



## CLUB NEWS



**Fred Keefer**

### July 5 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Lola Stark, seacuter@bellsouth.net

### Welcome and Thanks.

President Jack Higgins opened the meeting at 7:15 pm with 35 people present

including 4 guests and one new member: Susan Slater.

**Club Business.** Jack thanked Jeanette Smith, Bill Gourley and Shirley Browning for the refreshments and reminded those present to "Drop a Dollar" to help pay for the refreshments. Gail Marshall told us that all members were well and reminded those present that because we had no raffle tonight, those members born in July and our newest member will get their birthday raffle tickets in August.

**Orchid Events.** The Coalition for Orchid Species Symposium is July 24 at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. The First Annual Cattleya Symposium sponsored by Odom's Orchids will be in Fort Pierce on July 29 and 30. That weekend is also the Platinum Coast Orchid Society Show at the Cocoa Expo Sports Arena.



**Club Business.** We have potting supplies available at the side table. coarse mix, coco mix and sphagnum mix for \$5.00 a bag. We also have some MSU fertilizer for \$5.00 a bottle. SAOS will be at Hagan Ace on August 6 from 9 am until 1 pm to help with any problems you have or to just chat! August will not be a very good time for repotting, but we will have the materials available if you really need to do this.



**Fred & Gail did a fine job of running the Auction.**



**A nice selection of Auction Plants was provided by SAOS club members.**

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# CLUB NEWS



## Upcoming Orchid Events

### July

- 12 JOS Meeting, 7 pm  
Ed Bugbee, Featherstone Orchids  
Orchids of Panama
- 24 Coalition for Orchid Species Symposium  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
- 29-30 [First Annual Cattleya Symposium](#)  
Hotel Hampton Inn, Fort Pierce
- 29-1 Platinum Coast Orchid Society  
Cocoa Expo Sports Arena

### August

- 2 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm  
Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids  
Modern Trends for the Cattleya Grower
- 6 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm  
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine  
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 9 JOS Meeting, 7 pm  
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids

### September

- 3 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm  
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine  
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 6 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm  
Peter Lin, Big Leaf Orchids  
Growing Novelty Phalaenopsis
- 10 JOS Meeting, 7 pm  
TBA
- 18 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners  
Fall Preparations: Preparing for Winter
- Sue and Terry Bottom's Home  
6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086
- 18-19 Ridge Orchid Society Show  
Lake Mirror Center, Lakeland

### October

- 1 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm  
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine  
Repotting and Plant Clinic

- 1-2 Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show  
Minnreg Hall
- 4 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm  
Linda Wilhelm, Woodland Orchids  
How to Kill Your Orchids
- 8-9 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show  
St. Lucie County Shrine Club
- 11 JOS Meeting, 7 pm  
TBA
- 15-16 Gainesville Orchid Society Show  
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
- 21-23 Orctoberfest at Powerplant/EFG Orchids  
Deland
- 28-30 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show  
Old School Square

## St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	<a href="#">Jack Higgins</a> jacktravel2003@yahoo.com
First Vice President Program Chair	<a href="#">Sue Bottom</a> sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Second Vice President Publicity Chair	<a href="#">Vivienne Rowe</a> tomvivrowe@comcast.net
Secretary AOS/Orchid Digest Rep	<a href="#">Lola Stark</a> seacuter@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	<a href="#">Bill Gourley</a> wgourley@bellsouth.net
Directors at Large	<a href="#">Terry Bottom</a> bottomt@bellsouth.net <a href="#">Mike Heinz</a> mgheinz@comcast.net <a href="#">Bob Martin</a> nigel_77@att.net
Exhibit Committee Chair	<a href="#">Harry McElroy</a> cymbidiuman@msn.com
Librarian	<a href="#">Wendy Thomas</a> wendysthomas1@bellsouth.net
Membership Committee Chair	<a href="#">Gail Marshall</a> gwpb@aol.com
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	<a href="#">Sue and Terry Bottom</a> sbottom15@bellsouth.net bottomt@bellsouth.net
Operations Committee Chair	<a href="#">Jeanette Smith</a> jesmith@watsonrealtcorp.com





# CLUB NEWS

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**Program.** Our program for the evening was our semi-annual auction. This time we auctioned orchids donated by our members, most of which were in bloom. Members who donated include Harry McElroy, Bill Gourley, Sue Bottom, Fred Keefer, Vivienne Rowe, Dick Roth, and Lola Stark. The bidding was interesting and very competitive and everyone had a grand time. Fred, Gail and Sue did a fine job of keeping the action moving. These plants, grown locally, should all do very well since they are already acclimated to the area.

**Meeting Conclusion.** We did have a very nice show table and Sue Bottom's C. Motte Spot 'Paradise' won the Member's Choice.



**Gail & Sue present Barbara with her new plant while Jeannette & Judy look on.**



**Monica, Mary Ann & Bobby admire an auction plant.**

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



## June 26 Keiki Club Summer Orchid Care

We had around 15 new and familiar faces at the Keiki Club get-together talking about what to do before, during and after a tropical storm, and repotting lots of orchids. Here are the highlights:

**Routine Activities During the Summer** – Here are some things to think about during the hot humid summer.

*Coarse Potting Mix* – are a good choice so when we get afternoon showers every day, the pot will drain and the roots will have the air they love so much around them. The coarser the mix, the more it has to be watered if it doesn't rain. The extreme would be to use no mix at all such as when an orchid is mounted or grown in a basket, but of course without rain you will be watering daily. A sphagnum or pure bark based mix may be much too water retentive to grow successfully outdoors when you cannot control when and how much rain the plant will receive.

*Precautionary Sprays* – are used by some growers to prevent the ubiquitous critters, bacteria and fungi from damaging your plant; other growers choose only to spray when a problem is detected.

*Cattleyas* – are big favorites amongst SAOS growers, keep an eye on:

- *Pseudobulb Sheaths*. The papery sheath on a pseudobulb protects the new growth from the sun and chewing insects. As the pseudobulb matures, sometimes a space develops between the pseudobulb and the sheath that can accumulate water and if it stays wet for an extended period of time, it will be a home for rot. Gently peel it down so the pocket of water can drain freely.

- *Flower Sheaths*. The flower sheath likewise protects the emerging flower and it also provides structural support for the flower stem, but sometimes the extended moisture can cause the flower to rot in the sheath. You can split the sheath and gently peel it down to allow air movement. When you do this, secure the pseudobulb to a stake with a tie strap and then stake the flower stem to the same stake. This will allow the flower to develop for its best presentation.

*Phalaenopsis* – this is the time most phals are gathering their strength. Make sure to repot all phals that need repotting this year by the end of June, so the plant can grow, reestablish and give you great blooms next spring. If you have a summer bloomer, wait until February to repot.

*Dendrobiums, Oncidiums and Vandas* – are growing like mad this time of year. Unless there is an obvious problem, let them do their thing!

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# CLUB NEWS

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**Before the Storm.** The tropical storm is coming and we can expect gray rainy weather for a week. Before it happens:

*Precautionary Spray* – with a stepped up fungicide/bactericide, try Consan or Physan or 10% pool algicide at 2 tsp/gal. Copper sprays like Kocide are great for bacterial infections but shouldn't be used on dendrobiums or plants in bloom.

*Monopodial Orchids* – like phalaenopsis and vandas, will tend to hold water in the crown of the plant so you may want to turn the pot or basket on its side to prevent water from accumulating in the crown and causing crown rot.

*Removable Cover* – could be installed over your orchids if your set up would allow it. A pre-engineered system with rolled plastic film or polycarbonate sheets could be set up to prevent all that rain from waterlogging the plants.

*High Winds* – if it's more than a tropical storm and high winds are predicted, you may want to bring your orchids into the garage or another safe haven. If this isn't possible, place the plants low and on their sides. Try to prevent contact with the pathogens in the soil, lay down a protective piece of plastic or something similar before placing your orchids on it.

**During the Storm.** Stay inside and congratulate yourself on your preparations.

**After the Storm.** Return your plants to their summer home, then:

*Inspect* – all your plants carefully for any signs of mechanical damage or orchid diseases and treat any problems you find quickly. If a plant is diseased, isolate it from your other plants until it is healthy again.

*Black Rots.* The insidious, fast growing orchid black rot must be treated immediately. You must quickly cut away the soft, black, rotting tissue until you find healthy growth and then apply some specialty fungicides like Banrot or Subdue.

*Bacterial Rots.* If you see sunken spots or rot on the orchid, spray or pour hydrogen peroxide on the damaged area.

*Protective Spray* – with a fungicide/bactericide. This is the most important protective spray because your plants have been exposed to conditions very conducive to fungal and bacterial infections and they need a boost. Try Consan or Physan or 10% pool algicide at 2 tsp/gal. Better yet are copper sprays like Kocide for bacterial infections but Kocide shouldn't be used on dendrobiums, mix with your alkaline well water without any fertilizer so the solution doesn't become acidic.



## Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners Summer Hiatus

With the heat of summer in July and August, we're going on summer hiatus. Will have the final Keiki Club meeting of the year in September to talk about your fall preparations, getting your plants ready for their winter home and preparing the pendulous dendrobium and catasetum relatives for their deep winter sleep.



## August 2 Monthly SAOS Meeting Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids

Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids in Lincoln, California will talk about Modern Trends in Cattleya Breeding at the August 2 meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. His talk will address what is new in cattleya hybridizing around the world.

Alan Koch is the owner of Gold Country Orchids where he specializes in miniature and compact Cattleyas. He has been growing orchids since 1969, helped by his degree in plant physiology to breed plants that grow fast with attractive clean growth and plants that flower young. He has moved five times as his orchid obsession has led to the need for more growing space. With the last move, he purchased 10 acres of land in Lincoln, California for his 300,000 orchids. He is recognized as an expert in the Brazilian Cattleya alliance and a trend setter in miniature Cattleya breeding.





# CLUB NEWS



## Home and Backyard Orchid Growing

Jim and Linda Taylor

Jim and Linda Taylor became fascinated with orchids while living at Homestead AFB near Miami in 1976. Their orchids came from Orchid Jungle, a privately owned park and nursery complete with exotic birds and plants. When the Air Force transferred Jim

to Germany in 1977, they drove home to St. Augustine, distributing orchid farewell gifts to family and friends along the way. Until 2004, one of those cattleyas lived a healthy life at the Vilano Beach home of Jim's aunt, Patricia Longo. More proof that orchids can live a long and happy life!

After returning to St. Augustine in the 1990's, the Taylors grew their orchids outside on benches under oak trees in their St. Augustine South home. Last year they decided it was time for a greenhouse to help the orchids get through the winter, so Jim and Linda spent almost a year designing and building (and rebuilding) their greenhouse.



The greenhouse is a wooden structure located under oak trees so it is shaded from the direct sun. It is located on a north south axis where the north end faces the road and is made of solid wood. The other three walls are clear polycarbonate and the roof is a smoky polycarbonate. The bottom and top sections are screened so air is drawn in through the bottom and exhausted out through the top for ventilation. In the winter, Jim staples plastic on the inside walls to create an insulation barrier and a portable electric heater keeps the plants warm.



There is a gravel floor base inside the greenhouse with four tiered benches filled with mostly cattleyas, though there are oncidiums, phalaenopsis, dendrobiums and other types of orchids too, particularly if they are fragrant like his Coconut Orchid or chocolate smelling Oncidium Sharry Baby. There are PVC pipes so orchids can be hung high in the greenhouse and eye hooks outside the greenhouse for the vandas to get the natural ventilation they crave during the summer.



Just because they have the greenhouse doesn't mean they don't grow their orchids outside during the summer months. Their orchids enjoy a summer respite in the wafting breezes off the marsh and shifting sun under the trees. The greenhouse just makes the winter care a little more carefree for the orchids and their other tropical plants.





# INSPIRATION

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Bulbo Fireworks By  
**Terry Bottom**



# CULTIVATION



## Growing Tips for July

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

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



*This photo courtesy of the AOS*

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.

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.

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.





# CULTIVATION

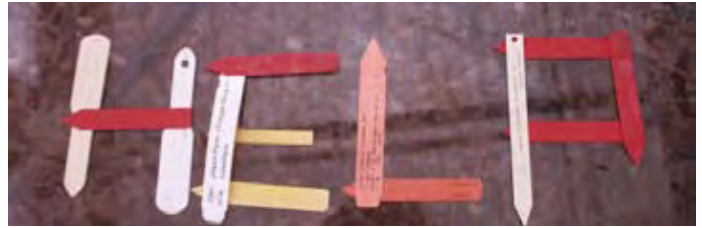


## Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,  
sbottom15@bellsouth.net

**Q.** I bought a phalaenopsis orchid in February. After the blooms died, I repotted it from sphagnum moss into a bark mixture and continued to water once every 10 days. I noticed that the leaves are droopy. What should I do?

**A.** The phalaenopsis was acclimated to sphagnum moss around its roots and changing to a new mix required the orchid to grow completely new roots. Your orchid got dehydrated because the old roots weren't allowing it to absorb enough water from the new potting mix. Try repotting it into a sphagnum moss mix. A lot of people don't like sphagnum moss because they feel it stays too wet, so we ended up making a mix that's about 2/3 sphagnum and 1/3 inert stuff like charcoal, sponge rock and aliflor/hydroton. The inert stuff seems to lighten up the sphagnum moss so more air can get around the roots but there is enough sphagnum that the roots don't skip a beat when they're put into fresh mix. Repot and see if your pretty phalaenopsis doesn't return to its former glory!



**Q.** I live in Arizona where it is very dry, even with a humidifier running. I potted this brassia orchid in bark last year and to me it looks like the new leaves are getting stuck and can't grow out, so they crinkle and bunch up. Should I mix in some peat to help it retain water?

**A.** Trust your instincts! The leaf crinkling suggests the plant isn't getting sufficient moisture, but you already knew that. You can either water more frequently or add peat or other water retentive material to your mix to increase its water holding capacity.



**Q.** My boyfriend gave me this orchid. I have watered and fed it regularly for the past few months and it has produced new growth but the markings on the leaves have worsened and have now begun to appear on the new leaf too. I keep it next to two other orchids and they are fine, flowering with no symptoms.



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# CULTIVATION

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**A.** I think you may have mites causing the pitting on the leaves. To be sure, take a white kleenex and rub both sides of the leaves and if you have a reddish smudge, it's mites. You can treat indoors by getting a quart spray bottle and put in 1 tablespoon of dishwashing solution and spray the entire plant, top and bottom leaves and all nooks and crannies, repeating weekly for two weeks. Check your other plants, you might want to treat them too. You can also take the plants outdoors and spray with a miticide. Mites are not insects, so a miticide rather than an insecticide is required.



**Q.** I think these are seed pods on my Epi. radicans. Do I just leave them there or what?

**A.** You can take them off if you want the plant to reserve its strength for flowers, or let them develop seeds and spread, in the one in a million chance that some volunteers will sprout somewhere. If they do, go out and buy some lottery tickets!



## Growing Tips from the Cymbidium Man

Harry McElroy,  
[cymbidiuman@msn.com](mailto:cymbidiuman@msn.com)

**Dividing Cymbidiums.** Have you ever struggled through repotting of a large cymbidium, where you feel like a hack saw might be the best tool to separate all those roots? Let the big specimen

plants get very dry before dividing them. Having the plant dry before repotting is counter to what we do with just about every other kind of orchid, where we water before repotting to soften the roots and make them more pliable. The cymbidium roots shrink when they are dry and come apart very easily. When the roots are wet, they swell and are hard to pull apart.



**Bush Snails.** Today was the day to explore my greenhouse and look at new growth on the cattleyas. There are many this time of year. This is also a good time to look for Bush Snails. One or two of the new growths had one or two of the tiny little pests. This tiny little snail is responsible for more undetected damage to collections than any other pest I know of. It eats the root tips and often damages the new growths. If I could kick myself, I would. I had forgotten my spring practice of Bush Snail detection. A good way to detect this pest is to place a piece of apple, potato or lettuce on top of the pot as bait. Leave it for a day or two then go to the plant at night in the dark with a flashlight, lift the piece of bait you put on the pot and look for the tiny little black Snails underneath. If you find them, use a bait or poison to get rid of them. Dead Line is a good one but be careful not to poison birds or pets with whatever you use. In small collections, you can bait the snails with apple, potato or lettuce and squash them till there are no more.



# CULTIVATION

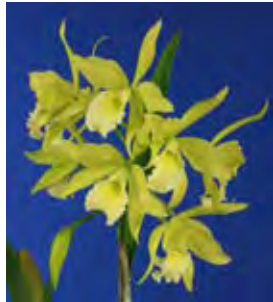
## Your Orchids in July

based on Robert Scully, Ned Nash & James Rose checklists, courtesy of the AOS



**General Growing Tips.** The heat and humidity of summer are here. Orchid plants require the most water and fertilizer this month to produce the most growth. They 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 second or third day 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 coming strong 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

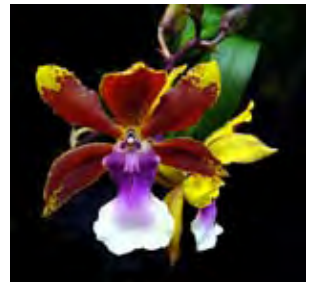


misting system. Use pots with a 1 inch water reservoir in the bottom or set the pots in shallow pans to ensure that the cymbidium is never without water.

**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 every 3rd or 4th day with a dilute fertilizer solution if your phals are in a coco type mix; the frequency might be every 7 to 10 days 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.





# ORCHID ADVENTURES

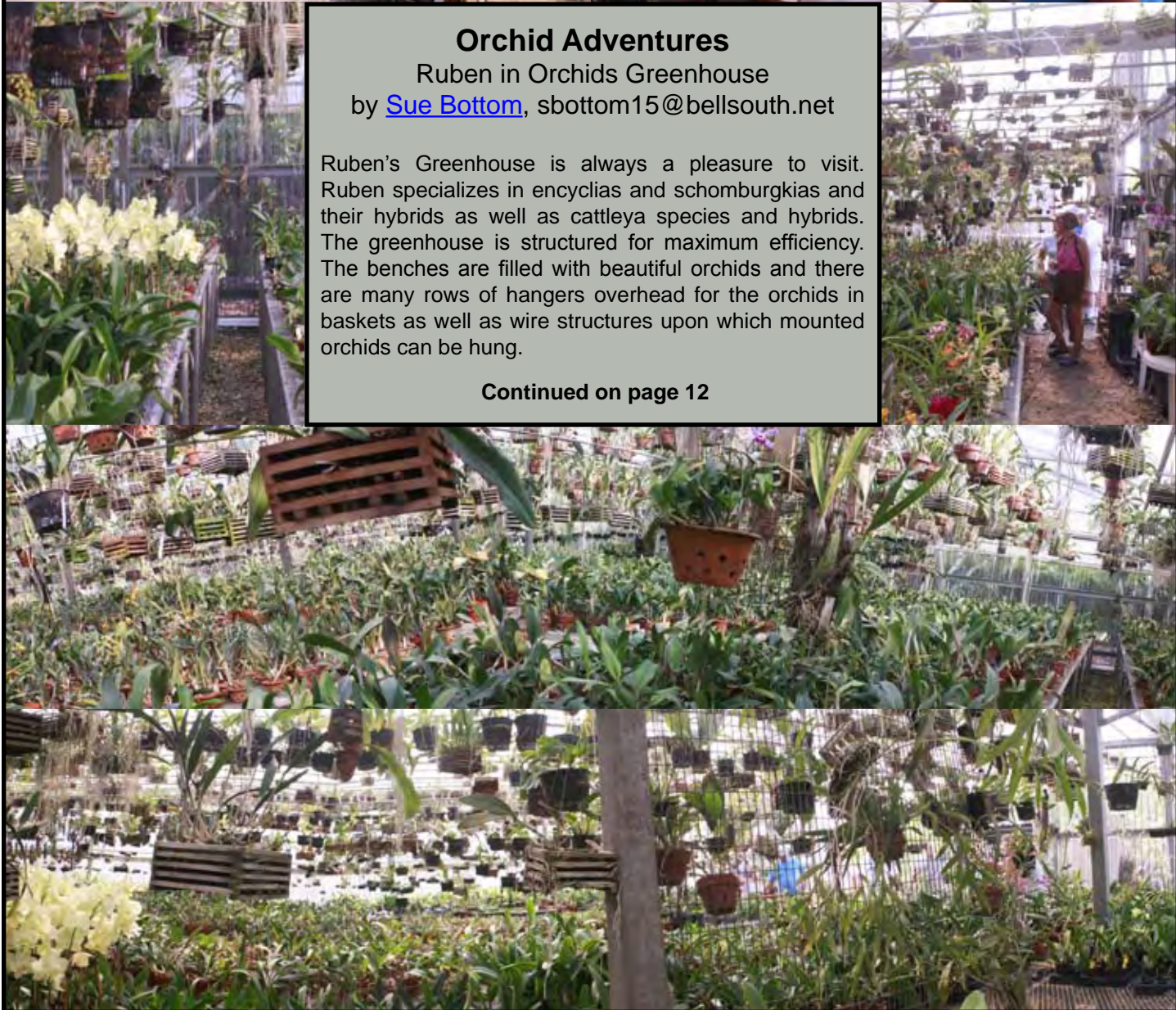


## Orchid Adventures

Ruben in Orchids Greenhouse  
by [Sue Bottom](mailto:sbottom15@bellsouth.net), sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Ruben's Greenhouse is always a pleasure to visit. Ruben specializes in encyclias and schomburgkias and their hybrids as well as cattleya species and hybrids. The greenhouse is structured for maximum efficiency. The benches are filled with beautiful orchids and there are many rows of hangers overhead for the orchids in baskets as well as wire structures upon which mounted orchids can be hung.

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# ORCHID ADVENTURES



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The greenhouse is divided into three sections based on the light demands of the orchids. The brightest loving orchids are at one end of the greenhouse with 30% shade cloth, intermediate light loving orchids are in the middle with 50% shade cloth and the seedlings are in the shadiest end with 70% shade cloth. Ruben has been growing and hybridizing orchids since 1962 and now Claudia is making many of her own crosses. There are seedpods throughout the greenhouse on their stud plants. We'll just have to wait for these new beauties to grow up and bloom!





# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Steve Serkin**  
**Enc. Orchid Jungle**



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**B. nodosa**



**Grower Mary Ann Bell**  
**Ascda. Fuchs Spotted Cat**



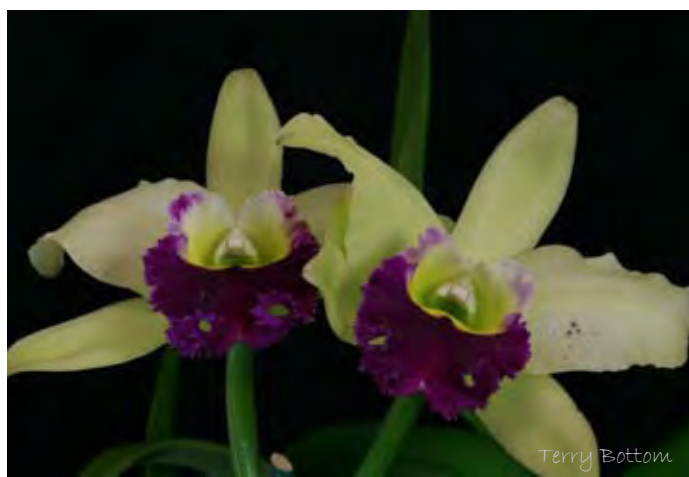
**Grower Lola Stark**  
**C. Angel Bells 'Suzie' AM/AOS**



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**Onc. undulatum**



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**Den. dearei**



**Grower Sandra Taylor**  
**Blc. Leaflet**



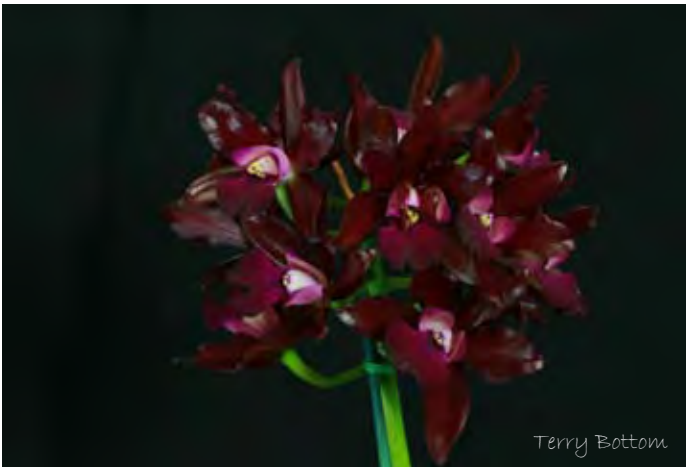
# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**Blc. Crowfield 'Mendenhall' HCC/AOS**



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**C. Motte Spot 'Paradise'**



**Grower May Ann Bell**  
**Lc. Sagarik Wax**



**Grower Barbara Conrad**  
**Bc. Island Charm 'OC' JC/AOS**



**Grower Dick Roth**  
**Ascda. Jakkit Gold**



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**Blc. Pacific Torch**

