

CLUB NEWS

December 12 Christmas Auction

Our annual Christmas Auction was a huge success. More than 60 members and guests convened at the Moultrie Trails Clubhouse for fun, food and flowers.

Our members really rock in the kitchen and brought outrageous dishes to share. There were green, bean, pasta, broccoli and slaw salads, shrimp and cheese appetizers, vegetable and seafood casseroles, au gratin potatoes, ham, chicken and pork loin main dishes and cakes and pies for dessert. The food was so good each person had to have about 3 plates full!

Then it was time for the auction. There were many gorgeous orchid plants provided by Fred Keefer and a couple by Sue Bottom. There was some very spirited bidding as members decided which beauties they wanted to bring home. Fred outdid himself as our Auctioneer Extraordinaire. It was a great fund raiser allowing us plenty of leeway in getting speakers in 2010.

We had a wonderful time, a testament to our members' dedication to having fun. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Feliz Navidad and a very Happy New Year to all!



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Upcoming Orchid Events

January

- 5 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Marv Ragan, MAJ Orchids
Orchids of the Philippines
- 9-10 [Sarasota Orchid Society Show](#)
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
- 15-17 [Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show](#)
War Memorial Auditorium
- 23-24 [Manatee River Orchid Society Show](#)
Manatee Convention and Civic Center
- 30-31 Tamiami Orchid Festival
Sunshine Pavilion, Fair Expo Center

February

- 2 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Tom Nasser, Carolina Orchids
Angraecums
- 6-7 [Venice Area Orchid Society Show](#)
Venice Community Center
- 13-14 [Boca Raton Orchid Society Show](#)
Safe Schools Institute
- 26-28 [Miami International Orchid Show](#)
Doubletree Hotel & Convention Center
- ??? Keiki Club – Date TBA
Harriet Wright, Orchid Corsages
Maria and Richard Yessian's Home

March

- 2 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Linda Wilhelm, Woodland Orchids
Magnificent Stanhopeas
- 5-7 Martin County Orchid Society Show
- 6 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 til noon
[3050 US 1 S](#) in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 11-14 [Orchid Society of Coral Gables Show](#)
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
- 12-14 [Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show](#)
Port St. Lucie Community Center
- 19-20 [Englewood Area Orchid Society Show](#)
United Methodist Church
- 19-21 [Naples Orchid Society Show](#)
United Church of Christ
- 20-21 [Jacksonville Orchid Society Show](#)
Garden Club of Jacksonville

27-28 [Orchid Society of Highlands County Show](#)

Bert Harris Jr. Agricultural Center

??? Keiki Club – Date and Venue TBA

Repotting Workshop



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



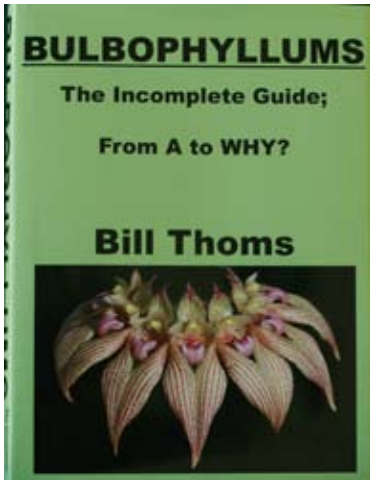
St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Mike Heinz mgheinz@comcast.net
First Vice President Program Chair	Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Second Vice President Publicity Chair	Vivienne Rowe tomvivrowe@comcast.net
Secretary AOS/Orchid Digest Rep	Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	Bill Gourley wgourley@bellsouth.net
Directors at Large	Terry Bottom bottomt@bellsouth.net Paul Jones trjones_@yahoo.com Dick Roth rhroth405@aol.com
Exhibit Committee Chair	Jack Higgins jacktravel2003@yahoo.com
Librarian	Wendy Thomas wendysthomas1@bellsouth.net
Membership Committee Chair	Gail Marshall gwpb@aol.com
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net bottomt@bellsouth.net
Operations Committee Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com



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What's New in the Library

Bulbophyllums: From A to Why

By Bill Thoms

Renowned bulbophyllum grower and hybridizer Bill Thoms has published his book on bulbophyllums. This book is packed with information on growing bulbophyllums, the do's and the don'ts. It also has many many beautiful photographs which show off the flowers to their best advantage.



SAOS Website – Photographs

The website at www.staugorchidsociety.org is full of new surprises. There is the photo gallery of orchids in 'Orchid Photographs' in which orchids that have been brought to the show table are organized into groups of breeding relatives and specific genera. The 'Show Table Photos' feature the orchids from the current month's show table as well as those brought to the show table in 2009. The 'SAOS Events Photos' is a series of galleries from SAOS meetings, Keiki clubs, orchid shows, and orchid festivals where you can see orchids as well as the people suffering from orchid addiction. We add new photographs each month!



January 5 SAOS Meeting

SAOS member Marv Ragan, of MAJ Orchids in Orange Park will be the speaking to us about the "Orchids of the Philippines". Marv and his wife Jan are both American Orchid Society judges and they have traveled extensively in search of orchids. Marv is a taxonomist and authority on the genus *Encyclia* and other genera.



February Keiki Club Making an Orchid Corsage

The next Keiki Club meeting will be in February at Maria and Richard Yessian's home. Harriet Wright will give a presentation on making an orchid corsage. Bring a blooming plant and we'll all go home with corsages! The date and time will be announced as we get closer to February.





White Cattleya by Alfred Ng



Orchids in Spring By Alfred Ng



Orchid Painting by Alfred Ng

Psychopsis Papilio by Surfer Dan

**Tinkerbelle in rainbow flight,
Three spears above your head,
A warrior cast from darkest night,
Botanic dreams turned red.**

**Silently you watch your space,
In time to fly away,
Mystery upon your face,
In gentle breeze you pray.**

**An object of perfection,
From images of fear,
Your alien reflection,
Of beauty so sincere.**

**Spartan insect on a stem,
One day you will awake,
From far away born unto them,
So many you will take.**

**The hanging garden waits inside,
As shadows cross the walls,
Within there is no place to hide,
Aloud the warrior calls.**





Growing Tips for December
Dr. Courtney Hackney,
hackneau@comcast.net
 Dept. Biology,
 Univ. North Florida

This month includes the shortest day of the year and a time when the sun is at its lowest angle. Even here in

Florida, the shade cloth is totally off my greenhouse and has been for two months.

For the past month or so some rearranging of orchids was necessary to maximize growth and avoid potential leaf burn. Jewel Orchids were moved into corners previously occupied by phals and other lower light-loving orchids because this area had become very shady. Jewel Orchid's leaves actually develop better color under lower light, making them better exhibition plants for the upcoming winter orchid shows. Conversely, other orchids located in places that did not receive direct light are now feeling the direct rays of the sun through one side of the greenhouse. While they did not burn, leaves on some phals were yellowed indicating more light than they might like.

This same phenomenon, i.e., light coming from a new direction, is a good reason for those windowsill growers to examine their orchids as well for both excess light and too little light. While temperatures here in Florida are not likely to cause cold damage close to windows, it can be a concern further north or if windows are poorly insulated. Typically, damage is not significant enough to cause plant death, but can cause flower buds to drop.



Dtps. 'Alice Girl'



P. Roman Gem x P. venosa 'Dark'

One group of hobbyists does not have to worry about light angle or windows; under-light growers. They have another issue however, a need to alter day length to simulate the winter solstice. Many orchids depend not on the length of day, but on the change in day length. It will be equally important to begin increasing day length in January as this is the cue for the orchids to initiate some part of their life cycle.

The first phal flowers should be opening this month if you were successful at initiating spikes with cool nights a few months ago. Multifloral paphs with mature growths are putting up spikes now too. They appreciate a little more light than most other paphs and may also need to be moved into a better location.

These paphs are also initiating new growths. While a reduction in watering and fertilizing is warranted for both of these groups of orchids, do not stop altogether. If you water weakly, weekly, maintain the same fertilizer level. The reduction in watering will automatically reduce the total quantity of fertilizer you apply.

It is always surprising to see high light, hot loving vandas not only growing, but putting up flower spikes in winter. They seem to handle cool nights in the mid to upper 50s with no impact as long as the day temperature warms into the upper 70s or 80s. Over the years, I have noticed that these warm loving orchids continue their growth with new leaves and roots until there is an extended cold period with little light to warm the greenhouse during the day. I continue my regular fertilizing of vandas until I notice new, green root tips disappearing. Only then do I stop weekly fertilizing and do not fertilize again until they show new root growth.

Mostly, this time of year is a great time to relax and enjoy the myriads of species and hybrids that flower this time a year. If you are lucky, Santa might even bring you a gift certificate to your favorite orchid nursery.





December To Do List

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@bellsouth.net

The Winter Rest period is beginning. By mid-winter you'll reduce water and fertilizer to half the summer amount. Protect your phals, vandas and phalaenopsis type dendrobiums when temperatures drop to 50 to 60 F and your other plants at

40 to 50 F. Get projected hourly night time [low temperatures](#) for your area from Wunderground.

Phals Are Spiking now and you should start staking the inflorescences when they are 6 to 10 in tall. The flowers grow toward the sun so if you move your plants to water them, reorient them to the light in the same way so the flower spike doesn't twist.

Winter Resting Plants include the Catasetinae and some Dendrobiums (Nobile, Seminobile & Callista section dendrobiums, [email us](#) if you're not sure). Restrict water and fertilizer from Thanksgiving through New Years Day.

Your Other Plants still enjoy light, air and lesser amounts of water and fertilizer. Your job is to keep them alive during the winter so you can return them to the outdoors in the spring where they will regain their growing vigor.



Catasetinae starting to go dormant



Catasetinae in dormant state



Phalaenopsis starting to spike



November 22 Keiki Club Report

The Winter Rest Period

Reduce Watering and Fertilizer. As the days get shorter and the light levels to your orchids are reduced, water and fertilizer requirements are also less. A general rule of thumb is water once rather than twice a week as you do during the summer. Phalaenopsis and paphiopedilums like to be moist but not wet. Cattleyas, dendrobiums and oncidiums like to dry between watering. Check the medium several inches down in the pot to see if it is still damp. If is damp, delay watering. It is especially important to watch your largest pots since they are the slowest to dry out after watering, especially when it is cool.

Check Light Levels. Changing seasons mean changing light as the sun moves. Make sure that your orchids, either indoors or in a greenhouse, are receiving adequate levels of light. Check your light exposure with a light meter to make sure that you're providing enough light for your orchid to bloom.

Indoor Growing. Windows that were perfect during the summer may now not provide enough light. Take the time to check out the number of hours your orchids are receiving light to make sure it is enough. If not, consider adding grow lights to provide 6-12 hours of good light.



Greenhouse Growing. By late fall the intensity and amount of daylight has been considerably reduced and shade cloth should be removed to provide adequate amounts of light. Be sure to rearrange your plants so that plants that had been receiving less light under the shade cloth are moved to shadier locations.

Air Circulation. Winter is a time when many fungus and rots will attack your plants. They grow wildly under high humidity and poor air circulation conditions. Be sure to water in the mornings so that all plant surfaces have a chance to dry during the day. Keep adequate air circulation going at all times, both to keep molds from forming and to keep the air from getting too hot or too cold in any particular spot. In a windowsill area, those plants nearest the windows can become chilled even when the temperature in the rest of the house is in the 70s. Moving the air with a fan will help keep the temperature in any particular place more consistent.

Temperatures. Have a plan to protect your plant during the winter months.

Minimum Temperatures. Protect your phals, vandas and phalaenopsis type dendrobiums when temperatures drop to 50 to 60 F and your other plants at 40 to 50F. Get projected hourly night time [low temperatures](#) for your area from Wunderground.

Temperature Differential. Make sure that your orchids are getting some solar heat to get the day time temperature at least in the 80s. They will not grow well for you in a constant 65 to 70 degree environment. You may have to move your plants to a window with more direct sun to accomplish this. If you have installed artificial lighting to increase light, this may provide enough warmth for your plants.

Isolate those Plants that Need a Rest. Winter is a good time to group plants together that need similar winter conditions. D. biggibum and R. digbyana both need high light and less water during the winter months. Keep these and similar plants together so that you will know that they need only once a month watering. Catasetinae (catasetum, clowesia, cychnoches and mormodes), calanthe, some dendrobiums (nobile, seminobile and Callista sections) need no water at all until the new growth starts in the spring. These can also be grouped where you know you will not water them. You can flag these plants with a special color tape or plant tag so you can identify them easily.

Stake Your Bloom Spikes. Phalaenopsis are spiking now. Stake the inflorescences when they get 6 to 10 inches tall and attach the bloom spike several inches below the growing spike so the flowers will be displayed to their best advantage. Be careful not to change the spike's orientation to light because the spike will grow towards the light. If you move the plant and don't replace it with the same orientation, the flower spike will twist toward the new light direction and the flowers will not have the beautiful, pendant shingling so attractive in phals. Stake an oncidium inflorescence attaching the spike to the stake in several locations to encourage vertical growth. Take time to stake your cattleya flowers. Attach the pseudobulb to the stake with a tie to anchor the plant. Then as the buds emerge, stake the flower stem to the stake so the flowers will emerge upright and facing forward.





Pink Phalaenopsis By Alfred Ng

Phalaenopsis Orchids

By Susan Taylor, BellaOnline.com

Phalaenopsis is without doubt the most popular and easily available of all the orchids. They are the most popular potted plant in the United States after the Christmas Poinsettia. There are many reasons for this popularity – the color range of the flowers, the ease of care, the long flowering time, and the elegance of the flower presentation.

Phals come in some of the widest ranges of colors of all the orchids. The original wild whites and pinks have been bred into an incredible range of pure white to dark purple to red and most recently orange. In addition to these pure colors, all kinds of patterned flowers are now available and can be used in any kind of decorative environment. For the winter holiday season the white phals provide a wonderful counterpoint to the brighter red and green colors.

They are one of the easiest of orchids to grow indoors as their light needs are fairly low and they are happy in temperatures which are normal in a household environment. Watering should be done about once a week with rain water, bottled water or tap water left out overnight to reach air temperature. Daily morning spraying will help the plant and increase humidity. If you have the plant in a decorative planter, be sure to remove it before watering and make sure that there is no water in the bottom of the pot when you replace it. Moss around the plant on top of the planting

media will help keep the humidity around the plant higher.

One of the best things about phals is their long flowering period. Last year my daughter in law gave me a double spiked phal for Christmas and it flowered until about the middle of June—six months. It then spiked again in July and started flowering in October and should still be in flower for this Christmas season. This is unusual, but most of them will flower for at least four months. Be sure that when you pick out a plant, you choose one that has only one or two flowers open so you can see the color but has lots of buds left to open.

The presentation of the flowers on a phal depends upon its ancestry. Some will have one long and arching inflorescence, others, known as multiflorals, will have branching inflorescences with many flowers. In addition to the differing growth types, phals come in different sizes. Recently, much work has been done in producing smaller plants especially with the multifloral growth habit.

Go out and get yourself one of these great orchids to enhance your holiday decorations and to keep your spirits up during the dreary winter months after you take down your other decorations!



***P. venosa 'Malibu Beach' x
P.Culiacan 'Galen Vasquez' AM/AOS***





Home and Backyard Orchid Growing

Mike Heinz

There are a lot of reasons to grow plants outside in Florida. The main reason for me is the plants get rainwater, almost constant air motion, and natural sunlight.

I can't control the air or the rain, but I can position my plants so they get the sunlight I want them to receive.

The first rule to putting plants outside is to acclimate them to the different level of light than they get during the winter months. I first put the plants under the oak trees, because they have a full canopy of shade, then I move them either further away from the trunk or under a pine tree. The pines have less filtering ability, but they also drop a lot of pine needles.

The second thing to think about is will uncontrolled rainwater hurt my plant? The plants with a crown like papahs, phrags, and phals are not good plants to put outside unless you angle the pot so water will run out of the crown. Water left in the crown will be a wonderful breeding ground for bacteria, and rot your plant from the top down.

I have made use of old store displays to hang my plants outside. The beauty of these racks is that come winter, I just roll the whole display back into the greenhouse. If you want to know the easiest way to do something, ask a lazy man how to do it. The other advantage to using display racks on wheels is you can move them to where ever the sun is the right level for what the plant needs, and is acclimated to.

As you can see in my pictures, I have run wire from tree to tree for about 250 feet of hanging space. I used 3/16 in. plastic coated wire for strength and the fact that the hooks won't slip as easily on the plastic. I also use clothes pins to keep the plant separated. This wire gives me room to hang about 300 plants outside. I have watched the suns travel



over the wires, so I know where the highest light levels are, and how long they get that level. All my vanda tribe, all the encyclia plants, and a lot of the cattleya family go outside.

When winter starts to show up I bring plants back in before they experience nights that are too cold for them.

One problem I can't seem to fix is the furry-tailed rats, commonly called squirrels. They have made a habit of tasting the plants thinking they are nuts, and eating just enough to kill the plant, before they discover they aren't good to eat.

Enjoy your plants, and if you can, let them enjoy the thrill of growing outside. They do like it, and will reward you with more growth.





Helen and Jim O'Brien

Helen lives with her husband Jim in Ocean City, New Jersey for the majority of the year. They spend about 3 months a year in the St. Augustine area where they were introduced to the SAOS. In fact, they are charter members. While Helen is the orchid grower, Jim also has a green thumb and is Past President of the South Jersey Rose Society. They look forward to their time in St. Augustine when they can renew friendships among the membership.

Helen is the orchid aficionado, while she describes Jim as extremely supportive and a GREAT plant mover. She grows her 30+ orchids in her back yard garden hanging from and distributed around trees where they share space with 60 rose bushes. In the colder months the orchids are moved indoors to the computer room where they benefit from south and east facing light. Of all her orchids, Helen loves her phalaenopsis best.

In her younger days Helen was a singer & dancer from Rochester, MN. She toured all over the country and met Jim during an engagement in Washington, DC. She also was a physician's office manager; a truly multi-talented person!



Monica Long

It is no wonder that Monica loves orchids. She grew up in Brazil, where they grow in abundance. She moved to St. Augustine 6 years ago and through Fred Keefer and Bill Gourley was introduced to the St. Augustine Orchid society.



A retired architect, she and her husband love to travel, having recently been to Brazil, Turkey and Cape Cod. She likes to walk and travel both domestically and internationally. Her orchid collection numbers about 30, which she grows on her porch & inside the house, and of course in the garage during cold snaps. Monica says she has no real favorite orchid; she just loves the blooms on all her plants. (Dec 09)



Linda Taylor

Born and raised in St. Augustine, Linda Taylor married her high school sweetheart, Jim, also an SAOS member. In 1961, Jim joined the USAF, and for the next thirty years the two of them became international rolling stones. Linda calls her own career "portable" as she was a free lance writer while raising their three children. She started in 1979 while in Germany, contributing articles to military publications, *Ladycom* and *Off Duty*. Once back in Florida at Patrick AFB in Cocoa Beach, Linda freelanced for national and regional magazines while writing community news for *Florida Today*. Since their homecoming in 1992 the Taylors have enjoyed the St. Augustine community. Linda recently retired from a state job at Air National Guard Headquarters and now simply adores being at home in St. Augustine South. A former member of Shamrock Garden Club, she enjoys container gardening. Growing orchids may be more Jim's hobby than hers, she is fond of mini cattas and fragrant orchids. She is looking for *Epidendrum radicans* to plant in large pots on her front patio! An interesting story, Linda says Jim first became interested in orchids while stationed in Miami in 1976 after a day trip to Orchid Jungle. When new orders sent them to Germany, all their orchids were farmed out to friends and family in Florida. It's 39 years later, and one of their original orchids is alive and well, living with a relative in Vilano Beach. Who says you can't grow orchids in North Florida! Though retired, their travel days are not over. Their oldest daughter married a man with roots in Lebanon, and Linda and Jim will spend Christmas this year in Beirut.

