

CLUB NEWS



March 6 Monthly SAOS Meeting

By Lola Stark,
seacuter@bellsouth.net

Welcome and Thanks.

President Jeannette Pacetti opened the meeting at 7:15 pm with 72 people present, including 9 guests and welcoming new members Art and Jane Russell and Sharon Miller. Jeannette thanked Jeanette Smith,

Shirley Browning and Barbara Conrad 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 whose birthdays were in March to pick up an extra raffle ticket from Christie Peppard. 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 who is out of town. Penny is also our librarian and announced that we have a new book on orchids given to us by Bob and Debbie Sandy. Members are welcome to borrow any book we have in our library by e-mailing Penny so she can bring it to the next meeting. You are allowed to keep the book one month.

The Jacksonville Orchid show will be held March 17 and 18 with setup on the 16th. Everyone is urged to bring their orchids, cleaned and ready, to either the Bottoms home or Harry McElroy's home in Mandarin by early on the 16th. The

cars will be leaving at 9 am. Jeannette suggested that members meet at the Outlet Mall to go up to the show either on Saturday or Sunday. Please get in touch with Jeannette (e-mail jdp187@aol) if you're interested. Mike Heinz, though

not present, has asked that anyone interested in clerking please be at the Jacksonville Garden Club by 7:30 am on the 17th. Breakfast will be served by the JOS.

Terry Bottom told us that the tent is in for us to set up for the EPIC Flower and Garden Extravaganza being held on April 21 to 22 at the Agricultural Center. He is getting a banner with our name on it and we will have bookmarks, brochures and all our potting supplies etc. there for the public. Jack Higgins has a sign up sheet ready for those of us able to mind the booth for an hour. Please let him know the times you would like to work. This is the first time we've done this and we're looking forward to it.

The Keiki Club will meet at Sue and Terry's on March 11 from 1-3. We will be doing the program on repotting and will have all the supplies available. We will be at Hagan Ace on US 1 on April 7 for the normal repotting clinic.

Our Car Stickers are still available and we will have a special drawing for those who help us by letting the public see our stickers.



Gene Crocker entertains us with one of his orchid stories

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CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

March

- 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
6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086
- 21-22 EPIC Celebration of Spring
Annual Flower and Garden Expo
St. Johns County Agricultural Center

- 21-22 Tallahassee Orchid Society Show
Doyle Conner Building
- 28-29 Vero Beach Orchid Society Show
Doyle Conner Building
Riverside Park

May

- 1 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Weyman Bussey, AbundaFlora
Fifty Showy Mexican Species
- 4-6 Platinum Coast Orchid Society Festival
Kiwaniis Island Park Gymn and Annex
- 5 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| President | Jeannette Pacetti jdp187@aol.com |
| First Vice President | Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net |
| Program Chair | |
| Second Vice President | Vivienne Rowe tomvivrowe@comcast.net |
| Publicity Chair | |
| Secretary | Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net |
| Orchid Digest Rep | |
| Treasurer | Bill Gourley wgourley@bellsouth.net |
| Directors at Large | Penny Halyburton phalyburton@comcast.net Jack Higgins jacktravel2003@yahoo.com Joshua Jones jajones@comcast.net |
| Exhibit Committee | Harry McElroy cymbidiuman@msn.com |
| Chair | |
| Librarian | Penny Halyburton phalyburton@comcast.net |
| Membership Committee | Gail Marshall gamarshall1@bellsouth.net |
| Chair | |
| Newsletter Editors | Sue and Terry Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net |
| Webmasters | bottomt@bellsouth.net |
| Operations Committee | Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com |
| Chair | |



CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1

Orchid Events. Orchid shows this month include Port St. Lucie, Coral Gables, Naples, Jacksonville, Englewood, Highlands County and Central Florida.

Program. Our speaker for the evening was Gene Crocker, a retired hybridizer from Carter and Holmes in South Carolina. He's been growing orchids for 56 years, the last 25 with Carter and Holmes and has been hybridizing for 44 years. He retired last year, but goes to the nursery about every day because he loves to see what's come into bloom that day. His subject for the evening was "Cattleyas for the New Millennium" - a study of modern trends in new Cattleya hybrids and a new approach to Cattleya species.

Cattleyas were first found in Brazil in 1818. They were used to tie up bundles and when they got to England, William Cattley realized that these were actually plants, he took them, grew them and bloomed the first Cattleyas in Europe. Thus their name! Gene went over the various species of Cattleyas and explained to us what their main contributions to the modern cattleyas hybrids are. For example, *Laelia tenebrosa* which had kind of brownish red petals and sepals can be found in the lineage of most of our red cattleyas; *C. dowiana* has contributed its beautiful yellow color; *C. mossiae* its size; *B. digbyana* its fringe and fragrance; *C. labiata* its ability to bloom in the fall. The flares we have in some of our modern blooms come from *C. trianaei*. Some of the early crosses became tetraploid meaning they had 4 sets of chromosomes instead of two. This caused them to have heavier and firmer petals and sepals with better vigor and substance.



Josh is amazed by Courtney's giant cattleya bloom.

Sometimes crosses result in completely different flowers. Gene showed us pictures of four gorgeous blooms, all of which came from the same cross. He feels that Blc. Oconee is the best parent of our modern times. Its history has about 40% *C. dowiana*, 20% *C. labiata* with 3% *B. digbyana*, 3% *C. tenebrosa* along with 5 other species. There's no telling



Everyone enjoys the auction

what you're going to get when you cross it! The seed is very fine and is put along with its fungal partner into flasks to germinate on a gelatinous substance. When the plants are about an inch tall, the flask is emptied, sorting the seedlings by size. They will then grow in the medium used for about 2 to 3 years before blooming. Thus, hybridizing is not easy, nor is it fast.

He went on to tell us about mericlone which has allowed the industry to reproduce a plant exactly as it appears. This has brought the cost of orchids to the level where everyone can enjoy them. Going on to growing orchids, Gene explained that orchids in the wild are mostly epiphytes which means they grow on trees, but do not hurt the trees. They have found their way to the top of the trees to get the light they need to grow and in some cases will send their roots all the way down the tree to the ground. Do not repot your orchids unless they really need it. Growing out of the pot is not bad for the plant and should not be a reason to repot! When you do repot, make sure any new growth is half way to maturity. Keep the plant dry after repotting to encourage new roots. He prefers a mix of perlite, bark, and some cypress mulch. The tags are tied around the base of the pseudobulbs rather than on the leaves when repotting. Gene prefers to grow bifoliate Cattleyas in baskets as that is the closest thing to growing at the top of a tree!

Meeting Conclusion. Following a break, Dick Roth announced that Courtney Hackney's Lc. Mem. Grant Eichler 'Lenette' won the Best on the show table. We had our raffle and auction and the meeting concluded shortly after 9.

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



CLUB NEWS

April 3 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Bob Scully, How to Grow Cattleyas

Bob Scully will talk about how to grow cattleyas at the April 3 meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Bob is a second-generation orchid specialist who grew up around orchids when his family ran Jones & Scully, an important firm in the development of the orchid



hobby and trade in Miami, Florida. Bob later became president but when Hurricane Andrew blew through that area in 1992, the business was literally blown away. Today, Bob spends his time with Tiger Orchid Products focusing on growing and production consultancy. He also is active with numerous orchid and horticulturally affiliated organizations. Bob and his wife Susan live in Sarasota.



Jacksonville Orchid Society Show March 17 and 18

The Jacksonville Orchid Show is coming up on March 17 and 18. 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 for participants. They will also provide foliage for Society and Amateur exhibitors. If you have plants you'd like to enter in the St. Augustine Orchid Society exhibit, contact Harry McElroy (262-2163) in Mandarin or Sue Bottom (797-4360) in St. Augustine.

2012 Dues Are Now Due

Dues for 2012 are now due. We'll be updating our 2012 SAOS roster soon. You can pay your dues at the next meeting so you won't miss receiving the SAOS Happenings and Newsletter. 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

February 19 Keiki Club Orchids in Spring

About 20 familiar faces came to the February Keiki Club meeting where we discussed orchids in spring. With all the spring orchid shows coming up, we talked about how to select your new plant. You are going to be attracted to your new orchid because of its flower. But always look past the flower to the health of the plant. The plant should be firmly established in the pot. You should be able to pick up the plant by its vegetation without the plant wobbling in the pot. Leaves should be firm with no spotting. Pseudobulbs and canes should be plump with no wrinkling. Check around the base of cattleya pseudobulbs for scale and check phals and paphs for mealybugs inside leaf folds. After your new plant has finished flowering, think about repotting it into your mix of choice so you can water all your plants at the same time. And NEVER use ice cubes to water your plants.



March 11 Keiki Club Spring Repotting

The Keiki Club meeting will be on Sunday, March 11 from 1 to 3 pm. Many of your orchids are sending out new roots. If they need to be repotted, this is the time to do it. We'll show you how to repot your orchids, and there may be some orchid divisions for you to pot up and bring home. Bring a 4 and 6 in clay pot, just in case. 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.



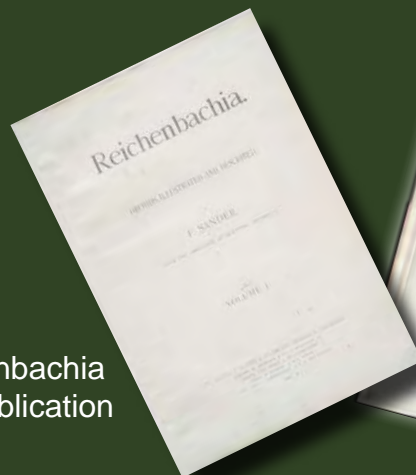
INSPIRATION



Henry Frederick Sander
The Orchidologist



H. G. Moon
The Artist



Reichenbachia
The Publication



Henry Frederick Sander and Reichenbachia

Henry Frederick Sander (1847-1920) was a German born orchidologist and nurseryman who settled in St. Albans, England and is noted for his monthly publication on orchids, *Reichenbachia*, named in honor of the great orchidologist Heinrich Reichenbach of Hamburg. Sander's business acumen led to a thriving concern so that up to 23 collectors were employed to search forests and mountainous areas in Asia and south America for new species. Some sixty greenhouses accommodated the vast stock of the finest orchids to be found. Sander's of St. Albans handled about 2 million plants in the 1880s and 1890s, becoming the focus of orchid culture in Europe, where crowned heads were familiar visitors.

Sanders commissioned his future son-in-law, Henry Moon, to do the water color illustrations for the monthly publication of *Reichenbachia*. Then lithographers, including Joseph Mansell of London, created lithographs of these paintings. The lithography was done on a stone surface, one color per stone, and up to 21 stones, perfectly drawn and aligned, were required for a single plate.



INSPIRATION



Aerides savagae



Lc. Elegans var. *Blenheimensis*



Stanhopea shuttleworthii



Schom. sanderiana



Den. wardianum



Laelia harpophylla



Odg. Hybridum Leroyanum



Phal. sanderina & *Phal. intermedia portei*



Onc. ampliatum majus



CULTIVATION



Growing Tips for March

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

Once again, it is time to repot many kinds of orchids. For new orchid hobbyists, repotting can be a scary task.

Once it is done successfully a few times, this gets to be more of a chore than something to be dreaded. Most orchids with bulbs, e.g. cattleyas, dendrobiums, oncidiums, etc. should be potted as soon as they start their new growth, which is now. Many species and hybrids have or are about finished flowering, another good time to repot. The biggest issue for many new hobbyists is "How do I know it is time to repot my orchid plant?" Orchids are not like other plants in that they prefer to be left alone and not repotted constantly if the medium they are in is in good shape and not turning into something that looks like garden soil. The following is some basic advice.

Carefully grab the plant (not the pot) and lift gently. If the plant starts to come out of the pot it has either lost its roots or was not well established. Either way, it needs repotting. If the medium has turned to "mush" or looks like potting soil, it is time to repot. If the plant has bulbs that are out of the pot and the medium looks like soil it is time to repot. Never repot because you want to divide the orchid. That may be a consequence of repotting, but never repot for that reason. The larger the plant, the better flowers you will see next year. The following is the process I follow for any orchid that has bulbs.



First, I remove the orchid from the old pot and cut the roots about 2-3 inches from the rhizome. Few roots survive repotting and cutting these off now avoids potential rots later. All roots that are black and clearly dead are removed entirely. Next, I use a fine jet of water to remove any particles of the old medium from the remaining roots.

The same jet of water is used to wash any brown tissue from the bulbs. If you have scale on an orchid, a fine jet of water removes scale and does not harm the plant or spread disease. Be sure to wash under the rhizome, too, because scale can hide there and reappear later on your newly repotted orchid. This is a very effective way to get rid of scale in a small collection. If the rhizome was cut or there are any cut surface, sprinkle the wound with cinnamon or other topical fungicide and let it dry. Set the orchid plant in its new pot without medium and sit it in a relatively dry shady place for a week or two. After your orchid has dried thoroughly, place it in its new pot and add medium. Most growers put some large material, e.g. lava rock, plastic peanuts, etc, on the bottom of the pot to enhance drainage and then add the medium.



The new pot should allow your orchid to grow for two years without growing out of the pot, so place the old growths at the pot edge and new growths in the center. It may seem like the pot is too small for dendrobiums if you follow the two year rule, but dendrobiums like to be pot bound and will grow best if new roots quickly contact the side of the pot. Small wires that attach to the side of the pot (pot clips) and hold the rhizome in place may be necessary if the orchid does not have many roots. My preference is to use a stake and tie one of the bulbs tightly to it and then fill the medium around the orchid and roots, pressing down on the medium to be sure there is tight contact of the orchid with the medium. This is a necessity if your orchid is to grow. If the rhizome wobbles, roots will be damaged each time the plant moves when watered.

Mist the plant lightly until new growth appears. If your timing is right, new roots will begin to appear soon, indicating that your orchid is ready to grow and that it is time to return to your regular regimen of fertilizing and watering. The rule of thumb is; if you are not sure of the proper size pot for your orchid, err on the side of the pot being too small.

Phalaenopsis, paphiopedilums and phragmipediums do not have pseudobulbs and are treated differently. Repotting orchids without pseudobulbs will be discussed in the next column.



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@bellsouth.net



Q. My phalaenopsis has a flower spike coming out of the center of the plant rather than at the base of the leaves. Is there something wrong?

Q. I came across your very informative webpage. Attached is a picture of one of my orchids with small brown modules on it. They are easily removed. Seems too big for mites?



A. That is hard scale, you can remove it with a Q-tip and isopropyl alcohol or you can put a sprayer in the alcohol bottle and spray the whole plant. Here is [more information](#).



A. Your plant will probably cease to grow new leaves from the apical crown of the plant after this spike is finished. Some people believe this atypical flowering is from too much light or usage of systemic insecticides. A plant that does not resume normal growth will usually throw one or more new plants or keikis from the base of the plant, so don't throw it away. Until it does produce new plants, continue to treat it in a normal manner.

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CULTIVATION

Continued from page 8

Q. Some of my phalaenopsis have developed spots. They're transparent from the bottom and raised on the top. I haven't seen any crawlies, fuzzies or webs. There is a small pinhead in the center of each blight. This has developed only over the last four/five days or so. Can you help?



A. I'm pretty sure it's edema which is caused by the plant absorbing more water than it needs or can transpire. This typically happens during cooler weather when the water demands are lower and you water late in the day or on a gray day. The leaf will just have that blister on it until it drops of natural causes.

Q. I have a small phalaenopsis that has bloomed for a couple of years. I just got two new spikes with buds on them and then they got droplets of sap on them and are now withering. The ends of both spikes and the buds look like they are going to die. Can they be salvaged or should I just cut them off?



A. The otherwise healthy flower spike looks like it rotted right below the flower buds. The bottom and top of the spikes both look healthy, it looks almost like someone squeezed the life out of the middle of them. It's possible that a sucking insect like a mealybug or thrip caused the bud blast and the plant sap is left from their activity. It's also possible a fungus like fusarium caused the rot. At this point, I'd cut the spike at the base of the plant, repot it in fresh mix and get it reestablished so it'll grow over the summer and flower during the next bloom cycle. It's a shame, and a double spike too!

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.

A photograph showing a group of people at a plant clinic. A man in a white shirt and a woman in a green shirt are looking at a plant. Other people are visible in the background.

CULTIVATION

Your Orchids in March

based on Robert Scully articles,
courtesy of the AOS



General Growing Tips. Signs of spring abound with an abundance of emerging flower spikes and buds. The flush of spring growth will follow soon so plan your repotting program which should begin in earnest this month. The best time to repot is right before the new roots start growing so the plants will reestablish quickly. Watch for signs of mites, particularly on thin leaved orchids like the catasetinae and grammatophyllums, and treat any problems promptly.

Cattleyas. Several species flowering now are *C. amethystoglossa* with its large heads of crimson and white blooms, *C. aurantiaca* that delights with clusters of small yellow to orange star-like flowers, *C. skinneri* carrying many clusters of lavender or white blooms or the natural hybrid of these last two *C. guatemalensis*. Soon sheaths will emerge on *C. mossiae* hybrids. Monitor their development so that moisture does not accumulate in the sheath causing bud blast.



Cymbidiums. Flower spikes are starting to develop and should be trained for their best display, although they are tender and easily broken. Arching or upright spikes display better if trained upward at first growth;



some growers place a name tag in front of the developing spike to guide it. Pendulous cymbidiums should be allowed to grow naturally and downward without any type of training.

Oncidiums. *Onc. papilio*, the butterfly orchid, may be putting out the first in a series of many buds that will bloom through spring and early summer. Do not cut the inflorescence because it will continue to produce flowers year after year. Even though *Onc. papilio* has hard leaves suggesting it will tolerate a lot of light (like cattleyas), it is better grown under bright phalaenopsis conditions.



Phalaenopsis.

The hybrid moth orchids seem to last in perfection for months. Certain species are starting to bloom like the pink *Phal. schilleriana* and spotted *Phal. stuartiana* that are both fundamental to many modern hybrids.



If grown in New Zealand sphagnum moss, make sure the moss does not deteriorate before the flowering season because a healthy root system is important to sustain the many flowers.



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Orchid Adventures

Krull Smith Orchids

by [Sue Bottom](#), sbottom15@bellsouth.net



Krull Smith Orchids in Apopka is always a treat to visit. Frank Smith and Jim Krull have a series of greenhouses and shade structures that house a wide variety of orchids. The famed paphiopedilum collection has been sold to June's Orchid Estate, though there is still a huge selection of cattleyas, phalaenopsis and other orchids. Frank also has achieved fame as a day lily hybridizer. It's a great day trip for when you get the orchid itch.



ORCHID ADVENTURES



SHOW TABLE



Grower Joshua Jones
Den. Jan Orinstein



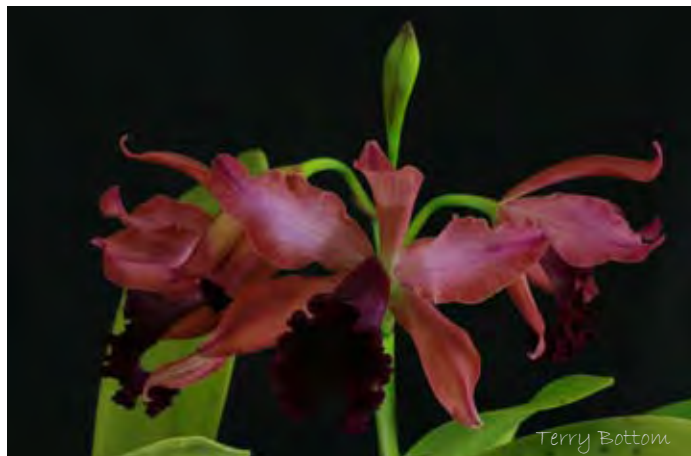
Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. For Your Love



Grower Marilyn Costanzo
Cym. Swan Lake 'Bayfront Park'



Grower Sue Bottom
C. amethystoglossa



Grower Courtney Hackney
Recc. Lemon Twist



Grower Sue Bottom
Sci. Mem. Doug Lace 'Rosminah' HCC/AOS



Grower Sue Bottom
Onc. splendidum



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
Den. amethystoglossum



Grower Courtney Hackney
Lc. Memoria Grant Eichler 'Lenette' HCC/AOS



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Den. Princess 'ASAI'



Grower Joshua Jones
Chilochista segawai



Grower Courtney Hackney
Blc. George King 'Southern Cross'



Grower Courtney Hackney
Lc. Miva Aurica 'Rosemarie'

