

CLUB NEWS

February 6 Meeting Notes

By Lola Stark

The St Augustine Orchid Society was called to order by President Janet Skinner at 7:30 pm with 46 people present. What a wonderful turnout! Several new member sheets were passed out. Next month's meeting will be our official one year anniversary and we will collect dues from everyone at that time.

Fred Keefer told us about the 2007 Redland International Orchid Festival to be held at the Redland Fruit & Spice Park in Homestead, FL May 18-20. The Flager County Orchid Society wants to get a bus to go down on May 19 for the day. Some people signaled their interest on a sign up sheet. If you are interested and did not sign up, please call Fred at 1-386-325-4845.

Gail Marshall announced that we had our notice of the meeting in the newspaper put out at the World Golf Village, thanks to Mary Ann Bell. It was also in the last two Garden sections of the St Augustine Record.

The Nomination Committee announced the following slate of officers for 2007-2008:

Charles Wesley, President and Meeting Chair
Sue Bottom, 1st VP and Program Chair
Gail Marshall, 2nd VP and Publicity Chair
Lola Stark, Secretary and Minutes Chair
Paul Jones, Treasurer and Raffle Chair

A motion was made and seconded that we accept the slate as given and the motion passed unanimously. The officers will take over at the next meeting.

Our speaker for the evening was Lynn DeLozier from Dee's Orchids in Deland, who talked to us about Cymbidium Orchids. These are really not supposed to be grown here in Florida, but several people present told us they had little or no trouble growing them. Lynn told us that there are several types of cymbidiums:

1. Standard. Has blooms 4-6" in size with 8-15 flowers on the spike.
2. Mini Standard. Has blooms 1-3" with 15-30 blooms per spike.
3. Cascading. These have blooms 1-3" on a spike that will grow up and then when the flowers get too heavy, will fall over. It will have 15-30 blooms.
4. Pendulous. The bloom spikes on these droop immediately. They have blooms 1-3" and 15-30 on spike.
5. Ultra Minis. These have blooms measuring 1-1½" on a spike of approximately 30 blooms. They are wonderful for table tops in the house.

Lynn had examples of each, which showed the differences easily.

He then went on to explain how to break up a large clump of cymbidiums. When asked how did he know when to transplant, he explained that the plant will break out of its container and



Lynn DeLozier from Dee's Orchids in Deland

showed us several that had been split by the plant. When actually breaking the plant apart, he suggested using "Potting Paint" to close the open wound. It was also suggested that we use dry cinnamon or cinnamon mixed with alcohol. The plant needs to be broken up leaving 1 back bulb (no leaves), at least one new growth and one mature good bulb with leaf. Usually the plant will tell you where to break it up. Then you must clean all the old planting mix from the roots and wash them to get the residual medium off. Once the plant is clean, you can cut the roots back to about three inches. The new pot should have Lava Rock put in the bottom. This is porous and will allow water to stay in the plant and also repels slugs. Try not to transplant your plants when they are in bloom, as the blooms will blast.

His mix for potting is 1 part Orchid Bark, one part charcoal, ½ part Sponge Rock, and ½ part small coconut husks. Pack the mix as you put it in the pot around the roots. When the plant is potted, add some slow release fertilizer (Neutricote rather than Osmocote because Osmocote tends to release too much at one time) and MagAmp (source of magnesium and phosphate) to the pot. Then fertilize them regularly with water soluble fertilizer with a balanced N-P-K formulation like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10. In October just before the Cymbidiums are getting ready to bloom, you might add some fertilizer with high phosphorus like 10-20-10.

Lynn also mentioned that the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate will sell cymbidiums at 50 for \$350 to societies interested, for their members. If there is interest among the members, we could purchase the plants as a group.

There were lots of contributions to the raffle and auction table, generating much interest judging by the amount of tickets purchased. Remember to bring to the meeting any divisions or duplicate plants you'd like to share.





Dick Roth

Aerides houletlana "Eric Hatten"

Upcoming Events

- 2/23-25 Daytona Beach Orchid Society Show, The Casements
- 3/2-4 62nd Miami International Orchid Show, Sheraton Miami Mart Exhibition Center
- 3/17-18 Jacksonville Orchid Society Show, Garden Club of Jacksonville
- 3/17-18 Manatee Orchid Society Show, Manatee Convention Center
- 3/23-24 Englewood Area Orchid Society Show, Englewood Sports Complex
- 3/24-25 Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill Show, SNPJ Lodge #778
- 4/6-8 Central Florida Orchid Society Show, Central Florida Fairgrounds, Orlando
- 4/13-15 Deep South Orchid Society Show, Savannah, Georgia
- 4/27-29 Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show, Bayanihan Arts and Events Center
- 5/18-20 2007 Redland International Orchid Festival, Redland Fruit & Spice Park

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



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| President Meeting Chair | Charles Wesley wesjr@exis.net |
| First VP Program Chair | Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net |
| Second VP Publicity Chair | Gail Marshall gwpb@aol.com |
| Secretary Minutes Chair | Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net |
| Treasurer Raffle Chair | Paul Jones trjones_99@yahoo.com |
| Newsletter Editors | Sue and Terry Bottom bottomt@bellsouth.net sbottom15@bellsouth.net |



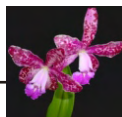
Terry Bottom

Cleisostoma arietinum

March SAOS Meeting

The March 6 meeting subject will be growing vandaceous orchids, presented by Charles Chapman of Chapman Orchids in Apopka. Charles specializes in Vandas, Dendrobiums, Oncidiums, Pitcher Plants and Cattleyas. His focus will be on vandae culture and growing tips. He will have plants for sale before the meeting. If you'd like to see his growing area: check on youtube.com and search Chapman Orchids.

Paul Jones will also provide a lagniappe presentation focusing on Phalaenopsis.



Culture Notes

March/April Orchid Checklist

By Ned Nash and James Rose, Reprinted from the American Orchid Society Web Page

Cattleya. The lengthening days and warmer temperatures are long-awaited harbingers of spring. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can weaken owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing. It is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom, the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.



Blc Chia Lin 'New City',

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background. The standard Paphiopedilum insigne-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a Paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.



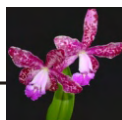
Den. nobile

Paphiopedilum. March is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs once they have become established in the plant.

Phalaenopsis. March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.



SHOW TABLE AND MORE

February Show Table

We had 18 entries on the show table, all gorgeous. The species winner was the unique *Cleisostoma arietinum* brought by Mike Heinz. This species is in the *Aeridinae* subtribe of the vanda tribe. The genus is one of the largest miniflowered of its subtribe, composed of 100 different, compact, small to medium epiphytes that have flat fleshy leaves or terete leaves.

Dick Roth won the hybrid category with *Epc. Rene Marques*. This is a cross between the species *Epi pseudoepidendrum* and the primary hybrid *C Claesiana* (*intermedia* and *loddigesii*).



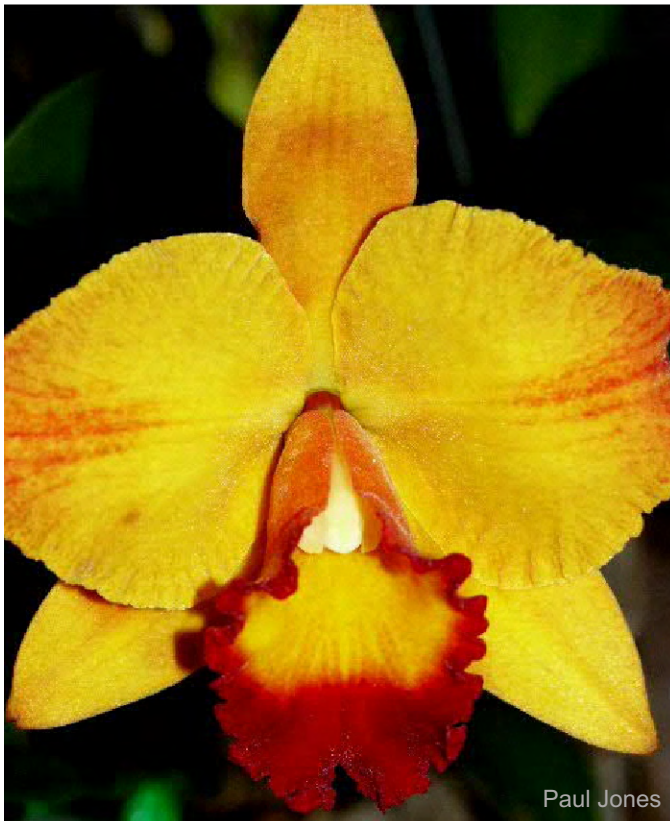
Epc. Rene Marques

Terry Bottom



Brassolaelia Yellow Bird

Paul Jones



Potinara Kat E Sun

Paul Jones

Featured Orchids

By Paul Jones

Brassolaelia (BI) *Yellow Bird* was purchased in a plastic bag at Home Depot (from Sun Bulb Company) for about 8 dollar two years ago in a 4 inch pot. It is now about to outgrow the 6 inch hanging basket it was put in. It is a vigorous bloomer and grower and has over a dozen flower stalks with several blooms on each stalk. As soon as it blooms out, it will be upgraded into an 8 inch hanging basket. In 3 or 4 years, I can see it growing in a washtub!

The second picture is *Potinara Kat E Sun*, a stunning *Cattleya* intergeneric hybrid. Phil, you may remember this plant - it is one of the ones you left with me in Dec 2005! As you can see, it is doing well!

I have been using Naturize since May of 2006 on all my plants and they have really taken off. I have started using another new product, thanks to Janet Skinner, called Orchid Pro. I may alternate the two from now on as each one is very effective for root growth and overall plant vigor. Go see Janet at Ace Hardware about Orchid Pro, it really rocks!

