

## CLUB NEWS



### April 1 Monthly SAOS Meeting By Lola Stark

President Mike Heinz called the meeting to order promptly at 7:30. He welcomed the 48 members and 5 guests and thanked Jim and Viv for bringing the refreshments. New members Jack Higgins, Jacqueline Mawhinney and Michelle Walker Lillian Baker were welcomed.

He announced coming events:

- The Keiki club will meet the last Sunday of the month on April 27 and May 25 at the Bottoms for problem plant and repotting clinics along with camaraderie and fun.
- The Flower and Garden Expo will be at the Ag. Center April 19 and 20. Sue and Terry will be giving a program "Bringing Your Orchid into Bloom" on Sunday at 1 pm, there will be a Flower Show put on by the Garden Club of St. Augustine and lots of vendors selling orchids and lots of other kinds of plants. Lunch is available at the site.
- On May 4, Fred Keefer is having open house at his nursery. There will be wine and treats prepared by Chef Betsy Bastian.
- The Redlands trip is May 17 and 18. The cost is \$105 which includes travel, entry to the event and the motel. If you're interested, please get in touch with Lola Stark by e-mail or phone 797-2361 to put your name on the list..

Dues were due in March, \$15 per person or \$25 per household. We will update the club membership list after the May meeting to reflect current membership and send out an updated membership roster.

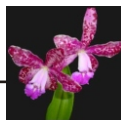
You will notice a new feature in the newsletter this month, "Who's Who and Who's New" by Gail Marshall. Pictures will be taken of each member and published with the article so you can associate the person with the biographical sketch, and this will then be archived on the Member page of the web site. Way to go Gail!

Sue Bottom announced that we will be having two meetings in June. Our regular meeting on the 3rd will feature taxonomist Francisco Miranda who will talk on Brazilian Laelias. On the 11th, we will be hearing hybridizer Fred Clarke on recent trends in Cycnoches, Mormodes, and Catasetums. Fred will be speaking in Jacksonville on the 10th on Mini to Midsized Cattleyas if anyone is interested in going up to hear him. He will have spoken in South Carolina the previous two nights, so by the time he gets here, he may have sold many of his prize plants. If you want to be sure to get what you want, you can preorder with a 10% discount and he will bring the plants. Check out his website [sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://sunsetvalleyorchids.com) for things you can't live without and Sue will order from him for all of us, so please send your order to Sue at least two weeks in advance.

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## Upcoming Events

### April 2008

- 19-20 Flower & Garden Expo  
St Johns County Ag Center  
St Augustine
- 19-20 Tallahassee Orchid Society Show  
Doyle Conner Agricultural Building
- 26-27 Vero Beach Orchid Society Show  
McKee Gardens
- 27 Problem Plant and Repotting Clinic  
Keiki Club, Sue & Terry Bottom's Home

### May 2008

- 3-4 Brevard County Orchid Society Show  
Azan Shrine Center, Melbourne
- 4 Open House at De-Rei Orchids, Hastings
- 6 Growing Cattleyas in Florida  
Wendy Griffin, Indian River Orchids  
St Aug Orchid Society, Watson Realty
- 10-11 Volusia County Orchid Society Show  
Volusia County Fairgrounds
- 16-18 Redland International Orchid Festival  
Redland Fruit & Spice Park
- 25 Problem Plant and Repotting Clinic  
Keiki Club, Sue & Terry Bottom's Home

### June 2008

- 3 Brazilian Laelias  
Francisco Miranda, Miranda Orchids  
St Aug Orchid Society, Watson Realty
- 11 Mormodes, Cycnoches & Catasetums  
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids  
St Aug Orchid Society, Watson Realty

### August 2008

- 3 Coalition for Orchid Species Symposium  
Miami

### September 2008

- 27-28 Ridge Orchid Society Show  
Lakeland

### October 2008

- 3-5 Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show  
Minnreg Hall, Largo
- 18-19 Gainesville Orchid Society Show  
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens



Club President Mike Heinz addresses Club

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



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

### New Feature

See additional photos from monthly meetings & other special events like shows & greenhouse tours, go to [Http://community.webshots.com/user/tbottom14](http://community.webshots.com/user/tbottom14)

### St Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Mike Heinz mgheinz@comcast.net
First VP Program Chair	Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
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Treasurer	Bill Gourley Wgourley@bellsouth.net
AOS Rep Show Chair	Dick Roth rroth405@aol.com
Keiki Club Coordinator	Paul Jones trjones_@yahoo.com
Librarians	Betsy and Haley Bastian N1ghtm00n@hotmail.com
New Member Coordinator	Gail Marshall gwpb@aol.com
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net bottomt@bellsouth.net
Operations Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com
Raffle Coordinator	Lyudmila Hodges lyudmilah@hotmail.com
Show Table Coordinator	Haley Bastian n1ghtm00n@hotmail.com





## May 6 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Wendy Griffin of Indian River Orchids in Vero Beach will speak about growing cattleyas in Florida at the May 6 monthly meeting of the St Augustine Orchid Society. The nursery specializes in cattleyas and vandas and will have plenty of plants for sale.

Wendy and her husband Jason began growing orchids as a hobby many years ago and quickly discovered the capacity of orchids to completely overtake one's life. Their obsession led to the purchase of an old greenhouse and relocation to Vero Beach where, as she says, "It took us exactly one year to fill 4,250 sq ft of greenhouse". They soon began selling plants to support their orchid habit. It started with a small cardboard sign announcing the greenhouse was open on weekends and soon evolved to Wendy manning their greenhouse operations full time. Their success snowballed as they were invited to their first show in 2004, the prestigious Miami International Orchid Show. After Hurricane Frances destroyed their home and their greenhouse later that year, Wendy and Jason rebuilt their life and business bigger and better, and now have their dream greenhouse in which they grow vandas, cattleyas, dendrobiums and phalaenopsis. In 2006 they established their own lab for seed and tissue culture propagation. They purchased Stewart's Orchids from Mississippi so they have a lot of Cattleyas available.



Mac Rivenbark dazzles group with his presentation

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Our speaker for the evening was Mac Rivenbark of Mac's Orchids, who spoke to us about Philippine Orchid Species. Mac's wife is from the Philippines and they maintain a nursery there. He gave us an excellent slide show about the different species, primarily Dendrobiums. In nature, the Dendrobiums receive heavy rain in June, so we should be sure and do that as well. Over there, the plants can grow in pure gravel. Repot them only if they are inactive. They do not like their roots disturbed. We must remember to just lift the plant and replace it in a larger container without separating the roots. If you can find a deciduous tree to hang them from, this is the best location, because they will be shaded in the summer and open in the winter. You can use a good quality dry sphagnum to pot them when you transplant in the winter, as they are dormant at that time.

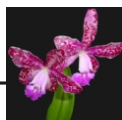
Following the program we were advised that the Show table in the future will be for the members to admire and if there are questions, the owners are the best ones to ask about them. Marv Ragan gave us an overview of Cattleya intermedia varieties highlighted elsewhere in the Newsletter in the article "Taxonomy Tonight." During the "April Things To Do," Jan Ragan told us about cutting off the stem of a Phaius, putting root hormone on the nodes of the thicker part of the inflorescence and then placing it in wet vermiculite in order to get a new plant. Mike talked about the fact that repotting should be done when the plants start new growth in the spring. Watering and fertilizing should be increased now that plants are waking up from their winter rest. April is also the time to spray for mites and thrips. Following that, we had the Raffle and Auction, and then adjourned.

Our Treasurer, Bill Gourley reports that we took in \$216 from the raffle, \$129 from the Auction, and \$80 from the Silent Auction. Our total now stands at \$3433.19. For a club only two years old, we're doing very well!



Terry Bottom

Lc Sorcerer's Apprentice





Epi radicans

## April in Your Orchid Collection

By Dr Martin Motes, from Florida Orchid Growing

Far from the cruelest, April is the kindest month to South Florida orchid growers. The weather in April is definitely settled into warm, even deliciously hot, with passing cold fronts only adding the delight of a pleasant change in temperature. The clean, bright days brimming with abundant sunlight and the low relative humidity create the high drying potential that orchids love. Now we can get our orchids off to a great start on the growing season by practicing our very best watering skills under ideal conditions. Water heavily when you water and allow the plants to dry thoroughly before watering heavily again. Drying 'hard' in the spring will produce benefits all season. We want to get our plants well launched while leaving all the fungi high and dry.

The new shoots of *Oncidinae*, *grammatophyllums* and *dendrobiums* are quite cup-like; care must be taken that water does not stand too long in these immature growths. Water these types very thoroughly with two or three applications of water spaced 10-15 minutes apart. Water should run freely through the pot on each application. Saturated thoroughly in this fashion the plants will need only weekly watering. Even more care should be taken with the soft plicate leafed genera like *Catasetum*, *Mormodes*, *Cycnoches*, *Gongora*, *Calanthe* and *Thunia*. The new growths of this type are rolled together (the fancy word is convolute) like a collapsible drinking cup. These should be grown in water retentive media that should be saturated at each watering to permit the developing roots to have abundant water but allow the vulnerable new growth extra time to dry. Feel the weight of a pot when you have finished watering. Be sure it is heavy with water. If it's not water one more time. With plants properly spaced,

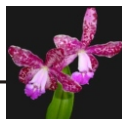
good drying should not be difficult in the hot dry air of April. But do be careful to water early enough in the day to allow the tender new growth to thoroughly dry by twilight.

With vandaceous orchids grown in slatted baskets, most growers find that they dry altogether too well in April. Vandas can be watered almost every morning in April. Indeed, a second light watering or misting in mid-afternoon in April and early May is often beneficial provided the crowns and leaf axils of the plants have time to dry completely by nightfall. Another strategy under high drying conditions is to bend the rules, at least occasionally, and water heavily in mid to late morning. Late waterings on weekend mornings (you didn't want to get up early, any way) provide relief for plants that are more stressed on week days with their owners absent. Very occasionally, one needs to break the rules absolutely and water thoroughly (not just mist) in the mid to late afternoon so the plants can slowly absorb the water across the cool hours of the night. This is the season that one must be sure that Vanda roots have turned overall dark green when we have finished watering. Two applications of water to the point of runoff spaced several minutes apart should accomplish the required color change from white to totally green. Saturated roots are absolutely necessary to provide the plants the moisture the plants need to withstand the heat and dry air typical of April. Sometimes, particularly at this season, the roots will not change color even after the second or third application of water. This lack of response to water is because the roots have become so dry that they are repelling rather than absorbing water. They are behaving like a cork in a wine bottle. The grower must exert special effort to re-saturate the roots. Often this will require 4 or 5 waterings to the point of run off spaced 15 minutes apart. Once the roots have been changed to the healthy overall green, normal applications of water should bring them around in future.

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Asctm ampullaceum 'Mr Del-Rei' AM/AOS





## (Continued from page 4)

With increased heat and light and the onset of growth, fertilizer becomes more crucially important to the plants. Balanced time release pellets(13-13-13) can still be applied to potted plants provided the duration is 180 days or less. Most time release fertilizer breaks down faster under South Florida conditions and should be exhausted by October when we will want our plants to slow down. The brand marketed at retail as Dynamite is generally considered by professionals as superior in reliability to other types. In April, 15-5-15 can be applied to most genera at the rate of 2 tsp per gal every two weeks. Vandas, ascendas, *Aerides et al* will benefit from a full tablespoon of 15-5-15 weekly during this high energy period. One can also apply high phosphorous 'Bloom Booster' fertilizer once or twice at this time to stimulate them to flower for Mothers' Day or failing that to win those trophies and AOS. awards at the Redland International Orchid Festival the next weekend. High phosphorous (we use Miller's *Solugrow* 8-48-12) also stimulates root action and is important in getting all genera off to a good start on the growing season. This is one of the few times that high phosphorus is perhaps beneficial. During the rest of the year it is to be avoid particularly with our alkaline water. Current science recommends fertilizers lower in nitrogen, much lower in phosphorus and higher in potassium, magnesium and calcium. Peter's Excel 15-5-15 is now the standard for year round use.

The warmth of April, alas, stimulates the growth of bugs as well as plants. Both thrips and mites thrive in the dry heat of April. Liquid dishwashing soap (at 2 oz per gal) will control both but be mindful that soap should not be applied to plants that are suffering from drought stress. Be sure that your plants are well hydrated before you apply soap. Water them extra hard the day before. To be effective soap must be used profusely. The plants should be washed in the solution to the point of wetting every nook and cranny of both the plant and its container. Only such thorough



Orchids moved to their new summer home



Ascda Chomkao x Ascda Gu0 Chia Long 'Surat'

treatment can reach the reclusive thrips and be sure to touch all of the ever prolific mites. A second treatment at 7-10 days is necessary to control mites and a miticide such as *Kelthane* might be advised. *Orthene* which is the insecticide of choice for thrips (because of its residual action) is compatible with many miticides. Check with your county agent if in doubt.

April is the classic month to catch up with all the re-potting which you meant to do across the winter. New roots form fast in April; don't rot them off by over-potting or break them off by allowing the plant to wiggle in the pot. Tie them up: tie them down

April is a month for great moral decisions. When turning on the air conditioner for the first time, consider how much better an orchid grower you would be if you set the thermostat 2 or 3 degrees higher. You will find that you spend more time with your plants when you are accustomed to slightly higher temperatures and it is the master's shadow that makes the plants grow. Besides spending more time enjoying your orchids, when the FPL bill arrives, you can celebrate with some splendid additions to your collection.

April is a great month for naturalizing orchids in the garden. Perhaps its time to think of new homes for some of our burgeoning collection.

### Tasks for April

- Full speed ahead with re-potting
- Water heavily and well
- Don't forget to fertilize
- Spray for mites and thrips



# Who's New & Who's Who

## Who's New and Who's Who

By Gail Marshall

Our multi-talented New Member Coordinator and Roving Reporter Gail Marshall will be calling you over the next few months to get your biographical information. She'll be putting together five or so personal profiles each month for this column and a thumbnail sketch will be placed on the Members page of the website. Be patient, it may be the end of 2009 before all members have been featured in the Newsletter and on the website.



**Linda Ferrall** moved to St. Augustine 8 years ago from the Atlanta area and a career in commercial property management. Now retired (can you see her smiling?) her gardening has been 'around the house'. Her husband, Ed, will garden with her – if forced. Linda became interested in orchids more than ten years ago when someone gave her

one as a gift. Even though the interest was there, the experience wasn't, and she came to SAOS as a beginner four months ago. She now has five orchids and, like many beginners, is determined to learn to care for them properly and get them to bloom before she starts to build her collection. That probably won't be long because Linda was a Master Gardener when she lived in Georgia. Her favorite orchid is the cattleya, which will probably be orchid number 6 – and maybe 7, 8, 9 and 10. Besides orchids, Linda loves tennis, and you'll find her on the courts a couple times a week.



Attention spy novel readers of the world. THE writer **Jack Higgins** lives right here in St. Augustine. At least he starts out telling you that - as a joke. THE Jack Higgins is not really OUR Jack Higgins, but OUR Jack's life has been equally as interesting. OUR Jack Higgins is a retired US Army artillery officer and Russian

specialist. Let your mind wander with that piece of information. Now, back to orchids. Jack has been living in St. Augustine for the past two years, having moved here from St. Louis, Mo. New things intrigue him. He saw the SAOS blurb on the Garden Page in the Record, thought it

looked interesting and came to the February meeting. He enjoys immersing himself in things that interest him, and he will be accompanying the SAOS crew on our Redlands trip in May. A beginning, windowsill grower, he has four orchids in his collection. When asked which his favorite was, this man knows what he likes -- said "red". Besides orchids, Jack likes bonsai and is looking for others who share this interest. When asked what else he would like us to know about him, he said that he has a facile wit and incisive intellect – and most of all, he's humble. You will like Jack. He will make you smile.



**Paul Jones** is the founder of SAOS, starting the whole thing with a small blurb in the St. Augustine Record asking if anyone in our city was interested in forming an orchid society. He's the guy with the famous "oleander orchid tree" who sends us all the fantastic

photos and emails on orchid horticulture. A former Master Gardener, he knows his stuff and usually walks away with a number of ribbons at judged shows. Paul currently is coordinator of the Keiki Club, the hands-on branch of SAOS, where beginning and experienced club members meet off-site at a member's home or greenhouse to get orchid medium under our fingernails. To support his orchid hobby, Paul is a civilian Management Analyst for Uncle Sam, working with intragovernmental contracts. His orchid collection has grown to about 150, and he's having a love affair with species. He also specializes in and is known for mounted orchids, and if you see one on our raffle table, there's a good chance it has been donated by Paul. Paul and wife Teddie have formed their own company, Orchidea, which they plan to further develop after retirement in a few years. A native of St. Augustine, Paul also helped found the Ancient City Astronomy Club in 1974, and it is still going strong – which bodes well for SAOS.



**Jacqueline Mawhinney** has not had much time for gardening in her 'past life'. She originally worked in the pharmaceutical industry in Pennsylvania before moving to St. Augustine in 1997. Here she helped develop and open the World Golf Hall of Fame, then transferred to the PGA Tour and golf course properties management. She

was assistant to the president of the PGA Tour, who

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traveled around the country searching for land to develop into golf properties. (Poor guy). One of the major perks of her job was meeting the pro golfers, and Jacksonville golfer Fred Funk was her absolute favorite. After moving to St Augustine, she finally got to garden southern style. Her husband John does not share her enthusiasm to the same degree, but he will lift and tote if asked, which seems to work out just fine. About one year ago, Jacqueline discovered the delights of orchids – simply because they were so beautiful. She now has 6 in her collection with phalaenopsis being the favorite. While orchid vocabulary still may be a bit challenging, Jacqueline says she can talk forever about the development of Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra.



Marv Reagan explains C intermedia differences

### Taxonomy Tonight

Marv Ragan presented six different *Cattleya* intermedia varieties in his Taxonomy Tonight segment. Clockwise from the top left we have Lc Ali Elizabeth Johnston (proposed name), the variety flamea on the top right, the variety aquinii coerulea in the middle, the variety orlata on the bottom left and the traditional form on the bottom right. There was also a white alba form and light pink amethystina variety, not pictured here. Amazing variety within a single species



Without **Jeanette Smith**, who knows where SAOS would be? Literally When we had nowhere to go, Jeanette, one of Watson Realty's top associates, arranged for SAOS to use Watson's conference room for our meetings. Without her, we all might still be standing in the parking lot at the St. Augustine Lighthouse Pier,

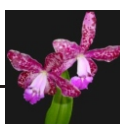
the setting of our very first meeting in 2006. Jeanette is SAOS Operations Chair and coordinates, with the help of society volunteers, the set-up and take down of food and tables each month. A St. Augustine resident for 19 years, she is in two St. Augustine Garden Club circles plus the Florelines Guild for flower arrangers, is a Master Gardener and is on the Civic Beautification Committee for the City of St. Augustine Beach. Her love of orchids started about 5 years ago, and her mixed collection has grown to 20 – not bad since she lives in a condo. After attending the World Orchid Conference this past January, Jeanette plans to travel to Singapore for the next one three years from now. Originally from Gainesville, she's a hard-core Gator fan and went to Phoenix, AZ in 2007 to see the Gators beat Ohio State to win the National Football Championship. Life is complete.



Epc Don Herman 'Spots'  
(Lc Gold Digger x Epi stamfordianum)



C intermedia



# SHOW TABLE



Terry Bottom

Lc Color Guard 'Hawaii'



Terry Bottom

Den Oriental Paradise (Evening Glow x Valiallis)



Terry Bottom

Lcna Lawless Gloriana  
(Lc Gold Digger x Ctna Why Not)



Terry Bottom

Paph Gold Digger



Terry Bottom

Iwanagaara Apple Blossom



Terry Bottom

C intermedia

