

CLUB NEWS



November 6 Meeting Notes by Lola Stark

The meeting was called to order promptly at 7:30 by President Charles Wesley. Charlie announced that the Executive Committee decided to put an exhibit at the Daytona Orchid Society Show. Setup is February 22, 2008. Dick Roth, Sue Bottom and Lola Stark were named to be the Nominating Committee to recommend officers for 2008. Paul Jones, Keiki Club coordinator, announced that the next Keiki club meeting will be at the home of Lola Stark on the afternoon of 19 January 2008 from 1 to 3. The program will include a review of Lola's growing areas and then a lecture by the developer of Inoculaid, assuming Gail can arrange it. More on that later. The Garden Club of St. Augustine is having their Christmas Tour of Homes on December 2 and Gail Marshall, President of the Woodland Circle has asked the SAOS to loan the circle whatever orchids they have in bloom for the Tour. They will be picked up and returned by the Circle members. Jeanette Smith, Chairman of the Operations Committee, passed a paper around for members to sign up to bring refreshments to and clean up after our meetings in 2008.

The Christmas party for SAOS and our December meeting will be held at Charlie Wesley's home on the Island on Saturday, December 8. Directions and times will be sent by e-mail to all members. The menu will be flank steak, grilled chicken, asparagus and potatoes. Water and ice will be provided, but you should bring any other liquid libation you want along with your covered dish. Dress is casual. We will have an auction of blooming plants with the ever entertaining Fred Keefer as our auctioneer.

Our program for the evening was a talk on the practical aspects of growing vandas by Steve Palmer and Jack Peters of Gator Gardens. Steve told us that vandas are not as sensitive as some growers would have us believe. His greenhouse has been at 43°F all week and all the vandas were unaffected. They will acclimate to the temperature you give them, assuming they have not been too pampered by their previous owner. Obviously, they will not live through a freeze without heat, and the cool weather may cause them to go dormant, but they should resume growth when the weather warms in the spring. As the vandas age, the blooms of the orchids will get larger. He recommends using ½ capful of Algoflash for Orchids in each gallon. This will also work on your other orchids, cattleyas, phals, etc. Vandas do need to be watered every day, but fed only once a week. Choose a day and be consistent. If you have just a few, you can soak them in a bucket of water for 20 to 30 minutes. When the temperature gets too hot, be careful about fertilizing them, especially if you have them growing in the sun because they can burn. They enjoy high humidity. Vanda and ascocentrum hybrids are easy to grow and most will bloom at least twice a year with the proper care. Steve prefers the hybrids as they seem to be hardier, but the species are wonderful also. He feels that V Dr Anek is one of the best parents for the large vandaceous hybrids. Asked about his long roots, Steve says that you can trim them if you want but wait until growth is about to begin in March and leave

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Members chat before Steve Palmer's presentation





C Lulu x Lc Makai

Upcoming Events

- 12/8 SAOS Christmas Party - Charles and Carol Wesley's Home, Party and Plant Auction
- 1/4-6 Sarasota Orchid Society Show
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
- 1/9 SAOS Meeting - RESCHEDULED
Paul Storm - Schomburgkias
- 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
- 2/5 SAOS Meeting
Jim Adamson - Phalaenopsis
- 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
- 3/4 SAOS Meeting
Terry Bottom - Greenhouse Alternatives
- 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

AOS Judging

We are lucky to now have a new AOS Judging Center in Orlando! If you have a beautiful orchid you think is worthy of an AOS award, you should consider taking it to the Florida North Central Judging Center. On the second Saturday of each month, AOS judges convene in the Palm Room at Harry P Leu Garden to evaluate any orchids brought to them before 1 pm. Leu Gardens are located at 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803-1537.

Rescheduled January Meeting

Don't forget that our regularly scheduled meeting date on the first Tuesday in January of 2008 falls on New Year's Day, so we have rescheduled the meeting to the Second Wednesday, January 9. Mark your calendars now so you don't forget! We are sharing our speaker, Paul Storm who will be talking about Schomburgkias, with the Jacksonville Orchid Society. Schomburgkias are those Laelia relatives with the weird, twisty, turny, wiggly, wild flowers that you will find irresistible. Mark your calendars, you too will be a Schomburgkia freak after this talk!

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

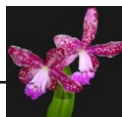


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roots at least 18 inches long. If you get keikis, you can leave them or cut them loose, but if you cut them loose be sure you have at least three good roots with them.

On his other orchids, Steve has gone to non-perishable materials such as Aliflor and has found he doesn't have to change the medium, they drain better and they grow faster.

Following the program, Dick Roth and Mike Heinz chose 3 orchids each from the show table to discuss. Our show table has gotten so plentiful that there simply is not enough time to talk about each plant though this should not limit what is brought in. Such gorgeous specimens should never be limited! Members should take the time when they arrive and at breaks to learn what is on the show table and make notes of what they would like to add to their collections.

We then had our raffle and auction. Our next regular meeting at Watson Realty has been RESCHEDULED to January 9. Note that this is different from the regularly scheduled first Tuesday which falls on New Year's Day this year.

Our treasurer, Paul Jones, gave the following report for the November meeting, Income from the plant raffle, auction and dues totaled \$249 and expenses for our speakers totaled \$92, bringing our current bank balance to \$2804.61.



Lc Luminosa

November Checklist

By Ned Nash and James Rose

Reprinted from the American Orchid Society Website

Cattleya. Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

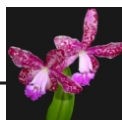
The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening - hardening - in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia.

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Gator Gardens offers a fine assortment of Vandas



CHRISTMAS PARTY

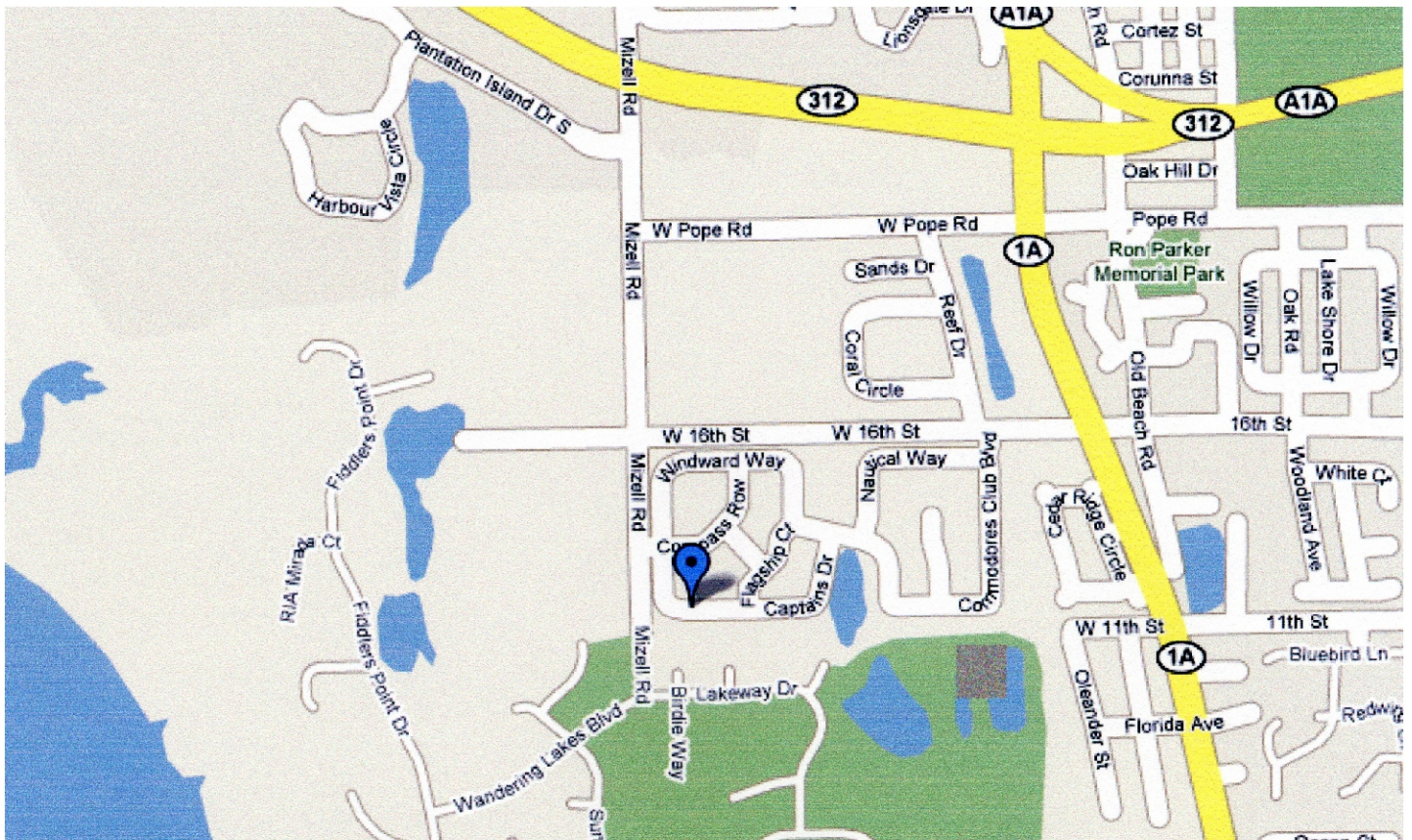
December SAOS Christmas Party

Our President, Charles Wesley, and his charming wife, Carol, are hosting the SAOS Christmas party the evening of December 8 starting at 7 pm at their home in the Commodores Club on Anastasia Island. The address is 812 Captains Drive and the phone number is 417-5394. Charlie and Carol will be grilling flank steak and Montreal chicken and roasting asparagus and potatoes. Members will bring appetizers, salads, vegetables and desserts for all to enjoy. During the party, there will be a plant auction of blooming orchids brought in from Hawaii. We'll have cattleyas, and more, with the inimitable Fred Keefer serving as our auctioneer. Members are invited to bring any plants they want to sell for the silent auction, where members submit written bids on plants during the party and the highest bid wins, with proceeds distributed 1/3 to the club and 2/3 to the plant owner. There will be plenty of blooming plants to tempt you while enjoying the festivities. If you didn't sign up at the November meeting, contact Gail Marshall at gwpb@aol.com to let her know your plans. Looking forward to seeing you there.



Charles Wesley

Lots of blooming orchids will be auctioned





Beautiful nodosa hybrid

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The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

Cool-Growing Orchids. One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

Cymbidium. Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. Cymbidium ensifolium can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Oncidium crispum Complex. This is the season for plants in Oncidium section crispum from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

Paphiopedilum. The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be

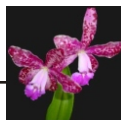
grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike.

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Phalaenopsis. Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

Vandaceous Genera. Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is Neofinetia falcata. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.



SHOW TABLE



Blc Chunyeah 'Good Life No.1'



Blc Angkinantana x Blc War Chant 'Siam Ruby'



Cym Hawaiian Variety 'Gold Nugget'



V Mimi Palmer



Bulb blumei



Bulb Louis Sander

