

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2008

Volume 3 Issue #9

CLUB NEWS



September 2, 2008 Monthly Meeting Lola Stark

The meeting was called to order promptly at 7:30 PM by President Mike Heinz with 51 people present. Mike welcomed everyone and had the welcome table introduce 6 guests and two new members - Shirley Browning and Nancy Russell. Mike mentioned that we now have a suggestion box and asked that we use it to let SAOS know about anything that bothers any member and also at this time, use it to choose which program we'd like Fred Clarke to give us in October - the Multifloral Papholopedilums, the Mini Cats or Diatomite. Voting sheets were passed out to all members.

New books in the library include "The Native Orchids of Florida" donated by the Ragans, the Dendrobium and Its Relatives, donated by Lola Stark and Understanding Orchids purchased by the society. Dick Roth had T-shirts and the monthly Motes book for sale at the welcome table along with the new member badges and Paul Jones was available at the welcome table to sell raffle tickets. Sue Bottom was in charge of the Auction plants and the Silent Auction plants.

The Planning Committee for the October Gainesville show will meet at 1 pm on September 21, at the home of Terry and Sue Bottom, followed at 2 pm by the Keiki Club meeting to have a photography workshop by Terry, Charley Wesley and Paul Jones. Bring your camera and

its instruction book. A map link is available on the home page of the SAOS website along with a phone number if you have any questions. The Christmas Auction and dinner will be at the Moultrie Trails Clubhouse on December 13. Dick Roth was good enough to reserve the clubhouse for us.

Jamie Lawson gave us a program on Orchid Culture Secrets of the Experts Revealed. Among the gems he revealed were:

- **1.** Don't use a permanent marker on your plant tag, the writing will fade. Write the orchid name with a #2 pencil, which will last for years. Also note the repotting date on the plant tag.
- **2.** If you can't get your orchid to rebloom, give it more light. Insufficient light is the primary reason orchids will not bloom for you.
- **3.** Slipper orchids (Paphiopedilums) can actually be repotted anytime whether they are in bloom or not. They are very sensitive to salt accumulation and repotting in fresh mix will remove the toxic salts from around the hairy roots. Slippers normally like an aerated, well drained but water retentive mix, which usually includes coconut husks or bark.
- **4.** If a Paphiopedilum does not have any roots, place it in a smallish pot next to the rim of the pot in a damp sphagnum mix. The sphagnum will encourage root growth and the plant can survive in this manner for 6 months or so until the roots are reestablished.
- **5.** Dendrobiums are very resilient and will resprout roots using the strength stored in their canes. Even if the plant appears half dead, pot it in a well drained and aerated mix



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CLUB NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2008

Keiki Club/Exhibit Committee at the Bottoms1-2 pm, Gainesville Show Exhibit Meeting2-4 pm, Photography Workshop

27-28 Ridge Orchid Society Show Lakeland

October 2008

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

4-5 Ocala Orchid Society Show Southeastern Livestock Pavilion

7 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting Recent Trends in Phalaenopsis Breeding Presented by Donnie Kim, JAXMA Orchids

Keiki Club/Exhibit Committee at the Wrights1-2 pm, Gainesville Show Exhibit Meeting2-4 pm, Reading an Orchid Label

18-19 Gainesville Orchid Society Show Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

18-19 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show St Lucie Fairgrounds

Bonus St Augustine Orchid Society Mtg
 Mini and Midi Cattleya Breeding
 Presented by Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids

24-26 Orchtoberfest at EFG/Powerplant Deland

25 11th International Slipper Symposium The Hotel at Altamonte Springs

31-2 Tampa Orchid Club Show USF Botanical Gardens

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, SAOS

Keiki Club at the Starks1-3 pm, Getting Your Orchids Ready for Winter

December 2008

Orchid Growing 101
Presented by St Augustine Orchid Society Members
SE Branch of St Johns County Library

13 SAOS Christmas Auction Moultrie Trails Clubhouse

January 2009

3-4 Sarasota Orchid Society Show

6 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting Venezuelan Cattleya Species Presented by Michael Sinn, Canaima Orchids

September 21 Keiki Club

On Sunday, September 21, the Keiki Club will meet at Sue and Terry Bottom's house. Bring your cameras, we're going to have a hands on photography clinic. Paul, Terry and Charlie give presentations on orchid pand be available to answer your questions. Will meet from 2 to 4 (preceded by the Exhi

give presentations on orchid photography and be available to answer your questions. The Keiki Club will meet from 2 to 4 (preceded by the Exhibit Committee meeting from 1 to 2 for planning the Gainesville show exhibit). Check the website for a map to 6916 Cypress Lake Ct or call 797-4360 for directions.

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



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and water copiously to restablish the plant.

- **6.** Buy titanium nitrate clippers and keep them sterilized by heating them for 30 seconds or so with a butane torch before using them on a plant to prevent spread of diseases and viruses.
- **7**. Put dry cinnamon on cuts made on any orchid to ward off bacteria and fungus.
- 8. Back bulbs, those pseudobulbs that are the furthest
- from the growing lead of the plant, can sprout new growth from the dormant eyes to create new plants with proper potting and care though it may take 2 years to bloom.
- **9.** Jamie recommended Complete Insect Killer by Bayer Advanced which is a liquid which comes all ready to spray with a hose no measuring. (Sue warns that this contains the systemic

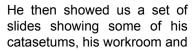


insecticide Imidacloprid which can be phytotoxic so use in low dosages).

- **10.** Protect yourself with a good mask when spraying any insecticide or fungicide.
- **11.** Sphagnum moss is a natural fungicide and is strongly recommended for those plants which have few roots and need to become reestablished and for seedlings.
- **12.** The potting mix for Cycnoches and Catasetums should include sharp sand.
- **13.** Use Keiki Pro on basil growths and flower stem notes to induce new plantlets to form.
- **14.** Catasetums can be stored after they lose their leaves during the winter dormant period in upright in containers lined with sphagnum. They can go six months without water and without light. They will of their own accord, start growing again. Repot when new root growth begins (but don't water until the roots are several inches long).
- **15.** If you're going on vacation, go to Lowe's and get timers that can be set for as long as you wish, on as many days as you need, so your orchids do not dry out while you're gone.
- **16.** Vandas should be watered for 3 minutes, then wait an hour or so and then wet them again for 10 minutes. This allows the plant to absorb the maximum amount of water.
- **17.** Cattleyas store water in their pseudobulbs so do not need frequent watering, in fact they need to dry thoroughly before watering.
- **18.** Phalaenopsis store some water in their fleshy leaves, but not like Cattleyas. They like to be slightly dry before watering.



- **19.** Slipper orchids store water in their fleshy roots so they should be kept evenly moist, and be sure to flush thoroughly with fresh water periodically to remove salts. It is reported that Frank Smith flushes his paphs with fresh water for 9 hours each month.
- **20.** The general mix to use for planting orchids includes coconut chips, sponge rock, peat or sphagnum moss, charcoal and aliflor or stalite. The proportions can be varied to increase or decrease the water retentiveness of your mix.
- **21.** Catasetums have both male and female flowers and can have both on the same plant at the same time.
- **22.** Each year the Catasetum pseudobulbs will grow larger than the prior year's bulb.
- 23. Calanthe and terrestrial orchids don't need to be watered in the winter. They should be allowed to go dormant and lose their top growth. (Sue says Calanthes will bloom as they are dropping their leaves in the fall and their culture is similar to Catasetums).
- **24.** Zygopetalums should be grown in shady conditions.
- 25. One of the most important things Jamie told us is when you're working with your orchids and you see something that needs to be done, do it right then. Don't wait, you'll forget what it was if you wait.





his hood where he does his flasking. All in all, lots of good advice and helpful hints. Jamie sells some of his orchids on e-Bay, so if you saw something you'd like to have, by all means check out e-Bay.

Following a short intermission, we had our regular raffle with the added incentive of one very nice plant held as the Grand Raffle Plant. After the raffle, all the tickets were put into one basket and one drawn. The lucky winner was Florence Powers. There was also a very nice auction and a silent auction. The show table was elegant at this meeting with lots of colorful and unusual orchids from Vandas to minis.



CLUB NEWS

October 7 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Donnie Kim of JAXMA Orchid Greenhouse in Green Cove Springs will speak about current trends in Phalaenopsis breeding at the October 7 meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. His program will include examples of new Phalaenopsis hybrids to be introduced to the public this year. There will be plants available for purchase on the raffle, auction and plant sales tables.

You'll recognize Donnie from his orchid booth at the St. Augustine Amphitheater on Saturday mornings. He is responsible for purchasing and sales at the family owned business, where he started in 2003 while working toward his degree from the University of Miami. He is now responsible for purchasing and sales. The JAXMA nursery grows Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, Vandas, Oncidiums and Lady Slippers in greenhouses that cover about 4 acres in Green Cove Springs.



Oncidium lanceanum

October 23 Bonus Monthly SAOS Meeting

Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids located in Vista, California will speak about mini and midi Cattleyas at the bonus October 23 meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. His program is a detailed look at the latest developments in the breeding and growing of these colorful flowers. There will be plants available for purchase on the raffle, auction and plant sales tables.

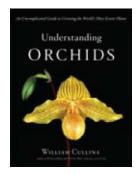
Fred, an AOS judge and orchid hybridizer, created Sunset Valley Orchids in 1995 as a natural outgrowth of a hobby that began twenty seven years earlier. Sunset Valley Orchids is a boutique style nursery dedicated to excellent customer service and unique offerings of award quality orchids.

The nursery is focused on developing cutting edge orchid breeding lines, providing new and unique Cattleya, Paphiopedilum, Catasetinae and Bulbophyllum hybrids and species. The plants are selected on strict criteria of robust growth and ease of flowering, accomplished by selecting

only the most vigorous seedlings throughout the processes of flasking, community trays, and potting. Orchids from Sunset Valley Orchids have many AOS awards, including seven that have received the highest honor, the First Class Certificate.

What's New in the Library

Cullina's informative guide, Understanding Orchids: An Uncomplicated Guide to Growing the World's Most Exotic Plants, with 300 color photographs, is devoted to a more than 100 of the most popular orchid genera. Each entry contains information on where the plant can be grown (at a window, under lights, or in a greenhouse), the level of skill it requires to grow



the plant (beginner, experienced, or expert), and lists a good introductory species that would be easy to grow. Cullina also gives instructions on watering, light, potting, and fertilizing. This extensive guide includes a section on taxonomy and nomenclature and a glossary.



Phrag Noiirmont 'A-doribil' FCC/AOS

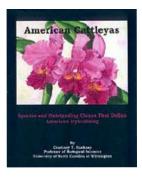
11 th International Slipper Symposium In Altamonte Springs, Florida



CULTIVATION

Growing Tips for September Dr. Courtney T. Hackney hackneau@comcast.net

"And the rains came...", but not for 40 days and nights, at least not yet. Orchid growers in Florida experienced many days of torrential rainfall from Tropical Storm Fay, but similar weather events, i.e., many days of rain or gloom can happen



anywhere or any time of year. Of course, orchids growing in nature also experience extreme events. The difference, however, is that your orchids have been put into pots, grown in material that confines their roots, and locked in a relatively contained atmosphere.

Compare a "free range" orchid to its citified relatives and it is easy to see why the same event could lead to such different results. Days of rain and wind would soak the roots and leaves of a wild orchid, bringing bits of new leaves and twigs where they can rot and release nutrients. The movement of wind and water across the roots and leaves would wash rotten materials away and remove fungal and bacterial spores from the plant.

Orchids in a greenhouse are likely in a closed environment where humidity is high and air movement nil. Most greenhouses vent during the day when exhaust fans rapidly replace the air in a greenhouse. When venting does not occur, the air becomes filled with bacterial and fungal spores that settle on orchid leaves and in pots. No matter how clean and neat your growing area; there are plenty of bacteria and fungi around to infect orchids.

While my immediate thoughts relate to a hurricane, the same basic conditions occur during winter storms or even



Orchids in the Mist/Cattleya Schroederae by Rose Ganucheau

just during a series of very cloudy days and little sun. Your pampered orchids have roots in pots that just barely have enough air space to allow oxygen to the roots. In a greenhouse full of orchids and other plants, oxygen levels actually decrease too, making roots even more susceptible to death. Plants rarely die from low oxygen levels, but parts of plants, especially roots do die where they are very susceptible to invasions by bacteria and fungi.

Plants, including orchids, use oxygen. It is only when light is striking leaves that photosynthesis leads to the production of more oxygen than the leaf uses. Fungi and bacteria love high humidity and low oxygen levels and so every grower should expect problems after prolonged periods of damp, humid conditions.



Endemic, The Green Swamp NC by Rose Ganucheau

About the only time I recommend the application of a broad spectrum fungicide / bactericide as a preventative is when a major event is going to occur or right after it occurs. Indoor growers need to pay attention too, as the same phenomenon can occur when you water your orchids and your light source stops working for a day or so. There are many products that can be used. My favorite is Kocide, an old copper-based product. Kocide leaves a light blue sheen on leaves so you know it has been applied. My strategy is to apply as soon as possible after the event at half strength and let the orchids and greenhouse vent and dry thoroughly before watering. Rarely, do I experience a disease problem. Physan is another, readily available product that many hobbyists use. Some tender leaves can be damaged by the recommended dose for orchids, but the half strength dose rarely causes any problems. It is also a surfactant and helps move water off leaves and stems. Killing disease spores, increasing air movement, and quickly drying your orchids and greenhouse is the best way to prevent problems after a major environmental event.

CULTIVATION

What's in Bloom in the SAOS

Paul Jones, trjones_99@yahoo.com

We are showcasing the orchids grown by the many skilled orchid growers in our club. Email pictures of your beauties in bloom to me and be sure to include a brief description of how you grow them and any other interesting tidbit you wish to share. Here's what members are saying about their blooming orchids this month.

Haley Bastian, Lc. Varut Startrac: We were a bit unlucky during the storm. Wind took out one of our orchid shelves, scattering a dozen of our beauties around the yard. I thought I had found them all, but this morning there was one sunburned, waterlogged orchid blooming in the gravel of the roadway.



Hopefully I will be able to save the beautiful Lc. Varut Startrac, which was purchased from Adamson's Orchids during the WOC trip. All leaves but the one with the flower are deeply burned. It is a testament to the tenacity of the weeds we call orchids. The flower is actually a lot darker than in the photos, but my camera does strange things on rainy days.

Sue Bottom,

Stan grandiflora: I was wary of growing Stanhopeas, who wants to wait all year for a flower that only lasts for a day or two? Now I'm hooked, this Stanhopea grandiflora is beautiful, fragrant and has bloomed 5 times



over the last 2 months. It is still in the plastic vanda basket I bought it in, but Rolf Wilhelm of Woodland Orchids gave me some tips for growing Stanhopeas. He uses baskets with large slats, lines them with coconut fibers (not the thick liners), uses a coarse but moisture retentive mix of aliflor, coconut husk and sponge rock and tops it off with a layer of sphagnum, keep them on the moist side with low light and wait for the beautiful inflorescence to poke out of the bottom of the basket. Gongoras like the same mix and treatment.

Gail Marshall, Eplc Don Herman 'Gold Rush. Cattleya: I thought you'd like to see how my Epicatt is doing. It has two spikes, 6 blooms on one and 8 on the other. This is one of my most reliable bloomers, at least three times a year. I've given her a lot more light and am fertilizing with an Algoflash / Inoculaid mix. I love this orchid. Once the blooms start to open I bring



it inside where it continues to bloom for up to 8 weeks.

Helen O'Brien, Blc. Waianae Leopard 'Ching Hua' HCC/AOS: I have my orchids outside and passed by them the other day. I noticed the most delicious aroma in the air, looked around and here is this beauty. I bought it several years ago from Waldorf in Somers Point. Note: We will see Helen



and husband Jim in February for their annual month-long stay in St. Augustine.



Dick Roth, Vanda coerulea: This species Vanda is just shy of 5 inches, deep blue, full flower and probably the nicest coerulea I have seen.

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CULTIVATION

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Viv Rowe, Miltassia Earl Dunn: She is planted in a bark mix from Home Depot for Phalaenopsis. I let Mother Nature water her and when that doesn't happen I water her with well water. I fertilize her twice a month (in the summer) with orchid pro and Inoculaid in rain water. She is on a pot clip on the south side of a wooden fence. She gets the early morning sun and late afternoon sun.

Maria Yessian, Dendrobium Sena Red: This is one of the first orchids I won at the raffle table when I first joined. As you can see, it is one of Paul's, the mounting gives it away! I am very proud to have been able to bloom it again. It is mounted in my lanai facing in (away from the morning sun) and I try to water once a day or



every other day, fertilizing once a week with bloom booster and Inoculaid.

Paul Jones, Miltassia Dark Star 'Darth Vader': This is from the division that Dick Roth generously gave out to members at a meeting back in 2006. I mounted her on a cypress log and she has been happy there ever since. She gets lots of good light in the oleander 'orchid tree' and gets the Inoculaid 'soup' once a week.



Veronica Rickles, Attack Crab: My puppy was barking at the glass sliding door yesterday. When I went out to check, I was startled by an intruder among my orchid plants. Who needs a guard dog when you can have an attack crab?



Paul Jones, Hitchhiker: Almost everyone has found a 'hitchhiker' on their orchids at one time or another. Here is a shot of a tree frog making a bed in the leaves of my Zygopetalum hybrid. He looks down right comfy in there, doesn't he ... she?



Orchid Questions & Answers Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q. Several of my Brassolaeliacattleyas and related others have developing or mature leads with a sheath like a snow pea. They exude the clear sticky stuff which I have been told is a good thing. The last few days

I have noticed sooty mold starting to grow on some of the sticky. I have wiped it off but I know I am just smearing the spores around. What do you do for this situation?

A. The clear sticky stuff is called honeydew and if it looks like little balls or droplets at the base or tip of the leaf or bloom, it is probably just excess plant fluids being secreted by a healthily growing orchid.



One problem the presence of honeydew can cause is attracting ants, and ants can spread scale throughout your growing area. To remove the sooty mold that grows on the honeydew, add isopropyl alcohol to a spray bottle and spray the affected area. The fear with honeydew is that it might indicate sucking insects like aphids, scale or mealybugs are present and causing damage by sucking the sugary fluid from your plant. Inspect your plant carefully for pests and treat appropriately. Spray with orthene, summer oil or malathion to control pests.

Q. Does it make sense, on the days I fertilize, to water first with clear water to get the roots plump and green and then water again with fertilizer? Prewatering should get the roots ready for feeding but does it make the roots less capable of absorbing any of the fertilizer solution because they are already hydrated?

A. If you have the time, watering several minutes before fertilizing is a good idea, particularly if in your first pass watering you water heavily until water runs out of the pot and then some. Not only will this help flush some salts from the root zone, it will open the spongy root so the fertilizer solution will be absorbed more easily. Then, in your second pass, you apply just enough fertilizer to coat the roots, this being the most efficient way to deliver nutrients to the root zone.



WHO'S WHO

Haley Bastian

One of SAOS' founding members, Haley Bastian has become a walking encyclopedia of orchid information and experience and fills the roles of Co-Librarian and Show Table Coordinator. She came to SAOS after buying a green



cymbidium and three phals for her mom, member Betsy Bastian - without knowing how to care for them. At the high end of the learning curve, she is now part of the support staff for Orchids by Del-Rei (aka commercial grower Fred Keefer) and can take responsibility for just about anything in the greenhouse. Always interested in the next botanical challenge, she is one of SAOS' resident deflasking experts, also known as Mademoiselle Compot. Her own orchid collection numbers about 500 – favorites being Psychopsis papilio f. alba and Neofinetia falcata. Living in the natural setting of Vermont Heights, between St. Augustine and Elkton, winter presents a problem, so Haley enclosed a carport with panels of painted and waterproofed sheets which are hung like pictures. They are taken off in summer and, when up in winter, raise the temps by 20 degrees. Her newest interest is in bromeliads, tillandsias and cacti - nothing ordinary, mind you, but whatever provides the greatest challenge. SAOS would NOT be the same without her.

Sue Bottom

Sue Bottom is creative intelligence in action - with a great sense of humor As 1st Vice President, Sue is the driving force behind the fantastic programs SAOS offers. In fact, (though she'd probably deny it) she's one of the driving



forces behind the entire organization. She's a visionary for our society and is willing to act as well as speak. It's a ton of work lining up our presenters – which involves contacting and/or meeting with growers from all over the state (and country). Lucky for SAOS, she loves it and says she gains a wealth of personal growing information

(and an occasional plant) from all these leaders in the orchid industry. Originally from New Jersey, Sue moved to New Orleans where she met her multi-talented husband, Terry. Career took her to Houston where she was the VP of Health, Safety and Environmental for a refining company. Sue had wanted a greenhouse for 20 years, and Terry built her first one in Houston, precipitating the decision to learn how to grow orchids. Since moving to St. Aug in 1998, Terry has been busy building her four greenhouses plus a potting shed. Their orchid collection numbers somewhere between one and two thousand - her favorite being whatever is in bloom at the time. She loves all forms of gardening, and their landscape is a veritable Eden. Besides getting dirt under her fingernails, Sue also loves cooking and is an oenophile (wine lover) - which luckily provides the bonus of corks for her vandas.

Vivienne Rowe

Vivienne Rowe is making SAOS famous – in her role of Second Vice President and Chair of the Publicity Committee. Every time you see a story or blurb about SAOS in print, you can think of and thank Viv. She's one of the reasons we have so many new members and guests at our meetings.



Viv is also an Anglophile and comes by it honestly. Born in London, England while her father was in the military, she maintains dual citizenship and has traced her English roots back to 1758. She and husband Tom traveled the world courtesy of the Air Force, and finally returned to St. Augustine where they've made their home for the past 26 years. Her interest in orchids wavered on and off for many years, until SAOS member and neighbor Jim Taylor brought her to a meeting about a year and a half ago. And it's been on ever since. She now has between 60 and 70 plants, vandas being her favorite, which hang on rods stretched between shepherd hooks. The rest of her plants are under trees and on a fence, and they all winter indoors in the sunroom. Besides doing orchids, Viv and Tom are part of a dog rescue program. Currently they have 4 Yorkies of their own and are fostering a fifth, with a Siamese cat added to the mix. And if that isn't enough, they've just become grandparents again to identical twin girls, Eden and Jamie.

JUDW TABLE



Grower Dick Roth Oncidium lanceanum



Grower Harry McElroy Phrag caricinum



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz Bulb echinolabium



Grower Paul & Teddie Jones Mtssa Dark Star 'Darth Vader'



Grower Dick Roth Hawkinsara Kookau Sunset 'Hawaii'



Grower Mike & Kacyee Heinz Bulb clamptonense 'D&B'CHM/AOS



Grower Dick Roth
Bl Morning Glory 'Remar' HCC/AOS



SHOW TUBLE



Grower Sue Bottom
Blc Yen Suprise x C Penny Kuroda 'Spot'



Grower Harry McElroy Paph Gold Dollar



Grower Harry McElroy Paph maudiae 'The Queen'



Grower Harry McElroy Cym Valerie Absolonova



Grower Dick Roth L purpurata x C Marjorie Hausermann



Grower Harry McElroy
Paph concolor

