

CLUB NEWS



Michael Sinn

January 6 SAOS Meeting

Lola Stark,
seacuter@bellsouth.net

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by President Mike Heinz. He welcomed all the members for the new year and Lola Stark announced that we had four visitors and three new members: Shirlee Labree, Penny Halyburton and Michael Rourke. Mike thanked Jeanette

Smith and Barbara Conrad for the

Hospitality Table. Gail Marshall let us know that Shirley Berglund was home from rehab and doing well. Our suggestion and comment box is on the welcome table along with applications to join AOS and the Orchid Digest. He asked that everyone go to the Show table and vote for their favorite.

Gail Marshall, nomination committee chairman read off the slate of officers for the new year and asked for nominations from the floor. There were none, so Fred Keefer made the motion that we accept the slate as read. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The officers for the 2009-2010 year are: Mike Heinz, President; Sue Bottom, 1st Vice President; Vivienne Rowe, 2nd Vice President; Lola Stark, Secretary; Bill Gourley, Treasurer; and Terry Bottom, Paul Jones and Dick Roth, Directors. Thanks were given to Kaycee Heinz for the great job she did as Exhibit Chairman with regrets that she feels she cannot continue; and congratulations to Jack Higgins who has volunteered to take her place.

Dues for the 2009-2010 year are now due and Bill Gourley will gladly accept them. At the welcome table, SAOS sells both Inoculaid and the Motes book on growing orchids in Florida. Please see Dick Roth about either.

On January 17, the Keiki Club will meet at the Bottom home for a program on 'Staking your Orchids' with Harriet Wright. This is the chance to ask any questions new and old growers have about their own plants.

There will be several orchid shows this month. Jan 17-18 at the Fort Lauderdale War Memorial building for the Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society Show and Jan 31-Feb 1, the Tamiami International Orchid Fest will be held at the

Sunshine Pavilion of the Fair Expo Center in Miami. Lots of orchids will be on sale at both these shows. Our next display will be at Jacksonville, March 21-22.

Our program for the evening was by Michael Sinn of Canaima Orchids of Palmetto, Fl. He spoke to us about the different cattleya species available in various habitats in Venezuela. He brought some of them with him for members to purchase. He spoke about *C. gaskelliana*, *C. jenmanii*, *C. lawrenceana*, *C. lueddemanniana*, *C. mossiae*, *C. percivaliana*, and *C. violacea*. All of these species are native to Venezuela. Michael showed us on a map of Venezuela where each was native; the scenery and plants were fabulous. The most common species found here are *C. lawrenceana*, *C. lueddemanniana*, and *C. mossiae*. If you look up any of these species for their bloom time, remember that these plants are all grown where there is no winter so the bloom time may be two to three months different. Of those species mentioned, *C. percivaliana* is most tolerant of conditions, but the smell is not so good! *C. mossiae* lasts the longest and *C. jenmanii* the most fragrant. *C. mossiae* is the national flower of Venezuela. All these species were located in the middle to late 1800s. Some natural habitats are quite hard to get to because of the lack of roads.

Following a short intermission, we had our raffle and auction and the meeting was adjourned at 9:15. The Member's choice from the Show table was Daisy Thompson's Paph. spicerianum and Daisy also won the grand prize from the raffle which was (B. Little Stars x Bc. Maikai) 'Hawaii'.



2009 SAOS Officers, L-R, Lola Stark Sec, Mike Heinz Pres, Viv Rowe 2nd VP, Dick Roth Dir, Sue Bottom 1st VP, Paul Jones Dir, Terry Bottom Dir, Bill Gourley Treas.





Upcoming Events

January

- 16-18 Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show
War Memorial Auditorium
- 17 Keiki Club, Staking Your Orchid Flowers
1-3 pm, Bottom Residence, 797-4360
6916 Cypress Lake Ct, St Aug
- 23-25 Manatee River Orchid Society Show
Manatee Civic Center
- 30-1 Tamiami Int'l Orchid Festival
Sunshine Pavilion, Fair Expo Center, Miami

February

- 3 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting
Central American Orchid Tour: Costa Rica and
Panama
Presented by Shelton Thorne, American Group
Travel
- 7-8 Venice Orchid Society Show
Venice Community Center
- 14-15 Boca Raton Orchid Society Show
Safe Schools Training Institute
- 27-1 63rd Miami International Orchid Show
Sheraton Mart Hotel & Convention Ctr

March

- 3 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting
Vanda Hybridizing and Culture
Jim Sabetto, Former Owner Tropic 1 Orchids
- 7 Master Gardeners & SAOS Members
Q&A, Repotting & Problem Plant Clinic
Ace on US 1, 9 am to noon
- 13-15 International Orchid Festival
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Miami
- 15 Keiki Club, Repotting & Problem Plant Clinic
Mounting Orchids Demonstration
1-3 pm, Bottom Residence, 797-4360
6916 Cypress Lake Ct, St Aug
- 20-21 Englewood Area Orchid Society
United Methodist Church
- 20-22 Port St Lucie Orchid Society Show
Port St Lucie Community Center
- 21-22 Jacksonville Orchid Society Show
Garden Center
- 27-29 Naples Orchid Society Show
United Church of Christ
- 28-29 Orchid Society of Highlands County Show
Ag Civic Center, Sebring

April

- 4 Master Gardeners & SAOS Members
Q&A, Repotting & Problem Plant Clinic
Ace on US 1, 9 am to noon
- 7 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting
The 25 Best Orchids I Have Seen in the Last 3
Years. Greg Allikas, Photographer,
www.orchidzone.com
- 22 ? Keiki Club – Water Quality and Orchids
At Courtney Hackney's
- 25-26 Vero Beach Orchid Society Show
Riverside Park

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	Terry Bottom, bottomt@bellsouth.net Paul Jones, trjones_99@yahoo.com Dick Roth, rhroth405@aol.com
Exhibit Committee Chair	Jack Higgins jacktravel2003@hotmail.net
Librarians	Betsy and Haley Bastian n1ghthm00n@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 Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com





February 3 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Shelton A. Thorne of American Group Travel will give a presentation on orchiding in Costa Rica and Panama at the February 3 meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. His presentation features Central American orchids as they are grown in private estates, botanical gardens, collections and the Central American Orchid Society Show.

American Group Travel is owned and operated by Shelton Thorne whose 30 years in the business together with his love for gardening and especially orchids yields the perfect combination for a travel group specializing in the beautiful foliage of Costa Rica. There are 3 main tours to Costa Rica every year. Costa Rica is a small country, but it offers such a diversity of scenery, climates, and a wide variety of flora and fauna. This country has dedicated twenty percent of its territory to national parks and wildlife preserves. These preserves range from cloud forests to tropical beach, from volcanic craters to jungle swamps and island waterways.



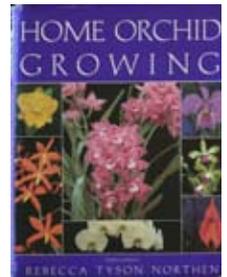
January 17 Keiki Club Meeting

Harriet Wright is going to do a program on 'Staking Your Orchids' to teach us staking techniques for the best presentation of our flowers at the January 17 meeting of the Keiki Club. She will demonstrate some basic techniques and then you will practice staking the blooms on live plants. We'll meet on Saturday afternoon from 1 to 3 pm at Sue and Terry's house at [6916 Cypress Lake Ct.](#) Call 797-4360 with any questions.

What's New in the Library

Home Orchid Growing is a comprehensive reference book that covers basic orchid care and specific information on more than 650 orchid plants. The first chapter is a brief history of orchid growing as a hobby and profession and the second discusses the basic habits and structure of orchids.

The next four chapters cover various aspects of the culture of adult *Cattleya* orchids. *Cattleyas* are frequently used as the starting point for discussions of orchid care since they are the most widely grown type of orchid. These chapters contain the bulk of the information about the requirements for successful orchid growing.



Three chapters follow that offer information on orchid genetics and breeding, sowing orchid seeds, meristem culturing, and taking seedlings from the flask to blooming size.

Eleven chapters give more in depth descriptions of specific orchid families and their native habitats and requirements for home growing. Each type of orchid is described in detail with examples given of species plants that are available to the home grower.

One of the most valuable chapters covers Problems, Diseases and Pests. Black-and-white photos do a nice job of giving examples of these problem areas. Prevention and treatment suggestions are given in great detail. The final chapter goes into greenhouse basics and other possible growing areas in your home environment.

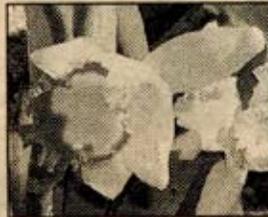
This book stands the test of time and is still a valuable addition to the library of any orchid hobbyist. The orchid profiles are excellent and contain information on enough orchids to keep a beginner busy for years.



How it all started 3 years ago.

Into orchids?

Paul Jones would like to know if there are other orchid growers in the area who might like to organize an orchid society.



Purpose of the group would be to learn more about orchid culture.

Anyone interested may contact Jones at 827-9751, after 6 p.m.



CLUB NEWS

	2008	2007	2006
INCOME			
Plant raffle	\$ 1,885.00	\$ 1,845.00	\$ 332.00
Plant auction	4,637.00	1,566.00	305.00
Silent auction	568.00	57.00	-
Dues	1,140.00	844.00	510.00
Supply sales	740.75	375.00	-
Donations	-	50.00	200.00
Awards & Prizes	40.00	-	-
Book sales	480.00	-	-
Shirt sales	420.00	-	-
Name tags	246.00	-	-
Other	-	-	-
Total Income	\$ 10,156.75	\$ 4,737.00	\$ 1,347.00
EXPENSES			
Plant auction	1,245.68	642.42	-
Plant raffle	258.60	147.50	-
Silent auction	361.99	-	-
Speaker fees	1,450.00	600.00	-
Speaker meals	415.90	173.00	-
Speaker lodging	-	76.29	-
Speaker travel	308.00	-	-
Shows/displays	287.73	434.94	-
Cultural Supplies	612.58	553.38	33.50
Library	398.51	-	-
Books for sale	400.00	-	-
Office supplies	199.15	105.26	164.30
Copy costs	24.85	-	-
Web site	96.53	105.75	-
Shirt cost	248.04	-	-
Building maintenance	334.85	-	-
Insurance	199.36	-	-
Name tags	258.11	-	-
Other	772.67	524.73	100.94
Total Expenses	\$ 7,872.55	\$ 3,363.27	\$ 298.74
NET INCOME	\$ 2,284.20	\$ 1,373.73	\$ 1,048.26

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Growing Tips for January

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

Days are finally getting longer now that we have reached the winter solstice. Many orchids use a lengthening day as a cue to begin the flowering process. Greenhouse growers can sit back and let Nature do its thing, but those growing indoors need to provide an increase in day length in the next month to initiate spring flowering.

While we typically think that winter is a difficult time for our orchids, remember that many tropical orchids come from relatively high elevations and so the cooler nights and days are ideal for them. Miltoniopsis, Lycastes, Odontoglossums, Phragmipediums, and numerous other genera that suffered from the heat for much of the year now thrive. Some orchid growers include cool growing orchids in their collections and provide lots of shading or even air conditioning in summer to provide cooler temperatures. Even many orchids that do well in summer thrive when the stress of high temperatures is relieved.



'Tiny Frills' Epidendrum schomburgkia
by Rose Ganucheau

Cool days and even cooler nights slow down plant metabolism (activities in the plant that use energy). When light is hitting orchid leaves the temperature inside the orchid leaf is much higher and the plant can regulate that temperature to maximize photosynthesis even in cooler conditions. At night, however, cooler temperatures also slow down an orchid's metabolism allowing your orchid to retain and store more of the energy it captured during

photosynthesis. If you have a cattleya that grows new pseudobulbs in winter and summer, winters bulbs are usually thicker as a result.

Unfortunately, orchids from very warm, tropical environments, such as phalaenopsis and vandas, may almost cease growth if temperatures remain below 60° F for long periods. Remember that there are exceptions to every rule and hobbyists that have added species to their collections need to consult the orchid literature to



Oncidium Popoki 'Mitzi' by Rose Ganucheau

determine the natural conditions for a species and do their best to maintain those conditions. While most phals like it warm, >65° F, some of the miniature species and their hybrids, e.g. *Phal. parishii* and *lobbii* do better with cooler nights.

Cymbidiums are a group that suffers during hot summers, but grow extremely well in winter. They will even thrive outside in the southern part of the country, as long as they are not allowed to freeze. Once spikes are observed, however, move them inside or somewhere where they can be maintained above 50° F to avoid damage to sensitive buds.

Most cattleyas need to be kept on the dry side now. It is OK if there is some shriveling of the bulbs, but the leaves should not shrivel too. A dry period is especially important for cattleya species to ensure quality blooms and to maintain a healthy root system. One common mistake is to substitute misting for watering. Misting can help maintain higher humidity in winter, when low humidity can be a problem, but plants still need a thorough soaking just less frequently. If you do mist, use deionized or distilled water to prevent salt buildup on leaves.

Phalaenopsis and most of the popular intergeneric oncidiums are in bloom this time of year and require more moisture than cattleyas. They too, are growing more slowly and care is required to prevent rotting roots.



Orchid Questions & Answers

Where Members Share Experiences
Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q. I noticed this black stuff growing on my vanda. Do you know what needs to be done about it?

A. That looks like Guignardia Leaf Spot caused by Guignardia species, a fungal disease that attacks vandaceous and cattleya orchids. It can start on either side of the leaf as tiny, dark, purple, elongated lesions that run parallel to the direction of the veins. These lesions elongate into purple streaks or diamond shaped areas. To manage the disease, sanitize the plant by cutting out severely infested leaves with a sterile cutting tool like a single edged razor blade. Reduce leaf wetness by altering your watering habits or timing to make sure the leaves dry rapidly. A fungicide that will help prevent recurrence is mancozeb (sold as Dithane or Protect). Captan and or Clearys 3366 would be even better if you can find them. A regular preventative spraying program can protect your plants from the pests and diseases that are always present in the outdoor environment.



Q. What is the best way to apply pesticides and fungicides to my plants?

A. That all depends on how many plants you need to treat. If you have just a few, get a 1 qt spray bottle, mix up the chemicals for 1 quart and spray both sides of the foliage and pseudobulbs. A quart of isopropyl alcohol works well, even better if you add a tablespoon of summer oil to it. You can insert the spray attachment into the alcohol bottle when you're using it and then cap it when you're done to prevent it from evaporating. A toothbrush or Q tip will help finish off the little buggers. If you need a gallon to do the job, get a hand sprayer that you can pump up to pressurize and mix a gallon of your toxic soup and use the pressurized spray to hit all exposed surfaces. If you have a need for

2 or more gallons, try an Ortho hose end sprayer. You can mix liquids or powders in it and use the force of the water pressure to cover all the exposed surfaces. Here's a nifty calculator. You'll want to use the highest volume in the sprayer and the highest application rate to get the best mixing of your chemicals. If you want to make 2 gallons, add the chemicals needed to make 2 gallons of mix, fill up the reservoir to the 16 oz line and set the top applicator rate to 8 oz. That means you will have 16 oz of mix that will be applied at the rate of 8 oz/gal which translates into 2 gallons of sprayed liquid ($16/8=2$). For 4 gallons of mix, fill the reservoir to 32 oz and use the same 8 oz/gal application rate ($32/8=4$). For 8 gallons of mix, fill the reservoir to 32 oz and use 4 oz/gal application rate ($32/4=8$). Remember to add spreader sticker (or dishwashing soap) for better adhesion, cover your skin to prevent exposure, spray from upwind directions, wear a cartridge respirator if you must inhale fumes and shower immediately after spraying.



Q. I am having a hard time finding a balanced fertilizer like a 20-20-20 or 15-5-15. I have been to the big box stores, where else can I try?

A. If you want a local source of orchid supplies, your best bet is to visit SAOS member Janet Skinner over at the Ace on US 1. If she doesn't have it, she'll make arrangements to order it. The Ace website lists several Miracle Gro products that should work. The Miracle Gro All Purpose fertilizer has a 20-20-20 formulation, even better might be the Miracle Gro All Purpose that has a 24-8-16 formulation.



Blc. 'Golden Tang' by Carol Wichenhiser-Schardt



What's in Bloom in the SAOS

Paul Jones, trjones_99@yahoo.com

We've got pictures of blooming orchids from Bill Roth, Harry McElroy, Viv Rowe and Bill Gourley. Email me the pictures you take of your plants in bloom and be sure to include a brief description of how you grow them and be sure to include a brief description of how you grow them and any other interesting tidbit or anecdote about your beauty you wish to share. Almost every orchid has a story to tell and a history behind it!



V. lamellata remediosae grown by **Bill Roth**

Bill Roth's Vanda species: Bill has shared several more pictures of his amazing Vanda species collection with us. Bill is a SAOS member living in Orlando, so we see him on field trips and at Keiki Club get togethers. He is an extraordinary orchid grower, specializing in many rare and unique Vanda species. There is a good chance that when Bill shares his bloomers with us it will be the first and maybe also the only time we will ever get to see those particular plants in bloom. We thank you Bill, for sharing your special talents and plants with us. Bill, of course, is our own Dick Roth's son.

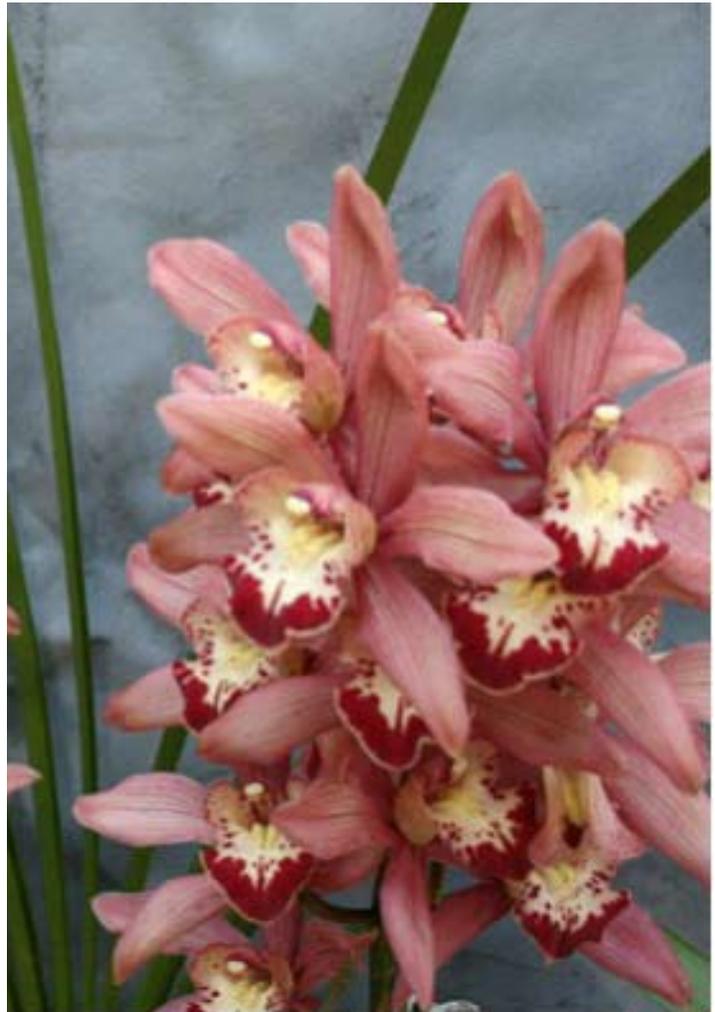
Harry McElroy's Cymbidiums and Stanhopea: Harry has shared some pictures of his marvelous Cymbidiums and a rare Stanhopea species with us this month. Although Harry is too modest to ever state it, he is indeed one of the foremost Cymbidium growers in the U. S. We are indeed fortunate in the SAOS to have Harry with us and perhaps we can twist his arm to speak to us at an upcoming meeting on Cymbidium culture.



Stanhopea platysteras
Grown By **Harry McElroy**



Plectrelminthus caudatus Grown By **Bill Roth**



Cymbidium Kusoda Beauty Grown By **Harry McElroy**



Viv Rowe's plants: Viv Rowe has shared several pictures of her beauties with us. She has a beautiful Ascocenda and a Dendrobium hybrid that she got at an SAOS function. Viv has a perfect outdoor growing area at her lovely home in St. Augustine South and makes the most of it as these pictures attest.

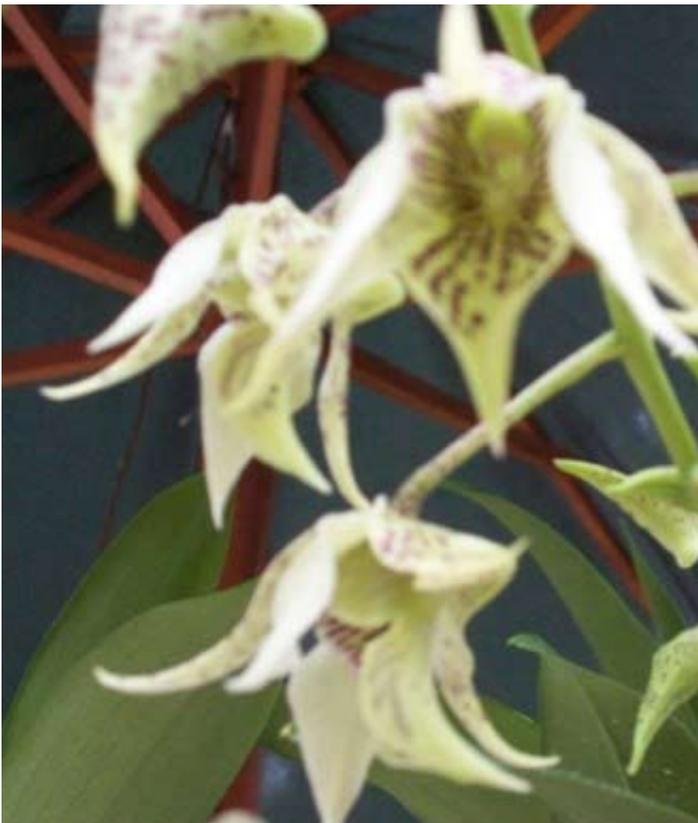


Ascda. Princess Mikasa Grown By Viv Rowe



**Brassavola Jimminey Cricket
Grown By Bill Gourley**

Bill Gourley's plants: Here is what Bill has to say about his lovely Cattleyas: The orchid on the right is the first bloom for me of C. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' AM/AOS which I purchased in a tiny pot at Lowes last November. The 2 flowers on the left is the first bloom for me of a plant I purchased from Fred Clarke a couple of months ago. It is C. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' AM/AOS x L. milleri 'Dr. Koopowitz Red' HCC/AOS. It's interesting to see the influence of Kodama in this mini-cat. B. Jimminey Cricket is a cross of B. digbyana and B. nodosa. I got it in bloom at the SAOS Christmas auction and it has another spike close to opening and a third spike forming. All of this in a 4" pot filled with a 12" tall orchid.



**Den. Stephen Batchelor x Den. Roy Tokunaga
Grown By Viv Rowe**



C. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' AM/AOS x L. milleri 'Dr. Koopowitz Red' HCC/AOS Left., C. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' AM/AOS right, Grown By Bill Gourley





Celia McElroy

Celia McElroy's career in accounting will come in handy if husband Harry needs help keeping track of his collection of a couple thousand plants, mostly cymbidiums. Celia and Harry met in Bataan in the Philippines, her original home, where she worked for the government and he was with Sikorsky Helicopter. Her

orchid interest began when they moved to California aka Cymbidium Heaven. They relocated to Connecticut and then finally to Jacksonville where they've lived for 20 years. For the last ten, Celia has worked for the Jacksonville Federal Credit Union, and she has been Treasurer of the Jacksonville Orchid Society for the past four years. As to the orchids, she considers herself more of a 'supporter of Harry' than a grower herself, since she doesn't have the time to devote to a collection that size. She loves the plants for their beauty and brings them into the house when they're in bloom, and with two greenhouses packed to the rim, she almost always has something in a pot or vase on her tables. While Harry grows orchids, Celia grows everything else in the plant and vegetable families. And that's her first passion, gardening and working in the yard, which she hopes to do a lot more of after retirement in the next few years.



Harry McElroy

Cymbidium man, Harry McElroy, has seen more of the world than most of us has even read about. Born in Arkansas and raised in Idaho, he did an 8-year stint with the Air Force as an ICBM launch crewman. After that, as a civilian Field Engineer with Sikorsky Aircraft, a 20 year contract with the Marines took him to Italy, Spain,

France, Norway, Holland, Germany, Puerto Rico, Viet Nam, the Philippines, Dominican Republic, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, and he was rattling them off so fast I missed a bunch more. One could say he was one of the Rolling Stones. While in the Philippines, he met and married Celia, who helps on occasion with his orchids while doing her own plant and vegetable gardening. Harry first became interested in orchids back in the early 1980s. Starting with catts, phals and dens, he bought one, then another, and we all know how it goes from there. He traveled too much to have a bunch, but the ones he did have moved with him and Celia, some crossing the Mojave in a moving van. He still has a few he collected while in the Philippines. His interest in cymbidiums started in California, but he didn't really

become a fanatic until moving to Jacksonville. Harry loves the study of orchids, and with cymbidiums, which generally like colder temps, the secret is to learn exactly which ones will do well in hot places. He met the challenge and now has over 4000 plants, about half cymbidiums and the rest catts, paphs, phrags, dens and phals. The cymbidiums are in a 20' x 40' shade house year round, everything else in a 20' x 40' greenhouse. His favorite cymbidium is Cym. Kusuda Beauty. Harry was a former VP of the JOS and is Show Chair for the JOS show in 2009. If you have a cymbidium question, Harry has the answer with the blue ribbons to prove it. And a nicer guy would be hard to find.



Shirley 'Daisy' Thompson

If you see someone with a phalaenopsis blossom in her hair, chances are it's our own Daisy (Shirley) Thompson. It's her signature trademark. Both natives of St. Augustine, she and husband Pierre, who digs holes beautifully, have 5 children, 8 grands and 5 great grands. Daisy's day career was as an executive secretary with

the former Exchange Bank of St. Augustine though she was equally successful singing on WFOY radio and as a cabaret performer in fine restaurants. She is involved in many community activities – Flagler Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Board of Trustees (over 30 years), Blood Bank of SJC (over 30 years) and the Flagler Hospital Tranquility Garden from its inception. She's been a Master Gardener for 25 years, since the first ever class in SJC. She's a Master Flower Show Judge, Begonia Judge, wildflower enthusiast and garden consultant. Daisy first became interested in orchids while doing Master Gardener Clinics at Home Depot. Being around orchids there, she decided she simply must have some. Then five years ago she heard Mary Noble speak and her fate was sealed. Today she has about 50 or 60 in her constantly-growing collection – 17 in her living room – a perfect situation as her house is mostly glass. She also has a 4' x 6' greenhouse to handle overflow. This fall she went to the Slipper Conference and brought back 'a bunch' of orchids, the highlight being Paph. spicerianum. Though not sure what it was when she bought it with one bud, it now has 7 blooms and has never stopped since the first one opened over two months ago. Needless to say, she's thrilled. When not up to their ears in St. Augustine business, the Thompsons do a lot of world travel and US travel in their RV. An interesting note, Daisy and Pierre have attended every single Flagler College New Year's Eve Ball since the beginning – and always with a phalaenopsis in her hair.



SHOW TABLE



Terry Bottom

Grower Courtney Hackney
Blc Goldenzelle x Lc. Enid Moore



Terry Bottom

Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
Tuberolabium quisumbingii



Terry Bottom

Grower Dick Roth, Blc. Goldenzelle
'Lemon Chiffon' AM/AOS
x C. Dubiosa 'Scully'



Terry Bottom

Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Bulb platyrnachis



Terry Bottom

Grower Mike & Harriet Wright
Pths. monocandia



Terry Bottom

Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
C. Lulu x C. Landate



Terry Bottom

Grower Bill Gourley
V. Pachara Delight 'Pachara'



SHOW TABLE



Terry Bottom

Grower Sue Bottom
Pot. Elegant Dancer 'Rouge'



Terry Bottom

Grower Shirley Thompson
Paph. spicerianum



Grower Dick Roth
Colm. Wildcat 'Golden Red Star'



Terry Bottom

Grower Courtney Hackney
Slc. Final Touch 'Mendenhall'



Terry Bottom

Grower Viv Rowe
Paph. Yerba Buena x Paph. Golden Day



Terry Bottom

Grower Courtney Hackney
Blc. Triumphal Coronation 'Seto'

