

CLUB NEWS



Roy Tokunaga

October 13 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Lola Stark, seacuter@bellsouth.net

Welcome & Thanks. The meeting was called to order by President Jack Higgins with 74 people present including six guests and

new member Emily Davis. Jack thanked Jeanette Smith, Sandra Taylor and Shirley Browning for the refreshments and reminded those who snack to please help defray the cost with a silent donation. Gail Marshall welcomed everyone and reminded them that if they have a birthday this month they are eligible for an extra raffle ticket. If you know of a member who needs a card, please get in touch with Gail. Jack also reminded everyone to vote for their favorite orchid on the show table.

SAOS Club Business. Dick Roth, Nominating Committee Chairman, reported that the Nominating Committee, which includes Rae Coletti and Vivienne Rowe, will make their 2011 officer recommendations at the November meeting, but that he would not be with us as they are going to Spain! Rae Coletti will make the report.

Wendy Thomas, our Librarian, told us about the books, magazines etc. that she had available, and urged those members present to check out the variety she has!



Roy gets started with his presentation

Rosemary Comtois made a presentation from the Hibiscus Circle of the Garden Club of St. Augustine to Terry and Sue Bottom. Their "Park" at 6916 Cypress Lake Court was selected as the Garden of the Month for October. Congratulations!!!!

Upcoming Events. The Keiki Club will meet at Lola Stark's home at 3136 Country Creek Lane on October 24 at 1 pm. Please bring a chair. If you need directions call Lola at 797-2361 or Sue at 797-4360 or use Mapquest.

The repotting clinic at Hagan Ace will be on November 6 from 9 am till 1 pm. Come and talk about orchids or get your orchids repotted!

Don't forget to attend Fred Keefer's Del-Rei Orchids in Hastings on November 7 from noon until 4. Please bring a toy and enjoy good food, good music, good friendships and great orchids!

EFG Orchids is having their Orchoberfest in Deland on October 22-24. There'll be other orchid nurseries involved as well. The Brevard County Orchid Society will be having their Fair in Melbourne on October 30-31.



Another full house awaits the start of Roy's talk



A view of Roy's Stud Plant growing area

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Upcoming Orchid Events

October

- 16-17 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show
Community Center Vet Memorial Park
- 22-24 [EFG Orchids](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org) - Orchttoberfest
4265 Marsh Road, Deland 32724
- 24 Keiki Club – 1 to 3 pm
Fall Preparations
Getting Ready for Winter
Lola Starke's Home
[3136 Country Creek Ln, St. Aug 32086](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org)
- 29-31 [Delray Beach Orchid Society Show](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org)
Old School Square
- 30-31 [Brevard County Orchid Society](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org)
Fall Orchid Fair
Melbourne Auditorium

November

- 2 SAOS Meeting – 7 pm
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
Compact Cattleya Breeding
- 6 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 6-7 [13th Annual Slipper Symposium](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org)
Clarion Hotel&Conference Ctr, Tampa
- 7 Del-Rei Orchids Fall Open House -
Noon to 4; Bring a Xmas Toy for the
Kids of Hastings
4270 Cedar Ford Blvd, Hastings 32145
Call 386-325-4845 for directions
- 21 Keiki Club – 1 to 3 pm
Reading Your Plant Tag
Venue to Be Determined

December

- 11 SAOS Christmas Auction, 7 pm
Moultrie Trails Clubhouse

www.staugorchidsociety.org



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



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SAOS Monthly Program. Our program for the evening was by Roy Tokunaga of H & R Nurseries in Hawaii. His talk was titled "Hybridizing Flared Orchids" using *Cattleya intermedia* v. *aquinii* in creating new exciting color for cattleyas.

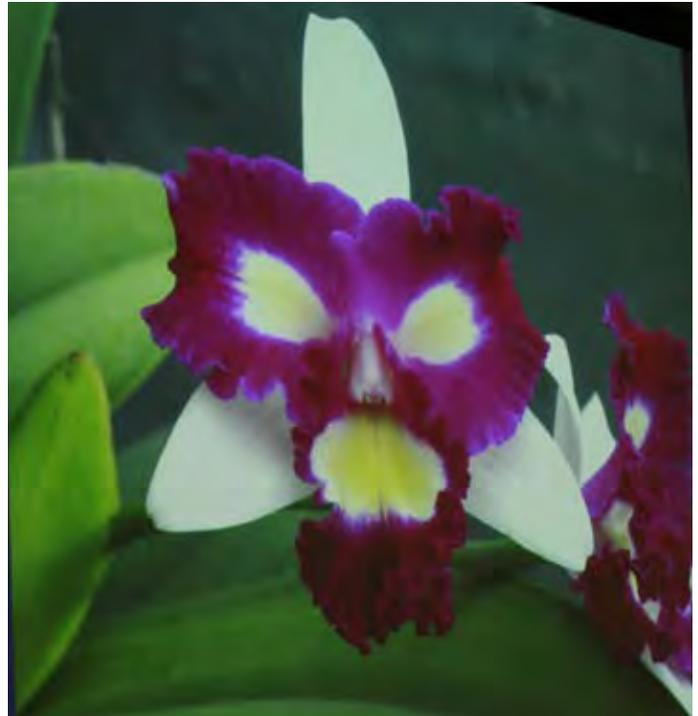
He first explained that the difference in temperatures in Hawaii, from 2000 foot mountains to sea level makes it an ideal place to grow orchids. The temperature has a range of from 46 to 94. Never colder, never warmer! On top of the mountains, the rainfall per year is about 200 inches, at the base of the mountains, they get about 100 inches and at sea level they get about 40 inches a year. Roy grows his orchids in greenhouses with 50% shade cloth and that gives them a 15 degree difference between the bottom and the top of the greenhouse.

He grows his baby orchids in plastic because of the cost, but strongly recommends that as soon as you get your orchids home, you transfer them to clay pots or even baskets! He makes lots of crosses and can keep the pollen for up to a year so that it can be used on plants blooming at the time of the taking of the pollen or used six months later to cross with a plant in bloom at that time. By making the crosses with plants blooming at different times, he can try to have the plants bloom year round. He advocates keeping your greenhouse clean. Never allow dead leaves on the ground. They repaint their benches each time they remove a set of plants to prevent diseases and fungi from being carried from one cross to another.



New generations of cattleyas are started from seed

Roy then went on to show us how crossing certain plants with *C. intermedia* v. *aquinii* will give him crosses that allow the color of the lip of the cattleya to be picked up by the petals as spots or even stripes. This makes spectacular color combinations: magenta on white, red on yellow, etc. His slides of the different crosses and the many different combinations from one cross were outstanding. He selectively breeds with orchids that have 4 sets of chromosomes (tetraploids) for the increased vigor, flower size and quality. His understanding of the different cattleyas is amazing!



Lc. Mari's Magic 'Purple Flares' got a big Halloween WOW from the SAOS members & guests

He went on to tell us that the most important aspect of growing cattleyas is the aeration. The roots love to have air around them. They must have enough light, but not full sun. Roy feels that if the weather is hot and you have to water your orchids often then you need to add calcium to your orchids along with your fertilizer. He likes the Michigan State formula 13-3-14 with calcium for his and has used it for years. He waters twice a week during the summer and once a week when the weather is cool using 1 tsp. per gallon of water.

Meeting Conclusion. Following the program we had our raffle and auction. Sue Bottom won the show table Member's Choice with Blc. Bow Bryce 'Brilliant' and Jack Higgins won the Grand Raffle. Fred and Christie did their level best to keep the raffle and auction under control with laughter and fun!



The meeting ends with a raffle of many fine orchids





Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners

October 24th, 1 to 3 pm

We'll be talking about fall preparations on Sunday, October 24th from 1 to 3 pm. Lola will give a short talk about what you should do to get your winter growing area prepared and your plants ready for winter. We're meeting at Lola Stark's home at [3136 Country Creek Lane](#), St. Aug 32086 on Sunday afternoon from 1 to 3 pm. Bring a folding chair. Call 797-2361 with any questions.



November 2nd Monthly SAOS Meeting

Fred Clarke of [Sunset Valley Orchids](#) located in Vista, California will speak about compact cattleya breeding at the November 2nd meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. The mini to mid-sized cattleyas now come in many colors and shapes. Learn about the small growing cattleya species, the important breeding plants, what hybrids are available for the orchid enthusiast and the best practices for growing these little gems. There will be plants available for purchase on the raffle, auction and plant sales tables.

Fred, an AOS judge and orchid hybridizer, created Sunset Valley Orchids in 1995 as a natural outgrowth of a hobby. Sunset Valley Orchids is a boutique style nursery dedicated to excellent customer service and unique offerings of award quality orchids. Fred is a perennial crowd favorite at the St. Augustine Orchid Society.



Photographer & Orchidteer Brian Monk

Brian Monk was born in Milton, Florida in 1969. Shortly after his birth, Brian's family moved to Charleston, West Virginia where he spent the next 18 years. As a young man, Brian's intense passion for nature led to his profession and his many hobbies including bird-watching, orchid growing and photography.

In 1992, Brian received his degree from Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia followed by a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Virginia Tech in 1997. In 2005, while working as a Veterinarian in Orlando, Florida, Brian met the love of his life, Mary-Margaret, in Ft. Lauderdale. Because of Brian's passion for all things orchid, he and Mary-Margaret formed Blu Llama Orchids, Inc. Brian and Mary-Margaret were married on April Fool's Day in 2006 and reside in Ft. Lauderdale with their cats and their ever expanding orchid collection.

Brian started growing and hybridizing orchids in his backyard, but this has recently expanded to 4000 square feet of greenhouse space. He will grow anything green, but focuses on his hybridizing projects, which include the development of multi-floral white and pink Paphiopedilums, warmth-tolerant intergeneric Oncidiinae, and a standard pink Cattleya with an all-white lip.

Brian's photography has won awards online, in the 2007 Miami International Orchid Show, and at the 2008 World Orchid Conference. His work has been displayed in solo shows at the American Orchid Society headquarters in Delray, and at the Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando. Brian recently won the American Orchid Society's Dillon - Peterson prize for his essay published in the May 2010 edition of *Orchids* magazine

Encouraged by his wife and inspired by his orchids, Brian continues to pursue and perfect his orchid culture and photographic skills.



INSPIRATION



Pink by Brian Monk



Magic-Bell2 by Brian Monk



Tequila Sunrise by Brian Monk



Foxtail by Brian Monk



B & W Lowii by Brian Monk





September 19 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners Orchid Pests and Diseases

About 10 orchidists came to the first fall Keiki Club get together to discuss orchid pests and diseases. There are tutorials on the Pest and Diseases section of the website to help you with diagnosis and treatment. We talked about common orchid troublemakers and easy controls:

Scale – seems to have a propensity for attacking cattleyas and is often found around the pseudobulbs, under the paper sheaths and in the leaf axils. Power blast the suckers away with a hand sprayer set on flat and then get a toothbrush dipped in isopropyl alcohol or your favorite pesticide.

Mealybugs – seem to find paphiopedilums and phalaenopsis delicious are often found in the crown from which new leaves emerge. Use a Q tip dipped in isopropyl alcohol or your favorite pesticide.



Bill Gourley & Shirley Browning diagnose a problem

Thrips – are tiny, flying insects that chew on the most tender and succulent parts of your plants, the flower buds and flowers and new roots. If you've got a lot of bud blast, flowers that don't develop normally or age quickly, or that look distorted, check for thrips. Hold a piece of white paper under a suspect flower and shake it, if long squiggly black spots appear, you have thrips. Put Orthene in a spray bottle and weekly spray all the flowers and buds until the thrips disappear, you may have to treat the source of thrips by spraying your landscape with a suitable pesticide.

Ants and Cockroaches – are annoying creatures that may take up residence in your pots and you may not know they're there. A good precaution is to apply liquid Sevin (1 tsp/gal) and flush through the pot, particularly before you move your plants to their winter home.

Black Rot – seems to attack cattleyas during the hot humid summer months and quickly kills your plant unless you cut away the damaged tissue in time. Drench with Banrot (1 tsp/gal) after sanitizing the plant.



Cut away the Black Rot before it kills your plant

Fusarium Wilt – attacks cattleyas by blocking the phloem. The plant weakens and ultimately looks grayish and wilted. If you cut through the rhizome and find a purple ring, you have fusarium wilt. If the plant is valuable, cut away the infected tissue with a sterile tool, newly sterilized with each cut, and drench with Banrot after repotting.



Cut away diseased tissue leaving at least three pseudobulbs





Growing Tips for September

Dr. Courtney Hackney,
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Dept. Biology, Univ. North
Florida

Many fall blooming cattleyas are getting ready to bloom and buds are swelling in their sheaths. *C labiata*, *C bowringiana* and the fall blooming form of *C skinneri*, and their hybrids typically have double sheaths. It seems that the big change in day to night temperatures can cause moisture to accumulate between the inner and outer sheaths causing buds to rot. Watch these orchids carefully and be sure there is lots of air movement around these orchids. If you observe any moisture accumulating, carefully open the outer sheath and allow air movement into the space between sheaths. That usually solves the problem.

Vandas are known as heat-loving orchids, but have always bloomed better for me in the fall and winter as long as temperatures do not get below 60 F and there is enough light. Colors are always brighter when nights are a little cooler. This is especially true for any vanda or ascocenda with *Vanda coerulea* in the parentage.



Phalaenopsis require a significant day to night temperature change to initiate spikes. It usually takes a couple of weeks of these conditions to get all of the phals in a greenhouse to put their energy into growing spikes instead of leaves. Phals will be fine on a porch or in a greenhouse even after nights are in the upper 50s F as long as the day temperature rises above 80 F. Once daytime high temperatures are below 78-80 F, phals need to be kept no lower than 60 F at night.

Paphs and phrags really seem to love the cool nights too. Mature growths, especially in the multifloral paphs, will prepare to flower. Usually development of new growths is the first sign that a flower spike will soon emerge.

Essentially, I stop fertilizing cattleyas (except seedlings) starting in October and reduce watering frequency, but not watering intensity. Less light and heat each day means that orchids dry out less rapidly. Pay careful attention to periods of clouds and rain, which can also lead to less need for water.

Some books recommend switching to high phosphate fertilizers for phals, paphs, vandas, and other orchids that do not have a rest period before flowering. For years I did this, but finally decided that maintaining a high nitrogen fertilizer gave me better flowers and more of them. Because watering is reduced and fertilizer is provided with each watering, there is a reduction in fertilizer, but that is the only change.



Cymbidiums are not widely grown in the deep south, but can do well here. If you have a few of this genera, now is the time to move them into increased sunlight. Best results occur when *cymbidiums* are kept under heavy shade during the intense summer heat. Now, give them a good shot of fertilizer and slowly move them into the sunlight. Unless you have one of the tropical forms, they can take temperatures near freezing and seem to bloom best when they have a light frost on their leaves at sunrise. Once you see bloom spikes emerging, protect them from extreme cold until they flower.



Your Orchids in October

based on Robert Scully articles,
courtesy of the AOS



General Growing Tips. We usually receive our first cold snap around Halloween, so if you are growing outdoors, this is the time for you to make your winter preparations. Check your winter structure, test fire your heaters and start cleaning your plants. With the shortening days and cooler temperatures, your plants require less water and fertilizer now. Observe the rate at which your plants dry out after watering and make adjustments, gradually adding days in between your normally watering cycle.



Sophronitis coccinea

Cattleyas. *Sophronitis coccinea* enjoys a peak flowering season this month. Some of its hybrids should also be blooming, particularly those with summer-fall flowering parents. While the plants are usually small, the show of color makes them conspicuous. Also blooming now is *Enc. cochleata*, *Epi. ciliare* and *Epi. pseudepidendrum*.

Phalaenopsis. *Phal. hieroglyphica* flowers reliably in the autumn. Its fragrant pale yellow flowers are distinctively marked with well defined brown lines on the sepals and petals. *Phal. equestris* and *Phal. lindenii* may also show their best now, the former may be everblooming through spring and the later will arouse curiosity with its attractively striped lip.



Phal. hieroglyphica

Miscellaneous Genera. You should be seeing flowers of *Ctsm. pileatum* and its hybrids now. Handle these and all catasetums with care when the blooms are open because a minor jarring of the plant can cause the flowers to eject their pollen-carrying anther caps, resulting in a much shortened flower life. This interesting and unique method of natural pollen dissemination is always a stimulating topic of conversation for those seeing it occur for the first time.



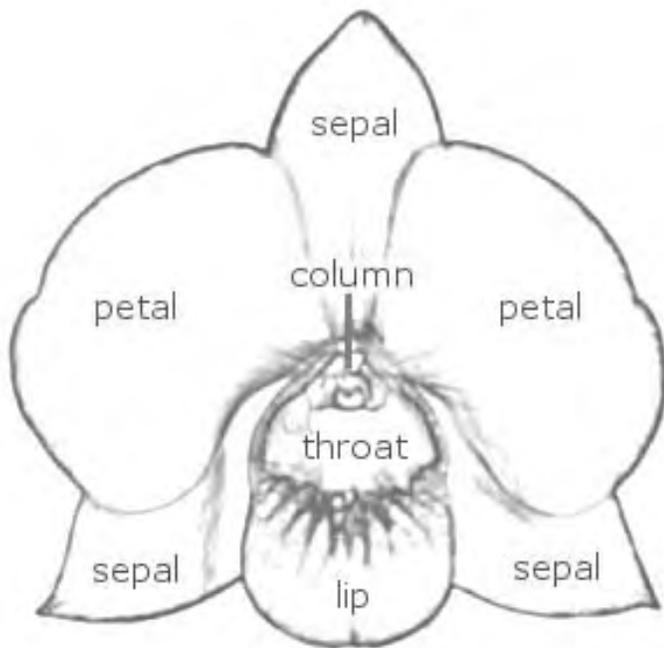
Ctsm. pileatum



[The Orchid Flower](#)

by Susan Taylor, BellaOnline.com

The orchid flower is the main predictor of whether a plant is an orchid or not. The flower must have three petals and three sepals, with the third petal or labellum modified and differentiated from the other two. Here's a good [diagram](#) of a flower showing all the above. In most cases the flower is zygomorphic or the same on both sides of the flower as in a mirror image and perfectly symmetrical. Notice in the diagram that if you cut the flower in half vertically that both sides will be the same.



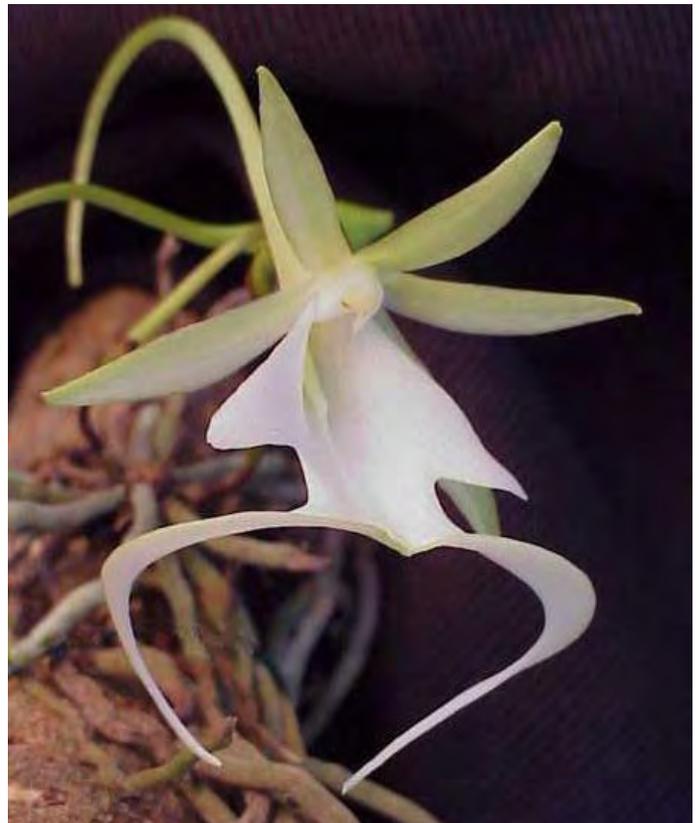
The main test as to whether a flower is an orchid is the fusion of the male and female parts in a structure called a column with a complete separation so that in most species it is almost impossible for the flower to self-pollinate naturally. There are a few types of orchids which self pollinate, but that is the exception rather than the rule.

The pollen is held in sacks called pollinia and different species have different numbers of pollinia. The flower is structured so that when a pollinator enters the flower the pollinia touch the head or the abdomen (in the case of wasps and bees) and when it backs out the pollinia are removed from the flower and stick to the insect. When the pollinator enters another flower of the same species, the pollinia are brushed off and attached to the stigma of the second flower, thus the process has reached its conclusion. The pollen moves down to the ovary to complete the fertilization process.

Different species of orchids are adapted to entice their pollinators, in many instances the lip or a modified variety of the common lip, provides a landing place for smaller pollinators such as bees or wasps to land. Patterns on the flowers, especially on the lips, provide visual indicators to the source of the nectar which many pollinators seek.



In the genus *Paphiopedilum*, the lip has developed into a slipper shaped form, thus the name of "Slipper Orchid". In *Masdevallias*, the sepals are fused to form the signature triangular flowers. Many other interesting and weird flowers have developed in the orchid family which are one thing that makes them so interesting and diverse. Orchids pollinated by moths, such as the famous [Ghost Orchid](#), are white so they will show up in the dark and often have a long strong odor. They also usually contain nectar which the moths seek when finding the flowers.





Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@bellsouth.net

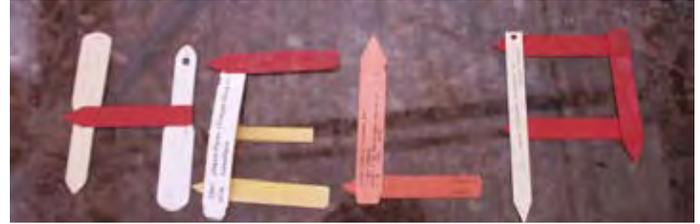
Q. The leaves on one of my cattleyas are turned in. They look like a rhododendron leaf that is responding to cold weather. What do you suppose is wrong?

A. The plant looks dehydrated. When I'm not sure what is going on with a plant, I knock it out of the pot and take a look at the roots to see if they are healthy and growing vigorously. If the roots look dessicated, try watering more or increase the organic matter in your potting mix.



Q. My vanda has black spots surrounded by yellow, making me think the vanda has a bacterial infection. I have sprayed it with captan a few times this year. What do you think?

A. The yellow halos together with the sunken necrotic spots both point to Bacterial Brown Spot caused by *Acidovorax* (*Pseudomonas*). Spray with a bactericide containing copper compounds (best, but don't use on dendrobiums) or you can use the somewhat less effective Consan, Physan or pool algaecide.



Bacterial Brown Spot on vanda leaf

Q. Is this a bacterial or fungal infection?

A. Neither, the sun angle is changing as we move into fall and I think this vanda leaf got sunburned (see how the burn is concentrated on the highest point of the leaves where the sunlight is most intense). I've gotten sunburn in the last few weeks on plants that have been in the same position all summer long.



Vanda leaf with sunburn

Q. I came across your website while searching the internet. I was wondering if you could help me identify the problem. What causes the buds on my vandas to dry up?

A. Bud Blast can be caused by many environmental factors (too dry, too wet, plant recently moved, etc.). The most

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likely culprits on vandas are either the plant is too dry or you've got thrips. Given how healthy your vandas look with plump leaves and plump roots, the bud blast is most likely caused by thrips. Thrips are tiny flying insects that attack the tenderest parts of the plant, the emerging buds, flowers and roots. To check for thrips in flowers, hold a piece of white paper under the flower and shake it. If little long moving black spots appear on the paper, you have thrips. You can also check your roots for evidence of girdling.



Vanda bud blasting & spike drying up

Thrips are difficult to control because they are mobile and you hate to spray pesticides directly on the flower where the thrips are. Keep a hand sprayer filled with an Orthene solution handy and spray flowers and buds weekly. You may also have to spray your landscaping to control the source of thrips, particularly if there are citrus, gardenias, eucalyptus, lots of flowers, etc.). The Bayer product containing imidacloprid is systemic and can provide extended control but it will cause floral damage if you spray the flowers.



Vanda roots with girdling

SAOS Website – Library

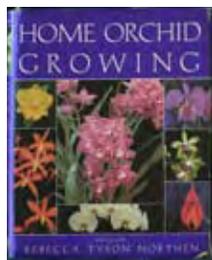
We have a section of the St. Augustine Orchid Society website that is dedicated to the SAOS library. Go to the [SAOS Library](#) menu on the website and check out all the different books and DVD's available to you in the various categories.



Books for Beginners – Try some of these good starter books like *Orchids* from Ortho, *Bloom Again Orchids* by judywhite, *Orchids as Houseplants* by Rebecca Northen and the DVD *Growing Orchids: Easier than You Think* which features our own Fred Keefer.



General Orchid Culture – Try the orchid bible *Home Orchid Growing* by Rebecca Northen, the informative *Understanding Orchids* by William Cullina, the informative and beautiful Greg Allikas books *Four Seasons of Orchids* and *The World's Most Beautiful Orchids* and our serialized *Florida Orchid Growing – Month by Month* by Martin Motes.



Specific Orchid Genera – If there are some specific orchids you want to learn more about, this is the place! Try these excellent books: Courtney Hackney's *American Cattleyas*, Arthur Chadwick's *Classic Cattleyas*, Steven Frowine's *Moth Orchids*, Harold Koopowitz's *Tropical Slipper Orchids*, Martin Mote's *Vandas* or Bill Thoms' *Bulbophyllums*.



And More – There are field guides and encyclopedias, try Carlyle Leur's *The Native Orchids of Florida* or Isobyl LaCroix's *New Encyclopedia of Orchids*. There are specialty books on greenhouses, pests and diseases and orchid photography. There are back issues of the AOS *Orchids* and the *Orchid Digest* as well as equipment.

These are great resources. Click on the library pages and email librarian Wendy Thomas with your selection, she'll bring it to the next meeting!



SHOW TABLE



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Dendrochilum magnum 'Cagyanence'



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Paph. Vexillarium



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Phrag. Rosy Gem



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Den. oligophyllum



Grower Dick Roth
Onc. Sweet Sugar 'Yellow King'



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Yellow Candy



Grower Lolla Stark
Zygonisia Cynosure 'Blue Birds'



SHOW TABLE



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
C. bicolor



Grower Sue Bottom
Blc. Bow Bryce 'Brilliant'



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
C. Portia 'Appleton' AM/AOS



Grower Dick Roth
Lc. Angel Heart 'Hihimanu' AM/AOS



Grower Fred Keefer
C. Portia 'Canazaro'



Grower Sue Bottom
Blc. Hawaiian Venture

