

CLUB NEWS



Ruben & Claudia Sauledo

October 2 Meeting Notes
by Lola Stark

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 by President Charles Wesley. There were 30 people present despite the inclement weather. Charlie thanked Watson Realty for allowing us to use their wonderful facility. Charlie also thanked Sue and Terry Bottom for the work they've done on our web page. Everyone who has gone to it has been very impressed and the Jacksonville Orchid Society was so taken they're using it as a model to set up one of their own! We were delighted to welcome new member, Steven Serkin from Ormond Beach. After some discussion at the SAOS Board, the Beginner's Club has been renamed the Keiki Club. Very appropriate! The next meeting of the Keiki Club will be at the home of Lola Stark in January. After touring the orchids, we'll have a talk on Inoculaid (we hope!).

The Orchober Fest at EFG Orchids in Deland will be October 19 through 21. On the 26th, the World Golf Village will have a mega Farmers Market. The Delray Beach Orchid Society Show is October 26th through 28th. Orchids in abundance will be found at all these events.

Charlie then mentioned that we might start making a calendar or cards from all the gorgeous pictures that have been taken of our orchids.

Dick Roth told us to keep an eagle eye on our orchids at this time. With all the rain we've had, and the dead air, fungus and black rot may turn up. Check often and clean up immediately.

First Vice President Sue Bottom then introduced Dr. Ruben Sauledo of Ruben in Orchids and his wife, Claudia, who've been in business since the 60s. He does the hybridizing, lab work and collecting in the family and she does the growing. We're going to welcome them to St. Augustine in the near future as they are getting ready to retire. Ruben says he won't be bringing all of his orchids, but he'll bring his knowledge to share with all of us.

His program for the evening was his postgraduate and doctorate work cataloguing encyclias throughout the Bahamas. Ruben got his pilot's license so he and his associate could get to the outer Bahamas without relying on commercial pilots because these pilots only go to the other islands if they have business there and you could get stuck for weeks in one place without your own transportation. Originally thought to have been native to the Bahamas, it is now believed that the orchids in the Bahamas are actually native to Cuba, and came over to the Bahamas by air and water. On Eleuthra most of the orchids grow on rocks in the full sun. They found *Encyclia rufa* and *Enc gracilis* growing on palm trees. On Abaco they found *Epidendrum nocturnum*. It's difficult to distinguish *Enc gracilis* and *Enc rufa*, but since *Enc gracilis* does not lose its leaves, but uses them as fertilizer, this is one way to tell them apart. *Enc rufa* is extremely fragrant and the petals and sepals are greenish white. Both of these can stand temperatures down into the 20s with little ill effect. Ruben had slides of all the Encyclias he found. Some he named,

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Ruben Sauledo chats with new member Steve Serkin



Upcoming Events

- 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 Orctoberfest
EFG Orchids, Deland
- 10/26-28 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show
Old School Square Gymnasium
- 10/27 Clay County Orchid Day
- 11/3-4 Tampa Orchid Club
USF Botanical Gardens, Tampa
- 11/3-4 Brevard County Orchid Society Show
Azan Shrine Center, Melbourne
- 11/9-11 American Orchid Society Fall Show
AOS Visitors Center and Botanic Garden
Delray Beach
- 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
- 2/1-3 Venice Area Orchid Society Show
Venice Community Center
- 2/9-10 Boca Raton Orchid Society Show
Safe Schools Institute
- 2/23-24 Daytona Beach Orchid Society Show
- 2/29-3/2 Fairchild International Orchid Festival
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
- 3/7-9 Port St Lucie Orchid Society Show
Port St Lucie Community Center
- 3/14-16 Greater Pensacola Orchid Society Show
- 3/14-16 Naples Orchid Society Show
United Church of Christ



Cattleya purpurata

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

St Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Charles Wesley wesjr@exis.net
First VP Program Chair	Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Second VP Publicity Chair	Gail Marshall gwpb@aol.com
Secretary	Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	Paul Jones trjones_99@yahoo.com
AOS Rep Show Chair	Dick Roth rhroth@aol.com
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net bottomt@bellsouth.net
Operations Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com
Raffle Chair	Lyudmila Hodges lhodges@ci.st-augustine.fl.us
Show Table Chair	Haley Bastian n1ghtm00n@hotmail.com

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



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November SAOS Meeting

Steve Palmer will be speaking to us at the November 6 meeting about vandaceous orchid breeding and culture. Steve works with his uncle Jack Peters operating Gator Gardens in Macclenny. They moved to north Florida after growing in the Redlands for many years. Their vandas and other orchids are part of the permanent orchid display at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Miami. You can see Steve and Jack and their fine orchids many Saturday mornings at the Farmers Market at the Amphitheater.





Lc Panipasa 'Royal Satin'

October in Your Orchid Collection

Reprinted from Dr. Martin Motes email

October is a month of change in South Florida. If the Romans had lived here where we do, they would have named this month for their two faced god Janus. Usually around the middle of the month, and certainly by the end of the month, the first strong cold front pushes into South Florida bringing to a close the monolithic heat and damp of summer and ushering in weather as most of the continent knows it, alternating periods of warmer and cooler. Although warm temperatures will persist for another month or so until the technical end of the hurricane season, the tropics are in retreat and the temperate zone in the ascendancy. Each successive cold front foreshadowed by ever lessening rain storms will progressively cool our temperatures and dry our air. But days are shortening too, providing less hours of sunlight to heat the air and slowing the drying process. Nights are longer and cooler which produces the same effect, slower drying. Now we must start to move into the consciousness of winter and take greater care to insure that our plants are thoroughly dry before we water them again. The shorter days of October dictate that we rise even earlier to water if necessary. Each extra hour of daylight is to be cherished by us as well as our plants.

Most of our orchids are well aware of this sea change. The shortening days of late summer have told many genera to finish their growth and prepare to rest. We need to listen too. And look! The last smallest leaves of these highly seasonal plants will have unfolded at the tips of their new growths telling us that their growth cycle is finished for this year. Himalayan dendrobiums of the *nobile* type and of the section *Callista* (*D. aggregatum et al.*) now begin their five months of carefree existence in South Florida. They

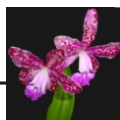
should be put in a bright spot and given no more water and above all, no more fertilizer until after they have bloomed in Spring. *Catasetums*, *mormodes*, *Cycnoches*, *calanthes* and other deciduous types should be treated the same way. Whatever moisture nature provides in the increasingly heavy dew and the passing rains that usher in most cold fronts will be adequate for these plants whose native environment is a seasonally monsoon one like ours. Benign neglect suits these genera just fine and what a relief to the conscience of the ever busy orchidist! The truly devoted will group these genera together, preferably at the edge of the growing area and high up where they will receive the maximum of light and air circulation. Grouped thus, the chance of an accidental watering of these while taking care of the more thirsty genera is minimized. Another strategy is to tip the pots of these dormant genera on their sides thus eliminating much natural rainfall and avoiding a misdirected hose spray. Some growers even remove plants that have finished both growing and flowering from their pots entirely. When new growth begins in the Spring they will receive a fresh start in new medium.

Many cattleyas, laelias, oncidiums and phalaenopsis-type dendrobiums will be finishing their growths and should be hardened off with reduced water and fertilizer but not the Spartan regime of the deciduous type. Lower nitrogen fertilizer applied at a lower rate and with less frequency will make these genera happy and prevent them from breaking into unwanted off-season growth that frequently hampers flowering as well. Many growers tend to use higher phosphorus, lower nitrogen fertilizers of the "Bloom Booster" type during the cooler weather. But less frequent applications of the recommended 15-5-15 is a better strategy. These applications should be spaced further apart as well, at ten to twelve day intervals. Less frequent watering will also do for these genera. When the frontal rains pass through, check to see that the pots are thoroughly wet by giving them the "heft" test and if they are not heavy enough "top them up." Let them dry "hard" before watering again. In cool weather especially, less is more.

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Bllra Marfitch 'Howard Dreams'



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Monopodial orchids like *Vanda* and *Phalaenopsis* which want to grow continuously, feel the change too. The broad swing of day to night temperature stimulates flower spike initiation in these genera. You can spur them on to greater excitement by giving them a shot of high Phosphorus "Bloom Booster" fertilizer just before or just after the sudden drop in night temperatures precipitated by the passing of a cold front. For most of the year "Bloom Booster" fertilizer appears to be in fact "Bloom Blocker" but (perhaps from faith rather than science) high phosphorus seems to have the desired effect (perhaps from shock) when the first cold snaps are also halting vegetative growth. We like Miller's *Solugro* (12-48-8) because it contains none of the ugly blue flower, clothes and hand staining dye. Other brands (with or without dye) are equally effective. Look for a very high middle number and a relatively low first number or ask at your garden center for a "starter solution" which is the moniker for these fertilizers when used in planting out vegetable or annual seedlings. Because the nitrogen level is lower, you can use a full tablespoon of these or more per gallon.

Cooler weather calls our attention to our plants' needs for trace elements. Chief among these is magnesium, often described as the "major" minor element. Magnesium deficiency shows up in orchids as a reddening of the foliage particularly when the plant is stressed. This color change is frequently attributed to cold as it occurs following spells of cooler weather. This observation is the fallacy of *post hoc, ergo propter hoc*; cold is merely the efficient cause; the material cause is lack of magnesium. Hopefully the new fertilizer regimen outlined in the July chapter will minimize or eliminate the reddening by keeping the magnesium level up in the plants. But... Epsom salts (MgSO₄) is the best and most readily available source of magnesium. This can be applied with Potassium Nitrate (KNO₃) at the rate of one tablespoon each per gallon. Potassium Nitrate has the formula 14-0-44. The missing number in the middle is Phosphorus. In combination with our highly alkaline water phosphorus tends to react with magnesium and the other metals of the trace element group. Never apply magnesium and the other trace elements in combination with fertilizers containing phosphorus. A general purpose trace element mixture can be added to the mix of magnesium sulfate and potassium nitrate at the rate recommended on the label (Concentrations vary). Goodbye red, Hello green!

Tasks for October

1. Space plants to increase air circulation
2. Water as early as possible in the day
3. Move Himalayan dendrobiums, catasetums, calanthes and other seasonally dormant plants to dry bright locations.
4. Reduce general fertilizer
5. Apply extra magnesium and potassium



Terry Bottom

Lc Dinard 'Blue Heaven'

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others were already named. Here are a few: *Enc altissima* grows 8-10 feet tall and blooms at Christmas time. On the Middle Caicos, they found *Enc inaguensis*. *Enc plicata* blooms with a lighter bloom that it does in Cuba. *Enc fehlingii* blooms green with a white lip. *Enc fucata*, which originated in Cuba, will not self pollinate and except for the plants chosen, has not been able to be produced in the laboratory. *Enc caicensis*, named for the Caicos islands, grows 7-10 feet tall. *Enc withneri* is a short version that has 3-4 flowers on the stalk instead of the multi-flowered stalks of most of the others. On Andros Island, they found *Enc salidra*. There are now natural hybrids called *Encyclia x bajamarensis* (*Enc gracilis x Enc rufa*) and *Encyclia x raganii* (*Enc altissima x Enc gracilis*). The slides were excellent and the program very enjoyable.

Our December meeting will be a Christmas party, auction and covered dish dinner at Charles Wesley's house on Saturday, December 8 rather than our regular meeting night. Details and directions will be given in November.

Our show table with its preponderance of Vandas came next with comments by Mike Heinz and Dick Roth, followed by our monthly raffle and auction. Following the program, Paul Jones told us we now have \$2587.61 in the treasury prior to this evening. The meeting adjourned at 9:15.





Dtps Black Butterfly 'Orchis-01'



Pot Burana Beauty 'Burana'

Setting Buds on Phalaenopsis

by Paul Jones

Although it may be hard to believe, fall is finally upon us. After months and months of hot and (until fairly recently) dry weather, this weekend we will see the first of the autumn cool snaps. This means one thing to Phalaenopsis growers: BUD SETTING!! Even if you do not consider yourself a Phal grower as such, it is a good chance that you may have won a Phal or two on the raffle table. If so, read on!

I just wanted to remind everyone that for the next four to six weeks or so, try to expose your Phalaenopsis plants to as many cool nights outdoors as possible. If you grow them mainly indoors, this means taking them outside and leave them out overnight on those nights where the temperature is predicted to get down into the 50 to 55 degree range. This slight "cold shock" they experience will cause the plant to set its buds for the upcoming blooming season that usually begins around Valentine's Day.

Pay close attention to the weather reports. If by chance we get a bad cold snap, you may have to bring your Phals back inside again if the temperature drops much below 50 degrees. It is a fine line to walk sometimes, but it works like magic, I promise!

Last year, one of my plants set its buds on the very first night of cooler weather! Others may take longer, it depends on the individual hybrid. Look into the leaf axils of the plants, near the bottom of the "v" shape of the leaf, right next to the center of the plant. Usually, the pair of mature leaves below the newest leaf growth will be where you will look for the buds. They will appear as small 'bumps' at first, even looking a lot like roots in the beginning. As you watch them, however, the flower buds will begin to point upwards and the roots will point downwards (usually!).

Removing Plants From Flask

from Ruben in Orchids Web Site

Carefully break the flask (wrap it in a towel and tap gently with a hammer) or remove plants roots first with tweezers or a wire hook. Wash plants with plain water to remove all agar. Spray with Super Thrive solution.

Pot large plants individually in 2 or 3" pots. Pot smaller plants in a community pot or in a tray. Leave clumps together and plant them as one. The clump can be separated later and smaller plants will usually die if they are separated from the clump. Use sphagnum moss or a coarse seedling mix with very good drainage. Water plants thoroughly after planting in clean medium. Then spray pots, medium and plants with a fungicide and bactericide (like RD20).

Resume normal watering once a day or every other day. Fertilize every two weeks. Repeat spraying with a fungicide bactericide every 3-4 weeks (like Captan or Dithane).



Flasks from Ruben in Orchids



SHOW TABLE



Haley Bastian

Coelgyne speciosa



Terry Bottom

V Gordon Dillon



Haley Bastian

Blc Pokai Splash x Blc Ann Miyamoto 'Saki'



Haley Bastian

Eria densa



Terry Bottom

Ceratostyle retisquama



Haley Bastian

Angraecum Longicar

