



## CLUB NEWS



### April 5 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Lola Stark,  
seacuter@bellsouth.net

Welcome & Thanks. The meeting was called to order by First Vice President Sue Bottom with 59 people present, including new members Tom and Kim Aaron, Bob and Yvonne Schimmel and 3 visitors. Sue thanked Jeanette

Smith and Shirley Browning for helping with the refreshments and mentioned that if you eat, please Drop a Dollar in the jar to help pay for all the goodies! Gail Marshall mentioned that Barbara Conrad's husband is in the hospital.

SAOS Club Business. For those who have yet to pay their dues, tonight was the last night before we purge our membership list for the year. We had potting supplies available, coarse mix, coco mix, sphagnum mix, MSU fertilizer and Dynamite, all at the welcome table. If you've lost your name tag, please see Secretary Lola Stark, and she will gladly make you a new one. Sue reminded members to vote for the best of the Show Table at the break before we have our raffle and auction.



Kathy Figiel with Greg's orchid prints & canvases.

Upcoming Events. The Keiki club will meet on April 17 from 1 to 3 at Sue and Terry's. The topic is mounting your orchids. Locally, don't miss the EPIC Flower and Garden Expo at the Agricultural Center on April 16 and 17. Our program at the Southeast Library will be April 30 at 11 am, Ten Easy Tricks for Growing and Blooming Your Orchids. The Orchids by Del-Rei Open House will be May 1. Please bring canned goods for the Hastings area. Ace repotting will be May 7 from 9 am to 1 pm. Orchid events this month include the shows sponsored by the Tallahassee, Vero Beach, and Platinum Coast Societies.

SAOS Monthly Program. Our program for the evening was by Greg Allikas of Orchid Works. Greg is in charge of the publications committee for the AOS (and AOS magazine *Orchids*) and he urged all of us to join the AOS. His talk was about *Pedilonum Dendrobium*s which are differentiated from other dendrobiums by the fact that the plants bloom on leafless canes, usually in their second year. The flowers are usually tubular with reduced lips that in some cases have become pouch shaped and are adapted to bird pollination. These dendrobiums are found from just south of Taiwan south to the Samoa Islands and west to northern Australia. He showed us gorgeous slides of many of the species including *Den. bullenianum* (brightly colored), *Den. topaziacum* (very showy), *Den. secundum* (known as the toothbrush orchid), *Den. smillieae* (blooms at the apex of the cane), *Den. victoriae-regina* (from Luzon in the Philippines, a deep blue), *Den. capituliflorum* (ice-green, grows at sea level), *Den. purpureum* (very tall),



*Den. secundum*

Continued on page 3



# CLUB NEWS



## Upcoming Orchid Events

### April

- 12 JOS Meeting, 7 pm  
Ted Kellogg, AOS Judge  
Cattleya intermedia
- 16-17 Annual Flower and Garden Expo  
St. Johns County Agricultural Center
- 16-17 [Tallahassee Orchid Society Show](#)  
Doyle Conner Building
- 17 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners  
Orchids on a Mount  
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home  
[6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086](#)
- 22-23 [Vero Beach Orchid Society Show](#)  
Riverside Park Drive
- 29-1 [Platinum Coast Orchid Society](#)  
Cocoa Expo Sports Arena
- 30 Orchids for Beginners, 11 am to 1 pm  
SE Branch St. Johns County Library

### May

- 1 Orchids by Del-Rei Open House, noon til 4  
[4270 Cedar Ford Blvd. Hastings 32145](#)  
Orchids, Food & Libations
- 3 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm  
Brian Monk, [Blu Llama Orchids](#)  
What Do You Mean it Won't Grow?
- 6-8 [Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show](#)  
Egypt Shrine Center
- 7 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm  
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine  
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 7-8 Volusia County Orchid Society Show  
Volusia County Fairgrounds
- 13-15 [Redlands International Orchid Festival](#)  
Fruit and Spice Park
- 22 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners  
Watering and Fertilizing Your Orchids  
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home  
[6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086](#)
- 22 JOS Annual Picnic, 1 pm  
Eric and Margaret Cavin's Home  
3611 Richmond St., Jax 32205

### June

- 4 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm  
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine  
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 7 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm  
Ruben Sauleda, [Ruben](#) in Orchids  
Orchids in Colombia
- 14 JOS Meeting, 7 pm  
TBA
- 26 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners  
Summer Orchid Care  
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home  
[6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086](#)  
Orchids on a Mount

## St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	<a href="#">Jack Higgins</a> jacktravel2003@yahoo.com
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
Treasurer	<a href="#">Bill Gourley</a> wgourley@bellsouth.net
Directors at Large	<a href="#">Terry Bottom</a> bottomt@bellsouth.net <a href="#">Mike Heinz</a> mgheinz@comcast.net <a href="#">Bob Martin</a> nigel_77@att.net
Exhibit Committee Chair	<a href="#">Lola Stark</a> seacuter@bellsouth.net
Librarian	<a href="#">Wendy Thomas</a> wendysthomas1@bellsouth.net
Membership Committee Chair	<a href="#">Gail Marshall</a> gwpb@aol.com
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	<a href="#">Sue and Terry Bottom</a> sbottom15@bellsouth.net bottomt@bellsouth.net
Operations Committee Chair	<a href="#">Jeanette Smith</a> jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com



# CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1



***Den. goldschmidtianum 'Kraenzl'***

*Den. lawesii* (bicolored red/yellow or red/white), *Den. goldschmidtianum* (blooms at Christmas), and *Den. ceraula* (the newest found).

During the warm months (April - November here), these orchids, grown usually in large wire baskets in sphagnum moss need bright light, continuously moist media, air movement, and regular fertilizing, at least twice a month. You can put some slow release fertilizer in the basket in the spring and it will suffice for the summer. When November comes, allow the plants to dry off gradually, to a point where you only water occasionally. Without their leaves, they are quite tolerant of cold - down to freezing, but not much below. In late winter you will begin to see nubs of growth and at that time they need to be moved to their summer homes and watering gradually increased.



***Gail Marshall admiring show table plants.***



***Flo Powers and her 'exotic' True Blue Phal.***

Some species can be tied up in the basket to allow more plants in the same space. Use garden wire and tie it to the basket wire. It is not necessary to cut the canes unless they turn brown and start to look soft. Greg does not recommend dividing unless absolutely necessary. It's hard on the plant and half will probably not survive. The dendrobiums in this group will bloom sometimes two times a year. When the plants start to dry out in the fall, and there is immature growth, don't worry about it, it will come through the dry period intact.



***The "animated" Fred Keefer has another great raffle.***



***The Heilmans head out with raffle table booty.***

Meeting Conclusion. Following the break, Dick Roth announced the Best of the Show Table as *Den. Love Memory*, brought in by Mark and Sheila Heilman. We had our auction and raffle as the conclusion of a very educational night!



# CLUB NEWS

## SAOS Exhibit at JOS Show

The St. Augustine Orchid Society put in an exhibit at the JOS show thanks to the show chair Lola Stark and volunteers Harry McElroy, Terry Bottom, Gail Marshall, Rosemary Comtois, Jack Higgins, Sue Bottom and Josh Jones. SAOS won the third place ribbon in the Society exhibit category. Individual exhibitors took home a total of 32 ribbons, including 16 firsts, 12 seconds and 4 thirds. Ribbons were won by Harry McElroy, Courtney Hackney, Mike Heinz, Lola Stark, Bill Gourley, Vivienne Rowe and Sue Bottom. The JOS were gracious hosts, dined us well and once again presented a beautiful gift to the community.



*Harry, Gail & Jack working on plant labels*



*Harry & Lola working on finishing touches*



*SAOS placed Third & won many ribbons*



# CLUB NEWS

## Have You Reupped for 2011?

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2011, act now because we'll be updating our membership roster and newsletter distribution list at the end of this month. Dues are \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a family. You can mail your membership check to SAOS c/o Bill Gourley, 807 Kalli Creek Lane, St. Augustine, FL 32080.



## SAOS Business Cards

We just ordered a new supply of SAOS Business Cards if you are interested. It is handy to have SAOS business cards when you are telling people about the club. If you give the card to a newcomer, make sure you tell them to check in at the Welcome Table to get a free raffle ticket and chance to win an orchid! Cards are available on the Welcome Table if you would like some cards to hand out to interested persons.

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



## May 3 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Brian Monk of Blu Llama Orchids will discuss orchid culture at the May 3 meeting of the St Augustine Orchid Society. The lecture is "What Do You Mean It Won't Grow?" Why do orchid roots look like they do? What is the real difference between "terrestrial" and "epiphytic?" Why is some water better than other water? This lecture focuses on how orchids grow in the wild, and how this translates into growing them in your home or greenhouse.



Brian developed an intense passion for nature while growing up which led to his profession as a veterinarian and his many hobbies including bird watching, orchid growing and natural history. Because of his passion for all things orchid, he and wife Mary-Margaret formed Blu Llama Orchids in Fort Lauderdale. Brian started growing and hybridizing orchids in his backyard and now has 4000 sq ft of greenhouse space. He will grow anything green, but focuses on hybridizing projects, including the development of multifloral white and pink paphiopedilums, warmth tolerate red onciidiinae and standard pink cattleyas with an all white lip. He continues to pursue and perfect his orchid culture and photographic skills. Brian is currently a student judge with the American Orchid Society.



## April 17 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners Orchids on a Mount

Back by popular demand, we're going to talk about orchids on a mounl. We'll talk about the differences in caring for a mounted orchid vs. a potted orchid, what orchids are most amenable to mounted culture and demonstrate how to attach an orchid to a mount. We've got several orchids we can divide that you can place on a mount. And if you prefer potted culture, bring a clay pot and you can pot up your new orchid. We'll be meeting on Sunday, April 17 from 1 to 3 pm. Bring a folding chair. We'll meet at Sue and Terry Bottom's house at [6916 Cypress Lake Ct. in St. Aug 32086](http://www.6916CypressLakeCt.com). Call Sue at 797-4360 if you have any questions.



# CLUB NEWS



## March 13 Keiki Club Potting Mixes and Repotting Orchids

We had 25 new and familiar faces at the Keiki Club get-together talking about potting mixes and repotting orchids. Here are the highlights:

The basic differences between potting mixes are the relative amounts of organic and inorganic matter. Organic matter such as sphagnum moss, coconut husk, bark, tree fern, etc. tends to hold more water, hold some nutrients for use by the plants and provide some pH buffering. Organic matter does break down and orchids must be repotted before the media decays or root loss and plant decline will follow. Inorganic matter such as stalite, lava rock, aliflor, hydroton, sponge rock, charcoal, etc. tends to be freely draining allowing plenty of air around the roots. Because it does not break down (though it may accumulate salts), you are not required to repot plants every year or two the way you would be with organic mixes.

There is no right or wrong mix for growing orchids. You should choose a potting mix based on your time constraints, your growing environment and your orchid. If you are time limited, you may want a mix that holds a little more water (i.e., contains organics), realizing that you will have to watch the mix and repot before it breaks down. If you are growing outdoors in the summer so your plants will be exposed to our tropical storms, you may want to use a more inorganic mix that won't become waterlogged after a week of rain. If you're growing an orchid that likes frequent repotting like a phalaenopsis, paphiopedilum or catasetum, feel free to use an organic mix because you know you will be repotting before the mix degrades. If you're growing an orchid that resents repotting like a dendrobium or a cattleya, lean towards a more inorganic mix that won't require the plant to be disturbed right before it throws off its glorious flowers.

Each grower selects their potting mixes based on their own set of conditions. Some of our best growers use a totally inorganic mix for many of their orchids and have terrific results. Others prefer this or that blend of ingredients. And some prefer to grow with no potting mix around the orchid roots at all. Listen to all that great advice...but pick and choose what works best for you.



*Cyc. chlorochilon*



*Bulb. rothschildianum 'Crystelle'*  
CCE/AM AM/AOS

## Greg Allikas

Greg Allikas is known the world over for his brilliant photographs of orchids. His extensive knowledge of his subject and artistic background offer a unique interpretation that is both accurate and stunningly beautiful. Greg has been a commercial photographer in the Palm Beaches and is well known for his library of theater photography. An orchid grower since 1970, Allikas is awards photographer. His photos are regularly seen in numerous AOS publications including the annual calendar, *AQ+* and *Orchids* magazine. He has written articles for *Orchids* magazine and *Orchid Digest* and has been published in Germany, South America, Sweden and Russia.



# INSPIRATION

Photographs By

**Greg Allikas**



*Cyc. warsewiczii*



*Ctsm. vinaceum*



*Paph. affine 'Apopka' AM/AOS*



*C. Kathy Figiel 'KG's Different Drummer' AM/AOS*



*Cyod. Jumbo Micky - Jumbo Fifi AM/AOS*



*Paph. In Charm Green Jet 'Nike' HCC/AOS*



# CULTIVATION



## Growing Tips for April

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

Each year, some facet of orchid growing comes along that I am at a loss to explain. This year, it was the length of multi-floral *Paphiopedilum* bloom spikes. My spikes were much shorter than in previous years. This was true on paphs I have had for many years and bloomed many times. It was true also for newly repotted paphs and for those that had not been repotted for years. My conclusion, before our local orchid show, was that I had reduced fertilizer levels during winter too much or perhaps the cooler than normal winter was responsible.



Imagine my surprise when several hobbyists and commercial growers were complaining about the same thing at our local orchid show. How is this possible? We all grow in different media and locations, but something in common to all of us influenced the growth of spikes. The only common thread is that plants in all of our greenhouses were located in the same general area and experienced the same external swings in temperature and humidity. We often like to think that we can bend orchids to our will, but once again, they are responding to nature in ways not easily explained. It is clear though, that my individual growing conditions were not responsible. This is also another good reason to join your local orchid society and get to know your fellow growers. We all share in many different ways.

Commercial growers in the U.S. have been forced to purchase many of the orchids they sell from large pot plant growers. While we may lament the loss of many different

unique hybrid lines that were characteristic of smaller orchid nurseries, amazing orchids have become common place because growers offshore can grow out thousands of seedlings, select the best of the hybrid and clone it. The select orchids show up at the big box stores, often without names. Even so, this is how many people get hooked on growing orchids as a hobby.

There are reports from some serious hobbyists who test these clones for orchid viruses that many test positive for common orchid viruses. New hobbyists that begin their collection with such plants are doomed to have collections of virused plants by the time they understand how to prevent the transmittance of viruses from plant to plant. A recent visit to one of the "big box stores" found many orchids in bloom for sale, including nice, well bloomed cattleyas clearly showing flowers infected by common orchid viruses.

The discovery of the first flowers that we now know were infected with orchid viruses, was met with generous praise in the orchid world. They were viewed as beautiful sports to be prized and propagated. We now know better! It is unfortunate that these diseased plants are being sold today as healthy in garden centers. No one there was even aware that they were selling diseased plants.

There are times where virused plants should be preserved because of their unique place in hybridizing history or they still have unique potential for hybridizing. There are a number of these in my collection that are waiting for the day when a technique for eliminating viruses is developed for orchids. The large commercial suppliers should be developing such techniques and not selling and shipping diseased plants.



# CULTIVATION

## Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,  
sbottom15@bellsouth.net



**Q.** I bought a blooming oncidium three years ago and it soon started developing crinkles in its leaves. It puts out new leaves with good color, but every leaf has crinkles about an inch from the end. It has

never bloomed, although I keep it in the same window with a dendrobium that is healthy and blooms. What is wrong?

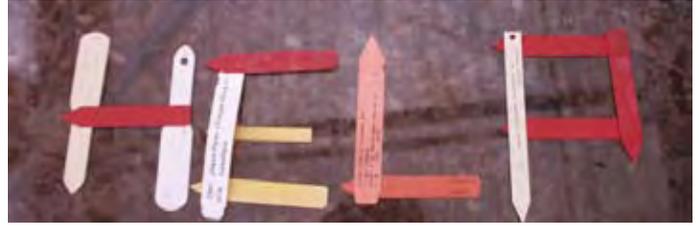
**A.** When the leaf crinkles like that, it is telling you that it needs more water. Perhaps you should wiggle the plant and see if it is loose in the pot. If it is, it would suggest that it is ready for some fresh mix. Perhaps potting it in a sphagnum based mix that would hold some more water would help.



**Q.** I am interested in growing vanilla beans with my granddaughter. I'm from Volusia County, where can I find vanilla orchids?



**A.** The best place to get the vanilla orchid is at an orchid show or call EFG in Deland. You need two different clones to get a vanilla bean and the plants have to be pretty large to produce the flowers, that you have to hand pollinate to produce a pod. Be careful what you wish for, they'll take over your growing area!



**Q.** For the last few years I have had several orchids that are healthy with plenty of foliage but no flowers. Do I need to start again or what?



**A.** For healthy plants that don't bloom, gradually move them into brighter light. If you're talking about cattleyas or dendrobiums that have beautiful green foliage, you are not getting enough light. The leaves should be hard as cardboard (when mature) and have a slight yellowish cast to them. If you're talking about phalaenopsis, bright green leaves are fine because they are understory plants. If they're not blooming, perhaps they didn't get cool enough around Halloween to set their spikes. Check out the [AOS Beginner Newsletter series](#).

**Q.** Should I buy some cattleya orchids for indoor growing along with my phals? I hear they are difficult plants to grow.

**A.** I don't think cattleyas are difficult to grow, they are just different. They need very bright light to bloom although some of the smaller 'cocktail cattleyas' can be grown and bloomed on a windowsill.

You'll use a freely draining mix letting them dry between watering and repot only every 2 to 4 years (so you must use a nonorganic mix that won't degrade quickly, thus the coarse, freely draining mix). Look for some of the smaller windowsill rather than standard cattleyas and give it a try!



# CULTIVATION

## Your Orchids in April

based on Robert Scully articles,  
courtesy of the AOS



**General Growing Tips.** This is one of the most exciting months of the year, filled with an abundance of flower spikes emerging. It's the beginning of the long growing season, enabling us to provide our plants with the foundation for maximum flower production in the next flowering season

**Cattleyas.** *C. aelandiae* and *C. forbesii* produce flowers that last for weeks. *C. mossiae* and its hybrids are well known for their spectacular, long lasting heads of 6 in blossoms that provide an abundance of flowers. *Enc. cordigera* should be blooming profusely now. The spicy fragrance will last for several weeks. Consider shifting it to a wooden basket when flowering is complete. Begin the annual repotting cycle by shifting and dividing those cattleyas that flowered earlier this year and are beginning to produce new growth. Typically you should repot only when the new growth is emerging to take advantage of the plant's tendency to make new roots when it is forming new pseudobulbs.



**Cymbidiums.** If you have more than one or two brown leaves, you may have a cultural problem. If the plant is loose in its pot, the mix has degraded and the plant should be repotted. If the plant is firm in its pot, it is asking for more fertilizer.



**Phalaenopsis.** Moth orchids are in their prime, boasting arching and branching sprays of beautiful flowers. Most growers don't spray chemicals on blooming phals so check for signs of pests like scale or mites that you can spot treat with alcohol.



**Vandas.** Vandas are entering into their growth period and you should see an abundance of new rootlets. Locate them where they get bright bright light (though not direct light) and plenty of fresh air. Increase water and fertilizer to fuel their growth, they'll reward you later in the season with abundant blooms. Water them two or three times a day with an automated spray system or water wand, and apply fertilizer either before watering or after roots have dried off a bit.



# ORCHID ADVENTURES

## Orchid Adventures

The Jacksonville Orchid Society Show  
by [Sue Bottom](#), sbottom15@bellsouth.net

We spent the weekend, March 18 to 20, up at the JOS show. Friday we helped set up the exhibit and talked to our orchid friends. We admit to a little shopping for orchids too! The actual show was Saturday and Sunday. Vivienne Rowe, Harry McElroy and I manned the repotting table with several other JOS members. When we weren't repotting, we were looking at the beautiful orchid exhibits and the orchid sales tables. So many beautiful dendrobiums, cattleyas, phalaenopsis and more!



Continued on page 12



# ORCHID ADVENTURES

Continued from page 11



# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Bill Gourley**  
**B. Jimminey Cricket**



**Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz**  
**Bulb. ochraceum**



**Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz**  
**C. walkeriana alba 'MAJ'**



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**Lc. Irene Finney 'Spring's Best' AM/AOS**



**Grower Harry & Celia McElroy**  
**Cym. Mitch Mikawa**



**Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz**  
**Slc. Jewel Box 'Dark Waters' AM/AOS**



**Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz**  
**Den. chrysotoxum**



# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
*C. skinneri var. alba*



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



**Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz**  
*Bulb. trisetum*



**Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz**  
*Den. farmeri*



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
*Den. secundum*



**Grower Vivienne Rowe**  
*Colm. Wildcat 'Bobcat' AM/AOS*

