



CLUB NEWS



Jim Roberts

March 4 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Linda Stewart
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Welcome and Thanks.

President Bob Schimmel opened the meeting by welcoming all visitors, and recognizing newest members, Nugget Obi, Pamela Walton, Terry Leo, Greg & Dee Dupree. Bob thanked Jeanette Smith for her usual great job

with the refreshments and recognized Barbara and Jane for their contributions to the evening's refreshments. He also reminded everyone to please "drop a dollar" in the jar. Linda Stewart, Sunshine Coordinator, recognized those with birthdays in March, asking that they be sure to get their birthday raffle ticket. Bob reminded everyone to be sure to vote for the best orchid on our show table. Dick Roth announces the winner after the break.

Club Business. For those in need of supplies, there are potting mix and fertilizers available for sale at the side table. There is a variety of fertilizers and several potting mixes to choose from.

There are a number of membership dues for 2014 still outstanding. Dues are \$15 for individual membership, and \$25 for family. Please see our Treasurer Bill Gourley to renew if you haven't already done so. If you wish to pay by mail, please send payment to Bill Gourley, 807 Kalli Creek Lane, St. Augustine, FL 32080.

Penny Halyburton, SAOS Librarian, talked about the featured book of the month, *"Dendrobiums and Their Relatives"* which is available for members to borrow. If interested in reading some of the books in our SAOS library, the book list is available on our website and books may be borrowed at one monthly meeting and returned at the next. Please e-mail Penny with your selection and she will bring the book to our next meeting for you.



The next Keiki Club meeting will be on Sunday, March 23. We will be repotting at Sue and Terry Bottom's house, at 6916 Cypress Lake Court in St. Augustine at 1:00 p.m. We will be learning about potting mixes and how to repot. Please bring a new 4" or 6" clay pot, as there may be some free divisions to pot up and take home.

We have had great response to the Saturday morning Ace Repotting Clinics, and have gained several new members as a result. The next repotting clinic will be on April 5th, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. This is a great opportunity for newer orchid hobbyists to get some hands-on experience and assistance with their repotting needs.

President Bob Schimmel has also made several presentations to various groups. This helps to acquaint people with our organization, and can be a great source for new membership. If anyone is interested in giving talks to groups, please see either Bob or Sue.

Orchid Events. The Jacksonville Orchid Society Show is on March 15 and 16. SAOS will be putting in a display this year. If you have plants we can use in our display, please send your list of plant names to Sue no later than March 11, and plan to deliver your plants to either Bob or Harry on March 12. They will deliver the plants to Jacksonville for setup on Friday, March 14. Volunteers are needed for both setup on Friday, and breakdown at 5:00 pm on Sunday. Mike is also looking for more volunteers to clerk for the judges on Saturday morning. Further details are available on the website.

Program. Our speaker this month was Jim Roberts from Florida SunCoast Orchids. His topic was pendulous dendrobiums. Jim is originally from Minnesota and began his fascination with orchids while interning in the greenhouse

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Upcoming Orchid Events

March

- 7-9 Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show
Port St. Lucie Community Center
- 7-9 Fairchild's 12th Intl. Orchid Festival
Fairchild Botanic Garden, Coral Gables
- 11 JOS Meeting
Roundtable Discussion, 7 pm
- 15-16 Jacksonville Orchid Society Show
The Garden Club of Jacksonville
- 21-23 Martin County Orchid Society Show
Martin County Fairgrounds
- 23 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners
Spring Repotting
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086

April

- 1 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Terry Bottom
The Ultimate Hobby Greenhouse
- 5 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 5-6 Central Florida Orchid Society Show
Maitland Civic Center
- 8 JOS Meeting, 7 pm, Topic TBA
Paul Phelps, Phelps Farm Orchids
- 12-13 EPIC Celebration of Spring
Annual Flower and Garden Expo
Ag Center, St. Augustine
- 12-13 Tallahassee Orchid Society Show
Doyle Conner Building
- 26-27 Vero Beach Orchid Society Show
Riverside Park
- 27 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Orchids Outside the Pot
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct., St. Aug 32086

May

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

- 3-4 Platinum Coast Orchid Society Show
Kiwanis Island Park Gym & Annex
- 4 Orchids by Del-Rei Open House
4270 Cedar Ford Blvd, Hastings 32145
Orchids, Food and Libations
- 4 JOS Picnic
3611 Richmond St., Jax 32205
- 6 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Keith Davis, Hobbyist and Hybridizer
Tips for Happier and Healthier Orchids
- 10-11 Volusia County Society Show
Volusia County Fairgrounds
- 16-18 Redlands International Orchid Festival
Fruit and Spice Park, Homestead
- 18 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Summer Orchid Care
Yvonne and Bob Schimmel's Home

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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on his college campus. Jim has spent time in many interesting parts of the world, including the Virgin Islands and Hawaii, before settling in the west coast of Florida with his approximately 10,000 square feet of greenhouse space. One of Jim's specialties is the deciduous varieties of dendrobium, specifically Den. anosmum and related varieties. He has a number of specimen plants at his greenhouse and has won many AOS awards over the years. Dendrobiums make up the second largest category of orchids with over 1200 species. It is also the second most common in cultivation today, some with flowers lasting only one day and others with flowers that last for more than a month.

Den. anosmum grows at low elevations and is warm to hot growing. Its raspberry-scented flowers are very fragrant and it is a variety that does very well in Florida. Den. anosmum originally came from Kalimantan in Malaysia. Some of the varieties mentioned were: Den. anosmum 'Celle' which is a popular clone named after a town in Germany. Keikis of this variety were available for sale at the back table. Den. anosmum var. dearei 'Norman L. Wilson' is a white variety and can bloom either on one cane at a time or flush with flowers all at once. Den. parishii is commonly confused with Den. anosmum. It has been grown in Hawaii for over 100 years and they are all referred to locally as Hono Hono Orchids. Den. cretaceum has creamy white flowers and is easy to grow. Den. heterocarpum is a yellow variety with canes that can reach up to nine feet in length. Den. cucullatum is the original correct name, but is frequently confused with Den. pierardii and Den. aphyllum. Den. Little Sweet Scent is a primary hybrid with a lovely fragrance. There is also a variegated variety, called Den. anosmum 'Touch of Class'.

The main pests of pendulous dendrobiums are thrips, which can wreak havoc on your collection. Jim applies Orthene approximately one month prior to the buds emerging on the canes.



These orchids should be watered heavily in spring and summer, from March through October, using a well balanced fertilizer. He recommends 1/4 strength every other watering. At about Thanksgiving, watering and fertilizer should be withheld and the leaves will turn yellow and begin to drop. Do not begin watering again until flower buds begin to develop on the canes. You can begin watering once every week to two weeks once the buds are fully formed. If you begin watering too soon, you will get keikis instead of flowers. Continue to withhold fertilizer until flowering is complete and new canes are growing. Potting medium should be based upon your individual growing conditions. Jim has a phrase regarding watering: "When in doubt - dry it out!"

Meeting Conclusion. After a short intermission, Dick Roth announced the Member's Choice Award. The March award goes to Melody Loll for her lovely Phal. Sogo Vivien with variegated foliage. Please be sure to see a picture of her prize winning orchid, along with other show plants at the end of this newsletter. The raffle table was the final event of the evening with Fred Keefer, Christie Peppard and Dianne Batcheldor presiding. There were no silent auction plants this month.



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



CLUB NEWS

February 16 Keiki Club

Growing Cymbidiums

More than a dozen SAOS members took to the road to visit Harry and Celia McElroy up in Jacksonville. We toured the hoophouse and greenhouse where Harry grows magnificent cymbidiums, phragmipediums and more, and the yard where Celia rules the roost. Then it was inside for some snacks (you never leave Celia's hungry!) and orchid talk.



Harry grows his cymbidiums in a mixture of 7 parts Stalite and 1 part Orchidata bark, with about 1/2 part of oyster shell, dolomitic lime and gypsum mixture to provide the supplemental calcium cymbidiums need. Cymbidiums are very heavy feeders. He top dresses pots with the oyster shell/dolomite/gypsum mix twice a year and uses a 180 day timed release 18-6-3 fertilizer in December. In July and August he uses a low phosphorus water soluble fertilizer and calcium nitrate and then switches over to a high potassium fertilizer in September. In October and November, no supplemental fertilizer is used and pots are flushed.

Cymbidiums are very cold tolerant and can stand and even enjoy temperatures down to 34 degrees F. Harry covers his open shadehouse with frost cloth when a freeze is projected and turns on his misting system to warm the plants.

Harry also had some interesting advice on repotting cymbidiums, which are notoriously difficult to repot. He puts the plant under the bench for 2 weeks to dry it out thoroughly causing the roots to shrink up. Then he uses a serrated bread knife to cut the bottom half of the root ball off. Only then does he try to untangle the remaining roots to separate the bulbs.

April 1 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Terry Bottom, St. Augustine Orchid Society

Terry Bottom of the St. Augustine Orchid Society will tell us about his Ultimate Hobby Greenhouse at the April 1 meeting. Terry is responsible for the greenhouse structures at the Bottom's that you've seen if you've come to Keiki Clubs. Over the years he has learned what works best for orchids in St. Augustine. He'll present approaches for the ultimate hobby greenhouse as well as ideas for hobby houses. Fred Keefer and Sue Bottom will have plants for sale at the meeting and members are invited to bring plants to sell.

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

Membership dues for 2014 are collected during the first three months of the year. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, you can mail your membership check to SAOS c/o Bill Gourley, 807 Kalli Creek Lane, St. Augustine, FL 32080. Soon we'll be updating our 2014 SAOS roster and email distribution list. You don't want to miss any newsletters!

March 23 Keiki Club

Spring Repotting
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home

Many of your orchids are sending out new roots. If they need to be repotted, this is the time to do it. We'll talk about the various potting mixes you might use and show you how to repot your orchids. We've got some overgrown cattleyas so 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. We'll meet at 6916 Cypress Lake Court in St. Aug from 1 to 3 pm. Bring a folding chair and any plants you have questions about. Guests and visitors are always welcome. Call Sue at 797-4360 if you have any questions. Where: Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Court, St. Aug 32086
When: March 23, 1 to 3 pm



Ace Repotting Plant Clinic

The first Saturday of the month
from February 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



INSPIRATION



Den. Adastra 'Berkeley' AM/AOS

© Terry Bottom 2011



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.



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q1. I have recently discovered some white round shaped things inside my orchid pot and I have no idea what they are. I am sending you some photos of them, can you tell me if

something is wrong?

A1. See if you can fish out one of the little white balls. If it's hard and crunchy, it's probably time release fertilizer that was incorporated into the mix. If it's soft, it might be a spider or insect egg sac, but I'm guessing it's time release fertilizer.



Q2. These orchids got sunburned when I moved them into their winter growing area. Should I remove the damaged leaves?



A2. Sunburned leaves may or may not have enough undamaged areas that they can still generate energy for the plant. The sunburn is unsightly and can provide an entry point for fungus and bacteria. The sunburn on the first leaf is just dried up, the top half of the leaf could be removed with a sterile single used razor blade to remove the unsightly leaf burn, dusting the open cut with cinnamon or a fungicide to prevent introduction of pathogens. The second leaf looks like it already has a secondary infection, so perhaps it's best to remove that entire leaf.



Q3. I am a newbie and recently found problems on my phal leaves. The affected plants are still doing well and some are still flowering. Can you identify the problem?



A3. This is the time of year we start seeing edema on orchids. Edema is like a water blister that forms because the orchid has taken up water faster than it can be shed from the leaves through transpiration. It happens when you water too late in the day and it turns cool at night or when you water on a gray or rainy day. It is a leaf blemish that will never go away but doesn't do too much damage to the leaf.



CULTIVATION

Pendulous Dendrobium Culture

Courtesy of [RF Orchids](#)

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Den. pierardii (*Den. aphyllum*)

Dendrobiums are native to a huge area in Asia, ranging from southern Japan and the eastern foothills of the Himalaya south into India, the Indo-China peninsula, Malaysia, Indonesia, New Guinea and Australia. In this large range, there are at least 1,000 species, inhabiting virtually every tropical and subtropical habitat, so it is impossible to generalize about their cultural requirements. Some live in areas that are warm all year long, some grow in cool cloud-forests. Some thrive in conditions that are generally moist all or most of the year, some are adapted to sharply seasonal wet/dry cycles. We grow many dendrobiums from the warm to intermediate temperature habitats, and we'll share our experience with some of these extraordinarily beautiful orchids.

Botanists place groups of related species into "sections", to help organize and identify plants. Here in "part 1", we'll discuss some of the related species from Section

Dendrobium. These are sometimes referred to as the pendent, and/or deciduous dendrobiums, as most of them produce pendent stems (or "canes") that are often leafless during their dry-season resting period. There are estimated to be 50 to 60 species in this group. Of those, we grow about a dozen species: *Den. anosmum* (*superbum*), *Den. aphyllum* (*pierardii*), *Den. parishii*, *Den. nobile*, *Den. signatum*, *Den. albosanguineum*, *Den. moschatum*, *Den. fimbriatum*, *Den. primulinum*, *Den. pulchellum*, *Den. senile*, *Den. unicum*.

Most of these species are native to northeastern India, and parts of the Indo-Chinese peninsula, although one species, *Den. anosmum* (also known as *Den. superbum*) is common from the Philippines through Malaysia and Indonesia. This group of dendrobiums is popular for the spectacular, fragrant show of flowers in the springtime.



Den. anosmum (*Den. superbum*)



A young Den. superbum plant

Cultural requirements.

Fortunately, the most popular species in the group all have similar cultural requirements. They grow robustly during spring and summer; growth stops altogether in late fall, and the plants may drop their leaves during the winter resting period.

Temperature.

In their native habitat, these orchids experience mild to warm daytime temperatures in spring and summer, and generally cooler temperatures in the winter. For most, the winter night temperatures range from about 45°F to about 55°F. *Den. superbum*, particularly the plants from the Philippines, prefers winter nights about 10 degrees warmer than that. These plants do well for us with our normal winter night temperatures, which are usually in that range.

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Light. While actively growing, give the plants plenty of bright but filtered light. They will grow well under the same light conditions as most cattleyas. Most of these dendrobiums grow attached to deciduous trees,



Den. parishii v. semialbum 'R.F. Orchids'

so they want higher light in winter. We grow them under cattleya light levels during the growing season, and move them to vanda light levels during their resting period.

Water. This may be the most crucial element to success with these orchids. Their native conditions are fairly wet during the late spring, summer and early fall. Rainfall is quite heavy for a few months, but it tapers off in the late fall, and winter months are fairly dry. Water the plants regularly when they are actively growing. Mounted plants can be watered daily if air circulation is good.



New leaf at tip

Observe the tips of the canes; in the fall, they will stop producing new leaves. This is the signal that the plant has finished growing for the season; gradually reduce watering, and allow the plant to dry

somewhat between waterings. There's some moisture in the habitat at this time, so the plants do get a little water from dew or fog; a light watering every few days is all they need. Growth will start again in the late winter or early spring at about the same time that the flower buds begin to form; once the buds have formed, and new growth appears, increase watering again.

Remember, it's quite typical for these dendrobiums to drop all or most of their leaves during their winter resting period. Flower buds will appear on the stem opposite the attachment points of the leaves, and new growth will commence from the base of the previous year's growth.

Fertilizer. These dendrobiums benefit from regular feeding when they're actively growing. Any balanced, water-soluble fertilizer can be used, diluted according to package directions. Jack's Classic 20-20-20 is a good

option; we feed once a week during the growing season. Reduce feeding in the fall and eliminate it completely when the plants are resting in the winter. Resume feeding after the flowers have finished.

Potting. The pendent stems of these orchids make them a challenge to grow in pots, so they are usually grown mounted, or in hanging baskets. The larger species can grow to great size, so if mounted, the mount material should be sturdy – a cork slab or dense tree fern plaque works well. Mounted plants can be watered daily in summer if the air circulation is good. In a basket, use a very well-drained epiphyte mix. We prefer to mount these dendrobiums.



Den. primulinum

Problems. These dendrobiums have few really major pest problems. Snails and slugs may damage the leaves and canes, and occasionally during wet weather you may see some minor damage from leaf-spotting fungal diseases.



Keikis on the canes

If, in the spring, the plants produce keikis (baby plants) on the stem instead of flowers, the plant is telling you that something in its environment is not correct. This may be too much water during resting; the plants need a little watering during this time but they must dry completely for two or three days between waterings. It may also be a temperature problem. These dendrobiums want mild to warm days in winter, but much cooler nights. And they need higher light in the winter, too.



CULTIVATION

Why Orchids Need a Day Night Temperature Change

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net



Did you ever wonder why all the books say that many orchids need a 10 to 15 degree drop in temperature from day to night? Lower nighttime temperatures are critical for good growth and flowering because there must be a proper balance between photosynthesis and respiration for a plant to bloom well.

Orchids by Day. During the day, your plants are busy:

Making Food. Your plants are busy using solar energy in a process called photosynthesis. Light is absorbed by the chlorophyll in the chloroplasts and the carbon dioxide absorbed by the plant is converted into chemical energy in the form of sugars and starches.

Using Food. Your plants consume their energy reserves in a process known as respiration. The food reserves of sugars and starches are used to maintain existing tissue as well as produce new growths, flowers and seeds.

Orchids by Night. At night, photosynthesis stops but growth and respiration continue drawing on the energy reserves created during the day. Respiration occurs more quickly at higher temperatures than at lower temperatures. At lower temperatures, it is possible for the energy consumption to be less than energy production, allowing the plant to store energy for future use, including flowering. If night temperatures are too high for their kind, food is used faster than it can be made so growth is poor and orchids either do not flower or they flower poorly.

Providing Lower Nighttime Temperatures. Providing cooler nighttime temperatures can be problematic if you're growing indoors in a climate controlled environment. Probably the best alternative is a programmable thermostat or manually turning the thermostat down at night. Orchids growing by a bright window will be a few degrees warmer during the day from solar gain and orchids growing by an open window may be a few degrees cooler at night in winter. The easiest way to provide these lower nighttime

temperatures is to grow your orchids outdoors or on a screened porch during the warm season.

Flower Induction by Night Time Chilling. Many orchids require a significant day night temperature difference to induce flowering. Phals require a 15 degree drop in nighttime temperatures for two or three weeks to initiate their flower spikes and cymbidiums and dendrobiums can require an even larger temperature difference. Den. crumenatum is an interesting species that opens all its blooms simultaneously 9 days after a thunderstorm, some believe as a result of the cooling effect of the evaporation of rainwater.

Zygopetalums Crave Cooler Nights. I have long loved zygopetalums with their bluish purple, green and bronze flowers and incredible fragrance, although they have tended to be very short lived in my care. I've tried growing them in a wide variety of light conditions and potting mixes. Knowing that they like cooler conditions than we have in St. Augustine, I tried Mike Heinz' trick of growing them in sphagnum moss in a clay pot to keep them a little cooler from the water evaporating from the porous clay. They grew better, but still struggled. I was telling Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids my tale of woe and he told me to get them out of the greenhouse and under the shade of a palm tree. That provided a few extra degrees of nighttime cooling and the growth rate exploded over the summer. This fall I was treated to more zygo blooms than I have ever had.

Understanding your plant's metabolism gives you insight into how best to grow it. Cooler nighttime temperatures allow your orchid to store rather than consume the food it manufactured during the day. This stored energy can then be used by the plant to produce flowers. Next to insufficient light, insufficient day to night temperature change is the most likely cause of your orchid failing to bloom. If your plants are growing well and you are sure they are getting enough of the right kind of light, try dropping your night temperatures by a few degrees. You may be pleasantly surprised by the increase in flowers your plants produce.



CULTIVATION

Preparing Your Plant for Exhibition

JOS Show – March 15 and 16



Mark your calendar! You should plan to attend the Jacksonville Orchid Society Show on March 15 and 16 at the Garden Center at 1005 Riverside Drive in Jacksonville. There will be many orchid vendors with beautiful blooming orchids, as well as orchid supplies, orchid exhibits, orchid raffles and lots more. If you are handy in the kitchen and would like to help with the cooking and cleaning, give Christie Peppard a call at 282-7889. If you're interested in learning more about orchid judging, give Mike Heinz a call at 962-2531. They'd love to hear from you.

SAOS Exhibit. If you have a really nice plant that will be in full bloom during the show weekend, you may want to consider entering it into the SAOS exhibit or exhibiting the plant individually for a potential award. To prepare your plant, follow these steps.

Getting Your Plant to the Show. If you are not going to participate in setting up the exhibit, arrangements will be made to transport your plant to the show. Work with Exhibit Chair Harry McElroy to either arrange for an individual to pick up the plant or bring the plant to a central collection location for transportation to the show. Send the names of your plants to Sue Bottom by Tuesday the 11th. The plants must be ready by no later than Thursday the 13th to be ready for set up day on the 14th.

Checklist. Here's a handy checklist to follow for preparing your plants.

- Clean the pseudobulbs and leaves (water helps to soften the dry papery covering (cataphyll) around mature pseudobulbs so that you can gently rub it off).
- Wipe the top of the leaves with a mildly acidic solution (vinegar, lemon juice, sprite, 7 up, diluted milk, etc.) to remove residue. Do not use commercial spray to shine

the leaves; it is not good for the plant.

- Trim dead areas from leaves if possible with a single edged razor blade, but not too early or edges will brown. When cutting tips of leaves, be sure your cut follows the basic shape of the natural leaf ending.
- Make sure the media in the container is clean and free of weeds.
- Carefully inspect plant for pests and if any are found remove them with alcohol and a Q tip. If there is a bad infestation, do not bring the plant to the show.
- Inspect the flowers for thrips and other damage. If a flower is marred by the spots of Botrytis fungus it is better to leave the plant at home.
- Carefully stake the inflorescence if this will help present the flowers to their best advantage. If you can plan ahead of time it is best to train the inflorescence as it emerges and is soft, a mature inflorescence is hardened off and can break easily.
- Remove any wire hangers, hoops, etc.
- Water each plant thoroughly before bringing to the show.
- If the plant is in plastic, drop it into a clay pot for stability. Place each plant carefully in a large box or container for transport. To keep the plants from moving around and sustaining damage you can put crumpled newspaper around the pots. Some people use cotton batting, florists shred or other material to protect the flowers and inflorescences from damage.

Identify Your Plant. To make sure your plant is properly labeled and to make sure you get your plant back after the show, some preparatory steps are necessary. Mail a list of the plants you'd like to enter to Plant List Coordinator Sue Bottom by Tuesday, March 11. She'll send you a number to identify your plant. You should mark your pot with this number and your name, e.g., with masking tape and a Sharpie pen. Remove or bury the plant tag in the pot so it is not visible above the potting medium, but is there for your future use.



HOME & BACKYARD

Wintering Orchids on Back Porch

by Mary Colee

Winter always leads to challenges for orchid growers in Northeast Florida. Last year I moved my 75+ orchids into the house with no major dilemmas. They were in every room in the house on window sills, the stairs, TV trays and stools near windows. They were in the kitchen, living room, dining room, bedrooms and office. We only ate at the dining room table for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The rest of the time it was covered with my precious warm loving orchids.



This year my collection has more than doubled, not only in quantity but size of pots and varieties. I discovered a new found passion for bare root vandas and mounted orchids. I realized that protecting my hard wood floors would be impossible, and I thought my back porch had a lot of potential.

I started the transformation about the middle of September. Louis help me hang some poles above the windows. I made benches out of an old dog crate, landscape timbers and milk crates. I put the 3 used racks on wheels I had found



last spring to good use. One holds vandas which makes it easy to push out the back door on nice or rainy days. The others hold oncidiums and a variety of big hanging pots and baskets. I have a smaller rack that I have mostly stanhopeas on, but it is more aerodynamic so it doesn't go outside if there is a chance of any gusty winds.

Even with all the racks and poles, hanging space was running short. I found 2 old chain link gates that fit the bill, one for my "littles" and the other one is in my greenhouse holding my larger catt mounts. When it gets too cold out there I attach the gate to a dolly and am able to push it in and out of the garage.



Just out one of the backdoors I have a hose connection to make it easy to water everyone by either dragging the hose through for a quick or heavy watering or by filling up a 5 gallon bucket for midweek individual watering. I have 2 electric heaters that have individual thermostats. Knock on wood, neither has had any problems keeping the temperature above 60 degrees over night. In the mornings I crack the windows and turn on the fans.

I still have a lot of orchids on window sills, up the stairs and in the living room and kitchen but not nearly as many as last year. This is still a work in progress there are some things that I plan on changing next year, but in the mean time I am planning where to put what when it finally warms up enough to put them all back outside.



SHOW TABLE



Grower Maria Yessian
Paph. venustum



Grower Sue Bottom
Mormodia Jumbo Ruby



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Auntie Mary Kovich



Grower Sue Bottom
Lyonara Memoria Doug Lace 'Rosminah' HCC/AOS



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Sarah Jean x Cym. England's Rose



Grower Yvonne & Bob Schimmel
Blc. Yellow Button 'Kiss of Red'



Grower Yvonne & Bob Schimmel
Enc. polybulbon



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
Dendrochilum glumaceum



Grower Melody Loll
Phal. Sogo Vivien



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Western Movie



Grower Sue Bottom
C. aurantiaca 'Spotted Queen'



Grower Dena West
Phalo. Haur Jin Diamond x Phal. Sogo Kitty



Grower Linda Stewart
Den. kingianum 'Stardust'

