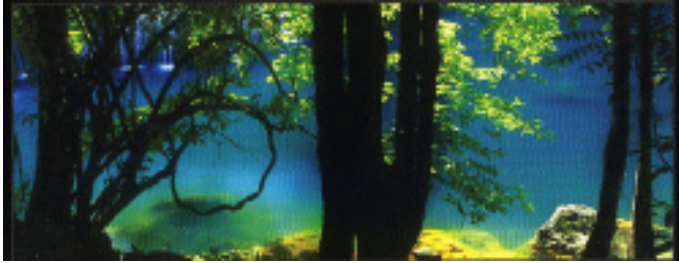


## CLUB NEWS



### August 5 Monthly SAOS Meeting

By Lola Stark

The St. Augustine Orchid Society was called to order at 7:15 pm by President Mike Heinz with 53 people present. Mike welcomed our members and 12 guests. Three of those guests have joined us, Joann Demurat, Beth Strate and Dr. Courtney Hackney. (By the way, get used to that name, Dr. Courtney Hackney is writing a culture tips article for the newsletter, is scheduled to speak to us about cattleyas and water quality, and is the author of *America Cattleyas*). Mike then thanked Mike and Harriet Wright and Christie Peppard for our refreshments. He mentioned that at the Board meeting it was suggested that the refreshments, although welcomed, were getting a bit much and that the Board had suggested sticking to drinks and maybe cookies. Members did not much agree! It will be left up to those who have volunteered!

It was announced that the State of Florida has incorporated the St. Augustine Orchid Society as a not for profit organization, but they require three Directors so we need to have a third Director-at-Large. The motion was made and passed to amend our Bylaws to reflect the third Director. The Board nominated Terry Bottom and since there were no nominations from the floor, he was unanimously elected. In the next month, we will be filing paperwork necessary to make us federally tax exempt as an educational society.

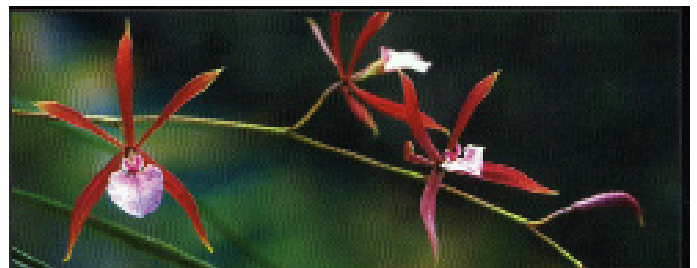
We have three items for sale at the welcome table for \$15. This includes Martin Motes book on Growing Orchids month-by-month in Florida; the SAOS T-Shirts which seem to be making quite a splash around town; and Inoculaid, which is to enhance the growing of your orchids at the molecule level, especially making wonderful roots. Also

on the welcome table are a list of committees which you might want to join (we're looking for additional help on all committees); an application for the new badges which are great - pins cost \$6.00, magnets \$8.00; AOS membership applications and SAOS membership applications for those folks wanting to join us permanently.

Linda Ferrall is our Sunshine Coordinator and welcomes information about those who need to get a card! It is with heavy heart that we let you know that Harry McElroy's mother died this past week and Denise Henry's mother died the week before.

Paul Jones, Keiki Club Coordinator, announced that the next meeting of the Keiki Club will be 21 September from 2-4 at the home of Sue and Terry Bottom and will feature a photography workshop by Paul with help from Terry and Charlie Wesley. Also if you have problem plants and/or need repotting help, please bring your plants along. On October 12, we'll make the trip up to Orange Park to Mike and Harriet Wright's home to see their greenhouse and how they grow their orchids. On November 15, the club will meet at Lola and Chuck Stark's home to learn about getting your orchids ready for winter. We'll talk about Vandas, Cattleyas and others.

Kaycee Heinz, Exhibit Committee Chairman, announced that the Gainesville Orchid Show will be set up on October 17 and broken down on the 19<sup>th</sup>. We'll have two meetings previous to the two Keiki club meetings in September and October at 1 pm., planning on 21 September and Final Details on October 12. Anyone who would like to help is welcome at both meetings. Also, all members are urged to get your plants ready to bring to put in our display. We



Continued on page 3



## Upcoming Events

### August 2008

15-16 45th Annual Summer Orchid Show  
Cocoa Expo Sports Arena

### September 2008

2 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting  
25 Secrets of Orchid Growing  
Presented by Jamie Lawson

21 Keiki Club/Exhibit Committee at Bottom's  
1-2 pm, Gainesville Show Exhibit Meeting  
2-4 pm, Photography Workshop

27-28 Ridge Orchid Society Show  
Lakeland

### October 2008

3-5 Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show  
Minnreg Hall, Largo

7 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting  
Orchids of Mexico  
Presented by Duncan Bass

12 Keiki Club/Exhibit Committee at Wright's  
1-2 pm, Gainesville Show Exhibit Meeting  
2-4 pm, Reading an Orchid Label

18-19 Gainesville Orchid Society Show  
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

18-19 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show  
St Lucie Fairgrounds

23 Bonus St Augustine Orchid Society Mtg  
Have You Voted on Which Fred Clarke Presentation  
You Want to Hear?

25 11<sup>th</sup> International Slipper Symposium  
Holiday Inn at Altamonte Springs

31-2 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show  
Old School Square Gymnasium

### November 2008

1-2 Brevard County Orchid Society Show  
Melbourne Auditorium

4 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting  
Cattleyas - A Twentieth Century Tale  
Presented by Dr Courtney Hackney

15 Keiki Club at Stark's  
1-3 pm, Getting Your Orchids Ready for Winter

### December 2008

13 SAOS Christmas Auction  
Moultrie Trails Clubhouse

### January 2009

3-4 Sarasota Orchid Society Show

6 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting

### February 2009

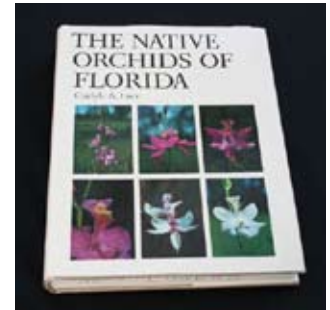
3 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting

7-8 Venice Orchid Society Show

27-1 [63<sup>rd</sup> Miami International Orchid Show](#)  
Sheraton Mart Hotel & Convention Ctr

## What's New in the Library

Marv and Jan Ragan donated Carlyle A Luer's *The Native Orchids of Florida* to the SAOS Library. 102 species of orchids reported as occurring within Florida are listed. 97 color plates with lots of black-and-white illustrations.



Thanks to Watson Realty and Jeanette Smith for the use of their meeting space at 3505 US 1 South



### St Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Mike Heinz mgheinz@comcast.net
First Vice President Program Chair	Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Second Vice President Publicity Chair	Vivienne Rowe tomvivrowe@bellsouth.net
Secretary AOS/Orchid Digest Rep	Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	Bill Gourley wgourley@bellsouth.net
Directors at Large	Terry Bottom, bottomt@bellsouth.net Paul Jones, trjones_@yahoo.com Dick Roth, rhroth405@aol.com
Exhibit Committee Chair	Kaycee Heinz kgheinz@comcast.net
Librarians	Betsy and Haley Bastian n1ghthm00n@hotmail.com
Membership Committee Chair, Roving Reporter	Gail Marshall gwpb@aol.com
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net bottomt@bellsouth.net
Operations Committee Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com



## Continued from page 1

need about 50, so please help us have a great display.

Harriet Wright then gave us a talk on grooming your plant for an exhibit.

1. This is really an easy job, but must be started when your plant is beginning to show buds if the spike is going to need staking. Staking early on lets the flowers open naturally, whereas, if you try to stake at the last minute you could have your flowers upside down. Harriet recommended wire heavy enough to hold the plant stems. Use a butterfly clasp or covered wire to hold the stem to the support.

2. To clean the leaves (because most of us have calcium in our water, which makes white spots on the leaves), she recommends using milk, white vinegar, ginger ale, Sprite, 7-Up etc. After cleaning please use a dry cloth on the leaves. Do not use leaf shine because that causes the pores of the leaves to close up and will eventually kill the leaf.

3. Cut off old spikes as close to the plant as you can get.

4. If you feel you need to cut the tip of a leaf off, do it the night before the show or the day of the show and cut the leaf in the same shape as it would be if it were whole. Cutting it too far ahead will leave a brown line which is unacceptable.

5. Take the wires off your vandias. If the roots are long, wind them around the basket and secure them with black cloth. Also, you might add some sphagnum or spanish moss to keep the roots of the vandias cool while in the show area.

6. If the sheaths on your cattleyas have turned brown, take them off before bringing them. This also give you a chance to catch mealy bugs and scale which love to live under the paper sheaths.

7. If you lose a flower from a spike on the way to the show, do not discard it. Put it in the pot so the judges can see that it was there and fell off. Without the bloom, the spike is blemished and the judges will not consider it for an award.

8. To transport your plants, Harriet recommended that you use cotton batting to prevent the flowers from rubbing against the leaves and creating a line on the flower. Use the batting also under the clips used for staking to prevent the plants from moving. (Secretary noticed that Harriet had a plastic bag full of batting that she used to steady her plants in the basket).

9. When asked about cutting off leaves that looked bad



but weren't bad enough to take off if you were at home, she suggested leaving them and covering them with a fern frond for the show!

10. When asked about cleaning the pots, Harriet told the group that the pots are always covered with black cloth so that the public and judges only see the plants and the flowers so we do not need to worry with cleaning the pots.

All in all, these are wonderful suggestions for readying our orchids. None of it is hard. Hope we'll see all of you bringing your plants to show. The Exhibit Committee will be letting you know about collection of plants and pickup afterwards. We do not expect everyone to go to Gainesville, but know that if you come on Friday, you'll also get to see the vendors setting up their goodies and be able to buy plants before they're open to the public...and if you come on Sunday for breakdown, you'll get discounts on plants bought at the end of the show!!!!

Our program for the evening was given by Jan Ragan, an AOS judge who was given the powerpoint program at the World Orchid Conference in Miami. It was a treatise on Guatemalan Orchids, where they are found first and then pictures of wild orchids in their native habitat taken by Fred Muller and his assistant, Louz Reyes. It was a breathtaking show with orchids we'll probably never get to see any other way - all sizes, shapes and colors. Some were tiny, some quite huge! The program was done in an effort to let the world know that there are hundreds of orchids in Guatemala that may be lost if we don't start now to protect them. The SAOS will donate \$100 to the cause. Anyone who would also like to donate may get in touch with Jan.



*Cycnoches ventricosum*

*Epidendrum galeottianum*

We dispensed with the show table talks due to the length of the program, had our raffle and auction and finished the night at 9:30. Great meeting!



## September 2 Monthly Meeting

Jamie Lawson, orchid enthusiast, will give the program 'Twenty Five Orchid Culture Secrets of the Experts Revealed' at the September 2 meeting of the St Augustine Orchid Society. Although Jamie says he is no expert (take that with a grain of salt), he has traveled extensively to commercial and backyard growers and picked their brains. He is a member of four Orchid Societies which he regularly attends. Jamie was also the librarian for the local society and read all the issues of the AOS Magazine back into the '60s. The little secrets he picked up from all these sources form the basis of his talk.

Jamie and Jackie Lawson with their kids, Brian and Lanie, settled in Central Florida in 1990 after a year traveling through Mexico and Central America in their motor home. Having their interest piqued by the orchids they saw in the wild, they immediately bought a couple of orchids, took out the ugly white tags and went to their first Orchid Society meeting...thus realizing they had a lot to learn. Jamie is the Moderator of the Slipper Orchid Study Group of Florida. The Slipper Group puts on the International Slipper Orchid Symposium. The [11th Annual Slipper Orchid Symposium](#) will be October 25th in Altamonte Springs.



Phrag Autumn Fire 'Sunset Valley Orchids' HCC/AOS

## 11<sup>th</sup> International Slipper Symposium In Altamonte Springs, Florida

Sponsored by

**Krull & Smith**

## Keiki Club Goes to Wild Orchid Lane



Marv Ragan pontificates about the world of orchids

The Keiki Club caravanned up to Jan and Marv Ragan's Wild Orchid Lane Greenhouses on July 20. More than 35 people made the trip, what a variety of plants we saw! Not to mention the unusual beauties we brought home! Jan gave a presentation on setting up an orchid exhibit and offered lots of practical advice, summarized below. Then Paul had reservations for us at Whitey's Fish Camp for a great meal on the water. Great get together!

## Setting Up an Orchid Display

Tips by Jan Ragan



We'll get our chance to use these principles at the Gainesville show October 18 and 19. Our Exhibit Chair Kaycee Heinz has scheduled planning meetings for September 21 and October 12 before the Keiki Club to discuss show planning, and identify who will do what at set up and breakdown. Here goes:

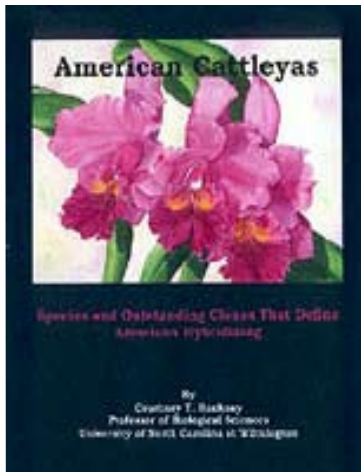
- Labels should be immediately adjacent to the flower and be either all capitalized or only the first letter of the genus and hybrid name capitalized with periods denoting abbreviations, written with black pen on celery green matte board or silver pen on black board, designed to be readable at 5 to 10 ft.
- Layout of the exhibit is very important with lots of emphasis on elevation (through a trellis, lofting inflorescences, etc.) and depth (through a cave or inward bending curves (driftwood, path, layout of the cloth). The cloth should all be the same color, either black or dark green.
- Color flow should generally be neutral colored whites, greens, light pinks flowing down from the top towards lavender, pinks and purples on one side and yellows, orange and reds on the other. Spiked oncidiums, epidendrums and phalaenopsis flowers should be towards the top, heavy cattleyas lower and paphiopedilums along the bottom.
- Foliage plants are used to soften the exhibit, maidenhair ferns are a favorite, red rubber plant can provide interest.



## Growing Tips for August

by Dr. Courtney Hackney  
hackneau@comcast.net

Optimal time to repot is rapidly coming to an end as days get shorter. Repotted orchids need time to grow new roots into the medium so that they can acquire water and nutrients during winter and in early spring. Always remember that plants are 'cold blooded', which means only that their growth is entirely determined by temperature.



Each orchid can survive within some temperature range, but within that range is an optimal temperature range where it grows fastest because it can take up nutrients and water at a rate sufficient for it to use all of the light it is getting and move water to its leaves fast enough to keep its leaves cool while it absorbs sunlight. At higher temperatures an orchid may not be able to keep its leaves cool enough to prevent burning and at lower temperature it may not be able to obtain nutrients fast enough to turn light into new tissue.

The ideal temperature range for most orchids was determined by the natural environment of an orchid's ancestors. This may be easy to determine for a species, but more difficult for hybrids. Hybrids, however, have been selected for best growth at typical greenhouse temperatures. Vandas whose ancestors are from the lowlands of the tropics generally stop growth at a much warmer temperature than phrags from the Andes.

Most hobbyists pay attention to the temperature in their growing area. That, however, is not exactly what your orchids experience. Direct sunlight on a plant leaf warms the interior of the leaf far above the air temperature. If there is no air movement around the leaf or the orchids cannot obtain enough water to cool its leaves through transpiration then an orchid leaf can quickly burn even though the air temperature is below the maximum temperature recommended. Conversely, lots of air movement can allow an orchid to survive in an environment where air temperature is far above what is recommended.

The temperature within the orchid pot is another important facet for orchid growth. Typically, the temperature within an orchid pot is different than the air temperature; cooler during the day and warmer at night. The temperature within the pot determines the rate of root growth, nutrient uptake,

decomposition of the medium, etc. In winter, a dark pot will absorb heat and roots remain well above the ambient air temperature at night. A soil temperature probe is ideal for understanding growth of orchids because it indicates what is happening in the pot. Hobbyists often note that root growth in vandas cease much earlier in the fall than other groups of orchids. To some degree, this occurs because we generally grow vandas in baskets where root temperature is at or near that of the air.

White plastic pots in a greenhouse remain much cooler than dark green pots even when there seems to be little direct light on the pot. Most surprising is the temperature within clear plastic pots. These act like little greenhouses and warm up quickly. A clear, plastic pot with medium exposed to direct sunlight can warm to well over 100 F in a matter of 15 minutes, while a white or even green pot remains below 90 F. This can be a problem in summer, but ideal in winter when air temperature is low and days short. Phalaenopsis mericlones grown side by side in clear and white pots will open their first flowers a week or so apart simply because of the difference in medium temperature produced by different types of pots.

This heat gain is most extreme when the medium is dry as the water in a wet medium absorbs large quantities of heat. Many successful hobbyists who live in environments



'Tropical Dream' by Rose Ganucheau

that are not idea for orchids take advantage of the different characteristics of pots and use it to mediate temperature extremes. Clay pots tend to be cooler than plastic in summer. Water evaporates from the exterior of the pot cooling the pot and its roots. Water is pulled continuously from the medium through the pot as long as the medium is wet. This works extremely well to cool orchids in hot climates during summer as long as there is lots of air movement and a supply of good water. The quality of water is critical since water is continuously evaporated from the surface of the pot and any dissolved salts are deposited on the pot surface.



## Orchid Q&A from the SAOS Forum

Where Members Share Experiences

**Q.** I have a beautiful, healthy looking Cattleya that put up a sheath several weeks ago but I can see no buds and nothing seems to be happening now. Is this normal?

**A.** Maybe. There are a couple of likely possible explanations. If the plant was recently repotted, it may simply not have enough strength to bloom and you have a disappointing blind sheath. It is possible the plant is not getting enough light, the number one reason orchids fail to bloom. If this is the case, the plant will not have enough strength to bloom, move it to a brighter location and wait for the next blooming cycle. If your Cattleya is getting 2000 to 4000 ft candles of light and your foliage is a pleasant slightly yellowish green, light is not your problem. Some varieties simply put up a sheath and then take a rest before going into bloom. If it is an awarded mericlone, you can check the month it was awarded to see what its normal bloom pattern is. Otherwise, have a glass of iced tea and wait. Many of those sheaths that were empty in July and August will be in full bloom in November or December.

**Q.** The sheath on my Cattleya is turning yellow. Is this any reason for concern?

**A.** Probably. Too many times moisture can accumulate inside the sheath and the results are rotten buds and no flowers. To be safe, you need to take action if the sheath starts to yellow and long before it turns brown. Gently pull the sheath apart from the top, sometimes there is a natural separation and you can pull it apart, otherwise get a single edged razor blade and slice off the very top of the sheath. Then, very gently, pull the sheath down to the pseudobulb (and remove if it easily separated) to allow any condensation or water to drain freely. It is possible to snap the bud off so be very careful and gentle. If the sheath does not separate from the plant easily, leave it attached to the pseudobulb, just make sure water and condensation drain away from the bud freely.



## What's in Bloom

Starting Next Month

Paul Jones is going to write a regular newsletter column **What's in Bloom** starting in September. It will feature different orchids brought into bloom by SAOS members. To have your orchid included, send a picture to Paul via email at [trjones\\_yahoo.com](mailto:trjones_yahoo.com), there are automatic links on the SAOS page of the website. Include the name of the orchid as shown on your plant tag and any special growing tips you have for the plant. Email your photo on or before the meeting date so it can appear in that month's newsletter, like Viv did of her Zygo intergenerics from the summer auction. It should be a lot of fun to see who's blooming what where and how!



Zns Cynosure 'Blue Bird'



Gptm Giant 'Rhein Moonlight'



## Florence Powers

How many of us can say we ever bought a full-sized train engine? Florence Powers can. She is an interesting mix of the analytical and the creative. A St. Augustine native and now retired, she worked for the Florida East Coast Railroad in purchasing, first in key punch, then in computers. She 'bought' several of the big engines and still sees some of them running today. On the creative side, Florence has always loved southern gardening and is very good at it, her main area of interest being bulbs. She is a Master Flower Show Judge, and has been president of both the Garden Club of St. Augustine and the Poinsettia Garden Circle. Her husband used to have orchids and a little greenhouse, and after he passed away a year ago, Florence started taking care of his orchids in his memory. The greenhouse went with the big storms of the past few years, and it's now become an enclosed spa. She used to keep her orchids in her trees in the front yard, but they kept 'disappearing', so they now live on a side porch attached to the spa. Florence favors catts, but enjoys all orchids. You'll note that at each meeting she'll add two plants to her collection, and she is always in on the raffles and silent auctions. Besides gardening, Florence does needlepoint and loves to read, and once involved in a good book, she says she sometimes won't even stop to eat.



## Harriet Wright

Harriet Wright has had a love affair with orchids since she was about five years old. Born in Augusta, Georgia, she grew up in Brooksville, Florida. Her father was a County Agricultural Agent, and she would often go on treks in the woods with him where he would point out native orchids to his "tomboy" daughter. Her very first orchid as a child was *Encyclia tampensis*, and she's had a passion for orchids ever since. Flowers have been a great part of her life, and she has literally worked in the floral business for about 20 years, owning her own florist for a part of that time. Harriet is a



well-recognized AOS judge, accredited since 1987. With 36 thousand different species, not to mention the hybrids, it takes a long time to learn what they all are, how they grow, how they differ and the points on which they are judged. She and husband Mike currently live in Jacksonville where they tend their collection of 1,500 to 2,000 orchids in a 24' x 45' greenhouse. Since she's grown just about everything over the years, Harriet's favorite orchid is any one that presents a new challenge. Tell her she can't grow it, and she'll match your dare – usually successfully. Besides unusual orchids, Harriet also is interested in eclectic and unusual items, 'whatever appeals', and has a booth at Southern Crossing Antique Mall and Old Springfield Antique Mall. Both she and Mike also sing in their church choir. Harriet has the belief that orchid people will migrate to orchid people. We're sure lucky she found her way to the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Her extensive knowledge, which she so willingly shares, is a true gift to SAOS. Besides, she's just a warm and wonderful person.

## Mike Wright

Mike Wright has covered the country growing orchids. Originally from S. California, in pursuit of an education he moved to Malibu in 1991, then Boston, then Tallahassee (Go Noles!!) and finally settled in Jacksonville in 1997 where he works at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida testing software. His father was an avid gardener, and with Mike growing up where cymbidiums just about grow wild, orchid fever was not a surprise. His first orchid was a *Cym. lowianum*, 3 feet in diameter, which he divided and started trading with friends and neighbors. He was fortunate to do summer volunteer work at UC Irvine with Dr. Harold Koopowitz, an authority on S. African orchids and Slippers. Today, he and wife Harriet have a greenhouse grown collection. His favorites are anything weird and unusual, particularly catasetums, erias, bulbophyllums, aerides and miniatures, but their collection holds just about everything, including vandas, catts, encyclias, and paphs. Mike is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year probationary AOS judge and travels extensively across Florida several times a year. A few years ago they were invited to judge a show in Rio Claro, Brazil. It takes from 6 to 9 years to be certified, bare bones being 3 years as a student and 3 years as a probationary. Interestingly, his actual college degree is in music, the bassoon being his instrument of choice, but he also enjoys jazz. A nicer guy you couldn't find.



# How To

## Digital Orchid Photography

By Paul Jones

Many members have asked me how I take pictures of orchids. As with orchid growing, everyone evolves their own way of doing things and no two people will take the exact same approach. The following are highlights of the basic equipment, techniques and a few tricks that I use. We'll be exploring this in much greater detail at upcoming Keiki Club meetings.

First, the camera I use is a Minolta Dimage 7 DSLR, a digital single lens reflex. This is a more sophisticated and versatile type of camera than a simple point and shoot. Among their most important features for our topic are macro (close up) focusing capability, zoom lenses (including digital zoom) and 'through the lens' view-finding. Without these features, it is challenging (but not impossible) to get good shots of many orchids.

My Dimage 7 is an older camera (circa 2001), but it has many features I have found to be very helpful in getting good orchid pictures fairly easily. First, it has a manual switch to engage the macro feature, allowing simple

switching from normal focusing to macro focusing. Macro focusing allows me to get much, much closer to the subject and still have a sharply focused image. Without it, the minimum focusing distance is too far away from your subject to get very close and have a sharply focused subject. If you are too far away from your subject, it will appear small in image scale and not stand out well in the picture. Many inexperienced photographers do this. Try to overcome the tendency to 'stand back' and move in closer!

Second, it has a 'delicate' flash unit that allows me to use the flash during picture taking without 'blasting' the subject with too much light. Normally, I like to shoot my pictures outdoors early in the morning when the sun is low in the east. The light quality is excellent at that time and I sometimes use the flash as a 'fill-in' to eliminate distracting shadows. I use the flash unit when I take 'backlight' photos as well. This involves shooting back into the sun, rather than the opposite (as most experts recommend). Without flash in this scenario, the subject would appear as a silhouette. This technique helps attain that black or blurred background without using any sort of backdrop and still have a bright, sharp and colorful subject.

Third, it is a very light camera that is easy to hand hold without a tripod. Camera motion is a serious problem in macro photography resulting in subject blurring that is much more evident in the picture. Using a tripod works to reduce camera motion, but I find I am restricted somewhat by the 'mechanical' motions of the tripod. I prefer to hand hold whenever possible. With the Dimage 7, I can have the best of both worlds, relatively sharp images while handholding and freedom to compose my picture quickly and easily even in macro mode. I just hold my breath before snapping the shutter to reduce body movements and attain sharper image quality.

Another truly fascinating aspect of digital photography is the ability to manipulate the final digital images you take with photo editing software on your PC. It is like having an entire darkroom at your fingertips! Once I download the raw images I've taken to the PC using the camera's dedicated software, I then go into Microsoft Photo Editor, select the best images for processing and tweak each one digitally. This process is to enhance and/or correct image parameters such as color saturation, contrast, exposure and image sizes exactly the way I want them to be. This is also how I crop the pictures any way I want to enhance the subject. I love the creativity potential in this part of the process! This is also where I add in the colored borders and type the orchid's name in a corner of



Epi nocturnum





# How To



Blc Tangerine Horses

the frame. The possibilities for creative individuality here are virtually endless.

Once all that's done, attaching them to an email and sending them out to all via a pre-developed distribution list is a snap. Most raw digital images are huge in file size (often 4 megabytes or more). I try to scale down the images to a file size not too large for folks to download easily. I try to make each image around 200 kilobytes or less and an image scale around 650 to 900 pixels (more on these rather technical aspects of digital photography at the Keiki Club meeting). All of these image parameters can be easily controlled by the Photo Editor software with practice.

Some overall suggestions for better orchid pictures:

- Don't be afraid to move in – get close and try to fill the frame with your subject (you may need macro focusing capability for this)
- Blur the background. This draws attention to the subject that is in sharp focus. Getting closer to your subject often causes this to happen anyway (called 'depth of field').
- Take several pictures from several angles (no need to worry about burning up film).
- Use dull black background material if shooting indoors

to reduce distracting shadows being cast by harsh light from flash units.

- Try to remove wires from hanging baskets and pots or frame carefully to keep them out of the picture wherever possible. Nothing should distract from the main subject.
- Digitally preview the images you take in the LCD display panel for a quick visual evaluation, delete and re-shoot the image if necessary.
- Use a tripod if you do not have steady hands for sharper images. Many digital cameras also have a time-delay shutter release feature that allows the camera to settle before the picture is taken making images appear sharper (must use a tripod with this one).
- Lots of small flaws or goofs in images can be corrected with Photo Editor software.
- Label your pictures with as much info about the subject as you can comfortably fit in the frame without overwhelming your subject matter, using Photo Editor.
- Read your camera's user's manual and try to become familiar with its features and how to utilize them. DSLRs have many helpful features for orchid photographers.
- Practice, practice and more practice.
- Be creative and above all, have fun!!



Pot Hisako Akatsuka 'Valcano Queen'



# SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom  
*Rhynchostylis coelestis*



Grower Fred Keefer  
C Mrs Mahler



Grower Mike & Kacyee Heinz  
*Trgl atropurpurea*



Grower Lola Stark  
*Laelia purpurata*



Grower Courtney Hackney  
Bc Roman Holiday



Grower Courtney Hackney  
Bulb dearii

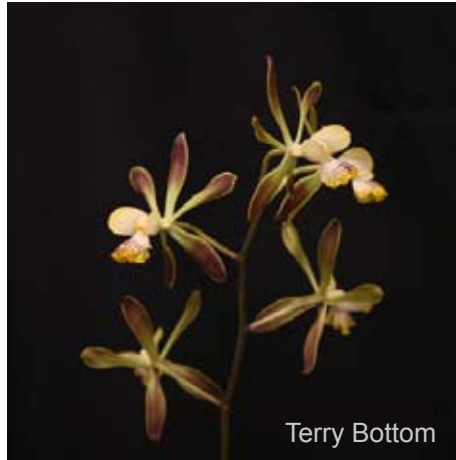


# SHOW TABLE



Terry Bottom

Grower Marv & Jan Ragan  
Bulb Jan Ragan 'A-doribil' AM/AOS



Terry Bottom

Grower Paul Jones  
Encyclia alata



Terry Bottom

Grower Courtney Hackney  
Paph Prime Child



Terry Bottom

Grower Sue Bottom  
Blc California Girl 'Orchid Library'x Bc Deesse



Terry Bottom

Grower Mike & Kacyee Heinz  
Bulb stenobulbon



Terry Bottom

Grower Mike & Kacyee Heinz  
Bulb annandalei



Terry Bottom

Grower Fred Keefer  
Eurychone rothschildiana

