



CLUB NEWS



George Hausermann

August 4 Meeting

by Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks. Eric opened the meeting at 6:55 pm with 59 attendees. He thanked Andrew, Dianne, Dottie, Laura, Mary Ann, Mary, Bea & Gary, and Julie & Paul for the delicious treats and reminded all to remember to "Drop a Dollar" if you enjoyed them. The dollar helps us pay for the coffee and paper good supplies. Eric reminded

all that the next repotting clinic will be Sept. 5 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 August 12 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. Rachel introduced our guests of the evening and welcomed new members Sandra Sowards and Karen Cockcroft. Next, she asked all August 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 brought in several books tonight along with print outs of the library collection to encourage everyone to use our resources. If you would like something from the Library list on the website, send a request to staugorchidsociety@gmail.com and she will bring the item(s) to the next meeting.

Show Table. Courtney started with Den. Hibiki which was a smallish plant with multiple magenta flowers well mounted. He said he has seen this plant all over Florida where it grows well in our climate. Next was Encyclia alata var alba 'Cherokee' CHM which belongs to Courtney. CHM stands for Certificate of Horticultural Merit which AOS awards to "plants of exceptional horticultural interest, distinctiveness, or aesthetic appeal." He says he has used this plant for hybridizing. The next plant, Doritis pulcherrima var. champornensis 'Yellow & White' naturally grows in deep grass explaining why its inflorescences are so tall. The white with yellow lip flowers continues to bloom for a few months, likes to grow in Cattleya light and dry out between waterings. Ctsm. pileatum var. alba had huge white flowers.

Courtney then held up a stunning Blc. Terri Henderson with its striking yellow flower and deep purple lip. Owner Steve Hawkins said this plant was over 20 years old and purchased from our speaker's family nursery. An intense deep magenta flowered C. (tigrina x violacea) reminded Courtney that when you have incompatible coerulea parents, you won't get coerulea progeny but the resulting flower color can be much more intense. C. Summerland Girl has C. tigrina in the background and the resulting spotted, waxy flowers are a beautiful brownish red. Courtney said only two clones of this plant have ever been recognized. He reminded us how difficult it is to repot bifoliate and advises just place the plant in a bigger pot as it grows.



SAOS Program. Sue introduced our guest speaker George Hausermann who is a 4th generation orchid grower hailing from the Chicago area where the family operated Orchids by Hausermann and EFG Orchids. The Elmhurst Flower Growers specialized in corsage orchids, but after corsages

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Upcoming Orchid Events

August

- 8 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
1400 Country Club Blvd., Mt. Dora 32757
- 11 JOS Meeting, Hands On Clinic
Thanh Nguyen, Springwater Orchids
- 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, Orchid Growing, 6:30 pm
Eric Cavin, JOS
- 14 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email

- 16-18 Redland International Orchid Show
Fruit and Spice Park, Homestead
- 17 Gainesville Garden Club & OS Show
23100 W Newberry Rd, Newberry
- 24-25 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show
Fieldhouse at Old School Square
- 30-1 Fall Orchid Festival
Krull Smith Orchids, Apopka

November

- 3 SAOS Mtg, Orchids in Brazil, 6:30
Aleks Zaslawski, AWZ Orquideas
- 10 JOS Meeting, Winterizing Your Plants
JOS Panel Discussion
- 14 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am
1400 Country Club Blvd., Mt. Dora 32757

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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became less popular, that side of the family moved down to DeLand to start a new chapter.

George brought all of his tools and various materials to demonstrate how to mount orchids. These included a drill, an electric staple gun, wire, hooks, screws and various mounts including red cedar, cork, cholla, baskets and clay pots. George stated that the most important part about mounting is to be sure the plant is secure. He uses no media and advised best to mount when not flowering because the plant will put its energy into the flower instead of growing roots onto the new mount.



He then demonstrated using wire pushed through his cork flats to secure a plant. George said to twist the wire on the back as tight as possible to get a good secure fit. Cholla wood has built in holes so it is easy to mount with wires. With the red cedar it is important to remove the bark which insects love to live in. He proceeded to do speed mounting of various plants that Sue had provided and at the end, conducted an auction to help raise money for our club. It was quite an adventurous evening and successful auction.



Meeting Conclusion. Christine announced that the Members Choice went to Blc. Terri Henderson grown by Steve Hawkins. Dianne and Andrew 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



Jeanette Smith 1924 - 2026

Jeanette Smith was a founding member of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. After meeting at the Lighthouse for the first few meetings in 2006, Jeanette arranged for us to meet in the conference room of Watson Realty where we met monthly for almost 15 years. She came to all the meetings and loved learning about orchids. She was very active in the Garden Club and Tour of Homes. In her later years, she moved over to Gainesville to be closer to family. Her family shared that 'Mama Smith' went to the other side peacefully in her sleep on June 28th.



September 1 Meeting

Bulbophyllum Species

Julien Baruch, Krull Smith Orchids

Julien will talk to us about bulbophyllums, those unusual orchids with a hinged lip. He will discuss different species of these popular oddities, including an overview of the latest breeding traits of the different species. The Krull Smith collection includes Bill Thoms plants in addition to their own, so get ready to bring some home!



Julien is an associate judge for the American Orchid Society and is an avid orchid lover of all types - species and hybrids alike. Julien interned at the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens for The Million Orchid Project before moving to Apopka, Florida, to work at Krull-Smith. He has been learning from Frank Smith and working on the nursery's hybridizing program with him. Julien manages Krull-Smith's sales, website, and social media.

When: Tuesday, September 1, 6:30 til 9 pm

Where: Memorial Lutheran Church

3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086

Culture Notes

August is the hottest month so be prepared to work diligently to ensure sufficient air circulation. Spray water on the floor, benches and outer surface of clay pots one or more times every day during the hottest times. Continue watering and using a dilute fertilizer. The warm temperatures also cause fungal and bacterial problems as well as an increase in insect populations. Observe your plants carefully and spray for both insects and disease when first noticed. It may be necessary to move unsheltered plants into an area protected from torrential rains.

American Orchid Society Corner

Webinars

The Webinar Team is on Summer Break

Orchids Magazine this Month

Trichocentrum lanceanum – J. Rapacz-Hasler

Vanda coelestis – M. Motes & J. Downing

Cleaning Clay Pots - Sue Bottom



INSPIRATION



Oberonia iridifolia

© Terry Botta



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@hotmail.com

Q1. I recently repotted this Schombocatonia Jamaica Fire and suddenly this happened. I feel like the whole plant is infected. No leaves are immune to the spots. The leaves are firm, not mushy. What should I

do? I have Banrot that I can use.

A1. It's probably bacterial, possibly black rot. I think you're going to have to resort to radical surgery. Pull it out of the pot and cut away all the older damaged tissue. When you've got it all cleaned up, lay it out on newspaper dry and get a soft paint brush and dust the plant with Banrot. After 2 or 3 days of dryness, you can repot it, or it would do well on a mount. Good luck!



Q2. I hate when the heavy rain gets into new leads in this heat. The bacteria go like gang busters and I had to cut three leads today. To combat this I have to split the sheath that wraps the terminal leaf(s) so that the water drains out of the sheath. I only can do that after the leaves have started to flatten. Have you ever treated new sheaths with dilute antibiotic to set back bacteria?



A2. I've heard of pouring a little hydrogen peroxide in the crown of phals after watering to prevent crown rot, you could try that to prevent bacteria from destroying the new lead. Antibiotics like streptomycin and oxytetracycline are used for bacterial blighting in pome fruit trees, shrubs and some ornamentals.

Q3. The leaves and pseudobulbs on these cattleyas are soft and squishy, and it is spreading fast. What do I do?



A3. You will have to cut away all the damaged tissue, and then spray what's left of the plant with copper. Excessive leaf wetness is an invitation for bacterial and fungal infections.





Orchids in Summer

by Dr. Courtney Hackney

It has been a wonderful summer so far with no hurricanes and relatively cool conditions, i.e., no 100-degree days. There are few years when evening temperatures are in the 60s in July. Orchids love these conditions and the greenhouse is full of beautiful sights and especially great fragrances. Encyclias are

one of the most fragrant groups of Orchids, but are often not part of hobbyists' collections because of their rather small brown-green flowers. Each species has a unique scent and our family knows them not by their scientific name, but by their fragrance. There is the "Banana Cream Pie Orchid" (*Enc. plicata*), the "Pop Tart Orchid" (*Enc. alata*), and so on. Besides the large-flowered *Cattleyas* that provide fragrance during the day, there are also night fragrances as well from *B. glauca*, *Bc. Jimminey Cricket*, and the like.

If you are an indoor or under lights hobbyist and cannot grow these relatively high light Orchids, pick up some of the fragrant *Phalaenopsis*. *Phal. bellina* (formerly known as the Borneo form of *violacea*), *Phal. violacea*, *Phal. fasciata*, *Phal. luddemanniana*, and most of the other summer blooming *Phal* species are extremely fragrant. While they grow more slowly than hybrids, they are relatively easy to grow and flower under lights and put out one of the most intense sweet fragrances in the Orchid world.

Many late summer standard *Cattleyas* are blooming early this year, especially the yellow hybrids such as *Blc. Toshie Aoki* and *Lc. Mary Ellen Carter 'Dixie Hummingbird'*. Other hybrids usually in bloom in September are filling sheaths with growing buds. In the past, I always assumed that changes in blooming season were related to some aspect of culture in my greenhouse, but with this column and the email from readers, I have discovered that often many growers report the same thing and this year is no exception. On a visit to Carter & Holmes in Newberry, South Carolina in July, Gene Crocker noted the same early blooming phenomenon in their greenhouses. They are far inland of Wilmington, NC and are not affected by sea breezes.

There are a few successful cultural experiments worth noting this summer. The first is my continued attempts to resurrect Paphs that have lost their roots. Mature plants recover relatively easy by repotting into smaller pots that



Blc. Toshie Aoki 'Pizzaz' AM/AOS

Photographed by Terry Bottom

fit their remaining roots, but not seedlings. Books suggest putting plants in plastic bags with a little media until root growth begins, but this has not worked well.

In a recent study here at the University, we needed to grow plants in a media that contained absolutely no nutrients. The only thing that worked was nylon fiber batting packed into a pot. When plants were removed they had developed an incredible root system in the Nylon. So... I tried Nylon on my sick Paphs. It did not work as the sole media, but when the stem of the Paph below the leaves was wrapped with nylon, placed in a small pot with standard media packed around the Nylon so that the nylon was compressed around the stem just about every plant put out new roots. If a seedling had absolutely no roots and was small it was difficult to stabilize the plant. This was solved by tying the plant and nylon to a small bamboo stake, which was then placed in the pot as before. The bamboo stake held the plant in place until roots could become established. When these plants were removed after six months, most of the stakes had rotted away. The Nylon allows enough air movement to get the roots growing, and then encourages roots to penetrate down to the bottom of the pot. If roots do not go to the bottom of the pot as would normally happen without the Nylon, the media gets soggy and the plant again loses its roots. If you have a favorite plant that is on the way out, try it. I plan to try it on my next *Phal* that loses its roots.

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 August 2001.



CULTIVATION

Selection and Growing Heat Tolerant Cymbidiums

by K. Harry McElroy

A passion for growing Cymbidiums “of the Warm Growing kind” is something I find myself sharing with other people. After 35 years, my selection and techniques are not perfect but are an evolving effort and generally successful. The charts I often use and reference during lectures and conversations are included below with a brief explanation.

Heat Tolerance Index. This list identifies cymbidium species that will grow and bloom in warm or hot climates such as Florida. The “Heat Tolerance Index” number identifies the degree of heat tolerance as well as the degree of heat tolerance it will pass to its hybrids. For example, there are two subspecies of *Cymbidium ensifolium* listed. *Cymbidium ensifolium* subspecies *Heamatodes* from Thailand with an index number of 10 is much more heat tolerant than *Cymbidium Ensifolium* subspecies *ensifolium* from the Rouku Island with a heat index of 8.5.

The Warm Growing and Heat Tolerant Species List*	
Cymbidium Species	Heat Tolerance Index
<i>Cymbidium ensifolium</i> subsp. <i>Haematodea</i>	10
<i>Cymbidium canaliculatum</i>	10
<i>Cymbidium aloifolium</i>	10
<i>Cymbidium finlaysonianum</i>	9.5
<i>Cymbidium dayanum</i>	9.5
<i>Cymbidium ensifolium</i> subsp. <i>Ensifolium</i>	8.5
<i>Cymbidium madidum</i>	8.5
<i>Cymbidium bicolor</i>	8.5
<i>Cymbidium rectum</i>	8.5
<i>Cymbidium autopurpureum</i>	8.5
<i>Cymbidium munronianum</i>	8.0
<i>Cymbidium cloranthum</i>	7.0
<i>Cymbidium sinense</i>	5.5
<i>Cymbidium floribundum</i> (pumilum)	5.0
*The chart for assigning a Heat Tolerant Index is from the book “Heat Tolerant Cymbidiums” by Kobsukh Kaenratana	

Most cymbidiums will grow in Florida, but many require much cooler temperatures to initiate flowers in our tropical and subtropical conditions. Some cool growing cymbidiums may initiate flowering in years when fall or spring conditions are right. The flowers of the cool growers usually blast or fail but occasionally may actually bloom, often with 3 to 5 years between flowerings. Tropical cymbidiums are more reliable. Tetraploid (4n) forms hybridize and bloom much better than diploid forms (2n) and grow best.

Hybrids with the significant influence of these heat tolerant species have done the best for me, and I find them the most rewarding.

- *Cym. ensifolium* 4n
- *Cym. canaliculatum* album
- *Cym. madidum* 4n
- *Cym. sinense* in both regular and alba forms,
- *Cym. floribundum* (syn. *pumilum*)

- *Cym. parishii* ‘Emma Menninger’ 4n (while the species classification is controversial, it is known to have some heat tolerance)

- *Cym. devonianum* (while not assigned a high Heat Tolerance Index, for me it has proved to be heat tolerant)

Potting and Potting Mixes. For the past 35 years, I have experimented with potting mixes in Jacksonville, Florida. When you look up *Cymbidium* potting mixes you will usually find a mix suited to California not Florida or anywhere else with high rainfall. The mix I use now consists of:

- 2 parts Cypress Mulch
- 1 part Granite Chips 3/8 inch size
- 1 part Extra Coarse Perlite (not chunky)

This is a base mix. Additives that may help are:

- ½ part Crushed Fresh Water Oysters for calcium
- Diatomaceous Earth for snail and roach control
- Chunky Lava Rock in the bottom pot for drainage.

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For years I have top dressed my pots with a spoonful of Dolomite Lime. Two years ago I changed to a handful of small "Lime Rock". Lime in either form does nothing until it encounters something acidic. Lime Rock (calcium carbonate) breaks down and releases some calcium and if you use dolomite it also releases magnesium. Acid causes lime to release calcium and in doing so, buffers the pH of what enters the pot such as rain or an acid fertilizer mix.

Lime Rock gives two other benefits: It makes the top of the pot white, which reflects light and heat and keeps the pot cooler. Cooling Cymbidium pots will help the Cymbidium initiate flowers and may even help a marginal plant bloom. (A light mist early in the morning and late evening before dark also helps blooming). Lime Rock also discourages squirrels from digging up the plants or digging holes in the media. Squirrels don't eat the cymbidium, but they put an acorn in the holes they dig. Later the cymbidium will be competing with an oak tree. Oak trees can be hard to pull out of a clump of Cymbidiums.

The Wobble Test. This is one of the most important things

you can do to keep your Cymbidium alive! It is so simple. I start testing 2 months after I repot. Simply try to move the plant from side to side (gently). If it wobbles the roots are dead usually due to drowning. The remedy is to repot immediately and add another ½ part of Granite Chips to your mix (if you use my mix) and more Lava rock in the bottom to increase drainage. Whatever mix you use, find a way to increase drainage. It must be pointed out that the potting mix I use is designed to cope with heavy rain for plants grown outside. In a dry spell you will need to water more often than other mixes.

There is a possibility that something is eating the roots. I find that a bad "bush snail" infestation can retard or stop root growth because they eat the tender root tips and primordial buds. Bush or Garlic snails are not attracted to snail baits. A source of caffeine such as instant coffee, cold coffee or coffee grounds will kill them. I often repot and treat with coffee. YouTube has a program that lists coffee by quality. A brand named "Death Wish" was listed as the worst because of caffeine content – I suggest you treat your snails to a cup.



*Cymbidium Geno's Gem 'Emerald Fire' HCC/AOS. The predominant species is devonianum, which Harry has found to be heat tolerant.
Grown by Harry McElroy, photographed by Terry Bottom*

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Try New Things

Pool Shock and Vinegar

by Sue Bottom

Orchid addicts are always searching for some new trick or snake oil that will make their orchids grow better and bloom more profusely. When Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids was in town, he gave me some suggestions for cleaning up my growing area: pool shock to remove algae and molds from walkways and 30% vinegar for weed control.



Pool shock for an easy way to remove algae and mold from under benches and along walkways.

Pool Shock. You can use a pump up or battery operated sprayer to spray bleach or pool chlorine under benches and in walkways, and it works although you inevitably end up with bleach stains on your clothes. Alan suggested



It's hard to spread evenly on a gravel surface, so multiple spreads may be required.

an easier fix, pool shock which comes in 1 lb bags of a granular product with the active ingredient sodium dichloro-s-triazinetriene (dichlor). Do comparative price shopping, Amazon had the best price. In addition to removing algae and mold, I suspect latent virus and fungal and bacterial spores will be suppressed if not eliminated.

Alan suggested wetting the floor, then putting a very light sprinkling of pool shock over the affected area and spreading it around with a broom. It can be washed away with water after 15 minutes and voila, clean concrete walkways. It is a respiratory irritant, so be careful when applying it to avoid inhalation. It works great on the concrete, particularly after spreading with a broom. Harder to get even applications on gravel so multiple spreads are required for good coverage, perhaps spreading around with a rake would help. George Hausermann said he applies it with a whirl hand-powered spreader.



Pool shock and a broom on a prewetted surface cleaned up walkways, no slipping hazard!

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30% Vinegar. Alan also suggested spraying weeds with a high strength vinegar as a more organic way of eliminating weeds from your growing area than using herbicides that can be harmful to pets. Using a pump up or battery operated sprayer makes it easy to distribute the vinegar, although try to stand upwind because that high strength vinegar is also a respiratory irritant. This high strength vinegar is available from Home Depot and Lowe's by the gallon.

Our speakers have lots of hands on experience growing orchids and they are always willing to share them. When speakers spend the night at our place after a meeting, we get plenty of one on one time, and talk orchids into the wee hours of the morning. We ply them with wine and soon their secrets are ours!



Less toxic alternative to herbicides for killing weeds



Weeds the day before and the day after spraying with vinegar



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Tropicals at EFG Orchids

We love taking a road trip down to EFG Orchids in DeLand to see George Hausermann and the incredible variety of plants that he cultivates. The greenhouse is immaculate, with row after row of well grown exotic plants. He has orchids of course, as well as an incredible array of aroids, carnivorous plants, succulents, hoyas, bat plants and more. He has lots of quirky greenhouse art spread throughout the growing area. He also stocks a full suite of supplies: bark, sponge rock, ProMix and more. His latest project is on the drawing board, an Egyptian pyramid, it should be fantastic. Visit the greenhouse, you won't leave empty handed.



SHOW TABLE



Grower Suzanne Susko
Ctna. Why Not 'Yellow Kitty'



Grower Bea Orendorff
Oeceoclades angustifolia



Grower Deborah Fox
Blc. George Herbert Walker Bush
'Waldor' AM/AOS



Grower Suzanne Susko
Phal. Patti Lee 'Lime'



Grower Janis Croft
C. Rhythm and Blues



Grower Sheila Nathanson
Lc. Trick or Treat



Grower Sue Bottom
C. dowiana



SHOW TABLE



Grower Suzanne Susko
Blc. Toshie Aoki 'Pizazz' AM/AOS



Grower Sue Bottom
Vnra. Dick Pippen's SunCoast 'Lemon Yum Yums'
FCC/AOS



Grower Courtney Hackney
Blc. King's Rainbow 'K-1'



Grower Sheila Nathanson
Vnra. Key Lime Stars



Grower Ellen Fay
Phal. Mituo Prince



Courtney Hackney
Phal. amboinensis 'Hackneau'

Link to all Submissions: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCZXq8>

