



CLUB NEWS



Ernie Gemeinhart

March 1 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Rae Coletti, raenorm@comcast.net

Welcome & Thanks. The meeting was called to order by President Jack Higgins with 64 people present, including new members Rosemarie Leviska, Joshua Jones and Gretchen Hall and 8 visitors. He thanked Jeanette Smith

for our refreshments and reminded members to contribute to "the jar" for the cost of these refreshments.

SAOS Club Business. Jack announced that Sue and Terry Bottom were honored by the Hibiscus Circle and their beautiful orchids and surrounding landscape were shown in the Record. Sue reminded us about the Jax Orchid Show on March 19 and 20th. Club members are asked to help with the show. There were no new motions. Bill Gourley, our treasurer, reminded us that a few members haven't paid their dues and this is the last night to be paid on time. Jack Higgins noted that if you are helping at the Jax Orchid Show, you should contact Lola at 797-2361. The show is located at Post and Riverside. Wendy Thomas, our librarian, reminded us that all members can take out books. There are some very good books on Vandas and a "Growers Supply Catalogue" available. Also the club light meter is available.



Upcoming Events. Sue Bottom said that the Keiki Club would be held at her and Terry's home on the 13th of March. Repotting of orchids and the orchid clinic will be at Ace Hardware on March 5 and again on April 2.

Florida events coming up in February include the Jacksonville Orchid Show on the March 19 and 20. There will be lots of orchids to see and buy!

The SAOS will be putting in a display on Friday, March 18. We need our members to start preparing their orchids, staking the bloom spikes, cleaning the foliage, etc. If you'd like to help in any way, please get in touch with Lola, Sue, Terry, or Gail.

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Upcoming Orchid Events

March

- 4-6 Martin County Orchid Society Show
Martin County Fairgrounds
- 5 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 8 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
TBA
- 11-13 [Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show](#)
Port St. Lucie Community Center
- 13 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners
Repotting and Potting Mixes
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
[6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086](#)
- 19-20 [Jacksonville Orchid Society Show](#)
The Garden Club of Jacksonville
- 25-27 [Naples Orchid Society Show](#)
First Presbyterian Church
- 26-27 [Orchid Lovers of Spring Hill Show](#)
SNPJ Lodge, Spring Hill
- 26-27 [Orchid Society of Highlands County Show](#)
Bert J Harris Jr. Agricultural Center

April

- 2 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 5 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Greg Allikas, [Orchid Works](#)
Pedilonum Dendrobiums
- 12 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Ted Kellogg, AOS Judge
Cattleya intermedia
- 16-17 Annual Flower and Garden Expo
St. Johns County Agricultural Center
- 17 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners
Orchids on a Mount
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
[6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086](#)
- 22-23 [Vero Beach Orchid Society Show](#)
Riverside Park Drive
- 29-1 [Platinum Coast Orchid Society](#)
Cocoa Expo Sports Arena

- 30 Orchids for Beginners, 11 am to 1 pm
SE Branch St. Johns County Library

May

- 1 Orchids by Del-Rei Open House, noon til 4
[4270 Cedar Ford Blvd, Hastings 32145](#)
Orchids, Food & Libations
- 3 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Brian Monk, [Blu Llama Orchids](#)
What Do You Mean it Won't Grow?
- 6-8 [Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show](#)
Egypt Shrine Center
- 7 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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Operations Committee Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com



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SAOS Monthly Program. Our program for the evening was presented by Ernie Gemeinhart. The topic was "Semi Hydroponics". Ernie started growing semi-hydroponically after his son was born when he no longer had the time to pamper his orchids.

He reviewed some of the orchid essentials: Water, humidity, air, light, fertilizer, temperature, pests and repotting. Any change in one cultural element will cause changes to other elements, e.g., increased light in summer increases plant growth necessitating increased fertilizer and water.

Semi-hydroponic orchid cultural consists of three elements, an inert medium, a built in reservoir and limited drainage. Inert medium consists of materials that do not break down such as PrimeAgra, hydroton, small red lava rock and other engineered lightweight expanded clay aggregates (LECA). The advantages of using an inert medium are infrequent repotting because the mix does not degrade, a heavy base for top heavy plants, a system that fully wets the roots as well as cools and provides air to the roots. The medium holds the plant, facilitates air movement and wicks water evenly. To prepare the media, rinse away fines then soak 1 to 3 times to lower total dissolved solids and then soak with a rooting hormone like Rootone.



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



The built-in reservoir consists of a simple clear or translucent pot that is an extra inch or so deeper than you would normally use. There are no holes in the bottom of the pot, but you put two or three small (1/8 to 1/4 inch diameter) holes made close together about one inch from the bottom. You want the pot to be clear or translucent so you can see the water level in the reservoir. There are many cheap sources of pots, Dixie cups, deli containers, etc.

To water, you will fill the pot to the top of the pot with water and then let the water drain from the side holes, and perhaps water a second time. If you are not wetting the foliage, you can water at any time of day. The best water is water low in total dissolved solids, but unless you collect rainwater, the water in our wells and public supplies contain a lot of dissolved solids. As long as the medium stays wet, the lime scale will not plate out on the roots and cause root tip burn. You will water again before the reservoir dries up.



To repot a conventionally grown orchid into a semi-hydroponic pot, you will water the orchid to wet the roots, remove all the organic matter from around the roots, trim the roots so they will fill no more than 2/3 of the pot. Then add 1 inch of medium into the reservoir, situate the plant in the pot and fill around the roots with the medium. You will soak the plant with water for an hour or so, then poke the holes in the side of the pot, put in your plant label and watch it grow. You can top dress with time release fertilizer (and put it in the reservoir) or water weakly weekly at 1/4 to 1/2 the label rates, using a MSU or Cal Mag type fertilizer.

Ernie's presentation was informative and well received. There were a number of converts over to semi-hydroponics joining Harry, the Cymbidium Man, who grows his 2500 spectacular cymbidiums semi-hydroponically.

Meeting Conclusion. Following the program and break, the Best of the Show Table was announced, Paph. Lady Isabel brought in by Courtney Hackney. Fred Keefer concluded our program with his usual entertaining way doing the auction and orchid raffle. We appreciate the enjoyment that Fred adds to our meetings.



CLUB NEWS



April 5 Monthly SAOS Meeting

World famous Greg Allikas will give a presentation on Pedilonum Dendrobiums at the April 5 meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Greg is a world renowned and well published orchid photographer whose work you have seen in the pages of the *Orchids* and *Orchid Digest* magazines and numerous books, some in collaboration with Ned Nash including *The World's Most Beautiful Orchids* and the *Four Seasons of Orchids*. Check out his website at www.orchidworks.com and ask him to bring any prints or books you may be interested in.



Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners Repotting and Potting Mixes

It's that time of year again, time to start the annual repotting marathon. We'll be meeting on Sunday, March 13 from 1 to 3 pm to talk about repotting and potting mixes. We'll talk about the advantages and disadvantages of different potting mixes and how to select the right potting mix for you and your orchid. There will be some cattleyas ready to go under the knife for you to bring home and pamper. Bring a folding chair. We'll meet at Sue and Terry Bottom's house at 6916 Cypress Lake Ct. in St. Aug 32086. Call Sue at 797-4360 if you have any questions.

2011 Dues are Now Due

Dues for 2011 are now due. If you haven't rejoined, act now cause we'll be updating our membership roster soon. Dues are \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a family. You can mail your membership check to SAOS c/o Bill Gourley, 807 Kalli Creek Lane, St. Augustine, FL 32080.

February 13 Keiki Club

Selecting an Orchid

We had 27 new and familiar faces at the first Keiki Club get-together of the year talking about how to select an orchid. Here are some tips:

Choose an orchid that will grow under your conditions given the plant size vs. available space, light requirements vs. available light, water needs vs. your available time. Phals and paphs are good choices for indoor growing where light and space are limited. Minicatts rather than standard cattleyas are good if space is limiting. Avoid vandas unless you can give them the copious amounts of light, fertilizer and water that they require.

Select your plants based on the flower that most appeals to you, but don't stop there. Lift the plant up by its leaves to make sure the plant is well established, if the plant is wobbly in the pot there may be a problem. Look at the leaves for spotting or streaks that may indicate a disease problem. Look at the leaf undersides and base of the pseudobulbs for scale. Look for the plant with the most vigor, most bloom spikes and most leads. If you love the flower but hate the plant, check out our speakers' websites and see if they have a healthy plant of the one you're interested in.

If you're just starting out, buy a large established plant rather than a seedling. If it's a mericlone, you can buy based on the plant label, otherwise buy the plant in bloom so you know exactly what you're getting. If you buy a seedling, look for thickest and biggest leaves and most vigorous growth habit.

Go early to the shows for the best selection. If you have a favorite store to buy from, know what dates orchids delivered so you can get the pick of the litter.

Do you always want a plant in bloom? Buy a blooming plant each month because many orchids will rebloom at the same time each year.

The half price table is a good place to shop for a plant to experiment with if you are thinking about growing a new type of orchid. Always check to make sure the plant is vigorous and healthy and has not languished too long on the half price table. Repot it when you bring it home and bring the plant back to its former glory.



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Final Show Preparations March 19 and 20 JOS Show

If you have a really nice plant that will be in full bloom during the show weekend, you may want to consider entering it into the SAOS exhibit or exhibiting the plant individually for a potential award. To prepare your plant, follow these steps.

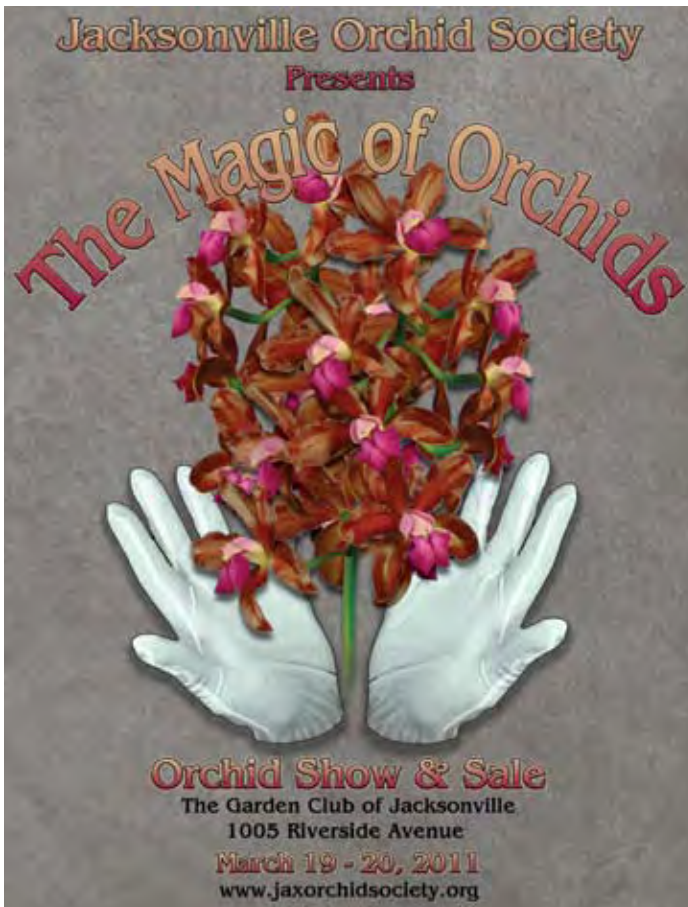
Groom Your Plant. You should remove dead or brown leaves and pseudobulbs from the plant. Trim dead areas from leaves if possible with a single edged razor blade, but not too early or edges will brown. When cutting tips of leaves, be sure your cut follows the basic shape of the natural leaf ending. Make sure it is insect and disease free. Clean the leaves with a mildly acidic solution like lemon juice, sprite, 7 Up, etc to remove calcium build up or other spotting. Remove trash, debris, dead leaves, stems and weeds from the pot along with wires and extraneous staking material. Stake the inflorescence to show the flower to its best advantage and make sure the stake is cut below the flower.

Identify Your Plant. To make sure your plant is properly labeled and to make sure you get your plant back after the

show, some preparatory steps are necessary. Complete the interactive form and email it to the [Plant List Coordinator](#). The Plant List Coordinator will send you a number to identify your plant. You should mark your pot with this number and your name, e.g., with masking tape and a Sharpie pen. Remove or bury the plant tag in the pot so it is not visible above the potting medium, but is there for your future use.

Getting Your Plant to the Show. If you are not going to participate in setting up the exhibit, arrangements will be made to transport your plant to the show. Work with [Exhibit Chair](#) to either arrange for an individual to pick up the plant or bring the plant to a central collection location for transportation to the show. In either case, secure your plant in a carry box with newspapers to hold the plant stationary. The plants must be ready no later than the day before set up.

If you are planning to enter plants in an exhibit at the JOS show, you can download your information packets from the JOS website. Here are the [2011 Show Rules](#) complete with the Show Classes and Award Sponsors. There are also interactive [Plant Entry Forms](#) you can complete on your home computer before setting up the exhibit along with [instructions](#) on how to enter your plants for judging.



Angela Mirro



[Angela Mirro](#) studied art at the Parsons School of Design and developed a career as a textile designer, currently working in the Home Collection of Polo Ralph Lauren. She discovered orchids while walking to art school in New York City, seeing them displayed in a florist's window. The orchids depicted in her paintings came to her in various ways. Many were lent to her while she painted them. She has also travelled to the sites of rare orchids, so they could be conveyed in their natural habitat. Orchids and their interconnection with the natural world needs to be seen, valued and protected. Angela will be teaching a [botanical illustration workshop](#) in Maine this July sponsored by [Eagle Hill](#).



INSPIRATION



Phal. Brother Tom Coffey
'Charlotte' CCE/AOS



Lycaste macrophylla



C. warszewiczii



The Fakahatchee



Kefersteinia koechlinorum
'Denise'

Botanical Illustrations
By
Angela Mirro





Growing Tips for March

Dr. Courtney Hackney,
hackneau@comcast.net
Dept. Biology, Univ. North
Florida

Orchid Immune System.
Over the years, numerous emails have asked about plant

immunity to diseases and pests. Readers tend to think of plant immunity as similar to ourselves or our pets. Our immune system depends on a circulatory system (blood) flowing through our body and the production of specialized cells and compounds that attack and destroy attacking diseases and organisms. Plants do not have a circulating fluid like blood that could carry such disease fighting materials to the site of infection, but they do fight disease.

As many emails have noted, plants survive infections and attacks by insects. How do they do it? Plants have disease fighting mechanisms, but they work in a different way. When a plant is infected by a bacteria or fungus, chemicals secreted by the dying cell alert other cells in the plant to the danger, a Hypersensitive Response. The next cell quickly dies and becomes a physical barrier to the invasion. In death, it may also become hard and unattractive to the invader by producing toxic compounds.

Those who talk to their orchids may not be surprised to learn that plants “talk” and communicate with each other too. When damaged by a disease or insect, plants can release a chemical signal that is transmitted through the air to other plants initiating the production of toxic compounds in leaves and flowers.

Many orchid hobbyists have noted the tendency for new plants brought into the greenhouse to be attacked by insects or disease for the first few months. Afterwards, they recover and do not have any additional problems. Now you know why.

Research is underway to develop ways of stimulating the Hypersensitive Response in plants artificially. A naturally occurring protein isolated from bacteria has been shown to initiate the protective response in plants when applied to leaves. Best of all, it is not a pesticide, but a deterrent.

Spring Stirrings. Everyone I know is really hoping that the groundhog was right this year because it has been a cold winter. Many of the orchids in my greenhouse are telling me winter is over by putting out nice new growths. Phalaenopsis in bloom should also be growing new roots and leaves if they are getting enough fertilizer. Cool nights and warm days are perfect for the growth of most tropical orchids.

How do plants fight bacteria ?

The low humidity, longer days, and more intense light this time of year, means more water is needed. This is perfect, because it allows feeding with dilute organic fertilizers, e.g., fish or seaweed emulsion. These products are great to start the growth cycle because



they have all of the major and micronutrients. Also, be sure you water pots and orchids thoroughly; flushing salts from the roots and pots before hot temperatures arrive. If you use Nutricote (Dynamite) it can be added now, along with the dilute liquid fertilizer. The Nutricote lasts for 6 months, but most orchids prosper from a little spring tonic of fish emulsion. The Nutricote is also heat

activated and does not seem to really kick in until late spring, depending on where you live.

Vandas and other hanging orchids always perk up after they get a little fish emulsion, especially if they have been suffering over the long winter.



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Your Orchids in March

based on Robert Scully articles,
courtesy of the AOS

General Growing Tips. Signs of spring abound with an abundance of emerging flower spikes and buds. The flush of spring growth will follow soon so plan your repotting program which should begin in earnest this month. The best time to repot is right before the new roots start growing so the plants will reestablish quickly. Watch for signs of mites, particularly on thin leaved orchids like the catasetinae and grammatophyllums, and treat any problems promptly.



Cattleyas. Several species flowering now are *C. amethystoglossa* with its large heads of crimson and white blooms, *C. aurantiaca* that delights with clusters of small yellow to orange star-like flowers, *C. skinneri* carrying many clusters of lavender or white blooms or the natural hybrid of these last two *C. guatemalensis*. Soon sheaths will emerge on *C. mossiae* hybrids. Monitor their development so that moisture does not accumulate in the sheath causing bud blast.



Cymbidiums. Flower spikes are starting to develop and should be trained for their best display, although they are

tender and easily broken. Arching or upright spikes display better if trained upward at first growth; some growers place a name tag in front of the developing spike to guide it. Pendulous cymbidiums should be allowed to grow naturally and downward without any type of training.



Oncidiums. *Onc. papilio*, the butterfly orchid, may be putting out the first in a series of many buds that will bloom through spring and early summer. Do not cut the inflorescence because it will continue to produce flowers year after year. Even though *Onc. papilio* has hard leaves suggesting it will tolerate a lot of light (like cattleyas), it is better grown under bright phalaenopsis conditions.



Phalaenopsis. The hybrid moth orchids seem to last in perfection for months. Certain species are starting to bloom like the pink *Phal. schilleriana* and spotted *Phal. stuartiana* that are both fundamental to many modern hybrids. If grown in New Zealand sphagnum moss, make sure the moss does not deteriorate before the flowering season because a healthy root system is important to sustain the many flowers.



CULTIVATION

Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net



Q. From the UK: Please could tell me what is attacking the leaves of this orchid? I have had the plant for a year now and this problem has started to occur over the last few weeks and is now

working its way up the flowering stems. I am wondering whether it is false spider mite.

A. I think you are right, it looks like spider mites. Dr. Robert Cating suspects it is *Tenuipalpus pacificus* that often feeds on the upper surfaces of leaves and creates a pock-



marked appearance from empty and collapsed leaf cells. To confirm, either use a magnifying glass to see them or try rubbing the bottom of the leaf with a white cloth and see if it turns a reddish brown color from the mites. If you are growing inside, just take them to the sink and spray all the leaves, top and bottom, giving the plant a good bath. Then get a spray bottle and add some isopropyl alcohol and dish detergent to it and spray the leaves top and bottom. You may want to repeat this every week or so for a couple of weeks during the winter when the dry heat inside the house favors spider mites. [More information...](#)



Q. From South Africa: I have 3 phalaenopsis orchids. There is a grayish flying insect flying around and crawling underneath the bark. Do these insects cause the roots in the plant to rot? Are the insects attracted to the wetness of the bark or the roots?

A. That sounds like fungus gnats. They are more of an annoyance than a real threat to the plant, but who wants to be annoyed? The presence of gnats, which feed on fungus in the potting mix, indicates your bark has gotten old and degraded and the plants need to be repotted in fresh mix. Phals seem to enjoy being repotted every year after they are done blooming.



Read this excellent [article](#) by Dr. Paul Johnson. For gnat control, the first line of defense would be controlling the wetness of your potting mix. Next Johnson recommends traps (yellow sticky cards that can be hung or inserted into the pot). Then there is Bt or *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a naturally occurring soil bacterium that kills the larvae of fungus gnats, mosquitoes and black flies. It is a very safe product that can be sprayed directly on vegetables to kill caterpillars and you can eat the vegetables the same day.

Q. At one of our meetings, our speaker had a home remedy to clean orchid leaves. Do you remember what it was?

A. There are lots of household items you can use to clean orchid leaves. You can clean the leaves with a mildly acidic solution like white vinegar, lemon



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juice, pineapple juice, Sprite, 7 Up, etc to remove calcium build up or other spotting. Dip a soft cloth in whatever cleaning solution you choose and gently wipe the leaves. Some people use milk to shine the leaves, but be sure to wipe the excess milk off so you don't get fungus or mildew growing on the leaves.



Q. From Tanzania: I brought a beautiful orchid back from Singapore two weeks ago. A few days later the lower leaves of the plant changed to yellow, one at a time and fell off. I have repotted the plant in a slightly bigger pot using charcoal medium, but the problem continues and now even the leaves under the flower. Please help!



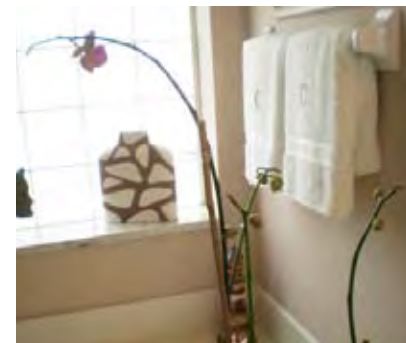
A. Your orchid is a phalaenopsis type dendrobium orchid. It's not unusual for them to drop their leaves if they get too dry or too cold. Given the radical change in environment from the number of miles this plant has travelled in the last few weeks together with repotting while in bloom, it would be a surprise if it didn't lose a few leaves.

The good news is these dendrobium orchids are incredibly resilient and yours will recover from this short term blip. Keep it in nice bright light, when the nighttime temps are above 60 F find a place outdoors where it gets very bright but not direct light (acclimating it slowly to avoid sunburn) and water and fertilize it copiously when it is growing and then less water and fertilizer in winter while it rests. It will reward you with blooms in the next blooming cycle.



Q. About a month ago I got 3 phalaenopsis and have tried to be diligent with their care. I watered them once so far and put one of them on the bathroom sink counter 4 feet from a southern exposed window. It was doing great until this past weekend when the flowers began to drop. There are 3 or 4 stems and some still have buds on them but they are dropping too. Help!

A. That plant looks very healthy so I don't think there is any problem with the way you are taking care of it. It's either one or both of two things, the normal life of the flower and/or the plant being moved around. On the one flower spike where there are no buds just open flowers (and some with dropped flowers), you don't know how long this flower spike was blooming before you got it. They'll normally bloom for 2 or 3 months, but if it began to bloom in December, it may be the end of its normal cycle. Once all the flowers and buds are gone from this flower spike cut the flower stalk back to the base of the plant and let it gather strength for blooming next year.



Then there's the flower spike with just flower buds. Flower buds can drop for a variety of reasons (and sometimes no reason that you'll be able to confirm). You'll hear that buds will drop if they're too dry or too cold, and that's undoubtedly true, but even more true I think is they resent being moved and sometimes drop buds in response. If you were the phal growing in this cozy greenhouse then got thrown into a box, then trucked to a store, and then set out and not treated too well until someone brings you home to give you some TLC, well you might drop a bud or two too. Maybe you'll be able to stabilize it and get the remaining buds to open. Try to keep the plant oriented at the same angle to the sun and hope for the best.



CULTIVATION



Orchid Adventures

[Pine Ridge Orchids](#) in Homestead

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

We took a side trip to [Pine Ridge Orchids](#) when we went to the Tamiami show. Terry and Barbara Glancy have approximately 1 trillion orchids in the greenhouse that is roughly the size of a football field. They grow phalaenopsis, paphiopedilums and catasetinae. It would be an understatement to suggest that I blew my orchid budget, even though they offer wholesale prices to the retail market. Terry Glancy contributed to my downfall as we searched the rows and rows of paphs for stonei and delenatii crosses (we only did this to give Terry enough time to take pictures).



Greenhouse - Pine Ridge has quite an elaborate set up. The water treatment system is very sophisticated because the raw well water is so high in dissolved solids (around 600 ppm calcium). First, the water is run through a softener to exchange the calcium and magnesium for sodium, then through a 15,000 gpd reverse osmosis unit and finally a charcoal filter, making the water virtually the same as distilled water. With the low dissolved solids content it has no buffering capacity so they have to add sodium hydroxide when they fertilize to avoid the fertilizer making the water too acidic.



During the winter, Pine Ridge fertilizes with a mixture of seaweed and fish emulsion, no soluble fertilizer is added. In the summer, they plan to alternate the organic fertilizers with soluble fertilizers.

For cold weather, there is a closed under bench water circulation system. Water is heated in a boiler and then circulated through the dual pipes under each bench where radiant heat keeps the plants warm. Metal fins are attached to the circulation lines for more efficient transfer of heat. The water is then returned to the boiler for reheating.

To try to keep inside temperatures from rising too high, there is both a water wall and misting system. The water wall functions traditionally, where exhaust fans pull air through pads where water is dripped through (like a radiator) so evaporative cooling chills the air leaving the pads. There is also a microfogging system that will emit a fine mist of fog at a certain temperature (or every 15 minutes or so when it's above this preset temperature). Low concentrations of copper are added to the fogging water to prevent botrytis and bacterial problems from occurring.



Potting Mix – The potting mix is unique. It is a combination of stalite, coconut husk, spongerok, New Zealand bark, sphagnum moss, and shredded rubber tires and is used for all plants. The rubber tires are said to impart small amounts of sulfur to the roots.



Orchids – There were 8 gazillion orchids in the greenhouse of which around 5 gazillion were blooming. We brought back some beautiful phals for Jeanette Smith and Watson Realty in thanks for their graciously hosting our meetings each month. I was looking for multifloral paphs. There weren't any in bloom because the week before, Pine Ridge shipped all the spiking paphs up to the New York Botanical Gardens for their spring show, 72 boxes in a tractor trailer. Still, I found 10 new paphs I couldn't live without and had to reorganize my greenhouse to accommodate them. Can't wait for their first blooms!



Who's Who

Celeste Burns

When you see the lady smiling, you're probably looking at Celeste Burns. She and her husband, Richard Sexauer moved to St. Augustine 2 years ago after living for 34 years in Wellsboro, PA, a small town in the mountains. Bet they're glad to be here this winter and not have to shovel snow! They have three children and six grandchildren. Celeste is a retired professor and administrator, but mainly a professor who got stuck with administrative jobs at Mansfield Univ. They became fascinated with orchids after moving here. She also likes to sew, knit, read and spin besides the gardening. Celeste says Richard is better at gardening and orchids, but don't you believe it. Celeste is also in the Garden Club of St. Augustine, and does very well with both design and horticulture. Her favorite orchid at the moment is the cattleya, and they're just getting started with a dozen. They grow them outside during the summer and keep them in an upstairs bedroom during the winter. Celeste does family research as a hobby and just recently found an older brother living in England that they thought had died as an infant. He sure was surprised to find out he has 2 brothers, 4 sisters and a huge family!



plants, preferring cattleya types and dendrobiums. Judy has two cats and since cats love window sills, they have to love the orchids that she keeps there during the winter. During the summers they go outside, but she is looking to find a better way of keeping them in the winter, maybe in her garage. Up in Ohio, she grew them under lights in the basement during the winter. Maybe she'll try the lights in the garage here if someone in the Orchid Society can give her some suggestions on how to heat her garage. Ask away, Judy! She loves to travel, and is an avid reader of mysteries and any book concerning orchids and gardening. She'll answer to either Emily or Judy, but family calls her Judy and that's how she signed up with us, so welcome to our family!



Judy Davis

Emily (Judy) Davis is one of the few living in the area who was actually born in Florida. Judy came back to Jacksonville in 2009 after spending most of her adult life in Cincinnati working for Procter and Gamble. She first started growing orchids in the 90s and became a member of AOS when her aunt gave her a membership. She saw and

loved orchids originally while visiting her aunt and uncle in the Panama Canal Zone back in 1972. She has about 50

Beth Strate



Beth lives in Ponte Vedra with her husband Billy, her 300 orchids, 2 timber wolves – Chaos & Breeze, & a German Shepherd. And, she tells me, they all sleep on the bed at night. That folks is a bed-full!

Originally from Palm Beach, she moved with her family to Jacksonville, then Cleveland, TN, and Atlanta, GA where she attended Georgia Military Academy. A job with Stone Container Corporation took her to Texas, and when she retired she moved back to FL and Ponte Vedra where she has been for the last 15 years. Her husband Billy is Vice President of Strate Welding Supply, and does sport fishing charters in his spare time.

Beth was given her first orchid by her friend Pam of Pam's Plants, a company specializing in horticulture for offices etc. Well, obviously one wasn't enough, and her collection has steadily grown to where it now numbers over 300, the majority of which she grows indoors year round. Her husband asked her "if we had to evacuate, and you could only take one orchid, which would it be?" Well, I don't think he has yet to receive a straight answer, but Beth did allow that she is most fond of her Fredclarkeara After Dark. She loves to grow the miniature orchids. Beth is also a member of the Jacksonville Orchid Society, and very active in it as well.



SHOW TABLE



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Coel. huettneriana



Grower Courtney Hackney
Paph. sanderianum x primulinum



Grower Joshua Jones
Cym. NOID



Grower Gil & Ellen Roehrig
Phal. schilleriana



Grower Courtney Hackney
Den. aggregatum



Grower Sue Bottom
Den. nobile



Grower Sue Bottom
Mo. Leopard Drops



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
Bc. Diadem



Grower Courtney Hackney
Paph. Lady Isabel



Grower Wendy Thomas
Blc. Young Kong 'Sun16'



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Slc. Tutankhamen 'Pop' SM/JOGA



Grower Courtney Hackney
Blc. Mem Grant Eichler



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Honey Bunny

