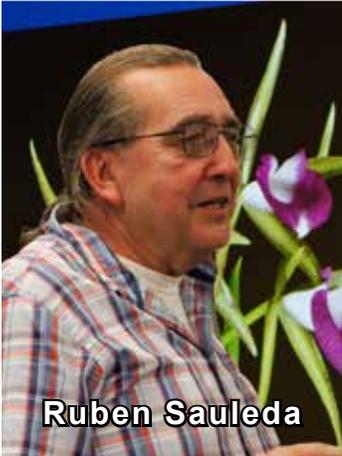




CLUB NEWS



Ruben Sauleda

February 4 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Lola Stark,
seacuter@bellsouth.net

Welcome and Thanks.

President Bob Schimmel opened the meeting at 7:20 pm with 65 people present including new members, Agnes Aysola and Carol Westmoreland. Bob thanked Jeanette Smith for the refreshments, Yvonne Schimmel for the brownies,

the delicious loaf cake brought in by our mystery hostess, and Sue Bottom for the coffee. He urged that if you enjoy the food table, please help pay for it by dropping a dollar in the jar on the table. Linda Stewart reminded the February birthday folks to be sure and get their birthday raffle tickets. She asked that if anyone needs a sunshine card to please get in touch with her. Please be sure and vote for the best orchid on the show table - we've got a lot of outstanding orchids! Dick Roth counts the ballots and announces the winner after the break.

Club Business. Sue and Terry have refilled all our supplies and have them on the side table. We have time release fertilizer, 21-5-20 and Cal Mag water soluble fertilizers, Epsom salts and potting mixes.

Dues for the year are now due and payable. \$15 per person, \$25 for a family. We'll be collecting dues through the March meeting or you can send them to our treasurer Bill Gourley, 807 Kalli Creek Lane in St. Augustine 32080. We'd like to have the dues all paid by March.

At the Board Meeting last month, the following suggestions were made to change our Bylaws: those new members who join the last quarter of the year will be deemed to have paid their dues through the following year; the Board will meet quarterly (January, April, July and October) rather than every month unless there is urgent business that cannot wait, and the Board can designate the Registered Agent,



Courtney took great pleasure in introducing Ruben

currently the Treasurer. Sue Bottom made the motion that the changes to the Bylaws be accepted, it was seconded and passed.

Penny Halyburton, SAOS Librarian, showed several books she had brought for those members interested in borrowing and several were returned. Our book list is on our website and Penny will bring the books asked for at the next meeting. This is a wonderful chance for newcomers (and those of us who would like to catch up!) to learn more about orchids.

The Keiki Club will meet at Harry McElroy's home at 12010 Hood Landing Road, Jax this month. Those interested in carpooling will meet in the Cobblestone Shopping Center parking lot across from Sonic at noon to go up. Harry will talk about how he grows his outrageous cymbidiums. Harry will also talk about our display at the Jacksonville Orchid Society Show in March. The display will be set up on March 14th and the Show will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday the 15th and 16th. Setting up is fun and those that have plants to display that are unable to take them to Jax, may take them to Bob Schimmel's or Sue and Terry's home here in St. Augustine, or Harry's for those north of us. For directions, please call a member of the Board. Mike Heinz asked those present to consider clerking for the show and passed around a sign-up sheet. This is a wonderful way for you to learn what the judges look for when they judge each orchid in the show. If you're interested please get in touch with Mike at 904-962-2531. Christie Peppard suggested coming at 7:30 am on

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CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

February

- 8-9 Boca Raton Orchid Society Show
Safe Schools Institute
- 11 JOS Meeting, Semi-Hydroponics, 7 pm
Ernie Gemeinhart, Enlightened Orchids
- 14-16 Greater Orlando Orchid Society Show
Orlando Garden Club
- 16 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Growing Cymbidiums
Harry and Celia McElroy's Home
12010 Hood Landing Road, Jax 32258
Carpool: Meet at Noon at Cobblestone
parking lot behind Sonic
- 21-23 Naples Orchid Society Show
Moorings Presbyterian Church

March

- 1 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 28-1 Englewood Area Orchid Society Show
United Methodist Church, Englewood
- 1-2 Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show
Egypt Shrine Center
- 4 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Jim Roberts, Florida SunCoast Orchids
Pendulous Dendrobiums
- 7-9 Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show
Port St. Lucie Community Center
- 11 JOS Meeting
Roundtable Discussion, 7 pm
- 15-16 Jacksonville Orchid Society Show
The Garden Club of Jacksonville
- 21-23 Martin County Orchid Society Show
Martin County Fairgrounds
- 23 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners
Spring Repotting
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086
- 29-30 Orchid Society of Highlands County Show
Bert J Harris Jr. Agricultural Center

April

- 1 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Terry Bottom
The Ultimate Hobby Greenhouse
- 5 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 6-7 Central Florida Orchid Society Show
Maitland Civic Center
- 9 JOS Meeting, 7 pm, Topic TBA
Paul Phelps, Phelps Farm Orchids
- 12-13 EPIC Celebration of Spring
Annual Flower and Garden Expo
Ag Center, St. Augustine

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Bob Schimmel schimmelr55@bellsouth.net
First Vice President Program Chair	Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Second Vice President Publicity Chair	Yvonne Schimmel yrs58@bellsouth.net
Secretary	Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
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Librarian	Penny Halyburton phalyburton@comcast.net
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Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Operations Committee Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com



CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1

Saturday before judging to have breakfast provided by her crew, and if you'd like to help Christie get in touch with her at 904-282-7889.

The next Repotting Clinic at Hagan Ace on US 1 will be Saturday, March 1 from 9 to 1. If you have a problem with your orchids or need repotting, this is an excellent time to do it.

Orchid Events. Orchid Shows in February include Boca Raton, Greater Orlando and Naples. If you are interested in going, dates and locations are listed in the calendar of events and on the website.



Program. Our program for the month came from Ruben Saulea who owns Ruben in Orchids with his wife Claudia. He's given many lectures at our club and we always look forward to their trip up. Tonight Ruben's subject was "Brassavola nodosa and Its Hybrids", with Melody Loll running the computer for Ruben. Ruben finds B. nodosa to be a very easy to grow cattleya species. The plant is very adaptable in many environments from the edge of water to high in the mountains on rocks. It is fast blooming and once it starts blooming, it blooms nearly year round.

It is widely used in hybridizing through Ruben has found it difficult to use as a parent. (Ed. Note: I checked and found that it had a total of 905 progeny in four generations registered, 185 first generation were as seed parent, and 197 as pollen parent). It is used to produce many gorgeous hybrids. Its progeny come in many forms, but most will produce spots. It has been crossed with many genera including Laelia, Encyclia, Epidendrum, Cattleya, Schomburgkia and many, many more. You can usually see the characteristics of B. nodosa in its offspring. The plants are generally medium sized growers, and prolific bloomers. Nodosa hybrids result in as many variations in the colors and spotting patterns as there are seeds in the pod. Nodosa is in the background of such well known



orchids as Little Stars, Keowee, Maikai, Richard Mueller, Hippodamia, and Morning Glory. Ruben showed us a wonderful group of hybrids on Power Point, explaining the differences in each one, where it grows, its size, its color, etc. along with pictures of both parents. Color and more color! One of his pictures was of an orchid at Sue Bottom's greenhouse (which she reluctantly admitted had gone to the great beyond) and we all had a good laugh! Ruben also brought us many plants that he had talked about and most of us went home with something he grew! His lectures are delightful and enriching!

Meeting Conclusion. Following the break, Dick Roth announced that the most popular orchid on the show table was his Dendrobium Fancy Yellow. Be sure you look at the plants from the show table at the end of the newsletter to see this magnificent specimen! Fred Keefer and his trusty assistants Christie Peppard and Dianne Batcheldor raffled off the plants on the raffle table and awarded the silent auction plants to the winners.



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



CLUB NEWS



January 19 Keiki Club Staking Your Orchids

More than a dozen SAOS members and guests met at the St. Augustine Beach City Hall on Sunday afternoon for the first Keiki Club meeting of the year. Terry Bottom gave a talk on staking your orchids for their best presentation, focusing largely on the phalaenopsis orchids that are spiking now. Different types of stakes and ties were discussed along with making sure that the orientation of the plant towards the sun doesn't change while the bloom spike is developing. Then there was a free for all discussion where people asked and answered each other's questions about growing orchids, watering, fertilizing and repotting. Everyone always enjoys the Keiki Club!

February 16 Keiki Club Growing Cymbidiums

Harry and Celia McElroy's Home in Jax

Would you like to learn how Harry grows those fabulous cymbidiums he brings to the show table each month? Harry and Celia are hosting the Keiki Club this month and Harry will let you in on his secrets. Bring any plants you have questions about, although we will not be repotting any orchids at this meeting. Friends and guests are always welcome!

Where: Harry and Celia McElroy's Home

[12010 Hood Landing Road, Jax 32258](https://www.google.com/maps/place/12010+Hood+Landing+Road,+Jax+32258)

When: February 16, 1 to 3 pm

To Carpool: We'll meet at the Cobblestone parking lot behind Sonic. We'll plan to leave St. Aug by noon and return by 4.



2014 Dues Are Now Due

Membership dues for 2014 are now due. We'll be collecting dues through the March meeting, after which we'll update our 2014 SAOS roster and email distribution list. Dues are \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a family. If you can't come to the meeting, you can mail your membership check to SAOS c/o Bill Gourley, 807 Kalli Creek Lane, St. Augustine, FL 32080.

March 4 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Jim Roberts, Florida SunCoast Orchids

Jim Roberts of

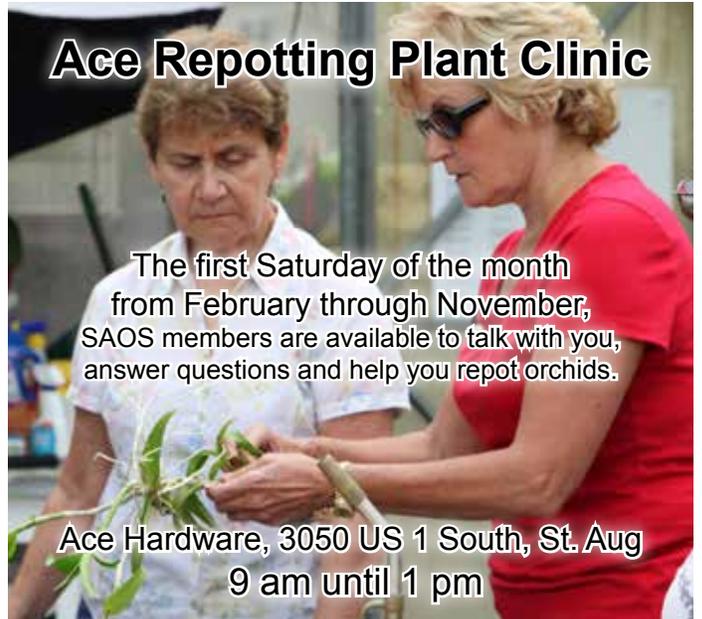
[Florida SunCoast Orchids](http://www.floridasuncoastorchids.com) in the Sarasota area will give a presentation on pendulous dendrobiums like the winter cold loving, spring blooming Den. anosmum. Jim has been growing orchids over 25 years in climates ranging from cold Minnesota to hot SW Florida. In 2001, he and wife Mary moved to Florida with a small collection of plants and the dream of operating an orchid nursery became a reality. They currently grow their beauties in three gutter connected greenhouses encompassing 10,000 square feet of growing space. As always, he strives to grow and sell the best quality orchid plants and to build a lasting reputation in the industry as one of the very best.



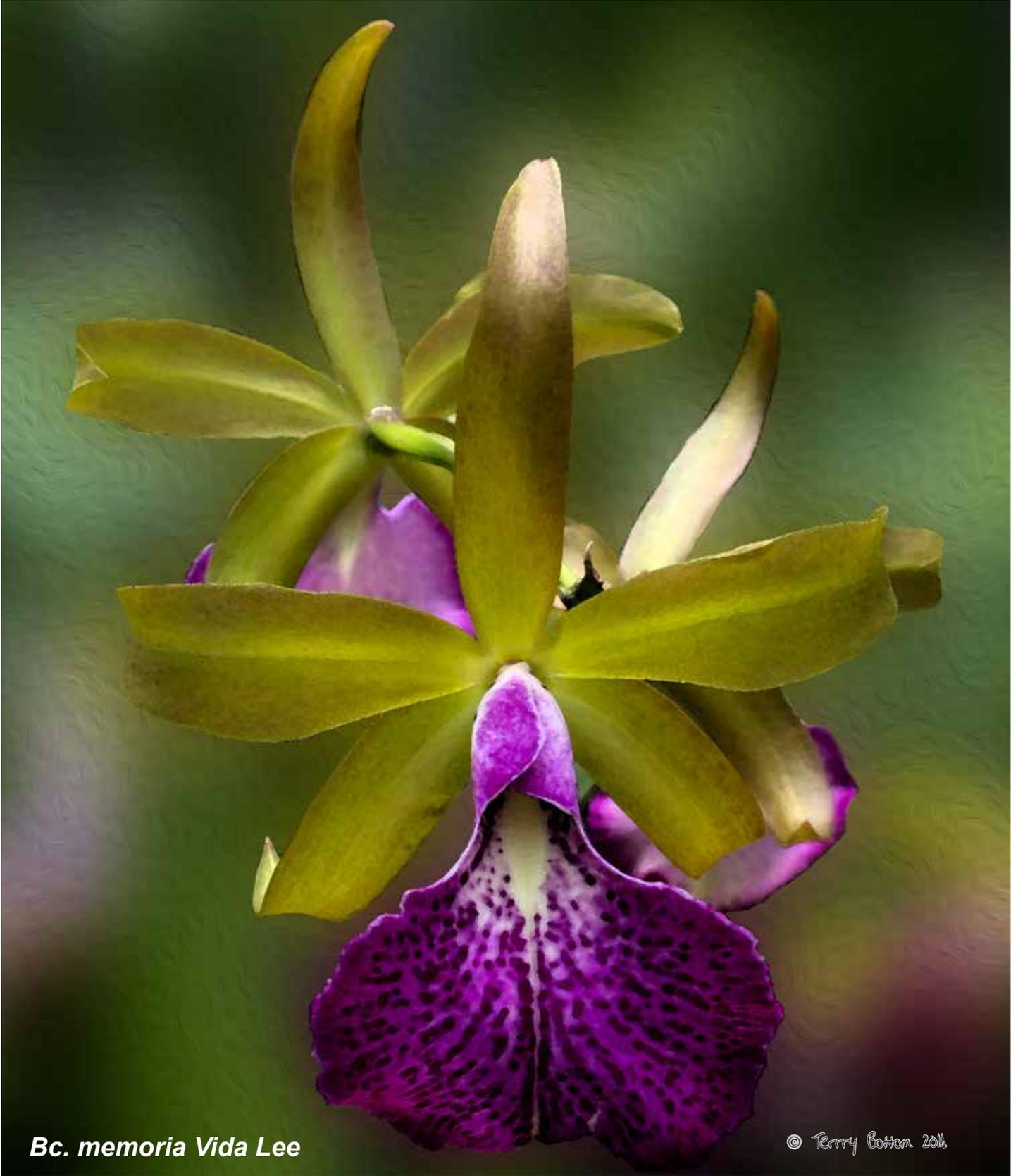
Ace Repotting Plant Clinic

The first Saturday of the month from February through November, SAOS members are available to talk with you, answer questions and help you repot orchids.

Ace Hardware, 3050 US 1 South, St. Aug
9 am until 1 pm



INSPIRATION



CULTIVATION

Your Orchids in February

based on Robert Scully articles,
courtesy of the AOS



General Growing Tips. Spring is around the corner. Order your potting supplies early to make sure they are not sold out when it's time to repot. Observe plants (including companion plants like bromeliads) carefully for signs of disease and insects. Avoid having heated or air-conditioned drafts blowing directly on orchids. Don't bring your plants out too early. It is starting to warm but you can expect more orchid threatening cold fronts through March.

Cattleyas. Your cattleyas are starting to rouse, even though temperature and light conditions are not yet ideal for growth. Continue to use dilute water soluble fertilizer on your orchids at 1/4 to 1/8 strength. New green root tips are starting to emerge on the unifoliate, marking the beginning of the spring repotting season. Sometimes it is necessary to split open a sheath with a sterile blade to reduce pressure on the emerging buds or to allow accumulated condensation (possibly from fluctuating temperatures) to dissipate.



Cymbidiums. Stake cymbidium inflorescences that emerge from the mass of foliage on these winter-spring bloomers. Maintain temperatures at 50 to 60F to keep the flowers opening slowly. Dramatically higher temperatures and hot drafts cause bud drop.



Dendrobiums. Watch for flower buds on dendrobiums like *Den. lindleyi*, *Den. nobile* hybrids, *Den. superbum* (syn. *Den. anosmum*) and other deciduous species and hybrids. These have longer flowering when exposed to cooler night temperatures as the blooms open and mature. Avoid dousing open flowers when watering. Give slightly more water to these plants (that have been kept reasonably dry prior to flowering) once they begin to bloom. Continue to protect evergreen-type dendrobiums from low temperatures that may cause leaf loss.



Oncidiums. Do not permit miltonias and odontoglossums to dry out because this is a critical time for flower-spike development. Stake the spikes. Continue to use a dilute water soluble fertilizer before the flowers begin to appear.

Phalaenopsis. Continue to use a dilute water soluble fertilizer on phalaenopsis. Be careful not to splatter the flowers or they will stain. Phalaenopsis exude a honey-like substance on the developing inflorescence that attracts scale insects. Watch for signs of any problem that can be spot treated before it becomes a major situation. Avoid spraying insecticides on blossoms.



Miscellaneous Genera. The *Catasetinae* (*catasetums*, *clowesia*, *cycnoches* and *mormodes*) have dropped most of their leaves and should be kept dry. Watch for signs of new growth that marks the beginning of the repotting season for the *catasetum* relatives. Remove the old medium, cut off dried roots and pot in a sphagnum moss or coco husk mix interlayered with the time released fertilizer Dynamite but **DO NOT WATER**. If you water before the new growth is about 4 inches tall, it will probably rot. Your *Ludisia discolor* is in bloom this month.



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q1. My new owner is trying to kill me! Is there any way to save me?

A1. That is one of the phalaenopsis type dendrobiums that is very sensitive to cold. They really don't like to drop below 50 or 55F and would prefer to stay above 60F. Leaf drop can also be caused by too much or too little water, though the recent cold snap is probably the culprit here. The good news is that the plant will grow a new cane with new leaves in the spring and be ready to bloom again next year.

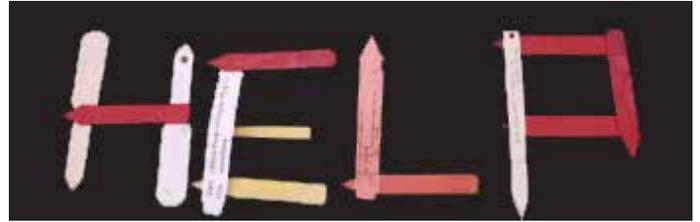


Q2. This flower spike is trapped under the phalaenopsis leaf. Would you recommend that the leaf crowding the spike be removed?

A2. I wouldn't remove the leaf, the spike will eventually grow around it. You could slowly and gently try to insert a plant tag or something very thin between the spike and the leaf to encourage the spike to go around the leaf.



Q3. I just bought two cattleya plants at Lowe's. They're both from Better-Gro in in square pots about two inches high. Will I have to wait years before they develop a flower since they're pretty tiny?



A3. Yes, you'll have to wait a bit. I have bought loads of their little plants and they do grow up and bloom beautifully. You can maximize their growth rate by making sure they get plenty of light, water and fertilizer during the growing season, but you're probably at least 2 and maybe 3 years away from blooming. Good things come to she who waits!

Q4. I have heard that the beautiful multifloral paphiopedilum Paph. sanderianum requires a bigger day night temperature change than we typical get. Can we grow it here?

A4. Orchid Prof Courtney Hackney, who often brings his multifloral weeds to the Show Table, responds: I had always read that Paph sanderianum was hard to grow, but it is one of the easiest paph species based on the ones I have. I bought two seedlings from Carter & Holmes in 2" pots in the summer of 2007. One is blooming for the 4th time, and was divided last year so it skipped a year. It has three fans growing now, one is coming into bloom and I expect the others will also bloom by the end of spring. The second plant has not been as vigorous, but has bloomed twice and has two or three fans that will bloom this winter/spring. I have them growing in lava rock and in plastic pots. Of course, they get a tablespoon of dolomite lime every month. The only reason I ever repot is because they outgrow the pots and push up so much that they become top heavy. They love the climate here as do all of the multifloral paphs.



CULTIVATION

Brassavola nodosa

Courtesy of [Green Culture Singapore](#)

Text by Lim Suan Hong

Pictures by Ong Chong Ren

Forget perfumes and essential oils. The strong, sweet fragrance Brassavola nodosa emits in the night with a hint of citrus will guarantee its grower an instant relaxation therapy. A 'must have' in every apartment, the attractive scent of Brassavola species will definitely reward you with spikes of dainty looking white flowers that 'dance' in the wind.

The Fragrant Lady of the Night. The flowers of Brassavola nodosa are not only fragrant and elegant looking but also possess an unique shape comprising of a curled, heart shaped lip and long, slender petals forming an attractive looking flower. Adding a pleasantly sweet scent to the night breeze, the scent Brassavola nodosa gives out can be detected a few metres away. In the wild, the exquisite smell emitted is used to attract night pollinators for their reproduction. Each stem will produce one erect inflorescence consisting of 1 to 6 flowers. The flowers are long lasting and can last around a month or so on a well-established plant.

Brassavola comes from the botanical family Orchidaceae and is a genus of 20 orchid species. Most of their flowers are white with a greenish or yellowish tinge, creating a simple, pure look unlike other orchid hybrids that look like paint splashed on canvas. These tropical growing species originate from the lowlands of Central and South America, thus most of them grow well in the warm tropical climate here in Singapore. These orchids are epiphytes, and can be found growing with their roots attached to trees.



Brassavola nodosa flowers display themselves elegantly.



Brassavola nodosa mounted on a piece of wood.

Cultivation Tips. Part of the Cattleya alliance in the orchid family, Brassavola species are distinctly different from their relatives. Brassavola nodosa is unique as each growth contains a single succulent needle-like leaf that grows on an elongated pseudobulb, creating an overall appearance of a spiky bush with elegant flowers extending out from each growth. Brassavola species are sympodial orchids that grow new shoots beside existing growths of mature plants, and hence can be easily propagated through division. Most common species have leaves up to 20 – 30 cm in length, though rarer species can have leaves that grow up till 90 cm.

Light and Temperature. Similar to the other genera in the cattleya alliance, Brassavola species require a fair bit of light to reward its grower with constant blooms. Due to the small surface area of the tough succulent leaf, Brassavola nodosa can stand full sun without any problems. Otherwise, partial sun should suffice for growers who do not have access to full sun. Morning or evening sun will do best for these plants. Temperature is not a problem for these tough plants as they are warm growing plants.

Water. Brassavola species have a water storage organ called pseudobulb at the base of each leaf which allows it to withstand a few days of drought without any problems. However to maintain a constantly blooming and healthy plant, its best to water them once every 1 to 2 days if exposed to partial sun. If full sun is given, more frequent watering is required. However, it is essential to ensure that the roots of the plant dry out completely before watering again. As these plants grow attached to trees in the wild, they dislike having waterlogged roots.

Fertiliser. The same rule applies to Brassavola as for most

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Brassavola nodosa in a hanging basket

other orchids. Fertilise 'Weekly weakly'. Orchids like to be fertilised often in very weak dosages, usually one-eighth the recommended dosage once or twice a week. Use a well balanced liquid fertiliser easily purchased from nurseries. Avoid fertilisers with hormones added unless the plant refuses to bloom.

Potting and Media. Brassavola species require a well aerated media for their roots to grow freely in. Orchid growers usually pot them or mount them.

Potting. Use a plastic netted pot with holes at the side or clay pots for optimal aeration. For the media, use medium sized horticultural grade charcoal to pot the plant. Do not bury all the roots under the media as their roots prefer to be exposed to air.

Mounting. Prepare a clean piece of fern bark or wooden slab and some twist tie. Wet a small amount of dried sphagnum moss and press it on the slab. Place the plant on the slab and tie it with a twist tie. Allow the roots to develop and attach to the slab before placing in full sun.

Propagation. Brassavola species are easily propagated through divisions and a large clump can easily be divided by cutting the short connecting rhizome with a sterile blade. Gently separate the two divisions of the plant and pot/ mount them up separately as mentioned above. To initiate rooting, a small amount of sphagnum moss can be placed at the base of the roots A division as small as 2-3 growths can be grown into a compact new clump once the plant has been established.

Placing the Plant. Brassavola species are usually compact and relatively small as compared to other larger orchids. Thus they make good houseplants as they do not occupy too much space in apartments. Place the plant at the windowsill with good light, preferably with morning and evening sun. A blooming specimen can also be temporarily



Brassavola Singapore

placed in the hall to enjoy the intoxicating fragrance at night. Concluding Remarks. With the ease of growing Brassavola species, these plants make easy orchids for beginners. With good care, they will definitely reward you with frequent blooms that will brighten your day. There are also many hybrids available commercially from the market that come in different colours. Brassavola species make good crosses with other species and hybrids from the cattleya alliance resulting in striking yellow and red flowers with a distinctive round lip of the Brassavola. With so many hybrids to choose from, growers are spoiled for choice to select those with beautiful lip and colour.



CULTIVATION

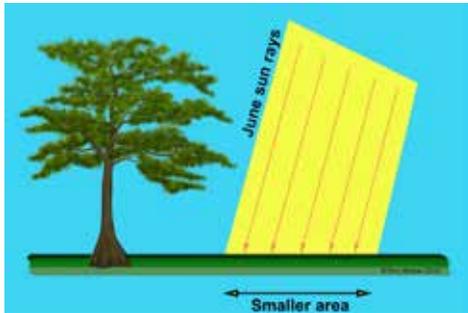
Seasonal Changes in Light

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

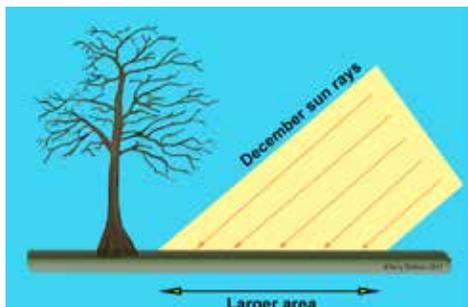
The real orchid food is light, not that blue stuff that comes in a jar. Solar radiation, the energy that comes from the sun, fuels the photosynthesis process by which the chlorophyll converts carbon dioxide and water into sugars and carbohydrates that are used by the plant to grow. If your plan produces a sufficient reserve of food, it will have the energy to produce lots of flowers when the time comes. Fertilizer contains the mineral and trace element nutrients that are used by the plant when it is in active growth, but as a rule, light rather than fertilizer is the limiting factor for growth. Understanding seasonal changes in light levels and duration can make you a better orchid grower.

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, we learned that the reason we have seasons is because the Earth is tilted on its axis by 23.5 degrees. The angle at which the sun's rays strike the Earth's surface determines the amount of solar energy received per unit surface area.

The solar radiation is the greatest when the sun's rays are directly perpendicular to the Earth's surface. When the sun's rays hit the Earth at a



more oblique angle, the light is spread out over a larger area so there is less energy per unit area. The direct sunlight

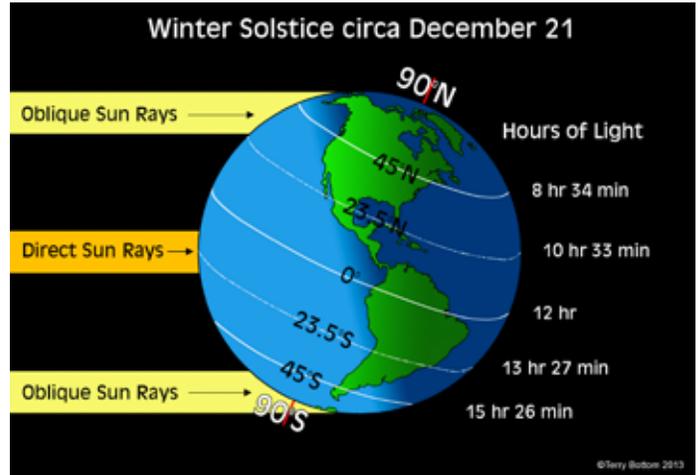


is more intense causing the Earth to warm in the summer, and the oblique sun rays allow the Earth to cool in the winter. Varying lengths of day light and

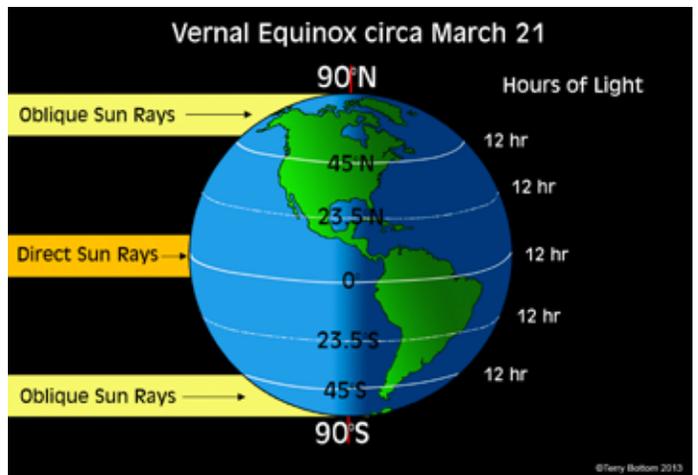
darkness also trigger growth responses in orchids and many other plants.

Winter Solstice. Since the summer solstice, the days have gotten shorter by a minute or two each day. The sun is getting lower in the sky so the sun's rays are hitting the Earth at an oblique angle causing the light to be less intense. On the winter solstice, we have the lowest amount

of incoming solar radiation (insolation) received on any day of the year, less than half of what we receive in the summer in St. Augustine. The shorter day length and reduced insolation cause the Earth in the northern hemisphere to cool. The direct sun rays are impacting the Tropic of Capricorn at 23.5°S in the southern hemisphere where they are enjoying summer.



Is it any wonder that our plants are resting during the winter? In the winter, our plants may still be growing but at a greatly reduced rate because the insolation is much less intense and the hours of daylight (and potential photosynthesis) are at the lowest level of the year. We try to align our watering and fertilizing habits to match our plants' reduced growth rate, so we water and fertilize probably half as frequently and the fertilize dose is cut in half from our summer levels.



Vernal Equinox. After the winter solstice, the days lengthen by a minute or two each day as the sun rises higher in the sky and the sunlight slowly increases in intensity. On

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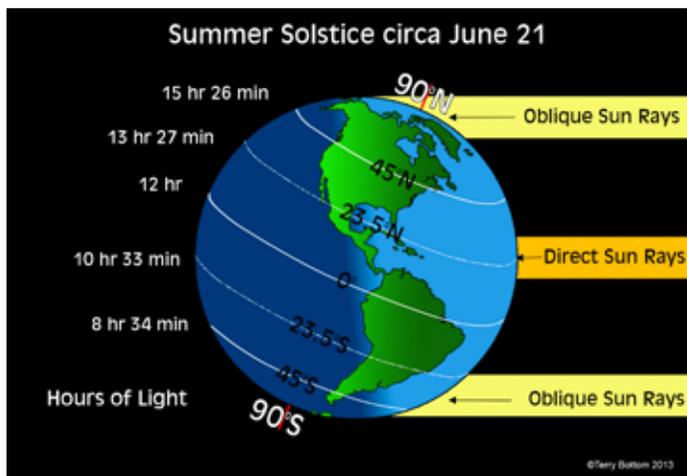


CULTIVATION

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the vernal equinox circa March 21, the sun's rays are most direct and therefore most intense at the equator. In St. Augustine, we receive about 87% of the solar radiation received at the equator. The day and night lengths are the same across the Earth, there are 12 hours of light and darkness everywhere.

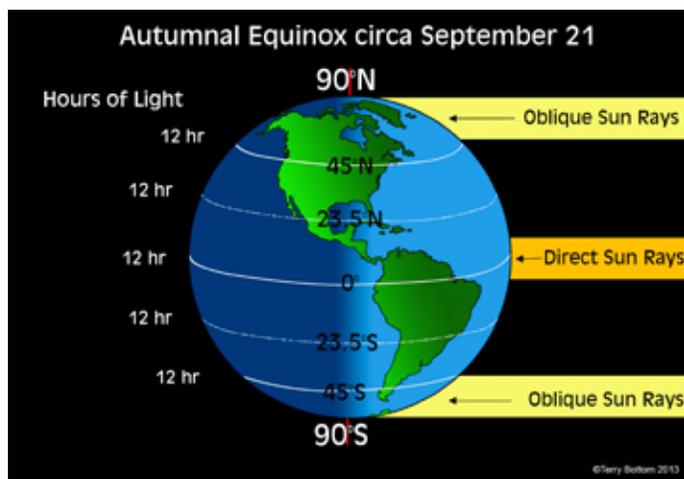
The lengthening day length and higher sun angle are causing spring to bloom. By the vernal equinox, the plants have gotten the message and are increasing their rate of photosynthesis in response to the increase in solar radiation. We respond by increasing the frequency of watering and dosage of fertilizer to match our plants' growth rate. By the end of April we have moved our orchids to their summer homes and added an extra layer of 30% shade cloth to the greenhouse. This shade cloth will protect the plants from the intense summer sun and shade them to prevent excessive leaf temperatures and sunburn.



Summer Solstice. The days continue to get longer by a minute or two each day until the longest day of the year on the summer solstice circa June 21. The sun rises higher in the sky and the sun's rays are more intense as we move to the summer solstice where the direct sun rays impact the Tropic of Cancer at 23.5° north of the equator. The amount of insolation we receive in St. Augustine is about 30% greater than what we receive at the vernal equinox and more than twice the amount we receive at the winter solstice. We get about 14 hours of daylight and 10 hours of darkness on the solstice. The increased insolation and day length cause the Earth to warm.

Watering and fertilizing frequency is increased to accommodate the increased light intensity and duration throughout the summer. As long as you are seeing green

root tips, you should be watering and fertilizing heavily. In the dog days of summer, you may slow down just a little bit because the plant metabolism seems to slow down when ambient temperatures are above 95F. Sometimes the solar radiation is so intense that it can cause the leaves to burn. Sunburn is really a thermal effect, because the leaf temperature has gotten too high, sometimes far in excess of the air temperature. We protect our plants with extra shade cloth to reduce insolation, increasing air movement to cool hot leaves with fans and spraying water under benches and on clay pots to cool them.



Autumnal Equinox. After the summer solstice, the days begin to shorten by a minute or two each day. The sun rises lower in the sky and the sunlight slowly decreases in intensity as we approach the autumnal equinox in September. This allows the Earth to start cooling once the retained heat from the summer sun dissipates. The sun's rays are the most intense at the equator. The solar energy we receive in St. Augustine is slightly greater than our average annual rate. The day and night lengths are the same across the Earth, there are 12 hours of light and darkness everywhere.

We get a second growth spurt in the fall when the temperatures moderate and we water and fertilize freely through October. With the fall comes a decrease in day length, solar radiation and temperatures that translate into a slower growth rate for our plants. We remove the extra 30% shade cloth after the autumnal equinox to increase light in the greenhouse for the remainder of the fall and winter. We gradually add days in between watering events and cut the fertilizer addition rate in half to accommodate the lower winter growth rate. We can then kick back and enjoy the blooms from all the energy our orchids stockpiled throughout the long growing season!



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Orchid Adventures
Hill's Raingreen Tropicals in Lithia

Herb and June Hill operate Hill's Raingreen Tropicals, a wholesale nursery for bromeliad and orchid hybrids, in Lithia. I put together their website raingreentropicals.com and we had a chance to visit on a recent trip. Wow! The variety of bromeliads and orchids is incredible, the operation is impressive and the people are terrific. You always learn a new trick or two at every nursery you tour and this was no exception.



SHOW TABLE



Terry Bottom
Grower Bill Gourley
Blc. Copper Queen



Terry Bottom
Grower Sue Bottom
Aergs. hyaloides



Terry Bottom
Grower Linda Stewart
Rhyncholaelia (Brassavola) glauca



Terry Bottom
Grower Sue Bottom
Blc. Golden Sands 'Elizabeth Off' AM/AOS



Terry Bottom
Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Land of Smiles



Terry Bottom
Grower Jeannette Pacetti
Paph. In-Charm White



Terry Bottom
Grower Yvonne & Bob Schimmel
Slc. Love Castle 'Happiness'



SHOW TABLE



Grower Yvonne & Bob Schimmel
V. F. O. G.



Grower Dick Roth
Den. Fancy Yellow



Grower Courtney Hackney
Blc. Theresa Hill 'Hackneau'



Grower John VanBrocklin
Blc. Theresa Hill



Grower John VanBrocklin
Rhynchostylis gigantea



Grower Sue Bottom
Paph. Vanguard

