

CLUB NEWS

**Ruben Sauleda**

**June 5
Monthly SAOS Meeting**
by Lola Stark,
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Welcome and Thanks.
President Jeannette Pacetti opened the meeting at 7:15 pm with 56 people present, including 6 guests and welcoming new member Joann Janson. Jeanette thanked Jeanette Smith 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 whose birthdays were in June to pick up an extra raffle ticket from Christie. She also announced that today was Dick Roth's birthday! Jeannette reminded everyone to vote for their favorite on the show table, dropping your choice in the silver box and that Dick would announce the winner at the break between the program and the raffle. Penny Halyburton showed us a few books she had brought and suggested that members come over and see.

SAOS Club Business. The membership list has been brought up to date. If you forgot to pay your dues, please see Bill Gourley immediately. The Keiki Club will meet at Sue and Terry's house on June 24 from 1-3 pm. This is the chance for those who need to repot their Phalaenopsis to get expert advice. This is a grand time for new growers to learn and get to know the other members, never mind seeing Sue's gorgeous greenhouse! We always have potting supplies and fertilizer on sale at meetings and at Hagan Ace from 9 am to 1 pm on the first Saturday of the month.



Orchid Events. Events around the state can be found on the SAOS website. The spring season for orchid shows is now over and there will not be many until fall. If you're traveling up the coast to places like Virginia and Pennsylvania, watch your newspapers for local shows!



Program. Ruben Sauleda of Ruben in Orchids was our speaker for the evening. He has a wonderful variety of orchids to talk about and tonight he talked about Bifoliate Orchids. What are bifoliate orchids? They are orchids that grow two leaves above the pseudobulb instead of one. Occasionally, they will send out only one or even three or four, but basically, they stay with two. Other than the leaves, the biggest difference between one leaf and two leaf cattleyas is that bifoliate DO NOT like to be repotted at just anytime. You MUST wait until the plant is beginning to send out new roots. The new roots should be no more than one half inch long before you repot. If you try to repot at any other time, you might as well throw the plant in the trash! If you're going to repot a large specimen, you might try dividing the plant before you repot it. Cut the rhizome right in the pot several months before you plan to repot. This will allow both the old and new to continue growing and your back bulbs will usually start sending out new shoots.



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CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

June

- 12 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
24 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners
Repotting Phalaenopsis
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086

July

- 3 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Summer Orchid Auction
7 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
14 JOS Meeting, 7 pm

August

- 4 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
7 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Harry McElroy, The Cymbidium Man, Warm
Growing Cymbidiums
14 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm

September

- 1 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
4 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Brian Monk, Blu Llama Orchids
Brazilian Miltonias
11 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Rafael Romero, Plantio L'Orquidea
16 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners
Fall Preparations
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086

October

- 2 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
Australian Dendrobiums
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
13-14 Gainesville Orchid Society Show
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

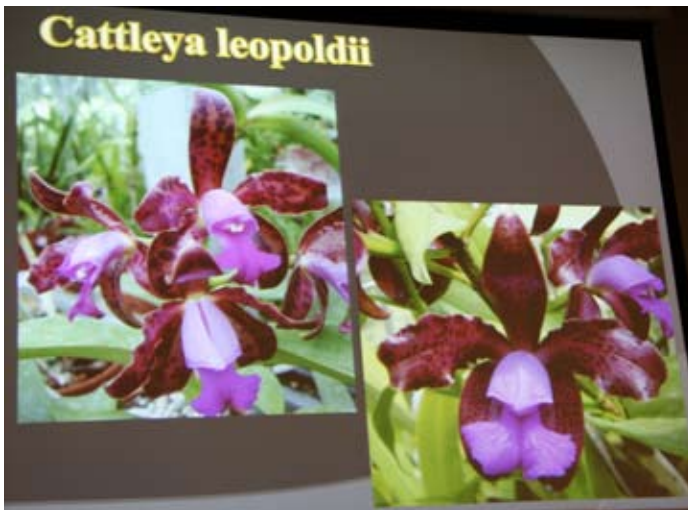
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Sample slide from Ruben's excellent presentation.

Many of the bifoliate are quite fragrant and range in all the colors you expect to see in cattleyas. (For those of you who missed the meeting, you can find pictures of bifoliate in Courtney Hackney's book *American Cattleyas* on pages G-6 and 7.)

Ruben had gorgeous slides of most of the species of bifoliate, including the following: *C. amethystoglossa* (where he explained the difference between 2N, 3N and 4N plants. N being the chromosomes which dictate the size and color of the blooms. 3N seems to throw the best blooms). Others he showed us include *C. granulosa*, *C. porphroglossa*, *C. forbesii* (which grows for him like a weed, beautiful), *C. elongata* (which grows in the mountains in full sun, on rocks and is very hard to grow in hot and humid Miami), *C. kerrin*, *C. velutina* (very fragrant), *C. schilleriana* (which is also quite fragrant), *C. guttata*, *C. leopoldi* (which grows thin and tall), *C. dorianiana* (which he suggested

you grow in sphagnum), *C. bicolor* (which has no side lobes and passes this onto its offspring), *C. intermedia* (which may be labeled as an intermedia but actually be a hybrid), *C. bowringiana* (which has the distinguishing feature of having round rhizomes and is one of the quickest growing species), *C. aurantiaca* which has passed along lots of its orange and red coloring to offspring), *C. skinneri* (which grows gorgeous multiple heads of flowers), *C. deckeri* (which Ruben prefers to *skinneri* and he grows in net pots in sphagnum), *C. loddigesii* (which passes along its spots and blooms in February, March and April), *C. harrisoniana* (which has a really strange lip), and *C. violacea* (whose leaves start out spotted and as they mature, lose the spots, making those who haven't grown it before believe it is sick). I may have missed a few, but the program was quite informative and the slides so gorgeous, I sometimes forgot to write down what I was hearing! and seeing!



Show Table and Raffle: Following the lecture and break, Dick announced that the Phalaenopsis Jeannette Brandon 'Crownfox Lemon Ice' AM/AOS grown by Sandra Taylor was chosen the favorite on the show table.



Preston & Steve chatting during break.

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



CLUB NEWS

July 3 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Summer Orchid Auction

We will have our summer orchid auction at the July 3 meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Fred Keefer and Sue Bottom will be organizing a buying trip in Florida nurseries to get a good supply of Florida-acclimated orchids in bloom and in bud for you to bid on. Fred (who else?) will be the auctioneer. Come to the Conference Room of Watson Realty at 7 pm to see which plants you might want to bid on. The meeting and auction will start at 7:30.



May 27 Keiki Club

Questions and Answers

A half dozen SAOSers braved the threat of rain from Beryl to go to the Keiki Club session on Questions and Answers. A few plants were brought for the group to discuss and decide on the best course of action.



June 24 Keiki Club

Repotting Phalaenopsis

The Keiki Club for orchid beginners will be Sunday afternoon on June 24th from 1 to 3 pm. It's time for the annual phalaenopsis repotting marathon. They've been in bloom for 3 months now and it's time to cut the spikes, repot them and let them gather strength for next year's show of flowers. Depending on your mix, they benefit greatly from being repotted each year. There will be a demonstration on how to repot and then it will be your turn to go to work. Bring one of your phals that needs repotting. We'll be meeting on Sunday, June 24 from 1 to 3 pm. 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



CULTIVATION



Growing Tips for June

Dr. Courtney Hackney,
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Florida

Once again, I find that I have misjudged how quickly my orchids are drying out. The humidity has been low for the past few months with lots of bright sunny days, but it still surprises me how quickly pots dry each year when these conditions persist. This year, the wakeup call occurred when I began to repot cattleyas from a crowded bench. Despite watering earlier that morning, some of the pots were very dry. Clearly, I was not getting water into the interior of the bench. No matter what the time of year, it is important to thoroughly drench your orchids each time you water. The more plants you have, the more difficult this can be.

Many years ago, an old-time commercial grower demonstrated how his growers were instructed to water. It seemed silly at the time, but his method of watering at a sharp angle really does work. When cattleyas are placed on a bench and allowed to grow, their leaves will cover the surface above the pot to maximize light capture. Watering directly onto these plants from above allows water to flow around the pot and not wash through the medium. A good drenching means that the water flows generously through the pot. Watering at an angle can accomplish such a drench and soak the medium. Soaking the medium is necessary if you are going to deliver adequate water to roots.

Some growers have a formula they use to decide when it is time to water, which takes into account temperature, light, air movement and especially humidity.

Watering at night or late afternoon is strongly discouraged in most "how to" books. However, this is what happens in Nature and is practiced by many commercial growers, especially in the tropics. It also works for me here in Florida if I can meet the following criteria. The daily humidity is relatively low, my greenhouse is open with great air movement, and night temperature is above 60 F. I water late afternoon and plants are still wet in the morning when I water again with a dilute dose of fertilizer. As soon as I began the practice this spring my orchids immediately perked up. Once humidity gets high again, usually in May or early June, the rate of drying declines and I begin the normal early morning soaking practice. When humidity is high and air movement low do not water at night.

Obviously, if other media are being used, e.g. sphagnum, it is relatively easy to wet your

medium. While it is easy to wet sphagnum, some media that hold water well most of the year may be hard to wet. Media (and soil too) become hydrophobic if they are dry too long under low humidity. Fir bark is vulnerable, especially if a white mold appears on the surface. Once this appears, it becomes almost impossible to adequately wet the bark and repotting is necessary.

My experiments using sphagnum showed me that tightly packing sphagnum in the pot worked best for that medium, at least under my growing conditions. If packed properly, water will actually sit on the surface and only slowly drain through the medium. If you are growing in sphagnum, which is a common medium for pot plants, be sure you flush the pot at least once a month or high levels of salts will accumulate. This may require two passes through the greenhouse or in your sink.

Air conditioning has or will become necessary throughout the South soon. If you grow inside under lights or in a window, you will experience what those of us growing in a greenhouse have been experiencing, low humidity and rapid drying of pots and plants.

If there are spikes with a few flowers left on your phals, consider cutting the spikes off. First bloomed orchids will appreciate this and start their growth cycle earlier if you remove remaining flowers.

You should already be applying fertilizer so that increased light levels can be converted into more roots and leaves by your orchids. Remember, fertilize weakly weekly, using just on quarter of the recommended fertilizer concentration. This remains one of the hardest things for most new orchid hobbyists. If you are using Nutricote, also known as Dynamite, no additional fertilizing is necessary, but continue to flush once a month.



CULTIVATION

Your Orchids in June

based on Robert Scully articles,
courtesy of the AOS



General Growing Tips. Spring's mild days are gone. The late spring-early summer growing conditions induce vigorous vegetative activity. Orchids repotted earlier should be showing abundant root development and new growth. In response you should increase watering frequency and use a dilute fertilizer (1/4 to 1/8 strength) and flush with fresh water monthly. With the sun higher and more intense for more hours each day, higher day and night temperatures, excellent air circulation and a fresh growing medium, orchids will consume more food for high quality flowers next season.

Cattleyas. The showy *Laelia purpurata* and *tenebrosa* are in bloom this month. You can repot individual plants later in the year if they need it, but the bulk of your cattleya repotting should be completed this month. The remaining months of the growing season will give the plants time to develop adequate new growth for next season's flowers. Cattleyas grown outside must be protected from excessive rainfall.



Cymbidiums. Cymbidiums are heavy feeders and the plants are growing fast now so fertilizer is a must. Use a good Cal Mag fertilizer and top dress with a 50/50 mix of crushed seashell and granular dolomite lime and 15-8-11 controlled release fertilizer. Fertilize devonianum and its primary hybrids at half that rate.



Dendrobiums.

Dendrobiums resent being repotted, but if you have some that have grown totally out of their pot or the potting mix has degraded, finish repotting them this month. Dendrobium canes grow closely together and many years growth can be accommodated in the same pot. Use a small pot and a largely inorganic mix that won't degrade like lava rock or aliflor; add just a little nutrient holding tree fern, coco husk or bark to the mix. Look at your deciduous cane-type dendrobiums that bloomed this spring and consider mounting them. They should be drenched with water and fertilizer during the summer months.



Phalaenopsis. Complete repotting of phalaenopsis this month, they benefit from being repotted each year. If your phal is still in bloom by the end of the month, consider cutting the inflorescence and placing it in a vase to enjoy for another week. Don't be greedy, a phal will deteriorate if forced to carry its inflorescence too long during the long, hot summer days. Repot and allow it to develop new roots and leaves for next year's blooming season. After new roots appear, water more frequently with a dilute fertilizer solution.



Vandas. Vandas enjoy bright, but not direct, sunlight, an abundance of water and fertilizer and copious amounts of fresh air. Wet the roots once or twice a day until they turn green and after an hour or two, spray the roots with a fertilizer solution. With enough light, water, fertilizer and air, your plants will reward you with beautiful blooms.



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q. Can you help me identify this orchid and give me any tips about growing it?



summer the window is shaded by the lilac outside, so there is not overly strong light. They have been in this position for two years. Any advice on how to induce flowering?



A. That looks like one of the terete vandas, possibly a V. Miss Joaquim. They like to grow in very very bright light and, like all vandas, need plenty of water, fertilizer and air circulation.



Q. I have several orchids that bloom without fail every year, but some do not, or do so very poorly. They are in a south facing window and get plenty of light all year long. In the



A. The orchids look happy, particularly the phalaenopsis. Healthy orchids that don't bloom are usually not getting enough light, particularly the dendrobium on the floor which is receiving the least light of all the orchids. The lush green color of the dendrobium leaf also suggests it needs more light. Perhaps you can find a location outdoors to summer your orchids under a tree or on a southeast facing porch

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CULTIVATION

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where they will receive a higher light level, particularly those orchids that like bright light. They should be acclimated to the higher light level slowly to prevent leaf burning.

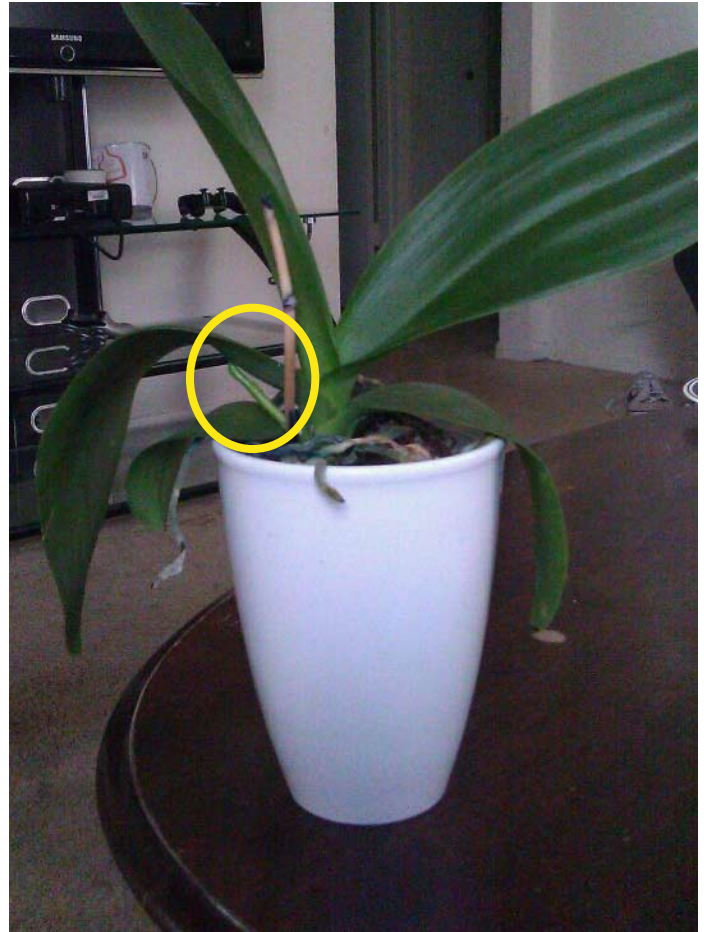
Q. I think I have Botrytis petal blight on one of my orchids. The spots were there when I bought the plant 5 months ago and there has been no worsening. The other thing is there are two secondary spikes with no buds or flowers.



A. You may have a spot or two of Botrytis. Try wiping it off with a Q tip dipped in isopropyl alcohol. If you've had the plant for 5 months and the botrytis hasn't spread, the fungus is not active. As a precaution, you could spray the flower with a solution of baking soda and water (say 1/2 tsp per quart). The secondary spikes will apparently do their thing when they're good and ready! Beautiful plant!

Q. I have an orchid that has started growing a new spike that is about 2 inches long. The spike is growing under one of the bigger leaves. Will it grow around the leaf or do I need to redirect it once it is long enough with a small stick?

A. The spike will grow around the leaf though you can redirect it slowly and gently if it doesn't work its way around. Once it's about 6 or 10 inches tall, you'll start staking the spike to get it to hold its flowers well.



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 an orchid repotting clinic. A man in a white shirt and cap is holding a small orchid plant, while others look on. The background shows shelves with various plants.

CULTIVATION

Bacterial Brown Spot – Sunken Brown Spots

Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

From March through May, we received many questions about orchids suffering from Bacterial Brown Spot. Bacterial Brown Spot is an infection caused by the bacteria *Acidovorax* (syn. *Pseudomonas*). The symptoms may appear anywhere on the leaf as a small, soft, water soaked blister. Initially dirty green in color, the infected spot enlarges, coalesces and eventually becomes brown or black, dried up and sunken. It oozes bacteria-laden liquid. Bacterial brown spot is a common and severe problem with phalaenopsis orchids although many other orchid genera can be affected.

This phalaenopsis leaf shows the characteristic sunken spot surrounded with a yellowish or pale green halo. Spots coalesce, and the infection spreads rapidly.



This phalaenopsis shows a rapidly invading infection with the yellow outer halo, inner green halo and necrotic center of infection. If the diseased area invades the crown, the plant will die.



In cattleyas, the infection usually affects older leaves. It appears as sunken black spots that are clearly delimited. It advances slowly and is rarely fatal.



Bacterial brown spot can infect young tender cattleya growths where the sunken brown spots rapidly coalesce. The infected tissue must be cut away from the new growth quickly or it will ruin the new growth.



This dendrobium leaf has a newly formed bacterial infection evidenced by the yellow and green halo surrounding the sunken spots. This leaf also exhibits edema, the swollen corky spots on the leaf. Both conditions are likely caused by being watered in the late afternoon during the cool months.



Vandas can suffer from bacterial brown spot as evidenced by this photograph courtesy of Robert Cating.



Thin leaved orchids like this zygotetrum can also be afflicted with bacterial brown spot. The sunken brown spots coalesce as the infection spreads.



Treatment for bacterial brown spot is straightforward, you must kill the bacteria and possibly change the environmental conditions to prevent recurrence. If the infection is localized, you can pour straight hydrogen peroxide over the infected tissue. If this does not stop the spread of the disease or the leaf is moderately to severely damaged, you will need to remove the infected portion of the leaf down an inch or so below any discolored area with a sterile razor blade. Next spray the plant and its neighbors with a bactericide - fungicide. Copper fungicides are an excellent choice, just don't use copper on your dendrobiums. Consan, Physan or pool algacide can also be used. Spray the affected plants as well as surrounding plants because the bacteria are easily spread from splashing water. Increasing air movement and decreasing leaf wetness can also help prevent an outbreak from occurring.



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Orchid Adventures

Redlands International Orchid Festival
by [Sue Bottom](#), sbottom15@bellsouth.net

The Redlands International Orchid Festival held in May is the biggest show of the year with more than 50 vendors from all over the world. There is a dazzling array of orchids for sale, lots of species and the newest offerings from the hybridizers. It is a great opportunity to talk to the orchid vendors, many of whom have spoken to us in St. Augustine, as well as an incredible source of new information. We also see lots of fellow orchid addicts there, blowing their budgets, even though we swore that this year we would control ourselves. Ah well, can't wait for those new catasetum and bifoliate cattleya seedlings to bloom to remind us of all the fun we had at the Fruit and Spice Park!



ORCHID ADVENTURES

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SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
Cyrtopodium (Cyrt.) polyphyllum



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Paph. The Detailer



Grower Jeannette Pacetti
Asctm. ampullaceum 'Thai Pinky'



Grower Sue Bottom
Epc. Aroma Grande



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Aer. houlettiana



Grower Dick Roth
Grammatophyllum scriptum



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Bulb. Mem. Richard Mizuta



SHOW TABLE



Grower Jan & Marv Ragan
Blc. Yen Surprise



Grower Sandy Taylor
Phal. Jeannette Brandon 'Crownbox Lemon Ice'
AM/AOS



Grower Sue Bottom
C. gaskelliana coerulea



Grower Dick Roth
Leptotes bicolor



Grower Sue Bottom
Den. wasselli



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Bulb. Jersey

