



CLUB NEWS



"The Judge, the Hunter, the Thief and the Black Orchid"

© Terry Bottom 2012

November 6 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Lola Stark, seacuter@bellsouth.net

Welcome and Thanks. President Jeannette Pacetti opened the meeting at 7:12 pm with 34 people present including 3 guests and new members Margie and Dave Fetter. She thanked Jeanette Smith, Mark Heilman and Sue Bottom for the refreshments and reminded those present to "Drop a Dollar" to help pay for the refreshments.



In the absence of Gail Marshall, Vivienne Rowe announced that our member Chuck

Steel has passed away. A sympathy card was sent to his family. Mary Ann Bell is having knee replacement surgery, but we'll see her walking again at the Christmas auction.

Vivienne Rowe brought cuttings to share with other members, *Epiphyllum crenatum* and *Epidendrum radicans*.

Those members who have birthdays in November and December were asked to please get their birthday raffle tickets at the January meeting which, because our regular first Tuesday of the month falls on New Years Day, will be

Continued on page 3



CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

November

- 13 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Dr. Courtney Hackney

December

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

January

- 3 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm**
Date Changed to First Thursday
Courtney Hackney, Josh Jones and
Sue Bottom
Panel Discussion – Growing Orchids
- 5-6 Sarasota Orchid Society Show
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
- 8 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
John Stubbings, Clown Alley Orchids
- 18-20 Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show
War Memorial Auditorium
- 26-27 Manatee River Orchid Society Show
Manatee Convention & Civic Center
- 26-27 Tamiami International Orchid Festival
Dade County Fair Expo Center

February

- 2-3 Venice Area Orchid Society Show
Venice Community Center
- 5 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Dr. Ruben Sauleda, Ruben in Orchids
Flasking and Propagation of Orchids
- 12 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Dr. Martin Motes, Motes Orchids
Vanda Hybridizing
- 17 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Getting Ready for Spring
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086

22-24 Naples Orchid Society Show
Moorings Presbyterian Church

March

- 1-3 Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show
Egypt Shrine Center
- 1-3 Martin County Orchid Society Show
Martin County Fairgrounds
- 2 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 5 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Dr. Hal Hills
Orchid Fragrances; Causes and Effects
on the Orchid
- 9-10 Jacksonville Orchid Society Show
The Garden Club of Jacksonville
- 9-10 Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show
Port St. Lucie Community Center

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Jeannette Pacetti jdp187@aol.com
First Vice President Program Chair	Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Second Vice President Publicity Chair	Vivienne Rowe tomvivrowe@comcast.net
Secretary Orchid Digest Rep	Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	Bill Gourley wgourley@bellsouth.net
Directors at Large	Penny Halyburton phalyburton@comcast.net Jack Higgins jacktravel2003@yahoo.com Joshua Jones jjones@comcast.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

moved to Thursday, January 3. Our December meeting will be held at the Moultrie Trails Clubhouse on December 8 starting at 7 pm. We'll have lots of food and plants for you to enjoy!

SAOS Club Business. The January meeting will be a round table discussion between Courtney Hackney, Josh Jones and Sue Bottom where questions may be asked and answered by the panel. With a quorum of members present, Penny Halyburton, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, announced the following Board members nominated for the year 2013: Jeannette Pacetti - President; Sue Bottom, 1st Vice President; Yvonne Schimmel, 2nd Vice President; Lola Stark, Secretary; Bill Gourley, Treasurer; Jack Higgins, Director 2012-2013; Penny Halyburton, 2012-2014; and Bob Schimmel 2013-2015. Sue Bottom made a motion that the slate be elected as presented. Seconded by Fred Keefer, the motion passed unanimously.



The 50/50 Drawing

Program. Since 6 November is election night, it was decided to forego having someone come in to talk to us and instead we had a movie and lots of fun food, including popcorn. The movie, "The Judge, the Hunter, the Thief and the Black Orchid" was in five parts, the first about Fred Clarke's growing and how the orchid has become nearly common because of the finding of the way in which orchids can be cloned. The second segment was about judging the orchids and how difficult it is to study to be a judge and how difficult it is to choose one plant over another. The third covered the fact that since CITES came into being back in the 70s, we can no longer hunt for new species and in fact, cannot take plants from one country to another without getting permission from the government. The fourth segment was about one man's trips to find new species and how upset he was when CITES went into effect to prevent anyone from even looking for new species. The last segment was about Fred Clark's growing of the Black Orchid - *Catase-tum Fredclarkeara After Dark*. It was a very interesting and entertaining movie which we all enjoyed.



50/50 Drawing winner Joann Janson shows her winning ticket.

Meeting Conclusion. Following a break, Dick Roth announced that the favorite on the Show Table was Blc. San Diego Sunset x Blc. Honolulu Sunset, grown by Sue Bottom. We then had a 50-50 drawing, won by Joann Janson who received not only the half of the pot but also a gorgeous orchid called *Cattleya Lctna. Quest's Sexy Eyes 'Paradise'* donated by Bill Gourley.



Dick Roth presents the "Members Choice" winner.

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



CLUB NEWS



December 8 Christmas Auction Monthly SAOS Meeting

We will be holding our annual Christmas orchid auction at 7 pm Saturday night, December 8, 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 8) 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 preparing our orchids for their winter rest. We'll resume Keiki Club meetings in February of the new year when our interest and attention turns once again to orchids. We'll be repotting overgrown orchids, mounting orchids on sticks and slabs and talking about growing orchids once again.



Election for 2013 Officers and Directors

The nominating committee of Chair Penny Halyburton, Vivienne Rowe and Gail Marshall announced the proposed slate of SAOS officers and directors for 2013.

President Jeannette Pacetti, First Vice President and Program Chair Sue Bottom, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair Bill Gourley, Secretary Lola Stark and Directors at Large Jack Higgins and Penny Halyburton were nominated for another term.

Second Vice President and Publicity Chair Vivienne Rowe stepped down after 6 years of dedicated service having served in this role since 2007. Thanks Viv for all your hard work! Yvonne Schimmel was nominated to take Viv's place. Josh Jones stepped down as Director at Large, thanks Josh for all your efforts! Bob Schimmel was nominated to take Josh's place as the Director at Large. Welcome Yvonne and Bob to your new duties!

The nominating committee's recommendations were accepted by voice vote at the November meeting. The 2013 officers and directors will be installed at the December Christmas auction and assume their duties beginning at the January meeting.



INSPIRATION



© Terry Bottom 2012

Stan. King Kong 'Crypt' HCC/AOS



CULTIVATION



Growing Tips for November

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

Each year I try new things in the greenhouse and not just new orchids.

This year it was an old product I thought had been discontinued, CRC formula 6-56 Marine (in the aquamarine spray can). Last spring when heaters were turned off, I sprayed all electrical connections on the heaters and thermostats with this product. We used to use CRC 6-56 on everything electrical on outboard motors. CRC Marine did just what I had hoped. Heaters and thermostats worked just as if they had just been turned off at the end of last year's cold season. Given the heat and humidity in the greenhouse all summer, that is a major accomplishment.



Usually, the first cold snap of the year is brief and allows us to check our systems whether that is a greenhouse heating system, a cart that goes into the garage when nights are cold or clearing a table next to a window for orchids that had been residing outside. Orchids adapt over time to whatever conditions that had been their environment for the past several months. Now, your orchids must adjust to a different growing area and the conditions that go with it. A closed greenhouse dried by heaters or a house where heaters are running requires an adjustment by you as the grower, and by your orchids. Be prepared to lose flower buds on phals or dendrobiums caused by the change of environment. Don't despair if that happens. If you can create some semblance of an appropriate environment, your orchids will survive. Maintain an appropriate temperature and humidity and your orchids will at least survive, although they may not thrive until it is warm enough to move them back outside in spring.



Bud Blast

For my greenhouse this year rots have been unusually tenacious and difficult to stop, despite using stronger products than normally used. Years ago, I visited



Black Rot consumes leaf

a greenhouse that had lost power for several days after a hurricane and was told that bacterial rots were everywhere by the time power was restored and fans were once again running. The combination of excess heat and 100% humidity is the perfect storm when it comes to bacteria. Everywhere I looked, there were signs of rot, but also a light blue stain on leaves, benches, and walls. I was told that the product of last resort was Kocide, a copper-based product. There are other copper based products as well, such as Phyton 27.

This year, it became my product of "last resort", too and it worked as advertised. Anyone that reaches this point must be aware that this is a toxic chemical and carefully read the label before using it. Besides the obvious respirator, care must be taken to avoid contact with the skin as copper in this form is toxic. Ornamental plants with thin soft leaves may be harmed or killed and orchids damaged as well if they have new or soft leaves. The best solution to rots is to prevent them,



The problem for me this year was not just the perfect conditions for rot, but the fact that my orchids were crowded; one consequence of a great growing year. Managing an orchid collection is much more than just finding and buying orchids, but determining what you love best. Many years ago I remember being so impressed by a hobbyist that provided orchids for the local society exhibit and every orchid was more spectacular than the last and all extremely well grown. Most were miltonia hybrids and all in large baskets. I asked him what other types of orchids he grew and he said that this was all of them. There are not many of us that can say every single orchid we grow is grown to perfection. Obviously, he managed his collection far better than I.



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 phalaenopsis type 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. 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: *Catasetum* Relatives.

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



Q1 Tonight's low temperature is to be 40F, can I cover my orchids or is it best to bring them inside? I have flowering dendrobiums and oncidiums.

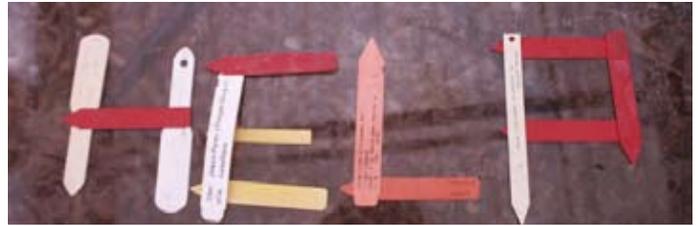


Q1

A1. Bring any orchids in bloom or in bud inside. Unless you are sure of your plant's cold tolerance, you can use these guidelines. Your most cold intolerant plants are phalaenopsis type dendrobiums, phalaenopsis and vandas. They should be protected when temperatures drop below 55 to 60F. The majority of your other plants should be protected when temperatures drop below 45 to 50F. Cymbidiums should be protected when temperatures drop below 35F. There are exceptions of course, with some species and their hybrids tolerating lower temperatures and some actually enjoying cooler weather.



Q2



Q2. I am growing my first phalaenopsis that has its first spike. I would like to let it grow naturally wherever it likes. Is there a reason why flower spikes are supposed to be supported?

A2. The reason you stake a phalaenopsis is to help it present its flowers to their best advantage. When grown in pots, you want the flower spike to orient itself vertically and then arch pendulously so the flowers will be well distributed in a shingled pattern. You stake to help the plant hold the weight of the flowers. In nature, the plants grow in the crotches of trees and the flower spike comes out more horizontally and then bends downward from the weight of the flowers.

Q3. I have an orchid that has grown quite tall. Additional leaves and roots have sprouted from the flower stem. The original stem from which the leaves and roots have grown now appears to be dead. I have been watering the upper roots along with the bottom, but it appears there are no viable roots in the bottom. Can I somehow cut the stem off and transplant?



Q3

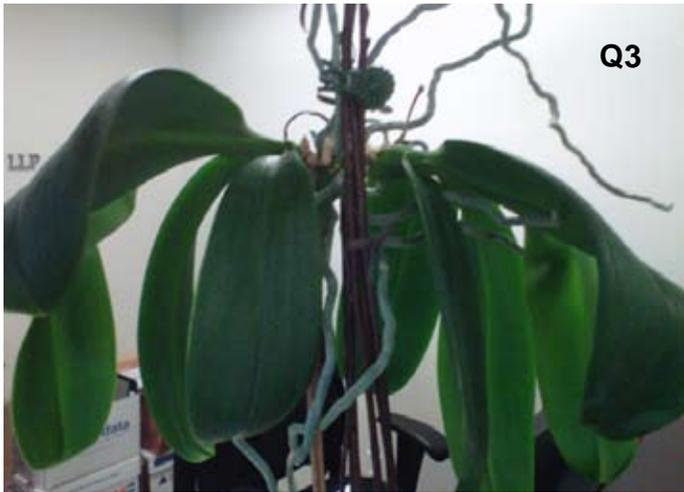
A3. Your instincts are correct, your mother plant is dead but the children are thriving. It's time to cut the children off the spike and replant them. They look like they're very healthy and you've got the next generation growing and thriving.

Continued on page 9



CULTIVATION

Continued from page 8



Q4. I recently repotted my phals and am watering them with 3 ice cubes per week. Several of the bottom leaves on one of my healthiest plants have started to yellow and drop. What do I do?



A4. NEVER use ice cubes to water your orchids. When you water your plants, use room temperature water and let the water flush through the pot and then water some more. When you water, water heavily. Then, don't water again until the plant is approaching dryness. It's not too unusual for a phal to lose a bottom leaf or two particularly after repotting, but if the plant is dehydrated from insufficient water, it will also drop leaves.

Q5. I have attached a photo of a vanda we were fortunate to pick up in the raffle. The problem is that the leaves are rapidly turning yellow from the bottom up. Is it a problem? Is there a solution?



A5. That may have been one of the vandas I just 'topped' so the plant is probably shedding the bottom leaves that it can't sustain with the lower part of the plant removed. It should stabilize and make it through the winter and then start growing again in the spring. I don't think it is diseased, just working on finding a new equilibrium.



Ace Repotting Plant Clinic

The first Saturday of the month from March through October, 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

Orchid Supplement... Or Snake Oil?

Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Our speakers are always suggesting new things to use on our orchids to improve their growth. The big question is whether it is a true supplement that benefits the orchid or a snake oil with the potential for unintended negative consequences. We'll review some supplements from the more commonly used to the ones that are on the fringe.

Fish Emulsion. Fish emulsion is naturally derived liquid from the fish processing industry. It is considered to be an organic fertilizer appropriate for use in ornamental horticulture. It has low concentrations of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (such as 5-1-1) and contains some micronutrients and vitamins. It is fairly aromatic though today's version is not nearly as odorous as it used to be. Fish emulsion is safe to use as either an everyday fertilizer, a monthly supplement or a wintertime alternative to other fertilizers. The label recommends 1 tbs/gal once a month for adult plants and twice a month for seedlings. I use fish emulsion monthly to quarterly at a rate of 1 tsp/gal as a supplement to rather than a replacement for my normal feeding routine.



Seaweed Extract. Seaweed extract is an organic product derived from harvested brown seaweed that contains major and minor nutrients, amino acids and growth promoting substances like auxins, cytokinins and gibberellins (advanced growers may be interested in KelPak). Seaweed extract is often used to start the growth cycle in spring, enhance root growth on seedlings and divisions, and initiate multiple new growths from back bulbs. A negative is that too much seaweed use can result in a multitude of new growths that might be smaller in size than the older growths. The label recommends using 1 oz/gal weekly. I use seaweed monthly in the spring and summer at a rate of 1 tsp/gal as a supplement to rather than a replacement for my normal feeding routine. Using seaweed immediately after repotting is a good practice to encourage new root growth.



Magnesium Supplements.

Magnesium is an essential element that is a major component of chlorophyll and it should be present at levels of 20 to 50 ppm in irrigation water. Magnesium supplements in the form of Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) can be used to provide additional magnesium or Cal-Mag fertilizers like the Excel 15-5-15 product can be used. Magnesium is mobile in the plant so it can be translocated from the older to the newer part of the plant. You can apply magnesium at higher concentrations, say 1 tbs/gal on a quarterly basis or apply it monthly at 1/2 to 1 tsp/gal. Do not mix with calcium supplements because a reaction will occur between them that will precipitate out in the mix tank. I use Epsom salts monthly at 1/2 tsp/gal during the fresh water flush or in conjunction with using 20-10-20 fertilizer in the winter (cal mag fertilizer is used during the summer).



Calcium Supplements.

Calcium is an essential element used to build cell walls that should be present at levels of 40 to 100 ppm in irrigation water. Calcium supplements in the form of calcium nitrate (available at feed stores), dolomitic lime applied as a top dressing, the specialty product Metalosate Calcium or Cal-Mag fertilizers like the Excel 15-5-15 product can be used. Calcium is not mobile in the plant and will not translocate from older to newer parts of the plant. Calcium deficiency will result in a similar appearance to a bacterial or fungal rot on the newest, most rapidly expanding tissue. It affects cattleyas, especially the Guarianthe, primarily during periods of rapid growth in the spring and summer. New leaves may turn black at the tips. I use a Cal-Mag fertilizer all summer long and supplement it with monthly doses of Metalosate at 0.5 tsp/gal.



SuperThrive. SuperThrive contains the synthetic rooting hormone 1-naphthyl acetic acid at 0.04%, vitamin B1 (thiamine, also known to stimulate root growth) at 0.09%, plus a variety of trade-secret ingredients likely including kelp

Continued on page 11



CULTIVATION

Continued from page 10

extracts, humates, soluble iron compounds, and the like (from FirsRays.com). Many growers soak newly deflasked plantlets in a SuperThrive solution or use SuperThrive when repotting to help stimulate root growth. The recommended addition rate to irrigation water is 1 to 3 drops per gallon. Some growers have reported flower deformity and crippling if too much SuperThrive is applied. I can't tell the difference in plant growth with or without SuperThrive but I continue to use it as a matter of faith. I usually add a few drops per gallon monthly during the growing season.

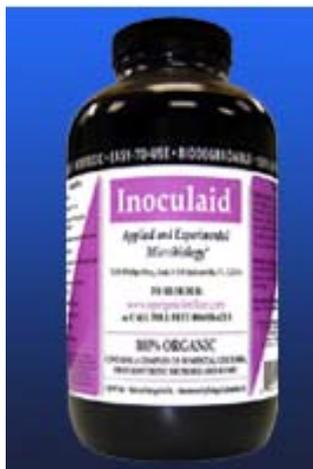


leading to increased plant yields and health. The label says the material should be applied as a foliar spray every three weeks. I used an earlier version, Messenger, and the plants grew well but not noticeably better, so I discontinued its use. There is some suggestion that the product may work more effectively on seedlings than mature plants.



Quantum Growth (Innoculaid).

The Quantum Growth website describes this product as naturally occurring microorganisms in a peat humus extract that increase the population of naturally occurring beneficial microorganisms in the soil. This would appear to be most suitable for terrestrial or semi-terrestrial orchids like paphs because most orchids are not grown in soil. In fact, some growers report that the microorganisms rapidly degrade any organic matter (like coco husks) in the potting mix.



Many SAOS members have tried this product, some report great success, most have discontinued its use. The label recommends 2 oz/gal though others recommend 1 tbs/gal on a monthly basis.

Axiom (Messenger). The Axiom Harpin proteins are a plant health promoter and plant growth stimulator that activates a plant's growth and defense responses. Harpin Proteins are produced in nature by certain bacterial plant pathogens and plants develop receptors to detect the presence of Harpin proteins which triggers an "early warning system"

Ethanol. It has been suggested that adding ethyl alcohol to high light growing orchids can enhance the growth rate. Using an 80 proof vodka, the recommended addition rate is 0.6 tsp/gal. I have been using about a third that rate weekly during the growing season and am seeing very vigorous growth. Some growers suggest the alcohol has no impact, others think perhaps the alcohol is easily converted to sugar and absorbed by the plants or that perhaps the alcohol is an alternate carbon source to the carbon dioxide absorbed from the atmosphere. Ray Barkalow of FirstRays speculates it might increase the permeability of the plants' cell walls, therefore allowing a greater throughput of the fluids the plants need to grow. This is an experiment in progress but I think I'll continue using 0.2 tsp/gal weekly during the spring and summer growing season.



If you have mastered the fundamentals of supplying the right amount of light, air movement and water, and then use either a good Cal-Mag fertilizer or a 20-10-20 with regular magnesium supplements, your plants should grow beautifully. You can potentially get an extra percentage point or three in improved growth by using some of these supplements, particularly the organic fertilizers and possibly ethanol. You may also target seedlings or recently repotted plants with some of the root stimulators like seaweed and SuperThrive. Focus on the basics first, that's where you can have the greatest impact on how well your orchids grow and bloom.



ORCHID ADVENTURES



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

Every year we go down to the Orchttoberfest at EFG in Deland for the orchids and the food. We saw Helen and Mac of Mac's Orchids, Rafael of Plantio la Orquidea, Yolanda and Segundo of Quest Orchids and Phillip Hamilton who has started a new venture, Bredren Orchids. Beautiful plants! And did I mention the food? The rouladen was sold out so we munched on sauerbrauten and pork loin with hot german potato salad. Gerge Sr. was cooking brats and George Jr. was showing off his new scar, thanks to an ill fated ride on a skateboard. Always a pleasure!



MY FAVORITE ORCHID

My Favorite Orchid

By [Harry McElroy](#), cymbidiuman@msn.com

When we search our minds to name our favorite orchid it soon becomes apparent that we are searching for a moving target. My first favorite orchid, like most orchid lovers, was a cattleya. It was *C. Irene Holquin*. Someone told me that I would progress through different genera until I came to *Paphiopedilums*. Of course that person was a Paph. Lover.



Chadwick Orchids

C. Irene Holquin

One could speculate about what my favorite orchid means. Is the one plant that at any given time gives us the most pleasure? The new seedling that we have nurtured and now has buds ready to bloom for the first time? We wait and wait for what seems an eternity, visiting the plant often and resisting the urge to help it open. It can be torture. But we must resist that urge because it will only spoil nature's plan and the flower.

Some of us are lucky enough just to find one genus and stick with it. We can love all orchids but many find one genus that responds well to their culture and really concentrate on learning all they can about that one genus. Some stick with that first genus and are perfectly happy.

I like variety but know that my main interest is my cymbidium collection. My circle of enthusiasts includes some really knowledgeable people that share cutting edge plant breeding information. Knowing why some plants succeed and why some fail is important to me. Why are crosses made? The answer is more complicated and involved than I ever imagined when my study of the cymbidium genus began. With each answer come thousands more questions and a desire to try as many of the new creations as I can. It

is the waiting and anticipating when the plant spikes for the first time that turns me on, odd chap that I am!

A few months ago I put *Cym. John William Easton* (Fifi x Spring Beauty) on the show table. This is probably my best cymbidium. It lasts for months both as a cut flower and on the plant whereas many warmth tolerant cymbidiums only last three or four weeks. It is a new breeding line that comes from the tetraploid *Cym. Fifi 'Harry'*. I appreciate the plant so much partly because of my many years of study of its parentage, understanding how each species influenced the great characteristics of *Cym. John William Easton*.



Cym. John William Easton

The luck of the draw also got me something special. It is great to go to a show and find a new treasure in bloom but try buying and growing unbloomed seedlings. Most growers will not knowingly sell you their best plant but if you buy seedlings you could get their best and like me you will know the joy in waiting and anticipating something new and great. It rewards all the study you put into learning the plants you grow.



Cym. Honey Bunny



SHOW TABLE



Grower Penny Halyburton
Bc. Punakea



Grower Sue Bottom
Blc. San Diego Sunset x Blc. Honolulu Sunset



Grower Dick Roth
Cym. Milton Carpenter 'Everglades Gold' AM/AOS



Grower Yvonne & Bob Schimmel
Mtssa. Shelob 'Red Spider'



Grower Bill Gurley
Lctna. Quest's Sexy Eyes 'Paradise'



Grower John Van Brocklin
Lc. White Spark 'Panda'

