



St. Augustine NEWSLETTER Orchid Society

October 2011

Volume 6 Issue #10

CLUB NEWS



October 4 Monthly SAOS Meeting

By Lola Stark, seacuter@bellsouth.net

Linda Wilhelm

people present, including one new member, Angela Shuett. Jack thanked Jeanette Smith, and Irma Pacetti for the refreshments and reminded those present to "Drop a Dollar" to help pay for the refreshments. Gail Marshall told us that all members were well and reminded those present that all birthday folks should pick up an extra raffle ticket from Christie Peppard. Jack reminded everyone to vote for their favorite on the show table. Lola will announce the winner.

Club Business. Steve Anderson has consented to do the Who's Who Column and will be contacting those who have not yet had their write-up in the column.

SAOS will be at Hagan Ace on November 5 from 9 am until 1 pm to help with any problems you have or to just chat! The Keiki club is on hiatus until February. A lady in Jacksonville has about 600 orchids she'd like to sell to orchid society members as she has cancer. If you're interested, please see Sue.

We will be putting a display into the Gainesville Orchid Show on October 14. We need a van to help us get our orchids over there and bring them home on October 16. Please get in touch with Jack if you can help. Our chairman for the event is Harry McElroy and those of you from the Jacksonville area can drop your orchids off to Harry. Those here in St. Augustine, please take your plants to Sue Bottom. She'll need to know what plants you have by the October 12, so she can get the registrations ready.

The program next month will have Marv Regan talking about Orchid Wiz Encyclopedia.

The nominating committee chairman, Terry Bottom announced the following slate of officers for the coming year: Jeannette Pacetti, President, Sue Bottom, 1st Vice President, Vivienne Rowe, 2nd Vice President, Lola Stark, Secretary, Bill Gourley, Treasurer. The three Directors will be Jack Higgins, Joshua Jones, and Penny Halyburton. Elections will be in November and further nominations are welcome at that time. Installation will take place at our December Auction.

Orchid Events. Check the calendar of events in the newsletter or on the website to learn of the orchid shows this month. Of special interest, the Orchtoberfest at EFG in DeLand is October 21 through 23. Fred Keefer is having his toy drive and open house at his nursery on November 6 from 12 to 4. He will have wonderful food, wonderful drinks, and excellent orchids! Be sure and go and have a grand time getting to really know our members and enjoy going through Fred's greenhouse. The toy donations will help the children of Hastings have a grand Christmas!

E.F.G. Orchids Inc.
9th annual
Orchtoberfest 2011
Orchid & Tropical Plant Sale
October 21, 22, 23rd 2011
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Bounce House
Authentic German Food
Free Parking
Over 17,000 sq. ft.
of plants to choose from
Free Admission!!!
One on One consultation with the pros
Located at:
Power Plant Greenhouses
4265 Marsh Rd. DeLand FL 32724 (386-738-8600) www.efgorchids.com

Program. The program for the evening was "How to Kill Your Orchids" with Linda Wilhelm of Woodland Orchids. Linda has been growing orchids for over 40 years and has been able to find lots and lots of ways to go about killing orchids:

Continued on page 3



CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

October

- 8-9 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show
St. Lucie County Shrine Club
11 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Ruben Sauleda, Ruben in Orchids
15-16 Gainesville Orchid Society Show
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
21-23 Orctoberfest at Powerplant/EFG Orchids
Deland
28-30 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show
Old School Square
29-30 Brevard County OS Fall Orchid Fair
Melbourne Auditorium

November

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

December

- 10 SAOS Christmas Auction, 7 pm
Moultrie Trails Clubhouse
121 Crooked Tree Trail, St. Aug 32086



St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Jack Higgins jacktravel2003@yahoo.com
First Vice President Program Chair	Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Second Vice President Publicity Chair	Vivienne Rowe tomvivrowe@comcast.net
Secretary AOS/Oncid Digest Rep	Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	Bill Gourley wgourley@bellsouth.net
Directors at Large	Terry Bottom bottomt@bellsouth.net Mike Heinz mgheinz@comcast.net Bob Martin nigel_99@att.net
Exhibit Committee Chair	Harry McElroy cymbidiuman@msn.com
Membership Committee Chair	Gail Marshall gwpb@aol.com
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

1. First off, don't bother finding out what kind of orchid you have! Treat them all alike and you'll kill them off pretty soon!
2. Do not ask anyone for help with your orchids - just keep bumbling along. Do not join a local Orchid Society as they are too knowledgeable and grow plants too well!
3. Do not get any books about orchids - reading about the different ones is really a waste of time and energy!
4. Be sure and give them lots of full sunlight or keep them deeply in the shade. Their need for dappled light and light shade should be ignored all together.
5. Put them where there's no air movement, or directly in front of a fan. Either way will kill them just the way you want. And be sure the air is extra dry, with no humidity!
6. Your water should be that city water or well water with all that salt in it. For heaven's sake, don't use pure rain water.



7. Just sprinkle the leaves once in a while, don't bother drenching the roots!
8. Repot your orchids when you have the time or when the pots break and you absolutely must.
9. Fertilize only once or twice a year using triple the amount of mix in the bag directions.

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



10. Leave the lights in your greenhouse on for 24 hours all the time. Orchids don't need the nocturnal rest!

On the advanced side:

1. Put your orchids close to a road so they can absorb all that good carbon monoxide!
2. Do not vent your kerosene heaters. The orchids will die quickly with the closed up vents.
3. In the winter, water them with that good cold water directly from outside.
4. Pot them in the largest pots you can find to cut down on how often you have to repot.
5. If your plants look sick, ignore them, and they'll die quickly. Do not inspect them and try to clean them up or fix them.
6. When you find pests on your plants, don't worry about it until you have time to drench the plants. Either way, you'll lose your plant directly!
7. When you're traveling with your orchids, leave them in the heated car while you take a rest or visit other nurseries.
8. Do not clean your leaves. All that residue is ok!
9. When you trim out your plants, do not sanitize your knife or clippers between plants! That way you can pass the bad stuff to the next plant and kill both of them!

A couple suggestions for saving plants from the audience included:

1. Keep your bird feeder away from your plants as it attracts both squirrels and tree rats.
2. If you're growing cool weather plants, put them in a clay pot inside another clay pot with sphagnum in between.

Linda followed this up by saying that your orchids will tell you what is the matter with them! Watch and take care of the problem immediately!

Meeting Conclusion. Following an intermission, Mike Heinz and Christie gave us a great raffle, and auction. The winner of the Show table was Vivienne Rowe with the beautiful and well known hybrid Blc. Memoria Crispin Rosales.



CLUB NEWS

November 1 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Marv Ragan, Using the OrchidWiz Encyclopedia

Orchid pro Marv Ragan of MAJ Orchids will instruct us on how to use OrchidWiz Encyclopedia. OrchidWiz is the fine orchid database program that contains a raft of information, including orchid genealogy, orchid culture sheets for each orchid, over 75,000 photographs and a journal where you can track your own orchids and orchid photographs. It is a powerful tool that many of us have though we may not know all its applications. It will give you a chance to preview the program, which we will be auctioning at our Christmas auction in December.



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 to orchids. We'll be repotting overgrown orchids, mounting orchids on sticks and slabs and talking about growing orchids once again. If you need help in the meantime, we're at the Ace Hardware on US 1 on the first Saturday in November.



Open House at Orchids by Del-Rei

November 6

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



Sandi Olsen
Orchid Art



Born in New Jersey, Sandi started her art career at the Philadelphia Museum College of Art. She then went on to the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and Wisconsin State University. In 1990, Sandi moved from the Midwest to the southwest coast of Florida where her career in fine art began. The tropical setting of the Gulf of Mexico and the climate has served as the catalyst for her works of art.

She has been recognized through numerous awards and has exhibited in shows. She won first place in the Delray Beach Orchid Society poster contest in 1996, painted the cover for the Everglades National Park educational guide in 1997, was commissioned to develop poster art for the Palm Beach Horticulture Society annual flower shower in 1999 and was honored to create a painting at the Manatee Community College landscape in 2000.

Do You Have Your SAOS Window Decal Displayed?

If Not, Visit SAOS Website or Facebook for Installation Instructions.



INSPIRATION



CULTIVATION



Growing Tips for October

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

Whether you are an indoor grower or grow in a greenhouse, fall is the time to review your current culture

and make appropriate adjustments. Depending on where you live, air conditioning will soon be replaced by open windows inside and cool breezes in the greenhouse. These changing conditions provide many different signals to your orchids, which may require some changes in your culture.

It is, or soon will be, time to move the cool-loving cymbidiums into more light. Southern growers of cymbidiums often keep their cymbidiums in dense shade during the heat of summer, moving them into increasing light levels as the days get shorter and nights get cooler. If cooled gradually, this group of orchid can even handle frost. Many cymbidium lovers claim that they get the best flowers when there was frost on leaves earlier in the season. Depending on location, cymbidiums may be left outside most of the winter and only protected when temperatures dip below freezing. Be sure, however, that you do not include the tropical cymbidiums in this frosty exposure as they require temperatures more similar to phals.

Many tropical orchids respond to lower night temperatures by switching from a growth cycle to a blooming cycle. Phals need a week or so below 65 F to initiate spikes and cymbidiums like it even cooler for a longer period. If they receive warm sunny days and drier growing conditions, these warm loving orchids can tolerate lower temperatures than suggested by the literature. As a general rule, tropical orchids can handle lower minimum temperatures than suggested.



Seedlings are an exception to the rule in that we want to get the maximum growth from them each year. Seedlings of all genera should be kept warmer now than mature orchids if you want to keep them in the growth mode. The exceptions are species and hybrids that require a dormant period, e.g. catasetumes, mormodes, etc. Fertilizers may also be used on seedlings if the orchid does not require a dormant stage. Be sure to reduce watering, even for seedlings, as there will be less drying because of the lower temperatures and light levels.

Indoor growers may have a difficult time providing the proper stimulation to initiate flowering if your home is maintained at a constant temperature. The most frequent question from indoor growers is how to get their orchids to bloom. Often the lack of flowering is caused by interior lights making day length too long or lack of temperature change with the season. Successful indoor growers often leave windows open or move orchids to a porch as the seasons change to provide the proper stimulus and initiate a seasonal response to get flowers.



In the Deep South, vandas and their kin have been grown under trees all summer. When should they be moved and protected? There are a few species and even hybrids that enjoy nights in the 50s, but not many in this group. Most vandaceous species and hybrids need to be kept warm to keep them in a growth mode. Ascocendas, if they are relatively small, can be moved into south facing windows and bloomed successfully. The same can also be accomplished in an enclosed, sunny porch. If the porch is unheated, but enclosed, a small electric oil heater placed under vandas on a porch will work well to keep orchids warm on cool nights.

Be sure any orchids brought in from the outside are examined for bugs and disease. Pots are great hiding places for roaches, slugs and a variety of other pests that should stay outside.



CULTIVATION



September 18 Keiki Club

Fall Preparations

We had a few familiar faces at the Keiki Club get-together talking about fall preparations, what to do in anticipation of the winter rest period. Here are the highlights:

Clean Up your Plants. Use the cooler winter months to inspect your plants. Take the opportunity to clean up your plants, remove dead flower spikes, etc. Clean off leaves with lemon juice to remove all that messy build up of fertilizer or minerals on the leaves. Remove sheaths to reduce the number of places that insects have to hide.

Check for Critters. You want to make sure that you are only bringing in your plants, and not critters that abound in Florida. Spray them with the garden hose to give them a bath and remove any spider webs, etc.

- **Ants, Snails and Cockroaches in Pots.** You don't want to introduce ants and roaches into your porch or home for the winter. Mix up a jug of liquid Sevin and water (1 tsp/gal) and pour through all your pots to eliminate these pests.



- **Check for Sucking Insects.** Watch for signs of scale and mealy bugs, any kind of white fuzzy mass. If you do find any pesky critters, you can treat small spots with rubbing alcohol or spray all the plant surfaces with Baryer, Orthene or Malathion.

Check for Fungus. Keep an eye out for any kind of moldy looking areas. Molds may show up as dark areas usually on the lower surface of the leaf. If found, spray with Physan or Consan.

Temperatures. Have a plan to protect your plant during the winter months.

Minimum Temperatures. Protect your phals, vandas and phalaenopsis type dendrobiums when temperatures drop to 50 to 60 F and your other plants at 40 to 50F. Get projected hourly night time [low temperatures](#) for your area.

Temperature Differential. Make sure that your orchids are getting some solar heat to get the day time temperature at least in the 80s. They will not grow well for you in a constant 65 to 70 degree environment. You may have to move your plants to a window with more direct sun to accomplish this. If you have installed artificial lighting to increase light, this may provide enough warmth for your plants.



Isolate those Plants that Need a Rest. Winter is a good time to group plants together that need similar winter conditions. *D. biggibbum* and *R. digbyana* both need high light and less water during the winter months. Keep these and similar plants together so that you will know that they need only once a month watering. *Catasetinae* (*catasetum*, *clowesia*, *cynchosches* and *mormodes*), *calanthe*, some *dendrobiums* (*nobile*, *seminobile* and *Callista* sections) need no water at all until the new growth starts in the spring. These can also be grouped where you know you will not water them. You can flag these plants with a special color tape or plant tag so you can identify them easily.



CULTIVATION



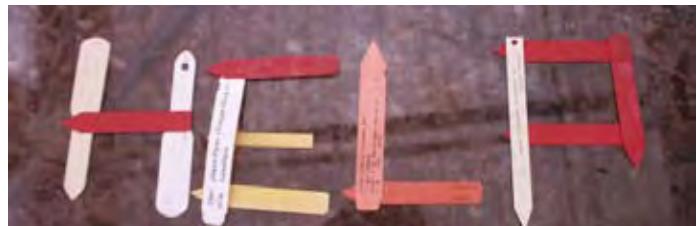
Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q. I recently purchased *Dendrochilum magnum* from Carter and Holmes because it looked pretty in bloom. Looking at OrchidWiz I see its natural range is in the Philippines at 5,000 feet elevation and daytime temps in the upper 70s. Any suggestions on how to grow this one in our heat?



A. Mike Heinz responds: If you can't keep it as cool as it wants to be, keep real good ventilation on it. I know of people that have grown that plant warm, maybe just not as warm as St. Augustine gets. My two divisions are doing great for me. One trick is to double pot it. Put it in a clay pot with loose sphagnum moss in it, and then put that pot in a bigger clay pot with sphagnum between the two pots. The evaporative cooling will drop the temp a couple of degrees and that may make the difference. You could also grow it in more shade than you think it will like because shade equals cool.



Q. I was recently given 15 beautiful paph orchids, most in bloom. Now I see two have small whitish insects even on the blooms. I washed off most with water but I suspect I should spray with something. I do have pets though and the plants are inside. What should I use that won't ruin the blooms?



A. Those nasty little buggers are aphids, destructive but easy to kill. You can start with soapy water under the sink faucet until you can drench with one of the Bayer products containing imidacloprid. It can be applied as a drench rather than a spray so it's easy to use, even inside. Just dilute it with water (5 tsp/gal for the 1.47% strength one or 15 tsp/gal for the 0.47% strength) and pour through the pot, they'll be dead by the next day.



CULTIVATION

Q. A few months ago I bought a young vanilla orchid. I am looking for some advice about why the leaves are drooping and how can I get the vanilla orchid feeling good again.

A. I think the vanilla looks dehydrated because it is not getting enough water. That can be because it's not being watered enough (doesn't sound like it in your case) or because the roots aren't taking up enough water (I suspect this is the case for your vanilla).

I'm betting the vanilla you bought was a new cutting that was dropped in the potting mix and sold to you before the plant became established.

Its roots probably had not grown and now it has exhausted its store of water and is showing the signs of dehydration. Knock it out of the pot and see if there are viable roots.

If the roots are rotten, then this is a different problem. If there aren't roots, I would do this. I would take the plant and cut it into about 4 pieces, with each piece having two or three nodes where the leaf comes out and where roots will form. Then get your pot that will accommodate all the pieces, fill it with a peat based soilless spongerok, dust the

mixture with some added pieces with some rootone and situate them in the pot so there is a node or two into the mix and 1 or 2 leaves out of the pot. Then keep it in a shadish place until you notice the plant vigor returning and then move it slowly into brighter light.



Q. I came across your orchid pests and diseases photos while trying to identify a problem on one of my zygotepetals. Am I correct in thinking that the problem with my zygo leaves might be Guignardia or perhaps a bacterial brown spot?

A. That looks like bacterial brown spot with the sunken black spots. Guignardia is more diamond shaped and has a raised surface that feels like sandpaper. The best treatment is spraying with copper, Kocide is copper hydroxide, easily available and cheap. It'll leave a blue residue on your leaves, don't spray it on anything in bloom or on dendrobiums. I spray it a couple times of year on phals and out of bloom plants (avoid dendrobiums) as a preventative.



Ace Repotting Plant Clinic



CULTIVATION



Your Orchids in October

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

General Growing Tips. We usually receive our first cold snap around Halloween, so if you are growing outdoors, this is the time for you to make your winter preparations. Check your winter structure, test fire your heaters and start cleaning your plants. The shortening day length and cooler nights initiate all sorts of changes in your orchids. Your plants require less water and fertilizer now. Observe the rate at which your plants dry out after watering and make adjustments, gradually adding days in between your normally watering cycle.

Cattleyas. Many fall blooming cattleyas are getting ready to bloom and buds are swelling in their sheaths. *C. labiata*, *C. bowringiana* and the fall blooming form of *C.*



skinneri, and their hybrids typically have double sheaths. It seems that the big change in day to night temperatures can cause moisture to accumulate between the inner and outer sheaths causing buds to rot. Watch these orchids carefully and be sure there is lots of air movement around these orchids. If you observe any moisture accumulating, carefully open the outer sheath and allow air movement into the space between sheaths. That usually solves the problem.

Sophronitis coccinea enjoys a peak flowering season this month. Some of its hybrids should also be blooming, particularly those with summer-fall flowering parents. While the plants are usually small, the show of color makes them conspicuous. Also blooming now is *Enc. cochleata*, *Epi. ciliare* and *Epi. pseudepidendrum*.

Paphiopedilums. Paphs and phrags really seem to love the cool nights too. Mature growths, especially in the multifloral paphs will prepare to flower. Usually development of new growths is the first sign that a flower spike will soon emerge.



Phalaenopsis. Phalaenopsis require a significant day to night temperature change to initiate spikes. It usually takes a couple of weeks of these conditions to get phals to put their energy

into growing spikes instead of leaves. Phals will be fine on a porch or in a greenhouse even after nights are in the upper 50s F as long as the day temperature rises above 80 F. Once daytime high temperatures are below 78-80 F, phals need to be kept no lower than 60 F at night.

Vandas. Autumn marks the end of the vanda growing season. Vandas are known as heat-loving orchids, but seem to bloom better in the fall and winter as long as temperatures do not get below 60 F and there is enough light. Colors are always brighter when nights are a little cooler. This is especially true for any vanda or ascocenda with *Vanda coerulea* in the parentage.



Other

Genera: **Catasetum**
Relatives. You should be seeing flowers on catasetums and their relatives now. Handle catasetums with care when the blooms are open because a minor jarring of the plant can cause the flowers to eject their pollen-carrying anther caps, resulting in a much shortened flower life. This interesting and unique method of natural pollen dissemination is always a stimulating topic of conversation for those seeing it occur for the first time.



HOME & BACKYARD



Mike and Kaycee Heinz Greenhouse

by [Sue Bottom](mailto:sbottom15@bellsouth.net),
sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Everyone sees those oddly fascinating orchids on the show table, especially the nodding and odiferous bulbophyllums that Mike loves to showcase. Some intrepid SAOSers trekked out to Mike and Kaycee's greenhouse in Glen St. Mary on September 25 to view his growing area and learn how he does it. Indoors, his newly vacuumed greenhouse was carefully organized according to light requirements and housed many bulbophyllums, paraphalaenopsis, coleogyne and more. Outdoors he has cable strung between trees where a panopoly of orchids enjoy the breeze and dappled light. He loves telling Mother Nature that anything she can do, he can imitate!



Continued on page 12



HOME & BACKYARD

Continued from page 11



SHOW TABLE



Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
Mtss. Madeline Rose



Grower Yvonne Schimmel
Mtss. Shelob 'Red Spider'



Grower Sue Bottom
Ctsm. Orchidglade



Grower Bill Gourley
Angraecum didieri



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Sigmatostalix radicans



Grower Joshua Jones
C. bowringiana 'Blue Angel'



Grower Joshua Jones
Cirr. Doris Dukes



SHOW TABLE



Terry Bottom

Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Blc. Ports of Paradise 'Gleneyries Green Giant'
FCC/AOS



Terry Bottom

Grower Vivienne Rowe
Blc. Memoria Crispin Rosales



Terry Bottom

Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
Kir. Marv's Home Run



Terry Bottom

Grower Sue Bottom
S. cernua x Blc. Star Ruby



Terry Bottom

Grower Sue Bottom
Blc. Bow Bryce 'Brilliant'



Terry Bottom

Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Aer. odorata

