

St. Augustine Orchid Society NEWSLETTER

July 2012

Volume 7 Issue #7

CLUB NEWS



Fred Keefer

July 3 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Lola Stark,
seacuter@bellsouth.net

Welcome and Thanks.

President Jeannette Pacetti opened the meeting at 7:15 pm. Jeannette thanked Jeanette Smith, Shirley Browning and Sandra Taylor for the refreshments and reminded those present to "Drop a

Dollar" to help pay for the refreshments. In Gail Marshall's absence, Sue Bottom told us that all members were well and reminded those whose birthdays were in July to pick up an extra raffle ticket in August, as we do not have a raffle in July. Jeannette reminded everyone to vote for their favorite on the show table, dropping your choice in the silver box and that Lola would announce the winner after the auction. Josh Jones showed us a few books from the library and suggested that members come go to the web site and order what they'd like for next month.



Auction Plants



SAOS Club Business. The Keiki Club will not meet again until fall. We always have potting supplies and fertilizer on sale at meetings. SAOS will be at Hagan Ace on US 1 South this Saturday from 9

to 1 pm. If you have questions or need help with a plant, please come by and see us! Jack Higgins is filling up the hours for the GardenFest at the Ag. Center on Oct 6 and 7. Please see him for your 2 hour stint!



Fred in "The Auction Zone"

Orchid Events. Events around the state can be found on the SAOS website. The spring season for orchid shows is now over and there will not be many until fall. If you're traveling up the coast to places like Virginia and Pennsylvania, watch your newspapers for local shows!



*Mike Heinz & others with their auction plants.
Continued on page 3*



CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

July

- 7 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
10 JOS Meeting, 7 pm

August

- 4 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
7 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Harry McElroy, The Cymbidium Man,
Warm Growing Cymbidiums
14 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm

September

- 1 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
4 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Brian Monk, Blu Llama Orchids
Brazilian Miltonias
11 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Rafael Romero, Plantio L'Orquidea
15-16 Ridge Orchid Society Show
Lake Mirror Center, Lakeland
16 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners
Fall Preparations
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086

October

- 2 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
Australian Dendrobiums
6 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic

- 6 – 7 Home and Garden Show
Agricultural Center, St. Augustine
9 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
13-14 Gainesville Orchid Society Show
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
13-14 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show
Fort Pierce Shrine Club
26-28 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show
Old School Square
27-28 Brevard County Orchid Society Show
Melbourne Auditorium

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Jeannette Pacetti jdp187@aol.com
First Vice President Program Chair	Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Second Vice President Publicity Chair	Vivienne Rowe tomvivrowe@comcast.net
Secretary Orchid Digest Rep	Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	Bill Gourley wgourley@bellsouth.net
Directors at Large	Penny Halyburton phalyburton@comcast.net Jack Higgins jacktravel2003@yahoo.com Joshua Jones jajones@comcast.net
Exhibit Committee Chair	Harry McElroy cymbidiuman@msn.com
Librarian	Penny Halyburton phalyburton@comcast.net
Membership Committee Chair	Gail Marshall gamarshall1@bellsouth.net
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net bottomt@bellsouth.net
Operations Committee Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com



CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1

Program. Instead of a speaker this month, we enjoyed having an auction of blooming plants. Members enjoyed seeing the different species and hybrids including stanhopeas, phalaenopsis, cattleyas, oncidiums and many more. It was a fun time led by Fred Keefer, who can always get a laugh along with the money!



Members were provided with an "Auction Plant List" so they could plan for the plants they wanted.



Vivienne doing her best "Vanda White"



Fred Keefer the "Auction Miester"



Vivienne with one of the nice Stanhopeas from EFG



Ralph & Shirley got the plant they wanted.

Show Table: The Show table winner was Blc. Toshie Aoki 'Pizzaz' AM/AOS grown by Sue Bottom. Be sure and see it on the pages at the end of the newsletter



Sue inspecting Show Table plants

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



Watson Realty Corp. REALTORS®



CLUB NEWS

August 7 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Harry McElroy, Warm Growing Cymbidiums

The Cymbidium Man Harry McElroy will talk about warm growing cymbidiums at the August 7 meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. You've seen the incredible specimen cymbidiums that Harry brings to the Show Table. Now you'll get a chance to learn how he does it. Harry will explain how he selects cymbidiums that will thrive in our hot climate and then tell us his secrets on how to grow them and bring them into bloom.



June 24 Keiki Club Repotting Phalaenopsis

A dozen SAOSers brought their phals and other plants for repotting. There were two mixes available for phals, a more traditional sphagnum based mix and a new SAOS mix consisting of half ProMix HP and half sponge rok. We were just finishing up our repotting when Preston set up his wine tasting, four bottles of wine with the labels covered and a challenge to the group for who could identify the '2 Buck Chuck' bottle. Our Prez Jeannette was the winner. Thanks Preston, for thinking of such an enjoyable way to end the spring Keiki Club season!



Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners Summer Hiatus

With the heat of summer in July and August, we're going on summer hiatus. We will have the final Keiki Club meeting of the year in September to talk about your fall preparations, getting your plants ready for their winter home and preparing the deciduous dendrobiums for their winter rest and catasetum relatives for their deep winter sleep.

Do You Have Your SAOS Window Decal Displayed?

ST. AUGUSTINE
EST. 2006
ORCHID SOCIETY

If Not, Visit SAOS Website or Facebook for Installation Instructions.



INSPIRATION



CULTIVATION



Growing Tips for July

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

It has finally begun to feel like summer here in Florida, not just because days are creeping into the 90s, but because humidity levels are now over 60% all day long. This is also a

time when afternoon thunderstorms are common, followed by warm, humid nights. Some types of orchids are from just such a climate, but many more are not and prefer much cooler nights. Anytime an orchid is living under conditions that exceed what is normal for that species or its ancestors, it is time to watch for stress-related diseases.

Many hobbyists confine their orchids inside in windowsills or under lights until it is warm enough to put them outside. Orchids thrive under such conditions, but become susceptible to staying overly wet if afternoon rains occur every night. A medium that may be perfect inside the house requiring you to water once a week or so may be terrible if it is wet every afternoon. Often the orchid will look great with new roots emerging and spreading out of the pot, but later in the summer leaves can turn black and the orchid die. That is caused by roots staying too wet down in the pot.



I put some orchids outside that are in baskets or mounted. They can be wet every night and there is no danger that the roots will rot. Up until the past few weeks, the opposite was occurring; low humidity and no rain were causing leaves to shrivel. A couple of weeks of regular rainfall and humidity, however, has reversed the shriveled leaves and produced flushes of new roots on vandas,

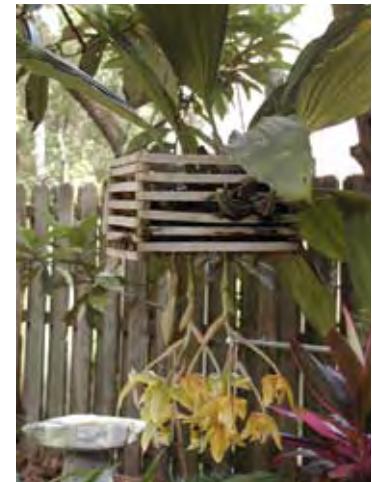
encyclias and even cattleyas growing in pots with lava rock as the medium. Notice that no phalaenopsis were listed as hanging outside. Unless they are mounted or potted in rock, they do not do well outside. Phalaenopsis can hold water in their crowns and after a couple of days of afternoon thunderstorms, suddenly rot.

Just because you have your orchids safely in a greenhouse or covered area does not mean there are no potential problems. If you have over-fertilized or purchased seedlings from nurseries that have pushed their seedlings to grow rapidly, you will likely have problems with various soft rots. Usually, rots begin in new growths, but can quickly spread to the entire plant and kill your prized orchid. The more valuable the orchid, the more likely it is to rot and die; it's a rule.

Increasing air movement is an easy way to limit rots, but many of us have more plants on our benches than is ideal, which limits air flow. If your growing area is enclosed at night, spores will also build up and potentially cause rots.

Every orchid will have rot problems at some time, but really good growers recognize and stop rots quickly or stop them before they start. You can spray the floor of your greenhouse with a 5% Clorox solution, which will destroy fungal and bacterial spores. It is a good idea to wet your orchids first in case you get any of the Clorox solution on them. There are also products like Dithane M-45 that has been around awhile that is available and effective on rots. Physan 20 is the same product that is used to sterilize food containers and effectively kills spores on non living surfaces. There are a number of products that are approved for application to orchids that kill bacteria and fungi, but use them all with caution.

For small problems, keep a spray bottle filled with hydrogen peroxide, the same concentration you have in your medicine cabinet and a shaker of cinnamon powder handy. Usually, if you find a small problem with rot, you will soon see other plants nearby also become infected. Spray the infected plant and nearby ones with hydrogen peroxide and keep the area a little on the dry side. Add an extra fan directed at the area to keep spores from starting to grow. If that does not work you may need one of the more potent and registered products and treat all of the plants in the entire greenhouse.



CULTIVATION

Your Orchids in July

based on Robert Scully, Ned Nash & James Rose
checklists, courtesy of the AOS



General Growing Tips. The heat and humidity of summer are here. Orchid plants require the most water and fertilizer this month to produce the most growth. They require lots of fresh air to keep the plant leaves cool. Consider spraying under benches or the planting area to lower temperatures a few degrees. Pests are most active during the warm months. Be vigilant in observing signs of damage and treat quickly if they appear. The bulk of your repotting should be complete.

Cattleyas. Cattleyas can be watered and fertilized daily if mounted or every second or third day if in a coarse, freely draining medium. Applying adequate fertilizer is the best way to ensure the best blooming in that the growths your plants are making now are the source of future blooms. Be careful to peel back the flower sheaths so the emerging buds don't rot. Also remove dried cataphylls to eliminate hiding places for scale. Higher temperatures and humidity may lead to fungal or bacterial rot. Watch for signs of pests or diseases and respond quickly.



Cymbidiums. Growths should be coming strong now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a light green to nearly yellow. Cool your plants in the early morning and late evening using a hose or automatic misting system. Use pots with a 1 inch water reservoir in the bottom or set the pots in shallow pans to ensure that the cymbidium is never without water.



Dendrobiums. It is almost impossible to overwater dendrobiums this time of year, assuming you have them either mounted or in a coarse, mostly inorganic medium. Lots of heat and light call for liberal applications of water and fertilizer.



Oncidiums. Many of the intergeneric crosses between odontoglossums and oncidiums (*Odontocidium*, *Wilsonara*, *Colmanara*, etc.) will be blooming now. Take special care to train the spikes for best floral displays. Keep plants under fairly shady conditions. Watch for snails and slugs.



Phalaenopsis. Most, if not all, repotting should be complete by now. Once root growth begins after repotting, you can continue watering every 3rd or 4th day with a dilute fertilizer solution if your phals are in a coco type mix; the frequency might be every 7 to 10 days if your plants are potted in the more water retentive sphagnum moss. The summer growth phase is the source of energy for next spring's flower spikes. The more leaves the plants grow, the better potential for flower spiking will be realized. Don't let water accumulate in the crowns of plants, or crown rot can occur and quickly kill your plants. If grown outdoors, grow the plants with the pots tilted so rainwater will freely drain from the crown.



Vandas. Plants will be growing quickly now and really enjoying the hot humid days. Continue giving vandas what they want, light, water, fertilizer and air. Watch for signs of thrips that will mar the flowers and cause girdling on the roots. Respond promptly to any problems found.

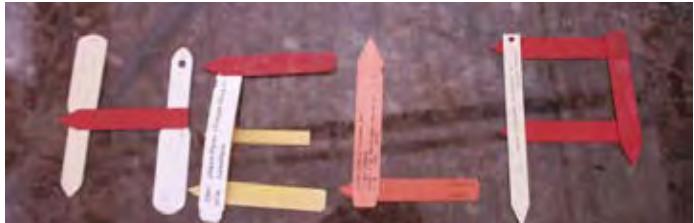


CULTIVATION

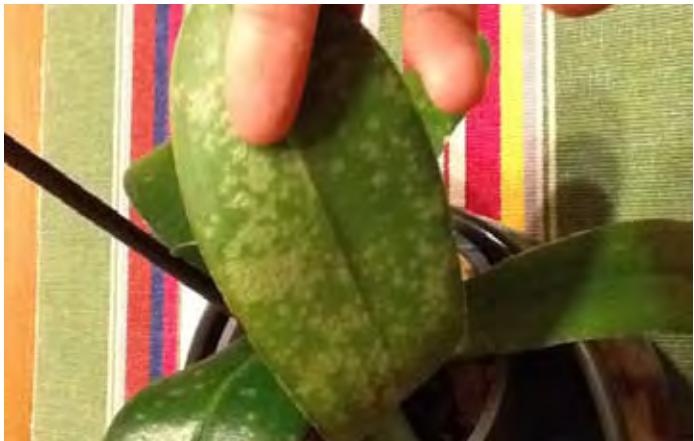


Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@bellsouth.net



Q. I have lost two leaves that turned yellow but my orchid is still blooming. I keep it in the house facing the sun but I keep the house cold. We've had it about 3 months. What am I doing wrong?



A. If you have lost the two bottom leaves, perhaps your plant is getting too much water. Your roots may be beginning to rot from suffocation and the plant may drop leaves in response. Your mix is starting to degrade and the phal needs to be repotted soon, though that will interrupt and end the bloom cycle. Drop the phal back in the pot and cut back on watering. Don't water it until the mix is dry to the touch an inch or so below the surface. You'll have to find a good potting mix to use and then by the end of June, plan on cutting the flower and enjoying it in a vase for another week and repot. Here's a [repotting link](#).



A. It sure looks like mites, probably flat mites. There are some pictures of phals that look remarkably similar to your plant, just click on [view more images of mites on orchids](#). Try spraying upper and lower leaf surfaces with the home cure mixture of 1/3 rubbing alcohol, 1/3 409 or Murphy's Oil Soap and 1/3 water. Plants can also be sprayed with a miticide like Avid, Talstar or Kelthane following label instructions being particularly careful to contact all the undersides of the leaves. During warm weather, new generations mature every 6 days so repeat applications will be required, perhaps 3 applications at 4 day intervals. If nothing else, start spraying the upper and lower leaf surfaces with a dishwasher soap solution.

Q. My orchids have developed a powdery substance on the leaves, which started on the underside and then spread from there. What is this, and how do I treat it?



Continued on page 9



CULTIVATION

Continued from page 8



A. You have mealybugs and lots of them. You can use a toothbrush or a Q tip, dip it in isopropyl alcohol and wipe them all away, or put a spray head in an alcohol bottle and spray, you'll have to do it weekly for say 3 weeks to get all the emerging babies. Alternatively, you can drench your plant with one of the Bayer imidacloprid products. Mix up a solution and water your plant thoroughly, the systemic insecticide will be drawn into the plant through the roots and kill the mealyugs from the inside out. Get 'em quick before they suck all the plant sap from your orchids!

Q. My orchid is two years old it blooms twice a year. I have noticed minute spots on the top and bottom of the leaves. The substance is also sticky and leaves the sticky residue on the window sill. How do I get rid of these spots, how do I care for my orchid so this does not return.

A. That is scale. The mother scales are the conish looking large brown dots. She lays eggs under the armor and the juveniles crawl away to set up housekeeping. The scale is on both sides of the leaf and is pretty extensive. The sticky stuff you are seeing is honeydew, which is plant sap. The scale suck the sap out of the plant and that's what you're seeing on the windowsill. First, get a Q tip, dip it in isopropyl alcohol and wipe both surfaces of the leaf to remove the scale. Then there will always be some left in the crevices and possibly in the roots. If you have the Bayer imidacloprid product, you can drench the plant (mix up a pint solution and water the plant). It will soak up from the roots throughout the plant and kill the remainder. You can also put the isopropyl alcohol in a spray bottle and spray all the surfaces and crevices weekly for say 3 weeks to catch the young ones. Any plants close to this one should be looked at too because the scale will go from one plant to another.



Ace Repotting Plant Clinic

A photograph showing several people gathered around a table in a greenhouse setting. One man in a cap and striped shirt is holding a small potted plant, while others look on. The background shows shelves filled with various plants.

The first Saturday of the month
from March through November,
SAOS members are available to talk with you,
answer questions and help you repot orchids.

Ace Hardware, 3050 US 1 South, St. Aug,
9 am until 1 pm.



CULTIVATION

Ferns and Orchids Don't Mix

Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net



I used to think that having ferns root in my orchid pots was cool, like this dendrobium in a 6 inch pot. The ferns looks so pretty growing there when the plant is not in flower. Then I noticed that the orchid did not look nearly as happy as the fern.

I tried pulling out the fern to no avail, so I knocked the dendrobium out of the pot to investigate. All I saw was a mass of fibrous fern roots, and nary a living orchid root.



Starting at the bottom of the pot, I removed the fibrous roots and rhizomes in search of orchid roots. The fibrous fern mass was thriving but without the free exchange of air, the orchid roots could not breathe.

After removing two thirds of the mass from the bottom of the pot, there were still plenty of viable ferns, with healthy leaves, rhizomes and roots. It was time to call in the heavy artillery. I broke out the knife to excise the fern tissue.



You can see a chunk of the healthy fern rhizome and roots removed from the pot along with the dead orchid roots. The fern tissue basically suffocated the dendrobium roots.



The surgical removal of fern rhizomes continues. All living fern tissue has to be removed so it won't come back to life when the orchid is repotted.

This is all that's left of the dendrobium orchid. There are only live orchid roots in the top inch of potting media, the rest were smothered by the fern. Luckily dendrobiums are resilient fellows. With a little time, it will recover and probably be back in bloom this fall.



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Orchid Adventures EFG Orchids

by [Sue Bottom](mailto:sbottom15@bellsouth.net), sbottom15@bellsouth.net

The Summer Orchid Auction was on the schedule and we needed to find some great plants. Who did we turn to? George Hausermann of EFG, of course! We went orchid hunting in Deland to find some unusual plants. There were stanhopeas galore, in bloom and in bud and we couldn't resist them. There were many unusual species orchids that George bought as seedlings from Hoosier Orchids before they closed shop. We brought them to tempt Mike Heinz knowing his disdain for mutts (luckily Kaycee has good taste in orchids!). EFG is now open to the public and this fall they'll be hosting their annual Orchtoberfest. We'll be looking forward to the return trip. Thanks George for the great plants!



Continued on page 12



ORCHID ADVENTURES

Continued from page 11



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
Den. dearei



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Pps. laycockii



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Ascda. Udomchai



Grower Joshua Jones
Den. sutiknoi



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Bulb. lepidum



Grower Joshua Jones
Den. Meesangnil



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Pths. phyllocardioides



SHOW TABLE



Terry Bottom

Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
C. guttata var. alba



Terry Bottom

Grower Sue Bottom
Blc. Toshie Aoki 'Pizzaz' AM/AOS



Terry Bottom

Grower Sue Bottom
C. dowiana var. aurea



Terry Bottom

Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Pps. Kimmy



Terry Bottom

Grower Sue Bottom
Onc. undulatum



Terry Bottom

Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Eria convallariooides

