



The World's Most Beautiful Orchids is a super book as one might expect from two renowned orchidians as Allikas and Nash. The 50 page introduction covers what the authors consider to be the elements of orchid beauty are generally according to current day standards and how these standards change with the introduction of new orchids. (They also admit that beauty is in the eye of the beholder.) They provide

guidelines for selecting orchids. Several pages are devoted to describing what characteristics of orchids, floral and foliar, and how these characteristics can be presented in the myriad of orchid forms. The pages include descriptions of different habitats and how orchids adapt to them. The introduction also includes orchid morphology, history, culture, reproduction hybridization and conservation as well as suggestions on selecting orchids. This introduction is well worth reading on its own but the real meat of the book is its treatment of selected genera, species and their hybrids. As an example the cross of *B. nodosa* with *L. milleri* to yield *Bl Richard Mueller*, an outstanding orange hybrid. Then *Bl Richard Mueller* was crossed with *Blc Toshi Aoki* to yield an even more beautiful *Blc Copper Queen*. This is only one of the many *Brassovola* lines of breeding. *Cattleyas* are treated the same way with even more examples as are *laelias*. *Bulbophyllums* and *Dendrobium* species are described but not as many hybrids are included. *Paphiopedilums* and their primary hybrids are covered but not many complex hybrids except the so called Bull Dog paphs. Many others are covered including *Coelogyne mooreana* which many of our members have.

The photography is excellent as one would expect from Greg Allikas.

-L.K. Harvie