Volume 7 Issue #12

## CLUB NEWS



#### **December 8 Monthly SAOS Meeting**

Our annual Christmas Auction was a success. More than 35 members and guests convened at the Moultrie Trails Clubhouse for fun, food and flowers.

Penny Halyburton, Jeannette Pacetti and Sue Bottom

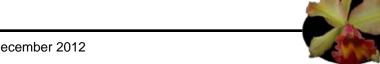


organized the event and our members rose to the occasion with terrific dishes to share. There were salads, appetizers, casseroles, chicken and honey baked ham main dishes and cakes and pies for dessert. The food was so good each person had to have several plates full!

Then it was time for the auction. There were many gorgeous orchid plants provided by Fred Keefer. Schimmel was our first time auctioneer and he did a great job. The proceeds from the auction help fund our efforts to entice the best speakers to come to St. Augustine. The speakers we have lined up for 2013 should be great. We'll be having panel discussions, get tips on growing orchids, learn about different types of orchids and more.

We had a wonderful time, a testament to our members' dedication to having fun. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Feliz Navidad and a very Happy New Year to

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### **Upcoming Orchid Events**

#### **January**

3 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm Date Changed to First Thursday

Courtney Hackney, Josh Jones and Sue Bottom

Panel Discussion - Growing Orchids

5-6 Sarasota Orchid Society Show Sarasota Municipal Auditorium

8 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm

John Stubbings, Clown Alley Orchids 18-20 Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show

War Memorial Auditorium

26-27 Manatee River Orchid Society Show Manatee Convention & Civic Center

26-27 Tamiami International Orchid Festival
Dade County Fair Expo Center

#### **February**

2-3 Venice Area Orchid Society Show Venice Community Center

5 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Dr. Ruben Sauleda, Ruben in Orchids

Flasking and Propagation of Orchids
JOS Meeting, 7 pm

12 JOS Meeting, 7 pm Dr. Martin Motes, Motes Orchids Vanda Hybridizing

Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
 Getting Ready for Spring
 Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
 6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086

22-24 Naples Orchid Society Show Moorings Presbyterian Church

#### March

1-3 Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show Egypt Shrine Center

1-3 Martin County Orchid Society Show Martin County Fairgrounds

SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm 3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine Repotting and Plant Clinic 5 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm

Dr. Hal Hills

Orchid Fragrances; Causes and Effects

on the Orchid

9-10 Jacksonville Orchid Society Show The Garden Club of Jacksonville

9-10 Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show Port St. Lucie Community Center

12 JOS Meeting, 7 pm, TBA

24 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners

Spring Repotting

Sue and Terry Bottom's Home

6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086

30-31 Orchid Society of Highlands County Show Bert J Harris Jr. Agricultural Center

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Sandra & Bonnie talking over the Auction Table



Shirley brings her wonderful Coca Cola Cake



Bob carves while Dick loads up his plate



Gail hands Florence one of her beautiful selections



Bob & Gail do a great job of running the Auction

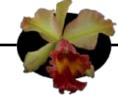


Bob auctions off the prize of the night

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



Watson Realty Corp. REALTORS®



#### 2013 Calendar

Terry Bottom has created a 2013 calendar that features all the Member's Choice plants from the Show Tables in 2012. These limited edition calendars are available for \$10 as long as supplies last.







Josh

Sue

Courtney

### January 3 Panel Discussion Monthly SAOS Meeting

We will have a Panel Discussion on Growing Orchids with Dr. Courtney Hackney, Josh Jones and Sue Bottom at our monthly meeting. Please note that the **meeting date has changed** to the first Thursday, January 3, because our normal meeting date falls on New Years Day. Courtney, Josh and Sue will talk about their growing techniques and answer any questions you may have. Don't be shy, this is intended to be an interactive program where there is a free flow of information between the panelists and the audience.

#### Keiki Club to Resume Meeting in February

Our orchids have entered their winter rest period. We'll resume Keiki Club meetings in February of the new year when our interest and attention turns once again to orchids. We'll be repotting overgrown orchids, mounting orchids on sticks and slabs and talking about growing orchids at our monthly Keiki Club Meetings.





Roy Tokunaga



Phillip Hamilton



Keith Davis



#### **Programs Scheduled for 2013**

January 3: Panel Discussion on Orchid Culture Meeting night changed to Thursday due to New Year's Holiday falling on first Tuesday Sue Bottom, Dr. Courtney Hackney, Josh Jones

February 5: Flasking and Orchid Propagation Ruben Sauleda, Ruben in Orchids

March 5: Orchid Fragrances: Causes and Effects on the Orchids Dr. Hal Hills, retired UMass Medical School

April 2: Orchids from the Brazilian Amazon Francisco Miranda, Miranda Orchids

May 7: Tips for Better Growing and **Happier Orchids** Keith Davis, Orchid Hobbyist/Hybridizer

June 4: Broughtonias and Cattleytonias Phillip Hamilton, Bredren Orchids

July 2: Summer Orchid Auction Fred Keefer, Auctioneer Extraordinaire

August 67: Understanding Dendrobiums: Their Variety and Culture Meeting night may change to accommodate Roy's scheduled trip from Hawaii Roy Tokunaga, H&R Nurseries

September 3: Vandas and Vandaceous Orchids Mac Rivenbark, Mac's Orchids

October 1: Orchid Growing Tips Courtney Hackney, Hackneau's Art & Orchids

November 5: Schomburgkia Species & Hybrids Rafael Romero, Plantio L'Orquidea

December 3: Christmas Orchid Auction Fred Keefer, Auctioneer Extraordinaire



Ruben Sauleda



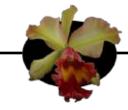
Courtney Hackney



Rafael Romero



Francisco Miranda





## Growing Tips for December

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

Winter, at least for those of us in Florida, came suddenly in November. Freezing temps were widespread in the northern

third of the state. The first cold snap reminded me of an issue that seldom impacts those of us in Florida; using cold water on our warm orchids. For me now, this is not usually a problem because the water out of the hose in my greenhouse is always warmer than the temperature in the greenhouse in the early morning when I water. If, however, I wait until noon on a clear day, I could damage sensitive leaves and buds by applying water significantly colder than leaves. In the morning, the coldest the air temperature in the greenhouse is 58 F and the water from the tap is 68 F, thanks to the fact that our water flows some distance in the warm earth.

If your water is from a surface source, such as a lake or pond, be sure you check the water temperature before watering. Water colder than 5 degrees F than the plant can cause damage to new leaves and buds, especially on thin leaved or sensitive orchids, e.g., phals and jewel orchids. Depending on your water source, the temperature can vary greatly. Years ago, when I was using rainwater and there was a snow, the temperature of my water was so low that I could not use it for over a month, even though it was stored underground.



S. coccinea 'Florence' FCC/AOS © Peter Lin

There is some good news this time of year despite heating bills. Thanks to lower day temperatures, I am able to bring my heat sensitive species and hybrids out from the dark areas and into more light. Even in a greenhouse where day temps often top out around 100 F near the ceiling in summer, there are places that stay cooler and where I put those orchids.

My prize S. coccinea and many of its 1st, 2nd, and 3rd generation hybrids, e.g. Pot. Gene Crocker, are put into heavy shade where they stay at least a little cooler. Even some more complex cattleyas hybrids that have heavy doses of S. coccinea can be surprisingly intolerant of Florida's heat. There is still stress on those



Pot. Gene Croker courtesy of Fred Clarke

orchids and some clearly suffer, such as Phal. parishii and Phal. lindenii, but they survive and then thrive during the cool parts of the year. If a species or many of the parents in the background of a hybrid are from higher elevations, there is the likelihood that high temperatures in summer will be a problem.

A few years ago, I received some heat intolerant hybrids in clay pots growing in New Zealand sphagnum. It was surprising how cool the outside of the pots were in the heat of the day. It turns out that the key is to keep the roots cool when the temperature is hot. Generally, high heat leads to faster decomposition of the medium, so I was surprised to find that the sphagnum lasted several years. When I finally repotted them, the sphagnum was still fresh and just a little decomposed. When I asked about the medium from the originator of the cross, I was told that it was high quality New Zealand sphagnum.

This was totally different than the Chilean sphagnum that I had been using on some orchids, which totally disintegrated after just six months. For my prized, heat intolerant orchids, I now use New Zealand sphagnum in new clay pots. I also found that flushing the pots with rainwater at least once a month prevented the buildup of salts. In addition, fertilizer on these orchids is minimal because I want to limit the soft summer growth that always seems to come with high temps.



#### Your Orchids in December

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



General Growing Tips. Winter's cool days and nights have already affected most collections; if all plants are not already indoors, they soon may be. Concerning daylight intensity and its duration, the seasonal change must be obvious by now. Don't allow daytime temperatures to rise too high before ventilating the growing area. Fresh air is important for healthy plants and their owners. Just remember that if the grower can be reasonably comfortable with the temperature and humidity conditions in the growing area, the plants are likely to be satisfied too.

Cattleyas. Plants are responding to the shorter, cooler days and less intense sun by slowing and ripening their growth, so reduce your frequency of watering as the plants dry out more slowly and have a lesser need for fertilizer. Cattleya skinneri should be pushing its buds up into dried sheaths for a January flowering;



do not cut the sheaths off or open them. Cattleya trianiae and its hybrids ought to be blooming for several months beginning now. Many Sophronitis hybrids typically flower this season. Laelia anceps, the Christmas orchid, will have well defined buds just waiting for nature's signal to open.

**Dendrobiums.** Generalizations are hard within this very diverse The winter resting group. deciduous dendrobiums of the Dendrobium (Nobiles and Seminobiles) and Callista sections can be kept dry and cool this month. Shoot for minimum temperatures of 40 F. Nobile type dendrobiums may show some



swollen nodes on their leafless pseudobulbs and flowers may appear by the month's end. Your other dendrobiums will also be resting up this month though not dormant. You'll water these half as often as you did in the summer. Shoot for minimum temperatures of 45 to 55 F and 55 to 60 F for the biggibum types.

Oncidiums. The mule-ear oncidium, Oncidium splendidum, and the popular thin-leaved type, Oncidium maculatum, should be producing inflorescences. Stake the oncidium inflorescence as it grows upward, but do not allow the tip to droop as you would for a phalaenopsis.



Paphiopedlums. Some of the mottled leaved species like Paphiopedilum fairrieanum and sukhakulii bloom now. Keep their potting medium moist and avoid getting water in the pouch.



Phalaenopsis. Groom and stake each phalaenopsis spike. Avoid excess plant movement while the buds are developing or the buds may blast (wither). High humidity in a closed house can lead to flower spotting caused by Botrytis: provide supplementary air circulation with fans and/or increase temperatures above 60 F.



Vandas. Vandas are starting to rest now. You can gradually reduce your watering to every other day and cut back on fertilizer. Ascocentrum aurantiacum may have some beautiful orange to yellow flowers in bloom by the end of the month.



Other Genera. The Catasetinae (catasetums, clowesia, cycnoches and mormodes) are going dormant now and their leaves have been yellowing and dropping. Once the leaves yellow, restrict watering until the spring growth is a few inches tall. The jewel orchid Ludisia discolor will begin to develop inflorescences soon. Clean the foliage now before the inflorescences grow.







Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@ bellsouth.net

**Q1.** Can you please assist us in identifying this orchid?.

**A1.** The Cymbidium man Harry McElroy thinks that is the warm growing species

Cym. aloifolium. It has pendulous racemes of flowers ranging from white with red flares to almost all red with some orange or yellow forms. The striped red lip and general flower form distinguish Cym. aloifolium from the somewhat similar Cym. dayanum.



**Q2.** I recently bought a Dendrobium Thailand stripe. The care instructions say no more than two hours of light per day. Some sites suggest a lot of sun. I'm confused and need help. Now the leaves are yellowing. I'm in the northeast and keep the thermostat at sixty degrees.





A2. Your Den. Thailand Stripe is one of the phalaenopsis type dendrobiums. You grow them like cattleyas, lots and lots of bright, but not direct, midday sun. If you've been giving it only 2 hours of light a day, you'll have to acclimate it to more sun slowly to avoid sunburning the leaves. They like to get lots of water in the summer and be a little drier in the winter, but not dry. I water every 2nd or 3rd day in summer and every 5th or 6th day in winter, but of course I have my plants in a very coarse mix that freely drains. If yours are in a bark or coco mix, you'd water a little less. These types of dendrobiums are very cold intolerant. They don't like to be below 60F and of course they'd prefer to be warmer than that during the daytime. You'll have to find a bright southern or southeastern window for your dendrobium and just nurse it through the winter. Then, in the spring after it warms, you'll find a nice spot outdoors under a tree where the plant will get plenty of air and bright light and it will explode with new growths, rewarding you in the fall (most likely) with flowers.

**Q3.** I have spots only on the buds of my new Phalaenopsis plant. Help!



**A3**. I couldn't tell what the spots were. They didn't look like scale or sooty mold. I suggested that the bud should be gently wiped with a Q tip dipped in isopropyl alcohol as a precaution. Two weeks later Larry wrote that the spots were just the brightly colored spots on the Phalaenopsis flower!

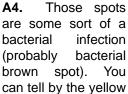
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Q4. A friend's Oncidium has developed a bad case of black spot on two or three leaves. It was left in a house which was shut up for several days with out light.



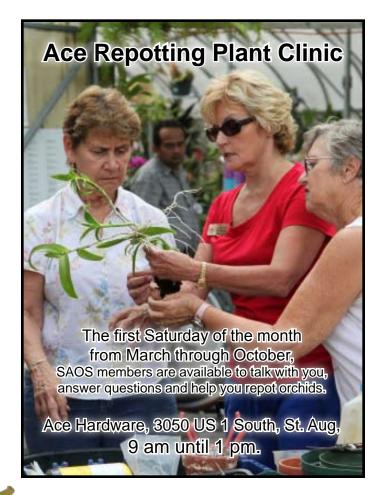


halo surrounding the sunken black spot, similar to when you have a bacterial infection on your skin and get the red halo around the infected spot. Pour hydrogen peroxide directly on the spotted leaves and if the spots continue to enlarge either remove the leaf or spray with the highly effective fungicide/bactericide copper (just don't ever spray dendrobiums with copper).



**Q5.** I keep my orchids on a windowsill in a plastic pot inside a ceramic pot with stones on the bottom where I put water to create humidity. The orchid has no new roots or growth and is not very happy. I water every 3 to 5 weeks as I am scared the roots will rot.

**A5.** The cattleya looks dehydrated, probably because it is not receiving enough water. In the summer, I water every 2 to 4 days, maybe half that much in the winter. Cattleyas like to be outdoors in the spring through fall. They seem to grow much better if they get the day night temperature change, the fresh air and the bright light outdoors. If the cattleya is indoors during the growing season, it won't grow as vigorously. The bark looks okay but you can tell by sticking your finger an inch or two beneath the top of the mix. If the bark starts to feel like dirt, it means it is degrading and when the bark rots, your roots will rot too. Start watering more, much more. Water thoroughly until water runs through the pot and then water some more. Then don't water again until the mix is dry. Start watering every week or no less than every 2 weeks.





#### **Bringing Home New Orchids**

Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net



I love bringing home new orchids. Sometimes I buy large plants in bloom but more often than not I bring home seedlings that I can watch grow up and bloom for me the first time.

If you grow cattleyas, scale is your arch nemesis. After many years of battling scale, the growth inhibitor Distance (\$230/qt) finally allowed me to declare the greenhouse a scale free zone.

Imagine my surprise when I noticed scale emerging on some of the new plants I brought home. They appeared clean when I selected them, but several months later I noticed the tell tale chlorotic spotting and white patches. Clearly scale was lurking under the rhizome or paper sheathing of my new plants.

The books all tell you to isolate plants for several months when you bring them into your growing area so you can catch problems without spreading them to the rest of your collection. I find I can't resist the urge to group plants together as soon as I bring them home, new phals with old phals, new cattleyas with old cattleyas, etc. so the plants all get the proper light and water.

Obviously you need a plan for handling new orchids you bring home. Here's mine:

**Selecting Your Plants.** You buy plants for a number of reasons, because you like the flower, you like the plant growth habit or you like the parentage and have great hopes for the future flower. Once you've decided on a prospective plant, inspect the plant carefully:

- You want the plant to be fully established in the pot. Pick it up by its vegetation and the pot should lift with the plant. If the plant is wobbly in the pot it is either newly repotted and thus not established or there is a problem with the roots and you will have to nurse it back to health.
- You want a plant that is a vigorous growing. Look at the pseudobulbs and leaves and see if they are plump. The plant should look healthy and happy.
- You want a plant this is pest free. Check the base of the plant, in leaf axils and other hidden spots and make sure there is no scale, mealybugs or other crawling insects present.
- You want a plant that is disease free. For a cattleya, look at the pseudobulbs that should be plump and full. Shriveled pseudobulbs can be a sign of fusarium or other disease. If in flower, make sure there is no color break in the flower that can be a sign of virus.

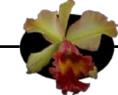
Apply a Protective Drench. Once you get home and before you introduce your new plant to the growing area, apply a protective drench. The Bayer imidacloprid product is a great systemic pesticide that can be introduced to the plant via the roots and absorbed throughout the plant. It will kill scale, mealybugs, etc. from the inside out without your having to spray it. If you have the imidacloprid product that is 1.47% strength (e.g., Bayer Tree and



Shrub), mix up 1 oz. of it in a gallon of water and thoroughly drench the growing media. There are protective fungicidal drenches that can also be used, like Banrot or Subdue although these products are only available at specialty horticultural outlets.

Repot into Your Mix of Choice. If you bought a plant in bloom, let it bloom out and then repot in your mix of choice. If it's a seedling orchid, you may want to repot immediately in your mix of choice. This way you won't have a hodge podge of plants in sphagnum, bark and whatever else that all require watering at a different frequency. The only caveats are try not to repot in the fall when plants are going into their winter rest and be careful not to repot bifoliate cattleyas unless you see the initiation of new root growth. It is best to repot when new roots are just beginning to emerge because the plant will reestablish the most quickly when it is in a period of active root growth.

A new orchid should be a welcome addition to your collection, not a problem waiting to arise. Develop a system to make sure that your new beauty will live to bloom again along with all your old favorites.



## MY FAVORITE ORCHID

#### My Favorite Orchid

By Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

HaHaHa! It's like asking which is your favorite child. Cattleyas are my overall favorite for their showy and fragrant blooms. Every month brings new and different cattleyas into bloom and each month I'd tell you a different cattleyais my favorite.



Ctsm. pilleatum

I grow and love other types of orchids. In the early spring, I am partial to the spring blooming dendrobiums. Then the phalaenopsis put on their 3 month show of cascading flowers. The multifloral paphiopedilums also start to bloom about that time. Summer brings the stanhopeas with their 3 day wonder flowers and the vandas in all their colors and sizes. Summer through winter the various catasetinae put on their

show. So let's talk about my favorite Catasetinae.

Culture. The Catasetinae, consisting of the Catasetums, Clowesias, Cycnoches, Mormodes and their hybrids are a great group of orchids to grow. They are easy to grow and bloom once you understand their cultural needs. They explode with new growth during the summer growing season requiring copious amounts of water and fertilizer and go dormant during the winter when they are kept dry. If

you are an outdoor grower, you can just put them in the garage or a closet and not worry about them at all during the winter. They are repotted in the spring as new growth emerges but not watered until that new growth is 4 or 5 inches tall. Simple!

Catasetums. One of the most beautiful Catasetums is the species Ctsm. pileatum with its wide lip. Usually it is white but there are different color varieties including yellow, green and



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



CI. Grace Dunn 'Live Oak' HCC/AOS

red. The pileatum hybrids are also gorgeous, like Ctsm. Portagee Star (Ctsm. pileatum x Ctsm. Black Knight). Catasetums are the most easily grown of all the Catasetinae. They are vigorous growers and are less sensitive to cultural mistakes than the other Catasetinae.

Clowesias. Clowesias are strong growers that are very resistant to rot. They are similar to Catasetums in cultivation though the blooming cycle is very different. Clowesias will throw off multiple flower spikes in the winter to early spring time frame. The hybrid CI. Grace Dunn (CI. warczewitzii x Cl. rosea) is easy to fall in love with. The intergeneric Clowesetum is formed when



Clo. Jumbo Circle

Catasetum and Clowesia are combined. The Catasetum gives flower color and size while the Clowesia adds flower life and multiple inflorescences. My Clo. Jumbo Circle (Cl. Jumbo Grace x Ctsm. cirrhaeoides) has six spikes this year.

**Cycnoches.** The Swan Orchids are beautiful if temperamental because they are so susceptible to rot. Cyc. cooperi is stunning, with its greenish to bronze pendant display of flowers. Cycnoches hybrids are beautiful like Cyc. Swan Cascade (Cyc. cooperi x Cyc. Jean E. Monnier). You would think

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## MY FAVORITE ORCHID

#### Continued from page 11



that breeding with the hardier Catasetums (to form the intergeneric Catanoches) or Clowesia (to form the intergeneric Clowenoches) would increase plant vigor but the hybidizers have not pursued this, presumably due to disappointing results.

**Mormodes.** The Goblin Orchids have vibrantly colored if somewhat bizarrely shaped flowers, like Morm. sinuata. They have a repu-

Cyc.cooperi (green form) tation for being more difficult

to grow because they are the most susceptible to rot. When Mormodes are combined with Clowesia, the easy growing

intergeneric Mormodias are created, like Mo. Lime Tiger (Cl. Grace Dunn x Morm. elegans). The intergeneric Cycnodes (Cycnoches and Mormodes) are easier to grow than either of the individual genera. Cycnodes primary hybrids get the best qualities of both parents, the Mormodes is dominant for color and recessive for form and the Cycnoches is dominant for form and recessive for color. Cycd. Wine Delight (Cyc. lehmannii x Morm. sinuata) is a personal favorite. The intergeneric Catamodes (Catasetum and Mormodes) are not widely available.



Cyc. Swan Cascade

Complex Intergenerics. Complex intergenerics are formed when 3 or more catasetinae genera are combined. The most well known of these are the Fredclarkearas (Catasetum, Clowesia and Mormodes), particularly the black orchid Fdk. After Dark (Mo. Painted Desert x Ctsm. Donna Wise). The Fredclarkeara breeding produces flowers that are fragrant, of excellent shape, have amazing color and produce blooms that are long lasting. There are other complex intergenerics including Cloughara, Cyclodes, Monnierara and Georgecarrara though they are not too widely available.

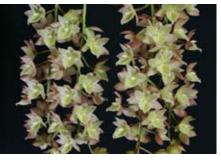


Morm. sinuata 'SVO' HCC/AOS

Sources of Plants. If you are interested in growing these great plants, check out the website I put together with friend Stephen Moffitt over in Houston at www.catasetinae.com. There is a lot of information on how to grow these plants along with plenty of enticing photographs. Stephen offers backbulbs of his and my beauties for sale on the website. Fred Clarke www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com is probably the preeminent hybridizer



Cycd. Wine Delight 'JEM' AM/AOS



of the catesetinae and his website includes many photographs and catasetinae offerings. Other sources are Ebay, orchid society shows and orchid society meetings.

Mo. Lime Tiger 'St Augustine' AM/AOS



# SHOW TABLE



June: Grower Sandy Taylor Phal. Jeanette Brandon 'Crownfox Lemon Ice'



August: Grower Joshua Jones Den. wassellii



October: Grower Helen Hoffman Angem. distichum



July: Grower Sue Bottom Blc. Toshie Aoki 'Pizzaz' AM/AOS



March: Grower Courtney Hackney Lc. Grant Eichler 'Lenette'



May: Grower Bill Gourley Den. aggregatum



January: Grower Sue Bottom Calanthe Baron Schröder



# SHOW TABLE



February: Grower Dick Roth Den. speciosum



Best Species: Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz Pths. grobyi



September: Grower Helen Hoffman Den. Hibiki



November: Grower Sue Bottom Blc. San Diego Sunset x Blc. Honolulu Sunset



April: Grower Sue Bottom C. skinneri var. alba



Most Obscure: Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz Pths. phyllocardioides

