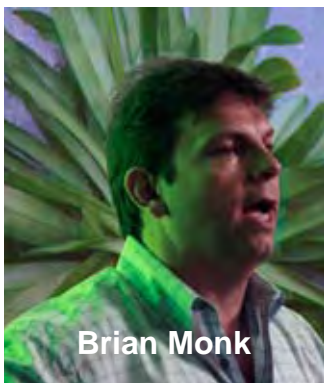




CLUB NEWS



Brian Monk

May 3 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Lola Stark,
seacuter@bellsouth.net

Welcome and Thanks. President Jack Higgins opened the meeting at 7:15 pm with 72 people present including 10 guests and two new members: Phil King and Bonnie Batson.

He then thanked Jeanette Smith, Lillian Baker and Esther Whetstone for the refreshments and reminded those present to "Drop a Dollar" to help pay for the refreshments. Gail Marshall told us that all members were well and reminded those present to get their raffle ticket if they were born in May. We had three! Jack asked that all members vote for the best orchid on the show table and that Dick Roth would announce at the break who the winner was.

Club Business: Sue Bottom announced that the membership list has been updated and those who hadn't renewed were dropped. Our membership is now at 110.

We have new stickers for our cars which will give us some recognition around town, and we also have new business cards that we can use to give people who might be interested in orchids. These are available at the welcome table. We have potting supplies and fertilizer available at the next table. In between we have our librarian, Wendy Thomas, with lots of books for you to borrow including a new one, *Florida Orchids*, donated by Mary Ann Bell. The Keiki club will meet May 22 at the Bottoms. The program will be "Watering and Fertilizing Your Orchids"

The Junior Service league has asked us for Judges for their "Orchids for Hospice" which will take place Saturday the 7th at the Yacht Club. The judging will be Friday night and Dick Roth and Lola Stark have volunteered to do this. All proceeds will go to the Bailey Family Center for Caring at Flagler Hospital. Incidentally, this was done through *Old City Life* which has a very nice article about SAOS in its current issue.



Upcoming Events. The SAOS will host repotting and information at the Hagan Ace on US1 on Saturday May 7 from 9 to 1 pm. Florida orchid shows this month include:

May 6-8 Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show

May 7-8 Volusia County Orchid Society Show

May 13-15 Redlands Int'l Orchid Festival

SAOS Monthly Program: Our program for the evening was "What Do You Mean It Won't Grow?" by Brian Monk of Blu Llama Orchids in Fort Lauderdale. Brian is a learned orchidist who loves to pass his knowledge along. He is entertaining as well as knowledgeable. He gave us the best compliment we've received when he made the comment that we had the best Orchid Society in the state of Florida.



Continued on page 3



CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

May

- 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
- 7-8 Volusia County Orchid Society Show
Volusia County Fairgrounds
- 13-15 Redlands International Orchid Festival
Fruit and Spice Park
- 22 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners
Watering and Fertilizing Your Orchids
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086
- 22 JOS Annual Picnic, 1 pm
Eric and Margaret Cavin's Home
3611 Richmond St., Jax 32205
- 27-28 Greater Orlando Orchid Society Show
Orlando Garden Club

June

- 4 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 7 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Ruben Sauleda, Ruben in Orchids
Orchids in Colombia
- 14 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Bill Thoms
- 26 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners
Summer Orchid Care
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086

July

- 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
Summer Orchid Auction
- 12 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Ed Bugbee, Featherstone Orchids
Orchids of Panama

- 24 Coalition for Orchid Species Symposium
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
- 29-1 Platinum Coast Orchid Society
Cocoa Expo Sports Arena

August

- 2 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids
Modern Trends for the Cattleya Grower
- 6 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 9 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Jack Higgins jacktravel2003@yahoo.com
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Secretary AOS/Orchid Digest Rep	Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
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CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1



Members swarm Brian's sales table

He maintains that in order to grow good orchids you must know what each orchid needs in terms of light, water and fertilizer. Every orchid is different from every other orchid, they all come from different environments and if you don't grow them in the environment they want, they simply die! If you get the right environment, you'll be rewarded handsomely. He started with the roots and worked his way up the plant. Orchid roots tell a lot about a plant. Phals usually have big thick roots with lots of velamen because that's where they store the water they need. If you don't keep them damp, they're unhappy. Check the roots of each plant. Thin, small roots indicate the plant needs to be watered more often. He suggested that Tolumnia, a tiny plant with thick leaves, do best mounted. They are epiphytes. Species that are white, tend to bloom at night, so they moths for pollinators. If plants have pseudobulbs, they don't need to be watered as often as those without. They store their water in the pseudobulbs for when it dries out. Vandas have their water stored in their root coverings (the velamen), so they should be watered often.

Orchids need a day - night temperature differential and will grow much better when it's at least 20 degrees.

Brian suggested that you do not need to water as often or fertilize at all during the winter, because the cool weather will make the plants slow their growth until they feel the days and nights getting warmer. City water contains too many minerals and salt can build up in the pot if it is used to water your orchids. A rain barrel is the best way to get water for your orchids. Once a month you should water your plants heavily and then go back shortly after that and thoroughly wet them again, to wash out excess minerals.

When you start repotting orchids, match the mix to the orchid. Paphs like sphagnum, but don't stuff the pot, leave the mix loose to allow air to get to the roots. For most cattleyas, sphagnum stays too wet and doesn't allow enough air around the roots. Make the mix for cattleyas match your

watering habits. If you're a lazy waterer, be sure you have lots of organic stuff in the mix to hold the water while you're not watering. If you water a lot, use a mix that doesn't hold much water.

Most orchids like to be underpotted. Use broken clay pots to fill up your orchid pots before adding the mix the plants need. As the plants get larger, use mixes that get larger. Aliflor type mixes and such come in sizes from small to up to 1"

The more air orchids get, the better they like it. Brian spoke of one greenhouse where the sun would have kept the temperature up over 100, but because the greenhouse was equipped with large fans the temperature inside was not above 80. Orchids like air movement. Grow them outside if you can, in broken light.

If you understand where your plants came from, you'll understand their needs and both you and your orchids will be much happier!



Guest is thrilled to win a raffle orchid.

Meeting Conclusion. Following the intermission, Dick Roth announced the Member's Choice from the Show Table, Harry and Celia McElroy's Phal. Mini Mark. We had our monthly auction and raffle with Fred Keefer and Christie Peppard doing a wonderful job.



CLUB NEWS



Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners Watering and Fertilizing Your Orchids

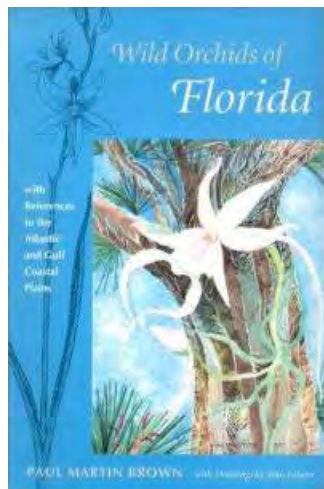
Orchid roots are different from the roots on your other house and landscape plants. We'll talk about how to water and fertilize your orchids. We'll also report on Courtney Hackney's practice of nighttime watering during the summer, it works! We'll be meeting on Sunday, May 22 from 1 to 3 pm. Bring a 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.

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



Wild Orchids of Florida by Paul Martin Brown

Mary Ann Bell graciously donated the Wild Orchids of Florida to the SAOS library. With its comprehensive yet easy-to-follow treatment, Wild Orchids of Florida remains the essential field companion for professional botanists, native plant enthusiasts, nature lovers, or anyone who wants to learn more about what's growing out in the wilds of Florida.



April 17 Keiki Club Growing Orchids Au Naturel

We had close to 30 new and familiar faces at the Keiki Club get-together talking about growing orchids au naturel, by growing them on a mount. Here are the highlights:

Most orchids are epiphytic, meaning they grow on trees (rather than in pots!). When they are growing au naturel, the orchid roots are anchoring the plant to the growing surface and seeking out moisture and nutrients. The roots consist of the wiry filament on the inside and the outside spongy material called velamen. One very important function of the epiphytic root is the exchange of gases, to take in oxygen, so they must be exposed to air. That is why many orchid potting mixes are so porous and why orchids grow so well on a mount, if you provide sufficient moisture. The Canadian Orchid Congress has a great article on orchid roots that we have linked on our [website](#).



If you have enough time to water your plants once or twice a day or if you can install a spray irrigation system, growing orchids au naturel is simple. First, select your mount. This can be tree fern slabs, hickory, cedar or cypress wood slabs (any hardwood that will not degenerate quickly and which does not contain a lot of sap like pine). Then, select an orchid suitable for the mount. In the cattleya alliance, this will be the smaller growing, crawling types of orchids. We had divisions of *Laelia rubescens*, *Laelia flava* and *Cattleya walkeriana* hybrids available for mounting. Then you attach the orchid to the mount using wire, twine, stockings or fishing line, put a little sphagnum moss under the roots for moisture while the plant becomes established and maybe even hang a little spanish moss on the roots so the plant looks even more wild. Terry Bottom, Jim Taylor and Vivienne Rowe were on hand to help with mounting the orchids. Everyone went home with one (or three!) new orchids, what fun!



CLUB NEWS



Ruben & Claudia at Tamiami

June 7 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Ruben Sauleda of [Ruben in Orchids](#) near Homestead will give a presentation on Orchids in Colombia at the June 7 meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Ruben and wife Claudia, a native of Colombia, often travel to Colombia and Ruben is amazed at the variety of orchids growing naturally and being cultivated by Colombians. Ruben has a lively presentation on all the orchid treasures in Colombia with lots of photographs.

Ruben P. Sauleda, Ph.D. has been growing orchids since the age of 12. He started the family business in 1962, Ruben In Orchids. His main interest is hybridizing the unusual, specializing in Encyclia and Schomburgkia hybrids. In addition he propagates many species from seed, especially Florida Natives. Dr. Sauleda has a Masters Degree in Orchid Ecology and Taxonomy from Florida Atlantic University and a Ph.D. in Orchid Taxonomy from the University of South Florida. He has written several books and has published dozens of papers in scientific journals. He was Chairman of Education for the 19th World Orchid Conference as well as a speaker. Ruben in Orchids has exhibited at hundreds of national and international orchid shows winning countless awards.



Sue Botttom visits Ruben & Claudia's greenhouse



Brian Monk's Artistic Statement

Many beautiful things are taken for granted. They don't need any help to be beautiful, and our eye often passes over them without further inspection or examination. We expect beauty of some things, and create beauty in others by idealizing them in our mind's

eye. We glance and then look on to the next thing. All the while we do not explore why we find things beautiful. Why does an orchid inspire exclamation of "exotic?" Why do we pause and look at the sky? Why are roses classic icons of romance? Why do we write odes to trees? Color, structure, form, line are essentially undefined ideas that one may not understand or even be able to describe. Brian's goal is to peel away the obviousness of beauty, and expose the abstract ideas that we use to subconsciously create our ideals.



CULTIVATION



Growing Tips for May

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

Once again, I find that I have misjudged how quickly my orchids are drying out. While the humidity has been low for the past few months with lots of bright sunny days, it still surprises me how quickly pots dry each year. This year, the wakeup call occurred when I began to repot cattleyas from a crowded bench. Despite a heavy drenching earlier that morning, some of the pots were very dry. Clearly, I was not getting water into the interior of the bench.



Many years ago, an old-time commercial grower demonstrated how his growers were instructed to water. It seemed silly at the time, but his method of watering at a sharp angle really does work. When cattleyas are placed on a bench and allowed to grow, their leaves will cover the surface above the pot to maximize light capture. Watering directly onto these plants from above allows water to flow around the pot. A good drenching means that the water flows generously through the pot. Watering at an angle can accomplish such a drench and soak the medium.

This time of year, soaking orchids is necessary if you are going to deliver adequate water to the roots. Later in the year, when air humidity is high, it is much easier to get pots soaked. The same is true for vandas and other orchids hanging in baskets. It is necessary to water more frequently and to make two trips across the benches to really wet plant and their roots.

Watering at night or late afternoon is strongly discouraged in most "how to" books. However, this is what happens in Nature and is practiced by many commercial growers, especially in the tropics. It also works for me here in Florida if I can meet the following criteria. The daily humidity is relatively low, my greenhouse is open with great air

movement, and night temperature is above 60 F. I water late afternoon and plants are still wet in the morning when I water again with a dilute dose of fertilizer. As soon as I began the practice this spring my orchids immediately perked up. Once humidity gets high again, usually in May or early June, the rate of drying declines and I begin the normal early morning soaking practice.

Obviously, if other media are being used, e.g., sphagnum, it is relatively easy to wet your medium. While it is easy to wet sphagnum, some media that hold water well most of the year may be hard to wet. Media (and soil too) become hydrophobic if they are dry too long under low humidity. Fir bark is vulnerable, especially if a white mold appears on the surface. Once this appears, it becomes almost impossible to adequately wet the bark and repotting becomes necessary.

Soaking all media is best, even if it wets easily. My experiments using sphagnum showed me that tightly packing sphagnum in the pot worked best for that medium. If packed properly, water will actually sit on the surface and only slowly drain through the medium. If you are growing in sphagnum, which is a common medium for pot plants, be sure you flush the pot at least once a month or high levels of salts will accumulate. This may require two passes through the greenhouse or in your sink.

Air conditioning has or will become necessary throughout the South soon. If you grow inside under lights or in a window, you will experience what those of us growing in a greenhouse have been experiencing, low humidity and rapid drying of pots and plants.

If there are spikes with a few flowers left on your phals, consider cutting the spikes off. First bloomed orchids will appreciate this and start their growth cycle earlier, if you remove remaining flowers.

You should already be applying fertilizer so that increased light levels can be converted into more roots and leaves by your orchids. Remember, fertilize weakly weekly, using just one quarter of the recommended fertilizer concentration. This remains one of the hardest things for most new orchid hobbyists. If you are using Nutricote, also known as Dynamite, no additional fertilizing is necessary, but continue to flush once a month.



CULTIVATION

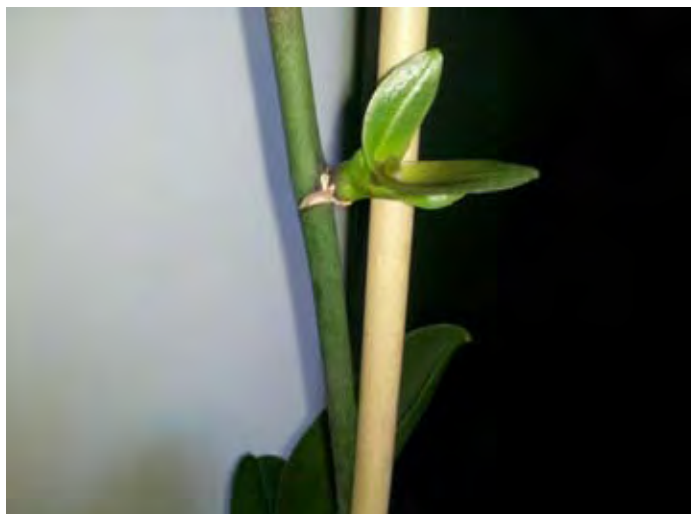
Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net



Q. I received a phalaenopsis orchid last fall and it went through the normal phase of losing the flowers and I cut the spike about 1.5 inches above a healthy node.

Meanwhile, it grew two beautiful new leaves but no activity from the node for several months until a couple of weeks ago. It looks like leaves growing from the node instead of a spike and the node was dormant for so long. Can you tell me what's going on with this?



A. You are the mother of a new orchid! That is a keiki, a baby orchid, that is sprouting from the node rather than another flower spike. You can pull or cut it off the spike once it has a couple of roots that are say 2 or so inches long or you can air layer it by getting some sphagnum moss and putting it around where the roots will grow and holding it in place with a piece of stocking so the roots will grow into the sphagnum and it will pot up very easily. Congrats on the new addition to your family!

Q. From Chicago: My Lc. Angel Love x C. skinneri has necrotic spotting forming streaks in very young new growth on the inner part of the new leaf. If caught in time and treated with an anti fungal/bacterial agent I can arrest the spread of it, but often it occurs within the first inch or so of



growth I can't see what's happening to it until it's too late and I have to cut off the whole new lead. I really don't know if I have a virus, bacteria or fungal infection. It grows in full sun east window of my home with good air circulation and humidity around 40% (winter early spring).



A. We went to our Go-To Guy Courtney Hackney for a response, who wrote: "It looks like a virus to me. If the plant was grown bright and hard the sunken streaks would not show up as early and be soft, but they would still appear. My bet is that flowers will be badly virused. Each time I have



CULTIVATION

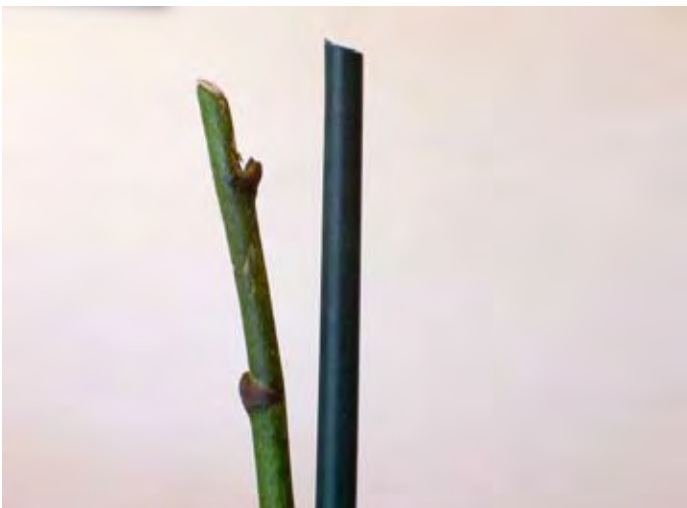
had a plant show these symptoms it has tested positive for Cymbidium and tobacco mosaic virus, it probably has odontoglossum ringspot virus, too". You should segregate the plant from your other plants in case it is virused (you could try a virus test kit from Agdia), or dispose of the plant and replace it with another. You have to wonder why when you treat it the symptoms disappear, but they maybe are just suppressed rather than truly disappear because they come back the next year.

Q. How do I prune a phalaenopsis orchid spike to encourage reblooming?



A. There are two schools of thought on how to handle a phalaenopsis spike. Some folks will tell you that after the flowers are gone, cut the spike two or three nodes up from the bottom of the spike, and often times the plant will send out a side spike from one of the remaining nodes and a few more flowers may form. I don't do this because I think you're robbing the plant of strength it would otherwise develop over the summer and use for next year's blooms. In other words, you're sacrificing next year's beautiful blooms for a second rate bloom now.

Check out this [video](#).



Q. I was in the garden yesterday and noticed I have an ant infestation on more than a few of my plants. As they are inside a screened porch I found this disconcerting. How do I get rid of them? Can I use ant spray on the pseudobulbs & inflorescences? Or is there some other less poisonous method?



A. Pour a solution of Orthene or liquid sevin (1 tsp/gal) in the pot. You'll chase them out of the pot, so maybe you'd rather take them outside to do it. I don't know if I'd spray the pseudobulbs and flower spikes, you need to treat inside the pot where they're nesting.



CULTIVATION

Your Orchids in May

based on Robert Scully articles,
courtesy of the AOS



General Growing Tips. 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; first soak in a water-detergent mix and scrub away salts and algae then soak in a 10% bleach solution (with Physan or 10% pool algacide at 2 tsp/gal). Heat sterilize clay pots in a 350F oven for an hour or two to eliminate virus particles. Sterilize wire products too. Do not reuse potting mix or drainage material.

Cattleyas. Get a head start on dividing cattleyas by severing the rhizome in whole or in part (at a point where you will have 3 to 5 pseudobulbs per division) with a sterile tool while the plant is still in the original pot. The new growths will emerge weeks later at which point you can finish repotting using a rhizome clip to secure the divisions. Continue feeding cattleyas with a dilute fertilizer solution with each watering and flush with fresh water monthly.



Cymbidiums. Finish repotting these elegant orchids if they are bursting out of the pot. If the medium is in good condition (just a year old), you may be able to move the plant from one container to another with the addition of a small amount of medium and not disturb the roots. Keep the pots



moist and syringe the foliage frequently, particularly if you have moved the plant into brighter light.

Paphiopedilums. This is the ideal month to complete repotting of your lady's slippers. Prepare a fresh terrestrial mix (say 85% bark, 10% peat and 5% charcoal). Remove dead roots and keep as many growths together as practical. The single flowered types should be in shade though the multiflorals like more light. Keep root zone moisture levels high (though *Brachypetalum* types generally like drier conditions).



Phalaenopsis. Repotting plants that have finished flowering is a priority. When you repot, remove the old inflorescence and eliminate all rotten or completely dehydrated roots and cut the roots back to about 2/3 the depth of the new pot. Remove also the dried bottom section of the old crown until you reach fresh tissue. Resume fertilizing when new roots become visible. Consider a spraying program with a recommended fungicide.



Vandas. Some plants may need more room for root development. If your plant is in a wooden basket, simply drop it into a larger size basket. If your plant has become top heavy and unsightly, cut away the top part of the plant as long as this section has three roots to sustain it and rebasket it being careful to secure it so roots will not be damaged in the wind. Keep the bottom section of the plant in the old basket as it will usually sprout keikis at the base and be well established by the end of the summer.



EVENTS



April 30 Special Library Program

Ten Tricks for Growing and Blooming Your Orchids

We had over 30 people attend our special program at the SE Branch Library on April 30. Sue Bottom talked about Ten Easy Tricks for Growing and Blooming Your Orchids. Here they are:

1. When you water, water thoroughly and copiously
2. Inspect your plants each time you water
3. Fertilize plants regularly with dilute fertilizer
4. Make sure your plants have enough of the right light
5. Repot orchids only when you have a good reason to repot
6. Summer your plants outdoors
7. Drop the night temperature by 10F, particularly in fall
8. Buy a healthy looking plant in bloom each month
9. Stake inflorescence for best presentation
10. Give up on plants that don't do well for you



We also had educational tables set up. Jeannette Pacetti manned the SAOS table to tell people about our orchid society, Lola Stark had the AOS table where she offered free AOS magazines and books to interested persons, Terry Bottom had the SAOS website table to demo all the information available on line, Vivienne Rowe had the culture table to help people with orchid questions, and Bill Gourley had the potting mix table to show and offer different potting mixes and fertilizers suitable for orchids.



Jeannette Pacetti greets visitors



Bill Gourley shares potting information



Lola Stark offers visitors free AOS magazines



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Orchid Adventures

Open House at Orchids by Del-Rei
by [Sue Bottom](#), sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Fred Keefer had his open house on May 1 at Orchids by Del-Rei in Hastings. So much fun, food, drink and all those orchids! As usual, the food by La Cocina and Chef Betsy were terrific, the pulled pork, baked brie and tasty desserts were wonderful, as were all the other tidbits. The wines were terrific, red, white and champagne. And of course, the orchids were beautiful. Fred seems to always have the usual and the unusual to satisfy all the orchid growers. Whether you wanted phalaenopsis, oncidiums or cattleyas or your taste runs to the unusual like stanhopeas and gongoras, Fred had them all. We'll be waiting for the fall open house, and this time we're going early to get the pick of the litter!



SHOW TABLE



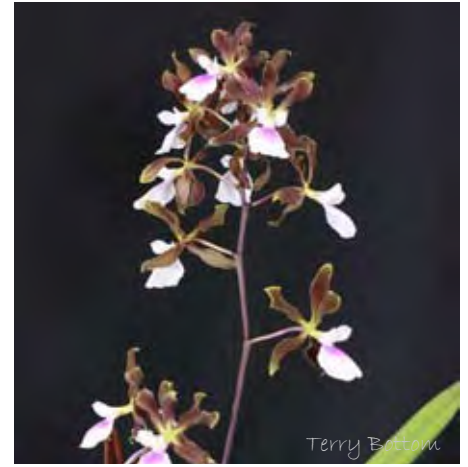
Terry Bottom

Grower John Van Brocklin
Gongora chocoensis x *Gga. flaveola*



Terry Bottom

Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
Ctna. Maui Maid



Terry Bottom

Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
Encyclia albopurpurea



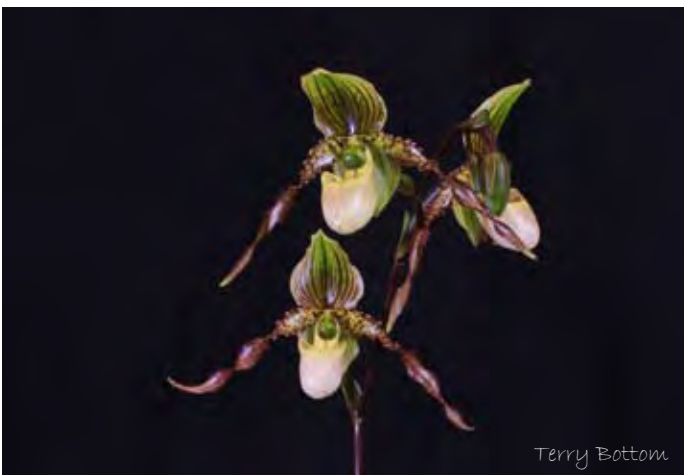
Terry Bottom

Grower Marcia Farrell
Pot. Paradise Beauty 'Marcela'



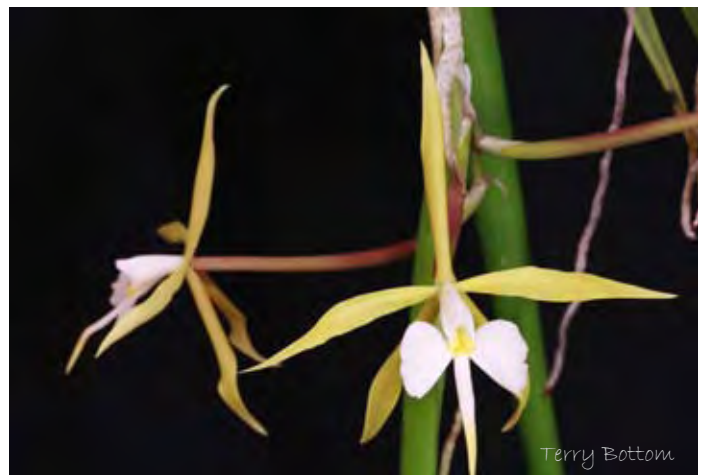
Terry Bottom

Grower Sue Bottom
Dtps. Taisuco Micky



Terry Bottom

Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Paph. Shireen



Terry Bottom

Grower Sue Bottom
Epi. parkinsonianum



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
L. purpurata



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Phal. Mini Mark



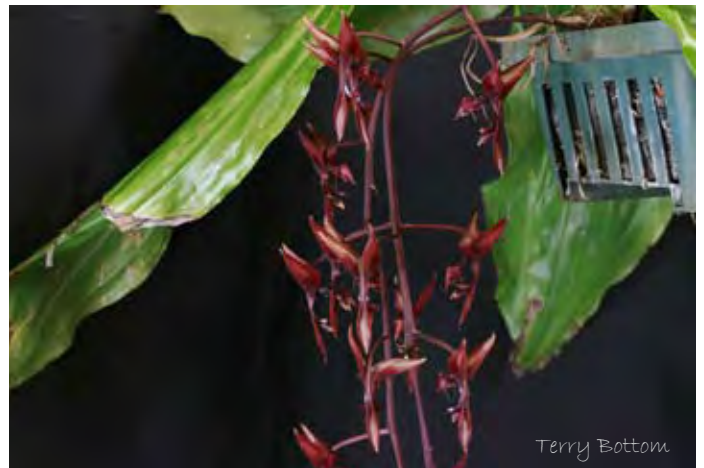
Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Phal. Aphrodite



Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
Lycaste bradeora



Grower Marcia Farrell
Phal. Be Tris



Grower Vivienne Rowe
Gongora Smaug

