

## CLUB NEWS



### February 2 Monthly SAOS Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Jack Higgins at 7:10 pm with 69 people present including one new member, George Del Monte, and seven other guests. Jack thanked Jeanette Smith for doing the Hospitality Table and asked that everyone who helps

themselves add a dollar to the jar for helping to pay for the food and drinks. Gail Marshall announced that two of our members have been diagnosed with cancer and asked that everyone be thinking of ways they can help these folks out. We will have a container up front for suggestions and monetary help if you feel able. She also reminded those with a birthday in February to see Christie Peppard for the extra raffle ticket. Dick Roth reminded those present to vote for a favorite on the show table which he will announce at the end of the meeting.

Annual dues are now due and payable to Dick Roth at the welcome table since our Treasurer was not able to be with us. Annual dues are \$15 for individuals, \$25 for households. We have pot clips at \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00 and repotting mix at \$5.00 a gallon.



***Fred Keefer handles the orchid raffle with his usual  
flair as Gil & Ellen Roehrig look on***



### ***Members & Guests Scan Tom's Plant List***

The Keiki Club will meet on 21 Feb at the home of Maria and Richard Yessian to learn from Harriet Wright how to make corsages. The pot clips and repotting mix will also be available at that time. SAOS will be joining Hagan Ace Hardware on the first Saturday in March from 9 til noon to answer questions and repot orchids brought in by anyone. These are much attended events and members are invited to come by to both. You will need a folding chair for the Keiki Club meeting.

Christie Peppard has taken over selling the raffle tickets from our new President, so be sure and find her before the meetings and during the breaks to buy your raffle tickets. Wendy Thomas, our new librarian, showed us several new books and magazines available from our library. All members are encouraged to borrow these books and magazines, but please bring them back at the next meeting.

Sue Bottom has done a fabulous job with our website, maybe one of the best in the AOS. Be sure you go to [www.statugorchidsociety.org](http://www.statugorchidsociety.org) to catch all the new information. The home page has monthly tips for growing orchids in St. Augustine.

Terry would like those members who have not been on Who's Who, to see him about getting their pictures taken so Mark Heilman can write up their biographical info. We'd like to know all about all our members.

Other events coming up in February: We need a chairman for the display we've been asked to do for the Jacksonville

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## Upcoming Orchid Events

### February

- 13-14 [Boca Raton Orchid Society Show](#)  
Safe Schools Institute
- 26-28 [Miami International Orchid Show](#)  
Doubletree Hotel & Convention Center
- 21 Keiki Club, 1 – 3 pm  
Harriet Wright, Orchid Corsages  
Maria and Richard Yessian's Home  
276 San Nicolas Way, St. Aug 32080

### 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
- 9 JOS Meeting, 7 pm  
Greg Allikas, OrchidWorks.com  
Orchid Photography
- 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
- 14 Keiki Club – 1 to 3 pm  
Repotting Workshop  
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home  
6916 Cypress Lake Ct., St. Aug 32086
- 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

### April

- 2-4 [Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show](#)  
Egypt Shrine Center
- 3 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 til noon  
[3050 US 1 S](#) in St. Augustine  
Repotting and Plant Clinic

- 6 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm  
Mark Edlund, Orchid Acres  
Dendrobiums
- 13 JOS Meeting, 7 pm  
Bill Thoms, A-doribil  
Orchids of the Philippines
- 16-18 [Greater Pensacola Area Orchid Society](#)  
Safe Schools Institute
- ?? Keiki Club – 1 to 3 pm  
Using the Light Meter  
Barb and Billy Conrad's Home

[www.staugorchidsociety.org](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org)

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



### St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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Operations Committee Chair	<a href="#">Jeanette Smith</a> jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com



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**Daisy Thompson draws a raffle ticket winner**

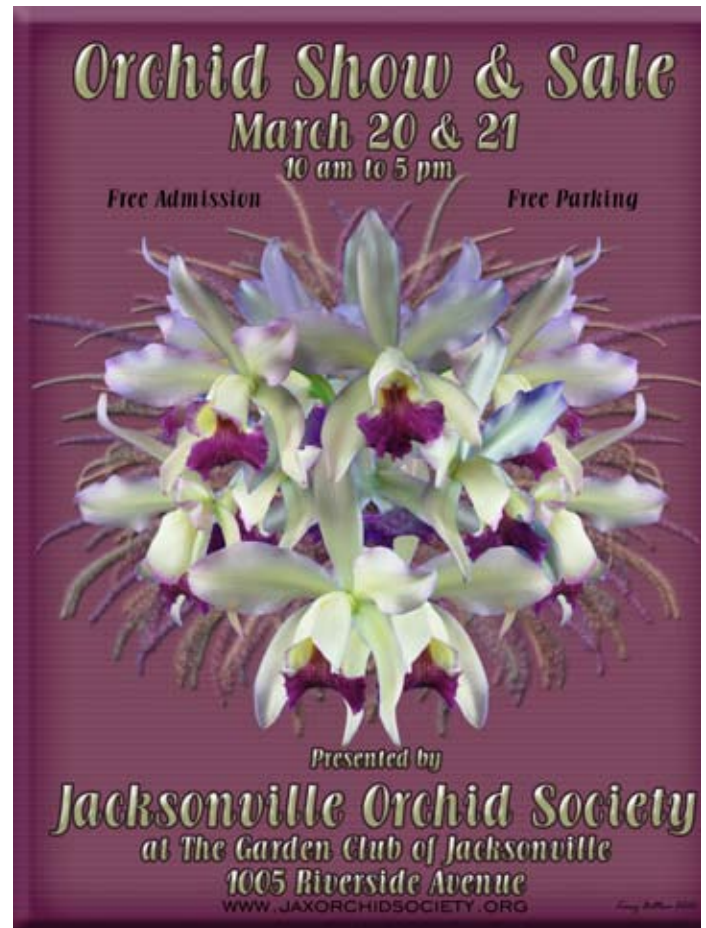
Orchid Show. Please get in touch with Jack if you're interested. We'd like very much to have a display, but without a chairman, we will not. See Christie Peppard if you would like to help in the kitchen during the show, and Mike Heinz if you'd like to clerk during judging.

Venice is having their show on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>; Boca Raton on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>; and Miami will have its International show on the 26<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>. For more information see the website.

Our program this month was on Angraecums, an unusual group of orchids to which our members were introduced. Tom Nasser of Carolina Orchids in Fort Mill, SC gave us a very interesting lecture with lots of information and humor! Many angraecums like to be grown in ProMix which is a soilless mixture consisting of peat and perlite because some like to be kept moist at all times. Drying out will kill the plants. They have a temperature low limit of 40 and do very well with air movement. Do not use softened water on these as they cannot stand the sodium and are not particularly fond of the chlorine in a public water supply. Rain water is great! Do not use distilled water as the plants need

the elements found in well or rain water. Do not overpot. Angraecums prefer to have their roots crowded and if transplanted and the root system cleaned out, the plant may not bloom for several years. Angraecoids come in all sizes from tiny miniatures to large 4-5" flowers, but most of them are white. Some tans and yellows have been found, but attempts to breed the color to the next generation has been futile. Tom passed out a sheet with all the species of Angraecoids listed that he had slides for and went through each and every one, giving us the characteristics of each. He had 20 Angraecums, 10 Aerangis, 4 Aeranthes and 13 other species listed. The King of Angraecums is *Angcm. sesquipedale*; the Queen, *Angcm. magdalene*. Together they made Angcm. Lemforde White Beauty which blooms 3 or 4 times a year and is probably the most outstanding of the genus. Most angraecums have long spurs, up to 14" and this is where they store their pollen; and yes, there is a moth with a proboscis that long!

Following the break, we had our raffle and auction, lead by Fred Keefer and Christie. Dick announced the Members Choice from the Show Table, Sue Bottom's *Cynodes Opalina*. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



**Daisy & Esther Whetston admire their raffle winners**



## February 21 Keiki Club Making an Orchid Corsage

The next Keiki Club meeting will be February 21st at Maria and Richard Yessian's home from 1 to 3 pm. Harriet Wright will give a presentation on making an orchid corsage. Bring a blooming plant and some small leaved ivy if you have some. We'll all go home with corsages! The address is [276 San Nicolas Way, St. Aug 32080](#). The gate code is 5050. Bring a folding chair. Call Maria at 461-4911 if you have any questions.



## March 2 Meeting of SAOS

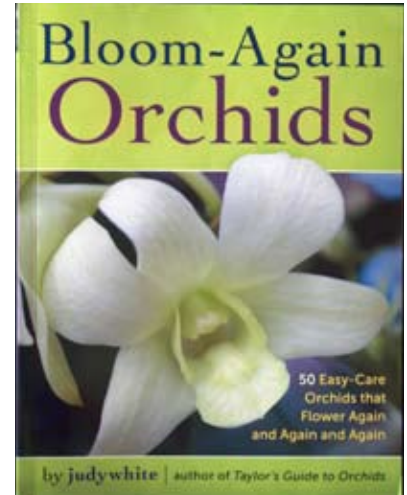
Linda Wilhelm of Woodland Orchids in Charlotte, NC will talk to us about the Magnificent Stanhopeas at the March 2 meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Stanhopeas are the group of South American orchids considered to be among the most highly evolved and specialized plants on the planet. The floral structure combines engineering and marketing into a package found irresistible by both euglossine bees and humans.

Linda and husband Rolf have a particular eye for both stanhopeas and complex oncidinae hybrids. Linda started growing orchids in 1980 after a vacation in Florida. After meeting Rolf in 1985, the addiction became severe when he too got involved with orchids. When the hobby got out of hand and developed into a serious passion for both Linda and Rolf, they started their business Woodland Orchids. They specialize in breeding warm tolerant oncidinae and compact cattleyas as well as line breed a number of different species. Stanhopeas are the newest passion.

An Accredited Judge, Linda is very active in the judging program. She is currently the Chair of the Carolinas Judging Center in Greensboro, NC and is a Trustee for the American Orchid Society. SAOS members can preorder plants from Woodland Orchids through Sue Bottom so only one list is sent to Linda. Please visit [www.woodlandorchids.com](http://www.woodlandorchids.com) to see what is available. The internet quantity discount will be given based on the total order quantity for the SAOS group. Pick up your plants at the meeting and pay Linda then.

## Bloom-Again Orchids: 50 Easy-Care Orchids that Flower Again and Again by Judy White

Orchid lovers of all levels will delight in this unique approach to selecting new and exciting varieties of fragrant orchids. Profiles of more than 100 orchids and 355 varieties include cultivation information and detailed notes on each fragrance.



## Volunteers for the Jacksonville Show

The Jacksonville show is March 20 and 21 at the Garden Center in Jacksonville. If you are handy in the kitchen and would like to help with the cooking, give Christie Peppard a call at 282-7889. If you're interested in learning more about orchid judging, give Mike Heinz a call at 962-2531. They'd love to hear from you.





*Blue Vanda Orchid by Alfred Ng*



*Orchids in the Mist; Cattleya schroederiae  
by Rose Ganucheau*



*Lc. Mini Purple 'Blue Hawaii' AM/AOS by Wolfgang*

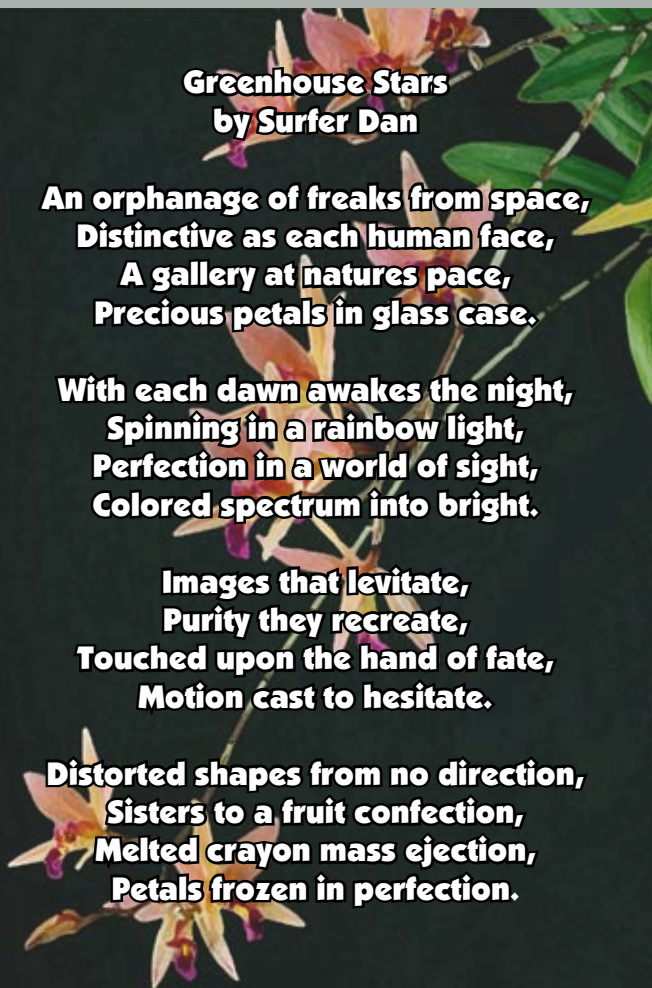
## **Greenhouse Stars by Surfer Dan**

**An orphanage of freaks from space,  
Distinctive as each human face,  
A gallery at nature's pace,  
Precious petals in glass case.**

**With each dawn awakes the night,  
Spinning in a rainbow light,  
Perfection in a world of sight,  
Colored spectrum into bright.**

**Images that levitate,  
Purity they recreate,  
Touched upon the hand of fate,  
Motion cast to hesitate.**

**Distorted shapes from no direction,  
Sisters to a fruit confection,  
Melted crayon mass ejection,  
Petals frozen in perfection.**





## Growing Tips for February

Dr. Courtney Hackney,  
[hackneau@comcast.net](mailto:hackneau@comcast.net)  
 Dept. Biology,  
 Univ. North Florida

Winter is the time when spikes from the multiflora Paphs in my collection suddenly

appear. Paphs are not a group of orchids that I used to have in my collection, but gifts over the years brought the occasional Paph that would flourish for awhile and then suddenly decline because I did not repot them frequently enough. After reading an article on Paphs in their natural habitat, I realized that they typically grow in limestone outcrops so high acidity in decaying media seemed like a logical explanation for the decline in growth as the medium degraded.

A visit from Paul Phillips confirmed what I suspected; dolomite limestone aided Paph growth and was discovered long ago by English Paph growers. For many years, I added pelletized lime to my Paphs every month or



so. If I forgot, I would notice a change in leaf color on a few Paphs that would prompt me to add lime. Within a week, I could see the color change in my Paph leaves reverted to its normal light green color. With this regimen, I could go a year without repotting, but still the medium degraded too quickly for my taste.

Perhaps Paph lovers enjoy repotting, but those of us that grow cattleyas find repotting a chore; hence, my search for another medium. The use of lava rock as a medium for Paphs was almost accidental. A large plant of Paph Lady Isabel fell off the bench and a growth broke off leaving its roots behind. I threw the growth into a clear plastic pot, which immediately fell over from the weight of the plant. I was experimenting with lava rock for my cattleyas at the time, so I threw a handful of lava rock into the pot to keep it from tipping over and set it among the other Paphs with the intention of repotting as soon as I got some Paph mix. Needless to say, I forgot about the plant until I saw a large spike emerging on the Paph bench. When I lifted the plant the root system had almost filled the bottom of the pot and there were two new growths.

Rock does not seem like a medium that Paphs would like because Paphs like constant moisture in their medium. They have fine roots, which dry out quickly. How could they survive in rock? As I experimented with lava rock as a medium it became clear that lava rock had an ability to absorb a large quantity of water once it had weathered. Initially, I used pea sized lava rock right out of the bag, but would find a layer of fine, red sand at the bottom of the pot after a few months. Paphs in this mix often had dead roots similar to situations where the medium had degraded.

After several iterations it became clear that the lava rock had to be weathered by soaking in water for a few weeks or left outside to loosen the fine grains of sand from the porous surface. This is not necessary with most rock materials. Also, it was clear that larger size lava rock was necessary to allow enough air movement around the roots. Half inch diameter worked best, although in larger pots one inch diameter or larger is placed in the bottom to increase drainage.

Dolomite lime, preferably the pelletized form, is still added to the surface because it lasts longer, but the powdered form will work just as well. When I used rainwater, which was acidic, lime was added monthly, especially in summer when orchids were watered two or three times per week. The combination of lava rock and lime led to Paph roots that would fill the plastic pot and occasionally deform it from their expansion. Often the pot would need to be cut to remove the Paph, but only after several years' growth. At last, no repotting.



The only modification in this protocol occurred after my move to Florida where I have water with more dissolved solids and a pH of 7.5. I now add lime less frequently and get the same results. I am still experimenting with even larger pieces of lava rock for larger pots, now required because the Paphs get so large. Crushed lime rock is also readily available in Florida and is now being added as a surface dressing as both an additional source of lime and because it does not absorb water providing better drainage. Stay tuned for the next chapter after these experiments are concluded.

**Where do you find lava rock?** Most large garden stores carry this product in bags as mulch. It can also be obtained from landscaping businesses that supply mulch.





## Orchid Questions & Answers

Sue Bottom,  
[sbottom15@bellsouth.net](mailto:sbottom15@bellsouth.net)

**Q.** I have these odd yellow spots on some of my phal leaves and brown spots on some paphs. The spotting is unlike anything I have seen before.



**Advanced infection to pitting stage**



**Chlorotic spots newly emerging on phal**

**A.** I asked Tom Nasser what caused the spotting, he told me to be afraid, very afraid. He said it is a microfungus, apparently a fungus with a virus attached to it. After a little research, it is also called a Potyvirus, commonly referred to as Phalaenopsis Chlorotic Spot Virus. It is very infectious and can destroy an entire greenhouse in short order. Tom said that the microfungus likely has spread to other sections of the leaf or nearby plants and you might not yet see the chlorotic spotting, similar to a metastacizing cancer. In the order of appearance, the leaves display yellow chlorotic spots, then more defined yellow spotting that can grow into elongated yellow streaking, then pitting, and finally large areas of grayish tissue collapse. It can be confused with mesophyll cell collapse caused by watering with cold water, although this weathers to dark rather than light sunken spots in phals. Paph infections weather to darkish sunken spots. Tom recommended that infested plants be destroyed and the remaining plants treated with the copper fungicide phyton 27, a chelated copper fungicide that permeates the leaf more effectively than the more available copper fungicide Kocide.

From Bob Gordon "Culture of the Phalaenopsis Orchid": "sometimes a condition prevails that is caused by a systemic infection of microfungi. As there are literally hundreds of these, the symptoms vary from plant to plant. Some of the more common are a spotty, ill-defined chlorosis; a streaky chlorosis beginning at the edge of the leaf where it looks as if the leaf edge had been burned with a match or candle; a red-brown coloration appearing at the apical third or half of the lower leaves followed by a dehydrated and senescent (old) appearance and also mesophyll tissue collapse where deep pitting becomes apparent on the surface of the leaves. This latter condition can also be caused by cold water and by virus infections. However, in the latter instance, the pitting is usually dark-brown to black in appearance rather than the white to light fawn caused by fungi."



**Kiss this plant goodbye**

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## SAOS Website – Orchids in February

The website at [www.staugorchidsociety.org](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org) is full of new surprises. We've added a new featured to our home page, a monthly orchid checklist, full of growing tips for growing orchids in North Florida. It is based on the monthly checklists Robert Scully wrote for the AOS Bulletin and Orchid Culture, with modifications made by local growers. We also post orchid alerts for special warnings, most recently the Orchid Alerts written by Martin Motes of Motes Orchids detailing how to treat cold damaged orchids and how to eliminate leaf reddening brought on my exposure to cold. More detailed versions are available in the Orchid Culture tab aptly named Month by Month.



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*Virus on phaph is brown rather than yellow*



*Cold water damage weathers to brown rather than fawn color*



*Cold damage on phal*



## Keikis – Orchid Babies

By Susan Taylor, BellaOnline.com

### Cutting Orchid Keikis

The word 'keiki' is from the Hawaiian word meaning 'baby' or 'child'. When used in the context of orchids, it represents a baby plant produced by an orchid which is an exact clone of the mother plant. Some orchids, such as phalaenopsis, dendrobium and epidendrum, produce keikis regularly.



Here are some pictures of a phal keiki from one of my favorite vendors Repotme. You can see how the little plant is growing from the finished inflorescence and now has two leaves and three roots. This is about the correct size to remove the plantlet and pot it in its own container. Most growers recommend that you cut above and below the keiki and include a piece of the inflorescence when trying to pot a keiki. This eliminates the difficulty of cutting it off the inflorescence and possibly destroying it. Be sure you use a sterile cutting tool such as a razor blade or a sterilized pair of snips to keep the plant healthy. After cutting, be sure to spray with a fungicide to keep problems from forming on the cut edges.

Dendrobiums produce keikis along their canes where a leaf is produced quite regularly and they sometimes will produce one instead of an inflorescence at the tip of the growing cane. Many growers have luck cutting a cane and laying it on its side in sand or just on



a growing shelf and the cane will produce little keikis at the points where there were formerly leaves. If you have a favorite dendrobium, you can do this and give all your friends pieces of it. Follow the directions above as far as cutting and spraying.

Carefully plant your babies in small, usually 2 inch, or 5 centimeter, containers. Some growers plant Phal keikis back in the pot with the mother plant. Most orchids grow best in root bound conditions when potted so small pots are preferred. Soak the medium for at least several hours, preferably overnight, so that there is moisture available when the plant is first put in the pot. Plant so that the crown of the plant is just above the medium. Keep in a warmer, shadier spot than the mother plant until it is obvious that the baby is starting to grow on its own. This will generally take about a month. Then move to a spot in the same conditions as the mother plant. You can keep this original reproduction or clone of your plant or give it to a friend.



## Your Orchids in February

by Sue Bottom, based on information from Robert Scully, courtesy of the AOS

**General Orchid Growing Tips.** Spring is around the corner. Order your potting supplies early to make sure they are not sold out when it's time to repot. Observe plants (including companion plants like bromeliads) carefully for signs of disease and insects. Avoid having heated or air-conditioned drafts blowing directly on orchids. Don't bring you plants out too early. It is starting to warm but you can expect more orchid threatening cold fronts through March.

**Cattleyas.** Your cattleyas are starting to rouse, even though temperature and light conditions are not yet ideal for growth. Continue to use dilute water soluble fertilizer on your orchids at 1/4 to 1/8 strength. New green root tips are starting to emerge on the unifoliate, marking the beginning of the spring repotting season. Sometimes it is necessary to split open a sheath with a sterile blade to reduce pressure on the emerging buds or to allow accumulated condensation (possibly from fluctuating temperatures) to dissipate.

**Cymbidiums.** Stake cymbidium inflorescences that have emerged from the mass of foliage on these winter-spring bloomers. Maintain temperatures at 50 to 60F to keep the flowers opening slowly. Dramatically higher temperatures and hot drafts cause bud drop.

**Dendrobiums.** Watch for flower buds on dendrobiums like *Den. lindley*, *Den. nobile* hybrids, *Den. superbum* (syn. *Den. anosmum*) and other deciduous species and hybrids. These have longer flowering when exposed to cooler night temperatures as the blooms open and mature. Avoid dousing open flowers when watering. Give slightly more water to these plants (that have been kept reasonably dry prior to flowering) once they begin to bloom. Continue to protect evergreen-type dendrobiums from low temperatures that may cause leaf loss.

**Oncidiums.** Do not permit miltonias and odontoglossums to dry out because this is a critical time for flower-spike development. Stake the spikes. Continue to use a dilute water soluble fertilizer before the flowers begin to appear.

**Paphiopedilums.** Do not allow the roots of paphiopedilums to dry out. On a windowsill, use a pebble tray, with water in the pebbles, to increase humidity. Keep water out of sensitive pouches. Accumulated moisture in the pouch shortens flower life. Watch for insects, particularly red spider mites, on the foliage.



**Phalaenopsis.** Continue to use a dilute water soluble fertilizer on phalaenopsis. Be careful not to splatter the flowers or they will stain. Phalaenopsis exude a honey-like substance on the developing inflorescence that attracts scale insects. Watch for signs of any problem that can be spot treated before it becomes a major situation. Avoid spraying insecticides on blossoms.

**Miscellaneous Genera.** The Catasetinae (catasetums, clowesia, cynoches and mormodes) have dropped most of their leaves and should be kept dry. Watch for signs of new growth that marks the beginning of the repotting season for the catasetum relatives. Remove the old medium, cut off dried roots and pot in a sphagnum moss or coco husk mix interlayered with the time released fertilizer Dynamite but DO NOT WATER. If you water before the new growth is about 4 inches tall, it will probably rot. Your *Ludisia discolor* is in bloom this month.





*Painting for Chinese New Year By Alfred Ng*



# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz**  
*L. anceps semi-alba*



**Grower Dick Roth**  
*Asctm. miniatum 'Tai Gold'*



**Grower Harry & Celia McElroy**  
*Cym. Mem. Jacqueline Oyston*  
*x Cym. Atlanta*



**Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz**  
*Bulb. lasiochilum*



**Grower Vivienne Rowe**  
*Colm. Wildcat 'Bobcat' AM/AOS*



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
*Lc. Astraea*



**Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz**  
*Pholidata cantonensis*



# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Dick Roth**  
**Den. Sea Marian 'Snow King'**



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**Cynnodes Opalina**



**Grower Marv & Jan Ragan**  
**Paph. Magic Mountain**



**Grower Harry & Celia McElroy**  
**Cym. hookerianum**



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**Angraecum sesquipedale**



**Grower Masrv & Jan Ragan**  
**Liparis wenzelii**

