

CLUB NEWS



Brian Monk

November 3 Meeting Minutes

by Mark Heilman,
docusn@bellsouth.net

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by President Mike Heinz with 59 people present, including guests Donna Person and Teresa Cauthera and new members Celeste Burns & Richard Sexhauer. He then

thanked Jeanette Smith for the refreshments and asked that if we eat we contribute. He later amended that to say even if we didn't eat to please contribute as the funds for the refreshments are running low.

Membership Chair Gail Marshall reported that all were well. She also reported on the successes of our members in winning blue ribbons at the St. Johns County Fair, Gail Marshall, Shirley Browning and Shirley Berglund.

The Keiki Club will meet Sunday, November 22, from 1 pm until 3 pm at the Coquina Crossing Clubhouse, 4536 Coquina Crossing Drive, Elkton, FL. Terry & Sue Bottom will talk about winter orchid care.

Bill Gourley, Chair of the Nominating Committee with members Barbara Conrad and Gail Marshall reported the committees nominees for the upcoming year are:

President – Jack Higgins

1st Vice President – Sue Bottom

2nd Vice President – Vivienne Rowe

Secretary – Lola Stark

Treasurer – Bill Gourley

Directors-at-Large – Mike Heinz, Dick Roth, Terry Bottom

A motion was made to close the nominations, seconded and passed. The voting for the new officers will take place at the January, 2010 meeting.

Christmas Auction – This year's gala non-party will be held December 12th, at 7 pm, at the Moultrie Trails Clubhouse in lieu of the December meeting. A sign-up sheet was passed to the membership for a head count. The main dishes will be provided and each member is asked to bring a covered dish (salad, vegetable, dessert..."we always need mashed potatoes!") along with your libation of choice. There will



be orchids to bid on and much more so come out and celebrate with us.

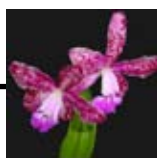
Orchids by Del-Rei's 3rd annual open house & toy drive will be held November 15th noon until 4 pm at 4270 Cedar Ford Blvd, Hastings, FL. Hosted by our own inimitable Fred Keefer, there will be live music, refreshments, food and of course orchids at special prices. The price of admission is an unwrapped new or gently used toy to be donated to the Hastings area kids. This is a must-attend event so see you there!

Wendy Thomas, our Librarian, talked about the library and the many orchid resources available free to the membership. Please include your telephone number on the check-out card.

Marv Ragan told the membership of the hospitalization of prior SAOS speaker Francisco Miranda for gall bladder surgery. After a rocky start he is recovering well.



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Upcoming Orchid Events

November

- 15 Orchids by Del-Rei Open House
4270 Cedar Ford Blvd., Hastings 32145
Noon til 4 pm, Bring a Xmas Toy
386-325-4845
- 22 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
121 Crooked Tree Trail
Bring a Covered Dish and Cash

January

- 5 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Marv Ragan, MAJ Orchids
Orchids of the Philippines
- 9-10 [Sarasota Orchid Society Show](#)
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
- 15-17 [Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show](#)
War Memorial Auditorium
- 23-24 [Manatee River Orchid Society Show](#)
Manatee Convention and Civic Center
- 30-31 Tamiami Orchid Festival
Sunshine Pavilion, Fair Expo Center

February

- 2 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Tom Nasser, Carolina Orchids
Angraecums
- 6-7 [Venice Area Orchid Society Show](#)
Venice Community Center
- 13-14 [Boca Raton Orchid Society Show](#)
Safe Schools Institute
- 26-28 Miami International Orchid Show
Doubletree Hotel & Convention Center
- ??? Keiki Club – Date and Venue TBA
Harriet Wright, Orchid Corsages

March

- 2 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Linda Wilhelm, Woodland Orchids
Magnificent Stanhopeas
- 5-7 Martin County Orchid Society Show

- 6 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 til noon
[3050 US 1 S](#) in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 11-14 [Orchid Society of Coral Gables Show](#)
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
- 12-14 [Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show](#)
Port St. Lucie Community Center
- 19-20 [Englewood Area Orchid Society Show](#)
United Methodist Church
- 19-21 [Naples Orchid Society Show](#)
United Church of Christ

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@comcast.net
Secretary AOS/Orchid Digest Rep	Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
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Librarian	Wendy Thomas wendysthomas1@bellsouth.net
Membership Committee Chair	Gail Marshall gwpb@aol.com
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Operations Committee Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com



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Mike Heinz reported on the new website development. Terry & Sue Bottom have created a marvelous new website for the Society, <http://www.staugorchidsociety.org>. Complete with stunning photographs and a multilevel arrangement this should become THE source for orchid information for the entire state of Florida. Check it out today and watch as more & more features are brought on-line. Truly remarkable! Well Done Terry & Sue!

The evenings guest speaker was Dr. Brian Monk of Blu Llama Orchids <http://www.blullama.com>. His talk entitled "Multiflora Paphiopedilums - More is Better" was informative and entertaining as he demonstrated the many Multiflora Paphiopedilums with stunning photographs. First he talked about culture. In general, they like medium light, say 2000 ft candles. They like to be evenly moist, not soggy. Brian uses a mix of coconut husk, chopped sphagnum or tree fern, and sponge rock. Select deeper pots and keep them in smaller rather than larger pots.

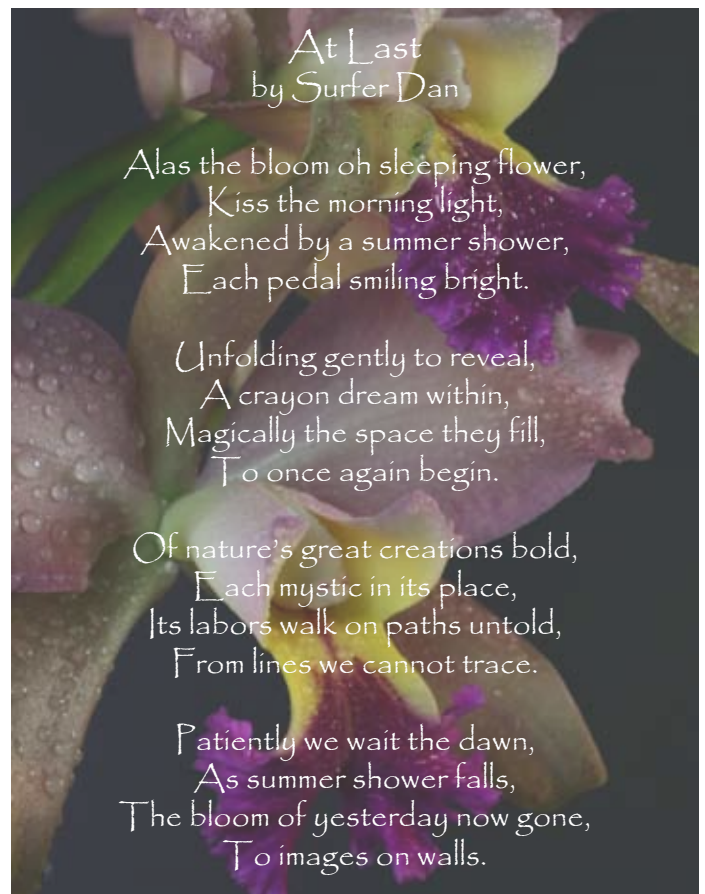
There are three different sections of multi-floral paphs:

- Cochlopetalums, sequentially blooming multiflorals that tend to have tessellated leaves,
- Coryopedilums, more or less simultaneously blooming with longitudinal stripes,
- Pardalopedalums, more or less simultaneously blooming that like brighter light.

Brian had incredible pictures of paphs hybridized within and between paph sections.



Dick Roth announced the Members Choice, Sue Bottom's Blc. Dana Thomas x Lc. Oriental Splendor. The evening concluded with the plant raffle and auction conducted by Fred Keefer, Christie Peppard and their skills. A good time was had by all!



October 18 Keiki Club Report

Prez Mike Heinz on Getting Ready for Winter

As the days shorten and the temperatures drop those of us that grow all, or some, of our plants outside are faced once again with the problem of bringing our plants inside for the winter.

The first problem, whether we like it or



not, is that there are more plants outside then we put out there in the spring. No matter what we tell ourselves when we start each new growing season, about not having any more room, we still manage to squeeze one (or twenty) more plants into the space we have. Now we have to squeeze those same plants into our winter growing area, which did not get any larger over the summer. This causes some creative thinking, and making superb use of the little space we have.

- Get some tiered benches that allow you to go up, as well as back. These can be made out of strong fence wire with side braces, or wood planks on top of pots or bricks.

- Next, reduce your inventory, give that division to somebody that admired it during the meeting when you put it on the show table. Now it's their problem of how to winter it.

- Plants that can be re potted in the late summer, or early fall should be looked at closely, a plant in a 8" pot might divide into two 4" pots, and fit on the shelf better.

OK we've got the area set up, the spouse has been convinced that this new idea/area will work, and we're ready to start the move. Not so fast!

- Is the area you're going to use going to be damaged by the excess moisture you're going to adding when you water/mist your plants? Wall board will not stand up to the constant barrage of moisture. Maybe the back patio can be enclosed with plastic, or the pool enclosure can be used. Back porches have been turned



into winter greenhouses in more than one household.

- Will there be enough light for your plants? The light we need to see, and enjoy our plant, is not enough for them to grow well. A trip to Lowes, or the local hardware store might

be in order to get one, or more, four foot fluorescent light strips. You'll have to decide what plant needs to go closest to the light to receive the right amount of light.

We also want to make sure that we are only bringing in our plants, and not critters that abound in Florida. In my area,

it's not uncommon to find a green, or black snake curled up in a pot, or basket, and although they aren't a problem to the plant, they can be a real problem to the person they drop on from the basket hung high in the growing area. We also have a huge crop of banana bugs/ palmetto bugs, and these are a real problem to us, since they love the nice tender new growths on our plants. Spiders in



the growing area a good thing to keep the bug population under control, but some of us have an aversion to our eight legged (friends?).

Most of the scale and mealy bug problems you might have in an enclosed growing area are not a problem outside, so a quick inspection should be all that's necessary to prove they are not present. While you're inspecting them, take the opportunity to clean up your plants, remove dead flower spikes, etc. You might even spray them with the garden hose to give them a bath and remove any spider webs, etc. If you do find any pesky critters, you can treat small spots with rubbing alcohol or spray all the plant surfaces with Orthene, Malathion or something similar.

Now we get to look at the plants we have. What is the best temperature to bring each plant inside? This is a question you can address with other growers. Cattleyas can stay out longer the vandias, nobile dendrobiums can stay out longer then phalaenopsis type dendrobium. Each plant has a minimum temperature that it can withstand, and must be protected from anything lower than that. All of them must be protected from any temperature below freezing.

Enjoy having your plants where you can tend for them, and make the mandatory resolution that you will not add any more plants next year, no matter what, because you absolutely have no more space for even one more plant. The rest of us will laugh, or at least smile, because we're no better at keeping that resolution than you are.



What's New in the Library

The Potting Workshop

By Greg Allikas

The Potting Workshop™ is a CD that provides all of the information needed for even the most casual grower to confidently repot their own orchids. Step-by-step tutorials show you how to pot, mount or basket most commonly-grown orchids plus deflasking, compots, back bulbs and bareroots, specimen plants are covered.



Here is some of the Christmas Spread from 2008

OrchidWiz Encyclopedia

Christmas Auction Item

Start saving your nickels! OrchidWiz has donated a copy of the Encyclopedia program (\$259 value) to SAOS for our Christmas auction. [OrchidWiz Encyclopedia](#) contains more than 30 different analysis windows, providing the most complete and accurate information on orchid species and hybrids ever assembled. OrchidWiz has a new feature which allows you to keep a journal of all your plants, including your photographs, for a complete pictorial record. 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).



November 22 Keiki Club

Winter Orchid Care

We'll meet at the Coquina Crossing Clubhouse in Elkton for a timely presentation "Winter Orchid Care". Terry Bottom will talk about structures for over-wintering your plants and Sue Bottom will talk about minimum winter temperatures for different orchids, orchids that go dormant or need a cool dry period, and reduced watering and fertilizing during the winter. We'll gather from 1 to 3 pm on Sunday afternoon at [4536 Coquina Crossing Drive, Elkton 32033](#). Call 827-9536 for additional information.

December 12 SAOS Christmas Auction

We will be holding our annual Christmas orchid auction at 7 pm Saturday night, December 12th, at the Moultrie Trails Clubhouse located at 121 Crooked Tree Trail. We'll have ham and turkey and all members are encouraged to bring a dish to round out the meal as well as your beverage of choice. You will be bidding on a nice variety of different types of orchids. An advance listing of the plants will be distributed to whet your appetite. Note that the meeting date has changed (from the first Tuesday to December 12th) as has the meeting location (Moultrie Trails Clubhouse instead of Watson Realty). We'll see you there!





Growing Tips for November

Dr. Courtney Hackney,
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Dept. Biology,
Univ. North Florida

Charles Darwin would be proud if he had seen my approach to selecting phals this past year. Just a few years

ago many of the phals from the new breeding lines were fairly expensive and hard to find. Today, we are inundated with large numbers of excellent clones of all types of phalaenopsis. As a result, most of us have more phals than space; hence my need for the 'Darwinian Approach'.

While flowers on many of these mericlones are spectacular with large flowers or spectacular spots and stripes, the plants that produce them can sometimes be difficult to grow in the home or greenhouse environment. In some cases, these phalaenopsis were never easy to grow except under very strict environments with lots of fertilizers. One recent email contact said that most of the clones he tested were virused, something I have noted in the past with many mericlones.



So how does one decide to keep some phals and discard others? This is not as easy as it sounds. Often, when store-bought phals are repotted there is a relatively long period of recovery as it gets new roots and leaves. This can take several months or even an entire growing season if the phal had lost its root system entirely. This period of recovery can mask the normal growth of a very vigorous phal.

At most commercial nurseries where these phals are grown, there is extensive use of fungicides and bactericides that can hide inherited susceptibility to disease. Unless a hobbyist has and uses some of the really effective but restricted products you are not likely to be able to provide the same level of protection.

Expose a bench of newly repotted phals from the pot



plant trade to disease and many of these mericlones will be very susceptible to diseases that are common. Other clones rarely become infected, even if their neighbor has become infected. Susceptibility to rots can be a genetic characteristic inherent in some clones, especially when they are grown in temperatures higher or lower than the ideal.

Instead of selecting phals based on the best flowers or because they have awards, I have discarded any that continually developed rots. Modern phal clones are all great, so little loss of quality resulted. There were clearly a number of breeding lines that were less susceptible to rots than others. These were selected and kept, while others were discarded with very similar genetic backgrounds.

The great advantage of having such a large supply of inexpensive phals with great flowers is the ability to discard any that do not grow well instead of spending lots of time and space taking care of weak phals. Years ago, phal hybridizers employed this approach and discarded weak seedlings. Now, however, disease control allows growers to mass-produce phal clones with great or unique flowers no matter how difficult the clone was to grow under normal conditions. In the past, I maintained these in my collection, but now have the ability to discard them since similar clones that grow better are available. This is a fantastic time to put together a great phal collection for what would have once cost a fortune.





Orchid Questions & Answers

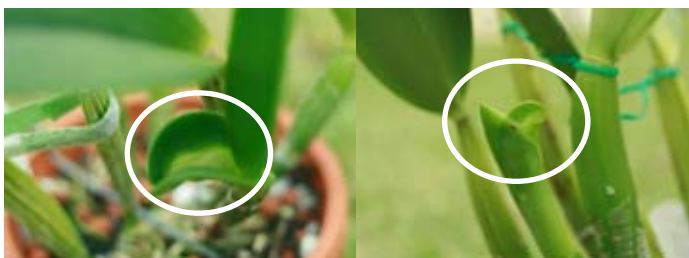
Sue Bottom,

sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q. My plant has these strange leaf deformities. What am I doing wrong?

A. We turned to Fred Clarke for an answer. Fred

believes the most likely cause is weather stress from the very hot summer we had this year. It can also be caused by several other factors like genetics or chemical stress. If it occurs annually, it's genetic; if randomly, it's probably one of the other two.



Q. I know the cold weather will eventually arrive. Is there anything I should do to prepare?

A. Absolutely. We get asked this question enough that we've added a new column to the home page this month "Orchids in November". Here are some things to do this month:

Vandas and Phals – should be in their winter homes now. Shoot for minimum temperatures of 50 to 60°F.

Winter Resting Plants – include the Catasetinae and some Dendrobiums (Nobile, Seminobiles, Callista). These should be separated from your other plants so you can easily reduce the water and fertilizer they receive through Thanksgiving. Try bloom booster fertilizer in the fall to prepare them for the winter. Shoot for minimum temperatures of 40°F.

Prepare Your Other Plants – for their winter home. Give them a bath and clean them up, spray with pesticide if necessary. Plan to protect them when nighttime lows are projected to be 40 to 50° F.

Reduce Water and Fertilizer – gradually until you reach your winter target. Try adding an extra day to your normal watering schedule and reduce fertilizer strength. By winter, you'll have doubled the time between your normal summer watering and will be fertilizing at 1/8 tsp/gal or less, if at all.



Q. What's this I hear about a new website for the Society?

A. Ron Kaufman of the Orchid Digest wrote up the SAOS website in his WebWatch column. We got so stoked that we completely redesigned the [website](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org). If you haven't looked at it lately, you're in for a treat. All the information from the old website has been migrated to the new site, which is much easier to navigate. Enjoy!

St. Augustine Orchid Society www.staugorchidsociety.org

Last issue, I wrote about the North of England Orchid Society, founded in 1897 and one of the world's oldest orchid societies. This time, I decided to examine the other end of the society age spectrum. The St. Augustine Orchid Society in North Florida was established in 2006, but don't let this society's youth fool you. The SAOS welcomed its 100th member in August 2009, and the society web site contains a wealth of information for members and web watchers alike. For beginners, there's a "New Growers" section that provides an introduction to orchids and their care. The excellent "Culture" section has suggestions for selecting orchids and caring for them after they've entered your collection. Articles address the basics of culture as well as how to combat problems and more advanced issues like fertility and the chemistry of water and potting media. And it seems that SAOS members may enjoy photographing orchids almost as much as growing them! The "Photos" section contains hundreds of images captured at various events in 2008 and 2009, depicting happy people and very happy orchids. The SAOS may not have 100+ years of history, but its future and web site look bright indeed!



What's in Bloom in the SAOS



Diac. Chantilly Lace 'Sprinkles' By Denise Henry



Lc. Excellency x B. nodosa 'Splash' By Jack Higgins



Miltassia Royal Robe 'Jerry's Pick' By Bob Martin

Orchid Art by Alfred Ng

Orchids are a big part of artist Alfred Ng's life. In the early 90s during the last recession, he lost his job as a rug designer and decided to follow his dream of being a full time artist. About the same time, he went to an orchid show and was amazed with the many type of orchids and the stunning and colorful blooms. He bought a white Phalaenopsis with an elegant single stem of blooms. The phal inspired him during the three months it was in bloom gave him inspiration and hope. He started to paint his orchids, hoping to capture their beauty and magic. While painting them, all his worry of his uncertain future was forgotten. Every morning, his ritual was to mist it and feed it every two weeks and then work on his art. By winter time his orchid was in bloom again. He was hooked, started to attend more orchid shows and pick up more plants until his window sill was covered with them. Every Christmas morning would have a flower open. It was magical. He is now exhibiting his paintings and the orchids are thriving. <http://www.alfredng.ca/>



White Phalaenopsis Orchid By Alfred Ng



Green Cymbidium Orchids by Alfred Ng



Vanda Alliance Orchids – Orchid Profile

By Susan Taylor, BellaOnline.com

Vandaceous orchids are among the most spectacular of all orchids with brightly colored flowers up to 6 inches or 15 centimeters across. They are one of the only genera of orchids which actually has flowers which are a true blue color and many hybrids have been made to enhance this color. One of the most well known hybridizers of Vandas is [R.F. Orchids](#) in Homestead, Florida. Their site has some excellent pictures of Vanda hybrids as well as species.

In general, they originate in southeast Asia and are warm weather, sun loving plants. Few will grow and bloom well in indoor conditions unless care is taken to expose them to high light by moving them outdoors during summer months. Vandas are monopodial in growth habit or grow from one tip at the top of the plant such as *Phalaenopsis*. After they have attained mature size, side growths can start to appear which will produce plantlets.

There are three distinct types of Vandas: Strap leaf, terete leaf and semi-terete leaf. Strap leaf Vandas have somewhat flat and leathery leaves and require a bit less light than the other varieties. Terete leafed varieties have circular, pencil shaped leaves and require very high light to almost full sun to flower well. Semi-terete plants are generally hybrids of the two varieties and require very good light to flower. Vandas also come in a variety of sizes from giant plants with leaf growth up to 6 feet or 2 meters,



White Cattleya By Alfred Ng

to tiny varieties only about 2 inches or 5 centimeters tall.

But no matter the size, Vandaceous Alliance plants are almost all grown with little or no medium after they reach adult size. Many growers will simply attach the plants to a hook and hang them in the top of greenhouse under a misting system. Others put them in teak baskets with no medium. They are heavy feeders and should be fed year round once a week with good quality all purpose fertilizer with even numbers such as 20-20-20 and flushed once a month with plain water to minimize salt buildup.

Unless you live in a tropical climate where you can leave your plants outside, you will want to consider the smaller varieties such as *Ascocentrums* or *Rhynchostylis* which produce smaller flowers but retain the bright colors of the genus. Another very famous orchid in this alliance is [Neofinetia falcata](#) which is easily grown in windowsill conditions and requires cooler temperatures than most Vandas.



Cymbidium Orchids by Alfred Ng



Pink Orchid By Alfred Ng



Home and Backyard Orchid Growing

Debbie and Bob
Sandy

Bob and Debbie Sandy have it made in the shade...of fabulous oak

trees that are providing a great habitat for growing orchids in their back yard. They are growing all kinds of orchids, phalaenopsis, vandas, cattleyas, dendrobiums, oncidiums, just about anything that strikes their fancy. They've got a lot of shade from the oak trees during the spring through fall growing season so they don't need any shade cloth to protect the plants from the intense summer sun. The dappled light is sufficient for the plants to produce plenty of blooms, as you'll see in these pictures. The canopy thins during the fall and winter months letting in more light to the plants, which can handle the increased light because the temperatures are cooler.



be brought into the shade structure to overwinter. The curtains can be raised during the day and lowered in the evenings so the vandas will get the air they crave but still be protected from the cold air that they loathe.



It's an orchid truism, you never have enough room to grow all the orchids you want to grow. For extra space, you can attach them to 4 x 4's with pot clips or you can attach them directly to your oak tree. Bob came up with an unusual way of doing this. Using a plant ring upside down, he dropped the pot in the ring that would normally stake the plant upright, and then hung the plant from a nail in the tree through the wire that would normally attach to the pot. Ingenious!



Bob has been busy creating different homes for their orchids. He has built a covered shade structure using 4 x 4's in the corners with 2 x 8 ceiling joists and stringers. There is a ceiling fan to keep air moving.

There is corrugated plastic on the top of the structure to prevent waterlogging the orchids during tropical storms and hurricanes.

Debbie has been busy making drop curtains to protect the plants from wind and cool. The curtains are vinyl (it helps that she works with Jeannette Pacetti at Custom Marine Canvas!) The curtains are kept tied up to the top structure during the warm months and then dropped to the ground during cold weather. If it gets cold enough, a little electric heater can be placed in the structure to warm things up.

The orchids get watered by Mother Nature supplemented by hand watering. The slow release fertilizer Dynamite is used primarily with occasional doses of water soluble fertilizer. Their approach to orchid growing is to let nature tend to its own, they don't baby their orchids. They have a set up that will protect their orchids during the weather extremes and allow them to grow naturally the rest of the time. Their approach seems to be working, look at all the blooms!



The vandas have their own home during the warm growing season. They are hung from a rod suspended between posts under the oak trees. There is lots of air that the vandas love so much and the roots look plump and happy. When the temperatures start dropping, the vandas will



SHOW TABLE



Grower Harriet & Mike Wright
Eria species



Grower Harriet & Mike Wright
Paph. Goldollar



Grower Mark Heilman
Neofinetia falcata



Grower Sue Bottom
L. tenebrosa



Grower Dick Roth
C. Chocolate Drop



Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
Bepi. Phoenix



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Ceratostylis retisquama



SHOW TABLE



Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
Pot. Exotic Dreams



Grower Sue Bottom
Blc. Dana Thomas x Lc. Oriental Splendor



Grower Harriet & Mike Wright
Paph. barbigerum



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Coel. rochusenii



Grower Mark Heilman
Paph. spicerianum



Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
L. gouldiana

