



St. Augustine NEWSLETTER Orchid Society

March 2018

Volume 13 Issue #3

CLUB NEWS



Bill Thoms

March 6, 2018 Monthly SAOS Meeting

By Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks. Bob Schimmel opened the meeting at 7:00 pm sharp with 52 attendees. Carolyn Smith introduced our guests. Bob thanked Daisy, Dottie and Lucy for bringing in their treats, and Jeannette and Shirley for organizing the

refreshments and reminded all to drop a dollar in the basket while enjoying their refreshments. Bob next informed all that the Best of Show voting would occur between the Show Table discussion and the presentation as well as the end of the silent auction. He encouraged all to vote for their favorite orchid.

Club Business. There are five orchid shows in March: Gulf Coast in Naples, Jacksonville, Coral Gables, Highland County, and Flamingo Gardens. Check the [SAOS website](#) for details.

Membership dues for 2018 are now due, \$20 for individual and \$30 for family. After this month, we will update our membership and email distribution lists. If you did not pay at the meeting, you can use the PayPal link on the SAOS website to sign up for membership.

Ace Repotting Clinic is the first Saturday of the month. The next one will be April 7

Hats and potting supplies were available at the side table. Email Sue Bottom (sbottom15@hotmail.com) if you need potting supplies and she will bring them to the next meeting for purchase. Items for sale are coarse mix, phal mix, timed-release fertilizer and "Purely O."



The next Keiki Club on Potting Mixes and Repotting Orchids will be on March 25 at Sue and Terry Bottom's home. Bring a clay pot or two as we'll probably have divisions to share. There is a \$5 fee to cover potting supplies. If you have more than one or two plants to repot, bring them to the Ace Repotting clinic.

The Jacksonville Orchid Show exhibit will be a tabletop. Bring your groomed plant to Sue and Terry Bottom's home at 3 pm on March 14 if you want to participate. We will decide on what plants to use and design the exhibit then.

Club librarian, Penny Halyburton brought in our speaker's book on *Bulbophyllums*. Remember to email Penny (librarian@staugorchidsociety.org) with your book/DVD request and she will bring the item(s) to the next meeting. The library collection is listed on our [SAOS website](#).

Our Sunshine Coordinator and Membership VP, Linda Stewart delivered free raffle tickets to the seven people with birthdays in March. Linda also announced the passing of member Robert Graeff this past week.

Carolyn Smith shared an activity of a reading club to which she belongs. For the month of April, the library groups are reading *The Orchid Thief* and having discussion groups. In parallel, the Corazon Theater will be showing *Adaptation*, the movie based on the book.

Show Table. Courtney Hackney had an overwhelming show table to tackle this month. The quantity of plants was staggering and we could well put a show exhibit together with these plants. Trying to put some order on his discussion, Courtney started with his C. aurantiaca 'Golden Dew' as an example of a species used in cloning and making hybrids. He then showed several plants on the table that were descendants and what their flower similarities were. For example, the Lc. Gold Digger's lips continue the pattern as well as Bl. Yellow Bird. The Pot. Love Passion demonstrated how the petals become flatter as the hybrid moves down the line. The intense colors on the Rupicolous Laelias are another feature hybridizers use extensively.

Courtney then moved on to the Paphiopedilums aka slipper orchids. There were two examples of the multiflora variety that grow easily in Florida, e.g. Paph. Bernice. He then displayed the complex Paph. Green Champion, commonly known as the bulldog variety because of its broad-faced flowers and drooping petals. There was also a Phrag. Praying Mantis from South America that is more difficult to grow in Florida because it does not like high heat and needs very good water. Courtney puts 1 tsp of agricultural lime per month on each of his Paphiopedilums since they commonly grow on rock outcrops in nature.

There was a beautiful C. Bob Betts, one of the early classic

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Upcoming Orchid Events

March

- 8-11 Gulf Coast Alliance Orchid Society Show
North Collier Regional Park, Naples
9-11 Orchid Society of Coral Gables Show
Fairchild Botanic Garden
13 JOS Meeting, JOS Show, 7 pm
Show Committee Update Report
7-18 Jacksonville Orchid Society Show
Garden Club of Jacksonville
24-25 Orchid Society of Highlands County
Bert J. Harris Jr. Ag Center, Sebring
25 Keiki Club Get-Together, 1 pm
Potting Mixes and Repotting Orchids
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct, St Aug 32086
31-1 Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society Show
Flamingo Gardens, Davie

April

- 3 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Phalaenopsis
Phillip Hamilton, Bredren Orchids
6-8 Deep South Orchid Society Show
Coastal GA Botanical, Savannah
7 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
10 JOS Meeting, Angraecums, 7 pm
Tom Kuligowski, Angraecum Blog
21-22 EPIC Celebration of Spring
Annual Flower and Garden Expo
Ag Center, St. Augustine
21-22 Tallahassee Orchid Society Show
Doyle Conner Agriculture Bldg
22 Picnic and Orchid Swap, 4 pm
Memorial Lutheran Church
3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086
28-29 Vero Beach Orchid Society Show
Riverside Park

May

- 1 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Vern Bloch, prior nursery owner
Brassavola nodosa and its Hybrids
4-6 Platinum Coast Orchid Society Show
Kiwanis Island Park Gymnasium
5 Repotting at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
12-13 Volusia County Society Show
Volusia County Fairgrounds
?? JOS Picnic
3611 Richmond St., Jax 32205
18-20 Redland International Orchid Festival
Fruit and Spice Park, Homestead

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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Continued from page 1

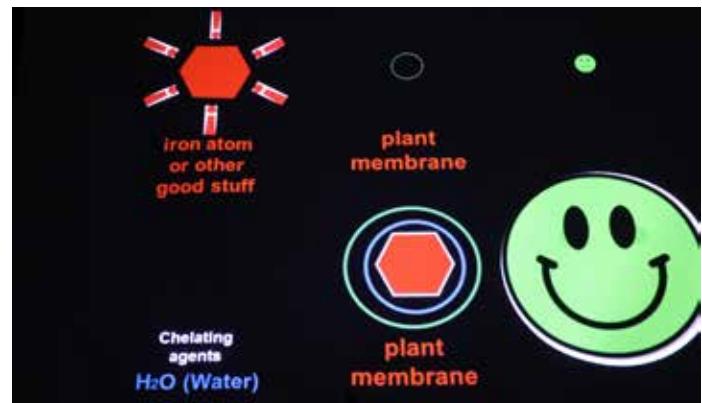
cattleya hybrids with its gorgeous 6" white flowers with ruffled petal edges and yellow inside lip. Then Courtney went back over the table to discuss the Epidendrums, Lycastes and Encyclias as well as other orchids, way too many to list here. At the conclusion, he then auctioned off a blooming Blc. Lily Marie Almas donated by Leslie and Chip Brickell. Check out the photos of our show table examples at the end of the newsletter and on the SAOS website.



SAOS Program. Sue Bottom introduced our guest speaker Bill Thoms from the Tampa area who entertained us with his talk on Bulbophyllums. Along with his wife Doris, Bill announced that they had just received their 99th cultural award and then proceeded to describe his process of growing all orchids, aka the **WAFL-HSE** method. First he held a rectangular tree fern flat over a tray and with the assistance of two volunteers, had one make the noise of a thunderstorm and the other pour water over the horizontal fern. After a gallon of water was used, he then asked the volunteers to state whether the top or bottom were wet. All agreed the top was wet but not the bottom. He then held the slab vertically and water poured out. When he held it horizontally, less water poured out. The point of this demonstration was that one must water on all sides and if you cannot do that, water twice. He uses flat lids from yogurt or cottage cheese containers that are barely 1/4" high under all of his bulbophyllums to keep them from drying out too fast. The secret to growing bulbophyllums is to **Water longer**.

His first slide showed small potted plants with pennies placed in them, the technique he used to develop his Powers of Observation (aka POO). He would have a friend hide a certain number of pennies and he would have to collect them all or else pay \$10 for each penny he missed. He soon learned how to look and observe each of his plants carefully. Plants "take in" during the day and "put out" at night that is one reason why you need fresh Air always in your growing area. This with your new POO skills will help you observe how your plants change overnight.

All orchids have to be given Food otherwise they rob nutrients from their older sections which is why you lose back bulbs and leaves. He feeds weekly weekly, after he waters, at least every seven days. He also uses Laura Newton's Plant Potion #9, chelated micronutrients. All orchids need Light. Bright shade is best to get your plants to flower. He then demonstrated with his hand held up in the projector's light, the difference between diffused light and very bright light and the stages in between. Bill also



encouraged us to test the leaves for heat to see if the light was too bright. The leaves should be the same temperature as our hands or cooler.

Bulbophyllum is the largest genus in the orchid family. Bill showed us many slides of plants he grows. One slide showed a new species that he named, Bulb. romyi. He pointed out that the better plants were growing Horizontally along a tree limb as compared to those growing vertically up the tree. He also stated that there are very few pest problems in growing Bulbos. Slugs and snails are easily handled and roaches are controlled with Raid or similar products. He prefers Neem Oil mixed with Palmolive soap sprayed on plant to control all other insects. Chemical Sprays should only be done when it is cool. Living in Florida, he sprays just as the sun is going down. Finally the last letter in his method is Epsom Salts, magnesium sulfate, that all orchids need. He uses 1 tsp/gal applied monthly.

Meeting Conclusion Harry McEnroy announced the Member's Choice Award as Susan Smith's Paph Green Champion. Dianne and Susan announced the raffle table winners, from a very crowded table full of raffle plants. Thanks to all the helpful hands that stayed to reset the tables and chairs and clean up the room.

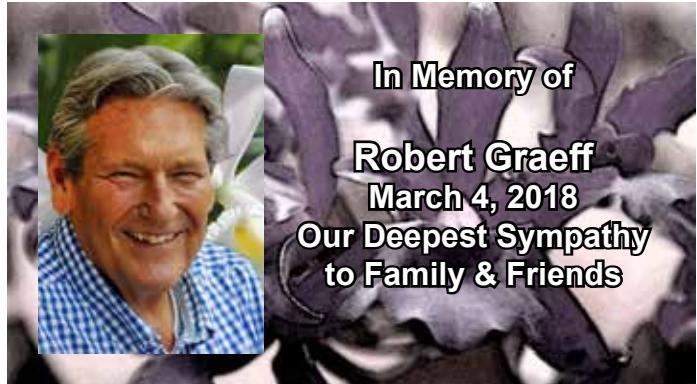
Thanks to Watson Realty and
Jeanette Smith for the use of their
meeting space at
3505 US 1 South



CLUB NEWS

Want to Remain a Member of the SAOS?

At the end of March we will update our membership roster. Dues are \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a family. You can mail your membership check to SAOS c/o Bill Gourley, 807 Kalli Creek Lane, St. Augustine, FL 32080. If you prefer to renew your membership online, you can pay using PayPal from the link on our SAOS website. The online dues for an individual are \$21 and for a family \$31, which includes the fees PayPal charges. We hope you enjoy the club and all our activities and want to remain part of the group!



April 3 Monthly SAOS Meeting Phalaenopsis

Phillip Hamilton of [Bredren Orchids](#) will talk about Phalaenopsis, their history, culture and current trends in hybridizing. Phillip is the son of Claude Hamilton of Hamlyn Orchids in Jamaica, so he grew up with orchids. He has a degree in Environmental Horticulture and is an Accredited Judge with the American Orchid Society. Phillip's hybridizing program focuses on the fragrant violacea and bellina Phalaenopsis.



Bring your flowering orchids to exhibit on the Show Table. We will have our normal raffle at the end of the meeting. Friends and guests are always welcome!

The Orchid Show Season February Keiki Club Get Together

A dozen or so SAOS members gathered at Janis and Alan's home to talk about the orchid show season. After we admired Janis' great looking growing area and Alan's bonsai garden, Linda gave a hands-on demo for how to prepare your orchids to show. She showed how to stake emerging spikes, clean leaves and drop your plant in a decorative pot. Sue talked about buying plants at the shows. After you are done admiring the flower, look carefully at the plant and make sure it is well established in the pot, not wobbly. As a general rule, drench plants with a systemic insecticide and fungicide before placing them in with your other plants. Janis talked about plans for the SAOS exhibit at the JOS show in March. We are going to layout our exhibit on Wednesday, March 14th at Sue and Terry's house. Bring your plant to the 3 pm meeting if you want to participate.

March 25 Keiki Club Repotting Orchids

The Keiki Club will be on Sunday, March 25 at the home of Sue and Terry Bottom, where we will have our annual repotting meeting. Many of your orchids are sending out new roots, this is the best time to move them to a new home. We will talk about how to select a potting mix that will work with your growing area, your orchids and your watering habits. There may be some orchid divisions for you to mount and/or pot up (one to a customer), so bring a 4 and 6 in clay pot, just in case. There will be a \$5 charge to cover the cost of supplies. If you have more than 1 or 2 of your own plants that need repotting, please bring them to the Ace repotting clinic.

Where: Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Court, St. Augustine 32086
When: March 25, 1 to 3 pm



Want to Hire Some Professional Help? Steve Hawkins, [The Orchid Specialist](#)

Steve Hawkins, the Orchid Specialist, is offering a fee based service for orchid repotting and consultations in your home. Steve operated a commercial nursery in Apopka for many years and recently relocated to our area and joined the St. Aug Orchid Society. For details, visit [orchidspecialist.com](#) or call Steve Hawkins at 321-279-3003 (afternoons).



INSPIRATION



Bulbophyllum arfakianum

© Tony Botto



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@gmail.com

develop brownish spots which are rather unsightly, but also worries me that they are getting fertilizer burn. Is there a way to prevent this from happening?

A1. I'm assuming you don't have a water softener, so you don't have to worry that the sodium from the softener is negatively affecting your orchids. I don't like the brown markings on the roots, put a little sphagnum moss over them to help keep them moist and prevent salts from precipitating.



Q 1

Q2. This Rhynchostylis arrived about a month ago and I grow it in a southwest window. The lower leaves are wilting (they had the black areas when I bought it). I water it every day and once a week I fertilize it with 1/4 strength MSU. What is wrong and what can I do?

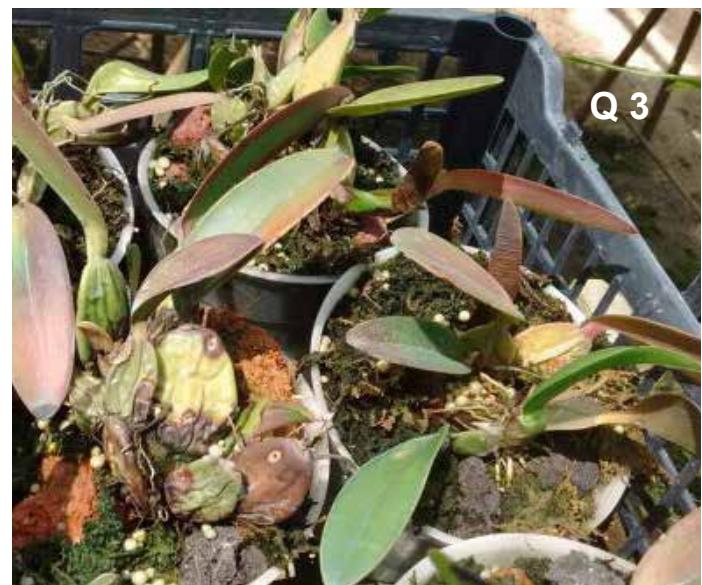


Q 2



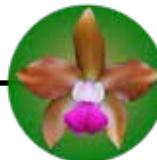
A2. My guess would be the indoor humidity does not match the greenhouse humidity in which it was likely raised, and the dehydration and yellowing of the lower leaves is the result. If you have access to live spanish moss, you could drape it around the roots to help raise the local humidity. Growing vandaceous orchids indoors can be a challenge with the low humidity indoors from artificial heating and cooling systems.

Q3. This Laelia rubescens has a disease. I suspect Phytophthora or virus.



Q 3

A3. Your plants don't look virused. The Laelia rubescens could have black rot, if the rot is moving quickly and is soft and has a distinct nasty odor. If it is more hard than soft and progresses very slowly from older to younger sections of the plant, it is more likely to be Rhizoctonia. Knock it out of the pot and look at the roots, if the oldest pseudobulbs have no roots, it's Rhizoctonia solani that has built up to toxic levels in the pot and caused the root rot. You'll have to cut the plant up until you find healthy tissue, using a sterile tool for each cut, and then pot up in fresh potting media. It should recover, you can pour a systemic fungicide effective on Rhizoctonia through the pot if you have some, and maybe some root stimulator like seaweed to get it growing again.



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The ABCs of Watering Courtney's Orchid Growing Tips

The most frequent question asked is how often should I water my Orchid? Unfortunately, there is no simple answer. Most novice growers want to be told "once a week" or "every other day". The only correct answer is "as frequently as they need water".

The amount of water a plant needs depends on an array of different factors, which, like the weather, change daily. Good Orchid growers have learned how to answer this question for their own growing area. Knowing when to water requires knowledge of many factors that affect Orchids, which takes years to learn. Nevertheless, every hobbyist has gone through the same learning process and we all continue to learn. Here are the basic cultural elements each grower must understand and the questions you must ask before attempting an answer.

First, what "kind" of Orchid do you have? It may not be necessary to know the species or the name of the plant if it is a hybrid Phalaenopsis because this group will likely respond to the general culture of Phalaenopsis. On the other hand, members of the Dendrobium genus, including hybrids, may have very different water requirements. Some species require a dry rest period, while others need constant moisture. So, one must become an expert on the natural habitat of species or an expert on species in the background of hybrids to correctly answer the question.

How is the Orchid in question growing? Is it in a pot? What type of media is being used? How old is the media? Some media hold water, while others do not. Decomposing bark or old peat-dominated mixes become mushy once they reach a certain state of decomposition and may take twice as long to dry as when they are fresh. How is the novice to answer such a complex question? Even experienced growers have trouble answering this one. Novice growers often have the disadvantage of having purchased or received the plant and have never repotted an Orchid themselves so they are totally unfamiliar with the attributes of different media.

Are you growing your Orchids inside, under lights, or on a windowsill? Orchids growing inside are often subjected to much drier conditions than would be found in nature or in a greenhouse. Dry air can be a big problem when outside conditions are such that heaters or air conditioners run more. Heating air drops the relative humidity and air conditioning intentionally removes water from the air. In

general, the greater the difference between the inside and outside temperatures, the greater the drying effect on the Orchid and the more water Orchids require. Also remember that Orchids obey a physiological law that dictates that growth rates increase 10 times every time temperature doubles. If your home is 60 deg. F your Orchid will require significantly less water than when grown at 78 deg. F.

Finally, what is the condition of the plant? A healthy plant with lots of live roots can remove water quickly from even a soggy media while a plant with only a few roots may rely on the drying effect of the surrounding air to dry the media. The more leaves, the greater the potential for water uptake if the roots are alive. Was the plant just repotted? Newly repotted plants will need time to grow roots to replace those lost to repotting and so may require less water. Remember too, different types of Orchids use more or less water. Almost never, however, do Orchids use as much water as the annuals we plant in gardens.

After fielding the "water question" dozens of times and seeing that puzzled look on the face of novice growers, I decided that a poor answer would be better than the one you just read, at least for new Orchid growers. Here is the short version that works (most of the time).

First, determine the general type of media in which your orchid is growing by pushing your finger into the media. How easily could you push into the media? If it was difficult to push a finger into the media then the media is likely some type of bark. If it is bark, determine if the media is dry. If the media feels dry and warm then it is time to water. If you are not sure if it is dry, then wait a day or two and water the plant. The types of Orchids potted in a bark mix can usually handle a little extra drying with no deleterious effect.

If it was easy to push your finger into the mix, then your Orchid is likely potted in either a "soilless mix" or Sphagnum. If you cannot tell if the media is wet then it is time to water. If the media is wet or soggy then do not water. Continue checking until it is difficult to tell if the media is wet or dry. If the media suddenly feels hard, like a pad of steel wool, then there is an excellent chance that the media has degraded. This plant needs repotting and should be repotted as soon as possible.

While overly simplistic, this procedure works most of the time. Now all the novice needs to learn is repotting.

Note: Dr. Courtney Hackney wrote a monthly column of his orchid growing tips for about 20 years; we are reprinting some you might have missed, this one from March 2001.

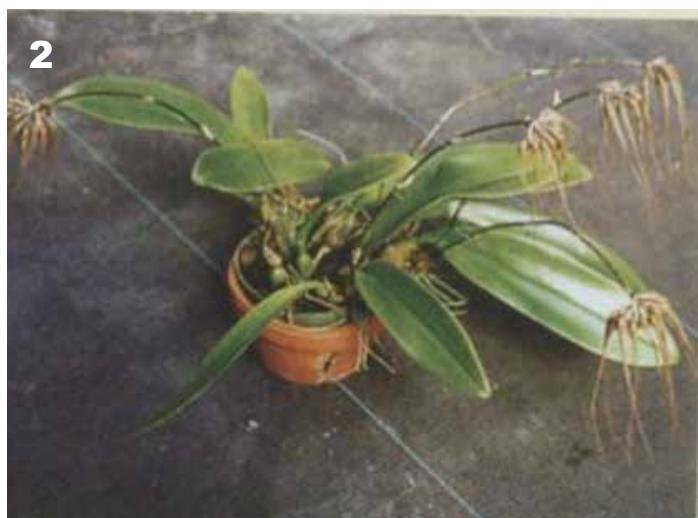


CULTIVATION

Grooming *Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann 'Jean'*,
HCC/AOS

by Bill Thoms, reprinted with permission
Courtesy of the American Orchid Society

1. Day One. Here is an example of grooming in general, as shown by *Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann 'Jean'*, HCC/AOS (*longissimum x rothschildianum*). This is the plant when I started. On the first day, I took the plant and set it in a heavy pot so it wouldn't fall over as I worked on it. I cleaned the leaves and started to adjust the spikes. The stakes were kept down low on the spikes to keep them from curling around instead of being repositioned. I also took a leaf that was upside down and turned it over so the top showed.



2. Day Two. I moved the spikes a little farther. Notice how the spikes are still straight and not curved.



3. Day Three. I moved the spikes a little farther. It is almost ready.



4. Day Five. After five days, the plant is ready to be judged, but it never went to judging because that was two weeks away. I just groomed it to show how it's done.

*This sidebar was for an article Bill wrote on Growing Specimen Plants that appeared in the American Orchid Society's monthly publication *Orchids* in December 2008 (Vol. 77:12, pp 902-909).*



CULTIVATION

Advice for Better Potting

by Bill Thoms, reprinted with permission
Courtesy of the American Orchid Society

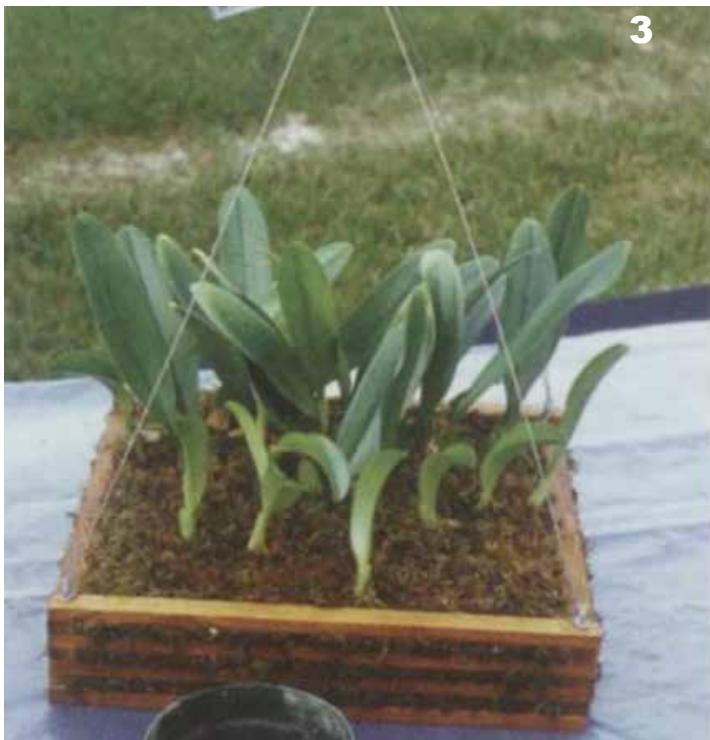
1. I make my own baskets and line them with sheet moss. I stuff the moss in between the slats from the inside so it looks neater. In cultural awards, neatness counts a lot.



1



2



3

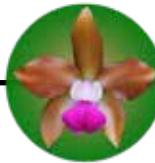
3. To pot, I clean off the old mix, wire the plant firmly through the bottom, add more mix, place a layer of moss on top, clean the leaves and add the hanger and label. Shown is a specimen of *Bulbophyllum rothschildianum* 'A-dorabil', CCM-CCE-FCC/AOS.

4. This is the plant two years from the award it received when it was in a 5-inch (12.5- cm) pot (at which time it received a FCC and a CCM of 89 points). This time it received a CCE of 95 points. This photograph was taken the day after judging by Donald F. Wilson, a great photographer who at 91 years of age no longer takes award photographs. I took the plant to him because the show photographer was unprepared for a plant of this size.

*This sidebar was for an article Bill wrote on Growing Specimen Plants that appeared in the American Orchid Society's monthly publication *Orchids* in December 2008 (Vol. 77:12, pp 902-909).*



4



CULTIVATION

Try New Things

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@gmail.com

Orchid growers are always tinkering with their growing regimens and experimenting with different approaches. Courtney likes to see how newly purchased orchids growing in different commercial mixes will fare in his greenhouse. He watches the plant carefully, of course, to see whether the mix will get thumbs up or thumbs down under his growing conditions. Some cattleyas he has purchased in cypress mulch have had a fabulous root system and growth response, so the search is on for a reliable source of high quality cypress mulch (a product that unfortunately is quite variable in quality based on our local experiences). Some of the plants he has gotten in sphagnum moss were found to have compromised root systems, whether the moss was too old, of low quality or just stayed too wet, the experiment was terminated and the plants repotted into his mix of choice.

Catasetum Heresy. Today's Catasetum growers are told repeatedly that Catasetums require a dry winter, and that all water should be restricted during dormancy. I have generally followed this advice except for the couple of plants that refused to drop their leaves like *Ctsm. discolor*. This year the resting Catasetums were put in a dryish section of the hoop house, but they did receive some overspray from the overhead misting system. Not only did they not suffer any negative consequences from the misting, the bulbs remained plump showing no signs of winter dessication. For some interesting observations on winter watering, take the time to reread Stephen R. Batchelor's 1983 article on catasetum culture as a function of growth cycle (*Orchids*, 52:11, 1163-1169).



1. The white, plump roots on the left are healthy and ready to fuel this year's growth, this plant was slip potted. The plant on the right has some healthy roots and some not so healthy, these roots were cut away so the plant could regenerate fresh roots.

The new growths began to appear in December and January so it was time to start repotting. The root systems were so robust that it was difficult to get the bulbs out of the pot, even with a knife. Time for Catasetum heresy #2, each pot was set in a bucket of water so the roots could absorb moisture allowing the plants to be removed more easily from the pot. With a little urging from the knife, they popped out of the pot without too much damage to the roots. This clearly violates the rule about no watering of plants until the new roots/growths are 4 or 5 inches tall.



2. Some of the catasetums with healthy root systems were slip potted, dropped into larger pots with a little extra moss. This means the pots are larger than in prior years, but the plants do not seem to mind as long as there is enough styrofoam at the bottom.

Then it was decision time, cut away all the old roots and pot up the bulbs as I have done for so many years? After hydrating the root mass, it was easy to tell whether the roots were healthy or distressed. When there was a dense mass of white, thick roots throughout the pot, this pot was simply dropped into a larger pot with a little extra sphagnum moss. Grayish, dry looking roots were removed, often to the base of the pseudobulbs. Sometimes there was a very healthy section of roots in one area of the pot and not so healthy roots in other sections, for these a hybrid approach was used in which only the viable roots were maintained and surrounded with fresh sphagnum. The lesson learned from this experience is you should know the rules as well as understand the reason behind the rules. After that, trust your instincts. Do not be afraid to break the rules if it seems like the right thing to do.

There are some new products we will be trialing this year.



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3. Using seaweed and rooting hormones is not new, but spraying a root stimulant on the leading cattleya pseudobulb during repotting is a novel approach. Hat tip to John Stanton via Courtney Hackney



4. Tired of your shears getting dull and rusted after a few months of torching? Try a more heavy duty shears for sheep hooves, thicker, stronger and more resistant to dulling. Hat tip to Keith Davis.



5. If you are looking for something to mash up the plant tissue in the mesh bag when testing for virus, keep a hammer in your potting area. Hat tip to Plato Matthews.

Dip 'n Grow Liquid Rooting Hormone. There are many different substances that orchid growers use to stimulate root growth; from natural products like kelp that contain rooting hormones to synthetic products of various formulations and strengths. Dip 'n Grow is a synthetic auxin formulation containing 1.0% indole butyric acid (IBA) and 0.5% naphthalene acetic acid (NAA) dissolved in an isopropyl and ethyl alcohol solution. The IBA in alcohol-based product is designed to be readily absorbed into the plant tissue. John Stanton of the Orchid Trail in North Carolina told Courtney his trick for applying the auxin to get the best response. He uses the midrange 1:10 dilution rate and places the liquid in a spray bottle. When he has prepared the plant for repotting, he sprays the forward part of the rhizome to encourage root growth and then repots it, letting it dry slightly before drenching the pot. This seems to be a more targeted approach than just drenching with a seaweed solution after repotting and letting much of the active ingredient be washed from the pot. This product in and of itself is not that unusual, it is the way in which it is applied that is so clever. We will be using this during the repotting season and will

report on the results. We hope to get the profusion of roots in recently repotted orchids as John reports, particularly for those sometimes-difficult bifoliates that are so sensitive to repotting mistakes.

Sheep Hoof Trimming Shears. Christmas arrived early when I received a package from Keith Davis containing two sets of shears and along with a catalog from the Mid-States Wool Growers. The shears are tough, sharp and durable, designed for cutting sheep hooves. One of the shears is the ARS Hoof Shear, described as being "made of a high carbon steel, precision ground, and hardened for strength. Because of the thickness and strength of their blades, they can be sharpened many times over". The second was a Saboten Hoof Trimmer described as "lightweight, easy action, very sharp, making for easy cutting". I am hoping this will solve my shears dilemma where I buy five or six pairs each year and the torch dulls them quickly. Even though Terry sharpens them, they have to be replaced at the end of the year. So far, these shears are great. Only Keith would come up with the idea of using these on orchids. Of course, this is the same guy that gets iron fillings from the shop that turns brake drums as a supplement for his rupicolous laelias and uses a clothespin to train his flowers to display properly.

Hammer for Virus Sample Prep. I continue to test for and find virus in my cattleyas. The good news is that the cattleyas exhibiting the symptoms of virus in their leaves are gone, but I continue to find color break and necrotic streaking/spotting in the flowers. At one of the Cattleya Symposiums, I overheard Plato Matthews talking about how he prepares the leaf sample for testing with the Agdia strip with a hammer. Hmm, much more effective than the meat tenderizer I had been using. I have yet to determine how the virus is being transmitted despite all my sanitation precautions. I haven't made the leap to using gloves during repotting, perhaps I will this year or perhaps I'll just keep a spray bottle of Lysol general cleaner handy and wash my hands between plants.

Do not be afraid to try new things. You do not want to be stuck in the "this is the way I have always done it" mindset, neither do you want to try out every new suggestion on your entire orchid collection. Approach the change as you would a scientific experiment. Consider what you are trying to achieve; think through what result would constitute a success and what would be considered a failure. After that, your powers of observation will tell you if it is time to cut your losses and end the experiment or expand it to a larger trial. Try new things, as my Sainted Mother used to recite, "Every day, in every way, I am getting better and better".



ORCHID ADVENTURES



**Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden
Savannah**

We love Savannah and Charleston, for the food, the history and the southern hospitality. We took a quick trip up to Savannah before Valentine's Day and stopped into the Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden. Given the snow they had this year, the outdoor gardens were still in their winter form, but the greenhouse maintained by the Deep South Orchid Society was in full bloom. We are guessing that different members of that club house their orchids there. There was quite a variety of mounting and potting techniques to observe, and quite a variety of orchids being grown together. We will visit the gardens again on our way to dinner at the Olde Pink House!



SHOW TABLE



Grower Suzanne Susko
Ornithocephalus gladiatus



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Phrag. Praying Mantis



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. (Ruby Baker x (Sweet Spring x Pharaoh)) x traceyanum



Grower Tom & Dottie Sullivan
Onc. maculatum 'Paulo' AM/AOS



Grower Mary Ann Bell
Lysudamula Red Jewel



Grower Art Russell
Den. lichenastrium v. prenticei



Grower Sue Bottom
Lc. Christian Starr



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
Clowesia Grace Dunn 'Chadds Ford' AM/AOS



Grower Susan Smith
Paph. Green Champion



Grower Steve Hawkins
Lc. Gold Digger



Grower Linda Stewart
Iwanagara Apple Blossom



Grower Glo MacDonald
Enc. cordigera f. semialba



Grower Courtney Hackney
C. Bob Betts 'York' AM/AOS

