

SAOS HAPPENINGS

Tuesday, March 6 Monthly Meeting

BULBOPHYLLUMS - Bill Thoms

The Bulbophyllum orchid genus is the largest in the orchid family, with over 1800 species. Bill Thoms will talk about these oddities of the orchid world that often have very distinctive odors and unusual shapes. He'll discuss culture and growing tips in his unique and often humorous style, showing some of the most unique and exotic looking species and hybrids.



Bill has been growing orchids around Central Florida for more than 40 years and has received almost every award granted by the AOS. The AOS has created a yearly award named for Thoms for the best Bulbophyllum exhibited. He is an internationally recognized speaker who wrote the whimsical book "Bulbophyllums: the Incomplete Guide, From A to Why."

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.

Where: Watson Realty, Conference Room by Back Parking Lot 3505 US 1 South, St. Augustine
We normally meet the first Tuesday of each month. The meeting begins with a plant sale at 6:30 pm and closes with a plant raffle where members can expand their collections. It's fun and informative for beginners and experienced growers. Join us, visitors and guests are always welcome.



Plant Clinic The first Saturday of the month from **February through October**, SAOS members will be at Ace Hardware on US 1 South to talk with you, answer questions and help you repot orchids.

 [Here's a video of a repotting clinic!](#)

Date and Time: Saturday, March 3, 2018 9am-1pm

Where: Ace Hardware, 3050 US 1 South St. Augustine 32086

Send us Pictures of YOUR Growing Areas

We're continuing to put together a program in 2018 showing how different SAOS members grow their orchids. Start snapping pictures and tell us some of your tricks. Email us with your summer growing area pictures, now, and if you have pics of the winter growing area, send them too.






KEIKI CLUB

ANNUAL REPOTTING CLINIC

It's that time of year. Many of your orchids are sending out new roots, and it's time to repot. We'll talk about how to select the right potting mix that will work with your growing area and your orchids' watering habits. There may be some orchid divisions for you to mount and or pot up (one to a customer), so bring a 4 and 6 inch clay pot, just in case. There will be a \$5 charge to cover the cost of supplies. If you have more than 1 or 2 of your own plants that need repotting, please bring them to the ACE Plant Clinic.

When: Sunday, March 25, 2018 1-3 pm

Where: Terry and Sue Bottom's home [6916 Cypress Lake Court, St. Augustine 32086](http://6916CypressLakeCourt.com)

Keiki Club is for our beginning orchid growers. Meetings start with a short presentation on a timely orchid culture topic and then it's open for discussion on any and all thoughts and questions. Lots of hands-on experience under the watchful eyes of more experienced growers. Check our website for more Keiki Club information.  [Here's a video of one of our get togethers.](#)

KEIKI KORNER - from Orchid Mentor Suzanne Susko

The Cattleya Ghost Plant Are you having difficulty determining when to water your orchids? It can be the hardest thing to learn as a beginner. Here's a tip you can use for growing cattleyas which need to dry out between watering. When you pot up your cattleya, use another duplicate pot and create a 'ghost plant'. Pot your 'ghost plant' using the exact process as your new cattleya, i.e. styrofoam peanuts at the bottom of the pot, a coarse potting media, but NO PLANT. Now water both - the real cattleya and your 'ghost plant' thoroughly. Wait a couple of days. When you think it's time to water (perhaps a week), dump everything out of the 'ghost plant' pot. Is the media still wet? If it is, don't water your real cattleya. This process may seem a bit messy, but it works to help you learn how quickly your plants and potting media are drying out.

In the SAOS Library

SAOS members have access to orchid books, videos and equipment to help inform and educate. Select your desired material from the [current library list](#) and let SAOS librarian Penny Halyburton know. She'll bring your selection to the next meeting. librarian@staugorchidsociety.org



Bulbophyllums: The Incomplete Guide, from A to Why by Bill Thoms



Jacksonville Orchid Society Show

March 17 & 18

We'll be putting in a tabletop exhibit at the JOS Show on March 16 and breaking it down on March 18. We will design the exhibit on Wednesday the 14th at Sue and Terry Bottom's home. If you want to participate bring your groomed plant to the Wednesday meeting at 3PM. Contact Exhibit Chair Janis Croft if you'd like to help. Here are the [SAOS Exhibit Guidelines](#) for preparing your plant.

St. Augustine Month by Month [March in St. Augustine](#) Signs of spring abound with an abundance of emerging flower spikes and buds. The flush of spring growth will follow soon so plan your repotting program that should begin in earnest this month. The best time to repot is right before the new roots start growing so the plants will reestablish quickly. Watch for signs of mites, particularly on thin leaved orchids like the catasetinae and grammatophyllums, and treat any problems promptly.