

CLUB NEWS



February 7 Monthly SAOS Meeting

By Lola Stark, seacuter@bellsouth.net

Welcome and Thanks.

President Jeannette Pacetti opened the meeting at 7:15 PM with 52 people present including new member Lisa Cook. Jeannette thanked Jeanette Smith 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 those born in February can get an extra raffle ticket this month from Christie Peppard. Jeannette reminded everyone to vote for their favorite on the show table. Dick Roth will announce the winner at the break between the program and the raffle.

Club Business. Jeanette reminded all members that dues are due now and will be collected through March at which time our membership list will be purged. See Penny Halyburton to pay your dues in the absence of Bill Gourley, our Treasurer. Penny reminded us that she is our librarian and we have lots of great books. If you'll look on the website, pick a book, and let her know which one, she'll be glad to bring it to the next meeting. If you need it for two months, please let her know that.

Harry McElroy will be lecturing on his cymbidiums at the Florida Northeast Judging Center on February 11 in Orlando. The public is welcome. Harry, as our Show Chairman, reminded us that we'll be putting a display at the Jacksonville Orchid Society Show on March 16. The show is the 17th and 18th. Please start working on your plants so we'll have lots to use. President Jeannette

suggested we try car-pooling to see the show on Saturday and Sunday. Christie asked for folks to sign up to sell raffle tickets Saturday and Sunday. Mike Heinz is looking for those who want to clerk during judging. Christie reminded everyone that they will be serving lunch on Friday and breakfast on Saturday for the show volunteers.

The Keiki club will resume at Terry and Sue's home on February 19 from 1 to 3. "Orchids in Spring" will be the subject and you can bet that includes repotting! Our repotting supplies have been bottled, boxed and bagged for your convenience. Sue and Terry will have them available during the Keiki Club and at Hagan Ace Hardware when the monthly repotting begins again on March 3.

Carter and Holmes will be here next month and if you want to pre-order, Gene Crocker will bring whatever you order with him. There's a 25% discount on preorders with a free plant for every 5 ordered.

By now everyone should have their SAOS window stickers on their cars!!!!!! Terry will choose a winner from those present as a special raffle.

Anyone who would like to give something for a silent auction to benefit Chris Deering's niece who has come down with aplastic anemia, please get in touch with Sue by Feb. 17th.

Orchid Events. There are several orchid shows coming up. Orlando is having theirs on February 10 to 13 and Martin County and Tampa Bay will be having theirs on March 2 to 4.



Members are riveted by Jim Roberts presentation.

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Upcoming Orchid Events

February

- 11-12 Boca Raton Orchid Society Show
Safe Schools Institute
- 14 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
I Love Dendrobiums! You Should Too
- 19 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners
Getting Ready for Spring
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086

March

- 2-4 Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show
Egypt Shrine Center
- 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
Eric Cavin, JOS
Singapore WOC
- 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

April

- 3 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Robert Scully, former Jones and Scully
How to Grow Cattleyas
- 6 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 10 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Jim Roberts, Florida SunCoast Orchids
Summertime and the Growin' is Easy
- 15 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners
Orchids Outside the Pot
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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Continued from page 1

Program. Our Speaker for the evening was Jim Roberts of Florida SunCoast Orchids. His nursery is in Myakka City, FL, east of Sarasota. His talk was about *Encyclias* which are native to Florida, the Bahamas, the Caribbean and Central and South America. There are about 250 species, of which he showed us pictures of about 25. The *Encyclia* differs from *Epidendrums* in that the lips are not fused to the column. They grown in rather dry conditions in the natural state and should be treated about the same as *Cattleyas*. When they are blooming, they need plenty of water, but need to dry out after the blooming season is over. Some species stay small, as *Enc. atrorubens* and *Enc. dickinsoniana*, but many are of intermediate height like *Enc. alata* and *Enc. profusa* that get to about 2 feet in height. Then there are the tall ones like *Enc. hanburyi* which can grow to 3 to 4 feet tall. All will have abundant blooms and most have some fragrance that ranges from sweet chocolate and vanilla to stinky.



Meeting Conclusion. Following a 15 minute break, Dick Roth announced that his plant of *Dendrobium speciosum* won the Members Choice award. It was a magnificent specimen, about 5 foot across with 42 huge inflorescences. We then had our raffle and silent auction. Jim donated a plant of his *Enc. 'Cindy'*, which yours truly won. He also donated more than a dozen plants to the silent auction for Chris Deering's niece. Thank you, Jim!



Jim grows his *Encyclias* in a combination of bark and rock and waters them only when they absolutely need it. He suggested sticking a chopstick into the pott to see if it is dry before watering. They like to be potbound and Jim does not transplant until necessary. You can leave them outside until the temperature reaches about 45 degrees. High temperatures and low temperatures will tend to spot the leaves. He likes to grow them in baskets and has won many CCMs for his plants. He likes to hybridize and has many hybrids with 'FLSO' in their name, his signature nursery name. His motto is "When in doubt, dry it out"! He brought lots of his hybrids with him and many of the members took them home.



Dick Roth & his MONSTER *Den. speciosum*

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



CLUB NEWS



February 19 Keiki Club Orchids in Spring

The first Keiki Club meeting of the new year will be on Sunday, February 19 from 1 to 3 pm. We'll be talking about Orchids in Spring. The spring orchid show season has begun so there will be plenty of orchids vying for your attention. We'll discuss how to select an orchid, from understanding what orchids will grow best in your home environment to making sure the plant whose flower you love is a vigorous grower. We'll also talk about spring preparations, so your orchids will get the most out of the summer growing season. Bring a folding chair. We'll meet at Sue and Terry Bottom's house at [6916 Cypress Lake Ct. in St. Aug 32086](#). Call Sue at 797-4360 if you have any questions.



Jacksonville Orchid Society Show March 17 and 18

The Jacksonville Orchid Show is coming up on March 17 and 18, 2012. The JOS is inviting any interested people to participate in the show again this year. Set up is Friday March 16 at the Garden Club. The JOS will provide lunch on Friday. They will also provide foliage for Society and Amateur exhibitors. You can find plant registration information on the [JOS website](#) at www.jaxorchidsociety.org.

2012 Dues Are Now Due

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

March 6 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Gene Crocker, Cattleyas for the New Millennium

Gene Crocker of Carter and Holmes will talk about Cattleyas for the New Millennium at the March 6 meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Gene Crocker has more experience in the field of orchid hybridization than most orchid growers alive today. Gene was Vice President of Carter and Holmes for over 20 years. He retired last year, but his 50-year passion for orchids, and cattleyas in particular, is unabated. Preorders are eligible for a 25% discount and a free bonus plant for each 5 plants ordered. Order by phone or through the website (mentioning delivery to the St. Augustine Orchid Society) by February 27. Gene will also bring plants from Carter & Holmes for sale.

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 using a charge card (your card won't be charged until just before the meeting when the order is filled). Identify yourself as a St. Augustine Orchid Society member to obtain your discount and to be sure he delivers your plants at the meeting.

Gene has compiled a list of [recommendations](#). The web site www.carterandholmes.com contains all of the items available in the catalog. Call 800-873-7086 to request a catalog or to place your order. (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.



INSPIRATION



Martin Johnson Heade

Martin Johnson Heade (1819 - 1904) was a prolific American painter known for his salt water marsh landscapes, seascapes, portraits of tropical birds (such as hummingbirds) as well as lotus blossoms and other still lifes.

Heade was born in Pennsylvania. His earliest works were chiefly portraits. In 1863, he planned to publish a volume of Brazilian hummingbirds and tropical flowers. He travelled to the tropics several times thereafter, and continued to paint birds and flowers. Heade married in 1883 and moved to St. Augustine where he painted Floridian landscapes.



INSPIRATION



CULTIVATION



Growing Tips for February

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

During the past year, I have subjected most of my orchid collection to a large-scale experiment regarding fertilizers and media. How much fertilizer does an orchid actually need to grow well and produce large flowers? For the entire year of 2011, fertilizer was applied at very low levels and only during the growing season, March to September. Fertilizer was applied (0.07 teaspoons/gal) weekly for three weeks followed by a week of just water to flush any mineral buildup.

My water is fairly high in dissolved solids and on the basic side. Peters Excel 15-5-15 Cal-Mag provides additional magnesium and nitrogen in the form of nitrate and ammonia, both of which are immediately available to plants. This fertilizer also decreases the pH, which is ideal for my water. Most fertilizers add nitrogen in the form of urea, which requires bacteria and decomposing media before it is available to orchids. Because I grow mostly in lava rock, urea is useless.

What I learned this year is that applications of fertilizer much lower than recommended at a much greater frequency can produce excellent growth and large flowers if there are adequate roots. During my experiment, cattleyas well established in pots with a large root system bloomed with as large and as many flowers as they did with higher nutrients. They also produced nice new pseudobulbs at least at large as previous bulbs.

However, cattleyas that were recently repotted or those that had less developed root systems, often did not bloom or produced smaller flowers. Recently repotted

cattleyas grew new roots under this fertilizer regimen, but not nearly as many as cattleyas that had large root systems. This is problematic for newly repotted cattleyas because new roots are important if the orchid is going to regain its previous flowering characteristics.

There were a few cattleyas in the collection that were still in organic media, albeit mostly old decomposing media. In general, these were doing OK as long as the medium was not soft and holding water. Several of these were bifoliate that are poor candidates for repotting unless they are in the process of getting new roots. Occasionally, I miss that period and leave them in the old medium.

This year begins a new experiment. One issue with using lava rock is the space within that allows large "Cucaracha" (roaches) to live in the pots. They emerge at night and eat new roots, flowers and even new growths. The latest experiment is to cover the lava rock with a thin layer of Aliflor. Aliflor is a round artificial rock-like medium. I still have a totally inorganic medium, Aliflor and lava rock, but roaches cannot move to the pot surface where new roots are found. This allows the addition of Nutricote fertilizer because the small Nutricote pellets do not fall through to the bottom of the pot. Over the years, Nutricote has provided a well-balanced and continuous level of nitrogen and other nutrients.

Repotting has begun early this year as warm conditions have caused new roots and growth earlier this year. The sun is already getting stronger so new growth now will just allow an orchid to grow more this year.



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q. I have two nodosas, one in a 5" basket and the other in a 3" plastic basket. Both are overgrown in their present containers and pretty heavily budded. I might just put the smaller one in a larger plastic basket without any trimming, just another layer of media (love that wine). The larger one looks impossible to dismantle without serious damage. What to do?



A. Just drop them both in larger baskets. You can get plain wire baskets and drop them in, basket and all. If you want, you can line the basket with screening material, plastic fencing material or shade cloth to hold some potting media between the two baskets. Don't disrupt the roots, they look way too happy just the way they are!

Q. I'm seeing lesions on the leaves of some phalaenopsis that look like black rot. I'm in a panic given all 6 of my plants are in spike. Will fungicides damage the plant while in spike?



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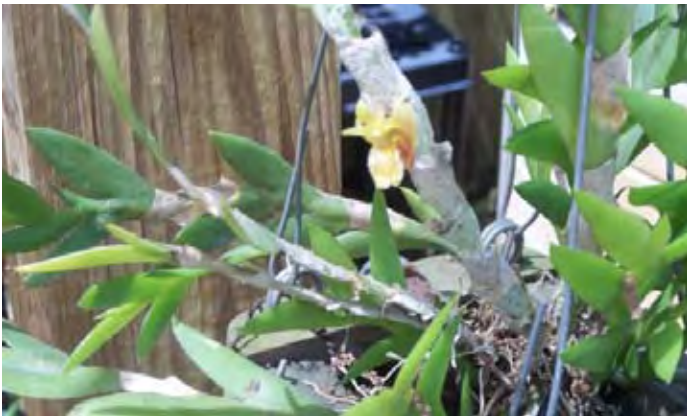


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A. That is bacterial brown spot, the large spot is an advanced case and the smaller spots are new infections. Pour some hydrogen peroxide on the sunken spots. If they don't enlarge, you will have killed the active bacteria. If they do enlarge, you may have to cut away the damaged tissue. The hydrogen peroxide will not harm your flower spikes. This disease is a major bacterial problem affecting phalaenopsis, here's more [information](#).

Q. Do you know the name of this orchid? This is its first bloom for me.



A. That is Dendrobium anceps. Grow it with your cattleyas.

Q. What is the translucent spot on my dendrobium plant? I moved the plant away from the window to a cooler room.



A. It looks like the discoloration is on the upper, younger, more tender leaves that would be the first affected by cold. If it is cold exposure and the leaves are water soaked, it's possible that some sort of secondary rot may form. If it does, cut the leaf about an inch below the discoloration and pour hydrogen peroxide on the remaining leaf parts. The good news is the dendrobiums are very hardy orchids and will recover quickly.

Ace Repotting Plant Clinic

The first Saturday of the month from March through November, SAOS members are available to talk with you, answer questions and help you repot orchids.

Ace Hardware, 3050 US 1 South, St. Aug,
9 am until 1 pm.



CULTIVATION

Your Orchids in February

based on Robert Scully articles,
courtesy of the AOS



General 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 emerge 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. lindleyi*, *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.



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.



CULTIVATION

Choosing Your Fertilizer

Most of the well water and public water supply in the St. Augustine area is derived from wells in limestone so the water tends to be moderately to very alkaline. This will cause white lime deposits to precipitate onto leaves and plug leaf pores as well as to minimize the uptake of the needed and naturally occurring calcium and magnesium. You can compensate for this poor water quality by using a water soluble fertilizer (about one quarter or one eighth strength) that will tend to neutralize the natural alkalinity. Water soluble fertilizers with nitrogen in the ammoniacal form generate acidity. Organic matter (like fir bark, coconut husks or redwood bark) in the potting mix will also buffer the pH and generate acidity. Once or twice a month thoroughly flush your pots to leach out residual salts.

The water in the St. Augustine area tends to range from water type 2 (moderately low alkalinity) to water type 4 (very high alkalinity). If you notice a lot of white leaf spotting on your orchid leaves, it is likely that your water supply is highly alkaline.

Water Type	Alkalinity
1 – Very Low Alkalinity	< 60 ppm
2 – Moderately Low Alkalinity	60 – 150 pm
3 – Moderately High Alkalinity	150 – 200 ppm
4 – Very High Alkalinity	200 – 240+ ppm

Once you know your water type, choosing the right water soluble fertilizer is easy. For water types 1 and 2, an essentially neutral fertilizer formulation would be best to prevent an abrupt drop in the substrate pH. For water types 3 and 4, an acidic fertilizer formulation would help neutralize the effect of the water alkalinity and make the naturally occurring calcium and magnesium more available to the plant.

Fertilizers high in ammoniacal nitrogen produce an acidic reaction. For example, 20-20-20 (69% ammoniacal nitrogen) has enough acidity to effectively neutralize water containing around 200 ppm alkalinity. There are several drawbacks to using fertilizer for alkalinity control. Fertilizers high in ammoniacal nitrogen may cause excessive growth and are not effective when the temperature of the substrate is less than 60°F. In addition, you lose flexibility because you can only choose commercial fertilizers based on ammonium content. For example, high ammonium fertilizers may lack calcium or other key nutrients.



Here are some good fertilizers for our area that are readily available:

- For moderately to highly alkaline water, choose a fertilizer that has about half of the available nitrogen in the ammonia form (the other half being nitrate, avoid urea formulas). A balanced 20-20-20 fertilizer, available at retail outlets, will generate acidity and help neutralize some of the alkalinity in the root zone. SAOS offers a 20-20-20 which will generate acidity, contains micronutrients and is great for moderately to highly alkaline water.
- For pure to moderately alkaline water or if you grow in a highly organic mix like bark or coconut husk, you can choose a non acidity generating fertilizer. The Peters Excel 15-5-15 Cal Mag available from SAOS is a low phosphorus MSU type fertilizer with calcium and magnesium.

- During the summer growing season, consider adding supplemental calcium nitrate (available at the local feed store) and magnesium sulfate (Epsom salts) monthly. Apply ½ to 1 teaspoon monthly with your fresh water flush, do not apply together (they will react and precipitate out of solution).



Read more about [choosing your fertilizer](#) based on your water quality.



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Orchid Adventures Tamiami Orchid Festival by [Sue Bottom](mailto:sbottom15@bellsouth.net), sbottom15@bellsouth.net

The Tamiami Orchid Festival in Miami is always fun. There are beautiful orchids and lots of orchid addicts in attendance. Roy Tokunaga of H&R Nurseries won the Grand Champion Award and a \$1000 check for his beautiful Den. Roy Tokunaga. There was plenty of competition on the show table including a beautiful angraecum that was named the Reserve Champion. We saw many familiar faces and previous SAOS speakers at the show, all offering choice plants. I said I wasn't going to buy anything because the greenhouse was full, but...



SHOW TABLE



Grower Joshua Jones
Den. Yellow Chinsai 'Little Joe'
HCC/AOS



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Land of Smiles



Grower Joshua Jones
Den. Sweet Pinky 'Love'



Grower Sue Bottom
Lc. Aloha Case x Bc. Donna Kimura



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Sweetheart 'Sensation'



Grower Sue Bottom
Clo. Jumbo Circle



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Max. variabilis



SHOW TABLE



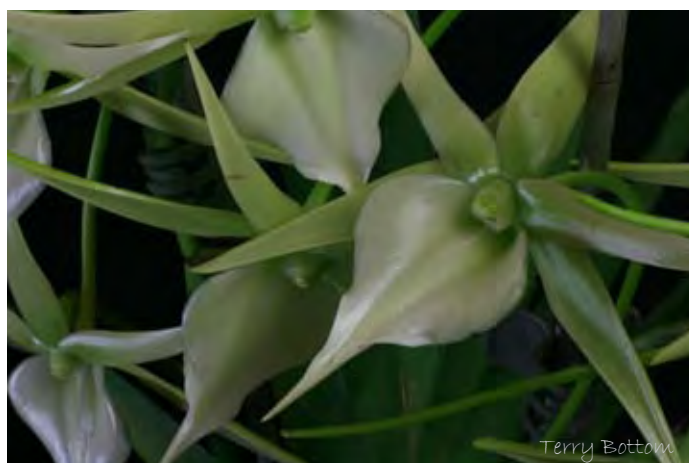
Grower Sue Bottom
Blc. Triumphal Coronation 'Seto'



Grower Dick Roth
Den. speciosum



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Alice Alisa



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Angcm. Veitchii



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Pths. grobyi



Grower Bill Gourley
Fdk. After Dark 'SVO Black Pearl' FCC/AOS

