



CLUB NEWS



Fred Clarke

October 7 Monthly SAOS Meeting

By Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks.

President Bob Schimmel opened the meeting at 7:15 pm with 60 attendees. Bob welcomed our 3 visitors and thanked Jeanette Smith, Dianne Batchelder, Christie Peppard and Persia Tuvim for their wonderful refreshments and reminded all to enjoy while dropping a

dollar in the jar.

Linda Stewart recognized five birthday people with free raffle tickets. Bob then announced that the AOS is now offering a new online membership available for \$40 annually. This digital membership gives you access to the online magazine and the members only content on the website.

Club Business. Penny Halyburton, SAOS Librarian, advises members to just email her with your book selection and she will bring your requested book(s) to the next meeting.

For those in need of supplies, there are potting mixes and fertilizers for sale at the side table every meeting. There are a variety of choices available.

The Nominating Committee for next year's officers is Linda Stewart and Terry and Sue Bottom. They will make their recommendations at the November meeting.

Bob reminded all to attend the next Keiki Club field trip to the Gainesville Orchid Society Show at Kanapaha Gardens. We'll be meeting at the Flying J by the sign in the southwest corner of the parking lot of the Flying J truckstop at exit 305 off US 95 (at the intersection with SR 206) by 11 am so we can get to the show by 2 pm.



The last Repotting Clinic until next year is at Ace Hardware on U.S. 1 on Saturday, Nov. 1 from 9 am to 1 pm.

We need your plants for the Gainesville Orchid Society Show, October 25 and 26.

If you are submitting plants, email Sue by the 21st with their names so she can prepare the necessary paperwork. Contact Harry McElroy if you can help with set up on Oct. 24 starting at 9:30 am with tear down on the 26th at 5 pm.

Orchid Events. Fire Sale at Orchids by Del-Rei, Fred Keefer's place starting at 11 am on the 26th. Fred is moving to Las Vegas and will be having a huge sale. Everything must go from his greenhouse, home and belongings. Stop by to say goodbye to our dear friend and auctioneer.

Program. Sue Bottom welcomed our speaker Fred Clarke, owner of Sunset Valley Orchids in Vista, California, whose talk was entitled "Spotted and Splashed Cattleyas". He has been into orchids since the age of 17 and soon realized how much he enjoyed making hybrids. He also realized he gravitated towards novelty items such as the spotted and splashed cattleyas which quickly became one of his hybridizing goals. He shared impressive slides showing influential species with dominant and recessive genes and then compared them to their offspring. Fred talked about the splashes that come from *Cattleya intermedia* var. *aquinii* and *Laelia briegei*. Fred has been very instrumental in developing spotted cattleyas, including those with red spots on yellow flowers as well as his incredible blue



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CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

October

- 11-12 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show
Fort Pierce Shrine Club
- 14 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Catasetums
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
- 17-19 East Everglades Orchid Society Show
RF Orchids, Homestead
- 24-26 Orchttoberbest at EFG Orchids
4265 Marsh Road, Deland 32724
- 24-26 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show
Delray Beach Center for the Arts Gym
- 25-26 Gainesville Orchid Society Show
Kanapaha Botanical Garden
- 26 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 11 am
Gainesville Orchid Society Show
Meet at Flying J to Carpool
- 26-27 Brevard County Orchid Society Show
Melbourne Auditorium
- 29-2 16th Int'l Slipper Orchid Symposium
Fall Member's Meeting
Sheraton Orlando North Hotel

November

- 1 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 4 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Talk to the Professor
Courtney Hackney, Hackneau's Art & Orchids
- 11 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Schombo Sex
Paul Storm, Meke Aloha Orchids

December

- 2 SAOS Christmas Auction, 6 pm
**We're meeting on our normal Tuesday night but
at a different location and starting earlier!**
Moultrie Trails Clubhouse
121 Crooked Tree Trail, St. Aug 32086

- 7 JOS Christmas Auction, 5:30 pm
Orange Park Country Club
2525 Country Club Blvd, Orange Park

January

- 3-4 Sarasota Orchid Society Show
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
- 6 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
How to Grow Orchids in St. Augustine
St. Aug Orchid Society Members
- 8 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Speaker TBA
- 16-18 Tamiami International Orchid Festival
Dade County Fair Expo Center
- 18 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Bringing Home New Orchids

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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CLUB NEWS

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spotted orchids from using coerulea forms of aclandiae, schilleriana, leopoldii and loddigessi. As he proceeded through his various hybrids, the crowd "oohed and aahed" much like the sounds you hear at firework displays on the 4th of July.

Fred then proceeded to discuss how he grows his cattleyas. He likes all of his plants to be in well draining potting medium so the roots are well soaked and then dry out fast. The medium choices depend upon your time availability to water. He manually waters all of his plants which takes him 8 hours. He likes to irrigate the pot with a flush of 15 to 25% of the container volume. This moves air through the pot. He also flushes all of his plants once a month to rid the plant of salts. He uses a 3:1 mix of bark and perlite. Seedlings from flasks are placed in plug trays with some sphagnum moss. The organic matter helps to imitate natural growing conditions.

His fertilization rate is 100 ppm Nitrogen or in general terms, ½ level teaspoon/gallon. Water quality determines which type of fertilizer to use and his rule of thumb is:

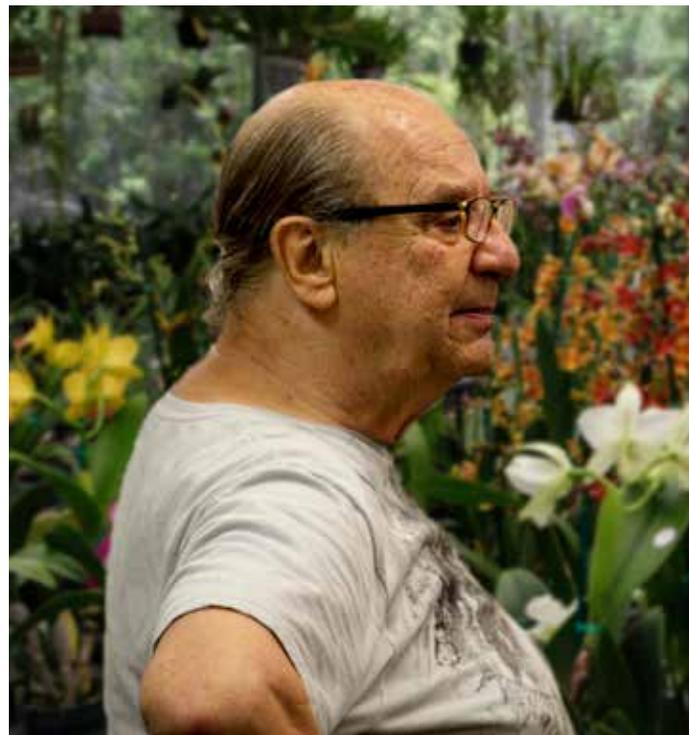
- If you have alkaline water containing a lot of bicarbonate hardness (like from our well water), fertilize with 20-20-20 (NPK).
- If you use a pure water (like rain water), fertilize with a cal mag fertilizer like 15-5-15 (NPK) that contains supplemental calcium and magnesium. This fertilizer is also suitable for our municipal water supplies.

Light levels are trickier to determine but most cattleyas like filtered direct sunlight. During the summer, aim for 10,000 ft-candles and in winter, 7,000 ft-candles so he uses a 55% shade cloth and adds an extra 40% shadecloth layer in the summer. If not possible, you can average the light and provide 65% shade overall.

Fred reminded us to treat all of our plants as if they are virused. Keep your conditions as sterile as possible. He recommended using newspaper piles on your table to keep

surfaces clean each time you repot or work on your plants. Use thin plastic gloves, sterile cutting instruments and no potting sticks. He repots when the new roots are just beginning to show. When you select a pot size, anticipate three years of growth and put the old growth tight up against side of pot. This leaves a void for the new growth to move into and slowly fill up the pot. He always makes a new tag and dates it three weeks prior. That way in three years when it's time to report, he can determine when the best time for repotting that plant will be.

Meeting Conclusion: Dick Roth announced the Member's Choice Award, Harry and Celia's Habenaria medusa. The raffle table was the final event of the evening with Fred, Christie Peppard and Dianne Batchelder presiding. We will dearly miss our trusty auctioneer and wish Fred and brother Richard all the best as they start their next adventure in Vegas. Thanks to all of those that stayed and cleaned up the room.



Fred Keefer surprises everyone by announcing he is moving and this would be his last SAOS Meeting. Good Luck Fred and thanks for all you have done for the SAOS.

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



CLUB NEWS



September 14 Keiki Club Fall Preparations

More than a dozen guests and visitors met at Mary and Louis Colee's home to talk about fall preparations. Mary talked about the different areas she grows orchids in the summer and where they will spend their winter. Many of the orchids will be moved from the summer homes on the front porch and under trees to the large back porch, equipped with big sliding windows and a concrete floor. Those tolerant of cooler conditions will be kept closer to the windows and those liking it a little warmer will be nestled against the house. Heaters can be plugged in to maintain temperatures of around 45 by the windows. Max min thermometers can be moved around to confirm nighttime temperatures are maintained in the desired range. Some orchids will also be moved inside next to windows or in the upstairs sun room, particularly the warm loving phalaenopsis and phalaenopsis type dendrobiums. After Mary's presentation, attendees were offered a free oncidium to take home, courtesy of Fred Keefer.

November 4 Monthly SAOS Meeting Talk to the Professor

Crowd favorite Courtney Hackney will answer any questions you may have on how to grow your orchids at the November 4 meeting. Courtney is our Go-To Guy for answering the tough questions. Now it's your turn. All those questions you've wondered about and been afraid to ask, this is your chance. This should be a great learning experience!

Courtney is the Director of Coastal Biology at the UNF where he teaches and conducts research in tidal wetlands. He has a lifelong love of orchids and has grown them for almost 40 years. He has written an article about cattleya hybrids and hybridizers for the 'Orchid Digest' as well as the book 'American Cattleyas'. He writes a monthly 'Growing Tips' column that appears in orchid society newsletters around the Southeast including the SAOS. Oh yeah, and he's the guy that always walks away with the Members Choice award for his show table plants.



October 26 Keiki Club Fall Preparations

We're planning a field trip to the Gainesville Orchid Society Show at Kanapaha Gardens. If you want to participate in setting up our exhibit, contact exhibit chair Harry McElroy at cymbidiuman@msn.com. The Keiki Club will make a field trip down to the show on Sunday afternoon to see the orchid and garden exhibits and vendors and possibly help break down the SAOS exhibit. Call Keiki Club Coordinator Mary Colee at 669-8760 if you have any questions.

To Carpool: We'll meet by the sign in the southwest corner of the parking lot of the Flying J truckstop at exit 305 off US 95 (at the intersection with SR 206) by 11 am so we can get to the show by 2 pm. We should be back by a little after 7 pm.

GOS Show: Kanapaha Gardens
4700 SW 58th Drive
Gainesville, FL 32608

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INSPIRATION



Spotted Cattleya

Terry Botta



CULTIVATION

Your Orchids in October

based on Robert Scully, Ned Nash & James Rose checklists, courtesy of the AOS



General Growing Tips. We usually receive our first cold snap around Halloween, so if you are growing outdoors, this is the time for you to make your winter preparations. Check your winter structure, test fire your heaters and start cleaning your plants. The shortening day length and cooler nights initiate all sorts of changes in your orchids. Your plants require less water and fertilizer now. Observe the rate at which your plants dry out after watering and make adjustments, gradually adding days in between your normally watering cycle.

Cattleyas. Many fall blooming cattleyas are getting ready to bloom and buds are swelling in their sheaths. *C. labiata*, *C. bowringiana* and the fall blooming form of *C. skinneri*, and their hybrids typically have double sheaths. *Sophranitis coccinea* enjoys a peak flowering season this month.



Some of its hybrids should also be blooming, particularly those with summer-fall flowering parents. While the plants are usually small, the show of color makes them conspicuous. Also blooming now is *Enc. cochleata*, *Epi. ciliare* and *Epi. pseudopidendrum*.

It seems that the big change in day to night temperatures can cause moisture to accumulate between the inner and outer sheaths causing buds to rot. Watch these orchids carefully and be sure there is lots of air movement around these orchids. If you observe any moisture accumulating,

carefully open the outer sheath and allow air movement into the space between sheaths. That usually solves the problem.

Paphiopedilums. Paphs and phrags really seem to love the cool nights too. Mature growths, especially in the multifloral paphs will prepare to flower. Usually development of new growths is the first sign that a flower spike will soon emerge.



Phalaenopsis.

Phalaenopsis require a significant day to night temperature change to initiate spikes. It usually takes a couple of weeks of these conditions to get phals to put their energy into growing spikes instead of leaves. Phals will be fine



on a porch or in a greenhouse even after nights are in the upper 50s F as long as the day temperature rises above 80°F. Once daytime high temperatures are below 78-80°F, phals need to be kept no lower than 60°F at night.

Vandas. Autumn marks the end of the vanda growing season. Vandas are known as heat-loving orchids, but seem to bloom better in the fall and winter as long as temperatures do not get below 60°F and there is enough light. Colors are always brighter when nights are a little cooler. This is especially true for any vanda or ascocenda with *Vanda coerulea* in the parentage.

Other Genera:

Catasetum Relatives. You should be seeing flowers on catasetums and their relatives now. Handle catasetums with care when the blooms are open because a minor jarring of the plant can cause the flowers to eject their pollen-carrying anther caps, resulting in a much shortened flower life. This interesting and unique method of natural pollen dissemination is always a stimulating topic of conversation for those seeing it occur for the first time.



CULTIVATION

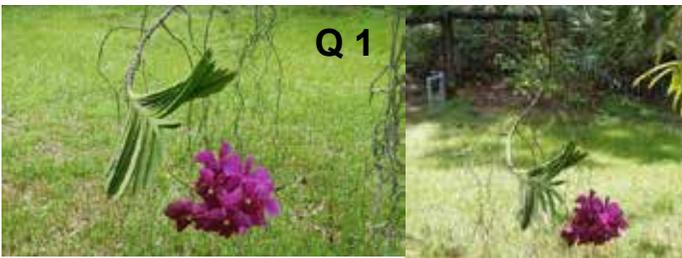
Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@bellsouth.net



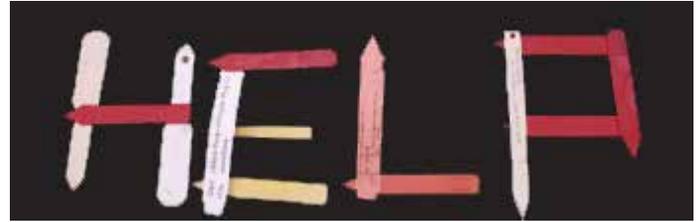
Q1. My vanda is about 17 years old and blooms 4 times a year. The main root ball is totally meshed into its small, original wood basket. I'm hesitant to undo any of the root

ball and replant it in a bigger basket. I'm worried because the bloom is now almost touching the ground. Should I just try to hang it higher up in the tree? The smaller, off shoot roots seem fine and the main shoot is hard and tough.



A1. That sounds like a wonderful vanda. I think I would try to retrain it. Vandas are sympodial orchids, that simply means they grow upward, adding a leaf or two or three every year at the top of the plant and losing a leaf or two at the bottom. The bottom of the plant will either get woody or sprout new keikis (babies) from the base and the keikis are often the future of the bottom of vandas. The way yours is growing, the top part looks like the viable part though it may not have enough live roots to support itself. Maybe you can patiently reorient the plant so the top part is growing upward. Get a very long S hook and tie the top of the plant to it and find a place where you can hang the S hook so the top of the plant is vertical without separating the top from the bottom plant. Ultimately it will sprout new roots, that you can encourage with rooting hormones if you are so inclined, and some people tie some sphagnum moss along the stem to encourage root growth. At some point in the future you'll be able to separate the two pieces and your vanda will be vertically oriented, like your other vanda.

Q2. I got this *C. mossiae* var. *coerulea* in 2009 and it never did well. New leaves got black tips that moved down toward the pseudobulb. I hung it in an oak tree next to the driveway 2 years ago. Never did anything to it in the winter. Squirrels chewed on the pseudobulbs. I would put a little fertilizer on it 2-3 times a year. It got water whenever it rained. Upon returning from a trip early summer, something caught my eye as I got out of the car, two nice blooms.



A2. Perhaps our orchids are more resilient than we think they are! I've killed some testing their winter tolerance, though some bloom better after the winter chill.



Q3. Are these maggots crawling on my *Bulbophyllum* Wilbur Chang?



A3. It is the larval form of some critter. It could be maggots given that flies are the natural pollinator of bulbos. Yuck!

Q4. I was wondering if you could help me diagnose what my phalaenopsis is suffering from?

A4. That bottom leaf has [edema](#), which is caused by watering late in the day when the night turns cool or by watering on a gray/cloudy day. Basically the plant takes up more water via the roots than it can shed by the leaves, so it forms a blister. Just leave it alone, it won't cause any further damage and hopefully is hidden by the leaves above it.



CULTIVATION

What is an Orchid Species?

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net



Laelia purpurata carnea

The first time I was asked the question “what is a species?”, I mumbled something incomprehensible. You may intuitively know what a species is, but putting a definition next to the word is easier said than done. A traditional definition of species is a population of similar individuals that interbreed but are reproductively isolated from other populations.

Geographical Isolation. A population of orchids can be reproductively isolated if it is separated from other populations by land or water masses. A simple case of too great a distance between populations can prevent them from interbreeding.



Laelia purpurata striata

Ecological Isolation. A species of orchids can be reproductively isolated from others if it grows in different habitats within a given geographical area, such as those growing in shade or sun, low or high in the tree canopy, etc. or if it has different pollinators.



Laelia purpurata schusteriana

Seasonal Isolation. The season of bloom can be an important distinction between species because it is one of the ways in which a population can be reproductively isolated. If one species blooms in the spring and the other in fall, they don't have an opportunity to interbreed.

Genetic Incompatibility. Orchids of different species within the same genus can interbreed easily and many genera within a given orchid subtribe can produce viable seed when they cross pollinate. But if the genetic differences are too great, two orchid populations growing in the same habitat with the same blooming season cannot interbreed and remain two distinct populations.

Taxonomists make distinctions between different species based on a host of things they look at, including the floral structure, particularly reproductive structures, the plant's morphology, growing and flowering habits, and sometimes even DNA analysis. Often there are minor variations within a species, such as flower color, size, etc. that are not extreme enough to be given subspecies designation so they are considered to be varieties of a species. The wide ranging Australian species *Dendrobium speciosum* is considered to be a single species despite it having nine separate varieties with different blooming periods, ecological niches, flower color, etc. The many prized color forms of *Laelia purpurata* are a good example of natural variation than can occur within a species.

Hybridization between species does occur in nature when there is an overlap in the geographical location and flowering period of species that can crossbreed and produce viable seeds and sometimes fertile offspring. There are areas in Brazil where the habitats of *Laelia purpurata* (lowland coastal rainforests), *Cattleya intermedia* (coastal areas) and *Cattleya leopoldii* (syn. *tigrina*, lowland

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coastal swamps) overlap. Within these overlapping areas, naturally occurring hybrids are found, including *Cattleya x elegans* (*C. tigrina* x *C. purpurata*), *Cattleya x intricata* (*intermedia* x *leopoldii*), and *Cattleya x schilleriana* (*purpurata* x *intermedia*).



L. purpurata 'Cindarosa'

A **hybrid swarm** is a population of individuals that are all hybrids, consisting of primary hybrids between the parent species, various generations of backcrosses between the hybrids and parent species and crosses between the primary hybrids. The exchange of genetic material in the population, referred to as introgression, is primarily from backcrossing and this tends to blur the integrity of the parent species. Dr. Ruben Sauleda always said that what we call the highly variable species *Encyclia tampensis* is really a hybrid swarm between three species. Carlyle Luer states that genes from species like *Encyclia phoenicea* and *Encyclia plicata* are present in *Encyclia tampensis*, even though the parent species are long gone from the wilds of the Florida peninsula.



Dendrobium goldschmidtianum

Sometimes **new species** arise when a species population evolves, converges and/or diverges and becomes genetically isolated from the parent species from which it arose. This has happened where populations of orchids evolve in a geologically active areas. When continental plates migrate or collide, the climatic conditions can also change and orchid populations adapt to wetter or drier, warmer or cooler, etc. conditions via natural selection and can result in the evolution of new species. Plate tectonics is one of the reasons for the incredible diversity in the species of dendrobiums and bulbophyllums found in the southeast Asia, the Malaysian Archipelago and Australia. Most of the angraecums evolved in Madagascar after the island separated from Africa.

It's simple for me to tell if an orchid is a species or not, I just look at the plant tag. Imagine what it would be like if you were looking at two populations of orchids in nature and trying to make a decision as to whether or not they are distinct species. You get a new appreciation for the taxonomists that study such things and sometimes change their minds about what orchid species belongs to which genus and what the proper name of that species might be.



Lc. Elegans var. *rubra*



Angraecum sesquipedale



CULTIVATION

Cattleya Orchid Culture

by Fred Clarke, [Sunset Valley Orchids](#)
reprinted with permission

Cattleya flowers come in almost every color and size. They are some of the most advanced in their breeding and have captured the eye of almost every orchid grower. These were my first orchids and they still are my favorite genus. The variety of flower colors, shape and blooming periods keep my green houses in bloom year round. With a careful selection every one can have Cattleyas in flower year round.



Wilmotteara Keith Phillips

Watering and Fertilizing are related as water carries fertilizer into the root zone. Important for good Cattleya growth is to have their roots dry down between watering. I fertilize with every watering using a weak fertilizer solution of 100 ppm nitrogen, this equates to 1/2 tsp in a gallon of water. In the summer when days are long and warm, the plants are in active growth and photosynthesis is at a high rate I water more. Usually 2 times a week, however during the hottest period I may water 3 times a week. During the cooler months watering once a week is generally satisfactory. Before watering I always check that the potting media has dried out sufficiently. Once a month I leach the pots where I water without fertilizer twice, one hour apart, this reduces any salt build ups.



C. Krull's Spotted Angel



Lc. (Tropical Chip x Jungle Elf) 'S&W'

Light Levels, Temperature and Air Movement are closely related as light raises temperature and air movement cools it. Cattleyas like light levels of about 2500-3500 foot candles. For optimal growth I suggest growing under 60-65% shade in winter and 70-75% shade in summer. This is accomplished by adding a second layer of 30% shade cloth in late spring thru late summer. Also a southern exposure or a location where the plants will receive plenty of bright, filtered light will work. I prefer to keep summer temperatures at about 75-85 degree days and 60-75 degree night, for winter 65-80 degree days and 55-60 degree nights. Cattleyas are quite adaptable and short periods of higher or lower temperature usual don't damage the plants. In nature most Cattleyas are epiphytes growing high in trees where there is abundant air movement. Your growing area needs to have good air movement.



Lc. Acker's Spotlight 'Pink Jewel'

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CULTIVATION



C. Landate

Potting Mix and Pots: I prefer 'Kiwi Orchid Bark' from New Zealand, it is hard and lasts 3-5 years without appreciable decay, however Douglas fir bark is also satisfactory. I mix 3 parts bark with 1 part perlite. I strive for consistence in the potting media and adjust the particle size based on pot size. For 2-3" pots I use fine grade bark and #2 perlite, for 4" pots medium bark and #3 perlite and for 5" plus pots large bark and #4 perlite. Plastic pots work well; they are inexpensive, light weight and readily available. However clay pots may work better in hot humid climates, also baskets and cork slabs work well. Select a pot size that will allow for a maximum of 2-3 years of growth. Cattleyas don't like to be overpotted as oversized pots take too long to dry out causing root problems, remember an important key to good Cattleya culture is the drying down of root zone in between watering.

Repotting and Dividing: Cattleyas generally start their growth cycle in the spring and summer. New growths often indicate new roots but I always wait until I see new root tips before repotting as some plants will grow their roots after the growths mature. Please don't underestimate the importance of repotting when new roots are starting to show, the stress on a newly potted plant is greatly reduced as the new roots will quickly reestablish it. Divisions should be made by cutting with a sterile tool or by pulling the bulbs apart. I try to keep the size of divisions between 3 and 5 bulbs. I remove most of the old media from the root system, often the newest roots are tightly intertwined with the media and removing it is damaging. As a result I may leave 5-10% of the old media in place in an effort to not damage these newer roots. They are the most effective roots and minimizing damage will lead to a quicker re-establishment.

Cattleyas are truly one of the most rewarding orchid alliances to cultivate. Their adaptability to a wide range of growing conditions, amazing variety of flower color, shape and sizes is without compare. So why not flower a Cattleya or two or three, to perfection?

Please feel to contact me with questions on how to grow these great plants.

(760) 310-0778.

fred.clarke@att.net



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ORCHID ADVENTURES



Orchid Adventures

Joan and David Rosenfeld in Skillman, NJ

When we were visiting family this summer, my Stepmom made a lunch date for us to meet the president of her Orchid Society, David Rosenfeld. This of course involved a tour of his growing area. Wow! His miltonias (see August 2014 Orchids) were just finishing their glorious blooms. He takes great pride in growing specimen size plants (see April 2013 Orchids). He grows plants I have never heard of before much less seen flourishing. Those few orchids of his that fail to perform end up on the compost heap... which I raided and brought home a *Neomoorea irrorata*. Maybe the change in climate will agree with it!



SHOW TABLE



Grower Bill Gourley
Ctsm. barbatum



Grower Sue Bottom
Ctsm. José Abalo 'Claire' AM/AOS



Grower Courtney Hackney
Paph. Prime Child 'Hackneau'



Grower Janis Croft
Odbrs. Kenneth Biven 'Santa Barbara'



Grower Yvonne & Bob Schimmel
Milt. spectabilis x Milt. Seminole Sand



Grower Dick Roth
Asca. David Foster



Grower Dick Roth
V. sanderiana



SHOW TABLE



Grower Gail Marshall
Cym. Chen's Ruby



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Habenaria medusa



Grower Courtney Hackney
Lc. Belle of Celle x Blc. Bethune



Grower Linda Stewart
Angcm. leonis



Grower Marcia Farrell
Onc. Rosy Sunset 'Pacific Satin'



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Golden Vanguard 'Emperor'

