



CLUB NEWS



Alan Koch

July 7 Meeting

by Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks. Tom Sullivan opened the meeting at 6:55pm with 45 attendees. He thanked Dottie, Laura, Ann, Christine, Janet, Julie & Paul for the delicious treats and reminded all to remember to "Drop a Dollar" if you enjoyed. The dollar helps us pay for the coffee and paper good supplies. Tom reminded all that the next repotting clinic will be

July 11th at the SE Branch Library.

Orchid Shows – The spring show season is over. Orchid shows will resume in the fall.

Virtual Show Table - Virtual Show Table will be July 15 featuring Courtney. An email invitation will be sent with a link and details. Send in your photos for the next show by the 23rd of this month.

Supplies – SAOS T-Shirts, Potting Mix, Timed Release Fertilizer and fertilizer baskets were available on the back table. Email staugorchidsociety@gmail.com if you need supplies.

Club Business. Linda introduced our 6 guests of the evening. She asked all July birthdays to raise their hand for a free birthday raffle ticket. If anyone is having a major life event or needs cheering up, let Linda Stewart know.

Members Choice - Christine reminded all to vote for their favorite orchid during the break after the Show Table.

Library - Dolly Charron, our new librarian, was unable to attend tonight. If you would like something from the Library list on the website, send Dolly a request to staugorchidsociety@gmail.com and she will bring the item(s) to the next meeting.



Show Table. Steve Hawkins started with the Paphiopedilums on the Show table. First was Paph. Magic Lantern. Steve noted its foliage pattern saying even when not in



bloom the plant is appreciated for its leaves. Paph. Joyce Hasegawa and Paph. leucochilum also have long lasting flowers as well as patterned leaves. Clowesia thylaciocila was a large, stunning plant with three pendulous, heavily fragrant green flowered inflorescences hanging down over the sides. Oncidium Catatante 'Pacific Sun Spots' has orangish brown flowers with a yellow lip growing on tall branched spikes. Next was a hybrid from a Brassavola nodosa cross, Blc. Sherrie Styles. This has greenish yellow large flowers that are starry in shape and fragrant. Steve then followed up with the other nodosa crosses, B. Yaki, B. Crazyarachno and Bepi. Green Dragon. The latter is a miniature with clusters of 1" flowers that are quite fragrant. Next was Steve's Neofinetia falcata which was being grown on a mount and was huge! He then finished with an Angraecum calceolus which is a miniature from Madagascar. Fragrant at night, it has numerous tiny flowers and likes to grow in bright, humid conditions.

SAOS Program. Sue introduced our guest speaker Alan Koch, owner of Gold Country Orchids, to talk about the Angraecum Alliance for the home grower. Alan started by holding up a small plant from his sales table and asked us when it was last watered. After mixed replies, he answered with today and the way he knows is that the roots are bright green. All Angraecums photosynthesize from their roots which is why he pots them up in clear plastic pots and uses media that allows for lots of drainage. He advised us to feed our plants. One's fertilizer should be based on

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Upcoming Orchid Events

July

- 11 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 11 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
1400 Country Club Blvd., Mt. Dora 32757
- 14 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 6:30 pm
Phillip Hamilton, Bredren Orchids
- 15 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email

August

- 1 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 4 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Mounting Orchids & Auction
George Hauserman
- 8 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
1400 Country Club Blvd., Mt. Dora 32757
- 11 JOS Meeting, Orchid Growing, 6:30 pm
Eric Cavin, JOS
- 12 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email

September

- 1 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Bulbophyllum Species
Julien Baruch, Krull Smith Orchids
- 5 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 8 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA
Julien Baruch, Krull Smith Orchids
- 9 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 12 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am
1400 Country Club Blvd., Mt. Dora 32757

- 12-13 Fall JOS Orchid Festival
Mandarin Garden Club, Jax 32223
- 19-20 Ridge Orchid Society Show
Lake Mirror Auditorium, Lakeland

October

- 3 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 3-4 Tampa Orchid Club Expo
Northdale Recreation Center
- 5 SAOS Mtg, Orchid Survival Guide, 6:30
José Expósito, Soroa Orchids
- 10 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am
1400 Country Club Blvd., Mt. Dora 32757
- 13 JOS Meeting, Hands On Clinic
Thanh Nguyen, Springwater Orchids

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one's water quality. Plants grow best at acidic levels, which allows for more uptake of the fertilizer's micronutrients that are the most important nutrients for orchids. Roots are never optional, they are key to successfully fertilizing one's plants. He then shared slides of media to use. Wine corks are smooth so water doesn't collect in crevasses and allows good air flow so the roots dry out. Gorilla hair (shredded coconut fiber) is also a good media for placing behind roots when mounting because it allows the roots to dry out.

Alan then showed slides of plants from the genus *Aerangis* which like lower light, bloom young, tend to be smaller, compact plants and work well for the novice grower. *AerGs. citrata* has fragrant, citron-yellow to white flowers and prefers to grow in low light. *AerGs. modesta* has up to 8" flowers that have a wonderful, intoxicating fragrance at night. The *AerGs. distincta* also has large 6" flowers that cascade 4-6 blooms per inflorescence making a striking display.

Then he showed slides of plants from the *Angraecum* genus, which are generally larger plants. *Angcm. distichum* has fan like leaves and tiny white flowers with a jasmine smell. He showed two seasons of flowering to show the daylight and temperature effects. The Spring flowering had a larger flush of flowers than the Autumn flowering. Next was *Angcm. compactum*, which has tiny white flowers with a spicy-citrusy fragrance. This is one of his hardest to deflask plants; he loses approximately 50%. But once it's potted up and established, it is easy to grow though it will cost you more to buy than the others. *Angcm. bosseri* is a compact grower that blooms 7-inch star-shaped white flowers with spurs up to 14 inches long.

Alan then moved on to other genus groups. The Madagascan *Sobennikoffia robusta* can grow up to 16" either potted or mounted. This plant is very sensitive to salt so it is crucial to use rain or R.O. water. Most of these orchids have pure white flowers but there are a few with color. *Eurychone rothschildiana* has light-green flowers

and a darker green throated lip. *Eurychone galeandrae* has large salmon-pink flowers and blooms in the winter. *Eurychone* Virginie Moulin is the cross of the previous two and has flowers that have a brownish throated lip and salmon-tinged petals.

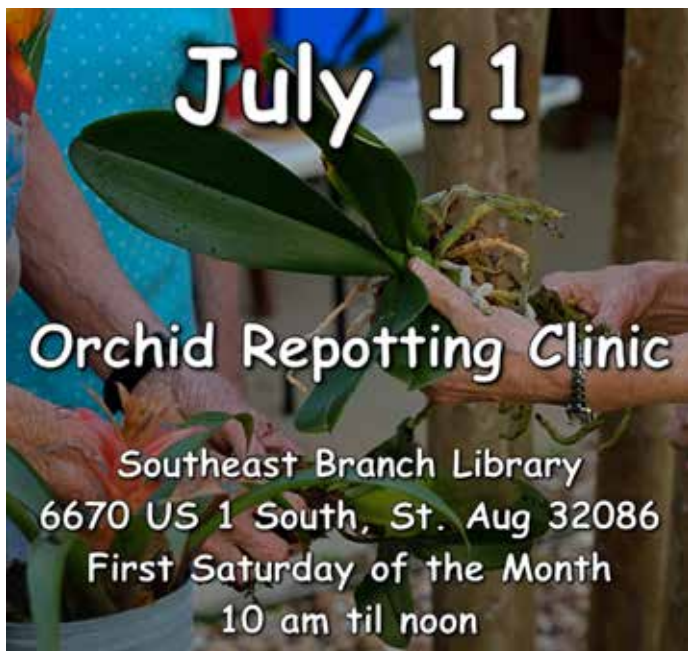
Alan then showed a compact miniature, *Mystacidium braybonae*, growing on a mount with blooms growing on 2-4" long spikes. Next he showed a long shot of this plant with 3' long roots. His next slide was his favorite orchid, *Mystacidium capense*, a compact plant that was engulfed with white flowers. Another favorite, *Oeniella aphrodite*, is the most fragrant plant in his nursery. Alan closed by reminding us to protect and expose *Angraecum* roots to light. Thick roots usually mean the plant grows in dryer climates. He advised buying a TDS meter to test the salt in your water. After fertilizing, allow 20-25 minutes which is the time the roots take to absorb the nutrients. Then you can flush your plants with pure water to remove excess salts.



Meeting Conclusion. Christine announced that the Members Choice went to *Neofinetia falcata* grown by Steve Hawkins. Dianne and Laura then announced winning ticket numbers for the raffle table. Thanks to the helpful hands that stayed to help clean and store the tables, chairs and room.



CLUB NEWS



Culture Notes

The heat and humidity of summer are here. When daytime temperatures rise above the 90 to 95F range, you'll see orchid growth start to slow. Water slightly less frequently than during the low humidity spring. Orchid plants require lots of fresh air to keep the plant leaves cool. The bulk of your repotting should be complete.

Cattleyas can be watered and fertilized daily if mounted or every third day or so if in a coarse, freely draining medium. Applying adequate fertilizer is the best way to ensure the best blooming in that the growths your plants are making now are the source of future blooms. Be careful to peel back the flower sheaths so the emerging buds don't rot. Also remove dried cataphylls to eliminate hiding places for scale. Higher temperatures and humidity may lead to fungal or bacterial rot. Watch for signs of pests or diseases and respond quickly.

American Orchid Society Corner

Webinars

July 9, 8:30 pm, Everyone Invited

Greenhouse Chat - Ron McHatton

June 11, 8:30 pm, AOS Members Only

Catasetum Culture – Scott Elliott

Orchids Magazine this Month

Amazing Spider Orchids - Jacopo Calevo

Energy Efficient GH Design - Douglas Needham

Importance of Fresh Air - Sue Bottom

August 4 Meeting

Mounting Orchids & Auction

George Hausermann, EFG Orchids



George 'The Toolman' Hausermann will demonstrate how to attach orchids onto unusual mounts. Sue will have a nice variety of different orchid divisions, and George will show his creativity with different ways of growing orchids on eye catching mounts. We'll then be auctioning off the mounted beauties so bring your checkbook!

EFG Orchids was founded in 1939 outside of Chicago furnishing the wholesale market with cut orchid blooms and gardenias. George is a fourth generation orchid grower, who relocated to DeLand in 1999 to create an innovative new greenhouse with a wide variety of exotic plant species. George's son Quinton officially entered into the company as its grower in 2017.

When: Tuesday, August 4, 6:30 til 9 pm

Where: Memorial Lutheran Church

3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086



INSPIRATION



Clowesia thylaciochila

© Terry Botton



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@hotmail.com

Q1. I have a healthy, good-sized *C. Tropical Pointer 'Cheetah'* that has beautiful flowers, but it is a poor bloomer, i.e. few flowers for its size. This year, it managed only two. Are spotted orchids often like this?

It does have *C. aclandiae* in its ancestry, a well-known curmudgeon. More light? Raise it up, or will it always be stingy?

A1. I don't think the spotted orchids as a whole are reluctant bloomers. In fact, Ron Midgett from New Mexico got a cultural award on Tropical Pointer 'Cheetah' with 55 flowers. *Cattleya aclandiae* can tend to lower flower count, but it is pretty far back in the family tree. One of Tropical Pointer's parents is *intermedia* which can throw off tons of flowers. I'd say move it up into brighter light and see if you don't get rewarded next year.

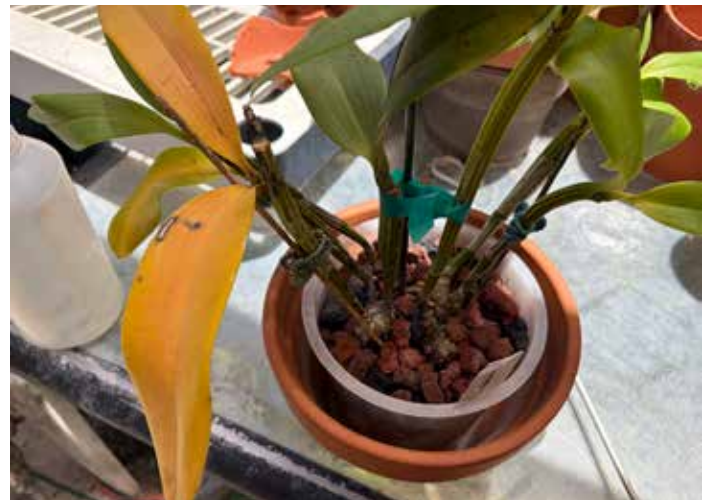


Q2. I hang all my *Catasetinae* in nearly the highest point in my greenhouse. Is it possible this marking is due to sunburn or heat? The *catasetum* tested negative for virus. There are a few others just leafing out which look similar but at least two that look normal with no leaf streaking.



A2. The heat scorch makes sense, the leaf temperature got so high that it damaged the chlorophyll just short of burning the leaf. Keeping a max min thermometer handy in strategic locations will tell you how hot or cold your growing area has gotten. Heat scorch explains the chlorotic streaking on the leaves, but there is also fine dotting on the leaves toward the tips, so I asked Janet to send a pic of the leaf underside. When *catasetum* leaves are young and tender, they are thrips magnets and you can see the bulls eye pattern on the leaf undersides from thrips feeding on the leaf. I do a bimonthly drench with Orthene (1 tsp/gal, same as for spraying) and thankfully I haven't seen thrips damage for several years. It also keeps the scale and mealybugs gone.

Q3. I repotted this orchid last month into lava rock and charcoal. It had been in a mixed mix. It's two pieces, one is totally turning yellow leaf by leaf and the other one has new growth at the bottom. I guess one doesn't like the new mix?



A3. It looks like the growth to the left in the picture is dying, so I would remove it from the pot. The one to the right in the picture should have had the oldest part of the plant flush against the edge of the pot so it would have more room to expand in the future. If the potting mix was radically different, the old roots may not acclimate. If there is new root growth, leave the plant alone to recover. If there isn't, remove the one piece and resituate the other, and consider whether the pot size is right. You'll want about 3-4 years in the pot, and the canes grow pretty closely together.





Summer Orchid Growing

by Dr. Courtney Hackney

Now is the time when many Orchids put on most of their growth. Those with pseudobulbs often have very discrete growth periods when they add new roots and leaves. Many vandaceous Orchids grow anytime there is an adequate amount of heat, light, and water, but again this happens mostly during summer in the Carolinas. Providing your Orchids with everything they require will maximize the quality and quantity of the flowers you will see later. Fertilize now just about every time you water with a weak solution of a growth-type fertilizer. My favorite is Peters Cal Mag 15-5-15. The Nitrogen is mostly in a useable form and the extra Calcium and Magnesium make hard growths. The ideal strength is 100 ppm Nitrogen. If you use pure water at 0 ppm and the addition of fertilizer raises the soluble solids to around 220 ppm then you have reached your maximum.

It is always better to add less than more when it comes to fertilizers. Too much fertilizer makes soft growth that is susceptible to rots and which is easy to damage. Over-fertilized Orchids do not produce good flowers even though the plant looks great. Well-grown Cattleyas have leaves that are slightly yellow. Phals and Vandas should have light green leaves that are relatively hard and thick. If you are not sure how much fertilizer to add, be cautious and use a quarter of what you think you need. Most fertilizers that recommend $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 teaspoon per gallon are best at $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon per gallon.

There are many tricks to adding fertilizer, some of which are useful for the hobbyist and some of which are not. One obvious one is to fertilize after the plant is wet. Dry Orchid roots shed water and any fertilizer it contains. Wet roots have already absorbed water and will not be damaged by fertilizer even if you add too much. How do you get the proportions just right when you fertilize? If you have a few plants a bucket of water or watering can is perfect for mixing fertilizer. Immerse the whole plant in the fertilizer mix. Plants will absorb fertilizer through leaves as well as through roots. When you remove plants be sure that you get all water from the crown of Phals and other soft-tissue Orchids. Soft tissues of Cattleyas and even Vandas can develop rots if fertilized water is left standing anywhere in the plant.

Most hobbyists are surprised at how infrequently many commercial growers fertilize. To fertilize in the ideal manner is a time consuming task so most commercial growers use stronger concentrations once a month or less. Others use Osmocote or some other slow release fertilizer. A new product from Japan, Nutricote, supposedly releases nutrients slowly enough that roots are not damaged. There are several plants in my greenhouse that are now getting this treatment. By next year, it will be obvious if this is a product worth recommending. Carter & Holmes sells small amounts of this if you want to try some. Use it on plants that are not your favorites first. Many of my experimental plants never recover from the new, improved whatever.

Several companies make liquid fertilizers that add methanol to the mix, which causes the fertilizer to pass into tissues more quickly. There are many reports of improved growth with these fertilizers. In my experiments, they were no better than Peters Excel Cal Mag and actually seemed to damage seedlings that got too warm before their surfaces dried. Liquid fertilizers also tend to be more concentrated and so a mistake in dilution can have serious consequences. Remember, you are always better adding too little than too much.

Keep your eyes open for insects, snails, and slugs as they also grow quickly in summer's heat. They will slip into plants placed outside and get into the greenhouse without being seen. Keep a close eye on your plants and look for signs of damage. Slime trails on the sides of pots in the morning will tell you they are there. I was surprised at the number of slugs found among the crotch in the bottoms of pots when I repotted this year. Plants that have not been repotted for a few years are the best place to find both slugs and other pests. Systemic pesticides work well when plants are growing. They are much less effective during times of the year when plants are not growing. In an ideal world, you would not use any pesticides, but be ready to recognize these pests early so you have to use them only occasionally.

At the beginning of this month's column, I noted that most Orchids are now in a growth mode. If you have any that are not, it may be time to take action before the growing season is over. Paphs are the ideal candidate to check because they suffer when they lose roots. Every Paph I checked this spring that was not growing well had lost most of their roots. I also repotted several that were doing well and they all had excellent root systems. Poorly growing Paphs and other Orchids repotted now will have a much better chance of surviving if repotted during the growing season rather than waiting until next spring.

Note: Dr. Courtney Hackney wrote a monthly column of his orchid growing tips for about 20 years; we are reprinting some you might have missed, this one from July 2001.



CULTIVATION

Angraecoid Orchids

by Fred Hillerman



Cyrtorchis Hendrik van der Hoven (arcuata x chailluana)
Grown by Sue Bottom, photographed by Terry Bottom

Angraecoid orchids may be defined as those genera related to *Angraecum*. Since my first experience with these orchids 20 years ago, it has been my good fortune to import, grow and propagate at least 100 species of this group, which includes more than 40 genera and 1000 species native to Madagascar and neighboring areas.

In the 1960s, it was possible to purchase perhaps only 10 to 12 species from various American growers. By the mid-1970s, the availability and variety of angraecoid species had increased dramatically. Today, there is a plethora of forms and fragrances to choose from.

Elucidating the cultural needs of angraecoids has been a slow process. Early guidelines suggested placing angraecums in the warmest place in the greenhouse. Unfortunately, shipments from Madagascar offered few clues as to the species' origins and even less about habitats. The *Flore de Madagascar* provides the locations where the first described species were found, and studying topographical and rainfall maps yielded some clues for cultural needs. But it was through a process of trial and error that knowledge was gained.

Realizing that most orchid species cling to branches and limbs in nature, the tendency was to grow them this way in the greenhouse. But greenhouse conditions are significantly different from life in the jungle. Gradually, cultivating angraecoids in pots came into vogue. Many amateurs reported success growing species in containers.

Members of the Angraecoid Alliance occur in a diversity of habitats, ranging from sea level to altitudes of 10,000 feet at the equator. Species are also found south to the 35th latitude, definitely out of the tropics. Distribution patterns range through various rainfall gradients, from

heavy rainforests to areas of intense long, hot, dry seasons with short, very warm, intense rainy seasons. To achieve ideal growth conditions, not only is it necessary to know about the species' natural habitats, but also how they react to greenhouse conditions. It is practically impossible to simulate perfectly the species actual and natural habitat in a greenhouse, under lights or on the windowsill. Yet many thrive in the greenhouse, and a quite few, such as *Angraecum leonis*, *Angraecum magdalenae* and *Aerangis fastuosa*, will grow under lights.

Most angraecoids do well in intermediate greenhouses where there is average light, 60 to 80 percent humidity and temperatures that range from 60 to 85 F. An environment in which a mixed collection of different genera dwell should suit most angraecoids. Because they are monopodial orchids and lack pseudobulbs, their water requirements are similar to those for phalaenopsis. Nourish the plants with bimonthly feedings of 30-10-10 or 20-20-20 during the growing season and once every four to six weeks in the winter. A few species must be established on mounts or slabs to grow successfully, but the majority perform brilliantly when set in containers.

Aerangis (60 species) This genus contains many species suited to life in a container, while others perform better when attached to a slab. When mounting plants, place a ½ to ¾-inch thick pad of sphagnum moss, osmunda or similar material between the roots and substrate to hold moisture. Dehydration is one of the main reasons plants on slabs decline. The other is the gradual accumulation of mineral salts (from hard water) on the roots. Mist plants once a day, especially in greenhouses where once-a-week watering is the norm. In dryer areas, even daily misting may not be enough for small slabs. When these plants show dehydration and stress, dunk them in distilled water for 30 minutes two or three times a week until signs of dehydration disappear. Species that prefer life on a slab are *Aerangis coracea*, *Aerangis curnowiana*, *Aerangis fuscata*, *Aerangis kirkii*, *Aerangis kotschayana*, *Aerangis modesta*, *Aerangis mystacidii*, *Aerangis punctata*, *Aerangis luteoalba* var. *rhodosticta*, *Aerangis somalensis* and *Aerangis stylosa*. Most of these will



Aerangis Hsinying Ramosa
(*Grandiose x ramosa*)
Grown and photographed by Leslie
Brickell



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also thrive when positioned in baskets. With the exception of *Aergs. modesta*, *Aergs. mystacidii* and *Aergs. stylosa*, the above species are least tolerant of pot culture. With few exceptions, *Aerangis* seedlings grow well in pots.

Aeranthus (40 species) The species of this genus are easy to cultivate, with one exception: *A. henrici*, which prefers to be grown on a slab as an adult. It requires good air movement and resents being sprayed with Cygon, an insecticide. Raise the other species in containers where they will receive less light, but slightly more water than other angraecoids.

Angraecum (200 species) This large genus has some of the finest flowering species. It is convenient to divide it into four groups:

- Preferring slabs - *Angcm. conchiferum*, *Angcm. bicallosum*, *Angcm. elephantinum*, *Angcm. obesum*, *Angcm. rutenbergianum*, *Angcm. humbertii*, *Angcm. mahavavense*. Most of these will also grow in containers filled with a coarse mix.
- Preferring semiterrestrial conditions or a finer mix *Angcm. magdalenae*, *Angcm. protensum*, *Angcm. sororium*. These need intense light.
- Preferring pots — Most *Angraecum* species.
- Special requirements — *Angcm. sororium* should have several months of chilling. It will tolerate temperatures down to 29 F, but should be kept fairly dry and given full sun with proper humidity to flower. *Angraecum sesquipedale* must never have its roots injured once it reaches adulthood or it will sulk for years, or even die.

This is not true of other *Angraecum* species, although it is wise to avoid damaging the roots.

Cyrtorchis (15 species) Most species can be grown either on slabs, in baskets or potted in a coarse mix that permits reliable air movement around the numerous roots.

Diaphananthe (50 species) Raise *Diaphananthe pellucida* on a slab or in a pot. *Diaphananthe rutila* would probably do best on a slab.

Eurychone (2 species) *Eurychone rothschildiana* is exacting about its cultural needs: lower light, higher humidity and a bit wetter than other angraecoids. *Eurychone galeandrae* does equally well when mounted on a slab or placed in a pot filled with New Zealand sphagnum moss or a fir-based potting mix. Both of these species are beautiful.

Jumellea (45 species) Only a fraction of the species of *Jumellea* are cultivated. Root the larger species (*Jum. major*, *Jum. arachnantha*, *Jum. angustifolia*, *Jum. sagittata*) in medium-grade mixes. *Jumellea arborescens*,

Jum. comorensis, *Jum. confusa*, *Jum. densefoliata* and *Jum. ibityana* do well in containers. Attaching the smaller, lesser-known species to slabs is recommended until more is known about their cultural needs.

Mystacidium (10 species) Members of this South African genus seem to do best when mounted on a slab and exposed to lower light levels. All plants are small.

Neobathiea (7 species) Our experience with two of the species reveals they do best on slabs which are heavily watered during the growing season.

Oeoniella (3 species) *Oeoniella polystachys* does best on a slab. In its native habitat, *Oenla. polystachys* usually grows where it is warm, humid, bright and the rainy season is wet.

Plectrelminthus (1 species) West Africa is home to a single species, *P. caudatus*. Grow it warm (although it tolerates intermediate temperatures). Provide good light, humidity and position on a slab or in a container filled with a coarse mix.

Rangaeris (5 species) Roots are plentiful on *R. amaniensis* and *R. musicola*. Both do well mounted on slabs. However, they can also be grown in containers filled with a coarse mix.

Sobennikoffia (3 species) Both *S. robusta* and *S. humbertiana* come from very warm areas but seem to tolerate intermediate conditions. They require good light and may be grown on slabs or in containers.

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Angraecum calceolus

Grown by Sue Bottom, photographed by Terry Bottom



Growing Aerangis Orchids

by Fred Hillerman



Aerangis biloba

Grown and photographed by Leslie Brickell

Culture is like class - it's something that most people would like to have. Unfortunately, it doesn't come easily. Those who have it had to work hard for it. Orchid culture is very much the same. We get it by study and by trial and error - but seldom by luck. While this article may not take away the necessity for study, it may help reduce the trials - and maybe most of the errors.

As with any large genus of orchids, *Aerangis* includes many species growing in different climates. If we know the latitude at which a plant grows, its altitude, rainfall, what it grows on, and how much light it receives - if we know all this there isn't much of a problem. Unfortunately, because of the lack of books and articles about the genus *Aerangis*, most orchid growers don't have access to such information. This article hopes to supply some of the answers. Our method will be simple: list a problem and give an answer.

Question: Why are most *Aerangis* species mounted on slabs?

Answer: A majority of species seem to need more air movement around their roots than the average non-*Aerangis*. When tightly packed into pots, the roots rot or stop growing. Instead, the plant will send out new roots - but out of the pot. You will find that most *Aerangis* species are very "rooty."

Question: What species of *Aerangis* can we pot?

Answer: There are some species that seem to prefer potting. However, the growing medium should be coarse or airy and light. The following species do quite well in pots: *articulata*, *cryptodon*, *ellisii* and *fuscata*. These are all fairly large plants. Some smaller species that can be potted (but

with care) are: *citrata*, *macrocentra*, and *fastuosa*. Most other *Aerangis* species should be mounted or put on rafts.

Question: How do I water?

Answer: Slabbed plants should be misted at least five times a week (except in winter and during rainy weather). During hot weather, the slabs should be drenched daily so that they can dry off by night. If this is not possible, then a substitute treatment is to soak the plant (dunk it) three times a week. Otherwise, dehydration gradually will take its toll. Areas of the country that have hard water (water with moderate to high mineral salt contents) will need to drench thoroughly to help rinse away salts. *Aerangis* species are especially sensitive to such water.

Question: How much light must *Aerangis* plants have?

Answer: Species that can tolerate fairly high levels of light (as for *Cattleyas*) are: *cryptodon*, *ellisii*, *modesta*, and *somalensis*. Species that need fairly low levels of light are: *biloba*, *citrata*, *decaryana*, *fuscata*, *luteoalba* var. *rhodosticta*, *laurentii*, *hyaloides*, *stylosa*, and *ugandensis*. All other species fit in between.

Question: How do I fertilize?

Answer: In about the same way you do any other general mix of species.

Question: Are there any special disease problems?

Answer: For the usual problems, such as scale, mites, aphids, etc., the best answer is: KNOW YOUR PLANTS. You should examine them periodically, checking closely for pests. There is one special problem with any species of *Aerangis* - they seem to be subject to bacterial and fungal infections, especially in winter. Brown rot spots or black fungal spots are a common problem when the plants are subjected to damp, cold nights. Try to arrange slabs so that plants do not drip on lower plants. Make sure plants are dry before evening and provide extra air movement during winter. When leaves become infected, treat the whole house (or area) with a mixture of Banrot and Kocide. Sometimes surgery is useful - but use a clean, sterile blade for each cut.

In the following section are some recommendations for species to be grown under specific cultural conditions. The lists should be of help - especially for the beginner - in deciding which species to try.

Species for under-lights, basements, windows, and other small places: *citrata*, *macrocentra*, *curnowiana*, *decaryana*, *fastuosa*, *laurentii*, *leonis*, *modesta*, *mystacidii*, *hyaloides*, *luteoalba* var. *rhodosticta*, and *ugandensis*.

Species for those who want moderately large plants: *articulata*, *cryptodon*, *ellisii*, *fuscata* and *kotschyana*.

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CULTIVATION

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Aerangis mystacidii
Grown by Sue Bottom, photographed by Terry Bottom

Species for greenhouses in areas of very warm summers (as in the Deep South): *biloba*, *calantha*, *fuscata*, *kotschyana*, *hyaloides*, *laurentii*, *leonis*, *modesta*, *somalensis*, *stylosa*, and (with care) *luteoalba* var. *rhodosticta*.

Growing seedlings of many of the *Aerangis* species presents some unique problems. While it is true that during the seedling phase many *Aerangis* species are more tolerant of having their roots buried, considerable care still should be taken. Growing media should be lightweight and airy and should hold moisture (but not dry out too fast) and allow considerable air passage. If potted, various mixes are commonly used: 1) seedling fir bark with liberal amounts of perlite or sponge rock or 2) mixes of charcoal, cork, and sphagnum. There are many possibilities. If the mix is allowed to become dense, sooner or later upon emptying the pot you will find dead or "sick" roots in the pot and healthy (if any) roots growing outside the pot.

Slabbing seedlings presents some problems. Seedlings are less able to withstand dehydration, hence the necessity to mist or drench more often. In winter, with cooler temperatures coupled with high humidity, the stage is set for bacteria and fungi to move in. Frequent watering and misting can be deadly. Some of these problems can be avoided by giving the seedlings a better water-holding base, such as sphagnum or sphagnum on top of a slab of Oasis. Two horticultural products on the market (called Horticulture and Rootcube - both similar to florists' Oasis) are useful in providing such a base. They absorb and hold water for a longer time. Moreover, *Aerangis* roots grow readily into these media. Additionally, when it comes time to "unmount" the community slab, the seedlings can be disengaged safely from the mount without any root damage. Both Rootcube and Horticulture will "crumble," leaving the roots free of damage.

The difference between summer and winter growth of seedlings on community slabs can be quite dramatic. In winter, it almost seems as if water is an enemy. In summer, water becomes a friend. When night temperatures in the greenhouse are warm and day temperatures are even warmer (and if your water has a low mineral salts content), slabs can be soaked all day without ill effects. Indeed, growth will be terrific. This fits right in with the way it is in nature in the tropics. The warm season has frequent rain even at night, so plants in their growing season are kept wet almost constantly.

Species of the genus *Aerangis* are not difficult to grow - once you understand their requirements. These species can provide great enjoyment. They have enticing scents, their white-birds-in-flight form has aesthetic appeal to most orchid lovers, and in many species the handsome vegetation is frosting on the cake. I hope that this short article will encourage many to try growing at least one member of this exotic genus.

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Aerangis hyaloides
Grown by Sue Bottom, photographed by Terry Bottom



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Repotting Clinics at SE Branch Library

We usually recommend that your spring blooming phals be repotted between Memorial Day and Independence Day. If you have one that's still in bloom, you might consider cutting the flower spike and putting it in a vase to enjoy it for a few more days, and get it potted up so it can become reestablished and gather its strength for next year's bloom. Most cattleyas should be repotted right as they are initiating new root growth. This is particularly important for the bifoliate cattleyas that often start blooming when new roots form, so you may sacrifice some of the bloom time for the good of the plant. Come on out to the repotting clinic, we love to talk orchids! We'll be there July 11 after celebrating the 250th bday of the US of A.



SHOW TABLE



Grower Steve Dorsey
Sp. Karina Motes



Grower Suzanne Susko
B. digbyana 'Fiddlesticks'



Grower Courtney Hackney
C. granulosa 'John Jenson'



Grower Eric Milstrey
E. mariae



Grower Deborah Fox
Lc. Prism Palette 'Carnival' AM/AOS



Grower Sheila Nathanson
Clowesia thylaciochila



Grower Sue Bottom
Lyon. SunCoast's Little Cutie



SHOW TABLE



Grower Suzanne Susko
***C. skinneri* 'Danae' AM/AOS**



Grower Sue Bottom
***Blc. Greenwich* 'Elmhurst' AM/AOS**



Grower Eric Milstrey
C. jenmanii



Grower Courtney Hackney
***Blc. Serengeti Sands* 'Dark Knight'**



Grower Sue Bottom
Stan. oculata



Grower Suzanne Susko
***Slc. A Miracle Everyday* 'Sugar Magnolias'**

Link to all Submissions: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCYyAF>

