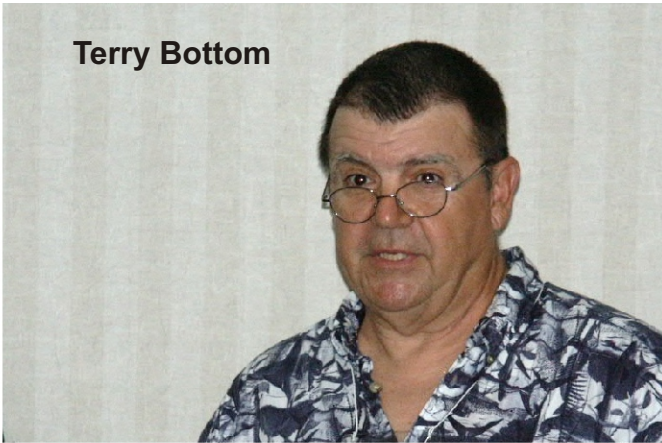


CLUB NEWS

Terry Bottom



Minutes of March 4 Meeting

by Lola Stark

The meeting was called to order promptly at 7:30 by President Mike Heinz. He welcomed guests and new members: Linda Ferrall, Jeanne Mickler, Marla Pennington, Christine Peppard, Marv & Jan Ragan, and Harriet & Mike Wright. We also had four members join during the meeting: Jacqueline Mawhinney, Jack Higgins, Michele Walker and Bill Roth. In all we had 54 members and guests present. Mike gave thanks to Sue and Terry Bottom and Celia and Harry McElroy for the refreshments and thanked Pat Flemings in advance for cleaning up afterward.

Signup sheets were passed around to add more people to the refreshment and cleanup crews and also to find out how many might be interested in going to the Redlands May 17 and 18. Lola will be in touch with the Flagler County Orchid Society for more information.

Mike told the group that the SAOS won second place at the Daytona Beach Orchid Society Show for which we received a beautiful certificate, a crystal bowl and \$40. Lots of ribbons were won and Mike won a CCM for one of his plants. There is a separate article about all the ribbons won elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The Keiki Club will be meeting on Sunday, March 9 at Sue and Terry Bottom's home from 1 to 3 in the afternoon. All members and guests are welcome. Feel free to bring

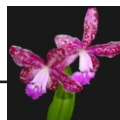
any plants that need repotting and problem plants or just come for the companionship. Check the website for a map: www.staugorchidsociety.com for directions. Bring a folding chair and your beverage of choice.

Haley Bastian welcomed all to the SAOS library. She brought lots of books to the meeting for everyone to look at and take home if they wish. Index cards will be used to track lending and returns. Any books borrowed should be returned at the next meeting.

Our SAOS dues are due for 2008 this month: \$15 for a single person, \$25 for a family. If you have paid, thank you; otherwise, please contact Bill Gourley. Our dues help us achieve our goals of having great speakers and programs, a lending library, quality show exhibits, fun social events and someday maybe even our own orchid show!

Terry Bottom gave us a talk on different kinds of greenhouses. His talk included where to locate them, depending on what kind of orchids you want to grow and how much shade you need. There are many types: A frame, lean to (against the side of your home), patio structures (in which you convert your patio and/or porch by adding a roof and sides), hoop houses (which stand alone and can be easily expanded by adding additional hoops as you expand your collection) and arched or gothic houses (which are more fanciful but just as useful as the hoops). The greenhouse structure can be made out of a variety of materials (treated wood, galvanized steel, or aluminum) and covered with a variety of other materials (minimum 6 mil plastic, lexan, polycarbonate, metal lathe or shade cloth). He went into when to build the greenhouse, how to build the foundations, how to square off the site, what is best to use for flooring in the greenhouse (he suggested that limestone gravel as opposed to concrete which gets slippery), and showed us the different roof pitches and why one is better than another. Terry told us that any greenhouse needs air circulation and suggested at least two fans, one in each direction; electricity (at least a 30 amp circuit) and utility service requirements like water and heat for the winter (either propane or electric).

Following the lecture we had Dick Roth and Mike Heinz talk about some of the plants on the show table and then we had our raffle and plant auction with Lyudmila, Gail and Fred.



Upcoming Events

March 2008

- 7-9 Port St Lucie Orchid Society Show
Port St Lucie Community Center
- 7-9 Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show
Bayanihan Arts and Events Center
- 8-9 Key West Orchid Society Show
West Martello Tower
- 14-16 Greater Pensacola Orchid Society Show
Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds
- 14-16 Naples Orchid Society Show
United Church of Christ
- 21-22 Englewood Area Orchid Society Show
Englewood Sports Complex

April 2008

- 5-6 Central Florida Orchid Society Show
Central Florida Fairgrounds
- 19-20 Tallahassee Orchid Society Show
Doyle Conner Agricultural Building
- 26-27 Vero Beach Orchid Society Show
McKee Gardens

May 2008

- 3-4 Brevard County Orchid Society Show
Azan Shrine Center, Melbourne
- 10-11 Volusia County Orchid Society Show
Volusia County Fairgrounds
- 16-18 Redland International Orchid Festival
Redland Fruit & Spice Park

June 2008

- 3 Coalition for Orchid Species Symposium
Miami
- 27-28 Ridge Orchid Society Show, Lakeland
- 18-19 Gainesville Orchid Society Show
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

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

April 1 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Mac Rivenbark of Mac Rivenbark of Mac's Orchids in Ft Lauderdale will be discussing Philippine orchid species at the April 1 meeting. Mac and his Filipino wife Helen started an orchid business in 2001, after many fascinating trips to the Philippines. With extensive study, Mac has become a specialist in Philippine species and currently grows and blooms over 120 different types. They now have a greenhouse in Fort Lauderdale and a greenhouse in the Philippines, run by their family there.

Currently, Mac is the president of the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society. He and his wife are also members of the AOS, the Deerfield Orchid Society, the Tampa Bay Orchid Society, the Vero Beach Orchid Society, and the Philippine Orchid Society.

Mac's presentation will consist of a short introduction and digital slide show. He will show slides of the Philippines and a number of the more impressive species from there. The climate and culture tips will also be included in his program. Mac will also bring plants to sell at the meeting, so make sure you get there early!

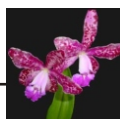
Thanks to **Watson Realty and Jeanette Smith** for the use of their meeting space at 3505 US 1 South.



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St Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Mike Heinz mgheinz@comcast.net
First VP Program Chair	Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
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Secretary	Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	Bill Gourley Wgourley@bellsouth.net
AOS Rep Show Chair	Dick Roth rthoth405@aol.com
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Operations Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com
Raffle Coordinator	Lyudmila Hodges lyudmilah@hotmail.com
Show Table Coordinator	Haley Bastian n1ghtm00n@hotmail.com





Ascda. Ann Reaben Prospero 'Most Articulate Lady'
HCC/AOS

March in Your Orchid Collection

by Dr Martin Motes, Motes Orchids

Reprinted from his book, Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month

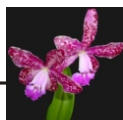
Whilst March never comes in like a lion in South Florida, occasionally it slinks in like a bob cat. Frost is not unheard of in the first few days of the month. The more cold sensitive genera, hard cane dendrobiums, phalaenopsis and vandas may well need some protection even into the middle of the month. Overall, however, March brings us some of the most ideal orchid growing conditions of the entire year. Dry air, low humidity and wide swings of day to night temperatures optimize both blooming and rooting of most orchids. In March, nature gives orchidists growing outside a free sample of what life would be like with a covered green house. With little or no additional water falling from the sky and drying breezes acting like fans, we are in total control of our plants' water needs. Now, we can water properly: very heavily, and allow the plants to dry thoroughly in the near desert air before the next heavy application of water.

The ideal growing conditions of March present a great opportunity to get our plants off to a superlative start on the new growing season. The virtuous among us, who have already re-potted their cattleyas and other sympodials as they have finished blooming across the winter, can smile serenely, assured of their place in orchid heaven. For us few reprobate it is still not too late to catch up with virtue. In addition to flowered-out plants, now is also the time to replant those genera which are breaking or ready to break their dormancy; i.e., catasetums, mormodes, calanthes and those Himalayan species that have finished flowering. Now is also an excellent time to re-pot those hard cane dendrobiums that need it, with the reminder that they really don't like to be disturbed and relish their roots being crowded in the pot. For those commercially mass produced plants grown in peat based mixtures, repotting is necessary in any case as the peat mix will not last out the summer and will likely rot all the roots. Hopefully these will have rooted so thoroughly that the roots have formed a solid mass that can be shifted undisturbed to a new only slightly larger pot. Otherwise the roots will need to be washed clean and lightly trimmed. Rock, tree fern, coconut husk, charcoal/wood chip mixes are best replacement media for the long haul. All of these materials have a life expectancy of several years before they break down in South Florida wet humid summers.

Attention to fertilizer in March will pay high dividends later on. As many sympodial orchids are commencing their growth cycle, now is a good time to apply slow release fertilizer to last the season. The 13-13-13 180 day formula marketed at Home Depot as 'Dynamite' (Nutricote in commercial sizes) is the best available. Its plastic coating is superior to others and relatively unaffected by heat, an especially important consideration in S. Florida. Applied now it will be exhausted by September when we want to slow our plants down in anticipation of bloom and dormancy. The wide temperature swings of March also maximize the effectiveness of high phosphorous 'Bloom Booster' fertilizer. The extra phosphorous in these formulas probably does not really stimulate flowers (most likely the opposite), but does help rooting. Two applications a week apart will speed the rooting process. Return to regular 15-5-15 fertilizer weekly thereafter as the excess phosphorus in the "Bloom Booster" interferes with minor element absorption to an inordinate degree in our highly alkaline South Florida water.

Vandaceous orchids should be breaking vigorous new roots in March. This is the moment to top them if they have grown too tall and if they have three good roots on the top cutting. Conserving one or more leaves on the old plant's stump will insure a bountiful production of offshoots. Sliding the knife or shears down the stem before making the horizontal cut usually preserves an extra set of leaves.

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 4)



Beautiful photo of candy striped Phal by Charlie Wesley

Now is also the ideal time to remove and reset offshoots of vandas and ascocendas. Again take care each has three or more roots and be sure you tie them firmly in their new container until they have rooted solidly.

March is also the month for acclimatizing sun-loving plants to full sun. Vandas, dendrobiums and reed-stemmed epidendrums that have not been blooming as they should because they are in too deep shade can be gradually moved to more light. This is best done in two or three stages, moving the plants a short distance every few days and always keeping them with the same side orientated towards the sun. Without this gradual acclimatization, the bright clear sunlight of March can scorch even the most sun-loving of orchids.

The chief blot on the otherwise nearly ideal growing scenario of March is thrips. March is the month when we are asked most frequently "Why do my vanda flower spikes grow ½ inch and then die?" The answer, like the answer to so many problems with orchids in South Florida, is thrips. The hot dry weather of March favors thrips which are ubiquitous in our landscapes. The drought of March drives them from their homes in our lawns and shrubberies to seek the cool lush oasis of our orchid collections. Most orchidists recognize the symptoms of thrips on their flowers: the silvered, sand blasted appearance and the withering of the flower parts. Many do not recognize the earlier symptoms which show up on the root tips of vandas and ascocendas as a pitted ring at the point where the green growing root tip is maturing into white. Left unchecked, this damage will cause the root tip to wither. When it re-starts growth, a brown ring remains. Orthene (acephate) is the chemical of choice for thrips because of its low toxicity and residual action. Knoxout

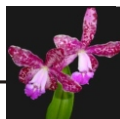
and Malathion are recommended also by the Florida Department of Agriculture. A non-chemical solution is liquid dish soap applied at the rate of 2 oz (4 tbsp) per gallon of water. Be sure to water the plants the day before applying soap and take care to drench the plants thoroughly, covering not only all the surfaces but penetrating into leaf axils and other nooks and crannies where the reclusive thrips loves to loiter. Root the thrips out of your collection and you will get the growing season off to a good start.

Tasks for March

- Watch out for mites
- Spray for Thrips
- Repot genera emerging from dormancy: catasetums, calanthes, soft cane dendrobiums
- Continue general re-potting of cattleyas, oncidiums, hard cane dendrobiums etc.
- Make top cutting of teretes, semi-teretes and reed stem epidendrums
- Move landscape plants gradually to brighter light
- Apply time release fertilizer



Bulb spathulatum





Time Release Fertilizer

by Dr Martin Motes, Motes Orchids

Reprinted from his book, Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month

March is a great month to apply time release fertilizer to our orchids. The ease of application and the carefree joy of knowing that you are effortlessly feeding your charges is irresistible. Time release fertilizer comes in different formulas and also different durations of release. Finding the best one available can take a little research. Remember that modern science indicates a formula of 15-5-15 as being best for orchids in general. The highly alkaline water of South Florida which in some areas contains traces of phosphorus make the use of fertilizer low in phosphorus even more imperative.

Fertilizer manufacturers have been slow to respond to the new science and most "Orchid Fertilizers" on the market are not the best formula in fact for orchids. Look for a formulation with that low middle number. If a low phosphorus one is not available, a balanced formula (13-13-13) is a good choice with the firm intent to supplement the time release with weekly or bi-weekly applications of liquid potassium nitrate plus Epsom salts (1Tbsp each).

Duration of the formula is also extraordinarily important. For cattleyas, dendrobiums and most other sympodial orchids a six month formulation applied in March is ideal. By the time the fertilizer is exhausted in September, most sympodial orchids are ready to prepare for their long winter's rest. Terete and semi-terete vandas, mokaras, reed stem epidendrums, Spathoglottis and other terrestrial landscape type orchids will usually continue growing somewhat longer and for these a nine month formula is preferred. This is particularly true if they are grown, as usual, in media with substantial organic content. When the time release is exhausted in nine months the organic material continues to break down slowly releasing a lower level of nutrients to sustain the plants through the winter. In effect the nine month formula provides year round fertilizer for many landscape orchids.

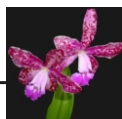
Finally, all time release fertilizer is not created equal. Different brands perform better or worse under South Florida's high heat and humidity. Some last longer and others not so much. This variability results from the different plastic polymers that are used to coat the fertilizer and allow it to release slowly. Many polymers that work fine under temperate zone humidity and cool air and soil, can break down much too rapidly in tropic heat. The sudden release of an excess of nitrogen under this circumstance can cause severe root damage. This damage has been observed even with the "brand name" product.

In our experience the best product available is Nutri-coat because it has a superior polymer coating that actually performs as advertised under South Florida conditions. It is marketed for retail purchase as "Dynamite". We have had excellent success with the 9 month 13-13-13 formula for our landscape orchids and we have friends who use it successfully for Phals. Whilst they do market an "Orchid and Bromeliad" 10-10-17, the formulae that comes closest to the ideal for orchids are their "Palm and Citrus" 13-5-11 and "All Purpose Select" 15-5-9. Some of these formulae are available at Home Depot and at independent garden shops but one can contact them directly at Florikanby email to tiffany.barrs@florikan.com or at the their website One to two teaspoons of time release fertilizer per 6" pot should get the growing season off to a good start.



Terry Bottom

Phal. Luchia Davis x Luchia Roseherz



DAYTONA SHOW AND MORE

Daytona Beach Orchid Society Show - February 2008

The St. Augustine Orchid Society won second place for the society display, behind the Jacksonville Orchid Society who won first. We received a lovely certificate, a crystal candy dish and \$40 as the runner-up.

We did very well with our individual awards. Mike Heinz, President of SAOS, won a very prestigious Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM) from AOS with his *Coelogyne flaccida* 'Gene's Outdoor Priveotta'. He picked the name to honor a dearly departed friend who had given him the plant and its ultimate clonal name. The CCM Award is given to the exhibitor of a specimen plant of robust health and appearance with an unusually large number of flowers. The plant must have been in the care of the exhibitor at least six months immediately prior to the award. The plant must score between 80 and 89 points inclusive on the point scale. The plant got a 83 score from AOS.

Bill Roth won Best in Show for the Vanda alliance with *Renanthera philippinensis*. First place ribbons were given to Mike Heinz for *Bulb lasiochilum*, *Epcl Butterfly Kisses* 'Mendenhall', and *Phrag richteri*; Sue Bottom for *Phal cornu-cervi v alba*; Gail Marshall for *C Canhamiana coerulea* and Dick Roth with *Asctm miniatum*. Second place ribbons were given to Sue Bottom for *RI digbyana* ('Bates Green' x 'Green'), *Blc Waikiki 'Gold' x Enc cordigera 'Midnite'*, and *Phal Everspring King 'King'*; Mike Heinz for *Den lse 'Pearl'*; Bill Roth for *Vasco Roll on Red* and *Lola Stark* for *Den Spring Festival x Den spectabile 'Puanani'*. Third place ribbons were given to Paul Jones for *Blc. Orange Show 'Cloud Forest'*, *Lola Stark* for *Ludisia discolor* and *Sue Bottom* for *Aslla gigantea*.



SAOS Second Place Award

March 9 Keiki Club Meeting

The Keiki Club meets quarterly at different members homes to allow more personal interactions than are possible at the monthly meetings. It provides an opportunity to view how other members grow their orchids and to ask questions in an informal environment. Every one is welcome. The next meeting will be at Sue and Terry Bottom's house for a repotting clinic on March 9. We will have repotting stations for plants to be put in sphagnum moss or a coarse medium, to be mounted and for deflasking plantlets. The address is 6916 Cypress Lake Ct, located south side of Route 206 between US 1 and A1A. Across from the power substation, turn south on Cypress Point Drive, make the first left onto Colonial Drive, the first right onto Cypress Lake Court and it's the last house on the left before the cul de sac. Call 797-4360 if you have any questions. We'll see you there!



SAOS Display at Daytona Show



Mike Hienz with his CCM awarded winning plant



SHOW TABLE



B Aristocrat



Ascda Vernon Kebodeaux
(Ascda Tubtim Velvet x V. Charles Goodfellow)



C walkeriana



Lc Acker's Spotlight 'Pink Jewel' HCC/AOS



Coel lactea



C aurantiaca (yellow form)

