

## CLUB NEWS



**Segundo Cuesta**

### August 4 Meeting Minutes

by [Lola Stark](mailto:lola.stark@bellsouth.net),  
[seacuter@bellsouth.net](mailto:seacuter@bellsouth.net)

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Heinz at 7:15 with 76 people present including 6 guests and twelve new members: Peggy Accurso, Barbara Pheffer, Dottie Rakouska,

Mavis & Jack Maki, Beverly Stuart, Sandra Taylor, Tom Aaron, Esther Whetstone, Chris Newman, Karen Bentkowski and Jerry Fowler! Wow! Mike thanked Jeanette Smith, Barbara Conrad, Wendy Thomas and Beth Strate for the refreshments and reminded those who were new that we donate a little if we eat a little. Gail Marshall announced that our members seem well and Rae Coletti helped with the newcomers and guests at the Welcome Table. With the change in the set up of the room, it seemed that everything worked out very well. Mike reminded everyone to vote for their favorite orchid on the show table. We had wonderful specimens!!!!

The Membership Rosters were available at the Welcome Table for members, as were several books pertinent to



**Yolanda & Fred enjoy Segundo's presentation**



**Segundo entertains & educates members & guests**

tonight's program. A list of all library books is available on the website and you can request any book be brought to the meeting via email. There is now a New Orchid Grower's page on the website, aimed at new members and growers. There's lots of information therein and if you have suggestions for something you'd like to have there, please get in touch with any member of the SAOS Board.

Don't forget the Soiree with Fred Clarke at the Bottom's on Sunday, 16 August from 4-6. It's BYOB. If you'd like orchids from him, please get in touch ASAP.

The Jacksonville Orchid Society is sponsoring a trip to Carter and Holmes in South Carolina. The bus will leave from the Jacksonville Garden Club at 4 pm on Friday, 21 August. They will be returning on Saturday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> after spending the morning at Carter and Holmes. If you're interested, get in touch with Sue or with Bonnie Myers at 260-3939.

Our speaker for the evening was Segundo Cuesta of Quest Orchids in Miami. He and his wife, Yolanda, are cattleya specialists. He showed us several of their newly blooming crosses in which they are trying to get cattleyas with lots of bloom, ones that bloom at least twice a year and are short in order to not take up so much space for the grower. He is using such plants as Waikiki Gold, George Hausermann, Why Not, Toshie Aoki, Painter's Brush and Chocolate Drop.

Continued on page 3





## Upcoming Orchid Events

### September

- 1 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting  
Growing Oncidiinae Intergenerics  
Bill Hill. [Orchid Island Orchid](#)
- 5 Master Gardeners & SAOS Members  
Q&A, Repotting & Problem Plant Clinic  
Ace on US 1, 9 am to noon
- 19-20 Ridge Orchid Society Show  
Lake Mirror Center, Lakeland
- 20 Keiki Club – Warm Growing Cymbidiums  
Harry and Celia McElroy's home  
12010 Hood Landing Rd, Jax 32258  
904-262-2163, 1-3 pm

### October

- 2-4 Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show  
Minnreg Center, Largo
- 3 Master Gardeners & SAOS Members  
Q&A, Repotting & Problem Plant Clinic  
Ace on US 1, 9 am to noon
- 6 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting  
Important Encyclia Species Used in  
Breeding and Their Hybrids  
Dr. Ruben and Claudia Sauleda,  
[Ruben in Orchids](#)
- 10-11 Gainesville Orchid Society Show  
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
- 17-18 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show  
Ft Pierce Community Center  
Vets Memorial Park
- 18 Keiki Club – Winter Preparations  
Venue – TBA, 1-3 pm
- 23-25 Orctober Fest at [EFG Orchids](#)  
4265 Marsh Rd, Deland  
386-738-8600
- 30-1 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show  
Old School Square Gymnasium

### November

- 3 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting  
More IS Better, Multifloral Paphs  
Brian Monk, [Blu Llama Orchids](#)
- 7 Master Gardeners & SAOS Members  
Q&A, Repotting & Problem Plant Clinic  
Ace on US 1, 9 am to noon
- 18 Keiki Club – Winter Orchid Care  
Venue – TBA, 1-3 pm

### December

- 12 SAOS Christmas Auction  
Moultrie Trails Clubhouse, 7-10 pm  
Bring a Covered Dish and Cash

[www.staugorchidsociety.org](http://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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### St Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	<a href="#">Mike Heinz</a> mgheinz@comcast.net
First Vice President Program Chair	<a href="#">Sue Bottom</a> sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Second Vice President Publicity Chair	<a href="#">Vivienne Rowe</a> tomvivrowe@comcast.net
Secretary AOS/Orchid Digest Rep	<a href="#">Lola Stark</a> seacuter@bellsouth.net
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Operations Committee Chair	<a href="#">Jeanette Smith</a> jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com



## Continued from page 1

In talking about caring for the Cattleyas, he told us that they must have lots of light. If the leaves are dark green and floppy, they will not bloom because they are not getting enough light. During the really hot months (July and August), he suggested putting the plants in lower light to keep them cooler, but from September through June, they need bright light.

Water them once a week with fertilizer, twice if the temperature stays over 90. Don't just sprinkle them when you water, deep water them. They should be watered in the morning so they are dry by noon. Do not fertilize plants that are in bloom, it will shorten the bloom period. He recommends that after you fertilize, spray water on any flowers that might have been touched with the fertilizer so it won't burn the flowers. Put some liquid soap (1 tsp/gallon) in your fertilizer - it will act as an preventative insecticide similar to Safer Soap. Segundo uses 20-20-20 for three weeks of fertilizing, but the fourth week he uses Bloom Booster, with the higher middle number.

Hydrogen Peroxide will act as a bactericide. If you see a plant with Black Rot, cut away the bad stuff, put the plant in a sealed bag with the hydrogen peroxide and you'll probably be able to save your plant. Alcohol and water sprayed on your plants will take care of scale, but it will probably be necessary to spray two or three times to fully break their cycle.



**Yolanda and her awesome selection of cattleyas**

Another tip that Segundo passed along was about Unifoliate and Bifoliate plants and repotting. Unifoliate (plants that have just one leaf per stem) can be repotted any time, though he did recommend that the best time was after they've stopped blooming and right as they start putting out new roots. Bifoliate plants (those with two leaves per stem)



**Tom Aaron becomes SAOS's 100th member**

should not be repotted until you see new roots beginning to grow. They will die any other time. If you follow these suggestions your plants will bloom more and faster.

He also showed us how to take the plant marker belonging to the plant and slice a small cut at the base of new sheaths to allow water to go out so the new blooms won't rot.

If you use coconut husks as part of your potting mix, wash it three or four time before use to get rid of the salt accumulation from growing near salt water. He also recommends Stalite rock instead of Aliflor because it settles better in the repotting process.

Following the presentation, we had our raffle and auction. Mary Ann Bell won the Grand Prize and the Member's choice was Stanhopea oculata from Sue Bottom.



**Wendy Thomas has fun during the auction**





## September 1 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Bill Hill from Orchid Island Orchids in Vero Beach will give a presentation on growing Oncidiinae intergenerics at the September 1 meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Bill specializes in warm growing Oncidium Alliance orchids and has been growing orchids in Vero Beach for over 35 years.

Bill originally grew cattleyas, then dendrobiums and phalaenopsis and then he discovered oncidiums. Because they range in size and color and also last a long time, he fell in love with them. Oncidiinae grow fast, bloom often and are bred for our warm climate. He will be bringing his best to the meeting.



## Summer Break Keiki Club Next Meeting in September

The Keiki Club is going on vacation for July and August but we'll still be available at Ace Hardware on the first Saturday of the month from 9 to noon to answer any questions you may have. We'll be back in full force in the fall. In September, we're going to Harry and Celia's greenhouse in Jacksonville where we'll learn how to select and grow Cymbidiums in Florida. In October, we'll have a workshop on how to get your winter growing area ready and how to get your plants ready for winter. In November, we'll have a workshop on the caring for orchids during the winter, minimum temperatures and light, fertilizer and water requirements for various types of orchids.



*Another Orchid needs a Name  
By Robert Sullivan*

The Dream of the Orchid  
by Surfer Dan  
In Rembrandt's dreams they shined,  
Like flowers of the sun,  
Patterns drawn within the mind,  
Life's colors through them run,  
Monet could never imitate,  
The wonder of the bloom,  
So pure in time they fascinate,  
Like warriors from the tomb,  
Temperate in their world unbound,  
Within a fragile space,  
Cast to sleep, awake, surround,  
The beauty in each face.



## Home and Backyard Orchid Growing

**Vivienne Rowe**, tomvivrowe@comcast.net



Vivienne started with a few phalaenopsis back in June of 2007. Those phalaenopsis went to sphagnum land in the sky, but neighbor and friend Jim Taylor took Viv under his wing, mentored her and introduced her to the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Thanks to Jim, Viv is in the throes of orchid addiction and now has close to 200 orchid plants, mostly cattleyas, vandas and oncidiums, as well as dendrobiums, phals and paphs and a few more unusual plants. They grow outside in the backyard under tall and stately oak trees getting direct sun during the early morning and late afternoon and dappled light from around 10 til 3.



The vandas are hanging on a metal pole supported by shepherd's hooks. They are in baskets with the roots hanging free. They are watered every day and then allowed to dry by nightfall in the refreshing breezes.

The cattleyas, oncidiums and dendrobiums are mostly in clay pots hanging off a north facing fence and a 4' x 4' attached by pot clips or hanging in vanda baskets. The cattleyas and dendrobiums are mostly potted in a coarse aliflor/tree fern mix and the oncidiums are mostly in a more water retentive aliflor/coco husk mix.

Although Viv says the oncidiums just seem to grow like weeds and don't much care, she has some bare rooted in baskets and some in a coarse mix and there is a lot of spiking going on!

The phalaenopsis and paphiopedilums are in the shadier gazebo where she brings blooming plants to enjoy with her morning coffee. They are mostly potted in a water retentive aliflor/coco husk mix or in sphagnum moss.

Except for the vandas, she hasn't had to do a lot of watering this summer with all the rain supplied by Mother Nature. Without the rain she would normally water weekly. She has Dynamite in little tulle bags tied to her plants, particularly the mounted plants and vandas. When she waters, she adds Orchid Pro (an organic soil amendment, not a fertilizer) and Inoculaid (photosynthetic microorganisms, not a fertilizer). She fertilizes with the time released fertilizer Dynamite by adding it to the potted plants and tying



tulle filled bags to the mounted and bare rooted plants. At the end of each month, she fertilizes with Better Gro Bloom Booster mixed with Orchid Pro and Innoculaid.

Viv and Tom are formulating their winter plans so they won't be hauling plants in and out of the house during cold weather like they did last year. She's looking at getting a plastic covered portable greenhouse she can set up and move the plants into before the cold weather. The greenhouse has several vents she can open and close to provide air to her sleeping beauties on the warmer winter days and then button them up at night. The things we do for our orchids!





## Growing Tips for August

**Dr. Courtney T. Hackney**

Dept. Biology,  
Univ. North Florida

An acquaintance recently asked me what I found so intriguing about orchids that made me continue growing them for over 40 years. As

I thought about the question, I realized that there were several answers. Mostly, the unending variety of species and hybrids offer a challenge to even the most accomplished horticulturalist. Most long-term orchid hobbyists began with a relatively easy-to-grow orchid and after we mastered growing that one, wanted more of a challenge. Learning to provide the environment for an exotic species from another part of the world must be a rewarding experience for those of us engaged in this hobby because we continue to do it.

Most remarkable is the fact that each year the challenge is a little different because it is hotter, colder, or new pests show up. This year's pest du jour for me is the juvenile stage of crickets. These appear as pale versions of the adult. They leave damage that looks like slugs, but they also really like new roots. After several nights of looking, I decided to un-pot a damaged plant or two. There were two or three of the little beasts. Once I knew what to look for, I found them on my new phal leaves and on cattleya roots in the dark of night.

These little beasts are quick, and difficult to catch. Several



readers have asked about similar damage on orchids they were growing outside in summer and I suggested that the damage was done by slugs. It is not clear if very dry weather promotes this pest or it was my conversion to large lava rock for a medium. Lava rock provides large spaces where the juvenile crickets retreat during the daylight and makes killing them by hand difficult. Apparently, my small

army of frogs that feed at night has not been able to control these pests and I will soon have to resort to liquid Sevin.

Sevin is an old pesticide widely used in gardens, but not usually for orchids. Most scale, the primary insect pest in orchids, are resistant to Sevin, but it works well on other insect pests. Just follow the directions and drench the pot. This kills most insects hiding in pots and seems to also be disliked by bush snails and slugs as well.

I never experienced many insect pests, except scale, until recently. My suspicion is that pesticides, such as Orthene, previously used to kill scale, also killed these other pests. Now that I control scale with an infrequent application of a hormonal pesticide, crickets and other insects have appeared.

Most standard cattleya pseudobulbs are maturing now, which means it's time to cease fertilizing heavily. Smaller cattleyas with lots of sophronitis in their background can grow all year long and bloom several times a year. This type of cattleya, popular among windowsill growers, can be fertilized all year long.

It seems that many orchid growers in the area now use Dynamite (also known as Nutricote) slow-release fertilizer [13-13-13] and had lots of flowers last winter and spring. I first saw this product in seedlings I purchased from Carter & Holmes a few years ago and after trying it I was hooked. It provides an even dose of fertilizer for 6 months. This is ideal for hobbyists since mixing fertilizer is time consuming and typically results in over-fertilizing. Use about a half teaspoon for a 5" pot.

Last year a new formulation appeared alongside the standard 13-13-13 formula. While available for some time in bulk, it is now being sold under the trade name Dynamite at Home Depot. It has also appeared from time to time in Big Lots stores at a reduced price. The chemical formula is higher in nitrogen [18-6-8] and contains minor nutrients as well. It is labeled "All Purpose", comes in a green tube, and provides nutrients for nine months. It delivered too much nitrogen for cattleyas, but was great for phalaenopsis and paphiopedalums, which are faster growers. About ½ teaspoon per 5" pot worked well. Apply the fertilizer when the orchids begin to grow in winter. There is enough residual fertilizer incorporated into the medium to provide the orchid with nutrients for an entire year.



## Orchid Questions & Answers

Where Members Share Experiences

[Sue Bottom](#), sbottom15@bellsouth.net

**Q.** I noticed today that my C. Chocolate Drop had what appeared to be an aborted bloom pod and a flush of new roots that seem to have stopped growing when they reached the edge of the pot. Looking closely at the roots, I noticed that along the same roots, new root buds were forming. Then I noticed a lot of spots on the new spike which I thought were the beginnings of the coloration spots seen with happy plants getting plenty of light but then saw the coloration spots were not spots but tiny bumps that moved. I concluded that they must be thrips which could also explain the root growth problem. I sprayed the whole plant with Orthenex.

**A.** Well Sherlock, I think you figured it all out. You can also use the white paper trick Phillip Hamilton told us about to see if you have thrips. If you shake the bloom over a piece of white paper and elongated dark spots move around on the paper, you have thrips. Thrips are barely visible sucking insects that attack flowers and leaves and transmit disease from plant to plant. Infested buds may not open and flowers may be deformed and have water soaked spots, appearing to have virus-caused color break. Leaves may appear pitted, stippled, silvery or bleached. For years I said I didn't have thrips. Was I ever wrong, I just didn't know how to

identify them.

They did lots of damage to the flowers and girdled some of the vanda roots like you can see in the pictures. You can spray with Orthenex or Bayer Tree and Shrub. I bought some Conserve based on Phillip Hamilton's suggestion and sprayed it on the plants and the flowers without damaging them and that eliminated the problem in the greenhouse.



**Thrip damage - Water Soaked Lesion**



**Thrip Damage - Ruining Flower**



**Thrip Root Damage - Girdled Vanda Roots**

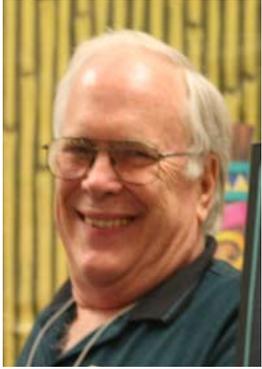
**Q.** One of my phals has a 1/4" spot on one leaf with a yellow rim. Didn't our last speaker say the yellow halo is characteristic of a bacterial infection, similar to the red surrounding a human skin infection? Is there a home remedy for me to try or should I just cut it out? I have 7 plants in my bathroom.

**A.** For a bacterial infection, break out the hydrogen peroxide and pour it on the spot just like you would use on skin infection. Watch the spot to see whether it enlarges. If it does, take a sterile razor blade and cut off to about an inch below the yellow halo around the spot. But if you're lucky, the peroxide will kill the bacteria and you'll be able to save the leaf.

**Q.** I have had a lot of bud blasting on my cattleyas, on some plants up to half the buds. I'm wondering if the heat we've had over the last couple of weeks is the culprit, it went into the mid to high 90's and sometimes I wetted the plants and growing area down to keep the temperature down. Do you think the excessive heat is the cause?

**A.** Orchid Doctor Courtney Hackney answered my question. Did the buds blast inside the sheath or after they had emerged? The heat is likely the culprit if the buds blasted after they emerged. If the buds were still in a closed sheath, you may have contributed to the problem when you wet your plants down and then they got hot again. If the temperature drops and then increases there can be precipitation within the sheath causing the bud blast. My greenhouse is hot too, but I have only had a bud blast here and there. The trick is to keep lots of air moving around the buds, this will help keep them from overheating. You can also add more shade when temperatures get over 95°F or spray the outside of the greenhouse with water to help cool it down.





**Beginner's Corner**  
By [Mike Heinz](mailto:mgheinz@comcast.net),  
[mgheinz@comcast.net](mailto:mgheinz@comcast.net)

We love to talk about orchids and assume that everybody understands all the terms we use, though this is not usually the case. Let's talk about what how plants are named.

When we start talking about dividing plants, we often say cut the rhizome on a sympodial type plant. Now

there are some words that need some explanation. A *Cattleya* is a classic example of a sympodial orchid. The plant has a horizontal growth, called a rhizome, that lays on top of the potting media in a potted plant, with the roots growing from the rhizome down into the potting material and pseudobulbs growing from the rhizome up. These pseudobulbs have the leaves on top of them, and if you're lucky, flowers from the base of the leaves. This doesn't happen in all the sympodial orchids, but in the majority it works this way.



***Rhizome with Roots and Pseudobulb***

When you divide a sympodial orchid you cut the rhizome between two pseudobulbs, making sure you have good plant to repot, no less than 3 and preferably 4 or more pseudobulbs. The part that is the oldest at the back of the plant is now called the "back bulbs". Back bulbs should not



***Back Bulb with New Pseudobulb Sprouting Up***

be automatically discarded, because they may have "live eyes" at the base of the pseudobulbs. Every pseudobulb has a primary eye, which is what the next pseudobulb grows from, and a secondary eye, to continue the life of the plant if the primary eye gets damaged. These secondary eyes, under the right conditions, can start to grow and form a new pseudobulb, and then new roots, and be the start of another healthy plant, called a division.

The next major group of plants is the monopodial growers. Monopodial plants have no rhizome, but grow straight up, like a vanda. To divide a monopodial plant you go up the



***Vanda with Keiki Sprouting Up from Base***

plant to a point where you have at least four healthy roots growing out the main stalk, above and below where you cut the plant, saving the lower half, and potting the top half in a new basket, pot, etc. Sometimes a new growth will start out the side of the main stalk, called a Keiki (Hawaiian for baby) and this growth can be removed after it has at least four healthy roots. You can leave all Keikis on the parent plant, and next year you may have blooms from the parent and all Keikis. What a great sight.

It is my goal to make things more clear. We all started just like you and had to learn a new language, but it's worth it to be able to describe our beautiful plants.



***Pseudobulb Growing out from Center***



## Falling Leaves – Cattleyas

by Susan Taylor, BellaOnline.com

In general, leaf loss in Cattleya Alliance orchids is not considered to be a major growing problem. Unless you have very good growing conditions and have solved most of your cultural problems, you are going to lose the leaves on the older pseudobulbs of your Cattleyas. It is an exceptional grower who can keep these plants happy enough to produce a specimen plant. That is not to say that the hobby grower cannot do better to reduce leaf loss than the average grower. There are three main reasons for leaf loss: diseases/insects, culture and genetics.

In the diseases and insects category, scale is the main culprit. Scale is easy to spot once you have ever seen it, a grouping of white fuzzy spots. Left untreated scale will overtake a plant and ultimately will kill it. As soon as you see evidence of these pests, remove the plant to a location away from your other plants. Manually clean up any obvious insects or spray the whole plant with Bayer's Rose and Flower Insect Spray (dual action) which will kill any pests that it touches as well as be absorbed in the plant and will kill adults as well as any sucking insects. Continue to spray for about 3 months.



**Leaf Loss**



**Scale Viewed from the Topside of Leaf**

Cultural practices which will cause leaf loss include overwatering, underwatering and excess cold and or heat. Overwatering will cause the roots on your plants to die off so they cannot support the plant. In an attempt to stay alive, the plant will shed extra leaves and try to keep the new growth alive. If possible, look at the roots of your plants, some growers actually take their plants out of the pots periodically to assess the growth. An old rule of thumb says that if the second oldest pseudobulb (generally from the previous year) is wrinkled and desiccated, you are either under or overwatering. Take your plant out of the pot to see which it is. If the roots are good and plump, then you're under-watering. If they are all dead and rotten, you have overwatered. Repot and change your culture.

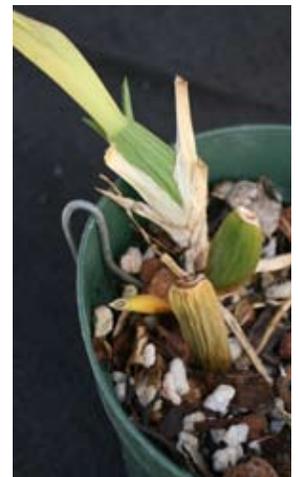


**Cold Damage**

Another cultural practice which will cause leaf drop is very cold temperatures in the winter and very hot temperatures in the summer. Most Cattleya Alliance plants will withstand a wide range of temperatures, but very high and low temperatures, even within their range, will cause them to be stressed and lose leaves.

Genetics will also determine whether the plant will grow large for you or lose leaves once they are a couple of years old. There is little that can be done for this aspect but to determine through trial-and-error which plants are best for your growing conditions and stick to them.

One point to keep in mind is that if you can keep from doing it, it is much better to allow the leaf to drop off naturally than to cut it off. If the leaf will not snap off with light pressure, leave it on until it is ready to come off. The plant will seal the wound through a natural drying process which will keep any pests or disease from using the area to invade the plant.



**Under Watering**





## Terry Bottom

Terry Bottom! What can you say! He's one half of the amazing Sue and Terry duo and is the fellow that produces the newsletter each month. Terry was born in St. Louis and grew up in North Carolina. After graduating from NC State in Environmental Design he

did landscape design before getting into the artistic world of graphics doing screen printing. A man of many talents, he renovated turn-of-the-century houses in Charlotte and New Orleans. He met Sue there, through her brother who worked at an architectural antiques store, and they've been together ever since. Lucky for both of them! They moved to Houston where he had a screen printing business and supervised construction of the League City 4B Sport Complex. He and Sue moved to Florida in 1998. Terry's favorite orchids are the cattleyas, red and green combos or anything spotted. He considers orchids Sue's hobby, but he supports her in any way he can. In his spare time you'll find Terry fishing on 'In Reel Time'. Another of his talents is photography. He does all the show table photos for the SAOS newsletter and recently took a blue ribbon at the 2009 Miami International Orchid Show Photography Contest. You'll be seeing a lot more of his work as he's collaborating with Wolfgang Obst, a noted nature and wildlife cinematographer. Their DVD featuring beautiful orchids set to music should be released next year.



## Rae Coletti

Rae Coletti, upstate NY born and raised, graduated from State University of New York with an Associates Degree in Applied Science. She worked for the Navy Department in Washington. She made her way to California and worked for the Department of Interior

as an environmental lab tech. One of the greatest parts of being on the west coast was adopting two children, Erik and Dianne. Life's ups and downs brought her back to New York where she trained to be a Practical Nurse. Rae married former high school friend, Norm, and they added a

third child, Daniel, to their family. Rae and Norm, a retired engineer, moved to Florida in 1999. Now fully retired, she has time for gardening and her orchids. Rae has always been a gardener and landscaped their entire property in the Shores. Her yard features tons of flowers and over 50 trees and was awarded Garden of the Month by the St. Augustine Record. Her general love of gardening overflowed into orchids two years ago, just because of the beauty of them. She has about 15 plants with bulbophyllums being her current obsession. Other interests? After seeing the movie "Bucket List", she decided to put aside her dislike of flying, and she and Norm flew out West to fulfill her dream of walking and hiking the canyons of the national parks in Arizona and Utah. Rae is one of the smiling faces who greets you at the SAOS Welcome Table at our monthly meetings.



## Maria Yessian

Maria Yessian is REALLY from the south, born and raised in Havana, Cuba though she is of Swiss German and Hungarian descent. The youngest of 7 brothers and sisters and knowing no English, Maria came to the US in 1961 to join her eldest sister in Fairfax, VA where she picked

up a number of conversational English phrases. She moved to NY and took english and secretarial classes at night. That's where she met husband Richard, and they returned to live in Fairfax, VA for the next 34 years while raising their two children, Kathryn and Rich. Always a lover of gardening and flowers, in Fairfax, Maria had a beautiful yard with many varieties of plants and trees, but she had no experience with orchids until their retirement move to Florida in 2004. She was told they were hard to grow so she initially stayed away from them. But then orchid fever kicked in, and she bought one and it lived and grew in spite of her lack of knowledge. When she saw the ad in the paper in 2006 announcing the formation of a new St. Augustine Orchid Society, the deed was done. Now she's as hooked as the rest of us. Her collection, in which cattleyas are her favorites, is up to about 70 plants, most of which she won at the SAOS orchid meeting raffles. Whenever she wants another orchid, she just buys more raffle tickets. Maria grows her plants on the covered lanai and pool area. Besides gardening and orchids, Maria loves cooking, computer games and mind puzzles.



# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Lola Stark**  
**Pot. Egyptian Queen**  
**'Black Diamond'**



**Grower Fred Keefer**  
***Eurychone rothschildiana***



**Grower Lola Stark**  
**Ascda. Salva Dela Pena x**  
**Ascda. Guo Chai Long**



**Grower Fred Keefer**  
***Bulb. echinolabium***



**Grower Gil & Ellen Roehrig**  
***Phal. bellina***



**Grower Fred Keefer**  
***Bulb. vaginatum***



**Grower Harry & Celia McElroy**  
***Diaa. Chantilly Lace 'Twinkle'***



# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Gil & Ellen Roehrig**  
**Rhctm. Lilac Blossom**



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**Stanhopea oculata**



**Grower Lola Stark**  
**Mokara Christine Panee**



**Grower Tom Aaron**  
**Ascda. Gold Spots x Ascda. Pharaoh's Gold**



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**Blc. Toshie Aokie x Pot. Lemon Tree**



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**Blc. Yen Surprise x C. Penny Kuroda 'Spots'**

