

# SAOS HAPPENINGS

**Tuesday, May 1 Monthly Meeting**

**BRASSAVOLA NODOSA AND ITS HYBRIDS**

**Vern Bloch, prior nursery owner**



Vern Bloch is returning to St. Augustine to present on *Brassavola nodosa* and its hybrids. Known for its elegant flowers and evening citrusy fragrance (to attract a nocturnal moth for fertilization), it is lovingly referred to as “lady of the night”. Their range in the wild includes Mexico, the Caribbean, Venezuela and Peru. Found in low lying coastal regions, generally below 1600 feet, they grow on either trees in lowland tropical forests and mangrove swamps or on exposed rocks and cliffs near the shore.

A special orchid in anyone’s collection, *Brassavola nodosa* is one of the easiest orchids for beginners.

They bloom multiple times a year and come in a wide variety of colors, producing flowers that tend to last fairly well.



Vern can only carry about 20 different hybrids when he does a program, but you can preorder from his extensive listing, attached, that was previously emailed to members. Most plants are in 4 inch pots, blooming size or near blooming size, with prices about \$12 each, a few under and a few rarer ones over. Those who make preorders will not be required to buy the plants if they don’t like the plant or the price.

## **B. nodosa**

Bring your flowering orchids to exhibit on the Show Table. We will have our normal raffle at the end of the meeting. And as always, guests are welcome.

**Where: Watson Realty, Conference Room by Back Parking Lot 3505 US 1 South, St. Augustine**

We normally meet the first Tuesday of each month. The meeting begins with a plant sale and closes with a plant raffle where members can expand their collections. It’s fun and informative for beginners and experienced growers. Join us, visitors and guests are always welcome.



## **Plant Clinic**

The first Saturday of the month from **February through October**, SAOS members will be at Ace Hardware on US 1 South to talk with you, answer questions and help you repot orchids.

 [Here's a video of a repotting clinic!](#)


**Date and Time: Saturday, May 5, 2018 9am-1pm**

**Where: Ace Hardware, 3050 US 1 South St. Augustine 32086**

## KEIKI CLUB

## ON SUMMER VACATION

It's time for our summer vacation. Keep watering and fertilizing your plants, and watch for pest and disease issues. If you have any questions or problems, SAOS members are available at the repotting clinics at ACE Hardware on the first Saturday of the month all summer long. The Keiki Club will reconvene in October to talk about fall preparations and the winter cold hardiness of different types of orchids. We'll have field trip opportunities to the Gainesville Orchid Society Show and EFG Orchttoberfest. Then it will be time for our orchids to rest while we celebrate the holidays.

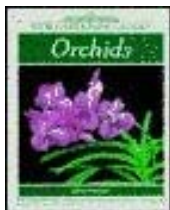
Keiki Club is for our beginning orchid growers. Meetings start with a short presentation on a timely orchid culture topic and then it's open for discussion on any and all thoughts and questions. Lots of hands-on experience under the watchful eyes of more experienced growers. Check our website for more Keiki Club information.  [Here's a video of one of our get togethers.](#)

## KEIKI KORNER - from Orchid Mentor Suzanne Susko

Well, I've spent several days repotting my overgrown plants into new bark mix. The results are beautiful, but I've also spent a day picking tiny splinters out of my hands. Ouch! There is a simple solution to this painful problem. Check out your local \$ store for a package of 18 oz. plastic picnic cups. Stack several together – I use three. Now carefully cut an oval starting from the rim; cutting down toward the bottom; and returning to the rim. You have created a soil scoop. If you want to invest in something more durable, do an internet search on bonsai soil scoops. There are lots to choose from and the scoops will save your hands from nasty splinters. Happy Growing!

## In the SAOS Library

SAOS members have access to orchid books, videos and equipment to help inform and educate. Select your desired material from the [current library list](#) and let SAOS librarian Penny Halyburton know. She'll bring your selection to the next meeting. [librarian@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:librarian@staugorchidsociety.org)



### ORCHIDS: Kew Garden Guides, Joyce Stewart

An excellent primer for the beginner that covers in layman's terms cultivation, propagation, pests and diseases. Almost half the book is devoted to an A-Z listing of recommended species and hybrids for various conditions.

**St. Augustine Month by Month** [May in St. Augustine](#) Summer is right around the corner. Now is the time to maximize growth and develop the plant strength and food reserves needed for good flower production. Larger plants typically produce bigger and better flowers than smaller ones, so resist the urge to divide your plants just for the sake of having more plants. Recycle your clay or plastic pots but be sure to sterilize them first along with any wire products. Do not reuse potting mix or drainage material.