**1-9 Award Descriptions (you should carry a description sequence card as found in Awards and Judging/Judging Education on aos.org)**

**Resources:**

* aos.org webinar: How do I say that: writing award descriptions. Newton.02-2016. <https://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars/judging/writing-award-descriptions.aspx>
* Judges Style Guide: Awards and Judging/Judging Education on aos.org
* Wilson. *Descriptive Terminology for the Orchid Judge*
* AOS. *An Orchidists’ Glossary.*
* Sheehan, T & M. *Orchid Genera Illustrated*. 1979. New York, NY: Van Nostrand Reinhold.Glossary. pp. 176-204 Useful terms and drawings for descriptive terms.
* “Judges Corner: Photographs and Requirements for the SITF”. Norris. *Orchids*. April 2019
* “How the SITF does its work”. McHatton. *Orchids*. June 2020
* <https://www.aos.org/Orchid-Awards-and-Judging/Species-Identification-Task-Force.aspx>
* “Thoughts on Award Descriptions”. Aldrich. Judges Forum, Judging Tab, aos.org
* “Description tag lines (why something has been awarded)”. Higgins. Judges Forum. Judging tab. aos.org
* “Judging Floriferousness Part 6: Cultural Awards & Writing Descriptions.” Coghill-Behrends. *Orchids*. 04-2023.

**Research Questions:**

* Write a description *for practice* every month as a first-year student, then quarterly, at home for practice---go over it with your Education Coordinator, advisor/mentor or selected judges who are above average on descriptions for specific genera that may be more difficult (stanhopeas, Catasetinae--male & female flowers—pleurothallids, etc.). Include these more difficult genera in your practice (you may be grateful later on!!). Include ‘tag lines’ in them. Try to write more than quality awards—include other types, including exhibit awards.
* Find a CBR or CHM, a quality award and a cultural award from four different genera and suggest how the description could be improved if you feel it is inadequate.
* What is the proper order in descriptions and what should be included?
* List some common terms for describing form and what they mean (try looking at a few awards for various genera, especially CBRs and CHMs, for example); define surface location terms (apex, distal, proximal, superior, etc.). Should the terms always be the kind used by botanists or could less obscure/more obvious ones simply be used?
* Describe the importance of accurately describing color under natural light and terms for color. Define concolor, alba, albescence, etc. Does concolor exclude the inside of the lip?
* For descriptions that require describing the plant (‘C’ awards: CBR, CHM, CCM, CCE), how much information should be included? How much form should be included in quality award description and in what order is it given?
* What is SITF? Fill out an SITF form for two plants in your collection that are blooming. If hybrids, pretend they are species for this exercise. Note why you used hybrids as an exercise.
* Why would a description ‘tag line’ be important, especially for Judges Commendation awards? Other awards?