

SAOS HAPPENINGS

Tuesday, March 3 Monthly Meeting

GROWING SPECIMEN PLANTS

BILL THOMS, Bulbophyllums.com



So, who wouldn't want those magnificent plants that get thousands of shares on Facebook and turn orchid growers green with envy? **Bill Thoms, Bulbophyllums.com** will show us just how to do it as he talks about **Growing and Showing Specimen Plants**. Check out his credentials. Bill and his wife, Doris Dukes, have been growing orchids around Central Florida for 40 years and have received almost every award granted by the AOS as well as more Awards for Culture than anyone else in the world. Yes, THE WORLD. His talks are spiced with funny stories and funny associations. Whether you grow thousands of orchids or only a few, you will have a wonderfully entertaining time and be able to grow anything better – and often, bigger.

Bring your flowering orchids to the show table. There will be plants available on the vendor sales and raffle tables. Friends and visitors are always welcome.

Where: [Memorial Lutheran Church](#) [3375 US 1 South](#) Enter Hall from Rear Parking Lot.

When: We normally meet the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. The meeting begins with a plant sale followed by a review of the show table plants and presentation by an orchid expert. The meeting closes with a plant raffle where members can expand their collections. Visitors and guests are always welcome.

CULTURE CLASS We have a beginners culture class starting at 6:15. In March we'll be talking about **Staking Your Orchids**. You are welcome to bring an orchid in for a "consultation", BUT troubled plants should be kept in your cars to ensure disease is not spread. They will be inspected outdoors.

ACE Repotting Clinic **Saturday, March 7 9am - noon**



The first Saturday of the month from 9 am till noon, February through October, St. Augustine Orchid Society members are available to talk with you, answer questions and help you repot orchids.

A WALK in the ORCHIDS



If you have never gone to an Orchid Society Show and seen all the beautiful exhibits, or even if you have, this is a MUST SEE adventure. You will literally be surrounded by THOUSANDS of blooming plants, and many of them are specimens or rare. And you can shop from 10 well-known orchid vendors who are more than willing to answer your questions. Also, there will be just about any piece of growing, mounting or displaying equipment available for purchase.

Free admission. Free parking. [Click for more details.](#)

Where: [Garden Club of Jacksonville](#) 1005 Riverside Drive, Jax 32204

When: March 21 and 22, 10 am - 5 pm



ORCHID TIPS AND TRICKS - by Suzanne Susko

Hi folks, Do you have some orchids that no matter what you do they insist on growing outside of the pot? Cattleyas are famous for this habit. Also most of my Bulbophyllums do this just to drive me crazy. Constant repotting to get the escaping growth back into the pot and media is not an option! First, try to reposition the plant – just do a 180 degree turn. That may convince the growth to reverse direction. Next, cut up a couple of pieces of plastic from used water bottles and use them as the clear plastic barriers. Tuck the plastic piece between the media and the pot next to the unruly growth. That may turn the growth back toward the center of the pot. Happy growing!

In the SAOS Library

SAOS members have access to orchid books, videos and equipment to help inform and educate. Select your desired materials from the [current library list](#). Email your selections to info@staugorchidsociety.org, and SAOS Librarian Howard Kushnir will get them to you at the next meeting.



RECOMMENDED READING: Orchids to Know and Grow – Thomas Sheehan and Robert Blake This book debunks some of the hard-to-grow myths, gives cultural information, and does so in easy-to-understand language. It is a sure-fire guide for the novice grower and an excellent resource for the experienced orchidist.

Orchids in Spring:

[Growing Orchids –March in St. Augustine:](#) - from AOS Bulletin

[Spring Repotting and Winter Cold](#) - Dr. Courtney Hackney

[March in Your Orchid Collection](#) –Dr. Martin Motes

[Wire Products:](#) -Sue Bottom

Facebook Orchid Groups:

There are a number of informative orchid groups on Facebook. **Check out Florida Orchid Growing, Orchaholics Anonymous and Cymbidium Society of America.** You'll find input from beginners through advanced and recognize some internationally known contributors. Beginners: be aware that some of the orchids are being grown in climates that vary from St. Augustine's. Still, most info is applicable, and the photos are fantastic.