

## CLUB NEWS



Courtney Hackney

### July 6, 2021 Monthly Meeting

by Karen Ford

#### Welcome and Thanks.

President Tom Sullivan opened the meeting at 6:50 pm with 42 attendees. Tom thanked Dianne Batchelder and Dottie Sullivan for the treats and coffee and he reminded all to remember to Drop a Dollar for the treats.

#### Club Business.

VP Linda Steward announced

new members Marie Card and Susan McDowell from St. Augustine, Karen Reynoldson from Plantation and Joan Graham from California. Two attending members with July birthdays were given a raffle ticket by Lady Di. She also asked that members to let her know by email ([infor@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:infor@staugorchidsociety.org)) of any members who are ill or in need of cheering-up so she can send them a card. She also announced that the Mentoring Program is back and looking for both mentors and mentees.

Tom announced that the next orchid repotting clinic will be held on August 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 am until noon at the church. He noted that there are no orchid shows in Florida this month and pointed out the growing supplies available.

Howard brought two lending books relevant to diseased orchids: *Orchids Pests and Diseases* and *The Orchid Doctor*. He reminded members that they can look on the SAOS website for other books they would like to borrow, let him know, and he will bring them to next month's meeting.

Sue Bottom announced that next month's meeting, titled "Gadget Night", will feature tricks, tips, and gadgets that members use to grow their beautiful orchids. Please send photos of your gadgets to Sue ([info@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@staugorchidsociety.org)) by July 31 so she can compile them before the meeting. If you forget to send photos, please just bring them and plan to describe them during the meeting.

**Culture Table.** Courtney began by sharing a nice *Cattleya* mounted by Charlie on



cypress, pointing out how quickly the plant's roots had grabbed the cypress. He noted a *Coelogyne xyrekes* that a member received from Seattle that typically prefers cooler temperatures. He recommended keeping the plant in deep shade during the summer and/or ensuring lots of air movement. He also recommended growing it in clay pots because the clay wicks water away from the roots and allows it to evaporate, cooling the roots. It is the roots that most often demand the cooler temperatures!

Sue demonstrated removing the sheath from upright unifoliate leaves to prevent moisture from accumulating and promoting rot. She peels the sheath all the way down to the top of the pseudobulb. Courtney noted that you can also brush Banrot fungicide on the leaf base or apply hydrogen peroxide every other week.

Courtney showed an orchid he leaves outside all the time, unless temperatures drop below 35 degrees, and noted that the trick is great drainage. He recommended potting in Styrofoam for these conditions. He also shared tricks to avoid repotting an orchid, like waiting until at least 3 bulbs are outside the pot, then removing and repotting the 3 bulbs rather than disturbing the parent plant.

Courtney noted two *Phalaenopsis* plants with gorgeous blooms that were grown in a relatively thin layer of sphagnum in larger plastic baskets. One trick to encourage multiple inflorescences is to leave the green spikes attached to the plant and remove the last couple of buds to encourage branching from nodes.

Courtney noted that *Paphiopedilum* orchids prefer a slightly alkaline soil, so he adds a few pieces of pelletized dolomite to the lava rock growing medium. He grows them in rock because it doesn't decompose like bark does, and he therefore doesn't need to repot them.

Continued on page 3



# CLUB NEWS



## Upcoming Orchid Events

### July

- 10 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm  
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 13 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA  
Speaker TBA
- 14 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm  
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace  
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email

### August

- 3 SAOS Meeting, Gadget Night, 6:30 pm  
Gadget Night – Send a Pic of Yours!  
SAOS Members Share Tips and Tricks
- 6-8 Int'l Phalaenopsis Alliance Symposium  
Highland Manor, Apopka
- 6-7 Annual Cattleya Symposium  
Indian River Research & Education Ctr  
Fort Pierce  
CANCELLED
- 7 Repotting & Plant Clinic, 9 am til noon  
Behind the Memorial Lutheran Church  
3375 US1 South, St. Aug 32086
- 10 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA  
Thanh Nguyen, Springwater Orchids
- 11 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm  
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace  
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 14 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm  
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.

### September

- 4 Repotting Clinic, 9 am til 1 pm  
Memorial Lutheran Church  
3375 US 1 S – by back parking lot
- 7 SAOS Meeting, You Bred What?, 6:30 pm  
Dave Off, Waldor Orchids
- 11 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm  
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 11-12 Fall JOS Show  
Mandarin Garden Club

- 14 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 6 pm  
Phillip Hamilton, Bredren Orchids
- 15 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm  
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace  
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 18-19 Ridge Orchid Society Show  
IFAS Stuart Center, Bartow

### October

- 1-3 Tamiami Orchid Festival  
Fruit and Spike Park, Homestead
- 2 Repotting Clinic, 9 am til 1 pm  
Memorial Lutheran Church  
3375 US 1 S – by back parking lot
- 5 SAOS Meeting, Fragrant Phals, 6:30 pm  
Mike Mims, Boutique Hybridizer

## St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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Directors at Large	Bob Schimmel, 2019 <a href="mailto:bobsch37702@gmail.com">bobsch37702@gmail.com</a> Cathy Mayo, 2020 <a href="mailto:allatoonalady@gmail.com">allatoonalady@gmail.com</a> Charlie Rowell, 2021 <a href="mailto:charlierowell75@gmail.com">charlierowell75@gmail.com</a>
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Librarian	Howard Cushnir <a href="mailto:hscushnir@gmail.com">hscushnir@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom <a href="mailto:sbottom15@gmail.com">sbottom15@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:bottom406@gmail.com">bottom406@gmail.com</a>



# CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1



**SAOS Program.** Courtney Hackney, with assistance from Sue Bottom, presented a program titled "Ask the Professor", where they answered many questions about orchid cultivation. They began by noting characteristics of some live orchids, then displayed numerous slides illustrating various problems orchid growers experience. A central theme of the evening was that healthy orchid roots are key to growing great plants. Many plants will produce roots throughout their life, while others only produce them at specific times in their growth cycle, such as bifoliate Cattleyas. Some roots emerge from the rhizome, some branch from other roots. To stimulate root production, especially after repotting, you can use a product called "Dip 'N Grow". Green root tips and white roots indicate living roots. The white coating, velamen, is a dead tissue that absorbs water. The live part of the root that transports water and nutrients to the rest of the plants is located inside the velamen.

The primary purpose of a potting medium is to support the plant. Clay balls work well for many orchids because they don't decompose, which can lead to rot. With *Phalaenopsis* orchids, floppy leaves indicate unhealthy roots. This usually is a sign that the plant needs the dead roots removed prior to repotting in a dry medium, followed by a period of growth in a shady location. Many growers will place their rootless plants in a small plastic bag with some Sphagnum moss and wait for new roots to form prior to repotting. It is important to repot in DRY medium, unless you are using sphagnum, which needs to be wetted. Wet medium can transmit bacteria and fungi to damaged roots, causing disease. You should keep the roots dry for at least 48 hours after repotting. Courtney shared a couple of strategies to avoid repotting, including rotating a plant relative to light in order to re-direct growth back towards the pot. He also suggested breaking pots and hanging the plant.

Plants left outside during rainy weather may receive too much rain, especially if they're grown in bark, and the roots may develop fungal diseases. You can treat your orchids prophylactically with Banrot to reduce this problem.

Thin leaved orchids like oncidiums can develop crinkled leaves if they aren't getting adequate water, either because the roots are damaged or they need more frequent watering.

If you have *Stanhopeas* with discoloration at the leaf tips, you probably have an anthracnose fungus. You should remove the diseased leaves at their base and increase air flow. Cooler nighttime temperatures also help.

Leaves exhibit sunburn and high temperature damage more often when they aren't getting enough water. Healthy leaves on plants with healthy roots and adequate water open their stomata to allow water to evaporate, which cools the leaf.

A few slides demonstrated insect damage on orchids. You can avoid mealybugs by not having any citrus or hibiscus plants near your orchids. Cattleyas have problems with scale, which can often be recognized by chlorotic spots on the top of leaves. The scale insects can be found underneath the leaf, below the yellow spots. One way to control scale is to spray the individual leaves with water to physically remove the insects. "Safari" is an insecticide that also kills scale. If you do get these insects, Distance is a relatively safe hormonal pesticide that interferes with their life cycle.

Finally, Courtney shared a tip for knowing when to water your plants. If the fronds of resurrection fern grown in the same location shrivel, it is time to water. He observed that variations in humidity result in needing to water sometimes after 2 days and sometimes after 9 days. If in doubt, don't water!

**Meeting Conclusion.** The evening concluded with the Silent Auction and Raffle table. Thanks to the helpful hands that stayed to clean and store the tables, chairs and room.





# CLUB NEWS

## Keiki Club/Repotting Clinic

The Keiki Club is on summer vacation. Keep watering and fertilizing your plants and watch for pest and disease issues. SAOS members will be available at the repotting clinics on the first Saturday of the month all summer long if you have any questions or problems. Drive around to the pavilion behind the church. We're there from 9 til noon.



## Shop Smile.Amazon

Thanks to all who have designated the St. Augustine Orchid Society as your favorite charity. We have received over \$300 from Amazon! Click this [Smile.Amazon link](#) to select the St. Augustine Orchid Society as your charity. The AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price to SAOS.



## American Orchid Society Corner

### Webinars

July 6, 8:30 pm, Everyone Invited  
Greenhouse Chat Orchid, Q&A - Ron McHatton  
July 12, 8:30 pm, AOS Members Only  
Botanical Awards – Jean Ikeson and Peter Poot  
July 15, 8:30 pm, AOS Members Only  
Cyrtorchilums – Leslie Ee

### Orchids Magazine this month:

Let There Be Light – Kelly McCracken  
Native Orchid Conservation – Peter Zale  
The Usual Suspects – Sue Bottom

### Photos of Latest AOS Awards

## August 3 Monthly Meeting Gadget Night SAOS Members Share Their Tricks

One of our members suggested we hold a gadget night, where members are invited to bring in some tool, gadget, trick or suggestion that they find useful in growing orchids. It would be great if you could send a picture of yours so we can compile them into a slide show. Members will stand up and demonstrate how their gadgets are used. Should be a fun and interactive discussion, and we'll all go home with new ideas! We'll have our normal raffle table and sales table manned by members. Friends and guests are always welcome!

**When:** Tuesday, August 3, 6:30 til 9 pm

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



# INSPIRATION

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*Cattleya gaskelliana coerulea*

© Terry Botta





# CULTIVATION



## Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,  
sbottom15@gmail.com

**Q1.** My phal has a weird keiki that grew from a flower spike. I need to plant it but I'm not sure how to encourage the aerial roots to become terrestrial roots. Any thoughts?



**A1.** Situate the keiki in the pot, sized to fit the roots easily. You may have to wet the roots to make them more pliable and fit it into the pot with a twisting motion. Then, drop in some styrofoam peanuts about 1/4 to 1/3 the way up the pot, and then add a handful of your phal mix to the pot. Continue each week to add a handful of mix to the pot. The roots will ultimately branch and grow into the mix and become acclimated to it that way.

**Q2.** These images showing problematic new growth in my orchids. In each case it appears as if there is not enough structural strength in the orchid growth. I'm currently using "Bill's Best" but thinking the orchids may need magnesium such as found in Epsom salts or top dressing with dolomite lime.

**A2.** Lush fast growth is associated with excess nitrogen fertilization particularly when the nitrogen is in the



ammonium rather than nitrate form. Soft lush growth is pretty, but is an easy target for pests and diseases as well as structural problems. You want slow, steady, strong growths. I think perhaps you should dial down the amount of fertilizer you use.

Courtney added: "Soft growth is always an indication of too much nitrogen relative to sunlight along with the lack of other nutrients. The balance of nutrients is much more complex than it might seem, so I rotate fertilizers every week. Week one, 10-30-20, week two 20-10-20 and week three 15-5-15 a balanced Cal-Mag fertilizer. Week four is no fertilizer, but a heavy flushing. In addition, if I need to water more often I provide a low dose of potassium silicate with the water. Once a quarter I also provide a low dose of fish emulsion, except in winter. I also add Epsom salts at a ratio of 1/5 to my 10-30-20 fertilizer. Perhaps most important is the concentrations I use, which is always no more than 1/16 tsp per gallon. That is far lower than the recommendation, but my plants grow well and are very strong."





## CoCo Chips

by Dr. Courtney Hackney

Most repotting should be complete by now except for plants that have special requirements. Repotting is a great time to assess how well your orchids have grown by simply examining roots, old media, and the size of the plant. If all of your repotted orchids are requiring larger pots than last year's, then media, fertilizing, watering, etc. have been successful. If repotted orchids had few roots and smaller leaves it may be necessary to change one or more of your cultural practices. If you keep records of what you do each month, e.g. what fertilizer was used or how frequently plants were watered, the task of assessing what went wrong will be easier.

Orchid culture involves many facets from light to water. Changing any one variable requires that others be altered as well. More light usually requires more frequent watering, while conversion to plastic pots from clay may require less. New media may require more or less fertilizer. Most cultural problems revolve around water; too much, too little, or water of poor quality. Orchids need better water quality than do humans. People have various organs to rid their bodies of unwanted salts, but plants must live with what you provide. That is why water free of salt (dissolved stuff) is so important. Ideally, the only salts you want in the water you give your plants are those needed for growth, which are macronutrients (N, P, K) and micronutrients (about 30 other elements needed in tiny quantities). Unless you use Reverse Osmosis or deionized water most micronutrients are already there. Fertilizers recommended for orchids supply the macronutrients.

If a problem was noted with your culture the solution typically involves water. If you cannot stop over watering, switch to a media that is more porous or one that degrades more slowly. Clay pots dry faster than plastic and offer another solution. If you often forget to water consider the opposite or growing orchids tolerant of drought. Paphs and Phals do not like their roots to totally dry out, while many groups with pseudobulbs require drying. Some of this is learned by "trial and error" or "survival of the fittest". If Paphs grow well for you, but Cattleyas grow well for a year or two then stop blooming you can conclude that the needs of the low light, water-loving Paphs are being met, but the higher light Cattleyas are not. Growing Orchids begins with advice from books or friends, but ultimately is trial and error

learning tempered by availability of water, media and other supplies.

The past year's repotting has revealed some strikingly successful experiments in my greenhouse with both time-released fertilizers and with coconut chips. Both had been tried before, but were not successful under my cultural conditions. One well-known Paph grower recently published an article noting successful use of coconut chips added to Paph mixes in place of fir bark. Several area Phal growers had added coconut chips to their mixes years ago with mixed results. The addition of coconut chips to the traditionally heavy Paph mixes seemed to prevent the compaction of the mix and the required repotting. The secret was in removing salt from the coconut chips before using them by repeated soaking. My first batch of coconut chips required several weeks of soaking to decrease the salt content from over 10,000 to less than 20 ppm. Using the coconut chips right out of the box would have meant disaster. I already did that once. The salt purged chips did just what was suggested in the article and Paphs grown in the mix with coconut chips had far better roots and better yet, did not require repotting after 6-8 months.

An experiment using coconut chips in Cattleya mixes, while not complete, found one problem, mold. There is a common white-colored mold that occurs in fir bark that makes the bark water repellent. This appeared in mixes with coconut bark. The addition of small amounts of redwood bark should eliminate mold as it does with fir bark. Next year's repotting will reveal if this works or not.

Another success was the near elimination of small flies whose maggot larvae live in the media. While not a real problem, these flies can be a nuisance and accelerate media breakdown. A few small butterworts (carnivorous plants) was all that was required. I do not have a commercial source for butterworts, but Carter & Holmes has a species of sundew, another carnivorous plant, which should also work well in greenhouses. Carnivorous plants are excellent indicators of water quality as well and will die quickly if water quality is poor.

The last successful experiment is one that seems too good to be true. Slow release fertilizers such as Osmocote have been around for years, but tend to release too much fertilizer at once damaging roots. A new product, Nutricote, has proven remarkable because it did no damage to roots or even leaves when accidentally left on them. Best yet, Cattleyas grew faster, bloomed better, and still had the thick hard leaves desired. For growers with just a few plants and that do not want to spend time mixing fertilizers, this is the product for you. It lasts a long time and is still working over a year after it was first applied.

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 July 2002.





# CULTIVATION

## Notes on Growing *Phalaenopsis* Species

by Carlos Fighetti, courtesy of the AOS



Most experienced orchid growers know that when growing orchid species, one has to pay very close attention to the conditions of their natural habitat. Species, over very long time periods, have become closely adapted to their habitats, often exhibiting little tolerance for conditions not to their liking. And obviously, *Phalaenopsis* follow this pattern. Consequently, the first, and most important question, that the grower should ask when obtaining *Phalaenopsis* species is where does it come from? Does it grow in the shade or in full sun? At what elevation is the habitat? The higher the elevation, the cooler the climate, even in the tropics so species from higher the elevations will require cooler conditions to do well. Also, it is important to know how humidity, rainfall extent and frequency varies across the year. Once we know all this, we can decide if we have the right conditions to grow a particular plant or not, or what modifications we have to make to our growing conditions to make this plant thrive. And finally, we have to be aware of the effect these changes might have on the other plants already in our collections. You do not want to make changes for one plant to do well only to have those changes result in many others to behave poorly.

**Roots.** While little is written about it, growers should be aware of the type of roots particular *Phalaenopsis* species have. Most species possess both aerial and epiphytic roots and these species can be mounted on a cork or tree fern plaque. Some epiphytic roots will adhere and firmly attach to the mount while other roots will grow out and away from the mount looking for nourishment and often attach to other mounts, baskets, wires or other pots. These roots at the time of mounting have to be wire-wrapped to the mount to hold the plants in place, but after a period of time, the wires can be removed and the plant will be well-held by its epiphytic roots. Some species, such as *Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi*, produce few epiphytic roots,

and will grow better if potted using a porous limestone rock medium. That doesn't mean that these species cannot be mounted, but that they will have to be well-wired to the mount or the plants will eventually fall off. *Phalaenopsis tetraspis*, *fuscata* and *cochlearis* do better for me potted than mounted for the same reason. Finally, there are some terrestrial species, such as *Phalaenopsis pulcherrima*, that will produce only substrate roots. These can be potted in a semi-terrestrial medium and grown at relatively high light conditions.

**Temperature.** As I mentioned before, habitat elevation is extremely important. Higher elevation is a good indication that cooler conditions are required to survive. *Phalaenopsis pulchra* is found from 2,000 to 4,900 feet (600-1,500 m) and it is reported that this species survives temperatures as low as 45 F (about 7 C). Plants will survive in cultivation at warmer temperatures but will not bloom, forming plantlets (keikis) instead of buds on any inflorescences produced. *Phalaenopsis lindenii* is another example found at similar elevations as *Phal. pulchra* and is even less tolerant of warmer temperatures.

**Light.** Light level is also another important consideration. Not all *Phalaenopsis* species grow in low light. *Phalaenopsis gigantea* is found in the top of the tree canopy in its native habitat, indicating that they receive a good amount of light - similar to light levels required by vandas. *Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* is another species found high in the trees and adapted to high light. On the other hand, *Phalaenopsis tetraspis* is found deep in the forest under very low light conditions and will suffer seriously, if not outright die if an attempt to grow them under conditions suitable for *Phal. gigantea* is made.

*This article appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine in June 2015 (Vol.84:6, p.355).*





# CULTIVATION

## Repotting Phalaenopsis

by Sue Bottom



*They are still beautiful, but admit it, the flowers are starting to fade. Besides, you are starting to see new root growth. If they need repotting, put the flowers in a vase and get cracking!*

The spring blooming phalaenopsis are attuned to the calendar. Let them be exposed to the cold weather for several weeks around Halloween, the flower trigger signal that tells them it is time to think about blooming. You should see flower spikes by Christmas and the first blooms around Valentine's Day. You will get 3 months of glorious blooms. By the time Memorial Day rolls around, it will be time to think about repotting. By Independence Day, they should all be tucked into their new homes so they can reestablish their root systems and get ready to do it all over again.

We have potted phals in many different types of media, coco husks, Pro-Mix, Sphagnum moss, etc. The long fibered New Zealand Sphagnum moss has many good qualities. The phal roots are so fat and happy in it, but it is easy to overwater moss, particularly in the larger pots. We try to compensate by using clay pots, by using a bottom layer of Styrofoam to provide an airy reservoir, and then interlayering crushed Styrofoam (or Sponge Rock) with the Sphagnum moss for improved drainage. We prefer the soft Styrofoam that comes in sheets and easily pulls apart into small spheres or packing peanuts, as opposed to the hard molded Styrofoam used for packaging electronics, etc. Some people are successful growing phals in bark mixes, including the SAOS coarse mix. The SAOS Pro-Mix/Sponge Rock blend is a good choice for those that are trying to transition their plants away from a moss media. Finding the high quality New Zealand long fibered sphagnum moss is difficult, and when you do find it, it is very expensive; we just paid \$170 for a 3 kilo bale.

Phals have a monopodial growth habit so they grow upward, adding a leaf or three every year and perhaps losing a lower leaf. Eventually they can get top heavy, and the new roots growing opposite the leaf axils have a long way to go to reach the potting media. Once they get unwieldy and before the potting mix breaks down, it is time to repot. My normal time between repotting is two years. I usually start with the ones that are finishing up blooming first and work my way through the bench.

The basic approach is to remove the plant from the pot and decide where to cut the stem. Ideally you would cut away any part of the stem that is rotten or woody, cutting until you get to green tissue. This means you will be cutting away the old roots, and some may still be healthy. If you are repotting at the proper time, you should see a flush of new roots starting to grow from the stem that will quickly grow into your medium. We help Mother Nature along by spraying root stimulator on the roots and stem after surgery. There are many products on the market, including seaweed and kelp, as well as synthetic hormones.

Once you have the plant prepared for potting, you situate it at the height you want it to sit in the pot. Fill the bottom third of the pot with Styrofoam, either before placing the plant or after the plant is situated. The Styrofoam provides an airy reservoir for the roots so they will not get waterlogged and rot. Then you can wrap Sphagnum moss around the roots. You can mix crushed Styrofoam or Sponge Rock into your moss or interlayer it with the moss to provide additional drainage, particularly important when you are using the larger pots where the moss would otherwise stay too wet. If one of the bottom leaves is yellowing, let it stay on the plant a little below the media level. The plant will reabsorb minerals from the leaf and ultimately it will yellow and drop from the plant.



*The thick roots are fat and happy, even after two years in the pot.*

Continued on page 10





# CULTIVATION

Continued from page 9



*Situate the plant in the pot with a twisting motion so it will be at the desired height in the pot.*



*You can add Styrofoam around the roots before or after placing the plant.*



*Wrap Sphagnum moss around the roots and interlayer with some crushed Styrofoam.*

You find all kinds of interesting situations when you are repotting, and you have to adjust your technique to the situation at hand. The first ones repotted were two that had plenty of nice, plump leaves but they were about 6 inches above the potting mix. The first had nice roots along a live stem so the decision about where to cut was easy, remove the lower section that was woody and beginning to rot. This one was situated in the new pot and then the Styrofoam was added in and around the roots in the bottom third of the pot and then Sphagnum moss with some crushed Styrofoam was wrapped around the roots in the pot.



*These top heavy phals are ready to go under the knife.*



*The bottom older growth was cut away, plenty of nice roots close to the leaves.*



*The fleshy roots were below the oldest leaves, so we cut just below the new emerging roots*

Continued on page 11





# CULTIVATION

## Continued from page 10

The second phal had a bare stem between the plump upper growth and the bottom two older leaves with all the fleshy roots below that. Luckily, this one had a flush of new roots below the upper leaves so the whole bottom part of the plant was cut away. The pot was filled a third of the way with Styrofoam, then a layer of Sphagnum moss and then some crushed Styrofoam. Then the growth was situated in the pot with some more Sphagnum moss wrapped around it.



*They look so much better when they have been repotted.*

The next phal was really overgrown. It bloomed beautifully with 5 flower spikes. There were two plants in the pot, and one of them had two healthy basal keikis. The keikis were separated from the main stem with as many roots as possible, but we discarded the stem and any roots that were attached to avoid rot. We placed all four plants in the same pot, wrapping sphagnum around each. We backfilled the pot alternating moss and crushed Styrofoam layers to ensure good drainage in the large pot. This a way to conserve bench space as well as ensure many flowers the next spring.



*There were two plants in this pot, and one developed two basal keikis.*



*The plants and keikis were separated so they could be situated at the same level.*



*Four plants dropped into the same pot, should be a good show!*

Your approach to growing orchids is ever changing as you try new things, make mistakes and learn new tricks. My approach to repotting has evolved too. I tend to use only a portion of the upper pot for the potting media with a thick layer of Styrofoam chunks in the bottom, almost the reverse of semi hydroponics. Roots in the upper portion of the pot get their moisture and minerals from the relatively thin layer of potting media, and roots in the bottom portion of the pot get the air they crave. It is more similar to the way an epiphyte might grow in nature with roots in a mossy layer over a tree limb. This approach works cross genera, from cattleyas to catasetums to phalaenopsis. When repotting, you can see how well your prior year's approach worked. This year's repotting revealed healthy root systems growing with little root rot evident even after being in a pot for several years.





# CULTIVATION



## Old Friends

Ruben and Claudia Sauleda of Ruben in Orchids moved to the orchid paradise of Colombia in 2013. They love the country, the people and the orchids, and Ruben has been busy studying and writing about Colombian orchids. They came for a quick visit with friends Pablo and Maria Esperon to St. Augustine for some R and R. Pablo and Ruben have teamed up writing articles about Cuban orchids on the [New World Orchidaceae](http://NewWorldOrchidaceae.com) website. It's always great to get together with old friends. One day we might even make the trek down to Colombia!





# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Sheila Nathanson**  
*Phal. violacea var. coerulea*



**Grower Walter Muller**  
*V. Kultana Gold x V. Spotted Sunshine*



**Grower Courtney Hackney**  
*Blc. Ken Griffith 'Intensity'*



**Grower Linda Stewart**  
*Enc. Orchid Jungle*



**Grower Suz Susko**  
*Enc. tampensis*



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
*Bulb. bicolor*



**Grower Leslie Brickell**  
*Bulb. graveolens 'Mont Millais' AM/AOS*





# SHOW TABLE

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**Grower Steve Dorsey**  
***Lc. Acker's Spotlight 'Pink Lady' AM/AOS***



**Grower Allen Black**  
***Bark. spectabilis***



**Grower Janis Croft**  
***Blc. Waianae Leopard 'Ching Hua' HCC/AOS***



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
***L. Pacavia***



**Grower Leslie Brickell**  
***Den. x usitae***



**Grower Debra Brandt**  
***L. purpurata v. carnea***

Link to all Pictures. <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmWdC1Er>

