



CLUB NEWS

June 7 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Lola Stark, seacuter@bellsouth.net



Ruben Sauleda

Welcome and Thanks: President Jack Higgins opened the meeting at 7:15 pm with 55 people present including 2 guests and one new member Maria Martini. Jack thanked Jeanette Smith, Sandy Taylor

and Trudy Endy 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 June. Jack asked that all members vote for the best orchid on the show table and that Dick Roth would announce the winner at the break.



SAOS members were dazzled by the Colombian countryside & beautiful orchids.

SAOS Monthly Program: Our program for the evening was by Dr. Ruben Sauleda of Ruben in Orchids, titled "Orchids in Colombia". Ruben and his wife, Claudia, who is originally from Colombia, went to Colombia and brought us back a wonderful program of what we, as tourists, might find while traveling through Colombia. They visited Bogota, stopping at every nursery they could find, while also enjoying the city which has architecture which includes Spanish, Swiss, German, English and one building covered with giant ants which turned out to be a temporary display, but was quite creepy to look at. Ruben took between 1700 and 3000 slides on his trips. In the city he took pictures of epidendrums which grow everywhere without care; impatiens with trunks 5-6 inches in diameter which means they grow year round, and all kinds of orchids in trees and on palms, as well as in the nurseries. Some of the orchids he showed us included Miltoniopsis, Acinetas, Oncidiums, Schomburgkias and Odontoglossums. Bogota lies high in the mountains, roughly at 4000 ft. They visited Fusagasuga where they found Cattleya trianaei on palm trees, growing on dead trees, and epidendrums growing everywhere.

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Ruben & Claudia brought a great selection of plants.

Club Business: We have potting supplies available at the side table. coarse mix, coco mix and sphagnum mix for \$5.00 a bag. We also have some MSU fertilizer for \$5.00 a bottle. The Keiki club will meet at Sue and Terry's to discuss Summer Orchid Care, and repotting Phals on June 26. Sorry, folks, but if you want blooms next year, now's the time to lose this years! SAOS will be at Hagan Ace on July 2 from 9 am until 1 pm to help with any problems you have or to just chat!



CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

June

- 14 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Bill Thoms, A-doribil
Bulbophyllums
- 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

September

- 3 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic

- 6 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Peter Lin, Big Leaf Orchids
Novelty Phalaenopsis
- 10 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
TBA
- 18 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners
Prparing Your Winter Resting Plants
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086
- 18-19 Ridge Orchid Society Show
Lake Mirror Center, Lakeland

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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They found *C. gaskelliana* and *C. trianaei* growing together on trees. They found that they had arrived just in time for a large orchid show which had 70 vendors and lots of good food along with the orchid displays. One of Ruben's seedlings had won the Best Hybrid in the Show! Ruben and Claudia with her brother traveled south to Tobia where they found the square full of *C. trianaei* growing in the trees. In Barichara they visited a Reserve where Ruben found 67 species of orchids. To end the program he showed us slides of his Stanhopeas and Coryanthes growing in his greenhouse. It was a tremendously fun program, giving everyone the urge to visit Colombia!



Orchids in a Colombian backyard.

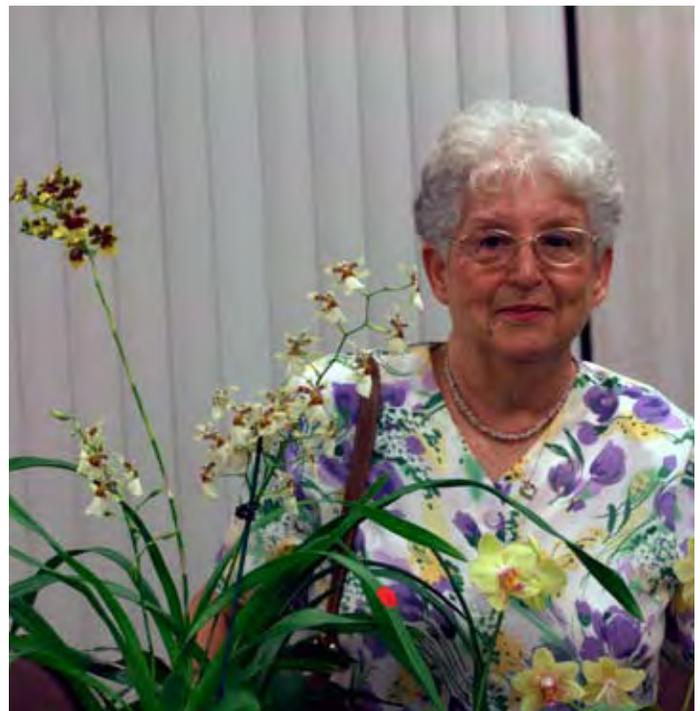


Orchids growing in trees along city streets.



Rural cities have orchids in every nook & cranny.

Meeting Conclusion: Following the break, Dick announced the Members Choice, a tie between Jeannette Pacetti's *C. schilleriana* and Sue Bottom's *L. purpurata*. Fred and Christie dispatched the raffle and auction plants with their normal good spirits and Irma Pacetti won the grand raffle plant.



Irma Pacetti with her Grand Raffle prize.



CLUB NEWS



May 22 Keiki Club

Watering and Fertilizing Your Orchids

We had around 15 new and familiar faces at the Keiki Club get-together talking about how to water and fertilize your orchids. Here are the highlights:

Watering Your Orchids. You can use a water wand, hose end sprayer, watering can, hose, etc. to water your orchids. The secret to watering orchids is to water them heavily when you water and then wait until they need to be rewatered before you wet them again. The frequency of watering depends on the type of orchid. Orchids with pseudobulbs like cattleyas and dendrobiums require less frequent watering than those with fleshy leaves for water storage, like phalaenopsis and paphiopedilums. The higher the content of organic matter in the potting mix, the more water retentive the mix will be and the less often it has to be watered. There are also seasonal differences. The summertime water demand is 2 to 3 times greater than the winter water requirements, in fact some orchids are dormant during the winter and require no water at all. At all times, when you water, water until water runs out of the pot and then water some more.

Fertilizing Your Orchids. You can use a gallon jug, hand sprayer, pump-up sprayer, Ortho sprayer, eductor, or dosatron to apply fertilizer to your orchids. There are time release fertilizers, like Dynamite, that only need to be applied once or twice during the growing season (180 vs. 90 day formulas). There are water soluble fertilizers that can be used to fertilize your orchids weakly weekly. A Michigan State University formulation low in phosphorus or balanced fertilizer low in urea nitrogen are good choices. Apply at 1/4 to 1/2 the label strength in summer and 1/8 to 1/4 the label strength in the winter. Bloom boosters are

thought not to be effective except in late summer and early fall when they may be applied to winter dormant orchids to prepare them for their winter rest period. Once or twice a month, be diligent and flush your orchids of accumulated salts. Flushing is accomplished by watering heavily and then coming back an hour or several hours later and watering heavily a second time.



Jim & Linda Taylor

Nighttime Summer Watering. Courtney told us last summer of the value in watering your orchids at night during the summer. In the summer, it is so hot that the roots dry out before the orchid can get enough water leaving it dehydrated. To compensate, water your orchids at dusk so the roots will stay wet overnight and have enough time to absorb the water. Then, early the next morning, fertilize your orchids. The roots will still be soft and pliable and absorb the fertilizer and the accumulated salts will still be soluble so they can be flushed from the pot. You can accomplish multiple goals with this approach, applying proper hydration and sufficient nutrients as well as routine flushing of salts from the pot. Try nighttime watering as long as the overnight low temperature is above 70 degrees F.



CLUB NEWS



Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners

June 26 - Summer Orchid Care

The Keiki Club for orchid beginners will be Sunday afternoon on June 26th from 1 to 3 pm. We'll talk about summer orchid care, what to do with your orchids before, during and after a tropical storm. We'll also be repotting phalaenopsis. It is time to think about cutting the spikes and giving your phals fresh mix to gather strength for the next blooming season. We'll be meeting on Sunday, June 26 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](http://www.6916CypressLakeCt.com). Call Sue at 797-4360 if you have any questions.



July 5 Monthly SAOS Meeting

We will have our summer orchid auction at the July 5 meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Members will bring blooming orchids acclimated to our North Florida growing conditions with 2/3 of the proceeds going to the grower and 1/3 to the club. Call Sue at 797-4360 if you have a plant to auction. Fred (who else?) will be the auctioneer. Come to the Conference Room of Watson Realty at 7 pm to see which plants you might want to bid on. The meeting and auction will start at 7:30.



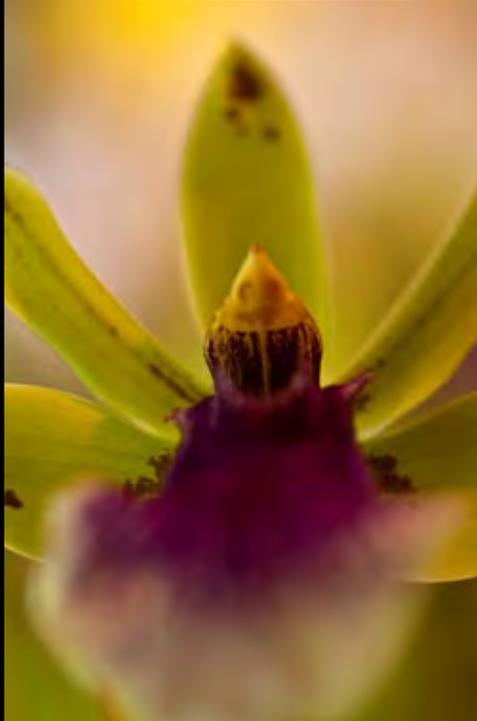
William Leme

William Leme is a software engineer from Jacksonville with a deep passion for photography. He is an avid amateur photographer with a good eye. Like many photographers, he learned through experimenting with an assist from community college classes. William enjoys photographing everything, from nature to skyscrapers and architecture to people. He has a special feeling for macros (butterflies and flowers) and street photography.

Check out his [website](http://www.williamleme.com) at www.williamleme.com for examples of his work.



INSPIRATION



Macro
Photography

By
**William
Leme**



CULTIVATION



Growing Tips for June

Dr. Courtney Hackney,
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Dept. Biology,
Univ. North Florida

Once again, summer starts with high temperatures and low humidity. Windowsill growers and those with greenhouses are experiencing the same phenomenon as air conditioners

strip moisture from the air to keep us cool inside, while daily heating outside lowers humidity in greenhouses. June is also the month when light intensity peaks.

How well your orchids tolerate this time of the year depends on how well you have prepared them over the previous winter and spring. A good root system allows your orchids to absorb and store water making extremes tolerable now. Pay careful attention to small seedlings or newly repotted orchids, which have the least tolerance for extremes. Placing orchids with potential water stress in lower light can help them tolerate the lack of water as they grow new roots. A little extra water might also be necessary, but high heat can encourage rots of various kinds.

A problem last summer that left some of my favorite cattleyas vulnerable to desiccation this summer was finally solved with a simple trick. The problem was most acute on cattleyas newly repotted or on those that only get new roots once a year, e.g., many bifoliate cattleyas. Large roaches (Palmetto bugs if you are from Florida) were eating new roots at night as they emerged from new growths, effectively killing the root growth for the year.



Lots of roots

Growing in lava rock has been a success except for this issue. Attempts to kill roaches by drenching with a solution of liquid Sevin were only moderately successful, since the large spaces between chunks of rock provided a refuge for at least a few roaches.

The only obvious alternatives were to either switch to a finer medium or use a very strong pesticide that might damage orchid roots too. What worked was to squeeze all of the water out of a handful of damp New Zealand sphagnum and to shove the moss under the newest growth before new roots emerged. Not only did this prevent roach damage to new roots, but roots, once in the sphagnum, branched and quickly grew out of the moss into the rock below. It has the added benefit of providing an easy way to know when to water. When the moss is very dry it is time to water.



Sphagnum under new lead

The plan will be to remove the moss next year as I curate my collection and decide which orchids to repot, which to give away and which to discard. Curating one's orchid collection is one of the most difficult and unappreciated facets of orchid growing. Hobbyists new to growing orchids often do not have to deal with this until they figure out how to grow and multiply their orchids and also run out of space, which happens quickly once the first problem is solved.

Extra divisions and spare orchids are never hard to get rid of, especially if they are in good shape. Even backbulbs are welcomed by new hobbyists, especially if they are something special. I put backbulbs from great cattleyas under benches to see if they will sprout an old eye. If they do, I check to be sure the front lead is doing well and if it is, find a good home for the backbulbs.

Repotting this time of year is still fine as long as care is taken to be sure that newly repotted orchids are not overly stressed by heat and lack of water.

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



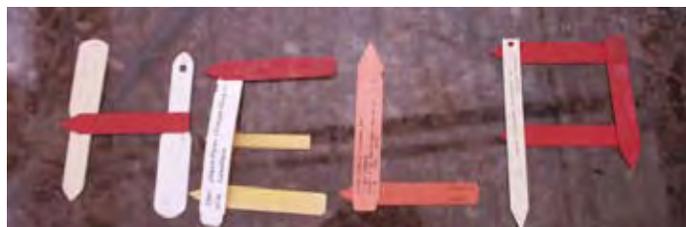
CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

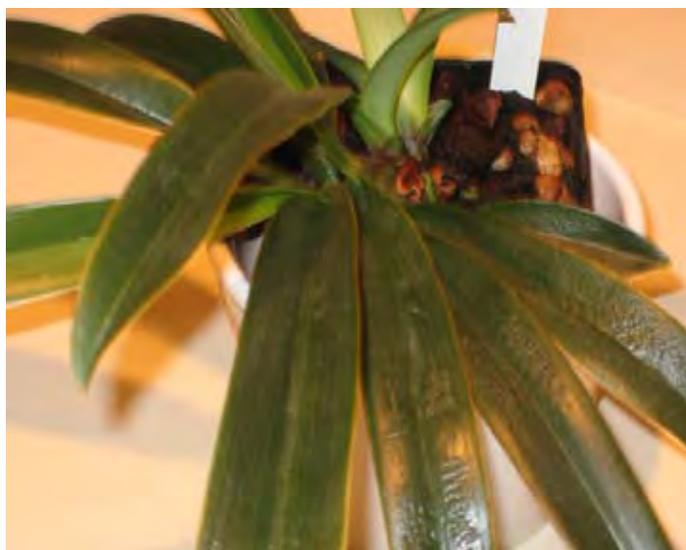
by Sue Bottom,
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Q. My public water supply has about 700 ppm total dissolved solids so I had a water softener installed and will use potassium chloride instead of sodium chloride for the brining solution. The



Q. I have had my paphiopedilum for two years and it seems to be growing well although it hasn't yet bloomed. It's in an east-facing greenhouse window in my kitchen, where my phals are thriving, but this winter it developed irregularities in the leaves that look like embossing, except that the marks are depressed and only appear on the top surfaces of the leaves. The marks aren't discolored or wet. Did I let the plant get too dry? Or is it a virus?

water softener people estimate that the potassium level in the water after treatment will be about 330 ppm. There is an article in the February, 2007 Orchids magazine dealing with the effect of potassium on phalaenopsis growth that found the peak growth to be in the 300 to 400 ppm potassium. Last year I switched from a water soluble fertilizer to the Dynamite product (13-13-13) trying to avoid some of the salt build-up problem I have. I notice that there is a Dynamite product with an 18-6-8 analysis. Would it be better to switch to the Dynamite product with the lower potassium content (18-6-8)?



A. Our Go-To Guy Courtney Hackney writes: My suggestion is that you use the 18-6-8 product. What you will likely see is thicker leaves that are harder, but perhaps a bit more brittle. Many growers try to increase the potassium level just for that effect. The only suggestion and concern I might have is the high concentration of salts. You want to be sure you really flush occasionally, perhaps twice a month. If you have a way of occasionally using rainwater or RO water that would be much better. Try this out and just watch the plant roots. If the tips start turning black you will need to flush more or reduce the TDS levels.



A. I thought perhaps mites but there were no red smudges when the leaves were rubbed and it had been treated with Safer 3-in-1 soap, so we went to our Go-to Guy Courtney Hackney who wrote: It appears that there is desiccation on the leaves, possibly from cold, too bright of light, too little water or rotten roots. The fact that there is neither rot nor small striations on leaves suggests that cold may not be involved. Desiccation can also be caused by higher light and lower water supply. East facing windows can produce sun scald, especially if there had been long periods of gloom followed by a few bright, clear days. The same orchid could burn under the same conditions as the previous year if it had lost its roots and water supply this year. You should be sure there is no other underlying cause of the leaf desiccation, i.e. dead roots. New growths look good, so check the roots and wait for the plant to grow out of it. New growths will be fine if I am correct. It is unlikely that you have a virus.



CULTIVATION



Q. My cousin had someone take care of her orchids for her while she was hospitalized during the winter. When she got her plants returned, she saw that one of them had something on the leaves of one plant that we have never seen. It appears as if it has a “water blister” - as if a person burned themselves and a water blister formed. Could this be caused by too cold temperature or too cold watering?

A. Your instincts are excellent, that is edema. Excess water is absorbed by the roots more quickly than it is lost by the leaves, causing swelling of plant cells and producing a blister-like lesion. It occurs when plants are watered during warm days and the nights turn cool or during periods of cool weather when water quantity and/or frequency is not reduced. Photos courtesy of Robert Cating.



Q. I picked up a miltoniopsis on the way home from Ace. It's planted in sphagnum moss, which looks pretty fresh. Should I leave it in there for a while or change it out?

A. I think I'd leave it in the fresh sphagnum moss for now. They like to be kept evenly moist, though not wet. The miltoniopsis are sensitive to our summer heat. While they like brightish light, they'll have to be put in a shady cool spot for the bulk of our summer. There is lots of information in this [AOS culture article](#).



Vivienne Wins the Jackpot

It was not too long ago that we were mounting orchids at the Keiki Club. Jim Taylor and Terry Bottom helped Viv Rowe attach the bare root walkeriana hybrid to a tree fern mount at the April 17 Keiki Club meeting. Now Viv is the first to bloom this orchid in just 6 short weeks!



CULTIVATION

Your Orchids in June

based on Robert Scully articles,
courtesy of the AOS



General Growing Tips. Spring's mild days are gone. The late spring-early summer growing conditions induce vigorous vegetative activity. Orchids repotted earlier should be showing abundant root development and new growth. In response you should increase watering frequency and use a dilute fertilizer (1/4 to 1/2 strength) and flush with fresh water monthly. With the sun higher and more intense for more hours each day, higher day and night temperatures, excellent air circulation and a fresh growing medium, orchids will consume more food for high quality flowers next season.

Cattleyas. The showy *Laelia purpurata* and *tenebrosa* are in bloom this month. You can repot individual plants later in the year if they need it, but the bulk of your cattleya repotting should be completed this month. The remaining months of the growing season will give the plants time to develop adequate new growth for next season's flowers. Cattleyas grown outside must be protected from excessive rainfall.



Cymbidiums. Cymbidiums are heavy feeders and the plants are growing fast now so fertilizer is a must. Use a good Cal Mag fertilizer and top dress with a 50/50 mix of crushed seashell and granular dolomite lime and 15-8-11 controlled release fertilizer. Fertilize devonianum and its primary hybrids at half that rate.



Dendrobiums.

Dendrobiums resent being repotted, but if you have some that have grown totally out of their pot or the potting mix has degraded, finish repotting them this month. Dendrobium canes grow closely together and many years growth can be accommodated in the same pot. Use a small pot and a largely inorganic mix that won't degrade like lava rock or aliflor; add just a little nutrient holding tree fern, coco husk or bark to the mix. Look at your deciduous cane-type dendrobiums that bloomed this spring and consider mounting them. They should be drenched with water and fertilizer during the summer months.



Phalaenopsis.

Complete repotting of phalaenopsis this month, they benefit from being repotted each year. If your phal is still in bloom by the end of the month, consider cutting the inflorescence and placing it in a vase to enjoy for another week. Don't be greedy, a phal will deteriorate if forced to carry its inflorescence too long during the long, hot summer days. Repot and allow it to develop new roots and leaves for next year's blooming season. After new roots appear, water more frequently with a dilute fertilizer solution.



Vandas.

Vandas enjoy bright, but not direct, sunlight, an abundance of water and fertilizer and copious amounts of fresh air. Wet the roots once or twice a day until they turn green and after an hour or two, spray the roots with a fertilizer solution. With enough light, water, fertilizer and air, your plants will reward you with beautiful blooms.



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Orchid Adventures

Redlands International Orchid Festival
by [Sue Bottom](mailto:sbottom15@bellsouth.net), sbottom15@bellsouth.net

The Redlands International Orchid Festival is the best orchid show and sales opportunity of the year. There are over 60 orchid vendors from all over the world offering a dazzling variety of orchids, common and unusual, of all different colors, shapes and sizes. It's like old home week, because we see all of our speakers there, whether they are selling or buying. We also see lots of fellow orchid addicts there, blowing their budgets, even though we swore that this year we would control ourselves. Ah well, can't wait for those new stanhopeas and seedling cattleyas to bloom to remind us of all the fun we had at the Fruit and Spice Park!



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ORCHID ADVENTURES

Continued from page 11



SHOW TABLE



Grower Dick Roth
Enc. Orchid Jungle



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Bulb. melanorhachis



Grower Courtney Hackney
Epy. Belmont x Enc. profusa



Grower Courtney Hackney
Epy. Little Nuggets 'Hackneau' HCC/AOS



Grower Bill Gourley
L. tenebrosa



Grower Vivienne Rowe
Aer. odoratum



Grower Courtney Hackney
Epy. First Love



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
L. purpurata



Grower Jeannette Pacetti
C. schilleriana



Grower Courtney Hackney
C. mossiae v. alba



Grower Bill Gourley
Phal. Sweet Memory 'Bubbles'



Grower Sue Bottom
C. Hybrida



Grower Dick Roth
V. denisoniana

