



CLUB NEWS



Jim Roberts

July 3 Meeting

by Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks.

Tom opened the meeting at 6:55 pm with 47 attendees. He then thanked Dianne, Dottie, Celia, Ann, Christie, Julie and Beckie for the treats and reminded all to remember to "Drop a Dollar" if you enjoyed them. The dollar helps us pay for the coffee and paper good supplies. Tom reminded all

to bring to bring their plants to the next repotting clinic of the year at SE Branch Library on July 5th.

Club Business. Linda Stewart welcomed our visitors and new members Peggy Barnes, Denise Duncan, Carol and Amanda Bond, Denise Duncan, Kitty and Lauren Handelsman, and Kim and Bernard Locey. Sue announced that Christie Peppard would be undergoing a major heart surgery the next day and assured her that 'The Beat Goes On'. We all wished her well. If you know of anyone in need of a cheering up or a get-well card, let Maria Sands know by emailing her at info@staugorchidsociety.org.

Birthdays This Month - Linda asked for those with July birthdays to raise their hands for their free raffle ticket.

Supplies - Potting supplies were available on the back table. To preorder, email info@staugorchidsociety.org.

Virtual Show Table - Courtney will conduct the Virtual Show Table starting at 7 pm on Wednesday, July 9th. An email invitation will be sent with link and details.

Show Table Voting. Christine reminded all to vote for Members Choice during the break. Winners are announced at the end of the presentation.

Library - Howard brought in Mote's book on Vandas and Judy White's book on Bloom Again Orchids. If you would like a book, magazine or light meter from the Library list on the website, send Howard a request to info@staugorchidsociety.org and he will bring the item(s) to the next meeting.



New Email Program - Sue announced that the club has moved to a new email program, Constant Contact. She advised all to watch for announcements using this new service and to check their spam and junk folders if they notice they are not receiving the usual emails from the club.



Show Table. Steve Hawkins stepped up to review all the blooming orchids brought in to the Show Table. Steve started with an intensely multi-flowering purple Vanda Pachara Delight brought in by Laura. She also brought a cross with Mini Palmer, that has the fragrant species tessellata in the background, and it had a fantastic set of fantastic roots. Kathleen's Aerides houlletiana is also quite fragrant and part of the Vanda alliance. Dendrobium parishii var. triabelo has splash petals and is deciduous in the winter. Steve said the Paph. Magic Lantern is easy to grow and the tessellation on the petals gives the plant a sparkly look. The Blc. Darci Hackney that Courtney named for his daughter had large flowers that were intensely colored dark red with a yellow orange tinge in the lip. The cute orange Epilaelia Little Nuggets 'Mendenhall' can be grown with your other cattleyas. The C. Hint O'Blue had pale lavender petals with a deeper lavender on the lower section of the lip. The large L. purpurata var. flammea had at least five inflorescences filled with flowers with striking lavender flared petals and deep purple lips. Remember to bring your blooming orchids to the Show Table next meeting.

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Upcoming Orchid Events

July

- 5 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 8 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 6:30 pm
Thanh Nguyen, Springwater Orchids
- 9 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 13 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.

August

- 2 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 5 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Mounting Workshop
SAOS Members
- 9 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 12 JOS Meeting, Vandaceous, 6:30 pm
Keith Emig, Winter Haven Orchids
- 13 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email

September

- 2 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Summer Blooming Phal Breeding
Phillip Hamilton, Bredren Orchids
- 6 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 9 JOS Meeting, Pleurothallids
Luis Ortiz
- 10 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 13 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.

- 13-14 Fall JOS Orchid Festival
Mandarin Garden Club, Jax 32223
- 13-14 Ridge Orchid Society Show
United Women's Club of Lakeland

October

- 4 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 4-5 Tampa Orchid Club Expo
USF Botanical Gardens
- 7 SAOS Meeting, Growing Cattleyas, 6:30
Courtney Hackney, Hackneau's Orchids
- 11 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave
- 14 JOS Meeting, Paphiopedilums
James Arnold, JOS Member

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Tom Sullivan tomjs91@gmail.com
Vice President Communications	Janis Croft croftie1984@gmail.com
Vice President Events	Dianne Batchelder ladydi9907@aol.com
Vice President Membership	Linda Stewart bindstew@hotmail.com
Vice President Programs	Sue Bottom sbottom15@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Cathy Mayo allatoonalady@gmail.com
Directors	Judie Armstrong, 2025 judiearmstrong@yahoo.com Rachel Biello, 2025 rachelbiello28@gmail.com Kay Payne, 2025 paynekay113@gmail.com
Exhibit Committee Chair	Janis Croft croftie1984@gmail.com
Librarian	Howard Cushnir hscushnir@gmail.com
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom sbottom15@gmail.com bottom406@gmail.com



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SAOS Program. Sue introduced our guest speaker, Jim Roberts, owner of Florida SunCoast Orchids in Myakka City, Florida. He talked to us about his hybrids with Encyclia and Schomburgkia orchids. He first learned about orchids as a child from a teacher who read aloud the book *Tiger on the Mountain* and then while in college, he saw a *Cattleya* that started his lifelong love of orchids. He then showed a quote which he referred to throughout his presentation. "A man asked a gardener why his plants grew so beautifully. The gardener replied: 'I don't force them to grow...I just remove what stops them from growing.'"

He showed us slides of popular Encyclia plants that are easy to grow in Florida and then slides of Schomburgkia plants that he uses in breeding. The next set of slides showed his hybrids. Rmy. SunCoast Love is a cross from Rlc. Waianae Leopard x Mcp. christinae that has produced multiple color versions from deep reddish browns to yellow splashed petals and frilly edged lips of purple to yellow. With Eny. SunCoast Red Lightning, he used Ctt. SunCoast Sienna Stars crossed with Enc. Thomas Fennel 'FLSO' and there were striking differences in the flowers. One slide showed intense red flower and the other showed greenish and brown petals with a lip that was light green and red flared.

When one of his hybrids produces a flower that he particularly likes, he often clones the plant so he can offer the best flowers to a wide audience. When he registers a hybrid, he likes to honor and thank his friends and family members by naming a plant after them. He has even gotten to name a new genus of orchids after his son Nathan, who helped him selling at orchid shows. Nathanrobertsara is a cross between a Brassavola, Cattleya, Encyclia and Prosthecea, the specific hybrid is named Key Lime Profusion. Jim had given our Sue Bottom a cross a while back and she called him to give him the good news that it had bloomed beautifully so he registered the plant as

Eyy. Sue's Good News. He has produced so many hybrids, he sometimes asks for suggestions for naming them. He then showed a slide of Encyphilia SunCoast Tequila Shots which a group of friends suggested the name after sitting around one night drinking shots.

Jim's main goal in hybridizing is to find unusual colors and color combinations along with fragrance variations. Lsu. Dick Pippen's SunCoast (Bct. Little Mermaid x E. Lorraine Smith) is one example in which the hybrid produced a wide variety of flower colors from pink, maroon, light yellow to deep yellow with spotted petals, lined petals to frilly lips with spots and/or splashes of deep maroon. The one he cloned has the yellow petals with a purple spotted lip and smells like lemon cake. Jim stated that he does not water in December and January and advised us to limit our overwatering habits. He said that most orchids can go a long time without water and survive quite well. The Schomburgkias like full Florida sun so don't hesitate to put them out in it.



Meeting Conclusion. Christine announced that the Members Choice went to Sue Bottom for her L. purpurata var. flammea. The evening concluded with the Raffle table. Thanks to the helpful hands that stayed to help clean and store the tables, chairs and room.



CLUB NEWS



August 5 Meeting

Mounting Workshop
SAOS Members

In August we are hosting a mounting workshop. We'll talk about all the different ways you can make creative mounts. We'll have a variety of different genera for you to choose from as well as different materials to mount them on. SAOS members will be available to assist you in selecting a plant that will work well on the mount of your choice. You will go home with a new plant or two, for a \$10 donation. We'll also have the show table exhibiting members orchids, as well as the raffle and silent auction table to expand your collection.



When: Tuesday, August 5, 6:30 til 9 pm

Where: Memorial Lutheran Church
3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086



American Orchid Society Corner

Webinars

July 2, 8:30 pm, Everyone Invited

Greenhouse Chat - Ron McHatton

July 8, 5:30 pm, AOS Members Only

Growing Under Lights – Sarah Hurdel

Orchids Magazine this Month

Blooming Cymbidiums – Ron McHatton

Vanda garayi – Barb Schmidt

Sunburn or Something Else – Sue Bottom



INSPIRATION



Encyclia Patrica Sander

© Terry Botta



CULTIVATION

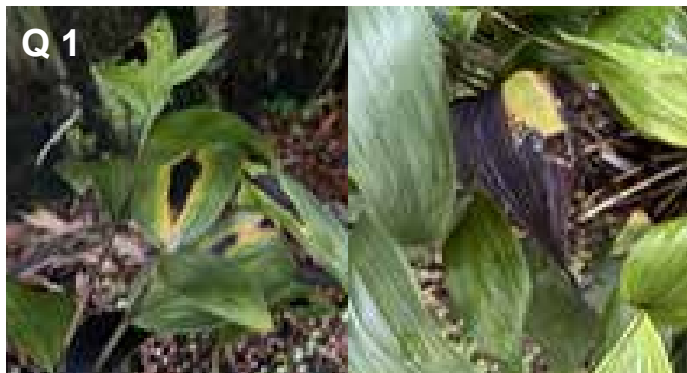


Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@hotmail.com

Q1. I purchased this beautiful and healthy sobralia earlier this year. I kept it in a bright indirect light patio then moved it to a location under the palm trees where it was in partial shade most of the day, but got

early morning sun. Now it's leaves are turning black and the plant looks so sad. What next?



A1. I would remove those severely damaged leaves and move the plant back to the patio. Some of the pics look like sunburn but other pics show damage where sunburn wouldn't have occurred, so I'm wondering if the leaves stayed too wet under the palms and there wasn't enough air movement to dry them resulting in some bacterial (probably, if it happened quickly) damage. I'm guessing it will recover and return to its former beauty. If you do set plants out under the palms, try putting them on some sort of pedestal to keep them 6 or 12 inches above the soil level to help prevent splashing water from spreading disease. You can remove the damaged leaves and spray the remaining leaves with fresh hydrogen peroxide. I'm not sure I'd use copper on that thin leaved sobralia but if you did, only half strength in the cool of the evening.

Q2. Can someone please help me ID this orchid? Is it a Dendrobium? We brought it with us from Huntington Beach and it is now on a tree trunk with filtered sun in Jax Beach.

A2. That's the biggest *Neofinetia falcata* that I have ever seen, have you been feeding it steroids? *Neofinetia* has been transferred into the *Vanda* genus, so now it's called *Vanda falcata*. Congrats on a great grow! Suz Susko adds "Yes, that's a *Neofinetia*. I've never seen one that big. It has to be at least 15 years old. On a tree in Jax Beach it will



survive any cold weather we get. I leave mine out all winter with no protection. *Neofinetia* actually bloom better with a cold, dry winter."

Q3. After her stupendous bloom, my *Trichoglottis* is now yellowing in particular areas. I've cut off many of the leaves and now I'm cutting away growths. I thought I might have

missed some of the mealybugs I had before so I treated again. I wonder if I'm overwatering.



A3. Looking at the roots, I wondered about the condition of the tree fern basket. I suggested poking a bamboo stake through the basket in several places, to check whether the tree fern was starting to rot. It was, and after she got it completely out of the fern basket and into a plastic pot with bark, charcoal, etc. the plant was still in decline with yellowing leaves and brown stems. The basic problem is the root loss from the rotted tree fern. Until the roots reestablish, the plant will continue to drop leaves as a survival mechanism. Some rooting hormones might help, either Seaweed every week or a couple treatments with Dip N Gro. Other than that, move it to a shady spot and keep a little drier until the plant recovers and new roots start to form.



CULTIVATION



Natural Predators

by Dr. Courtney Hackney

Yesterday, I put small caterpillars on some newly emerging buds on a couple of orchids. Never before I have done such a thing, nor have caterpillars ever been recommended in this column as a cure for anything. So why was it done? It is a long story!

Almost two months ago, aphids arrived in my greenhouse on a recently purchased houseplant. You can imagine my horror because I had never had aphids before and they quickly spread onto paphiopedilum buds. I treated with light oil and noticed that large red ants were also on the orchid buds. I assumed the ants were transporting the aphids around. This particular type of ant, however, is usually associated with rotting wood here in Florida, so I assumed they were "up to no good". They were sprayed too, and that should have ended the story. Each day when I examined the plants that previously had hosted the aphids, the ants were present, but not the aphids. In fact, they seemed to be picking up the dead aphids and hauling them off.



photo courtesy of Greg Allikas

Some tropical orchids are protected by vicious ants that live on and in epiphytes. Some, like the myrmecophila, (previously known as the hollow-bulbed schomburgkia), even provide housing for ants. With northern Florida's almost tropical nature, I wondered if these new residents of my greenhouse might be helpful. That should explain the caterpillar experiment.

There have been many attempts to use natural predators to help with insect control in greenhouses, but none have proven successful. Releasing insect predators into the greenhouse typically results in them looking for a way

out. After a few unsuccessful tries, I gave up the natural predator approach and resorted to pesticides.

Many very effective, but toxic chemicals are no longer available, so the control of pests has become harder. Fortunately, there are some new chemical approaches that attack the insect hormonal system and, which work very well on pests such as scale. These products are much more expensive, but well worth the money, since spraying is greatly reduced, and the toxicity in growing areas is lessened. This also allows some of the other natural predators to live among your orchids. Here in Northeast



Florida, I have two species of lizard that call my greenhouse "home", as well as one nocturnal gecko and several species of tree frogs that also come out at night. Do they control all my pest problems? Unfortunately, the answer is no, but they clearly help. No natural control can eliminate all pests because that would involve eliminating the food source for pest predators. Will the same fate befall my newfound ants? As I observed the ants it was clear that they were using the tiny drops of sugary fluid that exude from certain tissues, especially on the flowering parts of orchids. The green anole lizards also use this resource, which allows them to survive in winter when insect prey numbers are small.

The tree and shrub drench containing 1.47% imidacloprid is a good choice for systemic scale control.



Green frog hunting for something to eat

So what happened to the caterpillars I put on my orchids? The ants quickly took care of these pests for me. Are the ants good or bad? The jury is still out, but so far they have done no harm, short of a nasty sting when they are in an orchid pot that is being repotted. More on this as the experiment continues.

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 July 2011.



CULTIVATION

The Epidendrum Clan

by Charles Marden Fitch, courtesy of AOS

Epidendrum is a genus rich in showy, often fragrant-flowered colorful species. The original species range from subtropical Florida into the Caribbean islands and Mexico through to Central and South America. Some of the most popular selections long grown as *Epidendrum* are now classified as *Encyclia* and *Prosthechea*. These include *Encyclia cordigera* (syn. *atropurpurea*), and the South Florida native *Encyclia tampensis* (syn. *Epidendrum tampense*).

GROWTH STYLES Epidendrums have three basic growth styles. The group called reed-stem are thin-stemmed with many fleshy leaves and no pseudobulbs. In the wild, reed-stem species grow scrambling over the ground, up into shrubs or on humus-covered rocks. The thin roots penetrate into well-drained soil.

Epidendrum radicans is a reed-stem species with sprawling stems frequently sprouting new roots and offsets as the plants grow taller. Even with its untidy growth habit, this is an adaptable species worth growing for its frequently produced clusters of brilliant red and yellow flowers.

When reed-stem epidendrums are crossed with cattleyas to make epicattleyas, the resulting hybrids are usually tighter growing, although the reed-stem plant look is dominant. An example is *Epicattleya* Kauai's Beauty 'Polelei's Scarlet Ibis' (*Epc.* Shimonishi Beauty x *Epi.* Hokulea), a 30- to 40-inch slender-growing selection with leathery 1 ½- 5-inch leaves and clusters of 2-inch watermelon-red flowers.

A second growth style is seen in compact succulent leafy stems of such species as *Epidendrum difforme*, *Epidendrum diffusum*, *Epidendrum geminiflorum* and *Epidendrum porpax*. In cultivation, these types thrive on tree-fern slabs or cork bark. The four mentioned species reach 6 to 12 inches tall, except for the more miniature *Epi. porpax* that is 1 inch or less, making them suitable for growing under fluorescent lamps. In their original habitats, these types grow in moderate light. The South Florida forms of *Epi. difforme*, which have recently been transferred by Eric Hagsater to *Epidendrum floridense*, often grow on the lower portions of cypress trees in swampy ground or even in flooded Everglades areas.

A third general growth habit is seen in species with prominent pseudobulbs. Some well-appreciated species in this group are fragrant-flowered *Encyclia cordigera*,



Epidendrum radicans, with its vibrant orange and yellow flowers and somewhat unruly growth habit, grown and photographed by Joanne Stygles.

Encyclia alata and *Encyclia tampensis*. In the wild, these species with hard pseudobulbs and leathery leaves usually grow in bright light, sometimes even in direct sun, where the foliage blushes maroon. *Encyclia tampensis*, the lovely honey-scented South Florida native, will often be seen with maroon-blushed growths because it lives higher in the cypress trees. *Encyclia cordigera* occurs in a similar situation in its Central American habitats. The clumps I studied in El Salvador lived on deciduous trees. Dry seasons of several months are endured because the orchids store water in the plump pseudobulbs. Although no heavy rain falls for several months, the trees survive by losing their foliage. All of the plants here get some light dew at night. In a collection, you will have success with the *Encyclia cordigera* types if they are grown in bright light with reduced watering when the plants are not making new growths.

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The cockleshell orchid, *Encyclia* (syn. *Prosthechea*) *cochleata* is another compact-growing epiphyte with the nice habit of blooming on and off all year long. The pseudobulbs are more elongated than the onion-shaped types of *Encyclia cordigera*, but the plant still does well on a thick slab of tree fern.

Prosthechea (syn. *Encyclia*) *vespa*, from Brazil, has pseudobulbs and foliage that resemble a giant *Psh. cochleata*. In the cloud forests of Rio state in Brazil, I photographed *Psh. vespa* thriving on low trees in bright light but in a cloudy misty area at 3,000 to 3,500 feet. Here the orchids receive bright light, but are always in a humid atmosphere with frequent light misting from passing clouds.

PATIENCE Growing reed-stem epidendrums requires little patience. Even 4- to 5-inch off-sets or seedlings often begin flowering within a year. In contrast, the *Encyclia* and a few other types may test your frustration tolerance, sometimes growing years before blooming from seed-grown or tissue-culture plantlets. Your patience is tested less with divisions cut from mature clumps that have already bloomed.

An extreme example of waiting for a floral reward occurred with a recent blooming of my *Epidendrum stamfordianum* 'Tabithia Davis', CBM/AOS. After I received a tiny 3-inch-tall plant in a 2½-inch pot, the awarded clone almost sat still for a year. Gradually the plant began to grow, but only after 16 years did it finally flower. To be fair, I think the plant could have used fertilizer more often. The final reward for my 16 years of waiting was a 31-inch tall inflorescence sprouting from the base of a mature 18-inch tall bifoliate growth. The inflorescence had three branches with a total of 80 greenish



Epidendrum porpax, grown and photographed by Suzanne Susko.

yellow-and-white 1½-inch flowers. Now the plant fills a 6-inch clay pot, so it should continue to bloom in late winter each year to come. When Fuchs Orchids received a CBM/AOS for the original plant, it was judged with 44 flowers and 42 buds on a single two-branched inflorescence. The clone 'Tabithia Davis' CBM/AOS, is similar to *Epidendrum stamfordianum* fma. *alba*.

Epidendrum stamfordianum, once it gets going, is a vigorous species. The clone 'Crownfox' won a Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM/AOS) in March 2000 for R.F. Orchids in Homestead, Florida. The awarded clump was shown in a

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12-inch basket. The beautifully grown specimen had 1,930 flowers and 35 buds on 46 branched inflorescences on a plant 17 inches wide by 22 inches tall.

SMALLER TYPES More restrained growth is typical in encyclias such as the often-seen *Encyclia cordigera*. These and similar pseudobulbous epiphytic species are used to breed attractive adaptable hybrids featured in catalogs and at orchid shows.

HYBRID CHOICES Epidendrum and Encyclia crossed with related genera produce hybrids often seen in collections. Primary hybrid choices include: *Brassoepidendrum* (x *Brassavola*), *Epicattleya* (x *Cattleya*), *Epilaelia* (x *Laelia*), *Schomboepidendrum* (x *Schomburgkia*) and *Epiphronitis* (x *Sophronitis*). You can get a general idea of plant size and flower type if you are familiar with the genus parents.

More complex hybrids less often seen in commercial catalogs or at orchid shows involve three or four genera. These include: *Rothara* (*Brassavola* x *Cattleya* x *Laelia* x *Sophronitis* x *Epidendrum*) and *Epilaeliocattleya* (*Cattleya* x *Laelia* x *Epidendrum*).

Sometimes it is difficult to see the influence of genera involved in complex hybrids. A good example is the popular *Epicattleya* Kauai's Beauty 'Pololei Scarlet Ibis'. This adaptable 2 to 3-foot-tall clone looks like a sturdy upright reed-stem, yet the *Epc.* Shimonishi Beauty parent has *Cattleya luteola* and *Cattleya guttata* in its heritage. Other species in the pedigree of *Epc.* Kauai's Beauty include *Epi. ibaguense*, *Epi. cinnabarinum*, *Epi. radicans* and *Epi. erectum*. The clone 'Pololei Scarlet Ibis' grows and blooms well for me in a sunny southeast window with 60 - 65 F nights. During warm weather (late May into September). I move the plant outside under tall oaks.

In recent years, progress has been made in breeding reed-stem hybrids that bloom on and off most of the year but especially well late winter into spring. Cal-Orchids has introduced some, including *Epidendrum* Pacific Girl (Eagle Valley x Star Valley) and offspring. Flowers appear in full rounded clusters that open blooms over a period of many weeks.

CULTURE Compact Encyclia types, often with golf-ball-sized pseudobulbs closely spaced along the rhizome, do well in clay pots filled with bark mix or as mounted plants on tree-fern slabs. Hardwood logs and cork oak bark are other useful supports. Reed-stem types can be untidy growers, especially the pure species such as *Epi. radicans*. To contain sprawling stems, I use a circle of flexible wire mesh set in a sturdy clay pot or pushed even deeper into a lighter-weight plastic pot. The wire circle (green colored mesh) and occasional grooming keep my reed-stem under



Encyclia cordigera var. *rosea*,
grown and photographed by Allen Black.

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Encyclia (now Prosthechea) cochleata, grown by Sue Bottom and photographed by Terry Bottom

control. Newer hybrids mentioned earlier are easy to grow neatly.

Outdoors in tropical regions, reed-stem epidendrums thrive in raised beds filled with coconut husk or well-drained compost. Pseudobulbous epiphytic genera, many of them now placed in the genera *Encyclia* or *Prosthechea*, can often endure 45-50F nights. This adaptable nature makes them suitable to grow outdoors in the tropics on trees and big shrubs, even in subtropical South Florida and Southern California. Sometimes I see this sort of *Encyclia* growing on the sides of big cacti in rather dry Caribbean habitats.

FERTILIZING Epidendrums and related hybrids produce better flowers if they are given a regular supply of fertilizer as new growths are forming. My plants do well with water-soluble fertilizers such as Miracle-Gro 15-30-15 at 1 teaspoon per gallon of water, or water-based fertilizers such as Dyna-Gro 7-9-5. The precise formula is less important than a regular supply

Starved epidendrums may grow, but the flowers will be fewer and smaller than possible with regular nutrition. In the wild, these plants receive a regular supply of rotting insects, bird droppings, humus and other natural nutrients.

Epidendrums, like cattleyas, will be found in almost all



Encyclia tampensis growing in the wild in Florida, photographed by Allen Black

general commercial offerings. Some of the most interesting types come from commercial growers in South Florida, California and Hawaii. Ordering plants by mail is safe except during the cold months when freezing is always a threat. Even more fun than mail-ordering orchids is a visit to a nearby commercial greenhouse or big orchid show. When buying from professional growers, you always have an opportunity to ask questions and often to see mature plants in bloom. Epidendrums are varied and adaptable, an easy orchid to fit in any collection.

This article appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine in October 1989 (Vol. 58:10, pp 978-980).



Epidendrum Annelie Wans is a cross between *Epidendrum ilense* and *Epidendrum stamfordianum*, grown and photographed by Courtney Hackney.



CULTIVATION

Growing Orchids in St. Augustine



General Orchid Growing Tips. The heat and humidity of summer are here. When daytime temperatures rise above the 90 to 95F range, you'll see orchid growth start to slow. Water slightly less frequently than during the spring. Orchid plants require lots of fresh air to keep the plant leaves cool. Consider spraying under benches or the planting area to lower temperatures a few degrees. Pests are most active during the warm months. Be vigilant in observing signs of damage and treat quickly if they appear. The bulk of your repotting should be complete.

Cattleyas. Cattleyas can be watered and fertilized daily if mounted or every third day or so if in a coarse, freely draining medium. Applying adequate fertilizer is the best way to ensure the best blooming in that the growths your plants are making now are the source of future blooms. Be careful to peel back the flower sheaths so the emerging buds don't rot. Also remove dried cataphylls to eliminate hiding places for scale. Higher temperatures and humidity may lead to fungal or bacterial rot. Watch for signs of pests or diseases and respond quickly.



Cymbidiums. Growths should be developing strongly now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a light green to nearly yellow. Cool your plants in the early morning and late evening using a hose or automatic misting system



Dendrobiums. It is almost impossible to overwater dendrobiums this time of year, assuming you have them either mounted or in a coarse, mostly inorganic medium. Lots of heat and light call for liberal applications of water and fertilizer.



Oncidiums. Many of the intergeneric crosses between odontoglossums and oncidiums (Odontocidium, Wilsonara, Colmanara, etc.) will be blooming now. Take special care to train the spikes for best floral displays. Keep plants under fairly shady conditions. Watch for snails and slugs.



Phalaenopsis. Most, if not all, repotting should be complete by now. Once root growth begins after repotting, you can continue watering with a dilute fertilizer solution every week or so if your phals are in a soilless or coco type mix; the frequency might be every 2 weeks or so if your plants are potted in the more water retentive sphagnum moss. The summer growth phase is the source of energy for next spring's flower spikes. The more leaves the plants grow, the better potential for flower spiking will be realized. Don't let water accumulate in the crowns of plants, or crown rot can occur and quickly kill your plants. If grown outdoors, grow the plants with the pots tilted so rainwater will freely drain from the crown.



Vandas. Plants will be growing quickly now and really enjoying the hot humid days. Continue giving vandas what they want, light, water, fertilizer and air. Watch for signs of thrips that will mar the flowers and cause girdling on the roots. Respond promptly to any problems found.



SHOW TABLE



Grower Suzanne Susko
Vanchoanthe Memoria Holland Tan



Grower Eric Milstrey
Rdcm. Blushing Angel



Grower Suzanne Susko
Burr. Brazilian Sun 'Samba'



Grower Courtney Hackney
C. Hardyana var. semialba 'Tropical Orchid Farm'



Grower Gale Hall
Smbc. Keith Goldson



Grower Gordon Cromwell
Paph. Emerald Blush



Grower Sue Bottom
L. pulcherrima var. alba



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
L. purpurata var. striata



Grower Courtney Hackney
C. Triumphans



Grower Allen Black
Bc. Cozy Feelings



Grower Suzanne Susko
Mps. Princess Diana



Grower Ellen Fay
Zns. Cynosure 'Blue Birds' AM/AOS



Grower Gordon Cormwell
Z. Debbie De Mello

