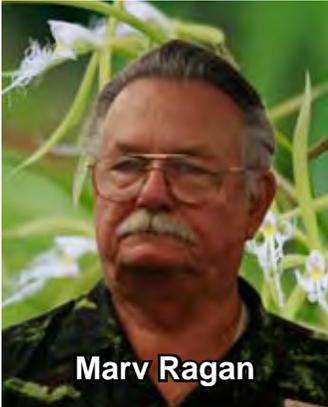




CLUB NEWS



Marv Ragan

November 1 Monthly SAOS Meeting

By Lola Stark,
seacuter@bellsouth.net

Welcome and Thanks. President Jack Higgins opened the meeting at 7:15 pm with 42 people present. Jack thanked Jeanette Smith, and Dorothy Van Brocklin for the refreshments and reminded those present to "Drop a Dollar" to help pay for the refreshments. Gail Marshall told us that all members were well and reminded those present that because of our Christmas party, those born in both November and December can get an extra raffle ticket this month from John Van Brocklin. Jack reminded everyone to vote for their favorite on the show table. Dick Roth will announce the winner at the break between the program and the raffle.

Club Business. Steve Anderson has contacted several people by phone and e-mail asking for information for the Who's who column, he also has devised a form you can use. If you want to be included in the member directory, please respond so he can write up your bio.

Terry Bottom, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, read off the list of officers who have consented to serve for the next year. These include:

- Jeanette Pacetti - President
- Sue Bottom - First Vice President
- Vivienne Rowe - Second Vice President
- Lola Stark - Secretary
- Bill Gourley - Treasurer
- Penny Halyburton, Josh Jones and Jack Higgins, Directors



There were no nominations from the floor, a motion was made that the slate be accepted as given, seconded and passed unanimously. The slate will be installed at our Christmas Auction in December.

The Repotting and Problem Clinic will be held on November 5 at Hagan Ace. This has become a vital part of our community involvement and any member wishing to help or just drop by is welcome.

Penny Halyburton has consented to be our librarian and will be available before and after our monthly meetings for your convenience. If you are looking for a book on a particular subject, our book list is on our website. E-mail Penny your choice and she will be glad to bring it to the next meeting. Members may keep the books one month unless other arrangements are made.

Our club entered a display in the Gainesville Orchid Show in Oct. Harry McElroy was Chairman and we took third place among the clubs. Members received lots of ribbons and the list follows:

- Sue Bottom: 4 ribbons: 2nd place: Lc. Imperial 'La Baron' and Blc. Miya's Fascination. 3rd place: Pot. Dosa Lemon 'Cariad's Cooler' and Blc. Conerstone 'Orchis'.

Continued on page 3



CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

November

- 5 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 6 Annual Fall Open House
Orchids by Del-Rei, Noon to 4
Bring a Xmas Toy for Hastings
4270 Cedar Ford Blvd Hastings 32145
Call 386-325-4845 for directions
- 8 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Panel Discussion

December

- 4 JOS Christmas Auction, 5:30 pm
Orange Park Country Club
2525 Country Club Blvd, Orange Park
- 10 SAOS Christmas Auction, 7 pm
Moultrie Trails Clubhouse
121 Crooked Tree Trail, St. Aug 32086

January

- 3 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
George Hausermann Jr., EFG Orchids
Easy Species You Can Grow
- 7-8 Sarasota Orchid Society Show
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
- 10 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
TBA
- 20-22 Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show
War Memorial Auditorium
- 21-22 Manatee River Orchid Society Show
Manatee Convention & Civic Center
- 28-29 Tamiami International Orchid Festival
Dade County Fair Expo Center

February

- 7 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Jim Roberts, Florida Suncoast Orchids
Encyclias
- 4-5 Venice Area Orchid Society Show
Venice Community Center
- 11-12 Boca Raton Orchid Society Show
Safe Schools Institute



St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Jack Higgins jacktravel2003@yahoo.com
First Vice President Program Chair	Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Second Vice President Publicity Chair	Vivienne Rowe tomvivrowe@comcast.net
Secretary AOS/Orchid Digest Rep	Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	Bill Gourley wgourley@bellsouth.net
Directors at Large	Terry Bottom bottomt@bellsouth.net Mike Heinz mgheinz@comcast.net Bob Martin nigel_99@att.net
Exhibit Committee Chair	Harry McElroy cymbidiuman@msn.com
Librarian	Penny Halyburton phalyburton@comcast.net
Membership Committee Chair	Gail Marshall gamarshall1@bellsouth.net
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net bottomt@bellsouth.net
Operations Committee Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com



CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1



- Fred Keefer: 10 ribbons: 1st Place: Dtps. Fuller's Sunset, Pyp. Mariposa 'Green Valley', Bulb. medusae, Masd. Galaxy 'Orange Dust' and C. Portia 'Canizaro', which also won Best Cattleya in the Show, Best Specimen Plant and also Best Orchid in the Show! 2nd place: Colm. Catante 'Pacific Sunspots', and Masd. Heathii. 3rd place: Colm. Wildcat 'Carmela', Onc. Rosy Sunset 'Pacific Satin' and B. nodosa.

- Harry and Celia McElroy: 1 ribbon: 3rd place: Cym. Hawaiian Gold.

- Josh Jones: 3 ribbons: 1st place: Cyc. ventricosum, 2nd place: Den. Enobi Purple 'Splash' and 3rd place: Cym. Autumn Sun x Cym. Golden Rule.

- Lola Stark: 1 ribbon: 1st place: C. Angel Bells 'Suzie'.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Auction to be held at the Moultrie Trails Clubhouse. We'll have lots of food and fun and everyone should try to be there. We'll have a blooming special orchid as the door prize and lots of blooming orchids along with a copy of OrchidWiz Encyclopedia and a \$50 certificate from Carter and Holmes to be auctioned.

Orchid Events. On Sunday, November 6, Fred Keefer will host his annual fall open house from noon until 4 pm, to which you should bring lots of toys for the children of the area! There will be food from La Cocina and music along with comradery and beautiful orchids to buy and take home.

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



This is a time when we can get to know other members and have a wonderful afternoon. Come and enjoy!

Program. Our program for the evening was Marv Ragan on using the OrchidWiz Encyclopedia. Marv explained how to find the parents of your orchids, where they came from originally, how to find out how the plants are grown where they are native, and just about any other information you want to know about any particular orchid including its ancestry, its progeny and its awards. Then he went on to show us how to enter our orchids and keep up with how well they're growing, when we bought them and from whom and any awards they receive along with the photos you take yourself of your orchids. It's a wonderful program and every long time grower would love to have it. We'll have one for auction at our Christmas Auction.



Meeting Conclusion. After intermission, Dick announced that Sue Bottom's Brassavola digbyana was the winner of the show table. We had our regular raffle with Fred and John Van Brocklin doing the raffle part and Gail Marshall doing delivery. We also had six silent auction plants sold. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned!



CLUB NEWS



December 10 Christmas Auction Monthly SAOS Meeting

We will be holding our annual Christmas orchid auction at 7 pm Saturday night, December 10, at the Moultrie Trails Clubhouse located at 121 Crooked Tree Trail. We'll have poultry and meat main dishes and all members are encouraged to bring a dish to round out the meal as well as your beverage of choice. Salads, potato and pasta side dishes, vegetable side dishes and desserts have been big favorites in years gone by. We'll have a blooming orchid as a free door prize. We'll also have an orchid auction where you can bid on a nice variety of different types of orchids. An advance listing of the plants will be distributed to whet your appetite. Note that the **meeting date has changed** (from the first Tuesday to Saturday, December 10) as has the **meeting location** (Moultrie Trails Clubhouse instead of Watson Realty). We'll see you there!



Keiki Club to Resume Meeting Next Year

With the advent of cooler weather, we're moving our orchids to their winter home. We'll resume Keiki Club meetings in February of the new year when we'll be repotting overgrown orchids, mounting orchids on sticks and slabs and talking about growing orchids once again. If you need help in the meantime, we're at the Ace Hardware on US 1 on Saturday, November 5.



Open House at Orchids by Del-Rei November 6

Fred Keefer is hosting an Open House at his greenhouse on Sunday, November 6 from noon until 4 pm. Food, libations and specially priced orchids will be offered. Bring a new or gently used toy to help make Christmas better for the less privileged kids in Hastings. The Flagler Estates address is 4270 Cedar Ford Blvd, Hastings 32145, call Fred at 386-325-4845 for directions.

Matthew Prater [Orchid Treasures](#)

OrchidTreasures is a unique business that I started three years ago. A gold plated rose given to me as a gift gave me the idea of preserving a flower that would last a lifetime. The only problem with the rose was that the



gold plating covered the actual beauty of the flower. After many trials and ideas, I came up with an intricate process to preserve the orchid flowers in a clear hard resin that would keep and showcase the beauty of the orchid forever. After perfecting the time consuming process I began the journey into making necklaces, earrings, rings, hairpieces, and party/event decorations. Over the past three years I have been selling my jewelry at art shows across Florida, winning numerous best of show awards and landing my product in boutique stores. My next goal is to launch my orchid line into a national chain and create a website to sell my orchids nationally and maybe even globally.



INSPIRATION



Jewelery By:
Orchid Treasures



CULTIVATION



Growing Tips for November

Dr. Courtney Hackney,
hackneau@comcast.net
Dept. Biology,
Univ. North Florida

Experienced hobbyists have learned a lesson over the years that many newer hobbyists do not like to hear.

If an orchid wants to die, don't spend a lot of time trying to save it. This is often a hard lesson for new growers who just spent what seemed like a large amount of money for a gorgeous orchid plant in flower or for some unusual species that a speaker was selling. The fact is that once an orchid plant starts "toward the light" it's hard to stop it. Also, growers with many plants want to remove that potential carrier of disease from the growing area as well as spend their limited time on other orchids that are growing well.

There are times, however, when you just are not willing to let an orchid die. It might be a very rare and hard-to-find orchid, or it might be the first orchid you purchased. Just about everyone has "nostalgic" orchids in their collection. While difficult, orchids headed toward that great mulch pile in the sky can often be brought back. Here are some of the tricks of the trade.

Before reading this, remember that orchids do not have immune systems like animals. Treating orchids requires that you understand and take advantage of the mechanisms that orchids use to fight disease and pests. Instead of moving disease fighting cells to the infection like we do, orchids instead separate healthy cells from unhealthy cells by building walls between healthy and unhealthy tissues. Infection of a plant has an entry point every time. This fact can be as important in treating an orchid as the diagnosis.



The first step is coming up with a diagnosis. If you can see where the problem started, there is an excellent chance that the plant can be saved. Often, the tip of a leaf or a new growth turns black indicating where the rot has started. If there is healthy tissue on the rhizome or at the base of the leaf the orchid can generally be saved.

Most fast acting diseases are caused by bacteria. If bacteria have penetrated to new growths or reached the center of a phal or vanda, it is often too late, but it can be worth a try if it is a very special plant. My first tactic is to remove all of the black or dead tissue, which requires removal of the plant from the pot. Totally wash all media from roots. I use a small jet from a hose to wash the orchid. Next, I spray the entire plant with household hydrogen peroxide. Then, place the plant on a newspaper in a spare room where there is plenty of air movement and little humidity. The main point is to kill the bacteria and stop the infection.



Check the plant each morning and night before bed for any soft or watery spots and remove any you find followed by spraying the new wound with hydrogen peroxide. Your plant should remain dry and will look desiccated. Avoid the temptation to mist. If after a week no new rot spots have appeared and the orchid is green, you have a chance to save it. Put the plant at the bottom of a new clay pot and set it in a shady part of the greenhouse. At this point, I will move it out when I water because I do not want the plant to get wet until I see signs of growth. When new roots or leaves appear, water it. Once roots begin to attach to the pot, gently place a small quantity of media in the pot and leave it alone until it is clear that the orchid has resumed growing. Next move it back to the proper light level. If caught early, an orchid with rot can be saved.



CULTIVATION

Your Orchids in November

based on Robert Scully, Ned Nash & James Rose checklists, courtesy of the AOS

General Growing Tips. Short days and cold nights necessitate adjustments for both plants and growers. Reduce water and fertilizer gradually until you reach your winter target, about half that of the summer levels. Don't fertilize winter dormant orchids and most dendrobiums after Thanksgiving. Prepare your plants for their winter home. Inspect them, remove dead leaves and sheaths with a sterile tool, and spray for pests if necessary. Protect them when temperatures are projected to drop below their winter minimum acceptable temperature. Consider removing shading from the greenhouse to allow more light during the winter months.

Cattleyas. Retie your cattleyas to support the new growth and orient the new growth toward the sun. Bloom sheaths may be showing signs of yellowing. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths should be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within to prevent water condensation from rotting it. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb. New growths of *Cattleya skinneri* may have dried sheaths, do not remove them.



Dendrobiums. For the commonly available dendrobiums, protect them when temperatures are projected to drop down to 55 or 60 F. The winter dormant dendrobiums (nobiles, seminobiles and callista section) should be separated from your other plants so you can easily reduce the water and fertilizer they receive through Thanksgiving. Try bloom booster fertilizer in the fall to prepare them for the winter. Shoot for minimum temperatures of 40 F.



Oncidiums. This is the blooming season for the Brazilian Oncidium section crispum with their chestnut and brown and butter yellow markings. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in



bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period. Stake your inflorescence as the spike grows for best presentation. Protect them when temperatures are projected to drop down to 40 or 50 F.

Paphiopedilums. Paphs can be potted almost year round. Examine those that flower in the summer and pot as necessary. While paphs never like to dry out entirely, this month marks the beginning of the time when growth, and hence, water and fertilizer needs slow down dramatically. Observe your plants and do not water if they are not at least partially drying out.



Phalaenopsis. Phals are starting to spike now. Stake the inflorescence loosely once it gets around 10 inches long about 4 inches below the growing tip and move your tie upward as the spike elongates. Remember the flower will grow toward the light. If you move the plant, the flower spike will twist seeking out the sun so you won't get graceful pendulous blooms. Some people put a spot of nail polish on the pot so they know which direction the pot should face. Consider applying a preventative copper spray to help prevent fungal and rot problems.

Vandas. Vandas should be in their winter homes in the brightest location possible and you can reduce watering and feeding. The only cold hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Shoot for minimum temperatures of 50 to 60 F. If you have *Rhynchostylis gigantea*, look for inflorescences that are emerging now for January flowering.



Other Genera. Winter resting plants include the Catasetinae (catasetum, clowesia, cynoches and mormodes). These should be separated from your other plants so you can easily reduce the water and fertilizer they receive through Thanksgiving.



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@bellsouth.net

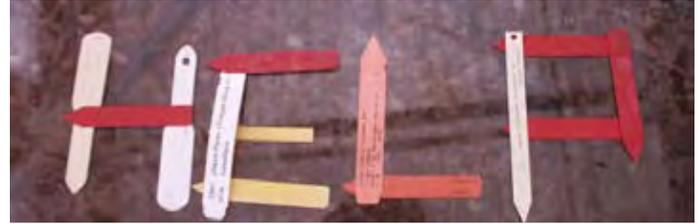
Q. Why did this flower open up side down, the other flower opened today and it is fine.



A. When the flower is in the bud stage, the lip is the uppermost petal. In most orchids, as the flower opens, the flower twists 180 degrees around its flower stalk to position the lip on the bottom (called resupinate). Shifting the plant's location as the flower buds are growing can "confuse" the plant's orientation. As the buds mature, the flower spike may also be unable to support the weight of the flowers especially for hybrids with robust blooms, if the orchid has a long pedicel (the stem that attaches single flowers to the main stem of the inflorescence) or you removed the sheath that gives the growing flower some structural support. Staking the flower bud as it emerges will help orient the flowers for their best presentation.

Q. Many of our orchids have these small black things attached to the leaves that look like small non-moving ladybugs. Some leaves have 30+ of them. Additionally some of the leaves now have a sticky feel to them. We did just recently add an orchid to our collection. We were hoping you had some advice about what they are and what to do about them.

A. That is hard armored scale. You can take isopropyl alcohol and a Q tip and wipe it off the plant to get rid of the obvious infestation. The real question is where are they



lurking. Perhaps you could pour some isopropyl alcohol into a spray bottle and spray it into the nooks and crannies and areas of emerging growth. Then just keep an eye out for the little buggers.



Q. I am writing to you from Pittsburgh hoping you can help us identify whatever it is that is 'bugging' our orchid. What is unusual about these spots on the orchid is that they become more defined as these spots age, and develop patterning of lines that might be some kind of circulatory system. They remind me of jellyfish I've seen on the beach.



CULTIVATION

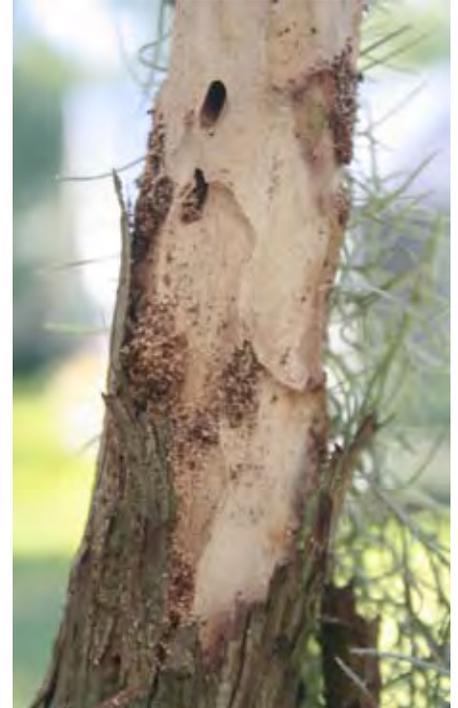


A. I think that is brown soft scale that crawled up the flower spike and onto the back of some of the flowers. You can see the scale on the flower stem in the first close up picture and in the second mother scale that have set up homemaking laying eggs. You usually find the white boisduval scale on cattleya leaves and pseudobulbs, but the soft brown scale seems to enjoy the tender flowers.

I would take a Q tip dipped in isopropyl alcohol and gently wipe the scale off the back of the flowers. Then start working down the flower stem and remove all scales. Inspect under leaves and in leaf axils and remove all visible scale with the Q tip. You can also spray all the nooks and crannies with isopropyl alcohol poured into a spray bottle. They are climbing up the flower spike from somewhere and you need to eliminate the source. Here's a great article on identifying and controlling [scale](#).

Q. We mounted orchids at one of the spring Keiki Club meetings. I mounted mine on a thick cypress branch and throughout the summer noticed deposits like corn meal on the orchid leaves. I'd wash them off and they'd be back the next day, what gives?

A. That is drywood termites eating the cypress wood, the deposits you see are the frass that is pushed away from the termite population through pinhole openings in the wood. They are an insidious pest because they do not require moisture in addition to that which is present in the wood (even kiln dried), the damage is often caused in places that are hidden from view and you'll be surprised to know that your household termite policy is for subterranean termites only, it excludes drywood termite damage. Termites can infest orchid mount material, even rot resistant woods like cypress, so be vigilant. If you see signs of termites on mounted orchids, remove the orchid from the mount and discard the wood.



Ace Repotting Plant Clinic

The first Saturday of the month from March through November, SAOS members are available to talk with you, answer questions and help you repot orchids.

Ace Hardware, 3050 US 1 South, St. Aug,
9 am until 1 pm.

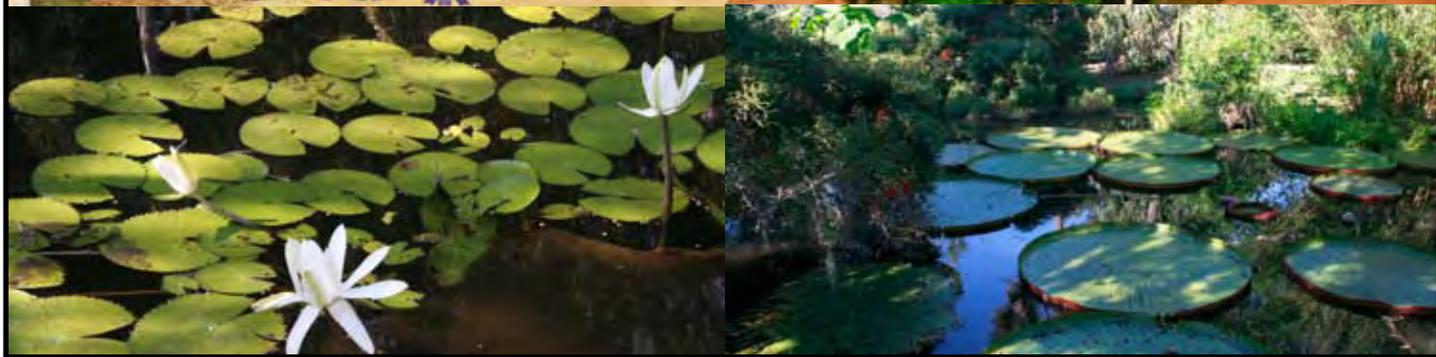


ORCHID ADVENTURES



Orchid Adventures
Gainesville Orchid Society Show
by [Sue Bottom](mailto:sbottom15@bellsouth.net), sbottom15@bellsouth.net

The Gainesville Show at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens had something for everybody. The Orchid Exhibits were beautiful. The St. Augustine exhibit put in by Harry McElroy and his trusty assistants Josh Jones and Terry Bottom took third place, after the Jacksonville and Volusia society exhibits. All SAOS exhibitors won ribbons, though Fred Keefer cleaned up with the best cattleya, best specimen plant and best orchid in show! No orchid show would be complete without orchid vendors to tempt you into buying more orchids, and this show also had other garden supplies and outdoor plants as well as the botanical gardens to admire, a great weekend retreat.



HOME & BACKYARD

Home and Backyard Orchid Growing

Penny Halyburton and Michael Rourke

When orchid obsession teams up with engineering know-how, you end up with a haven for orchids. Penny Halyburton got the orchid bug several years ago and is now happily pampering all her lovelies. Husband Michael Rourke used his engineering and craftsman's prowess to create orchid growing areas that are both beautiful and functional.



The orchid pavilion has some ingenious design features. Treated 4 x 4's provide the structure with cross bracing for orchid benches. Pipe racks (metal conduit with PVC pipe) provide plenty of hanging space. Some are retractable to compensate for seasonal light level changes. Removable panels built from PVC pipe fit with 50% shade cloth drop into the top of the structure and above the retractable pipe racks to provide shade in summer and maximum light in the spring and fall. Spray heads are strategically located to allow easy watering.



Michael also makes custom baskets that are partitioned to allow 2 or 4 pots to be hung from the same post, to accommodate any size pots.



And then there are the orchids. Penny's favorites are the cattleyas because they are so showy and fragrant. She has lots of oncidiums that are in spike this fall, which pleases Michael because they are his favorite. There are also phalaenopsis, dendrobiums and epidendrums in bloom. Penny's green thumb extends to the beautiful zygotetalums that are healthy and full and getting ready to explode with flowers. Everyone loves zygos in bloom, but few can grow them in our heat.

Continued on page 12



HOME & BACKYARD

Continued from page 11



A second orchid growing area graces her 'leaf garden' where many hanging orchids are grown. Vandas are in the front so they'll get the most sun. This area has a spray system so the vandas get plenty of the water they love. Other varieties thrive there in the shadier areas. Penny bloomed an incredible *Stanhopea wardii* with three flower spikes this summer, wow!



So how does Penny do it? She is growing outdoors under tall oak leaves so her plants get plenty of fresh air from spring through fall. The engineered structure allows her to locate her orchids in sunnier or shadier areas depending on their preference. She supplements the rainwater with untreated well water, especially during this dry year. Plants are potted in the SAOS coarse mix. She top dresses the pots with Dynamite and also uses water soluble cal mag fertilizer. Penny spends a lot of time talking to her orchids.

The first winter Penny and Michael spent a lot of time moving orchids to keep them out of the cold. Last year Michael built a rolling rack that holds all the orchids. It's huge, about 3 ft wide and 8 ft long with three benches (covered with horse fencing to provide structural support) and pipes for hanging stock. It can be rolled into the driveway on warmer days so the plants can enjoy the sun and the air movement and then into the garage when a cold snap heads our way.



Penny wonders sometimes how she ever found the time to make sure our county elections went off without a hitch. Since she retired, she's found that 24 hours aren't enough to do the things she loves, dote on her orchids, cats and Michael, cook up a storm and keep an immaculate house and yard. Seems like she's good at everything she does!



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
Cygd. Jumbo Micky 'Jumbo Orchids'



Grower Penny Halyburton & Michael Rourke
Bllra. Marfitch 'Howard's Dream'



Grower Sue Bottom
Ctsm. Kidney Beans 'Jamie's Golden Eyes'



Grower Sue Bottom
C. Purity x L. purpurata



Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
Pot. Jerry Rehfield



Grower Sue Bottom
Blc. Hawaiian Venture



Grower Vivienne Rowe
Onc. Sweet Sugar



SHOW TABLE



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Blc. Mary Hernlund



Grower Sue Bottom
B. digbyana



Grower Sue Bottom
C. Lulu Land



Grower Sue Bottom
Lc. Tanya Duncan



Grower Sue Bottom
C. Christ Church 'Newberry Snow'



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Hawaiian Gold 'Nugget'

