



CLUB NEWS



November 3 SAOS Meeting

by Janis Croft,
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Welcome and Thanks. President Bob Schimmel opened the meeting at 7:15 pm with approximately 57 attendees. Bob welcomed our four guests and returning members Marilyn Costanza and Tom Myers.

He also thanked Dorian Borro, Joanne Stygles, Loretta Griffith and Jeanette Smith for the refreshments. Bob reminded all to enjoy the coffee and treats while dropping a dollar in the jar. Linda Stewart recognized our November and December birthday people with free raffle tickets and Bob reminded all to vote for their favorite orchid on the show table.

Club Business. Sue Bottom presented the nominees for the 2016 SAOS Board which has all the 2015 officers and directors returning except for Lola Stark who asked to be released from duty. Thanks for your years of dedicated service Lola! Kathy Young was nominated to replace Lola as a Director at Large. The 2016 slate was approved by voice vote.

Dianne Batchelder announced that the Christmas Party will be held Dec. 1 at 6:30 pm. Penny and Dianne will provide home cooked pulled pork as our main dish. Members are encouraged to bring a dish to round out the meal. Dianne passed around a sign-up sheet for the side dishes. We'll meet at the Moultrie Trails Clubhouse located at 121 Crooked Tree Trail, St. Aug 32086 just north of Wildwood Drive where we've held the Christmas auction the last several years. The club will provide the low octane sodas, water, iced tea and coffee, but feel free to bring your beverage of choice. The event will end with an orchid auction where you can bid on a nice variety of different types of orchids.



SAOS Librarian Penny Halyburton brought in several books for borrowing. Remember to email Penny if you want to borrow a book (see our website) and she will bring your requested book(s) to the next meeting.

The Keiki Club get togethers will resume in January. The Ace Repotting Clinic will resume in February.

Orchid Events. The show season will resume in January.

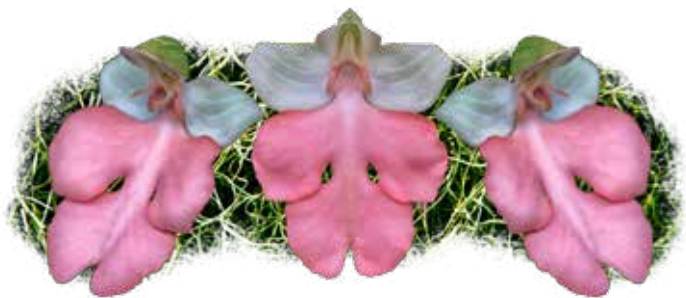
Show Table Review. Courtney Hackney started his review of the Show Table by discussing the judging criteria of "Clarity of Color". Using Harry's cymbidium, he pointed out the transparency and brightness of the color in the yellow flowers. He then moved on to a green bifoliate and reminded all that they really like bright light. Courtney brought in a red purple cattleya hybrid Blc. Amy Wakasugi made in the 1960's. Many of the original hybrids have become virused, but an unvirused cultivar was cloned and is available from Waldor Orchids. He praised the efforts of [Waldor Orchids](#) for maintaining their virus free collection and cloning these heirloom gems which are grown out in the Hawaiian Islands. Winding down his review of the show table, Courtney pointed out the blooming Bulb. Elizabeth Ann Buckleberry from Sue Bottom's collection. This plant prefers to grow in hanging baskets and will send out its hanging spikes all around the plant providing a beautiful display though they may only last for a week. Check out the photos of all our show table examples.



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CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

December

- 1 SAOS Christmas Auction, 6:30 pm
We're meeting on our normal Tuesday night but at a different location and starting earlier!
Moultrie Trails Clubhouse
121 Crooked Tree Trail, St. Aug 32086
- 6 JOS Christmas Auction, 5:30 pm
Orange Park Country Club
2525 Country Club Blvd, Orange Park

January

- 2-3 Sarasota Orchid Society Show
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
- 5 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
How to Grow Orchids in St. Augustine
St. Aug Orchid Society Members
- 12 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Speaker TBA
- 15-17 Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show
War Memorial Auditorium
- 17 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Preparing a Plant for Display
Charles and Kathy Young
160 West Genung St, St. Aug 32086
- 23-24 Tamiami International Orchid Festival
Dade County Fair Expo Center

February

- 2 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Orchid Growing Basics
Mac Rivenbark, Mac's Orchids
- 6 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 6-7 Venice Area Orchid Society Show
Venice Community Center

- 9 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Speaker TBA
- 12-14 Greater Orlando Orchid Society Show
Orlando Garden Club
- 13-14 Boca Raton Orchid Society Show
Safe Schools Institute
- 21 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Collecting Rainwater for Watering
Linda Stewart's Home
342 Cracker Swamp Dirt Rd, E Palatka
- 26-28 Naples Orchid Society Show
Moorings Presbyterian Church



St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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CLUB NEWS

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SAOS Program. Our guest speaker was John Salvanti who presented "Roots! It's All About the Roots!" John and his partner, Tom Purviance, left their professions and started the very successful and reputable Parkside Orchids in Pennsylvania in the 90's which they sold when they recently moved to Florida.

He started by stating the three things one needs to know in order to grow orchids well.

- Where the plant grows in nature
- Understand the biology of the plant
- Translate this knowledge into the best cultural conditions to grow your orchid

One must understand that roots have an intimate relationship to their substrate (what they sit on). The term epiphyte means a plant that grows harmlessly upon another plant and derives its moisture and nutrients from the air, rain, and sometimes from debris accumulating around it. This is why orchids like to grow mounted or sometimes jump out of their pots so the roots can be open to the air. John showed several photos of various orchids in situ from his travels to the rain forests in Central and South America, as well as the Far East. He had one image of a very large *Phragmipedium* growing atop a huge rock in the middle of a river in Ecuador that showed the intimacy of the roots to the detritus on the rock.

He then showed close up shots of various healthy and unhealthy roots. A cross section of a root showed three distinct sections which he simply called the Dead Stuff (the velamen), the Spongy Stuff (the core) and the filament (the vascular bundles). The velamen is on the outside and still functions even after it is "dead". It absorbs water and the dissolved minerals within seconds and later prevents rapid evaporation of the internal water from the roots. He had videos that showed a drop of water on a white healthy root. Within seconds the root started to turn green where the water was being absorbed, the velamen becoming translucent so the root turned greenish showing the underlying chlorophyll. It was amazing to see how rapidly the single droplet was absorbed throughout the root, as

well as to recognize the roots can photosynthesize like the leaves. He mentioned that the terrestrial (or semiterrestrial) *Cymbidiums* have roots that are very different from the roots of epiphytic orchids as they have no velamen layer and contain no chloroplasts. They are thick and fleshy and can hold lots of water. The roots of *Paphiopedilums* are similar to the *Cymbidiums* but they also have very fine root hairs to aid in absorption.

Finally he discussed the mistakes we make when watering. First, we tend to water too often particularly if we are watering correctly. He had a video showing the typical watering mistake which is to take your watering can and pour water all around the top of the media and then move on to the next plant like one waters their house plants. Correct watering requires a full flowing stream of water over the plant, irrigating with the flush of water for a long period of time, e.g. the time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday". Finish watering your orchids and then go back and start over with fertilizer this time. Then don't water again until the plant needs it per its culture requirements. Second, almost never water at night - very few exceptions. Third, don't ignore the plant's cues. He showed a slide of a *Phalaenopsis* whose leaves were shriveled and droopy. It took a while for this plant to get that way so why wasn't the owner aware of the plant's cry for help. Fourth, don't use softened water. Most water softeners use sodium based products. Some are using a new potassium option which is okay to use for watering but not the sodium based systems. And finally, insufficient watering can occur but he rarely sees examples of that. Orchid owners major mistake is over watering. It was quite an interesting hour on roots.

Meeting Conclusion. Dick Roth announced the Member's Choice Award as Courtney Hackney's beautiful Blc. Amy Wakasugi 'Yamanashi' cattleya. The silent auction had quite a few plants and was quite successful. The raffle table was the final event of the evening with Dianne Batchelder and Christie Peppard presiding. Thanks to all of those that volunteered to stay and clean up the room.



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



CLUB NEWS



Keiki Club on Holiday Hiatus

The days are getting shorter and cooler and your orchids are thinking about taking a winter nap. Make sure they are protected in the event of cold winter weather and then focus on enjoying this glorious thing we call life. Enjoy your friends and family during the holiday months. We'll start talking about orchids again in January. Til then, enjoy every moment!



December 1 Monthly SAOS Meeting Christmas Party and Orchid Auction

We know how busy December gets with family and friends and Christmas get togethers. We hope you'll be able to spread holiday cheer at our St. Aug Orchid Society Christmas party this year. Our party planners will wow you with their plans for the best Xmas celebration ever.

- Our annual Christmas orchid auction is scheduled for our normal first Tuesday meeting night, December 1.
 - We'll meet at the Moultrie Trails Clubhouse located at 121 Crooked Tree Trail just north of Wildwood Drive where we've held the Christmas auction the last several years.
 - We'll start our social hour at 6:30 pm instead of the normal 7 pm start time. This will give us a chance to tell tall tales before we hit the vittles.
 - Bring your beverage of choice. The club will provide the low octane sodas, water, iced tea and coffee, but if you enjoy a cuppa with your meal, feel free!
 - One thing that hasn't changed is all the good food. Our party planners will have a main dish or two for you to enjoy, and then the fun begins with all the side dishes!
 - Members are encouraged to bring a dish to round out the meal. Salads, potato and pasta side dishes, vegetable side dishes and desserts have been big favorites in years gone by.
 - We'll finish up the evening with an orchid auction where you can bid on a nice variety of different types of orchids.
- Mostly we're looking to kick back and have fun, spreading holiday cheer with our orchid buddies. Hope to see you there!

Support the SAOS
Buy an Orchid T-shirt
as a Christmas Gift



\$20
each
Plus shipping

Ladies & Mens

Save on shipping and pickup at
SAOS Christmas Party
Order by Nov. 16th
Order on website below
To have \$5 donated to the SAOS
type SAOS in comment box on order form
<http://cypresspondenterprises.com/gallery-orchidstshirts.htm>



INSPIRATION



Ghost Orchid
Dendrophylax lindenii 'Glade Sprit'

Grown by: Keith Davis

Photograph by: James Harris

Photo enhancement by: Terry Bottom



CULTIVATION

Your Orchids in November

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



General Growing Tips. Short days and cold nights necessitate adjustments for both plants and growers. Reduce water and fertilizer gradually until you reach your winter target, about half that of the summer levels. Don't fertilize winter dormant orchids (catasetums, soft cane dendrobiums, etc.) after Thanksgiving. Prepare your plants for their winter home. Inspect them, remove dead leaves and sheaths with a sterile tool, and spray for pests if necessary. Protect them when temperatures are projected to drop below their winter minimum acceptable temperature.

Cattleyas. Retie your cattleyas to support the new growth and orient the new growth toward the sun. Bloom sheaths may be showing signs of yellowing. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths should be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within to prevent water condensation from rotting it. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb. New growths of *Cattleya skinneri* may have dried sheaths, do not remove them.



Dendrobiums. For the commonly available phalaenopsis type dendrobiums, protect them when temperatures are projected to drop down to 55 or 60 F. The winter dormant dendrobiums (nobiles, seminobiles and callista section) should be separated from your other plants so you can easily reduce the water and fertilizer they receive through

Thanksgiving. Shoot for minimum temperatures of 40 F.

Oncidiums. This is the blooming season for the Brazilian Oncidium section crispum with their chestnut and brown and butter yellow markings. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period. Stake your inflorescence as the spike grows for best presentation. Protect them when temperatures are projected to drop down to 40 or 50 F.

Paphiopedilums. Paphs can be potted almost year round. Examine those that flower in the summer and pot as necessary. While paphs never like to dry out entirely, this month marks the beginning of the time when growth, and hence, water and fertilizer needs slow down dramatically. Observe your plants and do not water if they are not at least partially drying out.

Phalaenopsis. Phals are starting to spike now. Stake the inflorescence loosely once it gets around 10 inches long about 4 inches below the growing tip and move your tie upward as the spike elongates. Remember the flower will grow toward the light. If you move the plant, the flower spike will twist seeking out the sun so you won't get graceful pendulous blooms. Some people put a spot of nail polish on the pot so they know which direction the pot should face. Consider applying a preventative copper spray to help prevent fungal and rot problems.



Vandas. Vandas should be in their winter homes in the brightest location possible and you can reduce watering and feeding. The only cold hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Shoot for minimum temperatures of 50 to 60 F. If you have *Rhynchostylis gigantea*, look for inflorescences that are emerging now for January flowering.

Other Genera: Catasetum Relatives.

Winter resting plants include the Catasetinae (catasetum, clowesia, cynoches and mormodes). These should be separated from your other plants so you can easily reduce the water and fertilizer they receive through Thanksgiving.



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@hotmail.com

Q1. There are some strange white spheres on long filaments on this *Brassavola nodosa*. What are they?



A1. Those are lacewing eggs. According to Planet Natural “the common green lacewing (*Chrysoperla rufilabris*) is a widely used beneficial insect which naturally controls many different pests. Actually, most species of the adult lacewing do not kill other insects but subsist on pollen, sweet nectar, etc. It is their offspring or lacewing larvae that do the job. The adult lacewing lays her eggs on the foliage, each on top of hair-like filaments. After a few days the eggs hatch and a tiny larva emerges which is also known as the “aphid lion” because of its voracious appetite...Besides aphids, they feed on just about any soft-bodied pest they can “grab,” including citrus mealybugs, cottony cushion scale, spider mites, thrips, caterpillars, insect eggs, etc.”

Q2. I wonder what's best to do once an orchid begins to look like a palm tree at the bottom? I find that terrarium bark, available in any pet store, is sterile and of the right consistency to do a good job when repotting. It is growing roots with beautiful healthy green root tips. I suspect it is getting too much or too little water, but I don't know which.



A2. That is a really nicely grown phal, it has 8 beautiful green leaves and it doesn't get much better than that! The potting mix looks like it's getting a bit old so it probably should be refreshed, but you don't want to disrupt the bloom cycle by repotting. You'll have to check to see how wobbly the plant is in the pot. If it's not wobbly, leave it be until after it is done blooming. If it's very wobbly in the pot you'll have a decision to make, best for the plant to be repotted but not best for this year's blooms. You may be able to repot without disrupting the roots too much if you water wash the mix away from the roots and then just drop new mix into the pot or drop the roots as is into a slightly larger pot and backfill with fresh mix. You'll have to trust your instincts!

Q3. Can you tell me what this is on the leaves of my Degarmoara (Dgmra.) Memoria Jay Yamada? How can it be treated?



A3. Get some copper and spray all the leaves, just move any dendrobiums away from the area you are going to spray because they don't like copper. More important is figuring out how the bacterial/fungal infection occurred, too much leaf wetness? not enough air movement? Look at your growing area and see which ones seem to have the leaf spotting and which ones don't, perhaps there is something different in the environmental conditions that can be changed going forward. Make a note to yourself to spray plans preventatively next year, perhaps monthly in August and September to protect the plants from infection. The best kept secret is that fungicides work as a protective armor against infection, very few of them can actually cure an infection once it is inside the plant. At that point, the best you can hope for is keeping it from spreading.



CULTIVATION

Orchid Basics for Beginners - Roots

by Jim Brydie, [Ku-Ring-Ai Orchid Society](#)

Any good gardener can grow orchids. But, as a good gardener knows, evolution has led to all sorts of plants (e.g., cacti, bromeliads) adapting their growth characteristics to suit specific niches in nature. To grow any plant that has developed a specialised growth cycle, we need to have a basic understanding of the environment in which it grows, and the particular adaptations it has made to fit its environment. Once we understand those fundamentals, we can usually quite easily adjust our backyard culture to suit them.

The epiphyte adaptation is usually aimed at gaining access to more light, higher in the forest canopy, but the downside of being an epiphyte is that up in the trees they don't have access to the water they would get in the soil below. This means that the roots, stems, and leaves of epiphytes have become modified to cope with their dryer environment. The leaves for example have a waxy outer surface and have fewer stomata (breathing pores), and the stomata they do have are usually shut during the day, to prevent water loss.

The roots of epiphytes are also physically different to those of non epiphytes and have evolved to operate in air. As the root grows, the outer layer of cells dies to create an insulating sponge like surface that appears white when it is dry. This layer of empty cells is called velamen and can be from 1 to 8 cells thick. It has two main purposes. First, when dry, the empty cells protect the living cells beneath from evaporation.

Secondly, when water is available, the empty cells quickly fill with water like a reservoir, which is then transported by the living cells and the rest of the orchid. The velamen is so absorbent that it will even take up moisture from clouds and mist. When wet, velamen appears to go green in patches, reflecting the chlorophyll in the living cells under the water filled outer cells. The few patches that stay white are specific air pathways that help the roots breathe when wet.

The epiphytic orchid lifestyle is one of alternate cycles of wet and dry. When it rains they get soaked, but when the rain stops, the roots quickly dry off again, at least on the outside. Orchid roots need this airy environment where they can breath. If they are wet too long they rot, and over watering kills more orchids than any other single failure in culture.

As a general rule, don't water an orchid again until just before the medium it is in has dried out from the previous watering. Bear in mind of course, that some types of orchids need more moisture than others and different types of orchids require different variances of the wet dry cycle. To get it exactly right for your particular orchid, you might need to ask advice from someone who grows that type well.



As you might have guessed from the introduction, orchids are one of those niche plants, and the major thing we need to understand about them is that nearly all the ones we hobbyists grow, are epiphytes in nature. That is, instead of growing on the ground in soil, they grow on tree trunks or branches, or sometimes on rock surfaces amongst leaf litter.

From all the above, you can see that these kinds of orchids cannot be grown in soil. The most common epiphyte potting medium is commercially composted and graded pine bark. It is sold in bags graded as coarse (pieces about 0.75-1"), medium (about 0.5-0.75"), and small (about .25-0.5"). There is also a special mix for Cymbidium orchids which contains a variety of sizes and a proportion of even finer particles to retain more moisture. Professional growers also use other materials such as peat and perlite, coco peat chunks, and many other things, but if you are just starting out, stick to bark, and as a general rule, use as large a size as is practical depending on the nature of the roots. In general, for thick, coarse rooted plants like Cattleyas and Laelias, use coarse bark or a 50/50 mix of coarse and medium. For fine rooted orchids like Maxillarias and Miltonias which have roots around 1 or 2 mm diameter, use fine bark, and for those in between, use medium bark.

Orchids are a very diverse group. Different genera and species have colonised an amazing range of habitats with substantially different climatic conditions. To grow any particular type really well, you need to understand the type you want to grow and then fine tune the growing medium, the watering cycle, the amount of shade, fertilising, and air movement. However, most of the epiphytes are fairly hardy and adaptable little devils, and will grow quite well provided that you:

- water regularly, just before they dry out and not before,
- provide ½ strength fertiliser (dissolved in water) on a regularly basis (i.e., "weakly weekly")
- grow under about 50% shadecloth or its equivalent.
- ensure there is reasonable air movement around them, and don't jam too many together in a restricted space.



CULTIVATION

Rebasketing Stanhopeas, Jill Godfrey Style

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com

Stanhopeas are generally grown in baskets with wide openings to allow the ephemeral flowers to emerge from the bottom or side of the basket. Squat vanda baskets, deeper plastic pots and lined wire baskets are used with a variety of mixes including sphagnum, bark or custom blends. Some general thoughts on how to basket your stanhopeas:



Stanhopea inodora with beautiful and fragrant flowers emerging from the sides of the basket.

Potting Mix. The potting mix should allow for consistent moisture levels as well as very fast drainage, which sounds like a contradiction of terms, and of course your ideal potting mix is largely dependent on your watering habits. In his book *The Astonishing Stanhopeas*, Aussie Barney Greer suggests it doesn't matter two hoots what mix you use. He talks of one grower who used nothing but old horse manure with the added benefit that the grower never needed to fertilize. As a general rule, a fairly shallow bed of potting media is preferable so the flower doesn't have to travel too far to emerge from the base of the basket.

The Basket. The wider the slats in the basket, the better because wide open spaces increase the odds that your flower will find its way out of the basket. Some of the wooden slatted baskets can be problematic because the emerging bud will simply stop growing if its growth is impeded by a wooden slat. Of course, the more wide open the basket, the more likely a basket liner may have to be used, particularly if potting in a bark based mix.

Lining the Basket. The basket can be lined with anything that will hold the potting medium in place without being so dense a barrier that the flower can't peak through. Some alternatives include several layers of newspaper, moss, coconut fiber and preformed coco fiber liners, which are convenient but don't forget to remove that annoying plastic layer from between the bottom layers of the liner or you'll never see any blooms.

Rebasketting Stanhopeas – Jill Godfrey Style



Your materials clockwise from top, 1 inch hardware cloth, tape measure, wire hanger, lineman's pliers and nippers.



Measure twice and cut once! Decide what size basket you need to house your plant.



Snip away, cut flush along the edge of the wire.



Remove the extra wire to prevent blood loss later.

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CULTIVATION

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Bend each end of the basket, wires will be attached later.



Voilà, your basket is reporting for duty.



Add a thin layer of wet sphagnum moss.



Place your Stanhopea on top of the moss.



Add a little sphagnum around the roots.



Cover the edges with green tree moss.



Tie the plant in place with wire.



A good watering and wait for the roots to reestablish.



HOME & BACKYARD

Home and Backyard Orchid Growing

Suzanne and Robert Susko – Pool Lanai



Suzanne Susko with her monster dendrobium that seems determined to bloom for the next 2 months.

Suzanne and Robert Susko have a unique division of labor, he picks out orchids with an unusual growth habit or beautiful flowers and she figures out how to grow them. Okay, maybe it's not quite that simple, after all Suz picks out some of her own orchids too!

Suz grows her orchids in the pool lanai which adjoins a covered porch attached to the house. The Super Screen covering the lanai screens out about 25% of the incoming light. During the warm growing season the plants grow on rolling racks purchased from Home Depot. The shelving heights are adjustable so the tall dendrobiums and short stuff, such as the bulbophyllums, each have enough room to stretch toward the sun. The racks are retrofit with casters so they can be moved into more or lesser light, more or lesser exposure to rain and ultimately in and out of the portable greenhouse they use from October to March. The FlowerHouse portable greenhouse is plastic and has two windows and two doors so there is ample air flow even on warm days although a fan is run continuously to enhance air movement. An electric heater is used to keep the plants comfortable during really cold weather.

The Suskos solved one of the problems most Florida orchid growers have, water containing high amounts of soluble salts, in a unique way. Their water comes from the Palm Coast utility system although they do have a well for irrigating the yard. They installed a water softener filled with resin rather than salt to soften all the water used in the house. This type of softener is probably more than twice the cost of a traditional water softener, but it is cheaper to operate and you don't introduce toxic sodium into your water supply. They remove any residual chlorine with a charcoal filter and voila, the water is as close to rainwater as you can get without capturing it as it falls from the sky, which they also do. This high purity water gives them a huge advantage in growing all types of orchids, even those salt sensitive cloud forest types that the rest of us just dream about.



The three adjustable racks can be moved around to the right spot during the warm growing season and then into the FlowerHouse portable greenhouse (shown in the background) for the winter.

Suz has tried quite a few potting mixes and techniques. She uses a bark based medium purchased from OFE (Special Orchid Mix #5) for dendrobiums, cattleyas and similar orchids and sphagnum moss from Green Barn Orchid Supplies for bulbophyllums, catasetums, neofinetias, etc. She grows a lot of orchids on mounts and experiments with growing in baskets, on rafts and in pots. She also has experimented with a variety of fertilizers. Since moving to Florida she has been most successful using Peter's Excel CalMag fertilizer throughout much of the year, but applies a bloom booster to some varieties in the spring and in the fall. She also swears by Biogold Original, a much nicer name than bat poop, which she learned about with her bonsai plants. She applies this organic fertilizer from Japan in a little plastic basket stuck into each pot and just waits for the incredible growth response. She's got other tricks up her sleeves too, and she'll be doing a show and tell session at our January 2016 meeting when several of our members will talk about how they grow orchids in St. Augustine... and Jacksonville... and Palm Coast. Mark your calendars!

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HOME & BACKYARD

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Suz grows some of her *Neofinetia falcata* varieties Japanese style, in AAAAA sphagnum mounds in a special Japanese holder made for these beauties.



She likes the looks and the way orchids thrive when grown mounted, including the leafless Jamaican ghost orchid *Dendrophylax funalis* on the right.



Myrmecocattleya (Myc.) Luster
(*Cattleya forbesii* x *Myrmecophila thomsoniana*)

It all started for Suz with a SunBulb bag baby cattleya back in 1974, which she grew and flowered in a basement under lights while she and Robert were doing hush hush work in DC and living in the Virginia burbs. They made the move down to Palm Coast in 1997 and never looked back. She has changed her growing area and techniques to accommodate her Florida home and is always fine tuning her approach, learning new ways of doing old things better and trying new kinds of orchids. Her enabler, er I mean husband, helps her find different equipment and growing supplies as well as new types of orchids to grow. Suz is a woman of many talents; she is also a potter with her own wheel and kiln. Wonder how long it might be 'til she makes functional and decorative pots and mounts for her... and our orchids?



Ctsm. Razzle-Dazzle, Fred Clarke registered this cross at Suz's request after she bloomed the seedling bought from Fred at the Redland Festival

Bulb. saltatorium var. albociliatum, a truly oddball Bulbo with feathery appendages on flower



Blc. Cherry Suisse 'Jean Gilliland' AM/AOS
(C. Chocolate Drop x Blc. Ocone)



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
Cld. Jumbo Rosy



Grower Bob & Yvonne Schimmel
Onc. Gower Ramsey 'Orange Delight'



Grower Suzanne Susko
Coelogyne (Coel.) speciosa



Grower Sue Bottom
Blc. Blu Flamingo



Grower Dick Roth
Cym. Milton Carpenter 'Everglades Gold' AM/AOS



Grower Courtney Hackney
Epi. porpax



Grower Sue Bottom
Ctsm. Judy Wagner



SHOW TABLE



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Beverly Cobb



Grower Courtney Hackney
Blc. Amy Wakasugi 'Yamanashi'



Grower Suzanne Susko
Zygolum (Zglm.) Rhein Harlequin



Grower Linda Stewart
Bc. Binosa x Bc. Little Stars



Grower Sue Bottom
Blc. Lois McNeil 'Ace' AM/AOS



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Bc. Green Dragoon

