

CLUB NEWS



Bill Hill

September 1 Meeting Minutes

by [Lola Stark,](mailto:LolaStark@bellsouth.net)
seacuter@bellsouth.net

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Heinz at 7:15 pm with 66 people present, including 7 guests. Mike thanked Jeanette Smith and Barbara Conrad for the refreshments and reminded those who were new that

we donate a little if we eat a little. Gail Marshall announced that all members seem well and announced that we would, from now on, celebrate birthdays by having the members stand and be given a free raffle ticket. For September, we had two members stand. Mike reminded everyone to vote for their favorite orchid on the show table. He mentioned



Bill Hill shares his Oncidium knowledge with SAOS

that Maurice Geiger of Geiger Orchids is having a sale at the nursery in Wellborn, FL on 19-22 September. Also, we had an e-mail from a fellow advertising a trip to tour the native orchids in their native orchid habitats in Ecuador next January. Mike has the paperwork.

The Welcome Table had several pamphlets for members, and also several books pertinent to tonight's program. The librarian position has been filled by Wendy Thomas. Thank you, Wendy! Gail announced that the Swedish Orchid



A nice crowd of 66 enthusiasts listen to Bill Hill

Society has asked Sue if they could use her article from the web site on pests and diseases in their newsletter. What an honor! Congratulations, Sue!!!!!!

The SAOS and Master Gardeners will have members at Hagan Ace Hardware on US 1 September 5 from 9-noon. They will give advice on repotting, diseases etc. If you have a question, go and see them

The Jacksonville Orchid Society is sponsoring a trip to Carter and Holmes in South Carolina. The bus will leave from the Jacksonville Garden Club at 4 PM on Friday, 25 September, returning on Saturday, the 26th after spending the morning at Carter and Holmes. If you're interested, get in touch with Sue or with Bonnie Myers at 260-3939.

Our speaker for the evening was Bill Hill of Orchid Island Orchids in Vero Beach. He spoke to us about the Oncidium Alliance, particularly the Miltonias that will grow here in warm weather. The Alliance includes Beallaras, Brassias, Colmanaras, Miltonias, Odontoglossums, and many others as well as the Oncidiums themselves.



Members & guests load up on Bill's orchids

Continued on page 3





Upcoming Orchid Events

September

- 5 Master Gardeners & SAOS Members
Q&A, Repotting & Problem Plant Clinic
Ace on US 1, 9 am to noon
- 19-20 Ridge Orchid Society Show
Lake Mirror Center, Lakeland
- 20 Keiki Club – Warm Growing Cymbidiums
Harry and Celia McElroy's home
12010 Hood Landing Rd, Jax 32258
904-262-2163, 1-3 pm

October

- 2-4 Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show
Minnreg Center, Largo
- 3 Master Gardeners & SAOS Members
Q&A, Repotting & Problem Plant Clinic
Ace on US 1, 9 am to noon
- 6 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting
Important Encyclia Species Used in
Breeding and Their Hybrids
Dr. Ruben and Claudia Sauleda,
[Ruben in Orchids](#)
- 10-11 Gainesville Orchid Society Show
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
- 17-18 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show
Ft Pierce Community Center
Vets Memorial Park
- 18 Keiki Club – Winter Preparations
Viv and Tom Rowe's home
108 Drake Road, St. Aug 32086
797-3146, 1-3 pm
- 23-25 Orchtober Fest at [EFG Orchids](#)
4265 Marsh Rd, Deland
386-738-8600
- 30-1 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show
Old School Square Gymnasium

November

- 3 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting
More IS Better, Multifloral Paphs
Brian Monk, [Blu Llama Orchids](#)

www.staugorchidsociety.org

- 7 Master Gardeners & SAOS Members
Q&A, Repotting & Problem Plant Clinic
Ace on US 1, 9 am to noon
- 18 Keiki Club – Winter Orchid Care
Coquina Crossing Clubhouse, Elkton
4536 Coquina Crossing Drive 32033
827-9536, 1-3 pm

December

- 12 SAOS Christmas Auction
Moultrie Trails Clubhouse, 7-10 pm
Bring a Covered Dish and Cash

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



St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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Continued from page 1

Oncidiums, characterized by many sprays of smaller flowers, need about the same light as Cattleyas, that is, about ½ sun, ½ shade. During the winter they can take almost full sun. Oncidiums should not be allowed to dry out as the Cattleyas are, but kept fairly damp. Bill waters his in the greenhouse twice a week, once with pure water, the second time with ¼ tsp fertilizer per gallon. He prefers Peters 20-20-20 and once a month gives them Super Thrive to enhance the root growth. In addition to the water soluble fertilizer, he uses the slow release fertilizer Dynamite with the red top which is Nutricote packaged for Home Depot. The medium Bill suggested was a mix of small coconut bark and perlite with some charcoal here and there. He used plastic pots because he is a nursery, but says he prefers the clay pots (or did until they got so expensive!) because of better drainage. Take all members of the Oncidium alliance inside when the temperature drops near or below 40°F.

Oncidiums will grow and grow and will probably need to be repotted at least every other year, but he suggested not disturbing the roots, but to take the plant out and simply put it in a slightly bigger container, not more than an inch bigger than it's growing in now.

The Miltonias that grow in the mountains of South America cannot be grown here successfully because they are not warmth tolerant. They require much colder temperatures than we are able to provide and thus grow better above the Mason-Dixon line. What we can and do grow here are descendants of *Miltonia spectabilis* and *Miltonia moreliana*, extensively hybridized by several growers. These come from the coast of Brazil and grow very well here. Bill suggested that we do not try to grow Odontoglossums here as they also require cool temperatures.

Following the presentation, we had our raffle and auction. Michele Walker won the Grand Prize, which this month was Lc. Merry-Go-Round and the Member's choice on the Show table was *Miltonia moreliana* grown by Lola Stark.



September's show table was full of some real beauties

Orchid Art by Wolfgang Obst

Cinematographer Wolfgang Obst has been making wildlife and adventure films, sometimes under extreme and adverse conditions, for 30 years. He's done the 'Mojave Adventure' narrated by Bruce Dern for *Wild, Wildlife*, the 'Arctic Refuge: A Vanishing Wilderness' narrated by Meryl Streep for the *World of Audubon*, the 'Last Dance: Crane River' narrated by Leonard Nimoy for PBS and 'Woodstork: Barometer of the Everglades' narrated by Richard Crenna for PBS. Now he and Terry Bottom are collaborating on still photographs and videos of orchids. Check out [Fantastic Orchid](#) for the latest.



Blc. Serengeti Sands By Wolfgang Obst



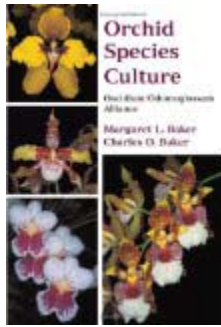
**Blc. Toshie Aoki x Pot. Lemon Tree
By Wolfgang Obst**



What's New in the Library Orchid Species Culture: Oncidium Odontoglossum Alliance

By Charles & Margaret Baker

In this meticulously researched volume, aimed at serious orchidists, the authors have formulated recommendations for approximately 1,300 species within the immense Oncidium Odontoglossum alliance.



September 20 Keiki Club Meeting

We will meet at Harry and Celia McElroy's home for a presentation on "Cymbidiums for Florida". The Cymbidium Man has put together a list of warm growers suitable for our area, posted on the website, and will teach us how to make them thrive and flower. Don't miss the chance to tour Harry and Celia's greenhouse and growing area and learn some of their secrets. We will be meeting from 1 to 3 pm on Sunday afternoon at [12010 Hood Landing Road in Jacksonville 32258](#). Bring a folding chair.

Call 904-262-2163 for additional information.

October 6 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Ruben Sauleda of Ruben in Orchids near Homestead will give a presentation on Important Encyclia Species Used in Breeding and Their Hybrids at the October 6 meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Ruben and wife Claudia are a leading producer and supplier of orchid seedlings and tissue culture plants to commercial growers as well as growing and hybridizing Cattleyas, Encyclias and Schomburgkias.

Dr. Ruben P. Sauleda has been growing orchids since the age of 12. He started the family business in 1962, Ruben in Orchids. His main interest is hybridizing the unusual, specializing in Encyclia and Schomburgkia hybrids. In



Ruben & Claudia look forward to their return engagement with the SAOS

addition he propagates many species from seed, especially Florida Natives. Dr. Sauleda has a Masters Degree in Orchid Ecology and Taxonomy from Florida Atlantic University and a Ph.D. in Orchid Taxonomy from the University of South Florida. He has written several books and has published dozens of papers in scientific journals. He was Chairman of Education for the 19th World Orchid Conference as well as a speaker. Ruben in Orchids has exhibited at hundreds of national and international orchid shows winning countless awards.



Home and Backyard Orchid Growing

Bill Gourley,
wgourley@bellsouth.net

In April, 2006, I won a fine looking orchid as a door prize at Southern Horticulture. It was quite impressive as it was in bloom and even had a tag that said its name was 'Mauve'. Using Google, I searched to find out what I had won. I found the American Orchid Society web-site, downloaded a Phalaenopsis culture sheet and dutifully kept my new orchid on the east facing porch behind a column to avoid direct sunlight.

During the next 3 years the number of orchids in my care inexplicably grew to over 80. I have absolutely no idea how that happened.

Where to put a growing orchid population?

I first tried snap-together plastic shelving but quickly discovered the stacked shelving blocked most of the sun needed by my cattleyas.

Next I fabricated a low rack, 4 ft. by 8 ft., made of PVC pipe and vinyl coated wire shelving with window screen draped over the top as a sunscreen. It had little wheels so I could roll it around my pool enclosure to get the best sun angle and get them out of rainy or cold weather. It was difficult to maneuver and scratched the flooring so I went looking for a better way.

Two months ago, while at the Saturday morning Master Gardener session at Ace Hardware, I noticed their plant display racks. I made note of the manufacturer, went to their website and ordered a display rack to use as a small mobile greenhouse for my Cattleya type orchids.

Terry Bottom had plenty of ideas of how to modify the rack for its intended use. We covered the top and upper end caps with overlapping sheets of clear plastic corrugated roofing panels and added some metal channel tubing

so I can use wiggle-wire to attach clear plastic sheeting in the winter. I just received some 30% shade cloth ordered from a greenhouse supply store so the next task will be to figure out how to put it over the top of my new rack without tearing the material.

My thought is that during the winter I will have my rolling rack out in the sun on the good days. At night I will have the clear plastic sheet covers in place and keep it up close to the house with a small ceramic heater and small fan to keep the temperature at the proper level. I sure hope that works out as I know I will need to have some venting to allow excess moisture to escape while keeping everything warm enough.

For my phalaenopsis, I do use the snap-together plastic shelves placed behind a white roll down shade so that in the direct west sunlight, it receives about 1,500 foot candles of light. My vandas hang from a PVC pipe contraption I made and it is covered with window screening which lets through about 4,500 foot candles. I filled the bottom pipes with sand to give weight to the structure so it does not blow over (again) on windy days. During the colder winter nights, the phals and vandas do get to come inside to stay warm.

All of my cattleyas are now growing in a very loose media sold by the SAOS. I fertilize once a week and water every 2 days if it is hot. My phals are growing in a mixture with a little coconut husks mixed in with the cattleya mix. I fertilize them every 2 weeks and water about every 4 to 5 days, depending on the moisture left in the pot. I use clear plastic pots for my phals so I can see the condensed moisture on the inside. If I see moisture, I wait another day to water. The vandas are fertilized once a week and watered at least once each day.





Growing Tips for September

Dr. Courtney T. Hackney

Dept. Biology, Univ.
North Florida

Fall in the tropics can mean many things depending on where in the tropics one looks. There may be more rain, less rain, clear skies, and even cool nights. But there is one universal facet to fall everywhere, shortening day length. Here, as in the tropics, many species of orchids and their hybrids are reacting to shorter days. Fall blooming cattleyas are already showing buds deep in their sheaths or even blooming.

In my greenhouse in Florida, many fall blooming cattleyas have already bloomed even though fall does not begin until September 22. Blc. Norman's Bay completed blooming in early August and immediately began growth on two new leads. Late summer blooms followed by late fall blooms is not uncommon if fall blooming cattleyas are mature and well-established.

Typically, cattleya flowers last longer and are better colored when blooms develop during cool nights. This is especially true when yellow pigments are involved. The rich deep purple of Blc. Oconee 'Mendenhall' or red from Blc. Owen Holmes 'Mendenhall' is not as intense in summer since the yellow pigments in flowers do not develop as well in the heat.

Depending on your location, September is often a good month to initiate flower spikes in standard phalaenopsis. A day to night temperature difference 15°F for a week to 10 days will cause your phals to initiate spikes. It is important to initiate spikes as soon as possible since the growth of phal spikes will slow as days get shorter and available energy decreases.

Hobbyists with orchids outside can let nature take its course. If you grow in a closed greenhouse, the temperature can be lowered to that of the outside by simply keeping exhaust fans on at night. Some commercial growers with cooling pads run cooling pads along with exhaust fans all night to lower the temperature inside the greenhouse below the external environment.

The vast majority of orchid hobbyists grow their orchids inside in windows or under lights. Many have difficulty getting their orchids to re-bloom and assume they are not providing enough light. Often though, it is the lack of seasonal change in day length because of interior lights, or because of an insufficient drop in temperature, especially for phalaenopsis. Leaving windows open next to phals or

even placing orchids outside for a couple of weeks can accomplish the prerequisite temperature drop.

Windowsill growers should watch the change in the sun's angle carefully. Orchids growing happily during summer may become vulnerable to burning in a south-facing window. Similarly, leaves may be thinning in trees shading orchids outside and orchids may burn. Greenhouse growers may consider reducing shade, since the sun's angle and intensity have changed since the summer's peak in late June.

The declining solar radiation and longer nights also means that your orchids need less water. Pay more attention to over-watering now since there is less time for orchids to dry each day.

Typically, less fertilizer is also required this time of year. Cattleyas fertilized with Nutricote last spring will have used up what was released and no additional fertilizer will be necessary until next spring. There will be some residual fertilizer that has been incorporated in the medium and this should suffice until spring. Phals and other orchids that grow and flower all year long will need additional fertilizer, but not as much as they did during the peak growing season. Phals often produce larger spikes if fertilizer is withheld for a month or so this time of year

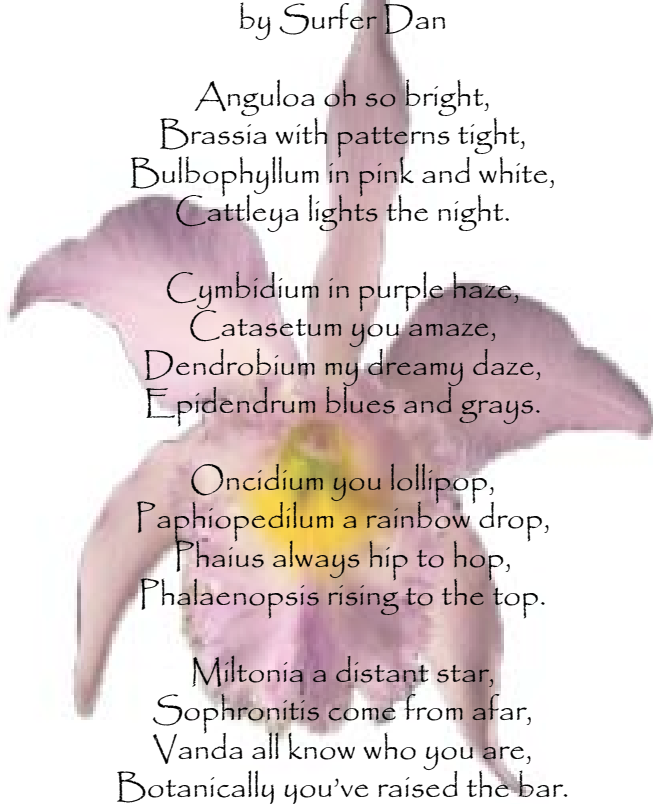
Orchid ABCZZZZZZ by Surfer Dan

Anguloa oh so bright,
Brassia with patterns tight,
Bulbophyllum in pink and white,
Cattleya lights the night.

Cymbidium in purple haze,
Catasetum you amaze,
Dendrobium my dreamy daze,
Epidendrum blues and grays.

Oncidium you lollipop,
Paphiopedilum a rainbow drop,
Phaius always hip to hop,
Phalaenopsis rising to the top.

Miltonia a distant star,
Sophronitis come from afar,
Vanda all know who you are,
Botanically you've raised the bar.





Orchid Questions & Answers

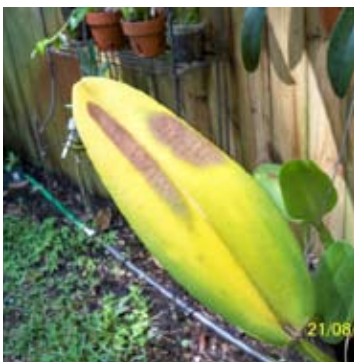
Where Members Share Experiences

[Sue Bottom](#),
sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q. I had beautiful leaves on my orchids but not many blooms. Knowing that insufficient light is the number one reason orchids don't bloom, I decided to

move them into a sunnier spot. Now look what happened, it sure looks like sunburn. What do I do now?

A. It seems that every year I move my plants too quickly into bright conditions and some of my plants always get sunburned. It's not terminal, let the leaf wither until it can be easily removed. Let the plant gather its energy from the brighter light and you'll be rewarded with new growths and leaves and then flowers.



Q. I bought my son a white phalaenopsis with a double spike and now the bottom leaves are yellowing. What should he do?

A. It's not uncommon for phals to lose their bottom leaves this time of year. If they pull off easily, you could pour some hydrogen peroxide on the wound as a precaution. It's also a large plant in a 4 inch pot that looks a little dry. Try watering it a little more frequently. If another leaf yellows, don't be shy about knocking it out of its pot to check the roots and make sure they're thick and fat. Rotting roots could also cause the leaves to yellow.



Q. I look at my orchids every day and was very surprised to see this water soaked leaf and pseudobulb, it happened so fast. What happened and what do I do?

A. That is the dreaded Black Rot. It infects our plants during the hot humid weather even if the plants aren't exposed to tropical rain storms. In your plant, it started in the middle of the rhizome and moved up the pseudobulb into the leaf, requiring only 2 or 3 days to do the damage. You can see it is moving in the rhizome to the adjacent pseudobulbs by the tannish discoloration of the rhizome. More subtle is the beginning of the leaf yellowing, look at the junction of the pseudobulb and the leaf and that is where the yellowing begins. This is a fast, ruthless killer but you may be able to save your plant if you remove all infected tissue with a sterile tool. You will need a piece containing at least 3 uninfected pseudobulbs to replant. Then drench the repotted plant with a fungicide labeled for treating *Pythium* or *Phytophthora*, like Subdue. Wash your hands before touching another plant. The cooler fall weather will give us respite from this disease.



What's in Bloom in the SAOS



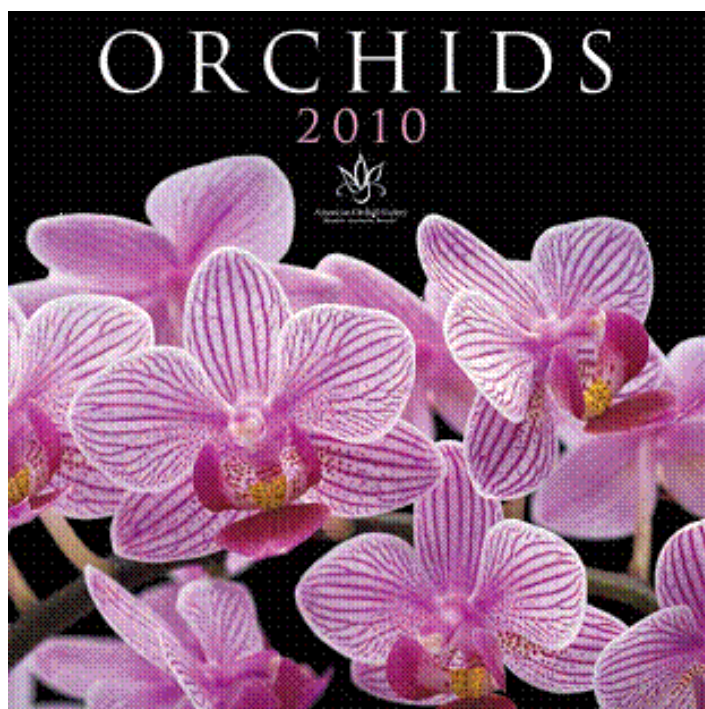
Aer. lawrenciae Grown By: Bill Roth



Ascf. Twinkle Grown By: Bill Roth

Growing the Best

Share the magic and joy of growing orchids with a gift of the AOS 2010 Calendar. The 12 superbly grown orchids pictured show the diversity in color, size, shape and fragrance found in the orchid family. Join author Ken Slump as he shares secrets for growing the best orchids and then offers advice for successfully cultivating and flowering a dozen choices suitable for the greenhouse, home and under lights.



\$2 from each calendar sold benefits orchid conservation

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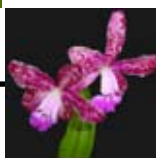
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Fall Orchid Growing Tips

by Susan Taylor, BellaOnline.com



Phal. Bright Peacock By Terry Bottom

Phalaenopsis or Moth Orchids. Phals are one of the easiest of orchids to encourage to rebloom if you know that they need about a month of cool night time temperatures in order to initiate spikes. As the weather cools in your area, let the plants get night temperatures of 60-70°F. You should see the inflorescence(s) start to appear either at the bottom of the plant or below one of the bottom leaves. When it reaches approximately six inches or 15 centimeters, start staking to hold the inflorescence. Be sure to keep the plant in the same position in relation to light source or you will have a twisted look to the flowering.



Blc. Owen Holmes 'Mendenhall' By Wolfgang Obst

Cattleyas. Many Cattleyas are fall and winter bloomers and these particularly need bloom booster fertilizers to provide the best display. Those that bloomed in the spring will respond to plain water rather than fertilizer at this time of year until they start growing in the spring. Now is the time to clean up these types to make sure that they harbor no mysterious insects or fungus. Take off old sheaths, clean the

leaves with lemon juice to remove any chemical residues to allow maximum photosynthesis.

Dendrobiums. Some Dendrobiums will lose all their leaves in the fall, others will lose some of their leaves on back bulbs; but you shouldn't be losing all the leaves on old pseudobulbs. If this is happening, then you need to spray with a fungicide like Consan or Physan to keep from losing all old leaves. This will not kill the plant, but you will be left with only one growing lead and a rather odd looking plant. Clean up the plants and be sure that the new growths are staked well.

Adjust watering and fertilizing schedule. Fall and spring are the hardest times of year to water orchids, especially outdoors or in a greenhouse. Reduced heat and fewer daylight hours cause your plants to grow more slowly and therefore need less water. You need to be very careful so that you do not overwater and drown the roots. After you've watered thoroughly, pick up one of your pots and feel how heavy it is. Then when your normal watering day comes, feel the weight of the pot again, it should be much lighter. Check the medium; if it's dry then you know how the dry pot feels. It's best to make a note on your calendar when you water and fertilize so you can keep up with a normal schedule.

Move plants around when you take off shade cloth. When you take off your shade cloth in the fall, you will need to reassess where your plants are with the new amount of light. Phalaenopsis which could grow nicely with shade cloth will suddenly be in too much light. Move them under other plants or into a separate area with more shade. As you move your plants, check them for insects, snails, molds, etc.

Fungus, Insects and Air Circulation. Be sure to keep your air circulation going 24/7 even though the temperatures have moderated. With cooler temperatures fungi will try to take over. Spray once a month with a fungicide recommended for your area. I also recommend an insecticide spray once a month, preferably with systemic chemicals as there are many insects which will try to move into the greenhouse with the cooler weather. If moving plants inside, be sure to spray and clean them up before bringing them in, you don't want to introduce any new bugs!

Allow deciduous orchids to lose their leaves and dry out. Some Dendrobiums, Cycnoches and other orchids

will lose their leaves during the winter months. As leaves die, cut back on watering until all the leaves are gone and then move them to a portion of the growing area where they will receive no watering until growth has started back up in the spring. Many of these types of orchids will rot if they receive ANY water, so be very careful. Humidity is fine; watering is not.



Ctsm. Orchidglade By Wolfgang Obst



OrchidWiz Encyclopedia Christmas Auction Item

Start saving your nickels! OrchidWiz has donated a copy of the Encyclopedia program to SAOS for our Christmas auction. OrchidWiz has a new feature which allows you to keep a journal of all your plants, including your photographs for a complete pictorial record. This program retails for \$259. The program requires Windows 2000, Windows XP or Windows Vista, 2 GB of disk space, and the ability to read a DVD (the CD is available for \$15 extra).

Just to whet your appetite, some of the program screens are shown below, check out the website for a tutorial on how to use the program. OrchidWiz Encyclopedia contains more than 30 different analysis windows, providing the most complete and accurate information on orchid species and hybrids ever assembled. Here are just a few examples:



Compare *Paph. Julius* with both parents



Show the different color forms of *L. purpurata*



Show the progeny of *Phal. amabilis*



Show the offspring of *Paph. rothschildianum*



Shows offspring of *B. nodosa*, by most awarded



SHOW TABLE



Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
Bulb. Jersey



Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
Oberonia setigera



Grower Wendy Thomas
Bllra. Pacific Treasure 'Matriarch'



Grower Dick Roth
V. Gordon Dillon 'Lea'



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Pholidata imbricata



Grower Sue Bottom
Warmingia eugenii



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Bulb. phalaenopsis



SHOW TABLE



Grower Celia & Harry McElroy
C. Mrs. Mahler



Grower Lola Stark
Miltonia moreliana



Grower Dick Roth
Blc. Hawaiian Butterfly 'Carmela'



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Trgl. atropurpurea



Grower Sue Bottom
Blc. Mahina Yahiro



Grower Sue Bottom
Bnts. Waipuna

