

## CLUB NEWS

### Sept. 4, 2018 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Janis Croft



#### Welcome and Thanks

Bob Schimmel opened the meeting at 7:00 pm sharp with 57 attendees. Carolyn Smith introduced our new member Ariel Brestin. Bob thanked Lucy, Dorianna, Dottie, Karen and Annalee for bring their delicious goodies and Jeanette and Shirley for organizing the refreshments.

#### Club Business

Check the website for details about the orchid shows, Ace repotting clinics and Keiki Club get together.

Growing supplies are available on the side table. Email [info@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@staugorchidsociety.org) to preorder and we'll deliver to you at the meeting. There is a Purely Organic sign-up sheet for February 2019 delivery. \$25 for 25# bag and \$40 for a 50# bag. Prepay by December 2018 meeting. Holiday Calendars created by Terry Bottom from SAOS show table orchid photos can be preordered, sign up by November meeting. \$15 each or two for \$25.

Penny, our Club Librarian, highlighted a Dendrobium book that was quickly borrowed by a SAOS member. Send a request for a book or DVD to [info@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@staugorchidsociety.org) and Penny will bring the item(s) to the next meeting. The library collection is listed on our [SAOS website](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org).



Sue Bottom announced that Penny who stepped up many years ago to save the library collection and act so ably as our librarian is stepping down from the position. Sue asked for a volunteer to

assume the librarian role. Bea Orendorff immediately volunteered. Thank you Bea! and thank you Penny!

Then Sue asked for people who want to get more involved in club activities, and passed around a sign-up sheet. Dianne asked for volunteers to help reset the meeting room after we adjourn. The reset goes much faster with six pairs of helping hands. If you are interested in volunteering, talk to Sue, Linda or Terry about different options.

Linda and Dianne delivered raffle tickets to the eight people with birthdays in September. If you know of anyone in need of a cheering up or get well card, let Linda know by emailing her at [info@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@staugorchidsociety.org).

#### Show Table

Courtney Hackney started the Show Table by stating that this is a great time for new growers to see the variety of orchids grown by our society. He then proceeded left to right to review the Show Table starting with the brilliantly colored hybrid Blc. Hawaiian Venture. Many have trouble growing Miltoniopsis in our climate because they grow at higher altitudes in cooler temperatures. However, the beautiful purplish Miltonia moreliana on the Show Table likes lower altitudes and warmer temperatures so it grows well down here. He held up a little terrestrial, Pecteilis sagarikii, from Southeast Asia that has a flower so small that one would step on it out in nature without recognizing it as an orchid. Next was Catasetum Jamie Lawson XOXO from Central to South America with a gorgeous spray of deep purplish brown flowers.

There was some discussion about the background of the Bepi Sylvia White (a cross of B nodosa x Epi ciliare) because the influence of the nodosa parent does not seem to be apparent. Cynoches Swan Cascade will bloom more than once a year if healthy and happy although the flowers only last a week. Courtney brought in two Dendrochilums (magnum and longifolium) which as mature specimen plants can be stunning. They prefer moist conditions in Phal level light. He also brought in two examples of his Bulbo hybrid, each slightly different. Bulbophyllums are pollinated by carrion flies, which are attracted to dead stuff, a good reason to avoid smelling their flowers. There was a stunning white Angraecum sesquipedale, also known as Darwin's orchid, because Darwin speculated the existence of a moth with a proboscis long enough to pollinate the flower. The moth was discovered after Darwin's death. Sue Bottom brought in a new version of the old hybrid Cattleya

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# CLUB NEWS



## Upcoming Orchid Events

### September

- 8 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm  
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 11 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm  
Phillip Hamilton, Bredren Orchids
- 22-23 Ridge Orchid Society Show  
Lake Mirror Center, Lakeland
- 29-30? Breezy Hill Orchid Festival  
Steve Arthur Orchids, Graniteville, SC
- 29-30 South Florida Orchid Society Show  
University of Miami Watsco Center

### October

- 2 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm  
Unusual Species for the Cattleya Grower  
Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids
- 5-7 East Everglades Orchid Society Show  
RF Orchids, Homestead
- 6 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm  
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine  
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 9 JOS Meeting, ABCs of Orchid Nutrition, 7 pm  
Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids
- 13 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm  
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 13-14 Gainesville Orchid Society Show  
Kanapaha Botanical Garden
- 14 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm  
Get the 'chids Ready for Winter  
Bob and Yvonne Schimmel's Home  
702 Wilkes Court, St. Aug 32086
- 19-21? Orchtobberbest at EFG Orchids  
4265 Marsh Road, Deland 32724
- 26-28 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show  
Old School Square Gymnasium
- 27-28 Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show  
Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center

### November

- 6 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm  
Becoming an 80 Percentile Grower  
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
- 10 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm  
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 10-11 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show  
Fort Pierce Shrine Club
- 13 JOS Meeting, Catasetums, 7 pm  
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
- 17-18 Deerfield Beach Orchid Society Show  
Safe Schools Institute, Boca Raton

### St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Bob Schimmel <a href="mailto:schimmelr55@bellsouth.net">schimmelr55@bellsouth.net</a>
Vice President Events	Dianne Batchelder <a href="mailto:ladydi9907@aol.com">ladydi9907@aol.com</a>
Vice President Membership	Linda Stewart <a href="mailto:lindstew@hotmail.com">lindstew@hotmail.com</a>
Vice President Programs	Sue Bottom <a href="mailto:sbottom15@gmail.com">sbottom15@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Janis Croft <a href="mailto:croftie1984@gmail.com">croftie1984@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Bill Gourley <a href="mailto:wgourley@bellsouth.net">wgourley@bellsouth.net</a>
Directors at Large	Susan Smith <a href="mailto:2manysmiths@comcast.net">2manysmiths@comcast.net</a> Tom Sullivan <a href="mailto:tomjs91@gmail.com">tomjs91@gmail.com</a> Suzanne Susko <a href="mailto:suzsusko@bellsouth.net">suzsusko@bellsouth.net</a>
Exhibit Committee Chair	Janis Croft <a href="mailto:croftie1984@gmail.com">croftie1984@gmail.com</a>
Librarian	Penny Halyburton <a href="mailto:phalyburton@comcast.net">phalyburton@comcast.net</a>
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom <a href="mailto:sbottom15@gmail.com">sbottom15@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:bottom406@gmail.com">bottom406@gmail.com</a>



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*Bactia coerulea* since Courtney (Cattleya and *coerulea aficionado*) had yet to see it in bloom.

Towards the end of the table were the summer blooming *Phalaenopsis* including the very fragrant and large *Phal. Malibu Imp* that commonly grows keikis. Finally, we beheld the *Phal. bellina*, also very fragrant. It does not mind the heat, likes low light, prefers to be kept moist and does not like to be repotted. In other words, it is known as the Princess of the *Phalaenopsis* world. Check out the photos of our show table examples at the end of the newsletter and on the SAOS website.

## SAOS Program

Sue Bottom presented the program on 'Show 'Em Where You Grow 'Em.' Sue started the presentation by reminding everyone that our orchids love to grow outside so if possible find a place for them outdoors. Green houses can get too hot so it is important to monitor temperature and provide adequate airflow. In the summer time when growing is easy, you can grow under trees, on fences, trellis or poles. If your orchids are open to rain fall then you need to pot in a well-draining mix. If under a roof, choose a potting mix that will hold the moisture and dry out based on your watering schedule. There are problems with extended wetness so be prepared with good airflow; do not crowd your plants. Stock up on anti-fungal sprays such as hydrogen peroxide, quaternary ammonium compounds, and/or copper (not for use on *Dendrobiums* or plants in flower).

Then Sue turned over the presentation to the SAOS members to discuss their growing solutions. Debra Brandt lives further south than most of us so frost is unusual. She has an enclosed area with polycarbonate roof that she uses year round as well as a pergola that she uses in the warmer weather. Her enclosed area needs fans for good ventilation. In the winter, she staples plastic on the side and uses a propane heater when needed. Last year she only used it 2-3 times.

Susan Smith showed slides of her new pergola and lanai. She uses a 50% shade cloth on the pergola which has shelves for her potted plants and plenty of room to hang plants—no need for a fan out there. On her lanai, she lines the outside edges with shelving for her potted plants. When the temperature drops, she moves the more sensitive plants into a portable green house on the lanai that utilizes roll up windows and door for ventilation. She also uses a portable electric heater at night.

Bea Orendorff moved her orchids from the north where they lived indoors to a shade house that she built in Middleburg. The shade house has a polycarb roof and sides that become awnings in the warm weather. She hangs her plants under the awnings and throughout the shade house that is also equipped with shelves. To seal

up the shade house in winter, she has panels covered with plastic cloth that she anchors behind the dropped down awnings.

I was the final presenter showing the 16' x 16' shade house we built. All four sides are open during the warm months providing plenty of air circulation that is augmented by an upward blowing ceiling fan. Plants are on shelves or hanging from rods with *Vandas* and *Catasetums* hanging in the front roofless section. A watering system is installed with three different zones to cover watering the different types of orchids. During the cooler season, poly sheets are wiggle wired on two opposite sides and roll up curtains are installed on the other sides. A Southern Burner propane heater is used to keep the temperature around 50. After a year of cranking up and down, usually late at night due to a forgetful memory, I installed an automatic system that works with the thermometer. The system lowers the curtain at 60 and the heater turns on around 52. Then during the day when the temperature rises above 60, the curtain raises to keep the temperature moderated within the shade house.

In closing, Sue spoke about planning in advance for hurricanes. She advised all to spray fungicide before and after the heavy storms. This does not cure fungus but applies a protective coating to ward off any disease spores the wind might carry into your growing area. As fall comes to our area, Sue reminded us that our *Phals* like to stay outside in 55 to 60 evenings with 70+ daytime temperatures for two to three weeks. When the daytime temperatures no longer reach 70, then it is time to move them into their winter homes. As a rule of thumb for our area, this usually occurs around November 15th. Then you need to start planning what to do with your next set of temperature sensitive orchids such as *Vandas* and *Phalaenopsis* type *Dendrobiums*. Once temps fall below 60, they need protection. Many of your orchids can tolerate temperatures into the mid-40's such as *Oncidiums*, *Cattleyas* and some *Dendrobiums*. Other orchids like it cool and dry, like *Catasetums* and some *Dendrobiums*. If in doubt, do some research at the AOS or SAOS website or email Sue Bottom with your orchids full name for advice. Sue ended with a caution to plan now because cool weather is coming soon! Let's hope.

## Meeting Conclusion

Tom Sullivan announced the Member's Choice Award as Sue Bottom's *Catasetum* Jamie Lawson XOXO. The evening concluded with the Silent Auction winners and Raffle table. Thanks to all the helpful hands that stayed to

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



# CLUB NEWS



**The Keiki Club** is on summer vacation. Keep watering and fertilizing your plants and watch for pest and disease issues. SAOS members will be available at the repotting clinics at Ace Hardware on the first Saturday of the month all summer long if you have any questions or problems. For those of you in the mentoring program, your mentor is just a phone call or email away. For those of you that would like to join the mentoring program, send an email to Mentoring Coordinator Susan Smith at [info@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@staugorchidsociety.org). It's a great resource for our newer grower that would like to get one-on-one assistance and answers to their orchid questions.

## October 2 SAOS Meeting Unusual Species for the Cattleya Grower

Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids will talk about the many weird and unusual species that grow with Cattleya culture. If you can grow a Cattleya you can grow any of these. The program starts off with a well known Cattleya species and those plants that grow just like it. Alan is always entertaining and educational, don't miss this meeting!

Alan will be bringing plants for sale at the meeting. He also offers a 20% discount on preorders. We'll post his advance list so you can preorder plants for delivery at the meeting.

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!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8zAyVbfyZA&feature=youtu.be>

## American Orchid Society Corner

Upcoming Webinars:

September 5, 8:30-9:30 pm, Everyone Invited  
[Greenhouse Chat Orchid, Q&A - Ron McHatton](#)  
September 18, 8:30-9:30 pm, Members Only  
[Judging the Oncidiinae](#), Members Only

Orchids Magazine: [request free issue!](#)

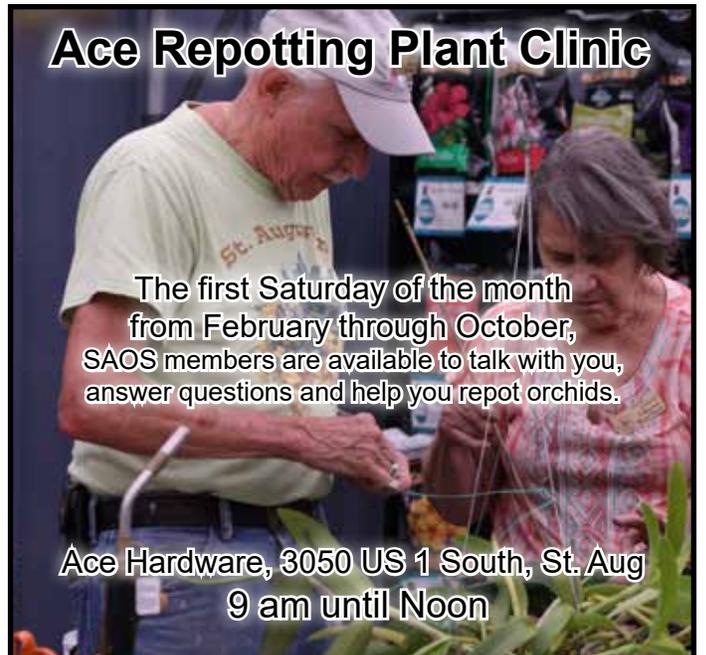
Genus of the Month: Chinese Cypripediums  
A New Habenaria Species, Leon Glicenstein  
Bulbophyllum carunculatum, Bill Thoms  
Novice: Leaf Reddening, Sue Bottom

[Photos of Latest AOS Awards](#)

## Ace Repotting Plant Clinic

The first Saturday of the month  
from February through October,  
SAOS members are available to talk with you,  
answer questions and help you repot orchids.

Ace Hardware, 3050 US 1 South, St. Aug  
9 am until Noon



# INSPIRATION

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*A New Metal Atlas Bench With Plastic Top*

© Terry Botto



# CULTIVATION



## Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,  
sbottom15@gmail.com

**Q1.** I have a lovely *C. luddemanniana* x *B Aristocrat* in bloom. a large fragrant beauty. but it's upside down! I did not move it and it did not need staking. Do you know why?

**A1.** I suspect the problem lies with the digbyana in the plant's background. It tends to have a very long pedicel, that attaches a single flower to the main stem of the inflorescence. When the flower is in the bud stage, the lip is the uppermost petal. In most orchids, as the flower opens, the flower twists 180 degrees around its flower stalk to position the lip on the bottom, called resupinate. In your plant, the flower stem was probably unable to support the weight of the flower so it did not twist properly as it was opening. If you remember, stake it next time and perhaps the flower will rotate properly from the nonresupinate to the resupinate position.



**Q2.** I have a *Catasetum saccatum* that has developed small 'points' on its leaves, I have no idea what caused them. It has just flowered so the points do not seem to be adversely affecting it. It was grown with other *catasetums*, and other orchids, yet it is the only one with the problem. What's going on?



**A2.** I don't think your *catasetum* has a disease problem, I think that it has edema, little water blisters than form because the plant can't shed water fast enough through



transpiration. It is usually caused by watering late in the day when the night turns cool or watering during gray weather. I have heard of many people having just one of their *catasetums* form these edema bumps, so there may be some that have a genetic predisposition to edema.

**Q3.** I recently purchased a couple of *Brassavola digbyanas* from a central American source, one of them has six pseudobulbs which are unifoliate and one which is bifoliate. Is this common, all my other plants all are unifoliate.



**A3.** Our Go-To-Guy Courtney Hackney answered this one: I have seen that before on *B. glauca*. It is a somatic mutation that occurs when the cells that would normally make a sheath make a leaf instead. When seeds are treated to increase ploidy or mericloned that often happens on a plant or two. If it just happens once in a while it is not a problem, but it can become the norm and the plant will never flower. If it happens to the next leaf too, the grower needs to cut off those two bulbs and the plant should sprout a new leaf from a bulb that does not have the defect.



# CULTIVATION



## Prepare for Cooler Weather Courtney's Growing Tips

Once again it is time to prepare for cooler weather. Careful attention to both plants and potential problems will save time in the future. If you have had problems with scale, mealybugs, or mites now is

the time for a little preventative maintenance. There is just enough time left to treat these pests before greenhouses are closed or until plants are moved inside. Thorough spraying three times ten days apart will generally keep these beasts at bay. The purpose of the three treatments is to kill individuals that survived the first and second treatments as eggs and do so before they can lay additional eggs.

Rots are another potential problem, especially when we put plants back into a closed greenhouse setting. Remove diseased parts of plants and treat the wound with cinnamon powder. Let the plant dry a little more than you might normally and put it in a place where you will see it. If you find you have more than just one or two problems, a more extensive spraying treatment may be necessary using one of the approved bactericides/fungicides. If you have very pure water (rainwater, R/O water, etc.) you will not have to use the full dosage recommended. I have had good success using this type of product at half strength with rainwater.

Fall is also the time of year when day length and temperature become ideal for stimulating flower production. As nights get cooler move Cymbidiums into higher light. Hybrids in this group of Orchids generally like cooler fall weather and most require it to bloom well. In California, growers do not take Cymbidiums inside until nights get frosty. Similarly, many members of the Zygopetalum group, including intergeneric hybrids, will initiate new growths and flower



spikes only when night temperatures dip into the 50s. Once new growths appear with spikes, return plants to the greenhouse. Last fall, I left plants of *Zygopetalum Blackii* and its hybrids outside until night temperatures were in the low 40s. All bloomed including one large plant that had never bloomed before and none were harmed.

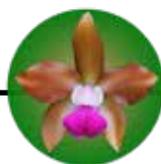
Cattleyas also generally enjoy the cool nights and will bloom with more intense color on longer, stems. Most Cattleyas do not like to go lower than 50 degrees F, but *Laelia purpurata* will not mind even lower temperatures.

Winter blooming *Phalaenopsis* (standards) require at least a 20-degree day/night temperature change and a week or two of nights into the upper 50s or low 60s to begin the blooming process. Indoor growers may need to place Phals on an outside porch or some other well-shaded area for a couple of weeks to initiate spikes. Small Phal seedlings should not be stimulated to flower and be kept warmer so that they will get maximum size from the summer's growth. They will flower later and have more strength to carry flowers. Phals will continue to grow as long as their roots stay warm. Cold rain or water will stop both the growth cycle and slow the flowering process so be sure to move spiking Phals back inside or into the greenhouse before day temperatures get too low.

Don't forget to check heaters, get gas now (much more expensive than last year) so that it will not be a rush. The prediction is for a colder than normal Fall, so don't be caught by an early freeze.



*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 September 2000.*



# CULTIVATION

## Orchid Infrastructure

by Jim Brydie, reprinted with permission

I am starting here with the assumption that the reader is a grower who is ready to progress from a few orchids scattered around the home or in the garden, to having a wider collection capable of including an orchid or two in flower every month throughout the year. To accommodate a collection of say 100 plants, you will most definitely require a dedicated growing house, whether you call it a shadehouse, a glasshouse, a greenhouse, is immaterial.

A growing house dedicated to growing plants enables you to provide a range of habitats based on a stable set of basics. The right average of light and shade; air movement, protection from or ability to control, a range of bugs and pests; and a concentrated location of the plants for ease of management for watering, fertilising, potting, and inspection. Convinced? Good. So now that you are ready, let's look at your options.



*Jim's current shade house*

**Decision 1 - Glasshouse or Shadehouse.** By now you will have read widely about many orchid topics and are aware that some orchids are regarded as “warm” growers and some as “cold” or “cool”. For growers in Sydney, “warm” means a “glasshouse” (including any enclosed growing house not necessarily made with glass) that can be shut up at night and artificially heated. Heating such a structure isn't mandatory of course but frankly, if you don't intend to heat, you should not be buying a “glasshouse”.

A glasshouse is considerably more expensive as a structure to buy and to build, it is heavier (particularly a glass glasshouse) and may need a decent foundation built beneath it. A glasshouse can also get VERY hot in summer even if you can open vents and doors at each end. Finally, a glasshouse requires considerably more experience and expertise to manage growing within it.

Some growers at this stage might think that they may eventually expand their interests to include warm growing orchids, and may think that by starting with a glasshouse they might be covering future bases, Please Don't. Even if you do eventually wish to expand to having a glasshouse, you will always need a separate “shadehouse” as well. You should start with the shadehouse. Learn to grow in that semi-controlled environment first, and wait at least 5 years before you let yourself be tempted by a warm house again. Answer - a no brainer. Shadehouse wins.



*An open shade structure*

**Decision 2 – Build or Buy.** What I mean by “build” here does not mean bolting together a pre-constructed kit form structure - I include that in the buy category. “Build” in my language means homemade, self constructed, and often shaped to specifically fit in some available space in an existing backyard or garden. “Buy” means all other forms.

Kit form pre-constructed structures are usually delivered in boxes with a set of plans and a few specific tools needed to join bits together. Don't be frightened by this concept because these are usually relatively light weight frames where the bits are very easy to join together. They are often supplied with a pre-sown shade cloth cover that slips over the top of the frame and is fastened down with nylon zip tie straps or similar. Easy Peasy.

So, to build or buy? Well each has its advantages. If you or a friend have some basic building skills that can be applied, a “build your own to your own spec” may be a good proposition. You can build it to whatever shape or style fits a spot you have in mind – rectangular, square, wide, or long and narrow. A kit form house is probably quicker but slightly more expensive, and there is a limited range of sizes, shapes, and styles.

However, if I may provide some advice based on my own past failures. Whatever you choose, you should make it

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twice the size you think you need, and significantly taller than you think you need. You will grow more than just orchids in your little Eden, and many more orchids than you think. Don't go completely over the top on size, but bigger is better and "tall" means that the hot, sun baked roof is further away from the growing benches on which most of your plants will live. Especially if at some stage you decide to rain proof your collection by covering the house with plastic or another solid roofing material. Taller means cooler, more moist air around your plants, which for most means better growing conditions. In addition, taller offers the opportunity to string tight wire lines below the roof structure to offer the chance to suspend more light loving plants (like Vandas) above the others. Growers often use barbed wire for these long supporting wires because its twined strands are very strong, and the barbs (spaced about 20-30cm apart) help keep hanging plants spaced apart. Watch your fingers though.

So, buy or build? Answer - either. Consider both, and weigh up which better fits your circumstances and budget. **Build Options** – This can include all sorts of purpose built places to grow plants. It may be an adaption of a verandah attached to a house. It may be some kind of pergola (implying a structure with no sides), it may be a lean-to built up against a fence, it can also be a fully self contained structure with walls, roof, doors, and windows. If you are going to try and grow orchids, I think you need a structure that can be fully sealed from floor to walls to roof to keep out the bugs. There is an amazing array of creepy crawlies that just love eating orchids and as much as you diligently spray insecticides you can't stop a nocturnal feeding brown grasshopper (or is it a locust?) from chewing right through the middle of your new *Oncidium* or *Cymbidium* spike. The

best solution is prevention. Seal the walls to the ground base and to the roofline, and screen the doors, windows and vents.



**Atlas Shade Structure Kit**

**Kit Form Option** - The kit form option is probably the quickest and easiest way to get started. It is perhaps a little more expensive, and the sizes and shapes are slightly limited, but they are all soundly designed and stable. If you go for the kit form, or even for a build it yourself for that matter, then before you install it you should prepare the spot on which you intend to place it. You don't need to prepare a concrete foundation for it, but you shouldn't just sit it on soil or grass either. The issues are: that the base needs to be level, no weeds, no pest access (insects, slugs, snails), floor water disperses easily, and preferably that some floor moisture is retained for gradual evaporation, helping to maintain humidity.

**Shadecloth** - 50% is the standard. It reflects away 50% of the light that falls on it, allowing the rest to pass through, and this suits the vast majority of orchids. However, if *Cymbidiums* are your chosen orchid, they prefer a little more light and 30% shadecloth is a better choice. Similarly, if your backyard is shaded by nearby large trees or a building, perhaps go for 30%. Don't forget that there is more light available in summer than winter so don't overdo the shade. You can always add an extra layer of shade in summer if needed, but if for example you choose 90% shadecloth, you can't reduce the shade when you want, other than to take it off altogether.

*Note: Jim Brydie is our Aussie pen pal and the newsletter editor for the [Ku-Ring-Ai Orchid Society](#). This is an abbreviated version that was published in the July 2018 newsletter.*



**Shade Structure Kit**



# CULTIVATION

## The Tropical Storm Season

by Sue Bottom, [sbottom15@gmail.com](mailto:sbottom15@gmail.com)



***Make sure you have a plan for protecting your plants in the event of a storm. The high winds and excessive rainfall can cause real problems.***

Tropical storms often result in gray rainy weather for a week, and that extended period of leaf wetness without sunlight can result in bacterial and fungal infections. You might consider engineering a removable cover that could be installed over your orchids, using rolled plastic film or polycarbonate sheets. If you cannot protect your plants from the rain, before and after precautionary sprays and/or drenches should be considered. I spray hydrogen peroxide or Zeritol on leaves during breaks in a storm as a precaution.

We are no strangers to the winds, rain and damage caused by hurricanes. You should be prepared for the associated power outages, heavy rains and secondary damage that can show up days to weeks after the hurricane passes. If you can, bring your orchids into the garage or another safe haven. If this is not possible, place the plants low in an area not prone to flooding after heavy rains. Prevent contact with the pathogens in the soil. Push all the plant tags deep into the pots so they will not be lost if plants are jostled around.

After the storm, you will undoubtedly find lots of tree and landscape plant damage. Be cognizant of the change in light levels this causes so you can make the necessary adjustments to prevent your plants from sunburn. Keep your old shade cloth tucked away somewhere in case you have to use it to protect plants or use it as a temporary replacement for shade cloth shredded in the storm.

Inspect all your plants carefully for any signs of mechanical damage or orchid diseases and treat any problems you find quickly. Your plants have been exposed to conditions very conducive to disease, extended periods of darkness and leaf wetness. Keep plants on the dry side to help prevent spreading pathogens. If a plant is diseased, isolate it from your other plants until it is healthy again.

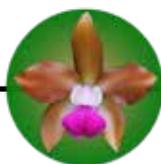
The insidious black rot caused by fast growing orchid killers *Pythium* and *Phytophthora* must be treated immediately. You must quickly cut away the soft, black, rotting tissue until you find healthy growth and apply one of the specialty fungicides like Aliette or Subdue to the remaining orchid.

If you see quickly forming sunken spots or rot on the orchid, you may have a bacterial infection. Get some fresh hydrogen peroxide out of the medicine cabinet and apply it to the damaged area. You can spray or pour it on full strength. Zeritol is a concentrated formulation of activated hydrogen peroxide, available as Biosafe Disease Control in smaller quantities and lower concentrations. Copper compounds like Kocide can be used on orchids not sensitive to copper; make sure it is mixed with alkaline water without any fertilizer so the solution does not become acidic.

You might consider applying a protective fungicide. Hurricanes carry dust and spores from as far away as the Sahara desert, so your plants have likely been exposed to new and exotic pathogens. You can use one of the quaternary ammonium compounds like Consan or Physan. You might also apply one of the newer fungicidal formulations that are effective against a broad-spectrum of fungal pathogens, like Heritage, Medallion or Pageant.



***Mother Nature won this battle. Motes' book Florida Orchid Growing has good info on hurricane preparations and response.***



# HOME & BACKYARD



## Shade House Backyard Orchid Growing

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Janis decided to build a shade house with her husband's help for her new orchid growing hobby in 2016. Most of her orchids had summered on her lanai or hung out under the oak trees. With the frequent traveling they were doing and the growing collection, it became time to consider a structure adaptable to a programmed watering system and capable of winterizing her plants. So Janis convinced her husband Alan, that they could build a 16' x 16' shade house with a polycarbonate roof. Alan installed a control panel that offered flexibility to water sections of the shade house on different schedules. The front 4' x 16' section with no solid roof holds her vandias, catasetums and schomburgkias which receive a daily misting every morning. The interior 12' x 16' section is divided in half with benched and hanging plants on one side being watered every 3-5 days depending upon the season. This section is under 70% shade cloth during the summer. The other half

has mounted and hanging plants that are watered every other day under 50% shade cloth. Also in this section, along the back wall, Janis built a potting table with shelves. She currently uses an outdoor ceiling fan which continuously circulates air 24 hours.

In the colder months, Janis puts up plastic sheeting on the two 12' sides and brings in the outside plants. She has two curtains installed on the 16' longer sides. Initially both curtains were on hand cranks and Janis would monitor the weather and crank the curtains up and down to keep the shade house cool during the sunny daytime and warm enough, using a propane heater, during the evenings. After the first year, an automatic system was installed and now the front curtain lowers and raises itself based on the shade house's internal temperature. If the internal temperature gets above 63, the front curtain automatically rises cooling off the shade house. When it falls below 60, the curtain lowers and shuts the cool air out. Once the temperature hits 53, the heater comes on. The shade house watering and heating system has worked out well and it also received no damage during the last two hurricanes. However all the orchids were moved into the house garage along with the aluminum orchid benches just in case.



Top row: Construction, Polycarbonate roof screwed on, Five tons of pea gravel waiting to be moved in for floor. Bottom row: Curtain installed, Curtain up and plants added, Shade screen added to front vertical (curtain down)

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# HOME & BACKYARD

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*Ready for hurricane*



*Auto curtain motor inside tube*



*Hand crank for curtain tube*



*Open roof area for vandas, etc.*



*Shade house in relationship to lanai*



*View from bench area towards every other day misting area*



*Misting area, potting table, and watering control panel on wall*



*View of bench area. Lower right shows heater under table*



# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Jan Lesnikoski**  
*Angcm. sesquipedale*



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
*Cyc. Swan Cascade*



**Grower Tom & Dottie Sullivan**  
*Phal. bellina*



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
*C. Bactia var. coerulea*



**Grower Jan Lesnikoski**  
*Blc. Mem. Vida Lee 'Limelight' AM/AOS*



**Grower Tom & Dottie Sullivan**  
*Odnna. Pacific Paranoia 'Other Side of Cool'*



**Grower Annalee McPhilomy**  
*Aer. lawrenceae*



# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Courtney Hackney**  
**Pot. Walnita Char 'Plum Red'**



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**Ctsm. Jamie Lawson XOXO**



**Grower Lily Deeter**  
**Blc. Rustic Spots**



**Grower Bob & Yvonne Schimmel**  
**Blc. Blue Flamingo**



**Grower Courtney Hackney**  
**Blc. Hawaiian Venture 'Dee'**



**Grower Linda Stewart**  
**Bepi. Sylvia White 'HEB'**

Link to all Pictures. <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmn5bk7h>

