

## CLUB NEWS



Ron McHatton

### May 5 Meeting Minutes

by Dr. Mark Heilman  
docusn@bellsouth.net

#### BUSINESS MEETING:

President Mike Heinz opened the meeting at 7:12 pm with 44 people in attendance and welcomed guests Wendy

Thomas, BJ Honkamp and Linda Schenholm. The delicious refreshments were provided by Barbara Conrad and Jeanette Smith. Donations to cover the costs are ALWAYS welcome!

Mike asked for **volunteers** for the Sunshine Coordinator. This position is the way the society tracks illnesses, deaths, etc. as well as happy occasions too. If you would like to take on this position, please call Mike or Sue Bottom.

The **metal name tags** have arrived, and anyone wishing to purchase a new metal tag, please see the Secretary. They are \$8.00 each.

The **suggestion box** is on the Welcome Table. Mike noted that suggestions may be of ANY type, good or bad, something we are doing and shouldn't be, or not doing and should be, etc.

Mike explained the **showtable** and the balloting procedure. The winner of 'People's Choice' will be announced at the end of the meeting.

The **2009 membership roster** is being finalized. Dues are past due. Mike suggests you pay up or 'Uncle Guido' may need to be brought into the picture. The membership roster was passed around so members could verify all their information and any personal information members do not want published in the new roster lined out. An SAOS directory will be distributed at the next meeting.

Our **library** is thriving. If there is a book in the library you want to check out and it isn't at the meeting, ask the librarians (Betsy or Haley Bastian) and it will be available at the next meeting. The library is a great way for someone to learn how to care for a new addition to their orchid collection.

### May Happenings include:

- Volusia Orchid Society Show – May 9-10, Volusia County Fairgrounds off I-4.
- Redlands International Orchid Festival – May 15-17 at Redlands Fruit and Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Ave., Homestead, Florida.
- Keiki Club – May 24<sup>th</sup> at Terry & Sue Bottom's, 6916 Cypress Lake CT., St. Augustine, FL 32086. The meeting starts at 1:00 and will be a presentation and clinic by Dr. Courtney Hackney on Water Quality and Orchids. Bring samples of your water: out-of-the-tap, fertilizer-added, run-off from pots and see just how good your water is.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Our guest tonight was Dr. Ron McHatton. Speaking on color variation in orchids, or "How did I get that color from those parents?" Ron is the AOS Director of Education and Regional Operations and knows more about orchids than the rest of us mortals.

Ron gave us some background information about colors in orchids, how the colors are the sum of a bunch of different things. Colors can be layered in the flower, one color on top of another. For example, a flower with a yellow then purple layer will appear to us as an orange/red color. The color also depends on the surface texture of the flower, flat, rough or prismatic. There are multiple pigments in different segments of the orchid flower and the



Ron McHatton jokes with members during the auction

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## Upcoming Events

### May

- 24 Keiki Club – Water Quality and Orchids  
1 pm, Bottom Residence, 797-4360  
6916 Cypress Lake Ct, St. Augustine
- 29-31 Greater Orlando Orchid Society Show  
Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens

### June

- 2 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting  
Growing Phalaenopsis, Cultural Tips for  
Growing in Our Area, Philip Hamilton,  
[DeLeon's Bromeliads & Orchids](#)
- 6 Master Gardeners & SAOS Members  
Q&A, Repotting & Problem Plant Clinic  
Ace on US 1, 9 am to noon

### July

- 7 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting  
The Killers Among Us, CSI for Orchids  
Robert A. Cating, IFAS, University of  
Florida
- 10-12 Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International  
Orchid Fair  
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara,  
California

### August

- 4 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting  
Cattleyas, Queen of the Orchids  
Segundo & Yolanda Cuesta, [Quest  
Orchids](#)

### September

- 1 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting  
Growing Oncidiinae Intergenerics  
Bill Hill. [Orchid Island Orchid](#)

### October

- 2-4 Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show  
Minnreg Center
- 6 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting  
Important Encyclia Species Used  
in Breeding and Their Hybrids

Dr. Ruben and Claudia Sauleda,  
[Ruben in Orchids](#)  
10-11 Gainesville Orchid Society Show  
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens  
17-18 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show



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



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### St Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Mike Heinz mgheinz@comcast.net
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## April 25 Keiki Club – Krull Smith Fieldtrip

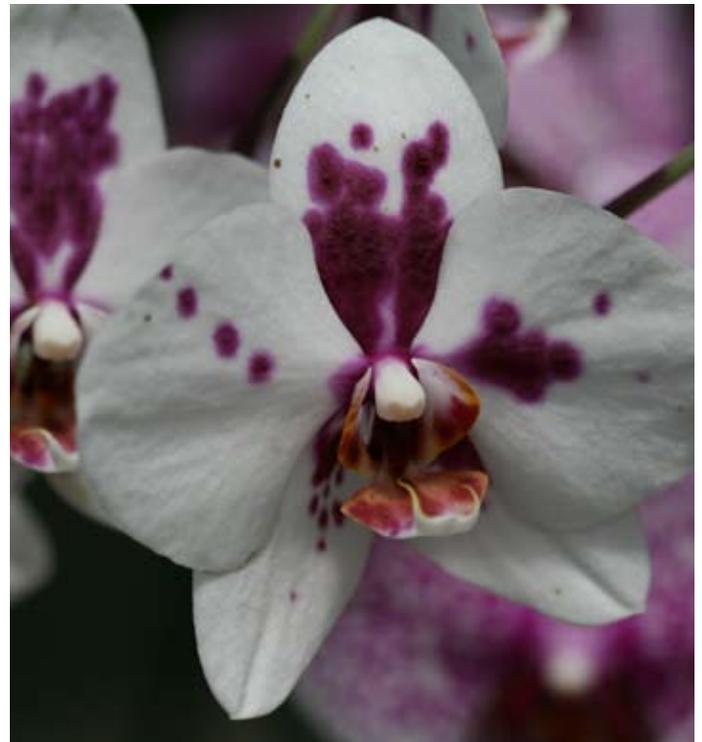
Fifteen intrepid souls blew their budgets at the Krull Smith Orchids greenhouse tour on April 25th. There were cattleyas galore along with phals, bulbos, vandas and more. They have sold all their paphs and phrags to a new operation over in the Tampa area. Jerry gave some orchid tips to the group about how he cares for his orchids at home that Mark Heilman chronicled for us, like:

- He uses sphagnum as his potting mix of choice.
- Repotting suggestions - Oncidiumiums can be repotted whenever, Cattleyas should be repotted after you see new root growth.
- Thoughts on caring for Catasetum – they need a resting period from October until new growth appears. He turns off all water and fertilizer during this period and reduces heat until just protected from freezing. Then, when new growth appears, turns on the water and fertilizer (there is no such thing as too much water and fertilizer during the growing season). He described the potting scheme he uses as a layer of sphagnum, a layer of Dynamite, sphagnum, Dynamite, etc. and then liquid fertilizes them as well along with the rest of his orchids.
- Dynamite – A brand name for a timed-release 13-13-13 (red package, not green) fertilizer. Lowes or Home Depot. One to two teaspoons per plant is good for at least 6 months. When you see the granules are gone, add more.
- Stalite – a brand name for an all natural medium mined in the United States from volcanic slate which is then rotary kiln fired to over 2000 degrees. The material is then made into sterile granules or pieces that are extremely porous and pH neutral. It holds water but does not hold fertilizer salts nearly as much as other rock-like media (aliflor, etc). It is available now at Lowes in the concrete section but isn't branded as Stalite. Look for a product that says *Expanded Slate Lightweight Aggregate*.
- Bacterial Pest Control – evident by brown spots on leaves with a tannish ring around them. To spot treat for bacterial spots, use ¾ tablespoon of vinegar per quart of water in a hand sprayer.
- Mealy Bugs & Scale Control – Sargents (that's right the dog & cat product) green soap. Don't get the kind that has coat supplements, etc. in it, just the plain green soap.



## June 2 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Phillip Hamilton of DeLeon's Bromeliads and Orchids will give a presentation on the culture and trends in Phalaenopsis at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Phillip is the son of Claude Hamilton of Hamlyn Orchids in Jamaica, so he grew up with orchids. He graduated from University of Florida with a BS and MS in Environmental Horticulture and is an Accredited Judge with the American Orchid Society. He is the head grower and hybridizer for DeLeon's in Mount Dora, one of the largest growers and distributors of Phalaenopsis in the country. At DeLeon's, he manages 12 acres of mainly Phalaenopsis production and hybridizing. Since many of you enjoy Phalaenopsis in our area, you should enjoy learning more about this fascinating genus.



*Phal. Lowland Miracle x Phal. Golden Peoker*

## May 24 Keiki Club Meeting – Water Quality

Courtney Hackney will conduct a hands on 'Water Quality and Orchids' clinic where you will bring water from home to be tested. Bring samples of your raw water, water after you have added fertilizer to it, and water as it runs out of the orchid pot. He will make recommendations on the best fertilizers for your water. We will be meeting on May 24th at Sue and Terry Bottom's home at [6916 Cypress Lake Court](#) in St. Augustine. Call 797-4360 if you have any questions.

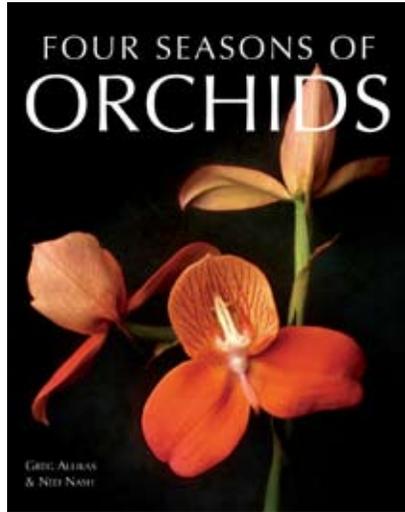


## What's New in the Library

### Four Seasons of Orchids

By Greg Allikas and Ned Nash

This superb book presents a selection of the most exceptional orchids anywhere, all of which can be cultivated at home divided by the season in which they flower, and full of magnificent, unique photographs and accompanied by a wealth of advice for their cultivation. This book is as beautiful as it is useful.



### Maria Cristina Miranda Botanical Illustrator

You know that behind every great man is a great woman. And you know Francisco Miranda, who has talked to us about Brazilian orchids and would like to take us to Brazil to see orchids growing in their natural habitat. Now meet Maria Cristina Miranda, a Botanical Illustrator who paints watercolors with the goal of precision and realism. Maria Cristina was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and soon after getting her degree in Biological Sciences started her Master's Degree with a specialization in Plant Anatomy. Putting together her botanical knowledge and drawing and painting notions, she began practicing this form of art always trying to represent the specimen before her with the best possible accuracy. Maria Cristina has been painting for more than twelve years now, always having in mind the same goals of true botanical illustration: precision and realism. Check out her work, fantastic!



*Sophronitis brevipedunculata*



*Laelia dayana* by Maria Cristina Miranda



*Laelia perrinii coerulea* by Maria Cristina Miranda



## Continued from page 1

colors in the lip, petals and sepals are passed on to progeny separately. The hybridizer's challenge is understanding the presence of different layers of color, the thickness of the pigmented layers, whether there is a genetic predisposition to suppress or intensify color, cellular pH shifts may change colors and other cofactors.

Using beautiful slides, Dr. McHatton demonstrated each of the factors accounting for a particular flower's coloration. He showed us:

- How some colors dominate, as in *Lycaste* where the yellow *aromatica* (dominant for yellow suppressing the red) bred with a pink *skinneri* produced bright yellow progeny for four generations, all the while the pink genes concentrating until the fifth generation bloomed red.
- Yellow and pink flowered plants often produce white progeny because the pigment is suppressed.
- Yellow phals often tend to fade because the pigment decomposes faster than the color is regenerated
- *Paph niveum* is the basis for white phal breeding
- Yellow oncidiums block the pink pigment and pink oncidiums block the yellow pigment
- *Brassavola nodosa* inhibits the red pigment but is dominant for spotting in the lip

It was a very in-depth, well presented discussion and we are indebted to Ron for his time and efforts.

### Raffle and Auction

Fred Keefer and his able assistant Christie Peppard began the drawings for the orchids on the raffle table. After the raffle, the auction began and Fred was his usual restrained, demure self. Nonetheless, the auction was spirited and there was much laughter to accompany the beautiful plants that were purchased.

### Member's Choice

The winner of the 'Member's Choice' from tonight's show table was Sue Bottom for her *Dor. pulcherimma* x *Phal. parishii*, recently obtained from the field trip to Krull Smith.



*Christie Peppard leads the raffle drawing*



*Mark & Shelia Heilman cut-up during the auction*



*Mike Heinz has a good laugh during the auction*



*The bidding gets serious*



## 2009 Redland International ORCHID FESTIVAL





## Growing Tips for May

[Dr. Courtney T. Hackney](#)

Dept. Biology, Univ. North Florida  
Florida

Most orchid hobbyists can't resist a novel hybrid or really odd species. That is why we are all "out of space". Even so, we still bring home a new orchid whenever we visit an orchid nursery or orchid show.

"Space, is the final frontier" for most of us. What makes growing orchids difficult is the fact that different orchids require different growing conditions and we want to grow them all.

Those growing inside, either under lights or on windowsills, are generally used to orienting their orchids to the proper light levels. Orchids requiring high light, e.g., vandas, are placed close to the light, while phalaenopsis that prefer lower light levels are placed near the edge of the light table. There may be seasonal changes you initiate too, brought on by increasing day length or by changing light bulbs to coincide with spring. It's important to remember that the intensity of desirable wavelengths generated by grow lights decreases as bulbs age, so it is necessary to replace bulbs long before they stop working.

In greenhouses too, the location of orchids is important. Besides changes in day length, the sun changes both in intensity and orientation. A perfect location for your bulbophyllums in winter may be too bright in spring and summer. This is the time of year where it may be necessary to revisit the location of some orchids.

In my new greenhouse, there are two areas where the change in season has necessitated moving some orchids. What were once cool, shady spots are now very bright.

Because space is at a premium in most greenhouses, there are many hanging plants in my greenhouse oriented in layers. Visitors are often surprised to find phalaenopsis and bulbophyllums hanging high in the greenhouse. While they are hanging, they are shaded by vandas or other high light orchids. If you decide to try "layering" in either your greenhouse or indoor growing area, be aware that there are other aspects of orchid growing you must consider.

Phalaenopsis hanging under vandas would stay too wet in the typical medium used for phalaenopsis, so my hanging phals are potted in coarse lava rock. Vandas and phalaenopsis both love high humidity and heat, but differ in their preference for light and drying tolerance. Vanda roots prefer to grow exposed and be dry by day's end, while phalaenopsis roots prefer not to dry thoroughly each day.



Thus, my vandas are grown without medium and the phals hanging below them are in well-drained clay pots with lava rock. Both are watered most bright days and dry by the end of each day to an appropriate level for the individual plants.

There are also some high-light areas in the greenhouse where water is applied at infrequent intervals, especially in winter. Here, various encyclias and *C. dowiana* var *aurea* hang in pots along with certain cattleya species that prefer to be kept on the dry side. Phalaenopsis and bulbophyllums hanging below these plants would become too dry unless they were treated differently. It is not easy to water orchids hanging below other orchids, so here moisture-loving orchids are potted in a fine bark mix or sphagnum and grown in plastic pots, which keeps them moist between weekly watering.

My system works now because I have learned how to do it by trial and error. Many orchids suffered during the learning process. The key to successful layering is to learn which areas dry fastest and which tend to stay wet longer. To practice "layering" successfully you will also have to learn about the requirements of different orchids.



## What's in Bloom in the SAOS

Paul Jones, [trjones\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:trjones_99@yahoo.com)

Finally, the weather is warming and beginning to feel more like the Florida we know and love! I'm sure everyone's plants are waking up from their long winter's nap. Email me the pictures you take of your plants in bloom to [trjones\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:trjones_99@yahoo.com). Be sure to include a brief description of how you grow them and any other interesting tidbit or anecdote about your beauty you wish to share. Almost every orchid has a story to tell and a history behind it!

Bill Roth's fabulous Vandas: I always look forward to Bill's emails, because they always mean great pictures of rare and exquisite Vanda species! Bill Roth sent us a couple of pictures of his lovely *Trudelia cristata* and *Ascocentrum curvifolium*. Here is what Bill says of his *Trudelia*: "In 1828 this orchid was classified as genus *Vanda* species *cristata*. In 1986 Dr. Garay split it out with 4 others from the genus *Vanda* and named the genus *Trudelia* Garay. Any way we will still call it *Vanda* as it has been for 160 years. Well mine finally bloomed. One opened and there are 9 more buds. I have two growths in one plant each with two spikes". Also pictured is Bill's gorgeous *Ascocentrum*.



***Ascocentrum curvifolium***



***Trudelia cristata*, Grown By Bill Roth**

Paul's *Rodocidium Enchantment* is a lovely pastel pink mini-Oncidium that I purchased in late 2007 from Ace Hardware



on US 1 S. I mounted it on a small piece of river driftwood and it has established nicely. I loaned it to Beth Strate to use in

her glass case exhibit at the Jax show, but the buds did not open in time (as usual). Also, my *Dendrobium aggregatum* put on its usual April show this year. She really outdid herself this time as she developed seven separate flower spikes as opposed to only three last year. She was a blaze of yellow and gold during most of April. Since I followed President Mike's advice to increase the dry period length by six weeks over the winter, she has responded beautifully indeed!

Charlie Wesley's lovely *Phalaenopsis*: Charlie once again has shared an example of his superb photography skills with a lovely shot of his *Phalaenopsis* hybrid that is actually blooming off a keiki!



***Pink Phalaenopsis*, Photo By Charles Wesley**



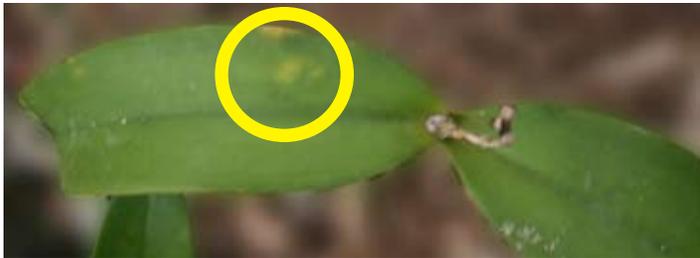
## Orchid Questions & Answers

Where Members Share Experiences

[Sue Bottom](#)

**Q.** I just brought an orchid home and noticed these white specks on it. What is it?

**A.** You have the dreaded scale. You should look at each plant every time you water. If you ever see a yellowish spot on the top of the leaf, look underneath the leaf and often times you may find scale sucking the juices out of the plant. Here's how I handle scale. Get your water hose with the spray head set on flat and blast off all the scale as well as the papery sheaths on the pseudobulbs cause that is a great place for scale to hide from view. Then, take a toothbrush and isopropyl alcohol and scrub it off or keep a can of Orthenex (now it's called RosePride) handy so you can kill any hangers on. If you think the scale may be on the rhizome or into the potting mix, you can do a drench of malathion or Orthene. Harriet Wright puts a special colored tag in her plants when she finds scale to remind her to check the plant going forward. When you repot, a good preventative step



**Scale viewed from the topside of leaf**



**Scale viewed from the underside of leaf**

is to water blast the entire plant and remove the papery sheaths. This is particularly important if you repot your back bulbs because that is the most likely place for scale to accumulate.

**Q.** How often should I repot my orchids?

**A.** Here's the short answer, don't repot unless you have a reason to repot because each time you disturb the orchid's roots, you will have some transplant shock though this can be minimized if you choose the best time to repot. Here are some good reasons to repot:

- *You Want Mix to Match Your Normal Mix.* You always have to match your watering habits with your orchid's needs and your orchid's potting mix. If you water all your plants at the same time, you might want to have them all in the same mix so you don't have to think whether that plant in sphagnum really needs water while that plant in stalite is dry and crying for water.

- *Two Types Mix Used.* Often when you buy plants at the big box stores, you'll find that the plant is in an inner core of sphagnum surrounded by a bark mix. It is almost impossible to water these plants correctly because the sphagnum will stay wetter than the bark so you will either be overwatering the sphagnum core or underwatering the outer bark.

- *Potting Mix Degraded.* The organic matter in your potting mix will ultimately degrade. Here are some general rules of thumb. Sphagnum moss lasts a year or maybe two at the most before having to be replaced. Bark lasts for about 2 years. Coconut husks last for 1 to 3 years depending on how wet you keep the mix. Tree fern lasts from 2 to 4 years. Once the organic matter starts to rot, the roots growing in it will stay too wet and they will likewise rot. And once your roots rot, your plant will not have the strength it needs to bloom. You must repot before the organic material in your potting mix breaks down.

- *Orchid is Unstable from Growing Out of Pot.* If your plant is unstable from growing out of the pot, you may want to repot it. This is not to say that there is anything wrong with aerial roots or a pseudobulb or two out of the pot, often you will find that these plants bloom the best of all. But if the plant is unstable and unwieldy, you may want to repot it and get it set for the next 2 or 3 years of growth and blooming.

**Q.** I'm planning to repot my orchids, is there a best time to repot?

**A.** Here are the best rules for repotting:

- Cattleyas should be repotted right before the new flush of roots emerges because the plants will quickly reestablish with their new vibrant roots.

- Phalaenopsis should be repotted after blooming in the spring but in any case by the end of June so they can recover their strength and be ready to set their bloom spikes in the fall (the summer blooming Doritis types should be repotted in early spring).

- Dendrobiums should be repotted as infrequently as possible because they hate to have their roots disturbed, keep them in a nondegrading mix so you can drop them in a larger pot right before their new roots emerge.

- Oncidiums can be repotted at your convenience, normally after blooming.

- If you are planning a mass repotting of all your orchids, do this in the spring from February through June. For those that are blooming or in spike during the spring repotting season, repot after they are done blooming but make sure the plants will have 3 to 5 months to reestablish and gain strength before the winter rest period.



# Who's Who

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## Pat Flemings

Charter Member Pat Flemings joined SAOS back in 2006. Like a lot of us, she had been given orchids as gifts and didn't know how to care for them. She's been learning steadily ever since. Originally from Livonia, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit, Pat was a public health nurse, and is enjoying retirement since moving to Florida 18 years ago. She and husband Dave live in the beautiful Vail Point area of St. Augustine where she does general gardening, specializing in fresh herbs. It's also a perfect setting for her growing orchid collection. Her favorite orchid is the Cattleya, and her favorite Cattleya (because it was an easy one for her to rebloom) is Lc. Secret Angel 'Wattana Gold', one of Fred Keefer's plants that she won at an SAOS Silent Auction. She has about 15 in her collection, and they stay outdoors all year except for during the low-temp days. She fertilizes with Paul Jones' 'stew' of Orchid Pro and Inoculaid. Pat and Dave love to travel, and they do a lot of it - Europe, the Med, all over the States, the Panama Canal. In fact, it was on a 68 day cruise around S. America this past January (they were going to see the penguins) when she slipped and broke her shoulder in Brazil and they had to return home. Her shoulder has mended beautifully, and she's ready for spring weather to get her orchids back outside and tend to her garden. And they're probably planning their next trip.



5 years ago, he and wife Sheila settled in Orange Park. He got his first orchid 3 years ago when Sheila brought a phal home from Publix. They kept it in the bathroom behind opaque glass and were surprised when it bloomed the next year. He got two more and then met Mike Heinz. That was the start of what Mark refers to as "the downfall". Today he and Sheila have about a hundred orchids that they grow in a pool enclosure covered with shade cloth. His favorite is the coconut scented Maxillaria tenuifolia. Mark and Sheila have a 45 foot motor home and travel a lot, so he equipped the pool enclosure with automatic sprinklers to handle timed watering. For someone who had avoided any form of gardening all his life, since discovering orchids and meeting Mike Heinz, he did a real turnaround.

## Sheila Heilman

Sheila Heilman has led a colorful and challenging life. She met husband Mark back in 1966, and they were engaged 10 days later. Keeping pace with Mark's Navy career as a dentist, Sheila, as a civil servant, served as a Navy psychologist for 20 years. In their worldwide travels, Sheila ran into a lot of orchids, and grew them in Guam – more for amusement than seriously as in tropical climates, orchids tend to grow themselves. She brought an entire suitcase full home from Hawaii, but alas, none survived. She was given an orchid by someone at her office, and after keeping it alive for five years, she realized she was finally doing something right. Now she says she definitely has the addiction but has no intention of joining a 12-Step Program because this is one addiction she doesn't want to break. Without making a total commitment to only one, she's leaning towards the bulbophyllum as her favorite orchid as Sheila tends to like anything weird. She definitely has a creative tendency and besides orchids as a hobby, Sheila is an avid sewing machine embroiderer and also makes quilts.



## Mark Heilman

During his 36 years as a dentist in the Navy, Mark Heilman traveled the world – Japan, Guam, the Med, the Far East and more. After his Navy stint, he went back to school to become a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer and wrote software for a company that digitized x-rays and sent them all over the world. After full retirement



# SHOW TABLE



Terry Bottom

**Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz**  
**Paph. Maudiae 'The Queen'**  
**AM/AOS**



Terry Bottom

**Grower Dick Roth**  
**Lc. Trick or Treat x Lc. Chicanery**



Terry Bottom

**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**Dor. pulcherrima x Phal. parishii**



Terry Bottom

**Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz**  
**C. shilleriana**



Terry Bottom

**Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz**  
**C. intermedia**



Terry Bottom

**Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz**  
**Paph. Bernice 'Orchid Specialist'**



Terry Bottom

**Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz**  
**Den. aggregatum var majus**



# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Marv & Jan Ragan**  
*C. mendelii*



**Grower Stacy Manges**  
*Phal. Baldan's Kaleidoscope*



**Grower Harry & Celia McElroy**  
*C. skinnerii 'alba'*



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
*Slc. Polyanne 'Jennifer's Choice'*



**Grower Sue Bttom**  
*Lc. Gold Digger x Enc. rufum*



**Grower Marv & Jan Ragan**  
*Zygonesia Cynosure*

