



## CLUB NEWS



### December 10 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Our annual Christmas Auction was a success. More than 45 members convened at the Moultrie Trails Clubhouse for fun, food and flowers.

Penny Halyburton, Jeannette Pacetti and Sue Bottom organized the event and our members rose to the occasion with the terrific dishes to share. There were salads, appetizers, casseroles, chicken, cakes and pies for dessert. The food was so good each person had to have several plates full!

Then it was time for the auction. There were many gorgeous orchid plants provided by Fred Keefer and Sue Bottom with more plants from Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids. There was some spirited bidding as members decided which beauties they wanted to bring home. Steve Serkin finally got the OrchidWiz Express program, Steve Serkin also got the gift certificate from Carter & Holmes and Sandy Taylor got the phalaenopsis door prize. Fred outdid himself as our Auctioneer Extraordinaire.

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# CLUB NEWS



## Upcoming Orchid Events

### 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  
Michael Coronado, RF Orchids
- 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
- 14 JOS Meeting, 7 pm  
TBA
- 19 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners  
Getting Ready for Spring  
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home  
6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086

### March

- 2-4 Martin County Orchid Society Show  
Martin County Fairgrounds
- 3 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm  
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine  
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 6 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm  
Gene Crocker, Carter and Holmes  
Cattleyas for the New Millenium
- 8-10 Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show  
Port St. Lucie Community Center
- 8-11 Orchid Society of Coral Gables Show  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
- 13 JOS Meeting, 7 pm  
TBA

- 16-18 Naples Orchid Society Show  
Moorings Presbyterian Church
- 17-18 Jacksonville Orchid Society Show  
The Garden Club of Jacksonville
- 17-18 Englewood Area Orchid Society Show  
United Methodist Church, Englewood
- 24-25 Orchid Lovers of Spring Hill Show  
Suncoast Dance Party Hall, Spring Hill
- 24-25 Orchid Society of Highlands County Show  
Bert J Harris Jr. Agricultural Center
- 25 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners  
Spring Repotting  
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home  
6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086
- 31-1 Central Florida Orchid Society Show  
Maitland Civic Center, Maitland

## St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	<a href="mailto:jdp187@aol.com">Jeannette Pacetti</a> jdp187@aol.com
First Vice President Program Chair	<a href="mailto:sbottom15@bellsouth.net">Sue Bottom</a> sbottom15@bellsouth.net
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Exhibit Committee Chair	<a href="mailto:cymbidiuman@msn.com">Harry McElroy</a> cymbidiuman@msn.com
Librarian	<a href="mailto:phalyburton@comcast.net">Penny Halyburton</a> phalyburton@comcast.net
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Newsletter Editors Webmasters	<a href="mailto:sbottom15@bellsouth.net">Sue and Terry Bottom</a> sbottom15@bellsouth.net bottomt@bellsouth.net
Operations Committee Chair	<a href="mailto:jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com">Jeanette Smith</a> jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com



# CLUB NEWS

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It was a great fund raiser, so we can afford the best speakers in 2012.

We had a wonderful time, a testament to our members' dedication to having fun. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Feliz Navidad and a very Happy New Year to all!



*Mike Heinz installs new officers for 2012*



## Programs Scheduled for 2012

January 3: Easy Species You Can Grow  
George Hausermann Jr., [EFG Orchids](#)

February 2: Encyclias  
Jim Roberts, [Florida SunCoast Orchids](#)

March 6: Cattleyas for the New Millenium  
Gene Crocker, [Carter and Holmes](#)

April 3: How to Grow Cattleyas  
Bob Scully, formerly of Jones and Scully

May 1: 50 Showy Mexican Species  
Weyman Bussey, [AbundaFlora](#)

June 5: Bifoliate Cattleyas  
Ruben Sauleda, [Ruben in Orchids](#)

July 3: Summer Orchid Auction  
Fred Keefer, Auctioneer Extraordinaire

August 7: Warm Growing Cymbidiums  
Harry McElroy, The Cymbidium Man

September 4: Brazilian Miltonias  
Brian Monk, [Blu Llama Orchids](#)

October 2: Aussie Dendrobiums  
Fred Clarke, [Sunset Valley Orchids](#)

November 6: Movie and Popcorn Night  
The Judge, the Hunter, the Thief and the Black Orchid

December 8: Christmas Orchid Auction  
Fred Keefer, Auctioneer Extraordinaire



*Fred & Gail do a fine job running the Auction*



*Mary Ann Bell makes a bid in the auction*

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



# CLUB NEWS



## Keiki Club to Resume Meeting Next Year

With the advent of cooler weather, your orchids should be in their winter homes. 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.



## January 3 Monthly SAOS Meeting

George Hausermann, Easy Species You Can Grow

George Hausermann Jr. of EFG Orchids in Deland will talk about Easy Species You Can Grow at the January 3 meeting. George is a fourth generation orchid grower. Originally based in Chicago, EFG was the largest wholesale producer of cut cattleya orchid flowers in the world. In 1999, George and his wife, Paula, moved to Florida to provide the main growing area for the family operation. With 20,000 sq. ft. of growing area, EFG has many new orchid crosses, along with other tropical plants and landscape material. EFG is well known in the orchid world having built a reputation for clean, reasonably priced, well grown and established plants along with great customer service.

## Roger Gordy

Roger Gordy, of Newton, Massachusetts, has been making photographs since the age of seven when his father, Edwin, first let him use one of his cameras. Edwin showed Roger, black and white film development in the family's kitchen. In the evening, when it was dark enough, the magic of printing was revealed in the basement darkroom. Like his father, Roger found great joy in photographing the faces of people around him, friends and family. A sampling of the 51 years of those faces can be seen at <http://rogergordygallery.blogspot.com/>.



In 2010, while waiting for his girlfriend, Carla, to finish her classes, Roger visited the college's greenhouses and was struck by the "faces" that orchids have and photographed them. While working on the "faces" in Photoshop, one of them seemed to want to become stained glass. So he created "imaginary stained glasses" of the orchids and other flowers. He calls them imaginary because they only exist as digital images.

One day he hopes to make them in real glass and lead. Many seem to be impossible to cut out of real glass. Roger believes that with a digitally controlled very high pressure water jet, the glass could be cut into the very intricate shapes. The digital photographs of orchids, plants and people imaginary stained glass can be viewed at <http://rogergordy.wordpress.com/>

Roger has assembled imaginary orchids into a 2012 calendar that contain a multitude of images. Individual prints can be obtained as well. He can be contacted at [rogermagnet@gmail.com](mailto:rogermagnet@gmail.com)



2012  
Roger Gordy  
Orchid  
Calendar



# INSPIRATION



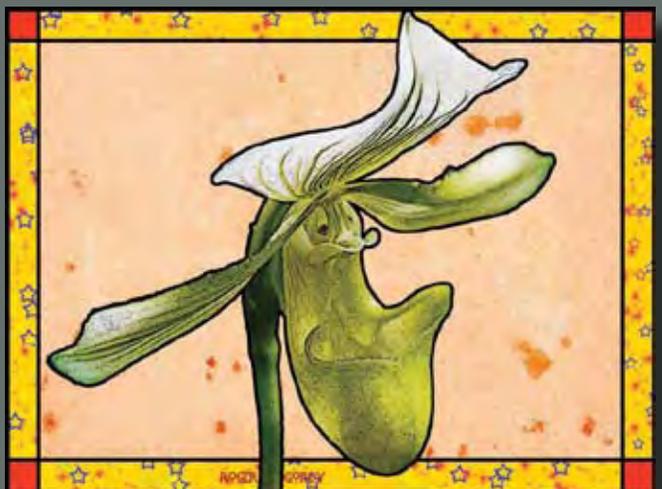
January



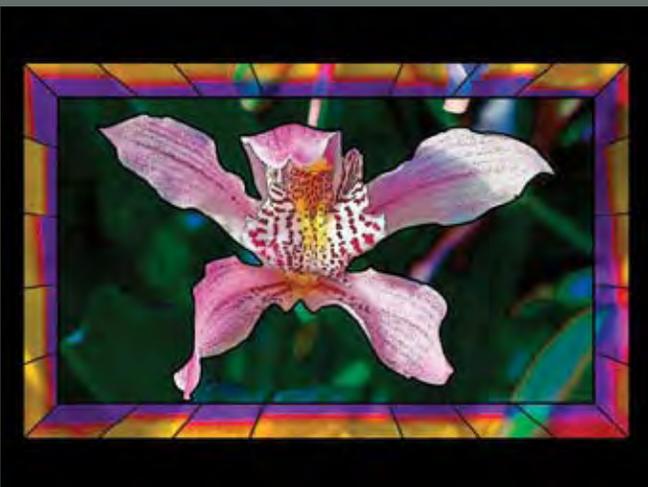
February



March



April



May



June



# INSPIRATION



July



August



September



October



November



December



# CULTIVATION



## Growing Tips for December

Dr. Courtney Hackney,  
[hackneau@comcast.net](mailto:hackneau@comcast.net)  
Dept. Biology, Univ. North Florida

Each year about this time, I notice that some of my terrestrial Jewel Orchids (Jewels) are initiating inflorescences. There are

about a half dozen of these variegated beauties scattered around the greenhouse.

Last year, Orchids magazine featured articles on this diverse orchid group. They do not resemble other orchids in that they are grown for their leaves, not flowers, and are generally terrestrial species. Hybridizers have also begun to create more vigorous hybrids with a variety of different patterned leaves. A few now even have colorful inflorescences. Leaves of Jewel Orchids can be striped, mottled, variegated, or with jewel-like spotting, hence the name.



One Jewel orchid has been in collections for years, i.e. *Ludisia discolor*, but others have only recently been introduced. *Ludisia* is easy to grow under a variety of conditions, which explains its popularity. Most of the others grow very differently and require special care.

Cultural requirements vary greatly since they belong to many different genera and come from all over the world; from tropical to temperate climates. It has taken me many years to figure out how to grow them and I have not been successful with all I have tried. The common cultural attribute for Jewels is that they are almost all low light species and typically grow on the forest floor, which

should provide some idea of their preference for light. A few like the *Ludisia*, creep along the forest floor and put fine roots down into the decomposing leaves, while most tend to grow from a basal stem, below which are thick, tuberous-looking roots, where the orchid stores its energy.

The key to growing Jewels is to gain some insight into the habitat from which they came. A species that

came to me with a request that I provide identification refused to bloom or even grow well. They were listed as coming from Belize, and I assumed warm climate with constant moisture. My assumption was not correct and they actually came from dry forests on the West Coast of Belize. When I provided a distinct wet and dry period associated



with more light, they all flowered. The assumption when they were collected was that they were different species because each one had a different pattern on their leaves, but they were all the same species based on their flowers.

All of the "Jewels" that have grown well for me are grown in a porous medium, ProMix HP, with lots of drainage in the bottom of the pot. As the plant gets larger, the depth of medium is increased. Most flower in winter. During the summer, I put all of them under the benches and do not worry about them as they get adequate moisture from dripping pots above. In early December, they are moved into more light. That automatically induces drier conditions and they all begin to flower, although at different times.

Jewels that grow well for me here in the South in a greenhouse with no cooling are *Stenosarcos speciosa* and its hybrid *Strs. Vanguard*, *Sarcoglottis screpitroitus*, and *Pelexia laxa*. *Pelexia laxa* is supposed to be a cool growing species, but grows well in my hot conditions, even here in Florida.

Hobbyists growing on windowsills may find that a few Jewels are worth trying as they grow under lower light levels and are beautiful year-round.



# CULTIVATION



## Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,  
sbottom15@bellsouth.net

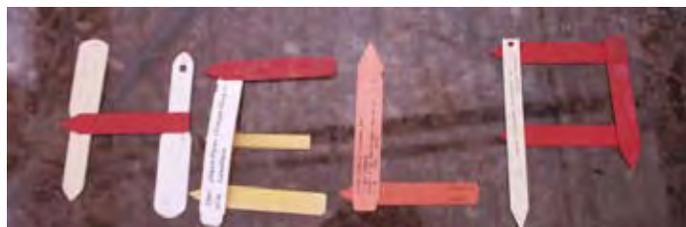
**Q.** I bought this orchid from Jaxma in 2009 and the tag say it is Blc. Chiaun 'New City' but I can't seem to find it. This year the flowers are

very floppy and not as pretty. Any idea what its name is or why the flowers are so floppy?



**A.** Jaxma confirmed this plant to be Blc. Taiwan Queen 'Golden Monkey' HCC/AOS. Floppy flowers can occur because of genetics in which the pedicel (stalk of an individual flower on an inflorescence) is too long to support the flower or the plant isn't getting enough light.

**Q.** My orchid plant is so tall, it has two huge shoots from about half way up the stalk, on one of these shoots are 3 long blossom shoots blooming that are so heavy I have to prop them up. Also from the bottom is another shoot with 3 blossom shoot, one



with opening flowers. I am in Leesburg FL where we have really hot weather. I kept the plant inside during the winter but need to know what temperatures it can take. It is in a wide coconut fiber planter but think it needs something else. What is the best pot and potting medium?



**A.** The phalaenopsis type dendrobiums (whose flowers vaguely resemble a phalaenopsis flower) like to be warm, about 55 or 60 is as low as they like, otherwise the leaves start to yellow and drop. Like most dendrobiums, they don't like to be repotted so you're best sticking with a largely inert mix that won't degrade. They also like to be in smallish pots, the canes grow so close together that they can last for many years in the same pot. I'd probably wait until spring, and then transfer it into a much smaller clay pot and hang it with a long double wire hanger. If you're good, you'll tie the canes up as they grow and you can use the wire hanger to do this, they always seem to get away from me and grow sideways. I use a mix of hydroton, charcoal, spongerok and maybe a little tree fern. They can be watered every other day in summer and maybe every fourth or fifth day in the dead of winter.

You know, you have a keiki (baby plant) growing on the mother plant. When it stops blooming, you can twist the keiki with all those roots off and pot it up separately and then pot down the mother plant into a smaller sized pot. It's a beautiful plant!

**Q.** I bought this plant recently. Two of its leaves are discoloring to a lighter green. I have read it could be a fungus or sunburn or microscopic mites, what do you think it is?

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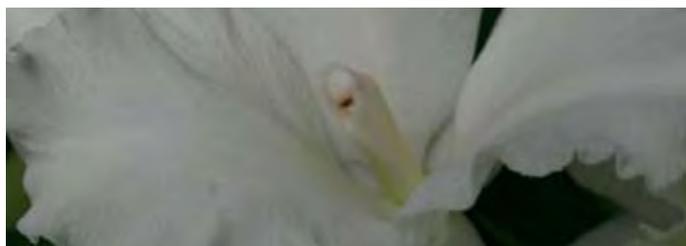
# CULTIVATION

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**A.** It's not sunburn, that would start on the highest point of the leaves. I think it is broad mites that are microscopic in size. You can put 2 tablespoons of dish soap in a quart spray bottle and fill with water, perhaps adding 1/4 cup of isopropyl alcohol for additional toxicity. Spray the top and bottom of the leaves every week for 3 weeks. You can also spray a miticide on them, the Bayer three in one product is a good one that's available in the big box stores. Spray plants in close proximity to this plant and separate it from your others until you notice no spread of the discoloration.

**Q.** This fall it seems that I have a higher proportion of mutant flowers than I have seen before, weird lips or deformed sepals. What do you suppose causes it? I've sprayed a lot for thrips, do you think the flower deformity is chemically induced?



**A.** Courtney Hackney answered this one: Even approved pesticides impact plants so that would be my guess. Hot weather during bud formation can also cause flower deformities, but at this time of year I would bet on pesticides as the causative agent. Some of the pesticides actually damage chromosomes and can lead to permanent deformity. I noticed what looked like virus symptoms on buds where I had deposited powdered Sevin on some of my orchids.

**Q.** This vanda has a keiki growing at the base of the plant and then there is a bare spot above which there are leaves and new roots. I know I should wait until spring, but I'm thinking of dividing the plant where the arrows are, rebasketing the top section and continuing to grow the new keiki. I've added arrows where I think it should be cut, does this look like a good idea?



**A.** Trust your instincts, your plan sounds like a winner.

**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.



# CULTIVATION

## Your Orchids in December

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

**General Growing Tips.** Winter's cool days and nights have already affected most collections; if all plants are not already indoors, they soon may be. Concerning daylight intensity and its duration, the seasonal change must be obvious by now. Don't allow daytime temperatures to rise too high before ventilating the growing area. Fresh air is important for healthy plants and their owners. Just remember that if the grower can be reasonably comfortable with the temperature and humidity conditions in the growing area, the plants are likely to be satisfied too.

**Cattleyas.** Plants are responding to the shorter, cooler days and less intense sun by slowing and ripening their growth, so reduce your frequency of watering as the plants dry out more slowly and have a lesser need for fertilizer. *Cattleya skinneri* should be pushing its buds up into dried sheaths for a January flowering; do not cut the sheaths off or open them. *Cattleya trianae* and its hybrids ought to be blooming for several months beginning now. Many *Sophranitis* hybrids typically flower this season. *Laelia anceps*, the Christmas orchid, will have well defined buds just waiting for nature's signal to open.

**Dendrobiums.** Generalizations are hard within this very diverse group. The winter resting deciduous dendrobiums of the *Dendrobium* (*Nobiles* and *Seminobiles*) and *Callista* sections can be kept dry and cool this month. Shoot for minimum temperatures of 40 F. *Nobile* type dendrobiums may show some swollen nodes on their leafless pseudobulbs and flowers may appear by the month's end. Your other dendrobiums will also be resting up this month though not dormant. You'll water these half as often as you did in the summer. Shoot for minimum temperatures of 45 to 55 F and 55 to 60 F for the *biggibum* types.

**Oncidiums.** The mule-ear oncidium, *Oncidium splendidum*, and the popular thin-leaved type, *Oncidium maculatum*, should be producing inflorescences. Stake the oncidium inflorescence as it grows upward, but do not allow the tip to droop as you would for a *phalaenopsis*.

**Paphiopedilums.** Some of the mottled leaved species like *Paphiopedilum fairrieianum* and *sukhakulii* bloom now. Keep their potting medium moist and avoid getting water in the pouch.

**Phalaenopsis.** Groom and stake each *phalaenopsis*

spike. Avoid excess plant movement while the buds are developing or the buds may blast (wither). High humidity in a closed house can lead to flower spotting caused by *Botrytis*; provide supplementary air circulation with fans and/or increase temperatures above 60 F.

**Vandas.** *Vandas* are starting to rest now. You can gradually reduce your watering to every other day and cut back on fertilizer. *Ascocentrum aurantiacum* may have some beautiful orange to yellow flowers in bloom by the end of the month.

**Other Genera.** The *Catasetinae* (*catasetums*, *clowesia*, *cynoches* and *mormodes*) are going dormant now and their leaves have been yellowing and dropping. Once the leaves yellow, restrict watering until the spring growth is a few inches tall. The jewel orchid *Ludisia discolor* will begin to develop inflorescences soon. Clean the foliage now before the inflorescences grow.

## Growing Tips from the Cymbidium Man

Harry McElroy,  
[cymbidiuman@msn.com](mailto:cymbidiuman@msn.com)

If you want to be ready for the spring potting season, you can start gathering your materials. My potting mix for cymbidiums consists of stalite gravel, diatomite with a cup of seashell and lime mix. The proportional mix is as follows:

- 3 gal stalite (3/8 inch size for cymbidiums)
- 3 cups of diatomite (You can buy diatomite at an auto parts store like Napa where it is sold as a product to pick up spilled oil - make sure it is diatomite.)
- 1 cup of granular lime
- 1 cup of crushed shell

Note: Diatomite is a silica compound. This technical [article](#) explains some of its potential benefits.

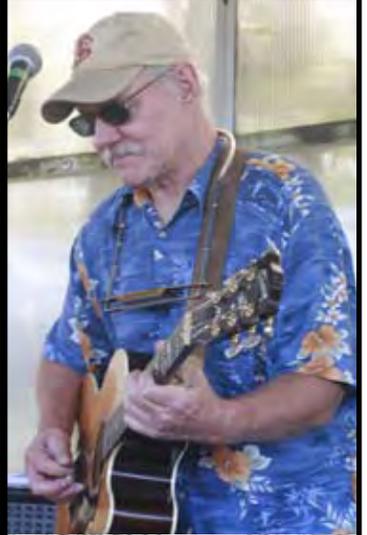


# ORCHID ADVENTURES



**Orchid Adventures**  
**Orchtoberfest at EFG Orchids**  
by [Sue Bottom](#), sbottom15@bellsouth.net

The Orchtoberfest at EFG Orchids in Deland has something for everyone. There were lots of orchids of course, grown by EFG as well as Mac's Orchids and Quest Orchids along with orchid supplies and tropical plants. Kids enjoyed the hay rides, emus and burros and the adults enjoyed the live music. There was also a lot of German cooking going on, not just brats (that were terrific), but pork loin, sauerbraten and rouladen dinners with spaetzle, German potato salad, red cabbage and of course German beer to wash it all down. I discovered my inner German child and cooked German food for a week afterwards!



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# ORCHID ADVENTURES

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# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Sue Bottom - January**  
**L. Santa Barbara Sunset 'Peaches'**



**Grower Bill Gourley - January**  
**Fdk. After Dark 'SVO Black Pearl'**  
**FCC/AOS**



**Grower Harry & Celia McElroy**  
**February**  
**Cym. insigne x Cym. Sarah Jean**



**Grower Courtney Hackney - March**  
**Paph. Lady Isabel**



**Grower Mark & Sheila Heilman - April**  
**Den. Love Memory**



**Grower Harry & Celia McElroy - May**  
**Phal. Mini Mark**



**Grower Jeanette Pacetti - June**  
**C. schilleriana**



# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Sue Bottom - June**  
*L. purpurata*



**Grower Sue Bottom - July**  
*C. Motte Spot 'Paradise'*



**Grower Sue Bottom - August**  
*Mcp. brysiana*



**Grower Sue Bottom - September**  
*C. Rabeiana*



**Grower Vivienne Rowe - October**  
*Blc. Memoria Crispin Rosales*



**Grower Sue Bottom - November**  
*B. digbyana*

