

CLUB NEWS

September 7 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Lola Stark,
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Jose Exposito

Welcome & Thanks. The meeting was called to order by President Jack Higgins with 58 people present including six guests and new member Ed Atkins, who joined at

Hagan Ace last Saturday. Jack thanked Jeanette Smith for the refreshments and reminded members they should contribute a dollar when they go to the food table to help defray costs! Gail Marshall asked for September Birthdays. Those that have their birthdays in the meeting month are eligible to receive a free raffle ticket.

SAOS Club Business. Sign up for brass name tags at the Welcome Table if you are interested, they are \$8.00 with a strong magnet. We have potting mix and pot clips available at the side table each meeting. Jack reminded everyone to vote for their favorite on the show table by placing their ballots in the silver box. Dick Roth counts the ballots and announces the winner at the end of the auction.

Upcoming Events. The Keiki club will meet at Sue and Terry's to discuss pests and diseases on Sunday, September 19 from 1-3 pm. Bring any problem plants that require diagnosis and a folding chair. Hagan Ace will have the repotting clinic on October 2 from 9-1. Check the website for the calendar of events. There is usually an orchid nursery, meeting or show wherever you go in the US of A.

SAOS Monthly Program. Our hilarious and knowledgeable guest speaker was Jose Exposito of Soroa Orchids in Homestead. He has been growing orchids for 30 years and until 1992, hybridizing and speaking about Phalaenopsis. During Hurricane Andrew in 1992, he lost both his home and his nursery and had to start over from scratch, vowing like Scarlett O'Hara, "As God is My Witness, I will never give another lecture on hybridizing".

Instead, Jose talks about how best to take care of and nurture orchids, to mimic Mother Nature's growing conditions for each individual kind of orchid. Orchids are epiphytes. That means they naturally grow on trees. Their stems and flowers dry out quickly after a rain, but the roots, that are covered with a spongy layer called velamen, remains damp for a while to nourish the plants. The plants like bright, filtered light and moving air. Jose suggested grouping all the similar type orchids together and then decide how best to grow them.



Jose wows & entertains SAOS members with his unique blend of showmanship & knowledge

The most important care for your orchids is when and how much to water and feed them. He has categorized the folks who water into three groups: (1) the owner who waters every Saturday regardless of how much it has rained, how cold and cloudy it is, etc., (2) the owner who forgets to water; and (3) the owner in marriage counseling, who, every time his wife tells him "we have to talk", tells her he has to go water his orchids, thus becoming the guy who

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Upcoming Orchid Events

September

- 18-19 Ridge Orchid Society Show
Lake Mirror Center, Lakeland
- 19 Keiki Club – 1 to 3 pm
Problem Plant Clinic
Orchid Pests and Diseases
Sue and Terry Bottom's home
[6916 Cypress Lake Ct., St. Aug 32086](http://6916CypressLakeCt.com)

October

- 2 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
[3050 US 1 S](http://3050US1S.com) in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 2-3 [Gainesville Orchid Society Show](http://GainesvilleOrchidSocietyShow.com)
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
- 13 Changed Date to Second Wednesday**
October SAOS Meeting – 7 pm
Roy Tokunaga, [H&R Orchids](http://H&ROrchids.com)
- 16-17 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show
Community Center Vet Memorial Park
- 24 Keiki Club – 1 to 3 pm
Fall Preparations
Getting Ready for Winter
Lola Starke's Home
[3136 Country Creek Ln, St. Aug 32086](http://3136CountryCreekLn.com)
- 29-31 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show
Old School Square
- 30-31 [Brevard County Orchid Society](http://BrevardCountyOrchidSociety.com)
Fall Orchid Fair
Melbourne Auditorium

November

- 2 SAOS Meeting – 7 pm
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
Venezuela's National Flower
- 6 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
[3050 US 1 S](http://3050US1S.com) in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 21 Keiki Club – 1 to 3 pm
Reading Your Plant Tag
Venue to Be Determined

December

- 11 SAOS Christmas Auction, 7 pm
Moultrie Trails Clubhouse

www.staugorchidsociety.org



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



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Club members Lillian Baker & Esther Whetstone buy some of Jose's orchids to add to their collections

always overwaters his orchids. Orchids need to be watered when they begin to dry out. How much you water depends on the potting mix, whether or not you are using plastic containers and how much air movement they get! All are factors on how fast they dry out!

Most orchids prefer to be under potted, that is, they like their roots crowded so they prefer smaller pots. They are heavy feeders, but their fertilizer should be given to them in ½ the dose recommended by the manufacturer and often. Jose does not feel you should water before you fertilize. He feels that if you do that, the plants will be saturated and the fertilizer will just run off. He recommends watering 2 days before fertilizing. The velamen around the roots protects them and when you water you should see the velamen turn green in color as it absorbs the water.



Jack Higgins has a winning raffle ticket

It's been found that orchids do not need the phosphorus in the middle number of fertilizers that read 6-6-6 or 10-10-10. So look for one that is 15-5-15 or some such with a low middle number. What they do need is calcium and magnesium and this may be added to the fertilizing water.

Jose also recommends that when you spray for insects that you spray the bottom of the leaves as well as the top as insects are usually not found where the wind and rain can

wash them off, but underneath where they are protected from the weather. He suggested using alcohol and water mixture on scale; hydrogen peroxide on crown rot; and Neosporin or cinnamon on bacterial problems. For spider mites, he suggested using some cooking oil on the leaves and he uses sodium bicarbonate as a bactericide. And though we've always been told to spray in the morning, Jose sprays about 6 PM, giving the plants time to dry before nightfall because spraying in the morning can cause burning of the leaves as the sun warms up.

He suggested growing phals with the leaves horizontal to the edge of vanda cages, but slightly tilted to prevent water from staying in the crown, with a little moss in the cage. Another little tip he suggested was to keep your plant growing in the same direction by marking your shelf and the plant to show how it was sitting on the bench when you feel it necessary to move it for some reason. He feels plants don't like their direction changed.



Nice blooming orchids heading home

Meeting Conclusion. Following the program, we had a short break for refreshments. Dick Roth announced Marv Ragan's Blc. Miya's Radiance was the favorite show table orchid. Fred and Christie did their level best to keep the raffle and auction under control with laughter and fun!



Jose bids the SAOS adieu as he departs for the long drive back to the Redlands





Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners

September 19th, 1 to 3 pm

The Keiki Club is back! We'll be having a problem plant clinic on Sunday, September 19th from 1 to 3 pm. Sue Bottom will give a short talk on orchid pests and diseases: how to identify, prevent and control problems. Bring any plants you have questions about to the meeting. We'll see if we can diagnose and treat any problems you may be having. We'll also have the laptop tuned into the Pests and Diseases section of the website so you can learn to diagnose problems. Bring a folding chair. We'll meet at Sue and Terry Bottom's house at [6916 Cypress Lake Ct. in St. Aug 32086](http://www.bellsouth.net). Call Sue at 797-4360 if you have any questions.



October 13th Monthly SAOS Meeting

Mark Your Calendars

October Meeting Date Has Changed

Roy Tokunaga of H&R Nurseries

We had to change our meeting date from the first Tuesday to the second Wednesday of the month so we can welcome Roy Tokunaga of H&R Nurseries in Hawaii to St. Augustine. Roy will be talking about flared cattleyas at the October 13th meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Roy will be traveling a long way and talking to several orchid societies while he is state-side. Check out his website and make a list of any plants you want, send the list to Sue Bottom at sbottom15@bellsouth.net and she will forward a consolidated list of preordered plants to Roy.



Roy Tokunaga at the Redlands Show

Roy Tokunaga was recruited out of college by Ernest Iwanaga to set up an orchid lab, where he spent the next seven years honing his skills at cloning and germinating orchids. At about the same time, Harry Akagi was growing bromeliads, and in 1981, together Harry and Roy established an orchid lab in Waimanalo, giving birth to H&R Nurseries. Today, Roy is credited with 27 years of experience in hybridization with several thousand hybrids delivered. Most of his work has been in the dendrobium and cattleya alliances. He is a long time member of the Honolulu Orchid Society and an accredited American Orchid Society judge since 1990. Roy confesses to having one vice, the game of golf. Nora and Roy Tokunaga have two children, Lori and Kevin.





Lc. Acker's Spotlight 'Pink Jewel' By Terry Bottom



Stanhopea oculata by Terry Bottom



Rhy. coelestis By Terry Bottom



Cygd. Jumbo Canaan by Wolfgang Obst





Growing Tips for September

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

Whether you grow on a window sill, under lights or in a greenhouse, the start of fall brings the realization that cold weather is around the corner. Will all of those fantastic acquisitions you got last spring and summer fit into your growing space once cold weather arrives?

Like it or not, this is the time to evaluate your orchid collection and decide if there are some orchids that are not living up to your expectations. That does not always mean that they are poor orchids. Every hobbyist has growing conditions and culture habits that favor some orchids, but not others. If you have an orchid that does not grow for you, consider it a space-making candidate. If it is a clone or a plant that has nice flowers, find a good home for it. It is not hard to find a new hobbyist that will be excited to get it. Often, the same orchid that would not grow for you will thrive for someone else.



Purge unhealthy plants from your collection

There are also some orchids that are prone to disease and are destined to eventually die, no matter what you do. Save yourself years of grief and toss it. When you do, you will join the company of many an accomplished orchid grower who fill garbage cans with orchids that did not live up to expectations. Some of these throw-away orchids are genetically inferior, while others had the bad fortune of contracting a disease at some time in their life and could just not grow out of it.



Orchids with genetic inferiorities should be trashed

My own collection is definitely filling every inch of growing space. Many seedlings moved up into larger pots this year. Some of my favorite clones were divided this summer and I always keep an extra piece of my favorites. Eventually, these will find a good home, but it is always a good idea to hold on to a division of your favorites for a year or two after the plant is divided just in case one division does not thrive after repotting.

The hardest orchids to part with are those that grow extremely well, but just do not produce high quality flowers. An orchid that grows well and flowers every year is a keeper. When all of your orchids grow like weeds, consider keeping those orchids that both grow well and produce high quality flowers.

Be sure that your definition of a good bloom is not being influenced by judging standards. If you like an orchid or enjoy its fragrance regardless of its status in the judging arena, keep it.

One of the great aspects of local orchid clubs is that one can see all kinds of orchid species and hybrids. It is the great diversity found among orchids that keep orchid hobbyists' attention year after year. It is not necessary, however, to possess all of them, which is easier said than done. If you find something you really like, discuss its culture with the owner and decide if this is something that you can grow under your conditions.

Most clubs have nice libraries with books on just about every type of orchid and hybrid. Find out everything you can about an orchid that piques your interest. If you take some time before you buy that unusual orchid, there will not be as many orchids to discard in future years. Nothing is more discouraging than having a window sill full of orchids that will just not grow and flower under your conditions.



Your Orchids in September

based on Robert Scully articles,
courtesy of the AOS

General Growing Tips. The welcome transition to fall is upon us. You can expect the emergence of buds on many orchids from the cattleyas, evergreen dendrobiums and vandas to cycnoches, catasetums and miltonias. Select the ideal spot for the plant and place pendulous bloomers atop an inverted pot. Support the inflorescence as it emerges and open the sheath to prevent the accumulation of moisture around the developing buds. Consider switching to a dilute bloom booster fertilizer to prepare winter dormant orchids for their rest period. If you switched to nighttime watering during the summer, it is time to resume morning watering so the leaves will be dry by evening.



Cattleyas. Growers should be enjoying many of the advance yellow hybrids from *C. dowiana*. Some of the large-flowered hybrids of *C. bicolor* may open this month. Continue to use a dilute fertilizer (1/8 strength) on cattleyas with every watering. As new growths mature, tie them up carefully to promote upright development of the pseudobulbs.



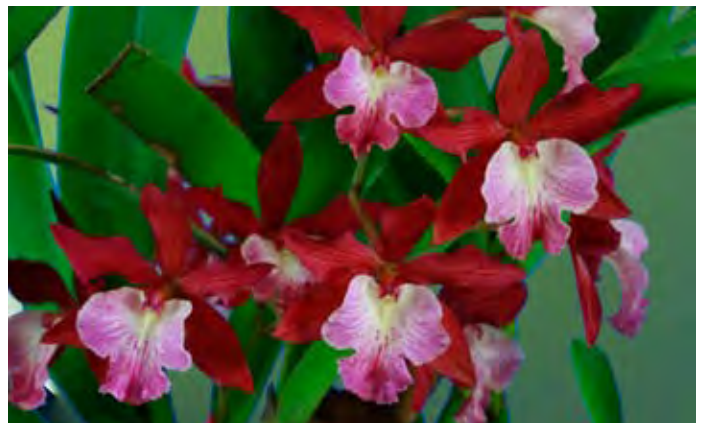
Dendrobiums. This is the season for the phalaenopsis type dendrobiums. The long, arching sprays of flat dark red-purple to white or pink saucer-like blossoms provide

weeks of satisfaction. *Nobile*-type hybrids should continue to be maintained on a nitrogen free fertilizer program. You can start to gradually reduce watering frequency on the winter dormant dendrobiums.

Oncidiums. Of the three popular pansy orchids *Miltonia xbluntii*, *roezlii* and *spectabilis*, the last is probably the most showy. The reddish purple flowers of *Milt. spectabilis* var. *moreliana* usually appear singly and last for weeks.



Vandas. This is the principal blooming season for *Euanthe sanderiana* (syn. *V. sanderiana*) and the foundation for large flowered modern vandaceous hybrids. Position plants so the inflorescences will grow out of the leaves toward the light. Help uncooperative types by placing a thin bamboo stick between the emerging inflorescence and the flattened form of the leaves, thereby forcing the raceme outward.



Miscellaneous Genera. Autumn is typically the end of the growing season for the catasetum relatives. Plants may produce flowers from pseudobulbs with leaves, or in some instances, from bulbs that have already lost their leaves. Watch the undersides of the leaves to control spider mites which seem to find these delicacies just as the foliage reaches its prime or plants are about to bloom. Support the basal racemes of catasetums as they emerge and consider placing the pots on inverted pots to provide room for them to hang freely.



SAOS Website – New Orchid Growers

We have a section of the St. Augustine Orchid Society website that is dedicated to new orchid growers. Go to the [New Orchid Growers](#) menu on the website and check out all the subdirectories, they are crammed with information and photographs.



Seasonal Advice – contains information on what to do in the spring, summer, fall and winter. The seasonal tips were originally developed as presentation for Keiki Club get togethers. We dust them off and update them every year to keep them as current and complete as possible.



Your First Orchid – contains reprints of the Stephen R. Batchelor articles originally published in the AOS *Bulletin* in the early 80's and ultimately compiled into the excellent book *Your First Orchid: A Guide for Beginners* offered by the AOS. The articles discuss how to select orchids, water and fertilize plants, choose a growing area, repot, identify and control ailments, and recommend choices for beginners.



AOS Beginner's Newsletters – are written by Greg Allikas and Kathy Fiegel for the American Orchid Society and provide great information each month to new orchid growers. We have links to the newsletters on the AOS website. Click on the subscription link and the newsletter will be delivered to your computer each month.



Growing Basics – are a compilation of articles geared to new orchids. There are articles on how to choose an orchid, orchid growing basics, well water and fertilizer, how orchid roots are different and a link to Greg Allikas' repotting workshop. The repotting workshop gives you step by step instructions with pictures on how to repot different types of orchids.



Home and Backyard Orchid Growing – features the different growing areas our SAOS members use whether in the home, outdoors under trees or in shade structures. The articles originally appeared in the monthly newsletter and are archived on the website so you can view how others grow their orchids. Cultural practices and winter homes are also addressed. We are always interested in our members successes. Let us know if you would like to share your growing area with the SAOS. We can help write up your techniques and take photographs.



Orchid Supplies

by Susan Taylor,
BellaOnline.com

For the beginning orchid owner there are very few supplies that you really need: your plant, fertilizer, a spray bottle and the book *Your First Orchid*, an excellent publication from the American Orchid Society.

As you continue to acquire plants it's useful to get a humidity tray to provide better conditions for your collection. They



You will also want to consider some kind of small fan to increase air circulation as your collection grows. Crowding plants can provide excellent conditions for insect pests and various fungi. One of the things which can make life harder for these nuisances is good air circulation. If you see signs of insects, spraying with soap and water will kill any of them that you can saturate. Even better is Bayer's Flower and Insect Spray which will kill the live insects and provide 30-day protection for any sucking insect through its systemic action.



are available in a considerable variety of price ranges, depending upon the materials. The simplest of these are plastic with a tray and a higher open weave material to set the plants on. If you're serious about growing indoors, they are necessary. Most orchid vendors online carry a variety.

Supports for staking your plants are a very important part of growing orchids. You will want to stake as the plants grow so that the flowers will be displayed to their best advantage. Fortunately, it's possible to use almost any kind of stake that you like. Bamboo kabob skewers will work well for small plants, any kind of plant stakes will do for larger varieties. There are many decorative stakes to choose from which will enhance the beauty of your inflorescences.



For fungal and bacterial problems get Physan or Consan 20 which will kill both. Be sure to spray at the first sign of problems because some of these problems can kill a plant within about a week if left untreated.



Once you have established a collection you will want to get pots and media for transplanting as well as wire supports of several sizes and varieties. For decorative purposes you can use cachepots (decorative plant pots) but you need to be very careful not to allow water to sit in the bottom of these pots. Another decorative alternative are the orchids pots which are available in glazed and non-glazed varieties. These have openings in the side of the pots which allow the plant to breathe.



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@bellsouth.net



Q. I purchased a *Catasetum* last fall after it had bloomed but it still had leaves on its 2 newest pseudobulbs. Later in the fall it went dormant and lost all the leaves. After leaving it very dry until new growth started in February,

it was repotted in fresh sphagnum. The new growth was from the base of one pseudobulb. Now new growths have started from the base of the other pseudobulb, but the bulb is getting soft, like it is rotting. Should I cut the soft part off close to the new growth or just leave it alone and hope it does not affect the new growths?



New growth emerging from old pseudobulb

A. Some orchids, including phalaenopsis, vandas, dendrobiums and *catasetums*, can produce adventitious growths on vegetative parts of the plant. In your *catasetum*, the keiki growing from the base of the rotting pseudobulb is the *catasetum's* survival mechanism. The keikis form from the adventitious tissue along the circular nodular bands of the pseudobulb. You can let the keiki grow attached to the pseudobulb or you can lay the pseudobulb horizontally on the surface of a pot packed with sphagnum and let it root into the moss. For this plant, cut away the rotted pseudobulb above the keiki and drench the plant with a fungicide like Banrot or Subdue.



Old pseudobulb is removed

Q. Two years ago I bought a nice orchid with orange flowers, Pot. Orange Bird. Its parentage goes back to hybrids developed by some of the great growers in the early 1900's. It has new growth in 3 directions this year but there is a dark area on the central rhizome which goes up about 1 inch on an adjacent pseudobulb. The base of the affected pseudobulb is a little soft. What do you recommend?



Black Rot on rhizome & pseudobulb in center of plant

A. That is Black Rot along the rhizome and traveling up the pseudobulb. Black rot is a very fast moving disease that infects cattleyas during the hot humid summer and can kill the entire plant unless you perform radical surgery. Cut out the obviously infected tissue and treat with a heavy duty fungicide like Banrot or Subdue. You'll need a chemical that is listed as controlling *Pythium* and *Phytophthora*, the organisms that cause Black Rot.

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Infected rhizome with roots and pseudobulb removed

Q. My *C. labiata* has a persistent problem with the leaf tips turning black with a yellowish bottom area that slowly moves down toward the base of the leaf. If I cut the bad part out about 1 inch below the yellow, it starts going bad again in a couple of weeks. After I make the cut, I pour hydrogen peroxide on the cut. Any suggestions?



Anthracnose infected leaf

A. That looks like the fungal disease Anthracnose. Leaf tips turn brown beginning at the apex and proceeding toward the base. The affected area is usually sharply defined and somewhat sunken. Cutting the bad part out 1 inch below the yellow is the right approach. Then dip the wound in a fungicide like Captan or Mancozeb. The peroxide you were using is effective on bacterial (rather than fungal) infections.



Remove Anthracnose infected leaf with clean razor

Q. I was given this vanda in June. The roots have put on numerous side roots as well as 6 new thick roots that are 3" to 8" long. Is it too late to cut this one up to see if the top will continue to grow and if the bottom will form a keiki?



New roots growing from bare vanda stem

A. It is a little late to rebasket a vanda though there is still 2 months or so in the growing season. However, if you top the plant below the new roots and basket the plant, the top plant will not be a pretty plant because the bottom half of the stem will still be bare of leaves. Perhaps it would be better to let the plant continue growing until keikis form at the base of the plant. Once the keikis mature, you can cut the stem above the keikis and have an attractive plant in the original basket. Then you'll have to make a decision on what portion of the top plant to keep and rebasket or tie to a wire hook.



SHOW TABLE



Grower Dick Roth
Dor. pulcherrima f. champorensis
'Mauna Kea Snow'



Grower Dick Roth
Rhy. coelestis x
Chri. vietnamica



Grower Dick Roth
Ascda. Blue Tahourdin
'Bronze Grape'



Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
Enc. pyriformis



Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
Habenaria rhodocheila



Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
Blc. Ivan Sng x Lc. Varut Startrack



Grower Ed Atkins
C. Volcano Queen



SHOW TABLE



Grower John Van Brocklin
Bc. Bread Beauty 'Peach'



Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
Bc. Miya's Fascination



Grower Sandy Dunn
No Name Vanda



Grower Dick Roth
Neost. Lou Sneary x Rhy. coelestis



Grower Dick Roth
Christensonia vietnamica x Asctm. ampullaceum var.
aurantiacum



Grower Sue Bottom
Ctsm. pileatum

