

## CLUB NEWS



Fred Keefer leads off SAOS summer auction

### July 1 Monthly SAOS Meeting

By Lola Stark

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Heinz at 7:20. Since it was auction night, we had no formal program. However, we did have about 60 people present, including 45 members, 13 newcomers and one new member, welcome Phyllis Cope! Mike thanked Sue Bottom and Maria Yessian for the refreshments. He also announced that we have a table next to the welcome table with Inoculaid (a quart for \$15); Dr. Martin Motes "Florida Orchid Growing – Month by Month" (\$15) and SAOS T-shirts (\$15) for sale.

After some discussion about SAOS getting 'Not for Profit' status, we voted to accept the new bylaws and then elected Paul Jones and Dick Roth as Directors at Large to fill out our Board of Directors (according to officials in Tallahassee, we will need to add a third at the next meeting).

The Keiki Club will be meeting at 1 pm at Marv and Jan Ragan's Greenhouse at 126 Wild Orchid Lane, Orange Park on July 20. Paul will send out an email to coordinate the caravan for the trip, or check the website for arrangements.

Kaycee Heinz and Lola Stark manned the welcome table and gave out bidding cards for the auction. Fred Keefer, our auctioneer, did a fabulous job auctioning off 40 plants that we had for auction. The plants were provided by Fred with some donations from Mike and Harriet Wright, and we grossed nearly \$1500 (raffle and auction proceeds are used to fund the library and our speaker programs). The only regret we had was that we didn't have more plants! A great time was had by all. Following the auction, President Mike spoke about our show table and Terry Bottom took pictures of all the plants which may be viewed on the web site. Rebook mark the site, it is now [www.staugorchidsociety.org](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org).



Ellen, Vivienne and Gil preview auction plants





Grower  
Paul & Teddy Jones

Terry Bottom

Wils. Golden Afternoon 'Rich Yellow'

## Upcoming Events

### July 2008

- 20 Keiki Club Greenhouse Tour  
Jan & Marv Ragans Home  
Setting Up an Orchid Exhibit  
Wild Orchid Lane, Orange Park

### August 2008

- 3 Coalition for Orchid Species Symposium  
Miami
- 5 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting  
Conservation of Guatemalan Orchids  
Presented by Marv and Jan Ragan

### September 2008

- 2 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting  
25 Secrets of Orchid Growing  
Presented by Jamie Lawson
- 27-28 Ridge Orchid Society Show  
Lakeland

### October 2008

- 3-5 Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show  
Minnreg Hall, Largo
- 7 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting  
Orchids of Mexico  
Presented by Duncan Bass
- 18-19 Gainesville Orchid Society Show  
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

### November 2008

- 1-2 Brevard County Orchid Society Show  
Melbourne Auditorium
- 4 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting  
Water Quality and Orchids  
Presented by Dr Courtney Hackney

### December 2008

- 2 St Augustine Orchid Society Xmas Party

## What's New in the Library

We now have a light meter for use by SAOS members. You can borrow the light meter from the library and check out light levels in your growing area to see if you have too much or too little or whether there are other areas you can use to grow orchids. It is a terrific resource with instructions for its use. Check out the article Bringing Your Orchid into Bloom on the culture page of the website for light levels required for commonly grown orchids.

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@bellsouth.net
Secretary AOS/Orchid Digest Rep	Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	Bill Gourley wgourley@bellsouth.net
Directors at Large	Paul Jones trjones_@yahoo.com Dick Roth rhroth405@aol.com
Exhibit Committee Chair	Kaycee Heinz kgheinz@bellsouth.net
Librarians	Betsy and Haley Bastian n1ghtm00n@hotmail.com
Membership Committee Chair, Roving Reporter	Gail Marshall gwpb@aol.com
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net bottomt@bellsouth.net
Operations Committee	Jeanette Smith



## August 5 Monthly Meeting

Jan and Marv Ragan of MAJ Orchids in Orange Park will provide a presentation about conservation efforts in Guatemala originally presented at the 2008 World Orchid Conference in Miami at our August 5 monthly meeting. This is a magnificent Power Point presentation about the native orchids and their habitats by Fred Muller, a professional photographer who has dedicated himself to conservation efforts in Guatemala. Guatemala is a small country in Central America known for its biological diversity. The ecosystems are threatened as elsewhere by the loss of the original forests, the habitat to more than 750 species. He is promoting in situ orchid conservation by doing research in natural reserves located in different ecosystems, such as the mountain forest, the tropical humid forest and the cloud forest developing eco tours as a tool to conserve and finance this research. Included in the presentation was an example of the lengths a photographer will go to get his close-up. Fred is shown balanced precariously half way up a tree complete with tripod. MAJ Orchids will bring orchids for sale at the meeting.

### Check out the Website

[www.staugorchidsociety.org](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org)

by Sue Bottom

Our website is in a constant state of flux, so if you haven't checked it lately you are in for a treat. These are the major features of each page:

**Home Page** – gives general information about the club along with the programs for the next monthly meeting and Keiki Club get together. Changes at the SAOS are also given. This month we also have links to:

- the resources available in the library
- SAOS business card you can print on your computer
- Carter and Holmes calendar you can download as wallpaper for your desktop
- Information on voting for the program Fred Clarke presents when he returns in October

**Forum** – there is a link to the Forum on the home page and the members page. This is an underutilized resource where SAOS members can ask and answer questions or discuss whatever strikes their fancy

**Newsletter** – links to all the 2008 and 2007 newsletters are provided with a brief description of the monthly program and pictures of 2008 speakers.



## St Augustine Orchid Society

Established in 2006 for Growing Orchids in North Florida

[Home](#) [Newsletters](#) [Show Table](#) [Culture](#) [Events](#) [Library](#) [SAOS](#) [Members](#) [Links](#)

### Home



**Monthly Meetings.** The St Augustine Orchid Society meets on the first Tuesday of each month at Watson Realty, located at 3505 US 1 South in St Augustine, St Johns County. Come to the Conference Room of Watson Realty by the back parking lot. The meeting begins with a plant sale at 7 pm followed by a presentation by a commercial orchid grower or society member at 7:30. Members bring their orchids for display on the monthly show table. The meeting closes with a plant raffle and auction where members can expand their collections. It's fun and informative for beginner and experienced growers. Get directions, just click get directions to here on the hyperlinked page and put in your address. Visitors are always welcome. If you decide to join after coming to a few meetings, membership forms and information are available.

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**Keiki Club.** The Keiki Club meets at members homes to allow more personal interactions than are possible at the monthly meetings. It provides an opportunity to view how other members grow their orchids and to ask question in an informal environment. Visitors and guests are always welcome! We have increased the meeting frequency to monthly during the spring and fall growing seasons and will meet quarterly in the summer and winter.

### SAOS Home Page

**Show Table** – links to pictures from 2008 meetings, pictures of the show table plants brought to meetings, pictures of members plants awarded by the AOS in 2008.

**Culture** – lots of orchid cultural information, like:

- articles written by members, the newest being Haley's article on the Catasetinae based on Fred Clarke's presentation, Terry's Greenhouse Alternatives presentation to SAOS and Sue's Bringing Your Orchid into Bloom presentation to EPIC
- links to two sets of monthly checklists prepared by Ned Nash of the AOS and Dr Martin Motes from Florida Orchid Growing

**Events** – a listing of upcoming orchid shows and events, SAOS monthly programs and speakers and programs planned for the Keiki Club.

**Library** – entirely new page added to the website shows the contents of library and describes the procedures for borrowing library resources:

- All books and videos in the library are categorized, and an image and description of the book is shown, if available
- The periodicals Orchids and the Orchid Digest with the start date
- Light meter with link to instructions

**SAOS** – The page outlines the organization of the SAOS, its officers and directors and standing committees.

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Continued from page 4

## St Augustine Orchid Society

Library Resources Available to Members

Home Newsletters Show Table Culture Events Library SAOS Members Links

### Library

The St Augustine Orchid Society has a lending library available for use by its members. Resources include books, DVDs, periodicals and equipment. Haley and Betty Bastian are the SAOS librarians and they will bring a selection of the more popular books to each meeting along with recent issues of Orchids and the Orchid Digest. If you wish to borrow an item from the library, please email our librarians in advance so they are sure to bring it to the meeting. You have a month to enjoy any item you check out of the library and you are expected to return that item at the next meeting unless you make alternative arrangements with our librarians in the unfortunate circumstance that you misplace or lose an item, you are expected to pay the replacement cost. The library is a great resource for all of us. We are dedicating a portion of our income from plant raffles and auctions to fund library purchases to keep improving the number and variety of information sources we offer. If there is a particular book, DVD or other item you believe the library should acquire, please advise our librarians so they can add it to our priority purchase list.

#### BEGINNER GUIDES TO ORCHIDS



**All About Growing Orchids**  
Orcho's All About Series  
Rick Bond, Barbara Ferguson  
This practical guide contains the information you need to bring 120 orchids into bloom in a windowsill, under lights, or in a greenhouse.

**Gardening with the Experts**  
Philip Tomlinson



**Growing Orchids is Fun: Simple Facts About Growing Orchids**  
Albert P. Hollingsworth

**Handbook on Orchids**  
Brooklyn Botanic Garden

**Handbook on Orchid Culture**  
American Orchid Society

**How to Grow Orchids**  
Sunset Books

#### GENERAL ORCHID CULTURE

**The Complete Book of Orchid Growing**  
Peter McKenzie Black, Wilma Rittershausen

**Florida Orchid Growing - Month by Month**  
Dr. Martin R. Moles



**Home Orchid Growing**  
Rebecca Tyson Northern  
Whether your garden is a windowsill, a basement, a greenhouse, or a plot of land, *Home Orchid Growing* is the only reference book you will ever need to cultivate one of nature's most varied and fascinating plants.

**The International Book of Orchids**  
P. Francis Hunt



**Orchids**  
Greg Allikas, Ned Nash  
A very attractively illustrated large format book, which goes through the main groups of the plants, giving their history, cultivation and descriptions of the various types.

**Orchids and Their Cultivation**  
David Sander



Terry Bottom

Shomb tibicinis 'St Augustine' HCC/AOS

## AOS Florida North Central Judging Center

By Sue Bottom

At the urging of Fred Clarke, Terry and I took a few orchids to be AOS judged at the Florida North Central Judging Center in Orlando. We were thrilled to come home with two awards. While Terry was off photographing Leu Gardens, I was an observer on one of the judging teams and learned that there are two immediate questions the AOS judges ask when evaluating an orchid for a possible award:

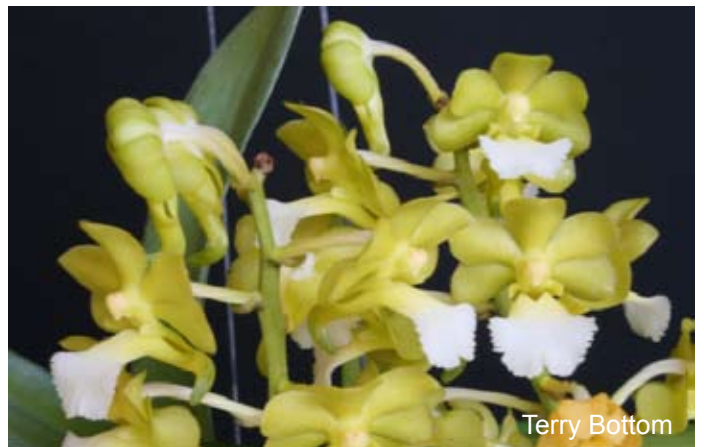
- Is this orchid an improvement on its parents? They look at the previously issued awards for a given plant and try to determine if the size, form, color, etc. is an improvement on its forbearers.
- Take away the color and what have you got? I clearly am very motivated by an orchid's coloration, while the judges try to look beyond the color to focus on its form, size, symmetry, etc.

SAOS Library webpage

**Members** – This page will ultimately contain a picture and email link of each member of the SAOS along with a thumbnail bio sketch.

**Links** – This page contains a myriad of links to:

- all Florida orchid societies with web sites, check out the East Everglades Society Link for a great resource
- information links to intergeneric hybrid abbreviations, species pictures, parentage searches and more
- all the SAOS speakers with websites, shown with their names and logos
- other great commercial grower websites...and potential future SAOS speakers!



Terry Bottom

Rhynchorides Thai Noi 'St Augustine' AM/AOS



## Orchid Q&A from the SAOS Forum

Where Members Share Experiences

**Q.** If I suspect an orchid is getting too little or too much light based on the color of the leaf, should I expect the leaf color to change after I have moved the plant to a new location?

**A.** Yes. If your cattleya leaf is a beautiful lush green, it needs more light. The leaf of a cattleya should have a slight yellowish cast and after the leaf hardens (about 3 months) should be as hard as cardboard. A leaf showing lots of red pigmentation is indicative of one getting great light but if the entire leaf darkens to a dark purple, or the leaves are really yellow, the plant might be getting too much light and would have to be moved or shaded. You should see changes in leaf colors within 2 to 4 weeks of adjusting the light the plant receives. Avoid moving a plant into substantially more sun too quickly, or having water on the leaf during the bright midday sun, both of which can cause sunburn, which will appear as a scorched area fading to a dry, brown sunburn scar that will be present as long as the plant has that leaf. The SAOS has a light meter for use by members. Email Haley or Betsy to reserve it for the next meeting (or make other arrangements to pick it up) so you can determine how intense the light is in your growing area during the course of the day.



Potinara Buranas Beauty 'Burana' HCC/AOS

**Q.** I have a Potinara that has 5 new leads all about 5-7 inches long that bloomed in April. I have been excited about the new growths on this plant but just noticed that 3 of the leads have a yellow/gold band near the surface of the potting mix. This almost looks like the sheathing (skin) around the sheath. It is very tight. Everything else looks OK but the other catt type plants are not showing the same condition. Should I be concerned?

**A.** Maybe. If you have 5 new growths, you are doing just about everything right! If the paper sheathing is gold but is tightly attached to the pseudobulb, not holding water and the lead is firm, there is no problem requiring action on your part. If there is any evidence of a place where water can accumulate, you have the potential for the new lead to rot. To prevent this, remove any paper sheathing that could hold water by peeling it back and away from the lead. If there is any softness in the lead with black or gray discoloration, you should be concerned that the rapidly progressing pythium or black rot is attacking the plant requiring immediate action on your part. Pythium is most prevalent during the hot summer months. It starts as a discoloration that can go from the roots up or the leaves down. If pythium is suspected, you must sanitize the plants by cutting away the infected tissue and then apply Subdue, if you can locate a source of this expensive fungicide.



Too little light



Light is just right



Too much light



# Who's Who

## Fred Keefer

SAOS has been fortunate indeed to have commercial grower and auctioneer extraordinaire Fred Keefer as a charter member. It was Fred's generosity in our formative months that made our raffle table possible, providing the initial stake for our treasury. We couldn't have done it without him. A bit of history: back in 1985 in Ft. Lauderdale, a friend got interested in orchids and Fred said, "If he can have them, why can't I?" – He started with 3 phals, 1 catt and a phaius. Two years later, still a hobbyist, he had 2,000. He eventually moved to Melrose, FL to become a partner in Wacahoota Orchids and then on to Hastings where he currently operates Orchids by Del-Rei. His personal favorites are species or anything weird, different and unusual. Most of his orchids come from Hawaii, India, the Philippines, and Thailand, where he rode an elephant on his last trip. Orchids by Del-Rei is recognized for good orchids and great prices. He will meet with you by appointment for a personal tour, or you can attend one of his great orchid parties held a number of times a year.



## Marv Ragan

Not many people can say they're happiest in the jungle, but Marv Ragan can. He first became interested in orchids back in 1965 when his wife Jan gave him an Lc Britannia for Valentine's Day. His subsequent 27-year career in the Navy created the opportunity for world travel, and the trips to South America, Australia and the Philippines provided him with jungle-trekking, orchid-seeking experiences. Marv, by the way, loves snakes and relates being thrilled to have come across a boa constrictor as big as himself. He and Jan opened MAJ Orchids in 1969, and though they retired from the show circuit in 2003, they still run their business today. And what a business, indeed! Marv is a grower, botanist and world recognized taxonomist and estimates his collection to be somewhere in the range of 20,000 plants, specializing in catts and encyclias. Marv is an AOS Judge (1969) and besides SAOS, he is a member of the Jacksonville, South Florida and Central Florida Orchid Societies and some Australian and Venezuelan societies as well. Though he may tell you differently, there is very little Marv Ragan does not know about orchids.



## Jan Ragan

Little did Jan Ragan know that giving her husband Marv a light lavender orchid (Lc Britannia) for Valentine's Day in 1965 would be the beginning of a life-long love affair for both of them. Having met in Los Alamedas, California, their dating involved fishing trips – a precursor of what was to come – and then some. Jan worked in an electronics plant winding coils for electronic equipment. She became a Navy wife and while Marv was on duty, she maintained the home base and raised their children, mainly in Orange Park, FL. where they've lived for the past 41 years. Not one to be left behind, their 45 years or marriage have been filled with treks for both of them into the jungles of South America and the Philippines. Always a team, she and Marv opened MAJ Orchids in 1969, and Jan ran the booths while Marv judged AOS shows. Today, while they're both retired from the show circuit, Jan takes major responsibility for the repotting of their (are you ready?) twenty to thirty thousand plant collection, housed in two greenhouses. Jan became an AOS judge in 1969 and is active in the St Aug, Jax, S Florida and Central Florida Orchid Societies. Any question you might have about 'what should a GOOD orchid look like' should be directed to Jan. Count on it. She'll know.



## Lola Stark

In the role of SAOS Secretary, charter member Lola Stark has been our official historian since our society began in 2006. She first became interested in orchids in 2003 when she just happened to show up at Art's Nursery for Orchid Day. She and husband Chuck, an avid vegetable gardener, turned a carport from Sam's into a 10' x 20' greenhouse that holds her present collection of over 250 plants – vandas being the favorite. Having heavily-treed acreage (rather than a yard), Lola grows just about every shade plant imaginable and tucks her orchids into select high-light spots. Far from a gardening beginner, Lola is a National Garden Club Horticulture Instructor and an NGC Accredited Master Judge. She is a Life Member in both the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs and was installed in the FFGC Hall of Fame. A St. Augustine resident for 25 years, in her past life she was a Communications Officer for the Navy at the Pentagon and then traveled with Chuck (also Navy) almost everywhere around the world



# RAFFLE & SHOW TABLE

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Terry Bottom

Grower Mike & Kacyee  
Bulb psychoon



Terry Bottom

Grower Celia & Harry McElroy  
C hardyana



Terry Bottom

Grower Celia & Harry McElroy  
Blc Emily Elizabeth



Terry Bottom

Grower Dick Roth  
Den unicum



Terry Bottom

Raffle Plant  
unknown catasetum



Terry Bottom

Raffle Plant  
Lc South Esk 'Catherine'



# SHOW TABLE

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Terry Bottom  
Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz  
*C harrisoniana*



Terry Bottom  
Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz  
*Phrag Noirmont*



Terry Bottom  
Grower Sue Bottom  
*L purpurata* var *carnea* ('Labio Grande' x 'Fresa')



Terry Bottom  
Grower Sue Bottom  
*C dowiana* var *aurea*



Terry Bottom  
Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz  
*Stanhopea tigrina*



Terry Bottom  
Grower Sue Bottom  
*L tenebrosa*

