



CLUB NEWS



George Hausermann

June 5, 2018 Monthly SAOS Meeting

By Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks.

Bob Schimmel opened the meeting at 7:00 pm sharp with 71 attendees. Carolyn Smith introduced our two guests (John and Gary) and five new members (Andrea, Bea, Alice, Ashley and Lily). Bob thanked Dottie, Annalee, Loretta, Lucy, Dorianna

and Doug for bringing in their treats for the snack table and Jeanette Smith and Shirley Browning for organizing the refreshments. He then reminded all to drop a dollar in the basket while enjoying their refreshments. Bob next informed all that the Best of Show voting would occur after the Show Table discussion and the silent auction would end before the presentation. He encouraged all to vote for their favorite orchid.

Club Business. The spring show season is over and the fall orchid shows will begin in September.

There were still a few stragglers re-upping their 2018 Membership dues; \$20 for individual and \$30 for family. We have finalized our membership and email distribution lists. If you have paid and are not getting the newsletter via email, contact Linda Stewart at info@staugorchidsociety.org. If you did not pay at the meeting, you can use the PayPal link on SAOS website to sign up for membership.

The Ace Repotting Clinic is the first Saturday of the month; the next one will be July 7. The Keiki Club is on summer vacation, come to Ace Repotting Clinic with any questions or if you need help.

Limited quantities of timed-release fertilizer, potting mixes and SAOS hats are available on the side table. Preorder your supplies by email info@staugorchidsociety.org and we will deliver to you at the meeting. There is a Purely Organic sign-up sheet for August delivery (if we can find someone with a truck that can pick up the delivery at the



Another 'Full House' comes to see George Hausermann

Jax Garden Club on 8/24 or 8/25); \$25 for 25# bag and \$40 for a 50# bag. Prepayments will be collected at the July meeting.

Club librarian, Penny Halyburton brought in the book *Orchids for Dummies* that is an excellent resource for a beginner. Send a request for a book or DVD you would like to info@staugorchidsociety.org and Penny will bring the item(s) to the next meeting. The library collection is listed on our [SAOS website](http://staugorchidsociety.org).

Our Sunshine Coordinator and Membership VP, Linda Stewart delivered free raffle tickets to the three people with birthdays in June, along with free car window decals to any that were interested.



George does the Show Table

Show Table. With Courtney Hackney's absence, George Hausermann (our guest speaker) was given the honor of discussing our Show Table plants. He commented on how well they were potted and what a wonderful variety

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Upcoming Orchid Events

June

- 12 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Carlos Cahiz, OFE International

July

- 3 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Sue Bottom, SAOS
Navigating the SAOS Website
7 Repotting at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
10 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Ivan Portilla, Ecuagenera

August

- 2-4 Eighth Annual Cattleya Symposium
Sponsored by Odom's Orchids
Indian River Research & Education Ctr
Fort Pierce
4 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
7 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Steve Hawkins, The Orchid Specialist
Oncidium
14 JOS Meeting, Orchids from Brazil, 7 pm
Francisco Miranda, Miranda Orchids

September

- 1 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
4 SAOS Meeting, Fall Preparations, 7 pm
SAOS Members and Sue Bottom
11 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Phillip Hamilton, Bredren Orchids
22-23 Ridge Orchid Society Show
Lake Mirror Center, Lakeland
29-30? Breezy Hill Orchid Festival
Steve Arthur Orchids, Graniteville, SC

29-30 South Florida Orchid Society Show
University of Miami Watsco Center

October

- 2 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Unusual Species for the Cattleya Grower
Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids
5-7 East Everglades Orchid Society Show
RF Orchids, Homestead
6 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
9 JOS Meeting, ABCs of Orchid Nutrition, 7 pm
Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids
13-14 Gainesville Orchid Society Show
Kanapaha Botanical Garden

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Dorianna gets her free mounted orchid from George

of pots our club members use for display. George noted the number of flowers on the two Lc. Canhamiana 'Azure Skies' on the table as well as the Rhyncholaelia digbyana. He talked about each plant on the table, with comments on potting techniques. He liked the plant growing in sphag moss in a basket where the moss was not packed too tightly. If sphag moss is not packed down too tight and overwatered, it is a perfectly fine medium to grow our plants in. Check out the photos of our show table examples at the end of the newsletter and on the SAOS website.

SAOS Program. Sue Bottom introduced our guest speaker, George 'The Toolman' Hausermann from EFG Orchids outside of DeLand FL whose nursery is over 17,000 sq. ft. George brought his staple gun (safety disengaged), propane torch, deck screws, copper wire and various samples of cedar planks and branches to show us how to mount orchids. When using a branch from nature, one needs to be sure it is not filled with pests. It is best to get a branch off a tree instead of one fallen on the ground. Peel off all of the bark and you will see small holes if bugs have infested the branch. You can then torch each hole to kill the insects within or find another branch to use. Insects can be present on the bottom of our orchid leaves and when we treat the plant with insecticide, the insects escape into the bottom of pots that makes it even harder to remove them. This is why he likes to mount his orchids. He prefers to use cedar wood because it is a natural insect repellent. George also told us that burning the wood with the torch acts as a preservative as well as giving the wood a deep, rich color.

First, he showed us how to join two smaller branches together to provide a pocket to mount an orchid. Using the screw, he got it started and then reversed his drill to turn the screw backwards and then drilled straight in. This procedure

eliminates splitting the wood. He then screwed the two pieces together to create a natural looking mount. Next, he showed us how to hold the mount with two fingers to find the balanced position for hanging the wood. Using coated wire, he turned one end into a circle and cut the other end to the desired length. Using the staple gun, he adhered the wire to the back of the mount at the predetermined location.

George likes to use cedar shingles, which one can buy at the big box stores. He uses them as the back piece for mounting as well as breaking others into strips that he uses to adhere the plant to the back using the staple gun. Make sure the strip of wood is securely holding the plant even if you have to use two staples. He brought out one mounting of a cattleya that he had and pointed out that he had to keep adding wood as the plant grew sideways. George can add the hanger and secure the plant in minutes with this process. He said he could do 20-30/hour if he has the mount with hangers made up in advance. Watering is simple, particularly if hung out on our trees and needs to be done every other day or so. Watch how the plant roots appear to determine how often to water. If he starts to get fungus, he uses hydrogen peroxide spray. He also uses ZeroTol 2.0, a broad-spectrum bactericide/fungicide, which he gets from BWI. He also is in a constant battle with Scale. George cycles different insecticides over three week intervals once he notices scale because even though the adult insect is killed, one must wait for the eggs to hatch and kill the offspring with a different insecticide since they become immune to the previous one used to kill the parent and the cycle continues. If a plant is badly infected, he immediately throws it out because his experience has shown he can never really cure the infestation in that plant. He uses Talstar as his base for everything and then adds other products, e.g. Maverick, Zyban, Merit, Orthene, and Tri-Star.

After his very educational demonstration, George then graciously announced that everyone could come up and mount an orchid. He had brought enough small cattleyas and cedar shingles for all 70 of us to get a mounted plant.

Meeting Conclusion. Sue Bottom announced the Member's Choice Award as Tom and Dottie Sullivan's Rhyncholaelia digbyana, known as Brassavola digbyana in years gone by. Lady Di conducted the raffle with assists from Carolyn and Bob. Thanks to all the helpful hands that stayed to reset the tables and chairs 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



The Keiki Club is on summer vacation. Keep watering and fertilizing your plants and watch for pest and disease issues. SAOS members will be available at the repotting clinics at Ace Hardware on the first Saturday of the month all summer long if you have any questions or problems. For those of you in the mentoring program, your mentor is just a phone call or email away. For those of you that would like to join the mentoring program, send an email to Mentoring Coordinator Susan Smith at info@staugorchidsociety.org. It's a great resource for our newer grower that would like to get one-on-one assistance and answers to their orchid questions.



American Orchid Society Corner

Upcoming Webinars:

June 7, 8:30-9:30 pm, Members Only

Big Leaf Phalaenopsis, Tom Harper

June 12, 8:30-9:30 pm, Everyone Invited

Greenhouse Chat Orchid, Q&A - Ron McHatton

Photos of Latest AOS Awards

Orchids Magazine: request free issue!

Genus of the Month: *Cuitlauzina*

Cypripediums: *acaule*, *passerinum* and *reginae*

The *Habenaria rhodocheila* complex

2017 Dillon-Peterson Essay Contest

Who Were These Guys? Part 5 - John Lindley

For the Novice: Orchids Outside the Pot

St. Augustine Orchid Society

Growing Orchids in North Florida

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June 3 Meeting - Mounting Orchids

George Hausmann, PhD Orchids

George "The Toolman" Hausmann will give a program on mounting orchids, with some hands-on demonstrations on how to do it. George operates EFG Orchids in DeLand that focuses on orchids and other tropicals. He holds workshops throughout the year on orchid grower basics and mounting orchids and throws an Orchtoberfest party at the nursery every year.

Bring your flowering orchids to exhibit on the Show Table. We will have our normal raffle at the end of the meeting. Friends and guests are always welcome!

Date and time: Tuesday, June 3, 6:30 pm
Where: Watson Realty, Conference Room by Back Parking Lot
3305 US 1 South, St. Augustine

We normally meet on the first Tuesday of each month. The meeting begins with a plant sale followed by a review of the show table plants and presentation by an orchid expert. The meeting

July 3 Monthly SAOS Meeting Webpage

The St. Augustine Orchid Society website contains tons of information. All the planned activities of the SAOS are listed along with library resources, newsletters and photographs of orchids and orchid events. There is a wealth of information about orchid culture, for both the beginner and experienced orchid grower. There is so much information available on the website, that you may not know where to find it all. Sue will give a tutorial on the website, where all the pearls of information about growing orchids can be found.

Members are invited to bring plants for sale at the meeting. Bring your flowering orchids to exhibit on the Show Table. We will have our normal raffle at the end of the meeting. Friends and guests are always welcome!

Want to Hire Some Professional Help?

Steve Hawkins,

[The Orchid Specialist](#)

Steve Hawkins, the Orchid Specialist, is offering a fee based service for orchid repotting and consultations in your home. Steve operated a commercial nursery in Apopka for many years and recently relocated to our area and joined the St. Aug Orchid Society. For details, visit orchidspecialist.com or call Steve Hawkins at 321-279-3003 (afternoons).



INSPIRATION



Leptotes pohlitinocoi

© Terry Botta



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@gmail.com

Q1. This plant has not been repotted in years. It blooms all season, but never more than 5-6 at a time. I am content with it but was wondering if I should thin out roots.



A1. Never thin live roots. The central part of your plant has probably disappeared because the organic matter in the mix has turned to mush and rotted the roots. You may have to tackle a repot, get the roots wet and pliable, yank it out of the plastic pot and drop it into a large basket.

Q2. What's going on with this fella? It made it all the through the winter then bam!



A2. The discoloration on the oldest leaf looks like bacterial brown spot, so it is probably an air movement issue.



Looking at the next two younger leaves, it looks like the tips were cut off, possibly because they too had the bacterial spotting. Consider cutting the oldest leaf off about an inch down beyond the yellow discoloration and think about repotting it. Bring it to the next Ace potting clinic and we'll help you with it.

Q3. I have 60 catasetums growing in a screened room. I struggled to keep the mites under control last year so I am being aggressive this time around, but the first two catasetums that emerged from rest are already attacked. The other 12 that are already growing fast and being watered so no mite problems on them. I do not dare treat catasetums with emerging bulbs, so I have to wait until I start watering them. It frustrates me because it is indeed a lot of damage for a plant that just woke up. On top of that I sprayed Sultan on all of them when they went dormant because I am never sure if mites sleep in the root zone while the foliage is gone.



A3. How interesting. I just reread Johnson's article about [mites](#), and he says the mites can live in the media. So perhaps what you really need is a drench instead of a spray. You can try the Bayer 3 in 1 if it has fluvinate in it. Kontos can be used as a drench, it is both xylem and phloem mobile, but it is expensive and not recommended for use on orchids. Johnson recommends Avid, says it is the least toxic. Talstar or Bifen with the active ingredient bifenthrin seems affordable. It comes in a granular form (I use it for fire ants but the active ingredient is effective on mites), and as a liquid.





Growing Orchid Roots

Courtney's Orchid Growing Tips

How do I get my orchid to grow roots? This is one of the most asked questions because so many new orchid growers start with the gift of a pot plant that, unfortunately, stays too long in the medium. But even those of us who have grown orchids for many years can

find individual clones or times when an orchid just will not grow roots.

When the weather is warm most orchids will readily grow roots. There may be a few exceptions to the rule, but even those will at least grow a few new roots this time of year.

In nature, most orchids grow new roots when the growth of new leaves begins. For orchids with rhizomes, this usually happens when a new growth is maturing. For orchids that grow from a central stem, e.g., phalaenopsis and vandas, new roots are associated with the onset of the rainy season or warm weather. Thus, your orchids should be getting new roots right now.

There are some things that can prevent an orchid from growing roots, including insects and disease. If you have an orchid will not grow new roots, especially if it was just repotted, then some action may be necessary to stimulate new root growth and save the orchid plant. An orchid without roots will eventually die.

The first question to ask is whether the problem orchid is a species. If that is the case, then a quick check with an appropriate book will tell you if there are special issues with respect to new roots for that species. Many of the large bifoliate cattleyas, e.g., *C. leopoldii* and *C. bicolor*, have specific times when they grow roots. These should be repotted only when they are about to get new roots.

If your orchid is not a species or is a species with no specific rooting issues, then a check of the plant is necessary. Are there currently live roots on the orchid? Are the leaves wilted or shriveled? If there are many live roots, but leaves are shriveled, then look for insect pests. Scale insects, mites, and mealy bugs can all suck enough liquid from a plant that has good roots to cause desiccation of leaves. You may need to take the orchid from the pot, look under leaves and even check the living roots. Don't be hesitant to use a magnifying glass because some of these "beasts" are tiny. If you just find one it is a good bet there are more and this is the problem.



A fine jet of water can be used to remove scale from the leaves, under roots and even between leaves. My preference is to follow this procedure several times from different angles to be sure all are removed. It only takes one to regenerate a whole new colony.

If most of the roots are dead then the issue is likely either disease or decaying medium. Using the same fine water jet, wash the entire plant thoroughly and let it dry. If there are soft spots on the rhizome or stem apply Hydrogen Peroxide, the stuff you have in your medicine cabinet. After 15 minutes, soak the entire plant, not just the roots, in the recommended concentration of "Rootone" or similar hormonal stimulant. Some orchid books maintain that orchids do not respond to such a treatment, but they will. Soak for 15 minutes and then let dry.

Next keep your orchid in a shady location. For me they go under the bench. Some growers that have humidity issues will remove all dead tissues and place the plant in a clear plastic bag under the bench until new roots appear. It is necessary to be sure no water accumulates in the bag. Once new roots appear repot, but keep the orchid under lower light until there are enough roots to anchor the plant in the pot. Then it can be slowly moved into its normal light regimen.

Getting vandas to grow roots can also be an issue. Members of the vanda group will occasionally become very leggy and refuse to grow roots on the stem, resulting in large plants with leaves at the top, roots at the bottom and a long stem in between. Find a long plastic window box that will hold the root mass and as much of the stem as possible and soak in "Rootone" for 30 minutes. Place back in its normal location and wait. Typically, new roots will emerge from what looked like a dead stem. After these roots get 2-3 inches long you can cut just below these new roots and repot the top portion. Within a few weeks the lower part of the stem will sprout new leaves and you now have two plants.

Note: Dr. Courtney Hackney wrote a monthly column of his orchid growing tips for about 20 years; we are reprinting some you might have missed, this one from June 2010.



CULTIVATION

Join the Mounties

by Ken Slump, reprinted with permission
courtesy of the American Orchid Society

It is safe to say that the majority of orchid hobbyists, myself included, came to the world of orchids after success in other facets of gardening and horticulture. Perhaps that is why most of us doggedly pursue the practice of confining and cultivating our orchid plants in some variation of a traditional flower pot. We also carry, I suspect, an ingrained aversion to exposed roots on any plant. Yet this is contrary to the way in which epiphytic tropical orchids are found in nature.

It took me a while to develop the confidence necessary to subject a few of my plants to life without the security that terra cotta or plastic seems to provide. But after some success, I am growing an increasing number of plants *au naturel*.

Certainly you need a reasonably humid environment for this technique to succeed, and part of my initial reluctance was based on the fact that I developed my orchid growing skills in a semi-arid region. Mounted orchids are not likely to thrive for the windowsill grower who lives in a temperate climate, but after I added a good humidifier to my sunroom a few years ago, my own trepidation vanished.

CHOICES Whether you call them mounts, rafts, plaques or slabs, the goal is simply to find a material on which your orchid will make itself at home. Many different materials can be used. The most commonly employed are organic alternatives such as cork bark, tree fern, driftwood, and even pieces of lumber and various sorts of tree branches or small limbs.

The preference for type of wood varies by grower and region. Cypress, grape, manzanita, cedar and teak are but a few of the kinds that are commonly used. Try to select a relatively hard wood that will not deteriorate too quickly. When choosing wood, make sure any lumber used is untreated, as chemically treated wood can harm orchids. Other materials on which orchids can be successfully grown without a growing medium include porous tiles and empty clay pots, as well as wooden orchid baskets and rafts.

Part of the challenge is not only matching the orchid to a mount of the most suitable material, but also gauging its proper size. You do not want a mount that the orchid outgrows too quickly, yet too large is equally undesirable, if only for considerations of space. Knowing the mature size of the plant, plus observations of its annual rate of growth, can guide you. When in doubt, it is probably better to err on the side of smallness. Orchid roots seem to grow happily intertwined and across one another without ill effects.



1. Among the orchids to grow on a mount is *Leptotes bicolor*. The clone 'Joanna Leigh', AM/AOS, is shown here. Grower: Evalyn Walch.

Many types of orchids thrive with this kind of culture. Certainly growers who favor miniature and species orchids know that mounting is often a near necessity. Among my own first mounted orchids were some mini-catts that always seemed to possess a preponderance of rotten roots at repotting time, no matter what I did to try to keep the medium well aerated. The same was true for some of my oncidium hybrids and intergenerics. I also have some dendrobium orchids that seem to be happier with life outside a pot and I have even tried the technique with a keiki from a species phalaenopsis with surprising success.

The majority of orchids in my collection that are grown in this way are on mounts of cork bark or tree fern that range in size from about 4 x 6 inches to perhaps 6 x 10 inches. I know one commercial grower that specializes in *Brassavola nodosa* hybrids, many of which thrive on tree-fern poles about two inches square and nine inches long, and I have begun to emulate that growing style too. I have not tried mounting orchids of very large stature, and think that, in most cases, this technique is better suited for small-to medium-sized plants.

HOW TO There is not much magic to the process. As with orchid repotting, your success in mounting orchids is more likely guaranteed if you choose that time when the orchid has new roots emerging and actively growing. After deciding on a plant and selecting a suitable mount for it, carefully extract the plant from the pot and clean the root mass of all growing medium. Soaking the roots for a few minutes in lukewarm water can greatly facilitate the ease of this process. Although it can be tedious, I try to save every root possible — taking sufficient time to do an exacting job is one of the few luxuries the hobbyist can enjoy over the average commercial grower. Determine where on the

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CULTIVATION

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2. Orchids can be mounted on several substrates, among them (left to right) cork, tree fern and bark.

slab you want to place the plant. Generally, you will want it toward the lower part of the mount, but a bit up from the bottom edge. Be sure to note the growing point(s) of the plant and situate them ABOVE so that they will maximize their opportunity to grow- up or along the mount with each succeeding growth. Once you have the plant positioned, all that is necessary is to secure it; the usual recommendation is to accomplish this with some type of flexible wire or fishing line. The trick is to tie the plant securely to its new home without cutting or bruising its roots. You will need to wrap the line at least several times around the plant and mount to get the entire plant and its root system into proximity to the mount.

Many books and growers recommend that a pillow of long-fiber sphagnum be tucked under the plant before it is tied to the mount, I have not found this necessary. Perhaps this is in part due to the material I favor for lashing the plant and mount together.

For gently but firmly holding orchid plants against their new mounts, nothing beats strips of fine nylon mesh that one can produce by cutting up old (or new) pantyhose. This idea came to me in reading an article in one of our old orchid society newsletters that was written by a member whose time in the organization was well before mine.

She advised starting at the toe of the stocking and cutting a continuous, spiraling strip. It is a bit difficult because you have to stretch the material as you cut, plus the more length you cut, the more twisted the stocking becomes. I cut strips that are about one third to one half inch wide when the material is stretched between my fingers. If you are adept at cutting long pieces, they may be rolled into balls for future use, much like yarn.

The inconvenience of cutting the nylon strips is more than compensated for by the ease with which they can be pulled

and stretched over the roots and spaces between orchid leaves and pseudobulbs. It does not take much practice to be able to secure the plant firmly and without injury. The nylon is long lasting and becomes almost invisible on many types of mounts. It has the wonderful ability to stretch with the roots as they grow and I've even been able to gently tuck new roots under the strips as they emerge. The nylon strips are also excellent for tying plants to tree branches in those climates where orchids can be naturalized outdoors.

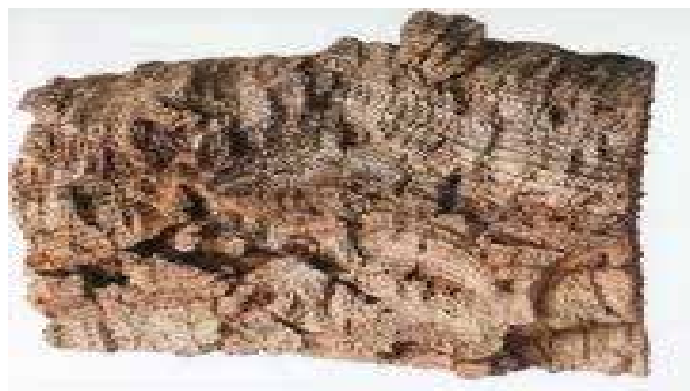
CARE OF PLANTS Mounted orchids certainly require more frequent watering than their potted counterparts; some need watering daily, at least during the warmer season. Fertilizing is most easily accomplished by spraying the roots of the mounted plants with a water-soluble fertilizer after they have been watered. Still, one needs to watch that the plants are not kept so damp that excessive green algae or moss develops.

While most hobbyists tend to grow their mounted orchids rather vertically, it is important to realize that, in nature, most orchids grow on horizontal branches and limbs. You may discover that some types thrive better when allowed to develop on a recumbent slab.

I have found that most of my mounted orchids send their new roots onto their new homes hungrily, and I can often cut the ties holding them to the mount after just a few months. It seems to me that old roots tend to branch more readily on mounted plants, but that is hard to verify.

Mounted plants can often stay on the same perch for many years; in fact, I have seen examples of mounted orchids in some collections that have created a tangle of roots so dense that the mass supports the plant long after the original mount has decayed. If you overcome your fears and have the correct environment, mounts provide perhaps the best way to grow and enjoy healthy orchids.

This article appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids, in July 2004 (Vol. 73:7, pp 492-495).



3. Cork is popular as a substrate for mounted orchids.



Repotting Orchids – Wet or Dry?

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@gmail.com

I have always used water during the repotting process. First, to soften the roots so they can more easily be removed from the pot. Next, to water blast the potting media from around the roots, often with the hose end nozzle set on flat or jet. Then to clean up the plants, give them their Saturday night bath, remove the papery cataphylls from cattleyas, and mold or algae from leaves, etc.. Then the other repotting tasks, giving roots a haircut, dividing an overgrown plant, selecting a pot, and splaying the roots over a base of Styrofoam and a bit of potting mix, filling the remaining space with potting mix, top dressing with a little New Zealand sphagnum moss and adding a bit of Purely Organic fertilizer followed by a Banrot drench. They always look so much better after they have been cleaned up and repotted.

Of course, if there are any viral particles or pathogens on that plant, the water really spreads them around to the potting surfaces and your hands. Newspapers used as a protective barrier get soaked and become ineffective. Any cuts you made on the plant are open wounds allowing easy access for pathogens directly into the plant. There are some points in the repotting process where water helps you achieve your goals, and some steps are better done dry to prevent unintended consequences.

Water Plant. About an hour before you want to start repotting a plant, water it thoroughly and completely. This will give the roots a chance to soften and become pliable. If they have attached to the pot surface, they can be removed more easily. If they have to be untangled, they are more likely to bend than break. This final watering will have to sustain the plant until you next water it after repotting.

Clean Plant. With the hose end sprayer set on flat, you can start cleaning the plant. Wash the medium away from the roots, blast the dried papery sheaths away from the pseudobulbs along with any scale or other pest that may be hiding there and blast any algae or mold deposits from leaf surfaces. If the newer sheaths are not easily removed with the water spray, let them remain. It is too easy to damage the tender young growths. Cut away the old and tired parts of the plant and separate it into the pieces you want to repot. Give the roots a haircut so they will fit easily into the top third or half of their future pot. Then set your cleaned up plant on some newspaper or Kraft paper and allow it to dry for a bit.

Root Stimulants. You can prepare your multiple plants for repotting, keeping plants with tags, in assembly line style.

This is a great opportunity to spray the plant with one of the root stimulants. Whether you choose seaweed/kelp or one of the synthetic root stimulators like Dip 'N Grow, you can mix up your concoction and put into a spray bottle, and spray the base of the plants and roots while it is on its drying paper.

Potting Mix. Some people advocate wetting the potting mix to prevent a dry mix from pulling moisture from the roots to dessicate the plant. Probably a bigger concern is all those open wounds on the roots that allow bacteria to easily enter the roots and cause problems. Keep the mix dry and allow the wounds to seal over. Sphagnum moss and cypress mulch are two exceptions to the keep it dry rule, they should be wetted first to allow proper packing around the roots. These two organic materials tend to have an acidic pH that is less conducive to bacterial growth.

Repotting. Your repotting regime probably follows the typical rules, add a layer of porous drainage materials in the bottom third of the pot (Styrofoam, lava rock, etc.), add a little potting mix and then orient the plant in the pot splaying the roots out and backfill with mix. You may finish up by top dressing with sphagnum moss or cypress mulch and adding Purely Organic or time-release fertilizer. Date your plant tag and reinsert it into the pot (some even have the foresight to add a second tag in the bottom of the pot in case the main tag is lost).

After Repotting. To water or not to water, that is the question. Probably the best advice is not to water, allow time for the wounds to seal over and encourage the plant to grow new roots to seek out water. As a Serial Overwaterer, this is a very difficult decision for me. After repotting, I usually pour a Banrot solution through the pot as a protective fungicide. You can add root stimulants into the Banrot jug for some extra oomph. Then wait a few days to a week or two before resuming your normal watering practices. I can usually force myself not to water for at least two or three days. If you find yourself repotting during the hot humid months in July and August, restricting water is very important to avoid black rot from infecting your plants. As with any rule, there are always exceptions, and the restriction on watering after repotting can be ignored when potting in ProMix based mixes, which often have biofungicides or mycorrhizae, and have an acidic pH similar to sphagnum moss and cypress mulch.

If you have a convenient staging area, you could practice

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CULTIVATION

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assembly line repotting. You would have a series of sterilized flats sitting on benches in a shady area away from water. You could place your cleaned up and trimmed plants along with their plant tags into the trays for a week

or two, spraying occasionally with a root stimulant while the wounds heal and the plants shift into the root growing mode. Once you see new green root tips, you could finish the repotting process and water to your heart's content.



1. Wet the roots an hour or so before repotting, and the plant will be much easier to remove from the pot.



2. Water blast the dried papery sheaths off and dislodge loose potting mix, but leave pieces if removal would damage the roots.



3. Cut away the old tired pseudobulbs and separate pieces into 3 to 5 pseudobulb clumps that will fit easily in the pot.



4. Spray some root stimulator on the base of pseudobulbs and roots to encourage new root growth.



5. Let the plant dry and allow it to absorb the root stimulant prior to repotting. You can prepare multiple plants to repot.



6. Wash your hands with Lysol All Purpose Cleaner as you finish with each plant and before you start the next one.



7. Fill the bottom third of the pot with Styrofoam, lava rock, etc. to provide an airy reservoir into which roots will grow.



8. Situate the pieces with the oldest part of the plant flush against the edge of the pot and splay the roots over the mix.



9. This approach allows plenty of room in the pot for this plant to grow into a specimen, but this will preclude AOS cultural awards.



10. Backfill the pot with your dry potting mix of choice keeping the rhizome about even with the top of the potting mix.



11. Top dress with a little sphagnum moss and some Purely Organic fertilizer in a tea bag.



12. Pour some Banrot solution through the pot and then keep it on the dry side for a few days, or until you see new green root tips.



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Redland International Orchid Festival Fruit and Spice Park

This is the big orchid show of the year in Florida. Over 60 vendors from North and South America, Africa, Europe and Asia congregate at the Fruit and Spice Park with an incredible variety of orchids, many you will not find at other local shows. This year it was a wet and wild event raining on and off all weekend. No worries, those without raingear did not melt. Lots of fun talking to other orchid fanatics and orchid vendors, not to mention bringing home some new orchids. Then there is that Florida Lobster Roll at the Mango Café, yum yum!



SHOW TABLE



Grower Marcia Farrell
Phal. NOID



Grower Sue Bottom
Ctism. Durval Ferreira



Grower Carolyn Smith
Phal. Noid



Grower Suzanne Susko
Bulb. Jim McGoogan



Grower Sue Bottom
C. Fort Motte 'Hackneau'



Grower Sue Bottom
Den. wassellii



Grower Linda Stewart
Vaughnara Walnut Valley Lime Stars



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
***Lc. Canhamiana* 'Azure Skies' AM/AOS**



Grower Tom & Dottie Sullivan
Rl. digbyana



Grower Steve Hawkins
Epc. #734 (Purple Martins?)



Grower Marcia Farrell
Zygopetalum Advance Australia



Grower Jan Lesnikoski
L. purpurata* var. *werkhauzeri



Grower Suzanne Susko
Asctm. miniatum

Link to all Pictures. <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmh8hX47>

