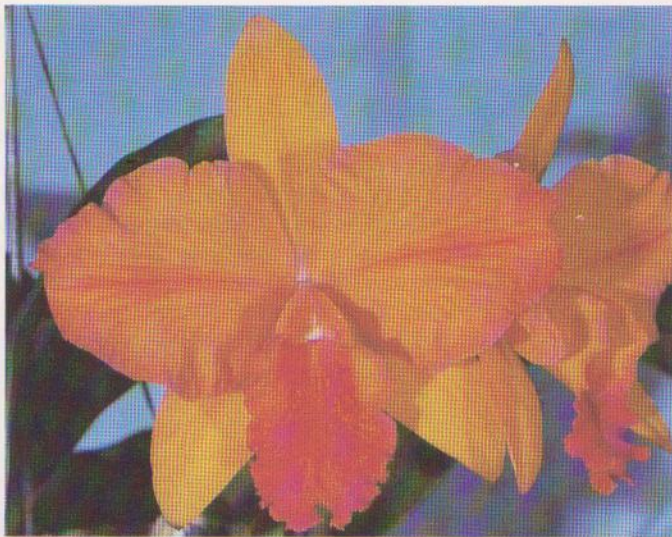


Grower: Mr. and Mrs. V. Michael Roccaforte Photography: Beauford B. Fisher
Sophrolaeliocattleya Hazel Boyd 'Torchy', AM/AOS (83 pts)
(*Slc.* California Apricot X *Slc.* Jewel Box)

During my career in the orchid trade, I have enjoyed the privilege of learning the skills of the hybridizer under the tutelage of such well-known men as Ernest Hetherington, E. W. Miller, Bob Jones and Dan Collin. Each of these successful hybridizers taught me that the first and most important rule of hybridizing is the art of observation. The hybridizer must have an inquisitive mind that looks beyond, and yet behind, what he beholds. When viewing a particular flower, he must not only evaluate it as a flower judge might, but additionally he must be able to recall its immediate parents, their color, form, etc., and their blooming habits and season, what has been bloomed from similar parent lines, and, of utmost importance, is there a need or possibility of advancing the breeding line? Far too many hybrids are made today simply because two plants of similar parent lines were in bloom at the same time and an overabundance of wishful thinking without adequate research stimulated the hybridist to act.

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Grower:
John Germaske
Photography:
Richard C. Steele



Sophrolaeliocattleya
Hazel Boyd 'Sunset',
AM/AOS (83 pts)

The reason behind the making of *Slc.* Hazel Boyd is not unique, since it has been my experience that the pooling of information between two or more hybridizers is much superior to an individual effort. On April 25, 1970, a fellow grower at Rod McLellan Co. approached me with the suggestion that the closely-held clone of *Slc.* Jewel Box 'Beverly', that had recently been awarded an AM/AOS, might be a good parent in the red alliance. When John Germaske, an experienced hybridizer, pointed out the obvious merits of the clone 'Beverly', we noted that it grew vigorously but a bit more slowly than its counterpart *Slc.* Jewel Box 'Scheherazade,' AM/RHS-AOS-ODC. The blooms were larger, possessed more substance and, because of its *Cattleya aurantiaca* and *Sophrontis coccinea* parentage, would undoubtedly carry the red genes into its progeny providing the other parent used was not a complex hybrid too far removed from a species of proven color dominance.

We decided to use our finest clone of *Slc.* California Apricot 'Orange Circle,' HCC/AOS (*Lc.* Pacific Sun 'Lemon' X *S. coccinea*). This was regarded as the finest



Sophrolaeliocattleya
Hazel Boyd
'Balinese Beauty',
AM/AOS (85 pts)

Grower:
Murray Spencer

because of the excellence of form of its round petals, bright orange coloration, and its long-lasting qualities. In searching the ancestry of *Slc.* California Apricot, we find the following species involved: *Sophronitis coccinea*, once; *Laelia cinnabarina*, once; *Laelia harpophylla*, once; *Laelia flava*, once; *Laelia tenebrosa*, once; *Laelia purpurata*, once; *Cattleya trianaei*, twice; *Cattleya schroderae*, once; *Cattleya warszewiczii*, three times; *Cattleya hardyana*, once; *Cattleya mendellii*, once; *Cattleya mossiae*, once; *Cattleya bicolor*, once; and *Cattleya dowiana*, five times. Thus, *Slc.* California Apricot is composed of a many-colored palette of species. The other parent involved in this hybrid, *Slc.* Jewel Box, is not so complex. Its ancestry is composed of: *Cattleya aurantiaca*, once; *Cattleya mossiae*, once; *C. dowiana*, twice; *Laelia purpurata*, once; *Laelia cinnabarina*, once; and *Sophronitis coccinea*, once. With all of these brightly-colored species involved in this hybrid, our anticipation of excellent progeny was understandable. The resultant seed pod was harvested on December 14, 1970 as a green pod. The seed viability would be assessed at approximately five to ten percent of the total. Approximately six hundred seedlings were raised by McLellan's and offered for sale in the 1975 catalog as Cross #9022.

The cross has been uniformly vigorous in its growth habits, yet quite compact in size. Upon viewing the first plant to bloom, both John and I were elated. It was superior in form to both parents, blooming easily on compact small plants, and to our delight, of true scarlet-red coloration.



Grower: Rudolf Pabst

Photography: Beauford B. Fisher

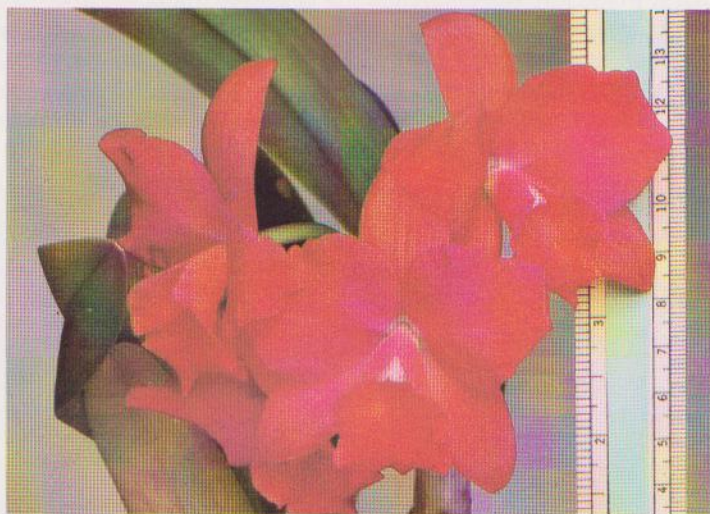
Sophrolaeliocattleya Hazel Boyd 'Red Celeste', AM/AOS (84 pts)

Registration with the Royal Horticultural Society was accepted on March 4, 1975, and the cross was named in honor of one of Mr. Germaske's orchid hobbyist friends, Mrs. Hazel Boyd of California.

As individual plants have bloomed throughout the world, we are pleased to note that *Slc.* Hazel Boyd is rapidly becoming known as a premier advance in *Sophrolaeliocattleya* breeding. An estimation of the percentage of coloring evolving from this hybrid would be noted at 60 percent clear red tones, 35 percent orange shades and 5 percent yellows. While a majority of flowers carry a contrasting red lip with yellow throat, a few concolors have appeared in the cross. Stems are surprisingly good for a *sophrolaeliocattleya*, undoubtedly influenced by the *Cattleya aurantiaca* parentage. Most stems carry from three to four blooms and plants flower once and often twice per year.

Among the many good features of the cross is the long-lasting quality of the blooms. Some actually retain their form after they have lost all their color due to age following one month's blooming.

While hybrids utilizing *Slc.* Hazel Boyd are beginning to appear, they do not give seed readily. As could be expected, mericlones are being made of the finest clones, and because of its obvious success, attempts at remaking the original hybrid are under way throughout the orchid world. Since the original *Slc.* California Apricot 'Orange Circle' clone is not in general distribution, other, less round in form, red and yellow clones are being substituted in breeding. Naturally the clone 'Scheherazade' is being substituted for the original 'Beverly' clone of *Slc.* Jewel Box because of the general availability of the mericlone 'Scheherazade.'



Grower: Charles Marden Fitch

Photography: Charles Marden Fitch

Sophrolaeliocattleya Madge Fordyce 'Red Orb'

(*Slc.* Doris X *Slc.* Jewel Box)

The door has been opened to additional and similar hybrid combinations of this type. Perhaps you too may be able to enjoy that truly satisfying feeling of accomplishment that evolves from being party to the hybridizing of an *Slc.* Madge Fordyce or *Slc.* Hazel Boyd. Join an ever-increasing group of sophro-hybridizers — but do your homework first!

The Front Cover

LATE JULY and early August are the times in which the invasive species, *Epipactis helleborine*, can be found, flowering quite frequently along the edge of such disturbed sites as scraped gravel roads, house construction locations, near the edges of gravel pits. Apparently most adaptable to a variety of locations, the strongest flowering plants occur in more intense sun. Charles Marden Fitch's front-cover illustration of *Epipactis helleborine* clearly reveals the pastel beauty and very "orchid" look of this immigrant, North American terrestrial.