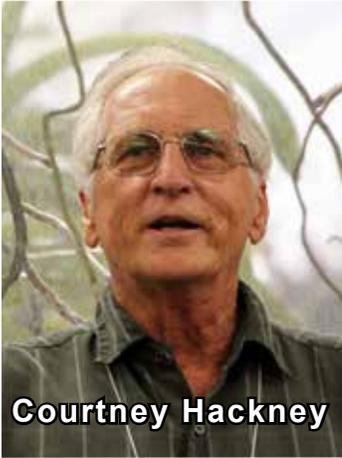




CLUB NEWS



Courtney Hackney

November 4 Monthly SAOS Meeting by Lola Stark

Welcome and Thanks. President Bob Schimmel called the meeting to order at 7:15 with 42 people present. He thanked Jeannette Smith, Barbara Conrad and Sandra Taylor for the refreshments and suggested that the "Drop a Dollar" jar was a little

scarce tonight, probably due to it being election night. Linda Stewart reminded those whose birthday falls in November to pick up their extra raffle ticket and suggested that anyone who needs a sunshine card to please get in touch with her. Bob also reminded everyone to vote for their favorite show table plant which Dick Roth will announce at the end of the break. He also passed along the information that an AOS Membership is now \$40 for an on-line membership where you will get the magazine on-line and have access to members only content on the AOS website.

Club Business. Penny Halyburton showed us Courtney Hackney's book on Cattleyas that he brought along to sell, and we also have in the SAOS library for borrowing.

Sue Bottom announced proposed changes to the bylaws to make the 1st Vice President the Vice President for Programs, the 2nd Vice President the Vice President for Publicity and add a Vice President position for Membership. Penny Halyburton made a motion that we accept the recommendation of the Board and it was passed unanimously.

The Nominating Committee recommended the following slate of officers for the coming year: Bob Schimmel for President; Sue Bottom for VP Programs; Linda Stewart for VP Membership; Yvonne Schimmel for VP Publicity; Janis Croft for Secretary; Bill Gourley for Treasurer; and Dianne Batchelder, Mary Colee and Lola Stark for Directors. Courtney moved that nominations be closed, Penny Halyburton

moved that the members accept the Nominations as stated and the members passed the motion.

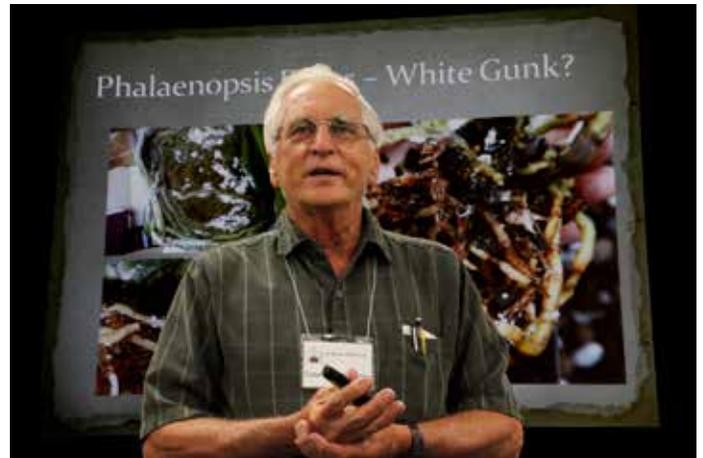
Harry McElroy announced that our display at the Gainesville Orchid Society Show took second place. Harry won Best Cymbidium in the show, Best Oncidium went to Gail Marshall and Sue won an AOS award with her Cyc. Jumbo Canaan 'St. Augustine' HCC/AOS. He thanked all those who helped.

The Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday the 2nd of December at the Moultrie Trails Clubhouse at the end of Crooked Tree Trail starting at 6 pm instead of 7. Lots of things have been planned by the committee. Come and enjoy. Barbara Conrad will cook the ham.

The Keiki Club will resume in January and the Ace Repotting Clinic in February.

Program. Our speaker for the evening was Courtney Hackney who has about 2000 orchids counting what he has in Jacksonville and what he has in Hawaii. He showed us slides and talked about what was wrong with the plants in the slides.

He emphasized that you must have good roots in order to have good flowers. An orchid plant is made up of half roots and half stems and leaves, so if you don't have good roots, it follows that the rest of the plant will suffer. The best time for repotting is when the new roots are just starting to come out. Courtney admitted he does not like to repot his plants and if one starts to have plants with roots hanging over the side, he often attaches another pot beside the one the orchid is growing in and begins to add potting mix slowly



Continued on page 3



CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

November

- 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
Charles and Kathy Young's Home
160 West Genung St., St. Augystine 32086
- 23-25 Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show
War Memorial Auditorium

February

- 3 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Guillermo Salazar, Horticulturist
Orchids of El Savador "Country of Hidden
Treasures"

- 7 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 7-8 Venice Area Orchid Society Show
Venice Community Center
- 10 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Speaker and Topic TBA
- 14-15 Boca Raton Orchid Society Show
Safe Schools Institute
- 15 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Spring into Action
Bob and Yvonne Schimmel's Home
702 Wilkes Court, St. Aug 32086
- 20-22 Naples Orchid Society Show
Mooring's Presbyterian Church

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Bob Schimmel schimmelr55@bellsouth.net
Vice President Programs	Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Vice President Membership	Linda Stewart lindstew@hotmail.com
Vice President Publicity	Yvonne Schimmel yrs58@bellsouth.net
Secretary	Janis Croft croftie1984@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bill Gourley wgourley@bellsouth.net
Directors at Large	Dianne Batcheler ladydi9907@aol.com Mary Colee mcolee4@gmail.com Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
Exhibit Committee Chair	Harry McElroy cymbidiuman@msn.com
Librarian	Penny Halyburton phalyburton@comcast.net
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom bottomt@bellsouth.net
Operations Committee Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com



CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1

to the new plant until it can be detached from the mother plant.

If your potting medium gets white gunk on it it may be snow mold, which grows when the potting mix has too high a pH. When it was available, orchid growers used to add redwood bark to the mix to inject some acidity. This is no longer available but you could top dress pots with cypress mulch to produce the same effect. When you repot any orchid, do it with dry materials and do not water until you see new roots coming, probably a week.

If you are having problems with thrips, use Orthene or something similar to stop them. Courtney told us that he does not have a problem with thrips and he thinks he's been very lucky in this regard because his greenhouse has lots of anoles and tiny little frogs who would keep the thrip population down. Sue on the other side uses Orthene, Avid, Conserve etc. on the buds and flowers. Thrips are tiny and hard to see, but plants infested can be washed off if you see them. Water with a hard spray away from your other plants.

Watering is another major aspect of growing orchids. When you water, water! The water will also bring fresh air to the roots of your orchids. Courtney pointed out that you might not get the water throughout the plants the first time around, so the best thing to do is water as heavily as you can, take a break and then water again.

If you get bacterial rot which can happen when water pockets in the crown or leaf whorls, it can kill a plant in 48 hours. Pour hydrogen peroxide on the affected tissue and dry out your plant for a few days. He also suggested that phals are susceptible to this rot because the crown of the plant cannot tolerate having water sitting in the center, so if you're trying to grow a phal upright, you should tip the plants sideways to get the water out. And do not water from the top. If you can see rotting leaves, try pulling out the leaf/leaves that have the rot. If they do not come out, cut them off. Most rot will show up on new leaves because they are very soft and have not had time to harden.

Do not put ice in your plants! Orchids come from tropical areas of the world and do not like cold water, and as you would expect, they also do not like hot water. Water with room temperature water.

Floppy leaves indicate the plant is not getting enough water or the roots are damaged and cannot take up water. Accordion pleating on the leaves such as on an oncidium also indicates a lack of water.

Corky bumps on your leaves are edema, caused by watering too late in the day on a day when the night turns cold or on a gray day. The plant is taking up more water than can be shed by the leaves and it causes a blister on the leaf.



Dianne Batcheler takes over auctioneer duties

. Leaves with holes in them in the greenhouse probably mean you've got roaches. Throw some pelletized boric acid around the greenhouse.

Orchids like all plants use light as a source of energy. Cattleya leaves should be light green if they are grown in the right light. If they're dark green, they are not getting enough light.

Orchids love good air movement. Good air circulation will also help prevent Botrytis (shows as little brown spots) on flowers, especially on white or yellow blooms. Once there, you can do nothing - the bloom is blighted.

If your disease is fast moving to kill the plant, it's probably bacterial. If it's slow it's usually fungal. If you have a problem, ask Sue or Courtney. One of the last of the problems discussed was Rhizoctonia when your rhizomes turn black or brown, similar to black rot though the damaged tissue is hard rather than soft as would be the case in black rot. The best thing you can do about this is cut that infection out.

Courtney uses cypress mulch on some of his plants and recommends using pure cypress mulch rather than a blend. Read your bag. A wonderful and certainly educational program!

Meeting Conclusion: Dick Roth announced the Member's Choice Award, Sue Bottom's Bc. Punakea. The raffle table was the final event of the evening with Dianne Batchelder and Mary Colee 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.

Lola Signs Off as Secretary. I've enjoyed being your secretary for the last nine years. I'm sure Janis will do a fine job.

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



CLUB NEWS

December 2 Monthly SAOS Meeting Christmas Orchid Auction

We know how busy December gets with family and friends and Christmas get togethers. We hope you'll be able to spread holiday cheer at our St. Aug Orchid Society Christmas party this year. Our party planners will wow you with their plans for the best Xmas celebration ever.

- Our annual Christmas orchid auction is scheduled for our normal first Tuesday meeting night, December 2.
- We'll meet at the Moultrie Trails Clubhouse located at 121 Crooked Tree Trail just north of Wildwood Drive where we've held the Christmas auction the last several years.
- We'll start our social hour at 6 pm instead of the normal 7 pm start time. This will give us a chance to tell tall tales before we hit the vittles.
- Bring your beverage of choice. The club will provide the low octane sodas, water, iced tea and coffee, but if you enjoy a cuppa with your meal, feel free!
- One thing that hasn't changed is all the good food. We'll have Barbara Conrad's home baked southern ham and smoked turkey breast Chez Captains BBQ.
- Members are encouraged to bring a dish to round out the meal. Salads, potato and pasta side dishes, vegetable side dishes and desserts have been big favorites in years gone by.
- We'll finish up the evening with a silent orchid auction where you can bid on a nice variety of different types of orchids.

Mostly we're looking to kick back and have fun, spreading holiday cheer with our orchid buddies. Hope to see you there!



Keiki Club Get Togethers Resume in January

The Keiki Club will begin meeting again in the new year. We'll meet monthly from January through November usually on a Sunday afternoon. During cold or hot months, we'll get together at a climate controlled locale. During the more temperate months, we'll meet at different members homes so you can see how others grow their orchids. Our hands on repotting and orchid mounting clinics will continue to be held at the Bottom's home. As always, our Keiki Club Get Together will begin with a short presentation on a timely orchid culture topic and then it's a free for all when we can discuss any and all thoughts or questions you have about growing orchids. No wonder everyone loves the Keiki Club!



Farewell Fred, Viva Las Vegas

This November SAOS will be saying goodbye to a dear friend, our Auctioneer Extraordinaire Fred Keefer as he moves to Las Vegas. As a charter member Fred has been with us since the very first meeting in 2006 in the parking lot at the lighthouse pier. It was Fred's generosity in those many formative months that made our raffle table possible, providing the initial stake for our treasury. We couldn't have done it without him. And even though SAOS is now on solid ground, Fred's generosity continues to this day.

A bit of history: Back in 1985 in Ft. Lauderdale, a friend of his bought two orchid prints and then started receiving orchids as gifts. Fred said, "If he can have them, why can't I?" – and so began the rest of the story. He started with 3 phals, 1 catt and a phaius. Two years later, still a hobbyist, he had 2,000. He eventually moved to Melrose, FL to become a partner in Wacahoota Orchids. The partnership ended, and in 2005 Fred moved to Hastings where he has since operated as Orchids by Del-Rei.

His personal orchid favorites are anything weird, different and unusual. Are we surprised? Most of his orchids have come from Hawaii, India, the Philippines and Thailand – where he rode an elephant on one of his trips.

Orchids by Del-Rei has been recognized not only for good orchids but great prices. A visit to his greenhouse was always well worth it for beginners and advanced growers alike. And we'll never forget his great orchid parties where the food, drink and friendship were 'unlimited', as was Fred's generosity in collecting food and toys for the families in need in the Hastings area.

Fred, you are an SAOS institution. Thank you from our hearts, and we wish you all the best in the world in this next phase of your life. Somehow, I doubt it will be 'retirement'. Watch out, Las Vegas, Fred's headed your way.



INSPIRATION



Roots "The Photograph"

Temp Botto



CULTIVATION

Your Orchids in November

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



General Growing Tips. Short days and cold nights necessitate adjustments for both plants and growers. Reduce water and fertilizer gradually until you reach your winter target, about half that of the summer levels. Don't fertilize winter dormant orchids and most dendrobiums after Thanksgiving. Prepare your plants for their winter home. Inspect them, remove dead leaves and sheaths with a sterile tool, and spray for pests if necessary. Protect them when temperatures are projected to drop below their winter minimum acceptable temperature.

Cattleyas. Retie your cattleyas to support the new growth and orient the new growth toward the sun. Bloom sheaths may be showing signs of yellowing. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths should be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within to prevent water condensation from rotting it. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb. New growths of *Cattleya skinneri* may have dried sheaths, do not remove them.

Dendrobiums. For the commonly available phalaenopsis type dendrobiums, protect them when temperatures are projected to drop down to 55 or 60 F. The winter dormant dendrobiums (nobiles, seminobiles and callista section) should be separated from your other plants so you



can easily reduce the water and fertilizer they receive through Thanksgiving. Shoot for minimum temperatures of 40 F.

Oncidiums. This is the blooming season for the Brazilian *Oncidium* section *crispum* with their chestnut and brown and butter yellow markings. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period. Stake your inflorescence as the spike grows for best presentation. Protect them when temperatures are projected to drop down to 40 or 50 F.

Paphiopedilums. Paphs can be potted almost year round. Examine those that flower in the summer and pot as necessary. While paphs never like to dry out entirely, this month marks the beginning of the time when growth, and hence, water and fertilizer needs slow down dramatically. Observe your plants and do not water if they are not at least partially drying out.

Phalaenopsis. Phals are starting to spike now. Stake the inflorescence loosely once it gets around 10 inches long about 4 inches below the growing tip and move your tie upward as the spike elongates. Remember the flower will



grow toward the light. If you move the plant, the flower spike will twist seeking out the sun so you won't get graceful pendulous blooms. Some people put a spot of nail polish on the pot so they know which direction the pot should face. Consider applying a preventative copper spray to help prevent fungal and rot problems.

Vandas. Vandas should be in their winter homes in the brightest location possible and you can reduce watering and feeding. The only cold hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Shoot for minimum temperatures of 50 to 60 F. If you have *Rhynchostylis gigantea*, look for inflorescences that are emerging now for January flowering.

Other Genera: Catasetum Relatives. Winter resting plants include the *Catasetinae* (*catasetum*, *clowesia*, *cynoches* and *mormodes*). These should be separated from your other plants so you can easily reduce the water and fertilizer they receive through Thanksgiving.



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q1. I have a new vanda orchid and I noticed the leaf tips appear serrated. My other vandas are either smooth tipped or have small irregular edges but not as extensive as

this one. Is there a problem?

A1. No worries, that's just the way some of them look. Your plants look great!

Q2. I bought this vanda orchid 2 weeks ago potted in coconut fiber. I decided not to repot it because it looked so healthy and it was in bloom. Recently I noticed the tips of the small roots started shriveling and two of the large root tips turned brown/black, so I decided to take it out of the pot and examine the roots. The three large root structures that were in the air look fine but all the roots that were potted in the media are yellow or brown. I haven't watered the plant at all (it rained once) since buying it but I did spray the exposed roots a couple of times.



A2. I think you should get that new vanda acclimated to your growing conditions. If the plant had been in that pot for a while before you bought it, the person growing it must have had it acclimated to his growing conditions because the roots were nice and fat. I think you were right to pull it out of the mix and hang it with your other vandas. You could put some spanish moss around the roots to help keep them hydrated in that they were probably accustomed to the wetter conditions in the pot. Ultimately the plant will



adapt to your cultural practices. It's a nice healthy plant with lots of good roots.

Q3. I found a Cattleya bud that looks like it has been eaten through the center of the bud. I have seen some insects before but I am not sure what I am looking at in the picture.

A3. Slugs or snails maybe? You can bait the the plant at night with some apple or potato slices and see if you find the guilty party in the morning. It is also possible that cockroaches are dining on your flower, spread some boric acid appetizers around and see if you find some dead cockroaches.



Q4. What should I do with this cattleya plant? This one rebloomed once but one of the new shoots does not look good. Hope I can save the other.

A4. That plant needs to get knocked out of the plastic pot and all the mix washed away from the roots. Cut away the dead center and sickly side and drop the remaining healthy tissue into a clay pot with no mix and just watch it, watering every other day or so to see if new root growth begins. You can apply a root stimulator like seaweed or rootone to encourage new root growth. Once you see new green root tips, drop it into a pot with your potting mix of choice, maybe a 4 inch pot. You'll have to make a decision about whether or not to use sphagnum moss. Some people have learned how to grow in sphagnum which I think means they have learned not to water plants until the sphagnum moss is almost dry, and you can tell when sphagnum is watered too much cause it'll grow algae on top. Unless you can resist the temptation to water, another potting mix may work better for you and your growing conditions.



CULTIVATION

Water Quality in St. Johns County

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

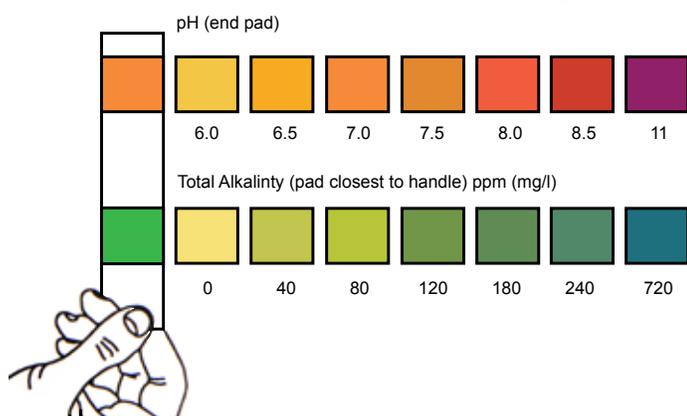


At our August meeting, we did some quick tests on pH and alkalinity for individuals who brought in water samples. The results indicate there are three basic types of water used in our area.

Low Alkalinity Water. This type of water is available to those individuals using rainwater or water from deep artesian wells. Low alkalinity water has the highly advantageous slightly acidic pH and low dissolved solids content. For these waters, a cal mag fertilizer with some supplemental Epsom salts is a great choice.



Moderate Alkalinity Water. Moderate alkalinity water is available through the tap for those receiving water from the City of St. Augustine and



Name	Source	pH	Alkalinity	Cal Mag Fertilizer	21-5-20 Fertilizer
				Low Alkalinity (< 150 ppm)	High Alkalinity (> 150 ppm)
Bottom	Pond	6	< 40	X	
Bottom	Well Water	8.5	> 240		X
Croft	Artesian Well	7	80	X	
Young	Well Water	8	180		X
Schimmel	Well Water	6	40	X	
Griffith	Tap	6.5	40	X	
Halyburton	Well Water	8	180		X
Bell	County	8	120	X	
Colee	Well Water	8	180		X
Schau	Well Water	8	180		X
Schau	Tap	6.5	40	X	
DePasquale	County	6.5	40	X	
Gourley	Mix	6	< 40	X	
Russell	City	7	80	X	
Berglund	City	6.5	40	X	
Berglund	Well Water	8	180		X
Marshall	City	6.5	40	X	
Marshall	Well Water	8.5	> 240		X
Makruski	Tap	8	180		X
Makruski	Rain	6	40	X	

St. Augustine Beach (they use deep wells supplemented with a reverse osmosis unit to treat the poorer quality well water). For these waters, a cal mag fertilizer is probably the best choice in a fertilizer because the extra calcium will help offset the effect of the higher than desirable sodium levels. The high dissolved solids content of this water makes it very important to flush the pots with copious amounts of water once or twice a month.

High Alkalinity Water. This type of water is available for those having shallow wells. High alkalinity water tends to be a poor quality water with basic pH and high dissolved solids content. It also tends to be calcium rich and magnesium poor. For those with high alkalinity water, use the acid generating 21-5-20 fertilizer or a 20-20-20, 20-10-20 from the big box stores as well as supplemental Epsom salts. Flush your pots once or twice a month with copious amounts of water.



CULTIVATION

Top Ten Orchid Growing Tips

by Oregon Orchid Society
reprinted with permission

Everyone likes Top Ten lists, so why not have one for orchid growing? These tips should help your success rate on orchid growing.

1 – Know Your

Orchid. With nearly 30,000 species of orchid (growing on six continents) and many times that in hybrids the question of “How do I grow this orchid” could have many, many answers. It is best if you know the exact name of your orchid, or if that’s not available, what type of orchid it is (what “genus” or “alliance”). If you have no tag and are unsure of this, why not bring the plant to your local orchid society for some identification? Once you know what type of orchid(s) you have you will need to find out what the requirements are in the basic categories of LIGHT, WATER, TEMPERATURE and if there are any other special requirements for that orchid such as a dry winter spell. This will include the best way to pot or mount your orchid considering where you grow. We have a chart that covers some of the orchid groups on our website [here](#).



2 – Repot Your

Orchid! We don’t repot our orchids to get them into bigger pots. We might need to do that, but orchids like Phalaenopsis (m o n o p o d i a l orchids that grow straight up and not out) will almost never need a bigger pot. The purpose of orchid repotting is to keep the potting media fresh. When the media breaks down its chemistry changes which will affect the plant. Also, it becomes less like bark and more like dirt – which essentially strangles the roots that, in the wild, grow out in the air. Most, not all, orchids would benefit from an annual repotting. This is often done after blooming to avoid stressing out the plant or affecting its growth cycle which typically happens between blooms. Regardless of when you’re repotting, you should always do so if the media has gone bad – and be aware



that many of the mass-produced, grocery store orchids are purchased in poor or old media and should be repotted as soon as possible! We hear a lot of people say that they’ve “killed orchids”. Consider the suboptimal conditions that the orchids were in when they were sold and it might just be that the orchid was, without some very special treatment, doomed from before they bought it. Our [video tutorial page](#) has a repotting video that we did on Garden Time TV.

3 – Don’t use ice

cubes. Let’s just dispel this rumor at the start: orchids are tropical plants, watering them with ice cubes is not just counter-intuitive, it’s a sure fire way to shorten your orchid’s life. Most orchids live in tropical areas and are drenched daily with lukewarm water (rain, that is) – and see high humidity the rest of the day. Not every orchid is the same so tip number 1 (above) should be heeded here, but we want to mimic their natural conditions which we do as closely as possible with a good potting mix (bark and perlite in many cases) that will allow airflow around the roots and then water them liberally once a week to soak the bark thoroughly. This will give them the drenching they want (though it’s not daily) and the humidity they also require as the bark dries out during the week. Your growing space may require watering more or less often. Orchids generally want a wet-dry cycle of some sort (to mimic the rain). For plants like Phalaenopsis, you should water when the mix has become dry (not BONE dry, but “unmoist”). Stick your finger into the mix to see if it is still moist near the center. If it is, don’t water it. If it’s dry then it’s time to water – and if your conditions are consistent you will probably be watering at that same interval down the road (but do the finger test often just to be sure). If you’re still convinced about the wonders of the ice cube on orchids, you can read more [here](#).



4 – Grow Orchids that Fit Your Growing Area.

Orchids have a wide variety of wants and needs since there are so many species. They’ve evolved over millions of years to like very specific things. Some of them are better



CULTIVATION

than others at being flexible with what they want, but most species orchids are very particular. Hybrids are usually less fussy and in that regard easier to grow. Your orchids are going to be happiest if they don't have to live in conditions that are very different from what they naturally want. So when you purchase orchids you should think about where you're going to put them. If you have a greenhouse, you potentially have a lot more control than someone growing in the home. In the home consider the amount of light that you can provide, the temperature that you keep your house at (day and night), the amount of humidity that your house has (air conditioning and heating remove humidity) and the quality of your water. These are all things that you could change if you wanted to put some extra work into it (like buying supplemental lights or collecting rain water) but if you simply want an orchid without putting out all that effort, you should look for one that likes what you already have. The great thing about orchids is that there are so many types, so there should be a wide selection of orchids that will be fine in your conditions, but you are setting yourself up for potential failure if you buy orchids that want the opposite of what you can provide. Here's a link again to our chart of basic orchid wants and needs: [Orchid Cultivation](#).

5 – Fertilize Weakly, Weekly.

Fertilization is not an incredibly important piece of orchid growing because orchids get very little fertilization in the wild, but it is something that will help your orchids grow well and vigorously. Keep in mind that orchids are very sensitive to salt and fertilizers are generally salts. So when you fertilize, which should be done during the growing season (summer), use the fertilizer at 1/2 the strength listed on the package – even if it is labeled as “orchid fertilizer”. Do this once a week when you water (you might water first and then fertilize because that best insures that the orchid takes in the fertilizer). You'll want to take a week off once a month and water without fertilizer to flush the salts from the pot so they don't build up and hurt your plant. Only Cymbidium orchids would want fertilization at full strength. Also, your orchids would benefit best from fertilizer labeled as “urea free” since it can take that in more readily.



6 – Buy from Quality Suppliers. Buying orchids from the grocery store is by no means a recipe for failure but it is likely going to require that you take some extra steps

to insure success. This is mainly because the orchids from these places tend to be potted in less-than-optimal potting media. It's an extra step to have to repot these orchids as soon as possible and you never know what kind of additional stress the orchid has experienced in transportation and/or care at the store (where they don't always know how to take care of orchids). When you buy directly from a professional orchid vendor or an experienced grower you should expect that the plant is much less stressed than the mass-produced ones and it will be potted in proper mix – all of which starts you off on a better footing! A great place to find quality suppliers is at an [orchid show](#).



7 – Ask Questions When You Buy.

When you buy orchids from an actual grower, you should ask questions about the orchid. You should know what that particular orchid likes – and the best source of that information is the person you're buying it from since they've been successfully growing it. You may also benefit from knowing exactly what conditions the plant has seen recently. For example, if it has been growing under lights and you set it in your south facing window it may get burned even if that type of plant could normally handle that light because it needs to put out stronger foliage to be able to handle that light.



8 – Recognize Pests, Diseases or Problems Quickly.

It's not necessary that you become an expert in all pests and disease, but you have better success if, at the



very least, you can recognize when something doesn't look quite right. The sooner you can recognize and deal with pests and disease, the better it will be for your plant. Advanced disease stresses out the plant and can lead to

Continued on page 11



CULTIVATION

secondary issues. Click [here](#) for more info on orchid pests and disease or use the dropdown menu above (under "Cultivation") to look into a specific pest or disease.

9 – Air and Airflow.

This is one topic that isn't often pointed out in the "orchid how tos". Airflow is probably more of an issue when you've gotten many orchids, especially if



they are growing in a crowded space. Airflow should be very light, but present. Stagnant air can benefit bugs in the crevices of your orchids. Keep in mind, though, that airflow will also dry out your orchid quicker. Stick your finger down into the media a few times a week to see if it has dried out. Also, orchids like FRESH air. Many tropical orchids LOVE to live outside when the temperature conditions allow it. If you do this, remember that bugs also live outside and even though your orchid has had an easy time of fighting off any such bugs because it is happy in the breeze, a few critters might come in with the plant when you bring it back inside. Vigilance and possibly a pesticide treatment (just before bringing it in) are good ideas.

10 – Use your Local Orchid Society as a Resource.

Across the US almost every region (even Alaska) has a local orchid society. These groups exist to help you grow orchids. If you're in the Portland area, we'd love to help you grow your orchids better! We meet once a month on the third Tuesday of the month and we have a "questions" email that anyone can use with orchid-related questions: oregonorchidsociety@gmail.com. We're also available for questions at our [annual orchid show and sale](#) – a great place to ask questions, find quality orchids and meet experienced vendors.



HAPPY GROWING!



Special Online American Orchid Society Membership

Only \$40

- Subscription to monthly issues of ORCHIDS magazine
- Free and discounted admission to more than 200 botanical gardens and arboreta
- Access to reliable on-line orchid information and features available only to AOS members
- 10% discount on purchases on-line at aos.org including back issues of ORCHIDS magazine and AOS published books

The Orchid Specialist RETIREMENT SALE

Thousands of Cattleyas, Oncidiums, orchid species and tropicals available up to 50% off. Additional discounts for large orders. Visit www.orchidspecialist.com for list of inventory, pricing information, and business location.

6,000 sq. ft. greenhouse on 1/2 acre lot near Orlando, FL also available.



Open House Nov. 8-9, 10 a.m. -6 p.m., or afternoons by appointment. (407) 889-3138



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Orchid Adventures Gainesville Orchid Society Show

The Gainesville Orchid Society is a great group of orchid growers and we met and talked to lots of them while we were setting up the show; learned some new tricks too!. Of course, we had plenty of time to visit with the orchid vendors and brought home some new prizes. We succumbed to temptation with Rolf Wilhelm of Woodland Orchids, Mary Roberts of Florida SunCoast Orchids, Bonnie and Louis Del Favero of Del Favero Orchids and Rob Schneider of Odom's Orchids. You can learn a lot from talking to the vendors at shows about how to grow this or that orchid. I got lots of grower tips for my new habeneria addiction!



SHOW TABLE



Grower Bill Gourley
Bc. Bill Krull



Grower Sue Bottom
Cyc. cooperi



Grower Sue Bottom
Phal. violacea var. alba



Grower Linda Stewart
Bc. Binosa x Bc. Little Stars



Grower Courtney Hackney
Bc. Lois Smith 'Ohana'



Grower Dick Roth
Den. bullenianum



Grower Linda Powell
No Name Cattleya



SHOW TABLE



Grower Courtney Hackney
Blc. Ashe Island 'Hackneau' x Blc. Tribute



Grower Sue Bottom
Bc. Punakea



Grower Courtney Hackney
Blc. George King 'Southern Cross' AM/AOS



Grower John Van Brocklin
Paph. Oberhausens Diamant



Grower Sue Bottom
Cyc. Robert Dickow



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Golden Rule x Cym. Kusuda Shining

