

## CLUB NEWS



George Hausermann

You have not had the chance to go to the website, it's [www.staugorchidsociety.com](http://www.staugorchidsociety.com). There's a forum where you can ask questions or help with answers. Use it and enjoy.

Our Speaker for the evening was George Hausermann of EFG Orchids who spoke to us about Terrestrial Orchids. He brought a lot of plants with him and showed us how to care for them. Any terrestrial orchid with white, hairy roots may be planted in the ground. This includes *Ludisia discolor* that we are all familiar with, as well as *Macodes petola* and *Andectochilus chapaensis* which are all commonly called "Jewel Orchids". George explained that the best way to grow these is to wrap the plant in sphagnum moss without packing it in. The plants like the airiness of the moss. It also keeps the bacterial diseases and fungi down. Keep them moist all the time. He showed us how to cut off the top of the pseudobulb or flower spike of a *Phaius*, plant it and have a bloom in 6-8 months. If you must transplant *Phaius*, do not take the root ball apart, simply add the sphagnum around it and plant it. They like a light intensity of around 400 foot candles, which is considered full shade. If you get a seed pod, it takes from 5-9 months for the pod to ripen for use, and he does not recommend that we, as amateurs, fool with it.

Sucking insects can chew on the bottom of the leaves of the terrestrials and George recommends spraying the plants once a month with an insecticide. Thrips can also be a nuisance and they can be controlled with Orthene. If you get insects on your plants pick an insecticide for that particular insect. General insecticides may harm your plant. Diatomaceous earth can be used around your plants to prevent snails etc. from getting to them.

Following the lecture, Mike Heinz and Dick Roth showed off our show table, which was particularly full and we had our raffle and auction.

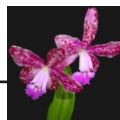
Paul Jones reported that the total income for the month was \$494.00 which includes the proceeds from 16 quarts of *Inoculaid*. Our expenses came to \$265.12, so as of right now our net was \$228.88, but we have not paid for the *Inoculaid* and we also have 8 more quarts to sell at \$15 a quart. Paul sent out a sheet about *Inoculaid* that everyone should read.

### August 7 Meeting Notes By Lola Stark

The meeting was called to order promptly at 7:30 by President Charles Wesley. We welcomed new member, Florence Powers. Charlie announced that Jeanette Smith has accepted the club's invitation to go to the World Orchid Conference in January at our expense, thanking her for all her work this past year. Jeanette has accepted the position of Operations Chair, responsible for organizing volunteers for the hospitality and clean up committees. Doretha Smith and Carol Solano will be greeting those coming to the meetings and taking care of the name badges. Dick Roth has accepted the Out of Town Show Chairmanship and will be in charge of assembling our club exhibits at other orchid society shows. Haley Bastian will be the Show Table Chair in charge of getting the names and pictures of our Show Table plants. Lyudmila Hodges will be the Raffle Table Chair in charge of selling raffle tickets and collecting proceeds from the plant auctions.

Our next beginner's meeting will be at Mike and Kaycee Heinz' home in Glen St. Mary on September 23. We will make arrangements to platoon up there to view the greenhouse and growing areas.

Sue and Terry Bottom gave a brief update on the St. Augustine Orchid Society web site and explained what all is available on line. It's been a labor of love for them, a lot of hard work and it's a fantastic accomplishment. If



## September SAOS Meeting

Rafael Romero will be speaking to us at the September 4 meeting about Venezuelan Cattleyas and their color varieties. Rafael is the Import and Export Manager for Plantío La Orquídea, a family owned business since 1952 that started as a small operation in Caracas and now has approximately 3.7 acres of covered greenhouses. The business was originally one of importing and growing plants. In 1986 Rafael and his wife began working with company and started the laboratory where they began producing their own hybrids and species. They now have the largest orchid production laboratory in Venezuela, with more than 3,000 flasks, more than half of those are species. Rafael and his wife moved to Sarasota and started the 10,000 sq ft nursery in the summer of 2003 to better serve United States customers. Rafael hope to bring a good supply of flowering plants to the meeting.

Visit [Http://www.staugorchidsociety.com](http://www.staugorchidsociety.com)

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



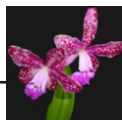
Charles Wesley

Mokara Piak Suan x Ascda Guo Chia Long

## Upcoming Events

- 9/15-16 Ridge Orchid Society Show  
Tiger Town Hanger 2, Lakeland
- 10/6-7 Ocala Orchid Society Show
- 10/12-14 East Everglades Orchid Society  
RF Orchids, Homestead
- 10/20-21 Ft Pierce Orchid Society Show  
St Lucie County Fairgrounds
- 10/20-21 Gainesville Orchid Society Show  
Savannah Grande, Gainesville
- 10/20-22 4th Annual Orchtoberfest  
EFG Orchids, Deland
- 1/4-6 Sarasota Orchid Society Show  
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
- 1/23-27 19th World Orchid Conference  
Miami
- 1/25-26 2008 Tamiami International Orchid  
Festival, Dade County Fair Expo  
Center
- 2/29-3/2 Fairchild International Orchid Festival  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens, Miami

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## Basic Cymbidium Culture for Northeast Florida By Harry McElroy

**Select the Right Cymbidium.** Success with cymbidiums in northeast Florida begins with selection of the right plants. Most cymbidiums will grow here but many will not bloom. So the first step is to select those which will bloom in the northeast Florida conditions. Many Cymbidium hybrids have species in their makeup which originate in cooler regions of India and South East Asia. These plants bloom best when temperatures in July and August are 75° maximum in the day and 55° at night (note the 20° temperature shift). Cymbidiums that need this temperature range to bloom should be avoided by Florida growers.

There are many species of cymbidium which originate in tropical Asia. This group of cymbidium and many of their hybrids tolerate our warm conditions fairly well. The Species eburneum, insigne, parishii (sanderiae), kanran and lianpan tend to be heat tolerant and may make hybrids which are. Many reliable vendors can identify warm growing plants based on information furnished by hybridizers. It is also advantageous to talk to a local grower to find out what can be grown and flowered successfully. Some hybrids are known to yield heat tolerant hybrids and the explanation is not always clear. Try to buy from vendors who have flowered the plants in Florida after growing the plant in Florida for a year or more. Buy mail order plants from vendors that are recommended by a successful grower in your area.

**Temperature Requirements.** Cymbidiums have grown best for me if they are outside in an enclosed shade structure. Mist the plants to prevent freezing inside this structure when the temperature reaches 32° F and keep the mist on until the temperature gets above 33° F. There are accounts of plants experiencing temperatures down to 20° F degrees using the mist system. In the summer the same misting system can be used to cool the plants and help them initiate flowers. A light mist for a 2 minute interval at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm helps the plants.

**Light Requirements.** Cymbidiums grow best under partial shade-partial sun conditions. Adequate light is a very important factor in growing and flower cymbidiums well. The plants grow best with 3000 to 4500 foot candles of light intensity as measured with a light meter. 50% lath covering or 55% to 63% shade cloth overhead provides this light intensity under most conditions. Locations inland may need more shade during the summer to keep the plants from burning. During the summer, the leaves should be a yellowish green, not a deep green. Additional shade should be used when plants are in bud or flower to prevent sun damage to flowers.



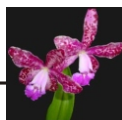
Phal pulchra

**Water Requirements.** Cymbidiums like lots of water and prefer to be constantly moist, but not wet. During the growing season, water thoroughly once or twice a week, more often when warmer or drier. Water in northeast Florida is really very good when compared to the water found in California where cymbidiums are commonly grown. Two minutes of light mist each day keeps my cymbidiums moist enough. When it rains a lot be sure to turn off the mist system or slow down hand watering. One of the unique problems in Florida is that we often get so much rainfall that the cymbidiums get too much water.

(Continued on page 4)



Stanhopea



(Continued from page 3)



Terry Bottom

Bulb echinolabium

Cymbidiums are also subject to bacterial, fungal and viral diseases. Bacterial and fungal diseases are often associated with being too wet and crowded. Adequate spacing of plants on the bench and watering early enough in the day so that the plants can dry out before dark is the best prevention. In Florida plants are often infected with fungus and bacterial infections when water splashes from the ground onto the plant. It is important to put plants on benches with all parts of the plant at least 18 inches off the ground.

Cymbidiums can be susceptible to the common orchid viruses. Virus infection of a cymbidium may be caused by insects feeding on an infected plant and then moving to an uninfected plant, but transmission with contaminated tools or your hands during dividing, potting or cutting the flowers is usually the cause. Always sterilize tools and the work area before dividing or repotting each plant, and wash hands thoroughly after each plant. We use a layer of newspapers on the potting bench and change between each plant to ensure a clean work surface. Use disposable latex or vinyl gloves when dividing and repotting, and change between each plant to prevent disease transmission.

**Potting and Dividing.** Cymbidiums generally need to be repotted about every three years under normal conditions. Cymbidiums should be repotted just after the old blooms have fallen off. If the old mix is broken down, the plant should be repotted as soon as possible to minimize root rot. Broken down mix tends to hold too much water and will reduce the air movement around the roots which often causes the older roots to die back. Vigorous plants will often outgrow the pot and may even break the pot. When a cymbidium fills the pot and starts to grow against the edge,

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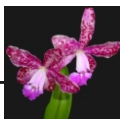


Haley Bastian

V tessellata 'Silver' x V coerulea 'Select'

**Fertilizer Requirements.** Cymbidiums are heavy feeders and like fertilizer to grow and bloom well. There are a lot of ways to deliver fertilizer to the plant. If it is done with only liquid fertilizer, try to give the plants a mix of at least 125 ppm (parts per million) nitrogen. Controlled release fertilizers are also used in solid form. Controlled release fertilizer yields an even and constant amount of nutrients over the advertised period of release. Avoid time release fertilizers which give sudden bursts of nutrient then taper off (like Osmocote). Nutracote 18-6-8 type 180 at 1 tablespoon for a gallon pot applied in December gives good growth and 10-10-17 type 180 at 1 tablespoon per gal pot gives good support from June until December. Try to use fertilizer with as low a phosphorus number as possible. If the plants appear to need it, I also use Jacks for Well Water 12-3-5-7-2 (Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium-Calcium-Magnesium) at 120 ppm N.

**Pests and Diseases.** When cymbidiums are grown outside in Florida, very few insect problems are experienced. The big Lubber Grasshoppers can do a lot of damage to a plant if left alone. The best control for Lubbers is to visit the plants often and catch the slow moving lubbers. Drown lubbers in kerosene. If squashed, the eggs may still hatch. Burn the kerosene in a safe place.



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it should be repotted even if the mix is not broken down. Pot-bound cymbidiums will often be underwatered which can reduce the vigor and blooming capability. There are as many potting mixes as there are cymbidium growers but medium coconut husk chips mixed with 30 to 50 percent coarse perlite is a good one. Pots should drain freely.

When dividing and repotting, try to keep divisions with 3 or 4 green bulbs and perhaps one backbulb if you can. Select a pot large enough to allow 3 years growth. Miniature cymbidiums will require smaller pots with less room for growth. Divide plants by breaking apart at the natural divisions. If necessary, use a sterilized knife to cut the rhizome and separate the bulbs. Clean the old potting mix from the roots and remove any dead or damaged roots. Dead or damaged roots can encourage root rot in the new mix. Place a mound of moist potting mix in the center of the pot. Spread the roots over the mound of mix and work mix in among the roots. Do not ball the roots in the center of the pot. The lower 1/3 of the bulbs should be covered with mix. Tap the pot firmly on the potting bench to help settle the mix around the roots and press the mix firmly around the edge of the pot with a potting stick (I use an old broken hammer handle or a piece of 1/2 or 3/4 inch PVC pipe). The mix should be tight in the pot, not loose. Mix that is too loose in the pot will not provide enough support for the roots and also tends to decompose more rapidly.



Haley Bastian

Epc Mae Bly 'Chiang Hua Splash'

All potting tools, knives or shears and potting sticks should be sterilized after each plant to prevent the transmission of disease. Tools may be sterilized by flaming with a propane torch or by soaking in a 50% chlorox solution or a supersaturated solution of tri-sodium phosphate (TSP) for a few minutes. Don't forget to wash your hands with soap and water also, including under the fingernails, or preferably use disposable gloves and use new ones for each plant. Your hands can transmit disease from one plant to another the same as dirty tools. Plants should be handled or divided on a clean surface. Several layers of newspaper can be spread on the work surface and any that are dirty or wet should be discarded after working with each plant. Shade plants and reduce watering after potting. Phyan or Nicosan can be used to help prevent fungus or bacteria infection.



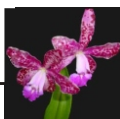
Terry Bottom

Bulb carunculatum 'Kaycee'



Haley Bastian

Bulb vaginatum



# SHOW TABLE



August Show Tables



Haley Bastian

Bulb burfordiense



Terry Bottom

Trgl philippinensis



Terry Bottom

Blc Hawaiian Passion 'Carmela'



Terry Bottom

Bulb vaginatum



Terry Bottom

C bicolor 'Green Magic' x C aelandiae

