Volume 7 Issue #1

CLUB NEWS



January 3 Monthly SAOS Meeting By Lola Stark,

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Welcome and Thanks. President Jeannette Pacetti opened the meeting at 7:15 pm with 50 people present, including 9 guests and welcoming back members Debbie and Bob Sandy.

Debbie is taking over the Welcome Table. Jeannette thanked Jeanette Smith,

and Sue Bottom for the refreshments and reminded those present to "Drop a Dollar" to help pay for the soda and coffee. Gail Marshall told us that all members are well and reminded those whose birthdays are in January to pick up an extra raffle ticket from Jack Higgins. She reminded everyone to vote for their favorite on the show table, dropping your choice in the silver box. Dick Roth will announce the winner at the break between the program and the raffle.

Club Business. 2012 dues are now due and can be paid to Penny Halyburton, Director, who is sitting in for Bill Gourley, our Treasurer. Terry Bottom has the Roger Gordy calendars that folks ordered last month and he has one extra if anyone is interested.

SAOS will be ordering supplies this weekend for spring use, so if you need anything in particular, please let either Terry or Sue know by January 7th. Both the Keiki Cub and Ace Repotting Clinic are still on winter hiatus. The Keiki Club will resume in February and Ace Repotting in March.

Gene Crocker from Carter and Holmes in South Carolina will be our speaker in March and is offering a 25% discount for pre-orders with a free plant for every 5 ordered. You can go to the Carter and Holmes website to place your order or call them using the catalog that most of us got last month. Let them know you are with the St. Augustine Orchid

Society and they will bundle up your order and Gene will bring your plants to the meeting. You get the discount, save on postage, and get to listen to one of the premier cattleya hybridizers in the world. Folks: their plants are terrific!

Orchid Events. The orchid show season is beginning! There are January shows in Sarasota, Fort Lauderdale, Manatee River and Venice. The Tamiami Orchid Festival at the Dade County Fairgrounds Expo Center is on January 28 to 29. Here's something different! Admission is \$9.00 - cash only! Hope they have lots of one dollar bills!

The very well known Michael Coronado of RF Orchids will be talking about vanda culture to the Jacksonville Orchid Society on January 10 at 7 pm at the Jacksonville Garden Club. The JOS invites all SAOS members to attend.

Program. Our speaker for the evening was George Hausermann, Jr. of EFG Orchids in Deland. They are open during the week for you to visit, have a great Open House in the fall and are only about an hour drive from here. George gave us a wonderful program on how to grow orchids the easy way!

Orchids that have hard leaves will tend to be more cold hardy that those with thinner leaves. EFG grows a lot of ground orchids and they, in most cases, will die back to the ground if there's a frost, but will come back in the spring.



George breaks apart an orchid for mounting.

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Upcoming Orchid Events

January

7-8 Sarasota Orchid Society Show Sarasota Municipal Auditorium

10 JOS Meeting, 7 pm

Michael Coronado, RF Orchids

20-22 Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show War Memorial Auditorium

21-22 Manatee River Orchid Society Show Manatee Convention & Civic Center

28-29 Tamiami International Orchid Festival
Dade County Fair Expo Center

February

4-5 Venice Area Orchid Society Show Venice Community Center

SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
 Jim Roberts, Florida SunCoast Orchids
 A Few Encyclias to Enjoy

11-12 Boca Raton Orchid Society Show Safe Schools Institute

14 JOS Meeting, 7 pm TBA

19 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners
Orchids in Spring
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086

March

2-4 Martin County Orchid Society Show Martin County Fairgrounds

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 Gene Crocker, Carter and Holmes Cattleyas for the New Millennium

8-10 Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show Port St. Lucie Community Center

8-11 Orchid Society of Coral Gables Show Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

13 JOS Meeting, 7 pm TBA

16-18 Naples Orchid Society Show Moorings Presbyterian Church 17-18 Jacksonville Orchid Society Show
The Garden Club of Jacksonville

17-18 Englewood Area Orchid Society Show United Methodist Church, Englewood

24-25 Orchid Lovers of Spring Hill Show Suncoast Dance Party Hall, Spring Hill

24-25 Orchid Society of Highlands County Show Bert J Harris Jr. Agricultural Center

25 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners

Spring Repotting

Sue and Terry Bottom's Home 6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086

31-1 Central Florida Orchid Society Show Maitland Civic Center, Maitland

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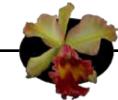
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George likes to hang orchids on wood, preferably cedar with the bark removed, and fastens them onto the wood with large galvanized staples using his air compressor staple gun. He also staples the metal hanger from the top of the wood, and then curls the end for a hanger. Before using any wood to hang your orchids, you might want to pressure wash it to remove any foreign matter, leaving the heart of the wood which will last longer. Soak any wood that might be salty (like driftwood). He also suggested that if you cannot find cedar, go to Home Depot and get the cedar that is used as siding or wall covering. You can also use pieces of plastic or glass, but he prefers the cedar. If you use bamboo, be sure to puncture the membrane so the water can drain out. Redwood works beautifully, but here it is quite expensive. If you have any question about your wood, heat it in a 250 degree oven for about 20 minutes to sterilize it.

George showed us how he hangs the orchids by taking a cattleya whose roots had come out of the pot and stripping away all the old pieces of the plant, taking the sphagnum which it had been planted in and throwing it away, then dividing the plant. He then took a long piece of cedar and stapled three pieces of the plant that he had separated onto the cedar. It made a spectacular specimen, which he then donated for our raffle. He also demonstrated what to do with a phalaenopsis and a dendrobium and donated them as well!

When repotting orchids, George emphasized the difference between clay and plastic pots. Clay pots will keep the roots cooler than plastic will. Clay will also breathe and drain better than plastic. If your plants are in plastic and tend to spot from the heat in the summer (like an Onc. Sharry Baby), the best thing you can do is transfer to a clay pot in sphagnum because this will keep the plant several degrees cooler. Those plants that are warmth tolerant may live through but not thrive in the heat, and keeping them a little cooler will make them healthier.

When repotting, he suggested that if you are using a bark mixture, push it down solidily into the pot in order to anchor the plant securely. You should be able to lift the plant from the vegetation without pulling it out of the pot! When you transplant, get the planting mixture damp, then do not water for up to three weeks, until you see the new roots coming. Then water one day and fertilize the next.

Insecticides should be rotated so that your plants don't become immune to one. If you get an infestation, you should spray 3 times, a week between each spraying. Water one day and spray the next. He mentioned that most of our problems with orchids are not insect problems, but bacte-



George demonstrates his mounting technique.

rial problems. He recommends adding some allergen free soap to your water when you are watering to help prevent bacterial problems. He recommends Daconil at 1/2 tsp per gallon sprayed directly on the plants (and flowers) to prevent Botrytis from blighting the flowers.

Other suggestions he made from questions asked:

- Zygopetalums like to be grown in sphagnum in clay pots and kept moist at all time.
- If you're repotting in the spring, wait until new roots are showing.
- On vandas, remove any leaves growing below roots. They are useless to the plant and unsightly.

EFG grows "bat" plants which can grow in the ground if kept watered every day, but if the temperature goes below 64, they need to be protected.

Meeting Conclusion. After intermission, Dick announced that Sue Bottom's Calanthe Baron Schroder was the Member's Choice from the show table. We had our regular raffle with Fred doing the raffle part assisted by Gail Marshall and Dick Roth. We also had our auction and silent auction. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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



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Keiki Club to Resume In February

With the advent of cooler weather, your orchids should be in their winter homes. We'll resume Keiki Club meetings in February of the new year when we'll be repotting overgrown orchids, mounting orchids on sticks and slabs and talking about growing orchids once again.

2012 Dues Are Now Due

Dues for 2012 are now due. We'll be collecting dues at the January, February and March meetings, after which we'll update our 2012 SAOS roster. Dues are \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a family. You can mail your membership check to SAOS c/o Sue Bottom, 6916 Cypress Lake Ct, St. Augustine, FL 32086







February 7 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Jim Roberts, A Few Encyclias to Enjoy

Jim Roberts of Florida SunCoast Orchids in the Sarasota area will give a presentation on a Few Encyclias to Enjoy, an introduction to the encyclia species that are easily grown in Florida and some of their notable hybrids. Jim has been growing orchids over 25 years in climates ranging from cold Minnesota to hot SW Florida. In 2001, he and wife Mary moved to Florida with a small collection of plants and the dream of operating an orchid nursery became a reality. They currently grow their beauties in three gutter connected greenhouses encompassing 10,000 square feet of growing space. As always, he strives to grow and sell the best quality orchid plants and to build a lasting reputation in the industry as one of the very best.

Preorders from Carter and Holmes 25% Discount on Plants

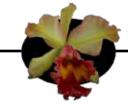
Gene Crocker of Carter and Holmes will bring plants for sale at the March meeting. He is offering a **25% discount** on pre-orders from the catalog or web site and you will also receive a **bonus plant** for every five plants ordered.

Gene recommends pre-payment for these orders, which he will deliver at the March meeting. He prefers pre-payment using a charge card. If you place an order, please identify yourself as a St. Augustine Orchid Society member so he knows to bring the plants for delivery at the meeting.

The web site www.carterandholmes.com contains all of the items available in the catalog (or call 800-873-7086 to request a catalog). (Collections and other discounted items may be ordered but do not qualify for the society discount.)

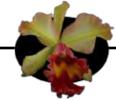
Plants will be bundled by customer name to assist in distribution and delivered to the meeting. Orders need to be received by February 27.

	2009	2010	2011
INCOME			
Plant Raffle	\$ 2,164.00	\$ 1,998.00	\$ 1,534.00
Plant Auction	2,529.00	3,105.99	2,568.00
Silent Auction	277.00	25.00	527.00
Dues	1,550.00	1,665.00	1,577.50
Supply Sales	817.25	1,087.00	1,604.00
Donations	115.00	1.00	23.00
Awards & Prizes	-	-	-
Book sales	105.00	-	-
Shirt Sales	15.00	-	-
Name Tags	48.00	56.00	-
Savings Interest	-	-	7.40
Other	0.22	-	-
Total Income	\$ 7,620.47	\$ 7,937.99	\$7,840.90
EXPENSES			
Plant Auction	\$ 477.68	\$ 648.83	\$ 1,127.17
Plant Raffle	300.00	350.00	240.00
Silent Auction	184.00	16.67	301.35
Speaker Fees	1,625.00	1,600.00	1,315.00
Speaker Meals	292.48	276.72	341.09
Speaker Lodging	-	-	-
Speaker Travel	-	159.00	395.00
Shows/Displays	138.85	-	166.32
Cultural Supplies	360.86	613.81	505.47
Library	299.76	64.97	58.00
Books for Sale	-	-	-
Office Supplies	83.07	28.44	175.48
Copy Costs	63.39	-	26.12
Web Site	276.36	114.14	310.74
Shirt Cost	9.00	-	-
Building Mtnce	31.79	-	-
Insurance	196.39	198.36	-
Name Tags	44.52	62.93	-
Other	339.66	461.20	798.08
Total Expenses	\$ 4,722.81	\$ 4,595.07	\$ 5,759.82
NET INCOME	\$ 2,897.66	\$ 3,342.92	\$ 2,081.08



INSPIRATION







Growing Tips for January

Dr. Courtney Hackney, hackneau@comcast.net Dept. Biology, Univ. North Florida

Each year there are many email questions related to problems with growing specific

orchids or asking for help diagnosing some disease or pest. There is also the occasional general question which asks "what is the most difficult challenge I face growing orchids?" It is also a question I get when I speak to orchid societies. The answer is growing many different species and hybrids, which come from many different habitats in one greenhouse.

Orchid species are always the most difficult because they evolved within a specific habitat and environment and often there is some critical need for rest, dryness, etc. during some part of the year that must be met or the orchid dies or does not flower. Some hybrids derived from these species may also have a similar requirement, but typically hybrids are more forgiving if one forgets to give them the appropriate conditions.

In many cases a dry period is required to coincide with drought in the orchid's native habitat. It is fairly easy to set plants requiring a dry period aside and limit watering if there is lots of space or there are just a few orchids, but more difficult if one has several thousand orchids in a relatively small space. Over the years I have developed several approaches that have allowed me to manage problematic orchids.

The primary approach has been to place plants that require dry conditions in extremely coarse media or even to mount them. They are grown in the brightest part of the greenhouse where they dry quickly even when they are in a growth mode. While they may dry out more than would be ideal during their growth cycle, they also are more than dry enough during their dry season as well. For most, the dry requirement coincides with winter when watering is reduced anyway. I also take advantage of the change in the angle of the sun so that these orchids get more direct light in winter.

More problematic are orchids that want more water in winter and less in summer. These have not fared well over the years, but lately they have been moved outside during summer where they get only the occasional shower and little or no fertilizer and then moved under vandas in baskets during winter as these get watered most during the cool part of the year.

There are also orchids in my collection that do not like summer heat. Some of these come from high elevations where nights regularly down into the 40's F, but never 80 above during the day. grow these mounted or in very coarse media also and keep them under benches summer



where it is coolest. Admittedly, they do not thrive in summer, but survive. Once the Fall Equinox arrives, they are moved into more light and in winter they go right against the glass in places where water drips during the coldest nights. Typically, they grow well and flower before the heat returns and they are returned to their under bench hiding spot where lots of air movement is maintained. If I forget to move them under the bench in time they go downhill fast and have been lost.

Roaches have been my biggest enemy since arriving in Florida. After the last mention of this problem in the "Tips" column there were several suggestions regarding Diatomaceous Earth. I have used this before in the house, but not sure if it would help in a greenhouse. Nevertheless, I obtained a bag and spread it on tables, but not on plants. Within a week or two dead roaches appeared on the greenhouse floor. These were the larval stages that cannot fly, but this is the first time I have had any success again these vermin. Thanks to those who sent me the suggestion.





Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q. I bought a lot of used orchid pots and have not been able to remove the salt encrustation, how can I remove the white scale from the pots?



- **A.** All pots should be soaked in soapy water and scrubbed to remove roots, potting mix and other detritus and then disinfected by an overnight soak in a mix of bleach (10% bleach or 9 parts water to 1 part bleach) and pool algaecide (2 tsp/gal if 10% strength) followed by a second soak to dissolve the chemicals. An hour bake in the oven at 220 degrees will kill any virus.
- Dishwasher. If the pots still have visible white stains, run them through the dishwasher with twice the normal amount of soap. The heat and soap will draw the salts either out of the pot or to the outside edge of the pot. Try scrubbing any residual salt from the pot.
- Mild Acid Soak. If the pots still have visible white stains, try an overnight soaking in a mild acid. Use white vinegar in whatever concentration you are comfortable handling, either a pure or a diluted (10%, 25% or 50%) vinegar solution. Scrub any residual salt from the pot followed by a second soak to dissolve the acetic acid.
- Nuclear Option. If salt encrustation is still present, consider admitting defeat and replacing the pot





because the next alternative is the nuclear option. It involves a concentrated acid soak using muriatic acid, either pure or diluted (10%, 25% or 50% muriatic acid) followed by a fresh water soak to remove the acid from the pot. There are many safety and environmental hazards involved with handling muriatic acid, so be prepared to follow all label precautions, use gloves, goggles, etc. as well as have a disposal plan because the acid is highly corrosive and foams excessively when you try to neutralize it with limestone prior to disposal. Muriatic acid represents a potential threat to you, your pets and your environment that can be avoided by simply replacing the pot.

Q. Some of the lower leaves of my phals are yellowing. I know this happens often right after repotting, but these phals were reestablished, so what's happening?



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A. I think that is Collar Rot, or Southern Blight, caused by the fungus Sclerotium. In phals, the base of stem turns light yellow, later dark brown, and the infection spreads to roots and leaves. White fungal growth can sometimes be seen on stems. There is a rapid collapse and rotting of the plant. Isolate it from your other plants, spray the surrounding area and plants with pool algaecide and drench the infected plant with a thiophanate methyl solution (Cleary's 3336 or Banrot).

Q. I have mealybugs on some just in flower Paphs. They are all over the flower. (a friend gave me spray with alcohol, water and soap but told me not to spray the flower). Now what?



A. Use a Q-tip dipped in alcohol to delicately kill the mealybugs on the paph flower, and then your friend's concoction can be sprayed on the flower stalk and in all the paph crevices. They must be in between the leaf fans at the base of the plant and crawling up to dine on the delicous flowers, so really spray in between the leaves and in fact drench a little in the mix cause they can hide there too.

Q. I am trying to cope with this huge Den. spectabile. It was repotted last year and though it didn't seem to send out any new roots, it has 5 new shoots on it and I am wondering if I can cut off some of the old canes that look awful. I had it outside most of the summer and the old leaves have brown spots and edges on them (no bugs that I can see) and the new leaves are fine. Will it hurt the plant to cut off some of the old canes? The buds where the blossoms grow out seem to be old and dried up. Any advice?



A. If the leaves look diseased, you can cut them off, but leave the canes as this is where the plant stores energy and water (think of them as humps on a camel). You can remove the canes if they are soft or withered, otherwise leave them on, particularly because this dendrobium will bloom from old as well as new growth. The Den. spectabile blooms in the March time frame. If you've got 5 new leads it should be healthy and happy. Be patient, give it a ton of light and plenty of water and keep your fingers crossed!



Your Orchids in January

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



General Growing Tips. Plants will continue to manufacture food during the winter, albeit at a reduced rate. Everything will occur at a slower pace until spring arrives so the need for water and fertilizer is reduced. Indoor growers: pull you orchid away from the window if its leaves are touching the exterior glass. Outdoor growers: keep an eye on the minimum projected temperatures.

Cattleyas. Tie up Cattleya pseudobulbs. Watch for signs of red spider mites on the undersides of leaves or scale in the sheathing on pseudobulbs. Remove the sheathing (cataphylls) carefully so as not to nick the soft tissue of the newest bulbs, which could result in rot or the introduction of disease.



Cymbidiums. Keep the humidity higharoundcymbidiumstoprevent shriveling of the pseudobulbs and to prolong flowering. Later varieties are beginning to push up their inflorescences. Watering frequency and volume is important to support their development. Cool temperatures are beneficial.



Dendrobiums. Continue to water sparingly, or not at all, those dendrobium species that require a dormant period before flowering this spring (*Den. lindleyi* (syn. *Den. aggregatum*), *Den. chrysotoxum*, *Den. farmeri*, *Den. densiflorum* and *Den. nobile* or its hybrids). As the buds emerge, gradually increase the watering



frequency and amount. Do not expose evergreen-type hybrids to temperatures below 60 F or plants in flower may drop leaves and buds.

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. The phalaenopsis flowering cycle is about

to start. Constant air circulation is essential to avoid Botrytis-spotted blooms. Water carefully to keep flowers dry and to minimize risks of soft rot in the fleshy leaves. Continue to use a dilute water soluble fertilizer. Monitor for scale and mealy bugs on the inflorescences and undersides of leaves.



Vandas. Many of the popular Thai hybrids and African angraecoids begin their winter flowering now. Watch for signs of inflorescences; help them away from the main stem of the plant to ensure proper display. Water the roots every other day and fertilize once or twice a week if light levels are sufficient.



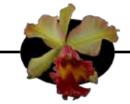




HOME & BACKYARD



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HOME & BACKYARD



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom Den. Ise 'Pearl' AM/AOS



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy Cym. Land of Smiles



Grower Sue Bottom Clo. Jumbo Circle



Grower Bill Gourley
C. trianae



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy Cym. pumilum x Cym. Hot Line



Grower Bill Gourley B. Jimminey Cricket



Grower Bill Gourley
Dar. Charm 'Blue Star' HCC/AOS



SHOW TABLE



Grower Dick Roth
Blc. Goldenzelle 'Lemon Chiffon' AM/AOS



Grower Sue Bottom Calanthe Baron Schröder



Grower Sue Bottom Lc. Carolyn Reid 'Lynchburg'



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy Bc. Green Dragoon



Grower Sue Bottom Den. goldschmidtianum



Grower Sue Bottom Ctsm. Portagee Star 'Brian Lawson's Sunrise' HCC/AOS

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