

CLUB NEWS

**Vern Bloch****March 1 SAOS****Meeting**

by Janis Croft,
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Welcome and Thanks.

President Bob Schimmel opened the meeting at 7:15 pm with approximately 50 attendees. Bob welcomed our six guests, returning member Persia Tuvim and new members Nancy Miller and Mary Radcliffe-Gicca. He also thanked

Jeannette Smith, Dorianna Borrer, Shirley Browning and Kathy Young for the refreshments while reminding all to drop a dollar in the jar. Our Membership VP Linda Stewart recognized our three March birthday people with free raffle tickets. Bob also reminded all to vote for their favorite orchid on the show table.

Club Business. This is the last month for membership renewals (\$15/individual and \$25/family), after which we update our membership lists to include only renewing members. If you haven't renewed, you can mail your check to Bill Gourley at 807 Kalli Creek Lane, St. Augustine, FL 32080.

There is a new way for our members to support the club. If you are an Amazon shopper, log onto Smile.Amazon.com, select St. Augustine Orchid Society as your favorite charity and start shopping. This is a mirror site to Amazon and they will donate 0.5% of your purchase to the club—remember the Smile part!

The March 15 Keiki Club will be on "Potting and Mounting Orchids," at Sue and Terry Bottom's home, 6916 Cypress Lake Court. Many of your orchids are sending out new roots, this is the best time to move them to a new home.

We'll talk about repotting using different potting mixes as opposed to how to grow your orchids au naturale. There may be some orchid divisions for you to mount and or pot up (one to a customer), bring a 4 and 6 in clay pot, just in case. To cover the cost of supplies, there will be a \$5

charge. If you have more than 1 or 2 of your own plants that need repotting, please bring them to the Ace repotting clinic.

The Ace Repotting Clinic will be on March 5 from 9 am til 1 pm

Potting supplies are now available at the meetings, although to be sure we don't run out you can email Sue Bottom with your request to be brought for purchase at the next meeting.

If you want to borrow an orchid book (see our website), email SAOS Librarian Penny Halyburton and she will bring your requested book(s) to the next meeting.

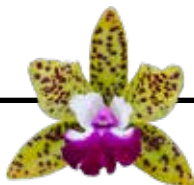
Orchid Events. The [Fairchild's Annual Orchid Show](#) is March 11 to 13 in Coral Gables, FL. Check out our SAOS website for dates and locations of other upcoming shows.

The Jacksonville Orchid Show, Wonderful World of Orchids, will be held April 2 and 3. Janis Croft, Show Coordinator, solicited help to setup our SAOS exhibit. Now we just need your orchids in exhibit quality shape. Please offer up your plants for the exhibit. Email Sue Bottom the name of your plant, pot size, and overall color as soon as you can (even if you aren't sure the plant will be ready). It's easier to delete names from the list than add them at the last minute. The latest to send in the info is March 24. Janis will contact you to arrange drop off of your plants.



Show Table Review. Courtney Hackney had a spectacular array of orchids at this month's show table. He started with a Neostylis Pinky which is a hybrid between Neofinetia falcata and Rhynchostylis gigantea, two species

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Upcoming Orchid Events

March

- 4-5 Englewood Area Orchid Society Show
Englewood Methodist Church
- 4-6 Martin County Orchid Society Show
Martin County Fairgrounds
- 5 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 5-6 Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show
Egypt Shrine Center
- 8 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Speaker TBA
- 11-13 Fairchild's International Orchid Festival
Fairchild Botanic Garden, Coral Gables
- 11-12` Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance Show
Naples United Church of Christ
- 13 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Mounting and Repotting Orchids
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct, St Aug 32086
- 18-20 Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show
Port St. Lucie Community Center

April

- 2 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 2-3 Jacksonville Orchid Society Show
The Garden Center of Jacksonville
- 5 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Orchid Auction
- 12 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Speaker TBA
- 16-17 EPIC Celebration of Spring
Annual Flower and Garden Expo
Ag Center, St. Augustine
- 16-17 Tallahassee Orchid Society Show
Doyle Conner Building
- 17 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Picnic and Orchid Swap
Memorial Lutheran Church
3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086

- 29-1 Platinum Coast Orchid Society Show
Kiwanis Island Park Gym & Annex

May

- 3 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Courtney Hackney, Hackneau Art & Orchids
Blue Cattleyas
- 7 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 7-8 Volusia County Society Show
Volusia County Fairgrounds
- ?? JOS Picnic
3611 Richmond St., Jax 32205
- 13-15 Redlands International Orchid Festival
Fruit and Spice Park, Homestead

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

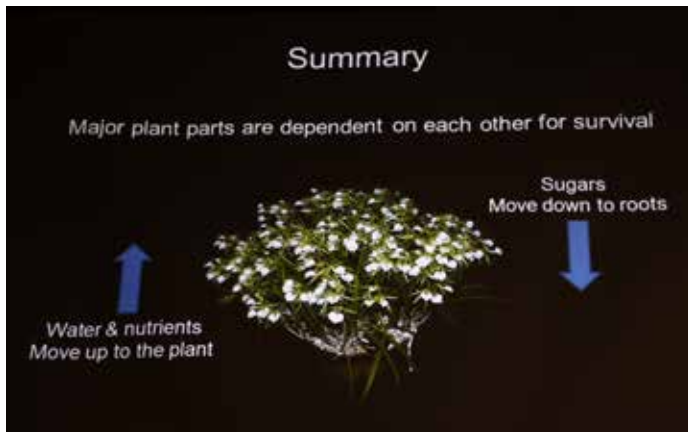
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that were also on the table. Next he noted that Sue Bottom and he had conspired to bring in orange plants to show all how *C. aurantiaca* is used as a parent in many orange based orchids. The flower does not open all the way so hybridizers work to remove the cupping of the flower in the offspring. He then moved to the Blc. Zul, one of his favorite hybrids and asked the audience to guess how far back this pastel colored plant had *C. aurantiaca* in its lineage. We guessed correctly — great, grandparents. He moved on to a beautiful example of Den. White Grace which hybridizers value highly because there is absolutely no color but white in this orchid. Then he held up the *Dendrochilum cobbianum* that is grown in sphagnum moss and loves lots of water. Courtney continued down the table sharing tidbits about each of the orchids too numerous to list here. Check out the photos of all our show table examples at the end of the newsletter.



SAOS Program. Our evening speaker was orchid hobbyist Vern Bloch talking about how orchid leaves and roots are interdependent on each other. Vern Bloch is a retired Navy pilot who first became interested in orchids after leaving the service in 1987. He started his presentation by reminding us of how humans have a vascular system that transports

nutrients and wastes through our bodies. Orchids have a different but corollary system. Both need energy to grow and this is derived from getting fuel and burning it with oxygen. Photosynthesis is how the plant achieves growth. Plant cells, through the chlorophyll in the leaves, get energy from the sun, nutrients and water from the roots and carbon dioxide and oxygen from the air. The combination of all fuels plant cell growth.

Water and water soluble mineral nutrients move up through the plants roots via the Xylem (like our veins) and organic compounds like carbohydrates and sugars move throughout the plant through the Phloem (like our arteries). Where do the sugars come from? The carbohydrates are simple organic compounds that the plant uses to transport and store energy. Sunlight is the energy source the plant uses to synthesize carbohydrates via the chlorophyll.

Some of the energy that is produced during the daylight hours is consumed in the respiration process by which the plant maintains tissue and starts new growths. Some of the energy is converted into starches which can be stored in the leaves and pseudobulbs for future reserves. During periods of darkness, some of the stored energy is consumed in the respiration process, which is driven by oxygen uptake by the roots and leaves. As long as the energy produced during the photosynthesis process exceeds the energy consumed in the respiration process, the plant can store enough energy for use in producing new growths and flowers.

What can go wrong? If the roots are unable to supply enough water either due to root conditions or lack of water, the leaves wither and/or drop and the pseudobulbs shrivel. Or the opposite can happen causing edema which is when water is absorbed by the roots quicker than it is lost through the leaves, which causes swelling of plant cells and produces lesions resembling a blister which looks like scale. There is a fine balance of water, nutrients and energy traveling from the roots to the leaves and back that keep our orchids healthy.

Meeting Conclusion. Harry McElroy announced the Member's Choice Award as Courtney's Blc. Memoria Grant Eichler 'Lenette' HCC/AOS, that had a huge lavender flower. 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



Shop at Smile.Amazon.com, Help the SAOS

You can name the St. Augustine Orchid Society as your favorite charity using the AmazonSmile program and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Here's a link to [register SAOS](#) as your favorite charity. Don't forget to log into [Smile.Amazon.com](#) (rather than amazon.com) when making purchases so the club is credited.



CLUB NEWS

February 21 Keiki Club Collecting Rainwater for Your Orchids

More than two dozen club members met at Linda Stewart's home on a glorious early spring day. Linda gave a guided tour of her greenhouse in all its splendor. Linda talked about the problems she had with using the very alkaline well water particularly when agricultural use in her area encourages salt water intrusion. She needed a better quality water, particularly for her miniature rainforest beauties that require a more pure water with less dissolved salts.

Linda is quite an accomplished handygirl and she envisioned and installed her own rainwater collection and delivery system. She has two interconnected 325 gallon plastic tanks that collect rainwater from the roof on one side of her greenhouse. The tanks are painted and/or covered with shade cloth to reduce algae growth, and she also adds Green-Shield, an algacide and disinfectant that is one of the quaternary ammonium compounds like Physan, Consan and pool algacide. An on demand electrical pump is installed in the outlet pipe from the tanks to the greenhouse that mists the mounted orchids and vandas daily for 10 minutes or so. The tanks, when full, can meet the watering demands for 3 weeks or so and if there is a droughty period where rain doesn't replenish the tanks, she uses the well water as a back up. Linda gave us a guided tour of her growing and utilities areas, including the site of the future mushroom farm. A great time was had by all.



April 5 Monthly SAOS Meeting Spring Orchid Auction

We'll be having our spring auction at the meeting in April. An advance listing of the plants to be auctioned will be posted online to whet your appetite. We'll have great refreshments and a lively auction. Courtney will talk about the show table plants, so don't forget to bring your beautiful blooming plants to the meeting!

March 13 Keiki Club Repotting and Mounting Orchids

Many of your orchids are sending out new roots, this is the best time to move them to a new home. We'll talk about repotting using different potting mixes as opposed to how to grow your orchids au naturale. There may be some orchid divisions for you to mount and or pot up (one to a customer), bring a 4 and 6 in clay pot, just in case. To cover the cost of supplies, there will be a \$5 charge. If you have more than 1 or 2 of your own plants that need repotting, please bring them to the Ace repotting clinic.

Where: Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
[6916 Cypress Lake Court, St. Aug 32086](#)

When: March 15, 1 to 3 pm

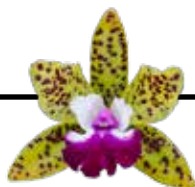
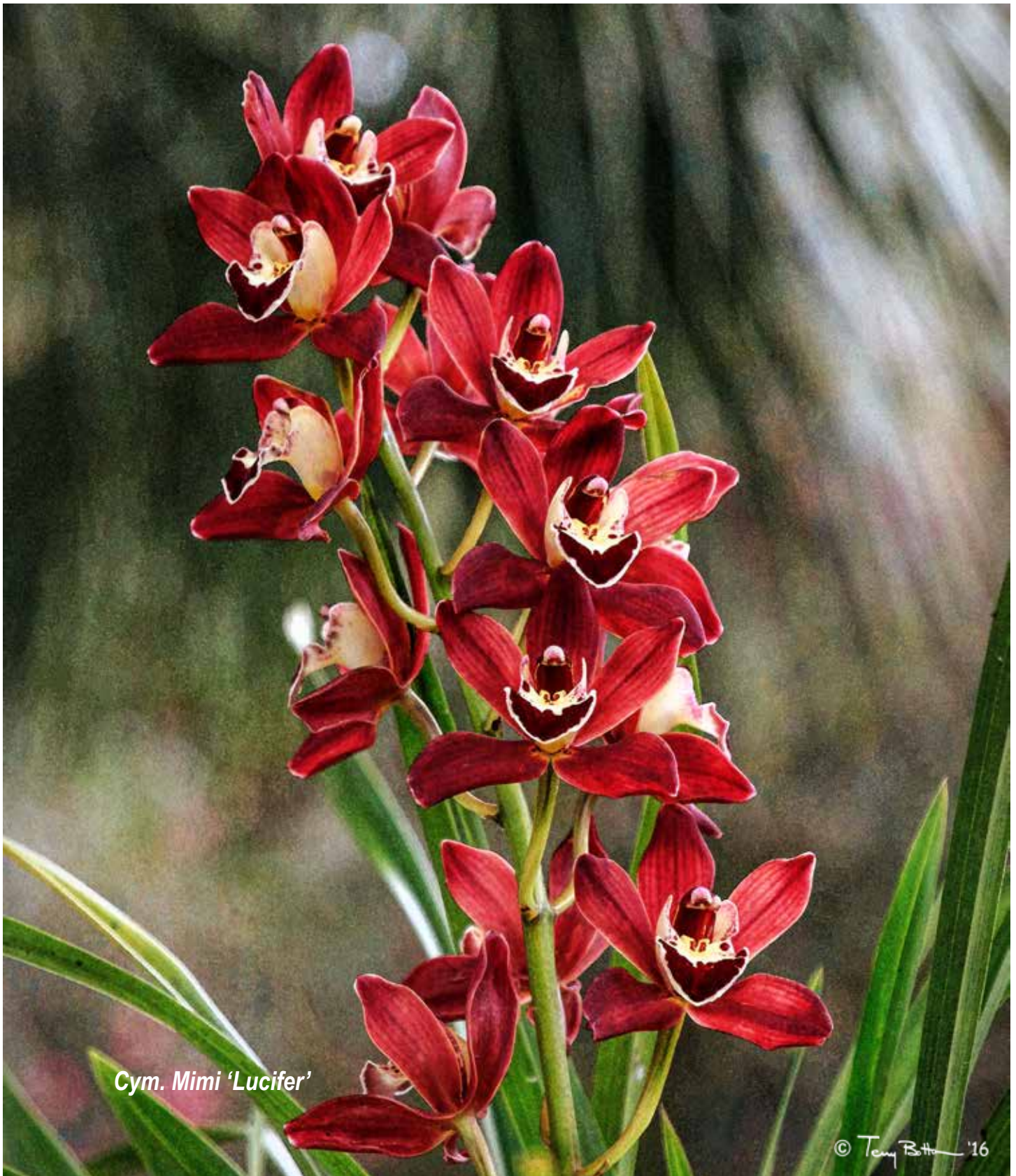


Have You Renewed Your Membership?

Membership dues are collected during the first three months of the year. Welcome back to all our renewing members! 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 SAOS roster and email distribution list. You don't want to miss any newsletters!



INSPIRATION



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@hotmail.com

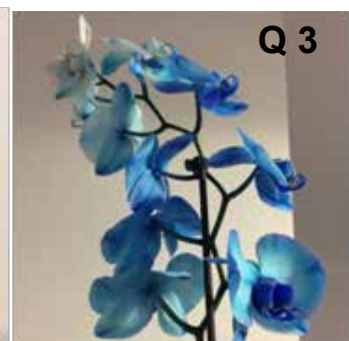
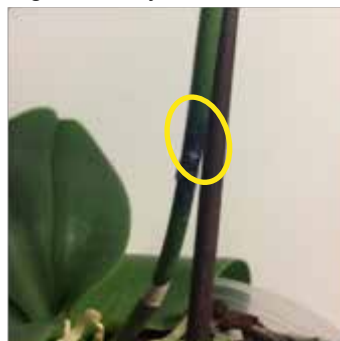
read your article, and now I realize that I took no note of the growing end. Which end should be up and which down?

A1. What a beautiful tuber, or should I say tubers! The top is where the two tubers join together, the bottom is the base of each tuber, you can see where the tuber flattened a little bit when it hit the bottom of the pot. They look really healthy, bet you got a great flower or two from it this past year.



A2. That looks like botrytis on the flowers, a fungal blighting that ruins the flowers but doesn't really hurt the plant. You can spray it with Daconil or use the home remedy of baking soda, 1/2 tsp dissolved in 1 quart of water sprayed on the flowers. The spots will likely remain for the life of the flower.

Q3. I noticed this morning that the stem of my orchid is turning black and I can't seem to find anything on what it might be, any ideas?



Q3. Your phalaenopsis was injected with a dye to turn the flower color blue from its normal white. If you look down the flower spike, you'll be able to find the injection point. The black isn't black really, it's the discoloration from the point of injection where they dyed the flower. It won't hurt the plant. Enjoy the blue flowers this year. If you can, summer it outdoors in a shady spot protected from the rain, let it get a little chill this fall and then bring it inside to a nice warm spot. Next year when it reblooms, it will bloom white and you might even enjoy those white flowers more!



Q2. My phal has pock marks on its beautiful petals but the leaves are untouched and very beautiful. I bought it from Home Depot in great condition and the condition developed 2 weeks afterwards.





Orchid Greenhouse Etiquette Courtney's Orchid Growing Tips

Years ago, a renowned South Florida orchid hybridizer told a group of novice growers how he had let an elderly gentleman and his wife into his stud house. In those days this was seldom done because of the uncertain risk of transferring

disease and the intense competition that existed between commercial growers. But this was a very nice gentleman that had just a few orchids. A sudden phone call interrupted the tour with the couple left to look around for a few minutes. When he returned, the elderly couple thanked him for this wonderful opportunity and as a token of their gratitude noted that they had cleaned all of the dead flowers off the plants. In the bottom of the garbage can was just about every seedpod made that winter.



The purpose of retelling this story was that there are certain rules of orchid etiquette that should be followed when visiting a greenhouse, whether commercial or not. Most novice orchidists are not aware of these unwritten rules and often learn "the hard way". Orchid etiquette is not intentional thievery. Removing keikis or switching tags to get a cheaper price are illegal. Etiquette is avoiding the little things that irritate people, which can also cause great harm or damage. Many commercial growers do not let the public visit their growing areas because of their past experiences and some of the most expert hobbyists also refuse visits from all but the most well-known growers. Here are a few of the dos and don'ts that will make your visit a pleasant one for both grower and visitor.

Never take a purse, especially a large one, into a growing area. Growers are not as concerned about thievery as the damage done as the purse trails along the aisles or when the purse smashes into flowers as you lean over to smell a nice blossom. Growing houses are different than display areas, as the typical one does not waste space leaving just a little room for you and none for your purse.

Do not touch flowers unless you ask. Some flowers are extremely delicate and easily damaged while others can be handled. Others will eject their pollen with even a slight touch. This is especially important for plants on Show Tables or at judging centers. Even a little damage can disqualify the perfect flower.

Never pull tags from pots as you may not get them back into the same pot. If the grower is nearby, ask about parentage or if removing a tag is permissible. Be sure you get the tag back in exactly the same place.

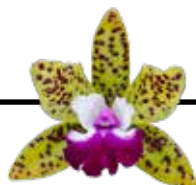
Obviously, it is necessary to remove a plant from a bench if you are going to purchase it. Often they will be growing into an adjacent pot. Do not use a pocketknife or other utensil to help. If plants do not easily separate from one another ask for help. Viruses are easily spread by pocket knives. In stud houses or in non-commercial greenhouses never pick up a plant without permission as roots, flowers, and leaves can be unintentionally damaged.

Never remove a flower, dead leaf, or any other part of a plant without permission. While viruses are not easily transmitted, bacteria and fungi can be moved from plant to plant with ease.

Seedlings growing in flats are not usually for sale. Removing a plant or two disturbs the others. Often there will be seedlings already potted into individual pots that are for sale. Ask before disturbing a flat.

It takes many years to learn all of the unspoken rules and especially those peculiar to individual nurseries. Most orchid growers are generous with both their knowledge and experience, so developing a good relationship is important. They can tell you all about the many hybrids and clones that have more history behind them than is in the books. There is also more to growing orchids than can be grasped from the pages of any book and hobby growers are an important source of information. Remember, when in doubt, ask, and you will make many orchid growing friends in the process of learning the fine points of "Orchid Etiquette".

Note: Courtney Hackney wrote a monthly column of his orchid growing tips for about 20 years, we're reprinting some you might have missed, this one from May 2002.



CULTIVATION

Catasetum and their Kin

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com

Do you get tired of taking care of your orchids in the winter? Wouldn't you like an orchid you don't have to water or fuss with during the cold winter months? The Catsetinae, consisting mainly of the Catasetums, Clowesias, Cycnoches, Mormodes and their hybrids, are a great group of orchids. Many 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 most of them go into a deep sleep during the winter when they can be mostly ignored. You can put them in a dry corner, garage or closet and not worry about them at all during the winter as long as the temperature does not fall below 55. They are repotted in the winter during dormancy or in early spring as new growth emerges but not watered until that new growth is 4 or 5 inches tall. Simple!

When you first start growing the Catsetinae, you tend to think of Catasetums, Clowesias, Cycnoches and Mormodes all as one generic group, lumped together as catasetums. You learn the basics of how they like bright light, plenty of air movement and plenty of water and fertilizer during the growing season. Once you get the fever and you start growing the different varieties, you learn about some of the differences in growing and blooming the different genera.

Catasetums and Clowesias are the most easily grown of all the Catsetinae. They are vigorous growers that are less sensitive to cultural mistakes than the Cycnoches and Mormodes that are more prone to rot. At one time, Clowesias and Catasetums were lumped together in the Catasetum genus, but the Clowesias were moved into a separate genus due to differences in the sexual orientation of the flowers. Catasetums flowers are generally unisexual so the plant tends to produce female flowers if grown in very bright light or the more attractive

male flowers if grown in lesser light, although some flowers express a degree of hermaphroditism. Some growers speculate that cultural factors have more influence over the sex of the flowers than the light intensity. Given that only a very healthy and robust plant can carry these very large seed pods through the dormant period, only vigorous growers produce female flowers. The Clowesia flowers have both male and female flower parts, so in botanical parlance they are considered perfect flowers. Catasetums and Clowesias are easily interbred and the hybrid is referred to as a Clowesetum, also easily grown.

Catasetums. Catasetums are widely available. There are many many species of catasetums, with perhaps two dozen species commonly used in hybridizing. They come in a wide variety of colors, sizes and shapes. Some species have gorgeous elegant flowers and some are just plain weird. One of the most beautiful Catasetums is the species *Ctsm. pileatum* with its wide lip. Usually it is white but there are other color varieties including yellow, green and red. There are more than 200 registered Catasetum hybrids,

Catasetums bloom from the base of this year's new pseudobulbs while the plant is in active growth. Some have upright or arching inflorescences while others are more pendent so they are well suited to growing in baskets and hanging pots. The plants will bloom from spring through early fall, often blooming two, three or four times a year depending on their parentage.

Most Catasetums have a winter resting period when they lose their leaves and water is withheld unless the bulbs begin to look wrinkled and dessicated. For many Catasetums, you'll see the leaves start to yellow and drop in the fall as your plant enters its dormant period. Occasionally some Catasetums do not enter their dormant season along with most of the others. In this situation, some growers are inclined to continue to water these plants but at a reduced amount. They will usually send up a new growth in the spring and shed their old leaves in the late spring or summer. Other growers prefer to completely restrict water to force their plants into dormancy. There is probably no right or wrong way, you will find what works best for you. In that the plants in nature have a winter dry rest, you will probably find that most enjoy a dry winter period.

The length of dormancy also varies within the group. Some start their new growths in late winter and some in early spring. If you repot when your plant enters the dormant period, you will be all set when the new growth appears. If you like the plant to stay in the pot with all the roots intact until new growth appears, you will have to monitor your plants at least weekly for signs of new growths. You can easily damage the new growth and roots during repotting,

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Ctsm. pileatum is one of the most beautiful Catasetums with large flowers ranging in color from white through yellows and greens as well as the red imperiale variety.



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Cl. russelliana 'JEM' is a beautiful large flowered Clowesia with the typical striped green coloration and long pendent inflorescence.

so repot plants as early as possible in the new growth cycle. At least two and perhaps as many as four bulbs should be kept together in a clump during repotting. Single bulbs will usually sprout new growths that grow well although they may not bloom for you until the next year.

Clowesias. There are differences in the growth and blooming habits of Catasetums and Clowesias. Clowesias are strong growers that are very resistant to rot. They tend to have shorter pseudobulbs and grow with closely clumped pseudobulbs. There are two general types of Clowesias although they are not separated into different sections. We'll call them the large and small flowered varieties. The large flowered species include *Cl. russelliana*, *thylacochila*, *dodsoniana* and *glaucoglossa*. These you grow similarly to Catasetums. They have long pendent, fragrant, greenish flowers that typically bloom in the summer while the plant is in active growth. You'll follow the same repotting practices as with Catasetums, repotting during the time between when they go dormant and when the new growth begins. You may keep more of the clumping pseudobulbs in the

same pot only separating them when the pot would have to be too large.

The small flowered species include *Cl. amazonica*, *rosea*, and *warczewitzii*. These bloom in winter on leafless bulbs, typically with multiple inflorescences on short very pendent inflorescences. The greenish to pinkish flowers tend to be cupped and very fragrant, although some of the fragrances have been compared to Vicks VapoRub or Lemon Pledge. Be careful not to repot these plants until after they have flowered. You may think your plant is not going to flower, but you should still wait until either after it flowers or after you see the first signs of new growth. These Clowesias like to grow cramped with multiple bulbs in a single pot, you may have in excess of ten bulbs happily growing. Don't be in any rush to divide these clumps, it seems like they grow and bloom better with multiple bulbs in the pot.

The intergeneric **Clowesetum** is formed when Catasetum and Clowesia are combined. The Catasetums tend to influence the color and size of the flowers while the Clowesias tend to increase the flower life and number of inflorescences. The Clowesetums are very easy to grow, just like their parents. They tend to produce medium sized clumping pseudobulbs that are rot resistant. When the large flowered Clowesias are used in the hybrid, the result is long pendulous inflorescences that appear in the



Clo. Jumbo Circle 'Claire' AM/AOS (Cl. Jumbo Grace x Ctsm. cirrhaeoides) is a cross with a small flowered Clowesia that throws off multiple long lived inflorescences in the winter from tightly clumped pseudobulbs.

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summer. When the plants come of age, there may be three or four flower spikes at the same time. If the small flowered Clowesias are used in the hybrid, a very floriferous winter blooming plant can be expected. With a mature plant, six flower spikes that last for a month would not be unusual.

When repotting, don't be too eager to divide the plants. If you keep the clumping pseudobulbs together in a large diameter, shallow pot you will be rewarded with a very showy blooming. Particularly with the small flowering Clowesia hybrids, keeping the small clumping pseudobulbs together in the same pot means that you'll have multiple new pseudobulbs from which you'll get more than one inflorescence per new bulb.



Cyc. Swan Cascade (Cyc. cooperi x Cyc. Jean E. Monnier) is a reliable grower and bloomer, perhaps due to hybrid vigor.

Cycnoches. The Swan Orchids are beautiful if temperamental because they are susceptible to rot. *Cyc. cooperi* is stunning, with its greenish to bronze pendent display of graceful flowers. I cannot resist buying them, though I have sent many to the great beyond because they

die back so easily. Usually it is the back bulbs that die back and the lead bulb is left remaining, which will continue to grow and flower. Some of the yellow flowered species like *Cyc. chlorochilon* may be a little easier to grow. For my growing conditions, I find they grow a new pseudobulb each year and the old pseudobulb softens and rots so often there is only one bulb left standing by winter and rarely more than two pseudobulbs. The new *Cycnoches* hybrids are a little easier, perhaps due to hybrid vigor. If you're lucky you might have as many as three healthy bulbs on a plant.

For successful growers of healthy plants, the tall pseudobulbs flower from the leaf axil in the middle to upper portion of the new pseudobulb. They may flower twice, once in the fall after the growth matures and still carries its leaves and once in the winter on leafless bulbs. Given the fact that they don't have many pseudobulbs, small baskets or shallow pots that can accommodate only one or two new pseudobulbs should be selected.

Breeding *Cycnoches* with the hardier *Catasetums* (to form the intergeneric **Catanoches**) or *Clowesia* (to form the intergeneric **Clowenoches**) seems to increase plant vigor. These intergenerics are not widely available, although the single one I own, *Clw. Jumbo Valor* is an easy to grow winter bloomer.

Mormodes. The Goblin Orchids have vibrantly colored if somewhat bizarrely shaped flowers. They have a reputation for being more difficult to grow. I have only been able to keep one alive so can offer no practical advice, except perhaps for *Caveat Emptor*. Hats off to all you successful *Mormodes* growers out there! Try some of the new complex hybrids, they may be much easier to grow.

When *Mormodes* are combined with *Clowesia*, the easy growing **Mormodias** are created. The vast majority of the *Mormodias* have been made with the small flowered *Clowesias*, so they have inherited many of their characteristics. Most *Mormodias* are small flowered, fragrant, winter bloomers that bloom from small clumping pseudobulbs. Sound familiar? They grow and bloom very similarly to their *Clowesia* parents. The *Mormodes* is used presumably to vary and intensify the coloration of the flowers. Repot and grow these *Mormodias* as you would a *Clowesia*, trying to keep the multiple pseudobulbs together in the pot for a more spectacular winter show.

The product of *Catasetum* and *Mormodes* breeding is the intergeneric **Catamodes**. These are not widely available, although you would guess that the *Catasetum* influence would improve the ease of cultivation. Alas, I have no *Catamodes* so have nothing to report.

When *Cycnoches* are combined with *Mormodes*, the intergeneric **Cycnodes** are created. Even though you might think the double dose of rot prone plants would

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Mo. Jumbo World (Cl. Grace Dunn x Morm. buccinator) is a colorful beauty.

result in rot prone offspring, these intergenerics are easier to grow than either of their parents. They tend to have long pseudobulbs and bloom at least twice a year like their *Cycnoches* parents. *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. Given their parentage, smallish shallow pots that can accommodate one or two new growths should be used when repotting.

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. There are other complex intergenerics including *Cloughara*, *Cyclodes*, *Monnierara* and *Georgecarrara* though they are not too widely available except for the popular Monn. *Millennial Magic*. I find that the complex intergenerics tend to grow well but are somewhat reluctant bloomers. Apparently there is more learning that I have to do with these complex intergenerics.

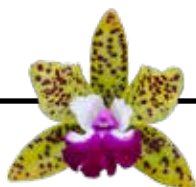
Lessons Learned. No matter how many years you've been growing this or that type of orchid, you are always learning new tricks, trying new snake oils and tweaking your culture. Here are some of the catasetum lessons learned from this past year.

How Often to Repot? I used to repot catasetums every year until last year, when I couldn't remember why I was repotting them every year. The plants were all potted in

AAA long fibered sphagnum moss which can easily last 2 years in the pot so I dared to be different and didn't repot last year. It seems like the catasetums bloomed earlier and more prolifically when left in the pot the second year. During repotting, I usually interlay timed release fertilizer as I'm adding the sphagnum moss to the pot because they are such heavy feeders and by skipping the repotting step the plants only got their water soluble fertilizer (about 50 to 70 ppm nitrogen, that works well for the cattleyas) with each watering. Probably the pots should have been top dressed with timed release fertilizer at the beginning of the second year to supplement the water soluble fertilizer.

Growing Outdoors I used to hang the catasetums over the cattleyas in the greenhouse where they were watered every second or third day. Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids had been encouraging me to try different things including growing outside with little protection from either the sun and or extended rainy periods. I moved some seedling catasetums potted in sphagnum moss in 2 inch pots to one of the open vanda shade houses where they got bright light and daily watering/fertilizing. By midsummer, I had treated the greenhouse catasetums four times for spider mites while the ones growing with the vandas had no mite damage. I tried syringing the bottom of the leaves in the greenhouse using a Fogg-It nozzle to simulate the outdoors conditions and this not only didn't dissuade the mites but it caused a nasty crown rot on about a dozen plants. Perhaps the day night temperature change is more extreme outdoors allowing some condensation on the leaves that dissuades the mites. And perhaps the air movement is more buoyant in the great outdoors drying the leaves and preventing rot. At any rate, all the catasetums are moving out in the spring to a new open hanging structure that will have a 30% shade cloth covering and misting system. Because the plants will also receive rainwater, this year everything is being potted in smaller clay pots with large chunks of Styrofoam at the bottom and a sphagnum moss/sponge rock mix that occupies perhaps the top half of the pot. Even if these plants are wet for a week during long rainy periods, there is not so much sphagnum moss in the small pot that the roots will be suddenly wet plus there are plenty of air pockets in the pot for the roots to grow into.

If you are just starting out with Catasetums, think of trying the hybrid Catasetums, *Clowesias* and *Clowesetums* first. The Catasetums and *Clowesias* are the easiest to grow and you'll benefit from hybrid vigor. Once you've mastered the basics of *Catasetum* culture, try the species, *Mormodias* and *Cycnodes* or even some of the *Cycnoches* hybrids or complex intergenerics. You'll find which ones grow best for you and reward you with the most blooms. But be careful, or you may find you are on a first name basis with Fred Clarke!



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Orchid Adventures Tamiami Orchid Festival

The Tamiami Orchid Festival was jam packed with people and orchids. We saw many of our favorite orchid vendors and fellow orchid addicts, though there was not too much time for chit chat with all the orchid buying going on. Roy Tokunaga of H&R won the Grand Champion award and \$1000 for his Den. Hawaii Stripe 'Nora' FCC/AOS and Jim Roberts of Florida SunCoast Orchids won the Reserve Champion and \$500 for his Vanda Gordon Dillon 'Sapphire' CCM/AOS. And surprise, surprise, we came home with a tray of new cattleya seedlings!



SHOW TABLE



Grower Yvonne & Bob Schimmel
Dtps. Mount Lip



Grower Sue Bottom
Cl. Grace Dunn 'Chadds Ford'
AM/AOS



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Emerald Dream x
Cym. devonianum



Grower Suzanne Susko
Phal. Younghome Golden Leopard 'Peachy'



Grower Suzanne Susko
Den. lichenastrum var. prenticei



Grower Sue Bottom
Dendrochilum cobbianum



Grower Courtney Hackney
Lc. Prism Palette 'Mischief' AM/AOS



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
C. Astraea 'Ginny' AM/AOS



Grower Courtney Hackney
Lc. Mem. Grant Eichler 'Lenette' HCC/AOS



Grower Courtney Hackney
Blc. Zul



Grower Sherrie Jenkins
Paph. Meda Ballard



Grower Linda Stewart
Tubecentron Hsinying Girl



Grower Joanne Stygles
Neo. falcata 'Kibana-Kiritenka'

