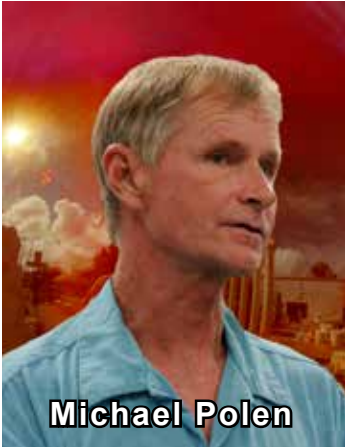




CLUB NEWS



June 3 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Lola Stark, seacuter@bellsouth.net

Welcome and Thanks.

President Bob Schimmel opened the meeting at 7:15 pm with 58 people present including 4 new members and 7 guests. He thanked Jeanette Smith, Gail Smith and Denise Henry for the refreshments

and reminded everyone that if you like the refreshments, drop a dollar in the jar to help pay for them in the future. Gail Marshall, speaking for Linda Stewart, announced that charter member Dick Roth is in Flagler Hospital ICU. He seems to be doing better and she passed a card for him. She also reminded June Birthday folks to get their extra raffle ticket. Bob reminded everyone to check out the Show Table and vote for the best on the table. Harry McElroy will count votes in Dick Roth's absence.

Business. We have lots of orchid supplies for sale on the side table, different fertilizers and potting mixes.

- Penny Halyburton showed us the book *The Four Seasons of Orchids* and Mary Colee immediately borrowed it for the next month. Any time a member needs a book, you can go to our website and email Penny the one you want and she will bring it to the next meeting.

- The Keiki club will meet this month on the 22nd at Sue and Terry's home from 1 to 3 pm to learn how to repot phals. If you have one need some help repotting it, this is the time and place to find out how to do it.

- The Ace repotting clinic will be at Hagan Ace on US 1 this Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm. If you have a plant that needs repotting bring it along and get yourself some help to learn how to do it!



Orchid Events. The spring show season has ended, tune in this fall for more orchid shows.

Program. Our speaker for the evening was Michael Polen from Art Stone Orchids in St. Petersburg. He was so fascinating this secretary about forgot to take notes! He spoke to us about mounting orchids in ways most of us hadn't thought of. He showed us lots of tricks, easier ways of doing things we have done the hard way.

He explained that mounting orchids is a fun thing to do, but it has its drawbacks - you must water more often and find a way to deliver fertilizer to your orchids. He recommended picking out whatever you are going to use as a mount, then make sure you have a hook to hang it by before you start attaching plants. He uses coconut fiber which he prefers to sphagnum moss for many of his cattleya and dendrobium mounts. For many mounts, he places the coco fiber under the plant, then spreads the roots over the coco, covers the roots with some more coco fiber and then secures the plant in place with a zip tie. He made it look extremely easy. He uses timed release fertilizer, placed either in fabric bags or on the coco fiber away from the plant for easy fertilization without burning the plant.



Continued on page 3



CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

June

- 7 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 10 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Bill Thoms, A-doribil
- 22 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Repotting Phalaenopsis
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct., St. Aug 32086

July

- 1 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Fred Keefer, Auctioneer Extraordinaire
Summer Orchid Auction
- 5 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 8 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Paphs and Their Culture
Thanh Nguyen, Springwater Orchids
- 27 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Growing Different Types of Orchids
St. Augustine Beach City Hall
2200 SR A1A S, St. Aug Beach 32080

August

- 2 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
Watering, Water Quality and Fertilizer
Sue Bottom, St. Augustine Orchid Society
- 12 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
How to Care for Your Orchids
Roundtable Question and Answer
- 17 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Understanding Your Plant Label
Moultrie Oaks Clubhouse
245 Wildwood Drive, St. Aug 32086

September

- 2 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Species Habitat, Hybrid Culture
Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids
- 6 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 9 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Phillip Hamilton, Bredren Orchids
- 14 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Fall Preparations
Mary and Louis Colee's home
855 Oak Ridge Road, St. Aug 32086

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Bob Schimmel schimmelr55@bellsouth.net
First Vice President Program Chair	Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Second Vice President Publicity Chair	Yvonne Schimmel yrs58@bellsouth.net
Secretary	Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
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Librarian	Penny Halyburton phalyburton@comcast.net
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Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom bottomt@bellsouth.net
Operations Committee Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com



CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1

He took a cypress wood basket, filled it with fiber, put a tall schomburgkia in the basket with the rhizome along the top of the coco fiber, and then secured the tall cattleya alliance plant in place by putting a bamboo stick through the side of the basket, over the rhizome, and out the other side. This totally secured the plant to the basket! He then added some fiber over the rhizome to hold moisture and added slow release around the plant.

When you want to plant a vandaceous type plant with lots of roots in a new basket, take one of the slats on the bottom of the basket out, soak the roots, then wrap the roots lightly with wire so you can snake them through the bottom of the basket and secure the plant by putting a bamboo rod through the side, through the basket the vanda was in, and out the other side.

He showed us how you can take a cypress raft (that looks like a basket without sides) and mount a plant on it so it either hangs vertically such as for a pendulous dendrobium or horizontally, so the plant grows on the raft. The vertical rafts work well for bulbophyllums because they'll eagerly grow on both sides of the raft.

You can get cedar shakes from Home Depot, drill 4 holes in a square, add the fiber, the plant, more fiber and secure the plant in place with zip ties through the holes you drilled. Sometimes after the plant has filled out with new roots, he will take tweezers and take all the old coco fiber away from the plant and let it hang as it does in nature.



He also likes to use tree fern pieces. He took a large tree fern basket, ran a double wire hanger through the sides of predrilled holes on either side, curved the end of the wire up and pulled it up through the bottom of the basket to secure the wire. Then he filled the hole with some loose tree fern fiber, secured the plant by pushing a narrow wire through the side of the basket over the rhizome, added some more loose tree fern fiber around the plant to protect the roots and it was ready to hang.

For vertical mounts, he suggested putting the rhizome of the plant on top of some coco fiber. Then stick your hand behind the plant into the fiber, making a hole, and put the slow release fertilizer into the indent made by your finger. You can add some timed release fertilizer every 6 months or so using this technique.

His next project was a tree fern totem, to which he added dendrobium keikis up the totem from bottom to top and on both sides. He secured them with zip ties.

He showed us artsy driftwood pieces suitable for display on a table or other horizontal surface. He secured the orchid in place with zip ties over some coco fiber. Then, if you want to use it in a display during the spring show season, you just set it in the display complete with the decorative mount.

What a grand bunch of suggestions for us to mount our orchids. It was a marvelous program.

Meeting Conclusion. Following our intermission, Courtney Hackney's Paph. Prince Edward of York was picked as the Member's Choice on the Show Table. We had a grand time with our raffle plants with Fred Keefer, Dianne Batchelder and Mary Colee presiding. We adjourned at 9 pm. Thanks to all of those that stayed and cleaned up the room.

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



CLUB NEWS



May 18 Keiki Club Summer Orchid Care

About 20 members and their guests visited the home of Bob and Yvonne Schimmel for the May Keiki Club get together. Bob provided them with information on how they handle their plants during the outdoor growing season with respect to watering, fertilizing and placement within their property to provide protection during high solar days and heat. He also discussed potting media and bare root plants with respect to watering needs. Several questions were asked and answered by Bob Schimmel, Gail Marshall, Harry McElroy and Linda Stewart. We finished the gathering with a demo of dividing the last portion of Gail's huge *Oncidium sphacelatum* and then helped in mounting or potting the divisions. All present went home happily clutching their new baby(s). It was a great day, warm with a light breeze, and great company.

July 1 Monthly SAOS Meeting Summer Orchid Auction

We will have our summer orchid auction at the July 1 meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Auctioneer Extraordinaire Fred Keefer will chair this fund raising event. We'll have a good selection of plants, including some from the Orchids by Del-Rei, the Orchid Specialist and maybe some from Sue Bottom's greenhouse. When we get closer to the event we'll publish a list of offerings to whet your appetite. We'll have our normal show table and refreshments. 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.

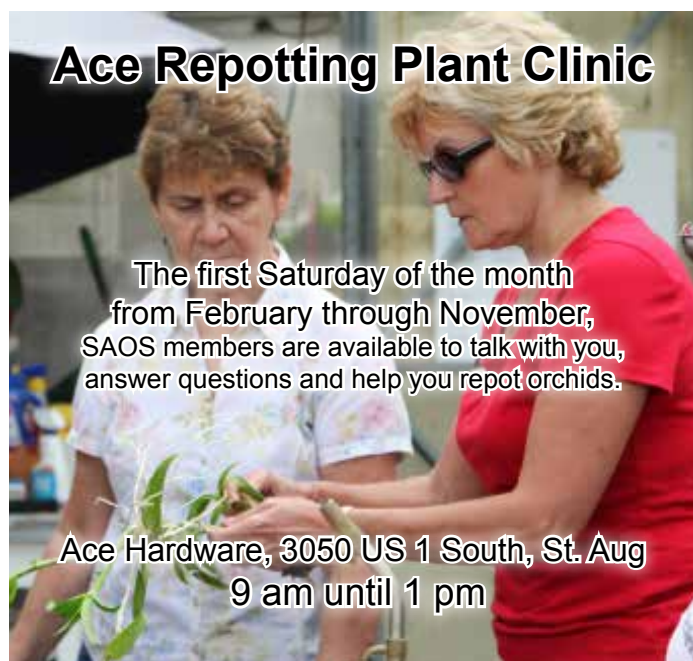


June 22 Keiki Club Repotting Phalaenopsis

The Keiki Club for orchid beginners will be Sunday afternoon on June 22 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. 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: Sunday, June 22, 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



Rhyncholaelia (Brassavola) digbyana

© Terry Bottom 2011



CULTIVATION

Your Orchids in June

based on Robert Scully articles,
courtesy of Robert Scully and 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. 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. If you switched to nighttime watering during spring, it is time to resume morning watering so the leaves will be dry by evening.

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 should 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 50/25/25 mix of crushed seashell, gypsum 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

Q1. I discovered the flowers on my Dtps. I-Hsin Song had a growth on them. The damage to the flowers started on the outside of the petals. Since

there were eight flowers with this damage I assume that it is contagious and moving fast so I removed the flowers and isolated the plant. Could you identify what is causing this oozing wilt?

Q 1



A1. I didn't recall seeing this kind of floral damage before so I strolled through the greenhouse looking for something similar. Low and behold, a newly opened *C. skinneri alba* had similar blighting. A few conversations with Ruben Saulea and Phillip Hamilton while at the Redlands suggested this to be a bacterial infection, particularly with the observation that the flowers smelled bad. Removing the flowers containing the infection is the first step. Consider spraying the plant and those around it with one of the copper compounds like Kocide or Phyton 27 (remembering not to spray dendrobiums or anything in bloom with copper) or spray with something containing quaternary ammonium compounds like Physan or pool algacide. Then evaluate whether increased air flow can be provided to prevent recurrence.



Q2. I bought a beautiful phalaenopsis two months ago that seemed super healthy, I was watering it with a shower once a week after checking the dryness in the middle of the pot (the pot is quite small, though). Suddenly, one by one, some flowers began to get floppy. My first thought was the flower needs humidity, so I sprayed the petals with lukewarm water a few times a week, but that didn't seem to help. Any advice?

Q 2



A2. It's possible the plant is nearing the end of its natural blooming period, but those flowers don't look like they are aging normally. More likely, the plant is a little dehydrated, as also can be seen in the wilted leaves. It can be dehydrated because either it is not getting enough water (it should be watered until water runs out the bottom of the pot when it is watered) or because the potting mix and possibly the roots are degraded so they can't absorb water (knock it out of the pot and you'll be able to tell by looking at the roots). In a follow up note, she wrote "the bark was so tight the roots were suffocating, so I repotted and am trying to regrow them".



CULTIVATION

Unusual and Natural Mounts

by Tom Kuligowski, angraecums.blogspot.com
Reprinted with Permission

Being an orchid hobbyist over the last 20+ years, I've fallen for several genera of orchids. One of the most beautiful displays I've encountered and grown is *Dendrobium aggregatum* var. *majus*. The long sprays of multiple yellow flowers cascading down from the plant itself is eye catching and impressive. Growing a number of the plants from various sizes of baskets gave me an idea that would be beautiful while in bloom but would also be visually appealing while not in bloom. Here is another of my mounting projects.

In January of 2006 I purchased five seedlings of *Dendrobium aggregatum* var. *majus*. I had the idea of mounting them on a piece of hardwood so that when they matured and flowered on a regular basis, the sprays of flowers hanging down would resemble a yellow-gold curtain. Leaving the seedlings in the pots that they came in for almost a year and a half gave them the chance to grow into a group of near blooming size plants.

I used the underside of a piece of cypress root (the grain of the wood would give the roots direction of growth as well as texture to adhere to) measuring 14 inches (35 cm) high by 22 inches (55 cm) wide.

In June of 2007, all five of the plants were wired to the wood. I used thin plastic coated plant wire which is readily available in most garden centers and through various orchid vendors. Rather than pre-drill holes for the wire to go through, I placed a small amount of damp moss between the plant and the wood (giving the root system exposure to moisture until a solid root base developed) then wrapped the wire around the plant itself and the wood.



Dendrobium aggregatum var. *majus* after mounting June 2007

The root system developed rather quickly; giving the plants the moisture and nutrients required along with securing them to the wood. They are watered every day into mid fall or early winter. When evening temperatures start to drop,

watering is reduced to every 4 to 6 days. It is this drier and cooler time that promotes flowering in the spring.

In April 2009, the first blooms appeared on three of the five plants, giving me an idea of how the mounted plants would look when all produced flowers. Four of the five plants bloomed in April 2010; leaving only the plant on the extreme right hand side yet to bloom. Being out of town when the plants bloomed in 2011 and 2012 didn't give me the opportunity to photograph the results which, to say the least, was a bit disappointing.



The first year 3 of 5 plants bloomed, the second year 4 of 5 plants bloomed.

While *Dendrobium aggregatum* var. *majus* is being watered every day from mid spring through early fall, it is fertilized every seven days. Once the cooler and drier rest period comes, it is watered every 3 to 4 weeks (mid fall to early spring). If the plants are not given this rest period, they will very often produce keikis rather than flowers.

When the plants are not in bloom, I wanted the mount to be impressive and visually appealing without the flowers. This group of plants has thrived here in the sub-tropical climate of South Florida. In colder climates, it will do fine as long as it is in a green house. Keep in mind the overall size; it may be too big to keep in the house whether in a window or under grow lights.



Dendrobium aggregatum var. *majus* after mounting December 2012



CULTIVATION

Repotting Bifoliate Keith Davis Style

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

If you grow cattleyas, you've been told that unifoliate cattleyas can be repotted any time, but bifoliate cattleyas are very persnickety about repotting. These cattleyas, particularly the species bifoliate, often initiate new roots only once during the year and if you repot outside this narrow window, your bifoliate cattleya may sulk or jump off the cliff in protest. So what do you do when you notice your bifoliate cattleya is doing poorly in a degraded potting mix with no green root tips in sight?

The conventional wisdom is that when you have a severely degraded potting mix, you restrict water to the plant until you see the new roots and can safely repot. The idea is that the roots are already being smothered because the rotting media is restricting air movement around the roots and the mix dries out much more slowly than fresh mix. Unfortunately, I am incapable of watching my plants slowly die and needed another approach... Keith Davis to the rescue!

Keith Davis from Reidsville, North Carolina is a cattleya aficionado who shared a lot of his orchid growing tips with our club, including this one on repotting bifoliate. His approach is to strip away the old mix and secure the plant on top of a bed of lava rock with no potting mix around the roots. Then you wait until the plant is ready to throw off its new roots.

You can water the plant every second or third day while you're waiting for the new roots to emerge. You can also place some sphagnum moss over the newest pseudobulb from

which the next pseudobulb and the new roots will emerge to protect and encourage the new growth. When the new roots finally emerge, you'll add a handful of your potting mix to the pot every week. The roots will grow and branch into your new mix. You will continue to add a handful of mix to the pot each week, and after about 4 or 5 weeks, your plant will be fully established in its new home with fresh mix.



While watering, I noticed this C. amethystoglossa was unhappy with wilted pseudobulbs and leaves.



One look at the roots and you know this isn't going to be pretty.

No wonder the plant looked so unhappy, those roots were screaming for air.



The potting mix 2" deep in the pot was degraded and the plant was very wobbly in the pot.



Make a layer of large chunks of lava rock two or three deep in the pot.

Set the plant on top of the lava rock and leave the roots open to the air.



Continued on page 10



CULTIVATION

Continued from page 9



Secure the plant in place with rhizome clips so it doesn't move in the pot.

Blc. Pali Polka Dot

Blc. Chinese Bronze x C. aclandiae



The potting mix is being backfilled over the new growing roots, about 2 weeks into the backfilling process.

A second rhizome clip over the first plus a plant halo helps secure the plant.



The plant is fully established with happily growing roots in fresh mix.



Blc. RIO's Touch of Class

C. Penny Kuroda x C. tigrina



Ruben Saulea gave me a seedling of this bifoliate cattleya. After its incredible first bloom, I couldn't wait for it to grow up.



In November there wasn't a live root and I was afraid the plant was a goner. I repotted Keith Davis style and then had to wait.

By May, there were three new growths emerging from behind the protective sphagnum. The plant is on the road to recovery!



Keith's No Stress Division - Position a pot filled with media next to the growing lead and lets it grow into the pot. (photo by Keith Davis)



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Orchid Adventures: The Redlands

For many years, we went down to the Redlands a little early ostensibly to help Ruben and Claudia set up their sales tent. We'd have some time to talk to our orchid friends before returning to the Sauleda's home for an evening of cocktails and tall tales. As you read this, Ruben and Claudia are settling into their new home in Colombia, getting ready for their next earthly adventure. The Redlands will never be the same for me without Ruben and Claudia... but it will be an incentive for us to leave the dairy farm for a trip to South America!



ORCHID ADVENTURES



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
***L. lobata* 'Jeni' AM/AOS**



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Phrag. Cape Gold Nugget



Grower Courtney Hackney
***Paph. Helen Congleton* 'Hackneau'
AM/AOS**



Grower Sue Bottom
Den. wassellii



Grower Bob & Yvonne Schimmel
V. Perry Hollingsworth* x *V. Katmea



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
***Paph. philippinense* f. *album* 'Albino Beauty' x
Paph. leucochilum f. *album* 'White Rabbit'**



Grower Sue Bottom
Lyc. Groganii



SHOW TABLE



Grower Bob & Yvonne Schimmel
Colm. Catatante 'Kilauea Karma'



Grower Courtney Hackney
Paph. Prince Edward of York



Grower Lola Stark
Onc. sphacelatum



Grower Sue Bottom
C. gaskelliana f. coerulea



Grower Sue Bottom
C. Eximia var. coerulea



Grower Courtney Hackney
L. purpurata var. schusteriana

