

CLUB NEWS



Jim Roberts

February 2 Meeting

by Sue Bottom

Welcome and Thanks. President Tom Sullivan opened the meeting at 6:50 pm with 42 attendees. He thanked Lady Di and Dottie for organizing coffee and treats and reminded members to “drop a dollar” to help defray the costs. Tom bestowed the Orchid Digest Diamond Award to Courtney Hackney, in honor of all his contributions to the

Society. Sue read the text that will appear in the Orchid Digest magazine, which included: “*Courtney can talk orchids on any level, so beginners and professionals seek his advice and counsel, learning how better to grow their orchids. Courtney’s review of the plants on the show table is the highlight of our monthly meetings. He talks about each plant and its history, how best to grow it, and how it is used in hybridizing. During the pandemic he told us bedtime stories in a monthly Zoom rendition. He speaks to the club each year on a variety of topics, sharing tips and tricks, addressing cultural missteps, pests and diseases, insights into cattleya hybridizing and more.*” Courtney is a gift that keeps on giving!

Club Business. Linda welcomed our new members, Bonnie Armstrong from Tennessee, Jane Peirce from Massachusetts, Trace Elliott from South Carolina and Priscilla Schmerer from Jacksonville, as well as the members who renewed their membership. Free raffle tickets were given to those with birthdays in February.

The monthly repotting clinics are resuming this month, the next being on February 6th at the Pavilion behind the church. Bring any plants that need repotting or ones that you have questions about, or just stop by and talk orchids. SAOS members will be there from 9 am until noon. We’re having a repotting madness session at the Bottom’s on Sunday, February 21st. More details are available on the club news page. This is



everyone’s favorite Keiki Club get together of the year. Krull Smith is hosting a 3 day Orchid Festival over Valentines Day weekend in Apopka. See the ad on page 9 for details.

Our librarian Howard noted that we have many books in our library. He suggested that members explore the library pages on the SAOS website and request a book or the light meter, and he will bring them to the next meeting. He noted we have the new edition of Martin Motes Florida Orchid Growing book, and brought Orchids as House Plants for members to borrow.

SAOS Program. Jim Roberts of Florida SunCoast Orchids gave a program on “A Few Encyclia Hybrids to Enjoy”. Jim first talked about Encyclia species, so named because the lateral lobes of the lip encircle the column. He talked about the Florida native, *Encyclia tampensis*, known as the Tampa Butterfly Orchid. He showed a specimen sized alba form, that had multiple spikes of green and white flowers. He introduced us to *Encyclia phoenicia*, that smells like chocolate (some say vanilla), *E. dickinsoniana* that smells like dirty socks (Marv noted that the accepted species name is now *E. guatemalensis*). Many have the typical color forms in shades of yellow and brown, like *E. alata* and *E. plicata*, while *E. cordigera* is a lovely rose colored flower, *E. profusa* tends to be very floriferous and *E. rufa* is an uber fragrant yellowish green.

The one thing the Encyclia species all have in common is that they are small flowering summer blooming plants with long lasting flowers, carrying many flowers on each stem. The flowers tend to be open with spacing between

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Upcoming Orchid Events

February

- 6 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 9 am til noon
Behind the Memorial Lutheran Church
3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086
- 6-7 Venice Area Orchid Society Show?
Venice Community Center
CANCELLED
- 9 JOS Meeting, Cymbidiums, 7 pm
Harry McElroy, JOS
Mandarin Garden Club
- 12-14 Apopka Intl Valentine's Orchid Festival
Krull Smith Nursery 32712
- 12-13 South Carolina Orchid Society Show?
Riverbanks Zoo&Botanical Garden
West Columbia, SC
CANCELLED
- 12-14 Port Saint Lucie Orchid Society Show
Port St. Lucie Community Center
CANCELLED
- 13 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 13-14 Boca Raton Orchid Society Show
Safe Schools Institute
CANCELLED
- 16 Virtual Show Table
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 27-28 Orchid Society of Highlands County Show/
Agri-Civic Center, Sebring
- 27-28 Naples Orchid Society Show
Naples Botanical Garden

March

- 2 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Bulbophyllums
Linda Stewart, SAOS
- 5-7 Martin County Orchid Society Show?
Martin County Fairgrounds
- 6 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 9 am til noon
Behind the Memorial Lutheran Church
3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086

- 6-7 Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show
Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center
- 9 JOS Meeting, Show Update, 7 pm
Lorraine Conover, JOS Show Chairman
- 12-14 Orchid Society of Coral Gables Show?
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
- 13-14 Apopka Intl St. Patrick's Orchid Festival
Krull Smith Nursery 32712
- 13-14 Englewood Area Orchid Society Show?
Englewood Methodist Church
- 13 FL North-Central Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Garden Center, 849 West Ave
- 16 Virtual Show Table
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 19-21 Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance Show?
North Collier Regional Park, Naples

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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the sepals, petals and lips. They enjoy bright light and excellent air movement, and they need to dry out between waterings. This suggests growing in baskets or shallow pots with either no media or a coarse, inorganic media that will not break down and cause root rot, particularly if they are grown where they are watered by Mother Nature. Jim's motto is "If in doubt, dry it out".

Jim showed us pictures of some of the *Encyclia* hybrids, many primary hybrids between two species, like the well known *E. Orchid Jungle* (*alata* x *phoenicea*) and *E. Randigrace* (*randii* x *gracilis*) that smells like bubble gum. Another is the incredibly fragrant and prolific bloomer *E. Ruffy Profuse* (*rufa* x *profusa*) for which Jim won an Award of Quality for his hybridizing efforts from the American Orchid Society. These *Encyclia* hybrids all produce plants that have long and sometimes branching inflorescences carrying a myriad of small fragrant flowers.

As a hybridizer, your goal is to improve upon the parent plants and capitalize on or enhance their best characteristics. But hybridizing is not an exact science. It is part science, knowing how dominant the traits of an orchid are, both desirable and undesirable; part art, being able to visual what you are looking for in the progeny; some patience, being able to wait the 5 to 7 years to see the plant flower; and more than a couple parts luck. He showed us many examples of *Encyclia* hybrids made with others in the *Cattleya* alliance. Jim's goal was to have the larger flowers with fuller form typical of many *cattleyas* married to the very floriferous nature of the *Encyclias*. There were some notable successes, like *Epicattleya* [*Epc.*] El Hatillo (*C. mossiae alba* x *E. tampensis alba*) which the RHS has recategorized as the unpronounceable *Catyclia* [*Cty.*]. This cross resulted in flowers of an intermediate size, with 12 to 14 flowers on a stem that flowers once a year. Another great intergeneric is *Epc. Middleburg* (*C. Bactia* x *E. phoenicea*)

made by Marv Ragan, which produces clusters of vibrantly colored flowers on stems held high above the foliage for great presentation. The Vaughnara (Vnra., now Lesueurara [Lsu.]) Dick Pippen's SunCoast caught everyone's eye, particularly the 'Lemon Yum Yums' cultivar for which Jim was awarded an FCC from the American Orchid Society. Interestingly, this cultivar was the runt of the litter, the last to bloom of the batch of seedlings of this hybrid!

Jim also showed us examples of less successful hybrids, where the *Encyclias* did not impart their freely flowering habits to the hybrid. The flowers tended to be larger and fuller than the *Encyclia* species so they were pretty, but only carried 2 or 3 flowers on a stem, thereby missing the potential wow factor. The stems were sometimes short so the flowers were somewhat hidden in the foliage, rather than being carried well above the leaves as in the *Encyclia* hybrids. In these cases, the hybrids did not match Jim's hopes and expectations, nice as each flower might be. Of course, a hybridizer and his toothpick are never far apart, and Jim is working on other breeding lines involving *Schomburgkias* and bifoliate *cattleyas*. We always enjoy listening to Jim's animated and interesting presentations, not to mention buying his creations.



Meeting Conclusion. Following a refreshment break, the winners of the Silent Auction and Raffle tables were announced. Jim had already added many plants to the raffle table, and then distributed a few more bonus plants at the end, thanks Jim! The delightful evening concluded at 8:30 pm. Thanks to all who assisted with cleanup after the meeting!



CLUB NEWS

Renew Your Membership

We'll be collecting dues for 2021 from now through March. Dues are \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a family. You can mail your membership check to SAOS c/o Linda Stewart, 1812 Diana Drive, Palatka 32177. If you prefer to renew your membership online, you can use the PayPal link on our [website](#). Easy Peasy!



Keiki Club – Growing Area Tour

Repotting Madness at the Bottom's

The marathon orchid repotting season is beginning. We will have orchid seedlings, keikis and divisions for you to mount, basket or pot up. Charlie will make sure there is plenty of pecky cypress for mounts, and Tom will bring his special metal baskets. We have plastic pots and a limited supply of clay pots. Bring a wooden basket or clay pot, if that's your preference.

To cover the cost of supplies, make sure to drop \$5 into the donation jar. If you have more than 1 or 2 of your own plants that need repotting, please bring them to the repotting clinic. The repotting crew is available to give you hands-on tips on repotting at the monthly clinics at the Church pavilion.

When: Sunday, February 21, 1 - 3 pm

Where: Sue and Terry Bottom's Home

[6916 Cypress Lake Court, St. Aug 32086](#)

American Orchid Society Corner

Webinars

February 6, \$30 On-Line Registration
On-Line Speaker's Day, begins 11 am
Kristen Uthus - Growing Miniatures, 11 am
Francisco Miranda - Brazilian Species, noon
Ron McHatton - Those Pesky Bugs, 1 pm
Dave Sorokowsky - Growing Paphs, 2 pm
Alan Koch - Dendrobium Culture, 3 pm

Orchids Magazine this month:

The AOS turns 100 April 21st and the February issue is dedicated to this historic event, the Society's history and the many changes in the orchid world over those years.

Photos of Latest AOS Awards

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March 2 Monthly Meeting

Bulbophyllums and Bonsai Pots

Linda Stewart,
SAOS



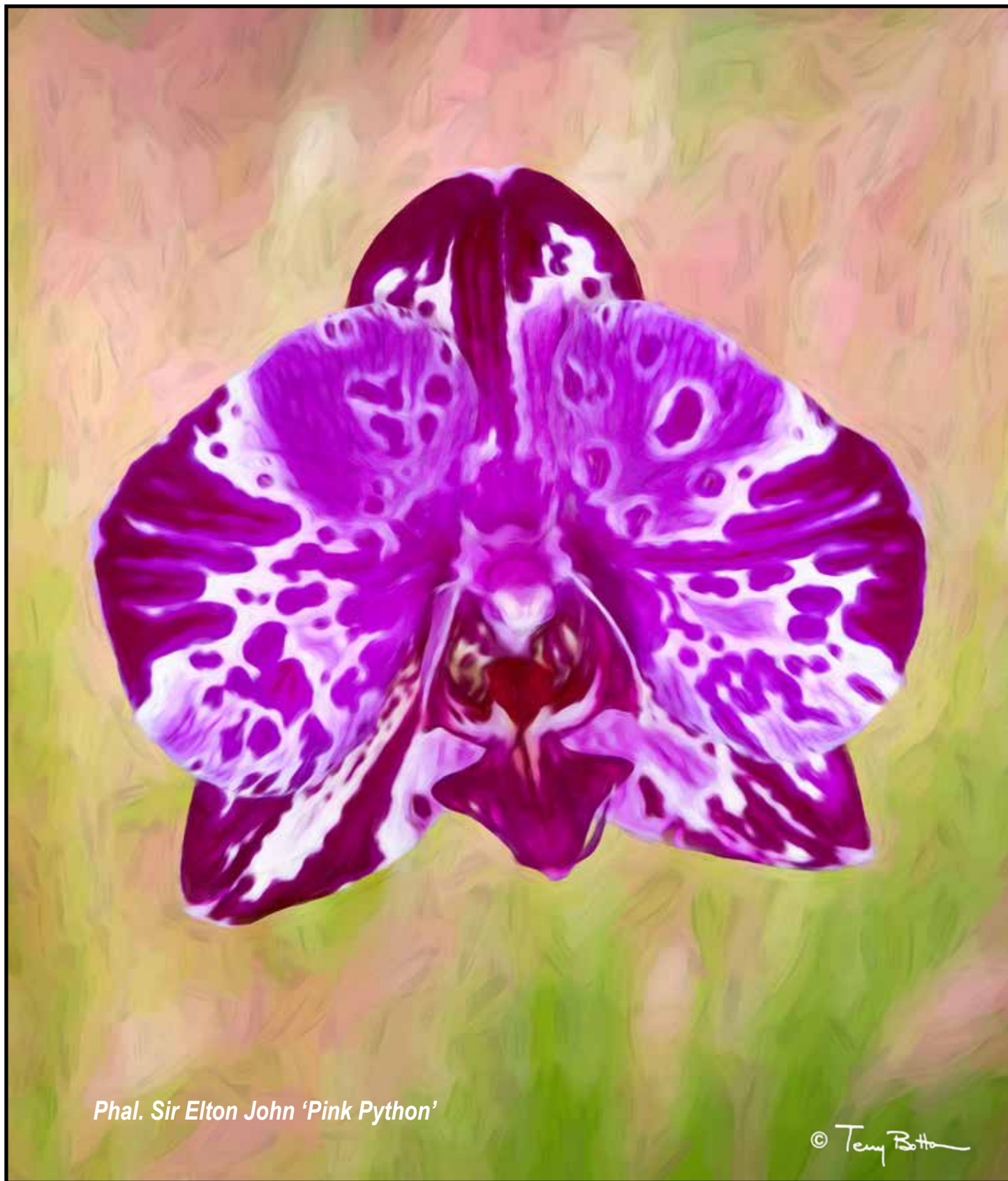
Our own Linda Stewart will talk about Bulbophyllums. More and more of our members are growing these easy to grow orchids with unusual and sometimes bizarre flowers. Linda will talk about how to grow these plants and demonstrate her technique for using bonsai pots to display them to their best advantage. Other bulbo growers are invited to share their growing tricks, bringing examples of their bulbos growing on mounts, rafts, baskets and pots.

When: Tuesday, March 2, 6:30 til 9 pm

Where: Memorial Lutheran Church
3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086



INSPIRATION



Phal. Sir Elton John 'Pink Python'

© Terry Botto



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@gmail.com

Q1. Are the green blotches on the phal leaf something I should be concerned with, they are more pronounced on the keiki than the mother plant. The plants were moved into the greenhouse when cool

weather arrived.



A1. My best guess would be some cold water damage, either from overnight condensation dripping on the leaves or cold water from the tap. Check the temperature of the water coming out of the hose and see how close to 70F it is, the water should be within 5 to 10 degrees of the air temperature. The keiki leaves are likely more tender than the Mom's leaves, and more sensitive to cold water damage that can cause mesophyll cell collapse.



Q2. This phal was with all my others on the north face of a wooden fence. Any ideas what caused this damage?

A2. My guess would be the new tender leaves were damaged somehow while they were forming and the scars simply enlarged as the leaves got larger. Perhaps it was mechanical damage, or perhaps water in the crown. The other leaves look great.

Q3. I have a question regarding pool algacide versus Physan. Is the product in the photo appropriate and what rate per gal should I use?



A3. Physan, which contains 20% quaternary ammonium compounds, recommends 1 tsp/gal as a spray. Your product appears to contain 30%, so you would use 2/3 strength, or 2/3 tsp/gal.





Temperature Variations

by Dr. Courtney Hackney

One of the best new gadgets on the market today is the infrared laser thermometer. By pointing the laser at any surface, an instant measure of temperature can be obtained. Many orchid books discuss microclimates found in greenhouses and how growers can use these

to place cool-loving orchids where the temperatures are lower and warm growing ones in their ideal location as well. Most experienced growers have a sense of where these locations can be found in their growing space. My new gadget seemed the ideal instrument to test my assumptions about temperature in the greenhouse.

With thermostats set at 65 deg. F, I expected most plants to experience that minimum temperature at night. Imagine my surprise to find that plants were always cooler than the air temperature at night. Leaves were as cool as 59 deg. F at night when the air temperature was 64 F. Had I discovered this before the onset of cold weather, the thermostat setting would have been increased.

Within the greenhouse, there was a surprising variation of temperature. In early evening on a below freezing night, the inside of the polycarbonate glazing was 53 F and individual spots inside were as low as 59 F when air temperature was 65 F. Cool spots were not in the corners where I expected or even farthest from heaters. Instead, they were located where air movement was least. These areas were places where rots had turned up each year during winter. Clearly, the problem for plants in these still spots was more related to temperature than air movement as there were seldom problems with rots in summer at these same locations.

Minimum temperatures occurred in the greenhouse just before dawn. Exterior glazing was 46 F and plants were 53-61 F, despite the air temperature of 64 F. Cool-loving paphs were moved to these cool spots as they are supposed to require lower temperatures to bloom well. Whether these paphs respond to such an approach will be the subject of a later "Tips" column.

The following bright day produced 118 F on the glazing that lasted until mid afternoon. Air temperature in the greenhouse was 92 F most of the day. Plants warmed slowly with leaves of one vanda near the glazing reaching

96 F. Pots also slowly warmed and by late afternoon every surface, plants, pots, benches, etc, were at least 79 F. The range each plant experienced depended on the degree and duration of direct sunlight each received. Given the low angle of the sun this time of year, there were many locations where orchids experienced a much lower range of temperature over 24 hours than in locations that received direct sunlight.

Phalaenopsis seedlings in one part of the greenhouse had produced spikes early, while others that were larger had not. Most Phalaenopsis require a daily temperature change of 20-25 degrees to stimulate spiking and the ones getting an hour or two of direct light on their leaves experienced the appropriate range. Surprisingly, it was the leaf temperature not the pot temperature that seems to be most important as pots always experienced less of a temperature range than the leaves. How much different depended on the type of pot.

Clay pots were always cooler than plastic pots when I measured their temperature. The difference was even more dramatic during the day because of the evaporation that occurs along the clay surface. Plastic pots do not allow water to seep out and so do not experience evaporative cooling effects. Black plastic pots were a couple of degrees warmer than green ones if they received direct sunlight. Clay pots were often among the coolest surfaces in the greenhouse at night, especially where fans moved lots of air by them. For years these locations housed bifoliate cattleyas, such as *C leopoldii* and *C granulosa*, where they have always thrived because they dry quickly. They would have never been placed there if I had known that night temperatures were so low because these are considered warm loving species.

Light is the other variable that is in short supply this time of year. The low angle of the sun and short days limits how much light strikes an orchid in the greenhouse. Most orchids in my greenhouse likely get less than a couple of hours of optimum sunlight this time of year. Indoor growers have a great advantage, as it is possible to provide optimum light levels all day long. Most orchids have a maximum light threshold above which they actually photosynthesize less. For Phalaenopsis, that level is around 1000 foot candles. Excellent growth can be obtained by providing 8 hours of light at this intensity. However, the same growth can be obtained by providing the same amount of light over a longer time period, e.g. 14 hours at 600 foot candles.

Note: Dr. Courtney Hackney wrote a monthly column of his orchid growing tips for about 20 years; we are reprinting some you might have missed, this one from February 2003.



Lazy Daze

Tips for the Time-Challenged Orchid Grower
by Ken Slump, reprinted with permission

Hobby orchid growers often have a tendency to amass rather large and diverse collections of plants over time, and it is not uncommon for the care and maintenance of those collections to become time consuming and unwieldy. Periodically, it can be worthwhile to step back from the situation and consider ways to help make plant maintenance easier and to implement some practices that may save time and money too.

FERTILIZERS One of the best ways to simplify your routine is to streamline the fertilization of your orchid plants. Most of us appreciate that many orchid plants do best with frequent, but weak applications of fertilizer. While sophisticated growers often apply weak nutrient solutions through their automated irrigation systems, many of us with smaller collections or a limited growing situation must mix up dilutions to apply with a watering can or tank sprayer.

Although I resisted using them on orchids for years, I have become a big fan of time-release fertilizers for my potted orchids. As orchid medium is usually coarse, the pellets have a tendency to fall down into it, but they still work well. To the best of my knowledge, none of these products have been produced with the particular nutritional needs of orchids in mind, but generally speaking, fertilizer is fertilizer. Look for formulations that are coated for longer usefulness, generally six to nine months, realizing that such fertilizers will deliver nutrients for a shorter time at high temperatures and with frequent watering.

PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL Avoid prophylactic sprays and treatments for plant pests and diseases. They are a waste of time and materials. Also, pests can build up resistance to chemicals that are constantly applied. It is time to take a responsible approach to pest control. Do not treat your plants before a symptom appears, then diagnose and identify the problem. Evaluate its severity. In some cases, no treatment may be necessary or elimination of the affected plant (or plant parts) could be the best approach. If it is determined that treatment is needed, consider all options and first try the one that is most environmentally friendly.

PLANT STAKING Many conscientious orchid growers spend a considerable amount of time staking new orchid growths to keep them upright. Certainly, there are some sorts of orchid plants that will be growing in every direction in rather short order if you do not stake them. In many cases, I have found that the wire rings that clip onto the pot rims can keep most of these plants on the "up and up" without the time and trouble (and potential plant injury) that staking



Organic matter in potting mixes ultimately degrades, triggering the need for repotting.

each individual growth requires. It is important to choose a ring that is about the same diameter as the pot and one that is a suitable height for the stature of the plant, yet they tend to come in a small range of sizes. Don't be afraid to employ a pair of pliers to help modify a manufactured ring into one that better suits a particular plant's needs. Also note that you will usually minimize the risk of damaging your plant when you slip the ring up from under the bottom of the pot before securing it to the pot rim.

WATERING Most orchid growers spend more time watering their plants than they do on any other activity. I have known more than a few indoor orchid fanatics who carried their plants from the window sills or the light stands, two at a time, to the kitchen sink for a good drenching two or three times a week — and they grew dozens of plants. Simplify your watering practices in any way that you can. If you are one of those aforementioned creative indoor growers, try to devise a way to water your plants in place. Trays or tubs under the pots can catch the runoff from a watering can and may help provide valuable humidity around the plants. If you keep a large orchid collection that requires considerable time for watering by hand, look into an automatic irrigation system.

Cultural strategies can modify watering frequency. Potting mixes that incorporate moisture-retentive ingredients can make the need for watering less frequent. In a similar way, plastic pots retain moisture longer than do clay pots. Boosting humidity levels can help extend the days between waterings. Also, orchids grown at higher temperatures will require more frequent watering than those cultivated a few degrees cooler.

Plant arrangement can work for or against you at watering time. Arranging pots and plants of similar size in the same area is efficient as they will tend to dry out at the same rate, thus requiring water at about the same time. To speed up the watering routine, it is wise to place orchids with similar moisture needs together.

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Mounted orchids require more frequent watering than those in pots.

Plant selection also affects the watering schedule. If you want to spend less time watering your plants, avoid those orchids that need constant moisture — phragmipediums for example. Realize that rather young plants and miniatures generally need more frequent irrigation than other orchids. Finally, if you find that you are watering more orchids, but enjoying them less, you may want to eliminate mounted plants, those grown in open slat baskets, or any others that require daily watering.

POTTING AND REPOTTING Orchid growers who amass sizeable collections typically dread repotting time and often become lax about it. Yet one of the biggest dangers to a mature orchid is a rotting root system trapped in an old potting mix that is rapidly breaking down.

If you are an orchid grower prone to repotting procrastination, avoid organic ingredients in your mixes that tend to decompose quickly, such as many types of bark chunks. Coconut husk chips, coir (coconut fiber) or tree-fern fiber may provide a longer-lasting alternative. Similarly, if you grow orchids in open slat baskets, you will find that those made from teak last longer than those made from pine or other woods. When orchids grown in this way become too large for their basket, some growers find it convenient to slip such a basket into a larger one that will contain it, rather than disturb the plant. Nothing could be simpler or easier.

Moving up versus tearing out can sometimes be adapted for potted orchids too. I have managed this on occasions when a plant with multiple leads had reached or extended a bit beyond the edge of a clay pot. I select a larger clay pot that allows about 1 inch (2.5 cm) of space into which I can tuck fresh growing medium all around the smaller one. For

this to work well, the growing medium in the original pot must be in good condition. The method can be a real time saver, and the plant never misses a beat from suffering a severely damaged or destroyed root system.

The reluctant repotter may also benefit from careful plant selection. Avoid those orchids that seem to do best with frequent or regular repotting, such as paphiopedilums and phalaenopsis. Choose orchids that do best when grown undisturbed, such as schomburgkias and many dendrobiums. Nearly any dedicated orchid grower can find ways to simplify maintenance. Often, there are routine tasks that may be modified or eliminated in order to save time. Sometimes, it is important to analyze your growing conditions and select plants accordingly. Cull your collection if necessary, as it is much easier to manage a collection when most of the plants have harmonious cultural requirements.

This article appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine in October 2009 (Vol.78:10, pp.576-577).

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Late Winter in North Florida

by Sue Bottom

After the winter solstice, the sun rises higher in the sky and the days begin to lengthen a minute or so each day. Our plants respond to these subtle differences and we start to see new green root tips, a sure sign that our plants are rousing from their winter rest. We usually water half as frequently in winter as we do in summer, but those green root tips suggest it's time to ramp up the watering frequency. When the winter weather is warm and sunny, water more often, almost like you do during the growing season, while during cold gray periods, revert to your more infrequent winter watering schedule.

The green root tips also signal the beginning of the repotting season. We've all been told that the best time to repot your orchid is when it is initiating new root growth because the new root system will allow the plant to quickly recover from transplant shock. Dedicate a bench or section of your growing area to stockpile plants destined for repotting that week. As you tour your growing area, look for overgrown cattleyas with new green root tips and dormant *Catasetinae* that have the very beginning of green new growths. Move them to your 'To Be Repotted' area, and get busy situating them in their new homes. If you have some of the fragrant summer blooming phals that need repotting, this is a good time to repot them so they can reestablish before sending up their bloom spikes.



Condensation inside a sheath can cause the emerging bud to rot, gently peel sickly looking sheaths down to open it to the air.

Cattleyas. The winter blooming season is upon us. If the flower sheath is a yellow sickish color or looks wet, consider gently peeling it apart or splitting it open with a sterile blade to allow condensation from fluctuating day night temperatures to dissipate, so that the emerging buds do not rot inside the sheath. Dried sheaths are not a problem, except that you are anxiously awaiting the flowers to enlarge and break free.



Dried sheaths usually do not present a problem, in fact they protect the emerging buds from mechanical damage and chewing pests

Dendrobiums. The soft cane dendrobiums are forming their buds now. They will be putting on their show in the next month or two. Keep them dryish, watering only once or twice a month, and coolish, protecting them when temperatures are projected to drop below 38F or so. They may drop some of their leaves during the winter, but never fear, you will be able to see the flowers better on the leafless canes. The hard cane dendrobiums really dislike the cool weather and start dropping leaves below 60F. Keep them cozy in their winter homes for another few months.

Catasetinae. This is the flowering season for the winter blooming genera like the small flowered *Clowesias* and *Mormodes*, and their intergeneric hybrids including *Fredclarkearas* and *Mormodias*. The energy they have stored up in the fat pseudobulbs allows them to flower



Clowesia Grace Dunn 'Chadds Ford' AM/AOS is one of the late winter blooming varieties that flowers profusely from leafless pseudobulbs

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beautifully, even from leafless bulbs. These are the last Catasetinae to go dormant, so they will be the last to break dormancy in the spring. The summer blooming Clowesias and Catasetums may have gone dormant months ago and are now slowly waking up. Check them weekly for signs of new green growths. This is the best time to repot them, when the growths are just beginning and they have not yet started growing new roots. You can cut away old and tired growths and roots and orient the new growth toward the center of the pot. The new growths will start rooting in a matter of days and will quickly fill the pot. Avoid the urge to water until the roots and new growths are about 5 inches long and the new leaves have unfurled.



The best time to repot catasetums is when you first see the new green growths emerging at the base of the pseudobulbs.

Phalaenopsis. Your spring blooming phals should have tall spikes now with some buds beginning to open. It is not too late to stake those spikes for their best presentation. Constant air circulation with nighttime temperatures above 60F are essential to avoid Botrytis-spotted blooms. Water carefully to keep flowers dry and to minimize risks of soft rot in the fleshy leaves. If you grow the summer blooming phalaenopsis, you can repot them now so the plants can reestablish their root system before they start flowering mid-year.

Vandaceous. Many of the African angraecoids and popular Thai hybrids are blooming. Vandaceous orchids as a whole are fairly cold intolerant although there are some species from higher elevations that withstand lower temperatures. If you are unsure of your plant's genetic background, keep nighttime temperatures above 60F. This is particularly true of the widely hybridized *Vanda sanderiana* that has large two toned flowers and species of the fragrant genus *Aerides*. Some *Vanda* species like



The spring blooming phalaenopsis are getting ready to put on their show, blooming for 3 months or longer, before you cut the stems and repot in June.

coerulea, *denisoniana* and *tessellata* are more cold tolerant as are *Renanthera*, *Rhynchostylis* and many members of the colorful small flowered vandas previously known as *Ascocentrums* and *Ascocendas*, that are comfortable down to 50F. *Vanda* (syn. *Neofinetia*) *falcata* is probably the most cold tolerant vandaceous orchid accepting of temperatures in the lower 40's. Lower temperatures may not kill them, but if exposed to too low temperatures, the vandaceous orchids will start dropping leaves giving the plants an unappealing palm tree appearance.

In February, we can hope that Punxsutawney Phil will not see his shadow, gifting us with an early spring. New root and vegetative growth will begin necessitating more food and water to our plants. The repotting marathon will begin, so all our overgrown plants will be in new containers by June, ahead of the summer heat and humidity. For now, enjoy all the winter blooms rewarding us for last year's labors... We will be back at it again soon!



The fragrant summer blooming phalaenopsis should be repotted now, if they need to be, so they will reestablish before their blooming season begins.



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Apopka Orchid Festival

A lot of orchid addicts got their fix at the Orchid Festival hosted by Frank Smith of Krull-Smith orchid fame. Frank stepped into the breach left by the cancellation of so many shows last year and this year and hosted his own! He had international vendors like Popow, far away vendors like Sunset Valley Orchids, and locals like Florida SunCoast and Bredren Orchids... not to mention Frank's fantabulous orchids grown right there in Apopka. They had free parking and entry, yummy food, and lots of blooming orchids. The best news... he's going to host two more festivals around Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day, yahoo!



SHOW TABLE



Grower Walter Muller
Dtps. Super Golden Brick x Dtps. Lioulin Pretty Lip



Grower Linda Stewart
Epc. Rene Marques 'Tyler' AM/AOS



Grower Brandon Silvester
Ctsm. pileatum



Grower Sheila Nathanson
Den. bicallosum



Grower Leslie Brickell
Phcal. Kryptonite



Grower Sue Bottom
Onc. Jaraik Rainbow x Rdcm. Hello Kitty



Grower Tom & Dottie Sullivan
Onc. maculatum 'Paulo' AM/AOS



SHOW TABLE



Grower Leslie Brickell
Bulb. gracillimum 'Joy's Dancing Spider' AM/AOS



Grower Jane Peirce
Epi. polybulbon



Grower Linda Stewart
Ddc. bicallosum



Grower Sue Bottom
Blc. Suzuki's Yellow Flare



Grower Charlie Rowell
Eplc. Mae Bly 'Chin Hua Splash' AM/AOS



Grower Courtney Hackney
Paph. Berenice alba

Link to all Pictures. <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmU35P6k>

