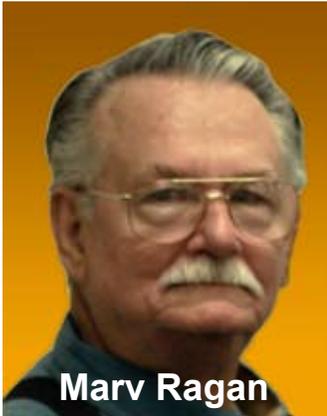




CLUB NEWS

January 5 Monthly SAOS Meeting



Marv Ragan

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Sue Bottom in the absence of President Mike Heinz. With 53 people present, she welcomed five visitors. Sue thanked Jeanette Smith for the refreshments, reminding everyone to donate in order to keep the goodies coming. Gail Marshall had no

Sunshine reports and wished us a happy and healthy 2010. Fred Keefer told us about Betsy Bastian's trip to Miami for testing (more on that later). We had two birthdays for the month. Sue reminded everyone to vote for their favorite orchid on the show table and to buy raffle tickets to help pay for our wonderful programs. She also announced that dues for the new year are now due and payable and that Dick Roth would be accepting them tonight at the welcome table. Dues are \$15 for an individual or \$25 for a family.

Bill Gourley announced the slate of new officers for the coming year: Jack Higgins for President, Sue Bottom, 1st Vice President, Vivienne Rowe for 2nd Vice President, Lola Stark for Secretary, Bill Gourley for Treasurer, and



Re-elected Treasurer Bill Gourley and new club President Jack Higgins share a few laughs



Members & guests settle down after Marv's talk

as Directors, Terry Bottom, Dick Roth and Mike Heinz. There were no nominations from the floor and the motion was made by the Secretary to accept the nominations as made. The vote was unanimously passed. We have a new Board!

We now have pot clips available for those interested. They are \$5.00 for six clips, available from Sue. We also have potting mix at \$5.00.

The Keiki Club will meet in February for a program on making an orchid corsage. The repotting clinics at Hagan



Shirley finally wins a raffle plant

Continued on page 3





Upcoming Orchid Events

January

- 15-17 [Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show](#)
War Memorial Auditorium
- 23-24 [Manatee River Orchid Society Show](#)
Manatee Convention and Civic Center
- 30-31 Tamiami Orchid Festival
Sunshine Pavilion, Fair Expo Center

February

- 2 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Tom Nasser, Carolina Orchids
Angraecums
- 6-7 [Venice Area Orchid Society Show](#)
Venice Community Center
- 13-14 [Boca Raton Orchid Society Show](#)
Safe Schools Institute
- 26-28 [Miami International Orchid Show](#)
Doubletree Hotel & Convention Center
- 21 Keiki Club, 1 – 3 pm
Harriet Wright, Orchid Corsages
Maria and Richard Yessian's Home
276 San Nicolas Way, St. Aug 32080

March

- 2 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Linda Wilhelm, Woodland Orchids
Magnificent Stanhopeas
- 5-7 Martin County Orchid Society Show
- 6 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 til noon
[3050 US 1 S](#) in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 11-14 [Orchid Society of Coral Gables Show](#)
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
- 12-14 [Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show](#)
Port St. Lucie Community Center
- 14 Keiki Club – 1 to 3 pm
Repotting Workshop
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct., St. Aug 32086
- 19-20 [Englewood Area Orchid Society Show](#)
United Methodist Church
- 19-21 [Naples Orchid Society Show](#)
United Church of Christ
- 20-21 [Jacksonville Orchid Society Show](#)
Garden Club of Jacksonville

27-28 [Orchid Society of Highlands County Show](#)
Bert Harris Jr. Agricultural Center



www.staugorchidsociety.org

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



Watson Realty Corp. REALTORS®

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Jack Higgins jacktravel2003@yahoo.com
First Vice President Program Chair	Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Second Vice President Publicity Chair	Vivienne Rowe tomvivrowe@comcast.net
Secretary AOS/Orchid Digest Rep	Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	Bill Gourley wgourley@bellsouth.net
Directors at Large	Terry Bottom bottomt@bellsouth.net Mike Heinz mgheinz@comcast.net Dick Roth rthroth405@aol.com
Exhibit Committee Chair	Jack Higgins jacktravel2003@yahoo.com
Librarian	Wendy Thomas wendysthomas1@bellsouth.net
Membership Committee Chair	Gail Marshall gwpb@aol.com
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net bottomt@bellsouth.net
Operations Committee Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com



Continued from page 1



Gail & Shirley vote for the "Members Choice"

Ace Hardware will resume the first Saturday in March and continue on the first Saturday of the month until winter.

Orchid Shows this month include Sarasota on the 9th and 10th; Fort Lauderdale on the 15th to the 17th; and Tamiami on the 30th and 31th. Anyone is eligible to go to these shows and if you do, please report back to us on your visit.

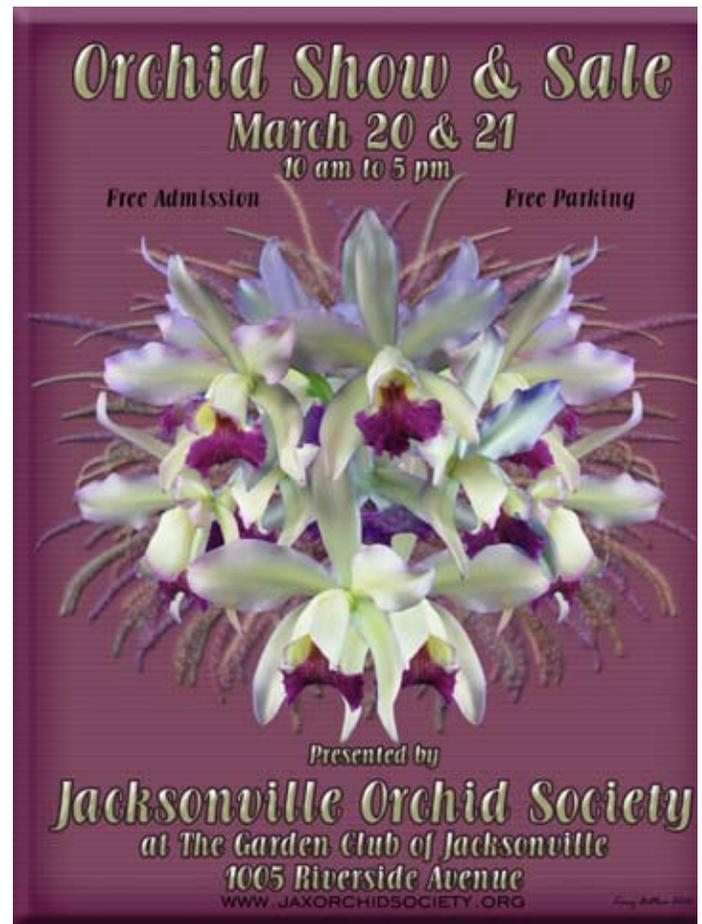
Our program for the evening was provided by Marv Ragan who first got interested in orchids when he was stationed in the Philippines back in the late 50s and 60s. He was stationed on the USS America and flew RIO on RA5C Vigilante planes. On his off days he went looking for orchids and when he found them, he sent them home to Jan. They still have a lot of them.

When Mt. Pinatubo erupted in 1991, the Philippines lost a lot of the native orchids, but Marv has some of them that he had collected.

He showed us many beautiful and detailed slides of the

native species that are specific to the Philippines including *Vanda*, *Rhynchostylis*, *Aerides*, *Trichoglottis*, *Amesiella*, *Pteroceras*, *Pomatocalpa*, *Renanthera*, *Ceratocentron*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Dendrobium*, *Epigenium*, *Bulbophyllum*, *Coelognes*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Phaius*, and *Spathoglottis* species. Most of these were not fragrant, but a few like *Vanda ustii* and *Pteroceras unguiculatum* are quite fragrant. Some were quite large like *Dendrobium sanderae* and others were minis, like *Dendrobium disticum*. As in most areas, some are quite prolific and others quite scarce, but the Philippines have a great variety of orchid species. The orchids there get quite a lot of moisture from the humidity and thus, even in drought times, thrive where they grow.

Following a wonderful program, Sue encouraged everyone to go to the show table and pick out their favorite and to be sure and participate in the raffle. The Members Choice on the Show Table was the *Cattleya* Chocolate Drop x *Cattleya amethystoglossa* brought in by Sue Bottom. The grand prize on the raffle table (*Onc. Twinkle*) was won by Jim Taylor. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



February 21 Keiki Club Making an Orchid Corsage

The next Keiki Club meeting will be February 21st at Maria and Richard Yessian's home from 1 to 3 pm. Harriet Wright will give a presentation on making an orchid corsage. Bring a blooming plant and we'll all go home with corsages!



Want to Be an Orchid Judge? Ted Kellogg, Training Coordinator, Florida North Central Judging Region

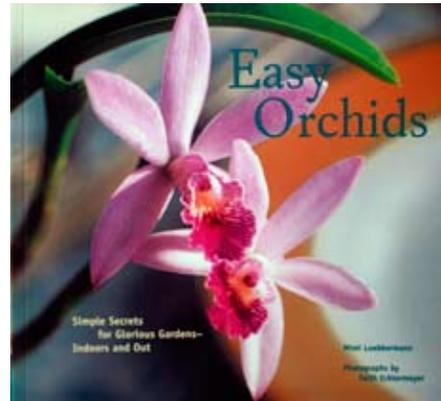
Do you have a strong, continuing interest in orchids? Do you desire to learn all you can about orchids? Would you like to work with the best plants and best growers in the world? If you answer yes to these questions, consider becoming an American Orchid Society Judge. In becoming a judge you will increase your depth of orchid knowledge, become part of an internationally recognized team and meet renowned orchid experts.

The Florida North Central Judging Region of the American Orchid Society is in charge of preparing judges in the area. The process takes time and effort. The essential stages including application/acceptance, student judge, and probationary judge take most students 6 to 7 years to complete. The *Handbook on Judging and Exhibition* provides detailed information on the process and is available at www.aos.org (select sitemap and find 'Judging Handbook' under the judging section). If you are interested, or might be, I would suggest the following:

- Observe an AOS judging session, either at a local society show or Orlando (second Saturday, Leu Gardens, 1:30pm). The aos.org 'Judging Calendar' lists the place and time for each monthly session. All judging is open and observers are welcome.
- Talk to an AOS judge about the program. You may have judges in your society, or see them at local show, ask them about the process of becoming a judge.
- Request the application materials from Ted Kellogg (tmkellogg@gmail.com). The Florida North Central Region accepts students each May; applications should be completed well in advance of that date. This year, entry testing and interviews will be held May 21-22.

Easy Orchids: Simple Secrets for Glorious Gardens--Indoors and Out By Mimi Luebbemann

This engaging volume provides all the inspiration and hands-on facts for transforming a windowsill, patio, glassed-in porch, or small garden plot into orchid territory.



February 2 Meeting of SAOS

Tom Nasser of Carolina Orchids in Fort Mill, South Carolina will give a presentation on *Angraecums* and related species of orchids. *Angraecoids* are mostly white or green-flowered orchids, whose flowers possess long nectaries or 'spurs'. They require moderate light and have blooms lasting 3 to 6 weeks. As they are pollinated by moths in nature, their beautiful perfumes are strong after dark. The genus now includes just under 700 distinct species.

Perhaps the most famous member of the genus is *Angraecum sesquipedale*, the "Star of Bethlehem" or "The Star of Madagascar." Charles Darwin postulated that there must be a pollinator moth with a proboscis long enough to reach the nectar at the end of the orchid's 18-inch spur. In 1903, exactly such a moth was found in Madagascar, confirming Darwin's prediction. The large hawk moth was named *Xanthopan morgani praedicta*, or "Morgan's Sphinx", with the final part of the name honoring Darwin's prediction. It's the sole member of its genus, which makes Darwin's pollination hypothesis even more fascinating.

Carolina Orchids does not mass-produce orchids. The greenhouses contain Tom and his wife Shan's orchid collection, i.e., several different clones of a particular orchid rather than hundreds of plants of limited species or clones. You may want to check their website, www.carolinaorchids.com for plant and price lists.





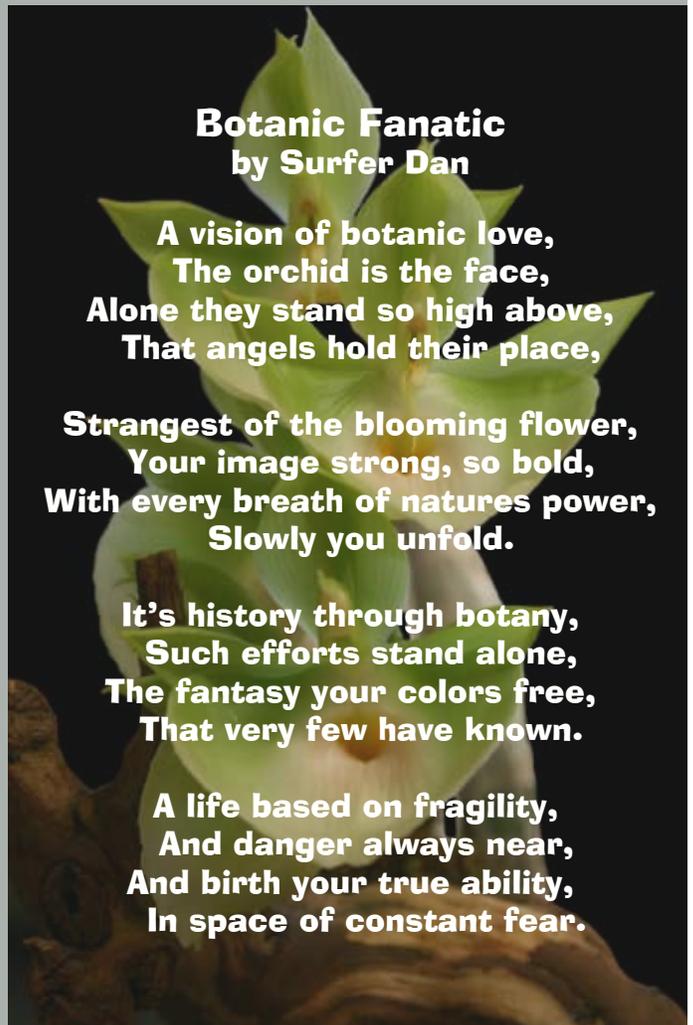
Green Cymbidium Orchids by Alfred Ng



Flamingo Grass by Rose Ganucheau



C. Summer Spot 'Carmela' by Wolfgang Obst



Botanic Fanatic by Surfer Dan

**A vision of botanic love,
The orchid is the face,
Alone they stand so high above,
That angels hold their place,**

**Strangest of the blooming flower,
Your image strong, so bold,
With every breath of nature's power,
Slowly you unfold.**

**It's history through botany,
Such efforts stand alone,
The fantasy your colors free,
That very few have known.**

**A life based on fragility,
And danger always near,
And birth your true ability,
In space of constant fear.**





Growing Tips for December

Dr. Courtney Hackney,
hackneau@comcast.net
Dept. Biology,
Univ. North Florida

There are some topics that arise over and over again, both in my own greenhouse culture and from questions I receive from readers. The issue this time is water, not water quality, but quantity. One of the mistakes made most frequently by experienced growers is to not water adequately. This does not mean that the frequency is not appropriate, but the quantity of water delivered to each plant is not adequate.

It is not enough to just wet the orchid plant and surface of the medium, but to make sure water drains through pots. When an orchid is first repotted and water is passed through the medium, there will initially be a small quantity of fine material that exits the pot. Then, very little will exit until either the medium starts to degrade or decaying roots disintegrate. If an orchid is growing well it may outgrow the pot before this happens.

It is important during the time an orchid is in a pot that there be adequate flushing to remove the decomposing organic matter and byproducts, which include organic acids as well as particles of decaying bark and root material. Typically, once the process begins the decomposition of the bark and roots will release nutrients absorbed from fertilizers, which will help nourish the orchid. At some point, however, the buildup of decaying materials can be so great that the medium becomes sour, i.e., lacks oxygen.



When an orchid is first repotted it is important to flush thoroughly to be sure the medium throughout the pot is wetted so that roots will be attracted to the medium. As time passes, the medium will remain wet for a much longer period of time because the medium is degraded by bacteria and fungi. The medium at the surface of the pot may be very dry, but the medium within the pot will remain moist because of the surface buildup of bacteria and fungi. A thorough flushing tends to remove byproducts of decomposition that accumulate on the bottom of the pot.



One of the best ways to tell how decomposed the medium in a pot has become is to flush the pot thoroughly in your sink and note the quantity of fine material that exits the pot. If you repeat the flushing and the same quantity of fine material exits, then your medium is nearing the end of its lifespan and it is almost time to repot.

There is also the “sniff test”. Water the pot thoroughly and wait a few minutes. If the pot smells like bark or has a pleasant “earthy” smell the medium is ok. If there is a foul smell, then it is time to repot. While the sniff test may seem arbitrary, most people who try it have little doubt if they sniff a pot full of medium past its prime.

Of course, this does not work if you use an inorganic medium such as Stalite, lava rock, or one of the puffed clay products. It still is necessary to flush thoroughly and most of those who flush a plant in the sink are shocked at the quantity of fine organic particles that exits the pot, especially if the inorganic medium is coarse. If the medium is relatively fine, organics can accumulate in inorganic media and produce the same foul odor that can be found in degraded bark.

One does need to be aware that some fertilizers can also produce an unpleasant odor, particularly organic fertilizers such as fish emulsion. Do not perform the “sniff test” for a week or so after using these fertilizers, because the organic compounds in these products naturally produce a rather foul smelling scent.



Orchid Questions & Answers



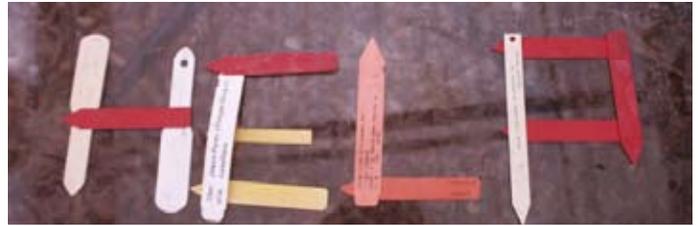
Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q. How do you know if a dendrobium is a *nobile* dendrobium? Is it due to the cluster of flowers as opposed to elongated spikes? Are *nobile* dendrobiums subject to different winter watering habits? If so, what keeps them happy? Are *Den. lamellatum*, *bracteosum* or *purpureum nobiles*? Do these need special winter care besides bright light?



A. Dendrobiums are a huge, diverse group of orchids that grown under a wide variety of conditions, so there are no simple cultural guidelines that apply to them all. In spite of their habitat variability, there are several common rules to good culture:

- Use the smallest pot possible, NEVER overpot this genus!
- Well-drained media promote good root growth and minimize media breakdown
- Most DO NOT appreciate root disturbance - repotting can lead to shock
- NO fertilizer for most species Halloween through Easter
- Hang tall plants to control top heaviness or place small pots inside much larger pots and weight down with rocks



- DO NOT use copper based fungicides with dendrobiums
- ALWAYS repot only when roots start to grow (usually spring) so re-establishment is fast

In addition to the common rules, the whole genus can be broken down into 7 or 8 groups with similar culture. The key to flowering dendrobiums is in their dormancy requirements. Take a look at the General Orchid Culture by Genus page on the website for some Dendrobium culture tips and try checking out the SAOS library for more information.

To answer your specific question, *Den. purpureum* and *bracteosum* are Pedilonum section dendrobiums and *Den. lamellatum* is a Platycaulon section dendrobium. Both types like to be a little drier in the winter but do not like to dry out completely. Restrict fertilizer during the winter, but otherwise treat them like your cattleyas giving them bright light and watering once every 7 to 10 days.

The *nobile* dendrobiums are mostly pendulous and deciduous and they bloom from leafless canes in the spring after they have been given an extended dry, bright winter dormant period.



SAOS Website – New Orchid Growers

The website at www.staugorchidsociety.org is full of new surprises. There is a section devoted to new orchid growers. There is a webpage with Seasonal Suggestions, that talks about things to think about in the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Another page archives the Beginner Newsletters issued by the American Orchid Society. There are Orchid Growing Tips with links to Greg Allikas' Orchid Potting Workshop and SAOS member articles on How to Select an Orchid, Orchid Growing Basics and Watering and Fertilizer. The Home and Backyard Orchid Growing series from the Newsletter is archived so you can read how other SAOS members grow their orchids. There is lots of information available when you surf the web on a rainy day!



Your Orchids in January

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

The Winter Rest is here. Plants will continue to manufacture food during the winter, albeit at a reduced rate. Everything will occur at a slower pace until spring arrives so the need for water and fertilizer is reduced. Keep an eye on the minimum projected temperatures, such as the hourly forecasts by zip code from Wunderground.

Tie up **cattleya** pseudobulbs. Watch for signs of red spider mites on the undersides of leaves or scale in the sheathing on pseudobulbs. Remove the sheathing (cataphylls).

Keep the humidity high around **cymbidiums** to prevent shriveling of the pseudobulbs. Cool temperatures are beneficial.

Continue to water sparingly, or not at all, those **dendrobium** species that require a dormant period before flowering this spring. Do not expose evergreen-type hybrids to temperatures below 60 F or plants in flower may drop leaves and buds.

Do not allow the roots of **paphiopedilums** to dry out. Keep water out of sensitive pouches. Accumulated moisture in the pouch shortens flower life.

The **phalaenopsis** flowering cycle is about to start. Constant air circulation is essential to avoid Botrytis-spotted blooms. Water carefully to keep flowers dry and to minimize risks of soft rot in the fleshy leaves.

Many of the popular Thai **vanda** hybrids and African angraecoids begin their winter flowering now. Water the roots every other day and fertilize once or twice a week if light levels are sufficient.

Your Other Plants still enjoy light, air and lesser amounts of water and fertilizer. Your job is to keep them alive during the winter so you can return them to the outdoors in the spring where they will regain their growing vigor.



Orchid Resolutions

By Susan Taylor, BellaOnline.com

Each year I make public my resolutions for orchid growing which I hope will encourage others to do the same in order to make you think about how to enjoy your hobby more.

Get Rid of those Plants that Aren't Doing Well. I have several plants that are growing, but just have never bloomed or even made an inflorescence for me. I also have several plants that were given to me because the owners had half-killed them. Unless the plants are seedlings, I plan to either give away or dispose of the plants that are not doing well to make room for new ones that I hope will flower for me.

Concentrate on Growing those Plants that do Well for Me. Each of us has his or her own growing environment and there are some plants that are going to do better than others in that environment. My Hawaiian dendrobiums are doing very well for me -- growing and flowering; the hairy dendrobiums are not. My temperatures seem to be too high for this intermediate grower, so no more of them. Mottled-leafed Paphs are growing nicely and I'm hoping for some blooms next year. This is a new genus for me that I'm testing.



Systemic Insecticide for Scale. I have had problems with scale for several years now and it seemed that I simply could not keep it from spreading. I tried Bayer Advanced Rose and Flower Insect Killer with 0.0012 Imidacloprid which has a 30-day systemic effect and it's made all the difference in the world for me. I spray once a month and am now only finding a spot or two of scale where before I was fighting it on every plant. I will continue to do this consistently.

Use Rainwater. Last year I made a resolution to use only rainwater on my species since they were having trouble with my hard city water. It made such a difference in such a short time that I started using it for all my plants. All my plants have shown improvement. I will continue to collect and use rainwater as much as I can and use a calcium filter on the water hose so that when I need to use hose water at least the calcium is removed.



Recordkeeping. This year I need to do better at keeping up with my recordkeeping on my orchids. I have Cattleya-Log which is a really wonderful program that allows me to input when each plant flowers, how long it flowers, how many inflorescences, etc. I have neglected to keep up with putting the information in the system so that I will know when to expect my plants to flower. For anyone who is trying to have plants for shows, this is important information and will also allow you to look forward to specific flowers each year.

Orchid Conservation. As a part of being a member of the international orchid community, I will support conservation both here in North America and in other areas of the globe. My contribution here will be to participate in locating and identifying local orchids and in growing seedlings which are destined to be replanted in the wild. I will contribute to in situ conservation by providing funds to one of the organizations which saves rain forest areas from development.



Under Bench Spray System

Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net



Terry has been busy in the greenhouse installing an underbench spray system, used to provide supplemental heat in winter and cooling in summer. He installed a series of PVC lines under the benches with spray heads on 6 - 8 ft centers, with a timer to start and stop misting. The idea is that surficial well water in our area is probably about 60 to 72F and the warmth of the water will help mediate temperatures during extremely cold winter periods and reduce overall propane consumption. The system is set on a timer to go off for 15 - 30 minutes each hour during the wee hours of the night. In the summer, we'll use the system to reduce greenhouse temperatures using the evaporative cooling effect under the benches for 15 minutes each hour from 10 am to 2 pm.



During our normal winter weather where we have one or two freezing nights, the system should work quite well. What we discovered during the record 2 week freezing period we just went through was the system ran an excessive

amount with standing water everywhere, there was a lot of condensation in the greenhouse, and of course, the greenhouse was closed up for much of the time. This is a recipe for fungal infections, so we broke out the heavy duty fungicides to compensate and suffered through the inevitable Botrytis blighting of the flowers. Another problem was the excessive pumping stirred up the sediments in the well and partially blocked the filter lowering water pressure, fixed by replacing the filter. Terry is working on setting the system on a temperature controller rather than a fixed spraying period and this hopefully will reduce the overpumping of water and maximize the efficiency of the system.



I have very high hopes for the system in the summer time. Greenhouse temperatures can go up to 95 or 98F even with the vents open and side curtain up. As the temperatures creep up over 90F, the cattleyas growth seems to slow during the extremely hot summer months and then rebound in the early fall. Last year I used the overbench spray system which quite successfully dropped temperatures to below 90F, but it can't be used midday when the sun is high in the sky without scorching the plants and of course, all that leaf wetness with the high temperatures is ideal for fungal growth. With the underbench system, we should get the evaporative cooling without the leaf wetness and with the abundance of air in the greenhouse, the plants should be able to grow throughout the hot summers.



FINANCIAL REPORT

St. Augustine Orchid Society	Income and Expenses			
	Year to Year Comparison			
	2010	2009	2008	2007
INCOME				
Plant raffle	\$ 2,164.00	\$ 1,885.00	\$ 1,845.00	\$ 322.00
Plant auction	2,529.00	4,637.00	1,566.00	305.00
Silent auction	277.00	568.00	57.00	-
Dues	1,550.00	1,140.00	844.00	510.00
Supply sales	817.25	740.75	375.00	-
Donations	115.00	-	50.00	200.00
Awards & prizes	-	40.00	-	-
Book sales	105.00	480.00	-	-
Shirt sales	15.00	420.00	-	-
Name tags	48.00	246.00	-	-
Other	0.22	-	-	-
Total Income	\$ 7,620.47	\$ 10,156.75	\$ 4,737.00	\$ 1,347.00
EXPENSES				
Plant auction	\$ 477.68	\$ 1,245.68	\$ 642.42	\$ -
Plant raffle	300.00	258.60	147.50	-
Silent auction	184.00	361.99	-	-
Speaker fees	1,625.00	1,450.00	600.00	-
Speaker meals	292.48	415.90	173.00	-
Speaker lodging	-	-	76.29	-
Speaker travel	-	308.00	-	-
Shows/displays	138.85	287.73	434.94	-
Cultural Supplies	360.86	612.58	553.38	33.50
Library	299.76	398.51	-	-
Books for sale	-	400.00	-	-
Office supplies	83.07	199.15	105.26	164.30
Copy costs	63.39	24.85	-	-
Web site	276.36	96.53	105.75	-
Shirt cost	9.00	248.04	-	-
Building maint.	31.79	334.85	-	-
Insurance	196.39	199.36	-	-
Name tags	44.52	258.11	-	-
Other	339.66	772.67	524.73	100.94
Total Expenses	\$ 4,722.81	\$ 7,872.55	\$ 3,363.27	\$ 298.74
NET INCOME	\$ 2,897.66	\$ 2,284.20	\$ 1,373.73	\$ 1,048.26



SHOW TABLE



Grower Dick Roth
Darwinara Charm 'Blue Star'
HCC/AOS



Grower Dick Roth
Renantanda Thailand Puck x
Ascda. Peggy Foo



Grower Bill Gourley
B. Little Stars



Grower Mary Ann Bell
Blc. Princess Masako 'Miyabi'



Grower Dick Roth
Rhy. gigantea var. orange



Grower Sue Bottom
C. Roman Silver x Blc. Nacouchee



Grower Sue Bottom
Blc. Young Kong 'Sun #16'



SHOW TABLE



Grower Bill Gourley
Blc. Copper Queen



Grower Sue Bottom
C. Chocolate Drop x C. amethystoglossa



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. (orpalite x Sylvan Star) x Dolly Featherhill



Grower Bill Gourley
C. trianae



Grower Mary Ann Bell
Blc. Chia Lin



Grower Bill Roth
Rhy. gigantea var. alba

