



CLUB NEWS



Sarah Hurdel

March SAOS Meeting
by Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks. President Tom Sullivan opened the meeting at 6:55 pm with 51 attendees. He thanked Dianne Batchelder and Dottie Sullivan for the treats and coffee while reminding all to remember to Drop a Dollar for the treats. Next Tom thanked the Membership Committee Volunteers, Linda Stewart, VP, and Dottie Sullivan who

greet all at the front door, making members and guests feel welcome.

Club Business. Membership VP, Linda Stewart welcomed our visitors and introduced our new member William Jordan as well as recently joined members Mirta Iberlucea and Gary Jensen.

Membership. Linda reminded all that it's time to renew your membership for 2022, if you haven't already. The dues are \$20 for an individual or \$30 for a family if paid by check. You can pay at the front table or send by mail to Linda Stewart, 1812 Diana Drive, Palatka 32177, or for an extra dollar use these PayPal links. Linda then asked the March birthday people to raise their hands for their free raffle ticket. As our Sunshine Coordinator also, Linda announced that if you know of anyone in need of a cheering up or a get-well card, let her know by emailing her at info@staugorchidsociety.org.

Orchid Shows in Florida this Month. Tampa Bay, Martin County and Englewood have orchid shows this weekend, the Jacksonville show is on the 19th and 20th at the Mandarin Garden Club, Spring Hill is also that weekend, and the Gulf Coast in Naples and Highland County are at the end of the month. Check website calendar for details.



Repotting Clinics. Join us this Saturday at the Southeast Branch Library, 6670 US-1 N, Saint Augustine, FL 32086. Learn how



to repot your orchids, or just come to talk and observe. The clinics are held on the first Saturday of the month through October and run from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Library. Librarian Howard Cushnir brought in four books and encouraged all to use the library collection listed on our SAOS website. If you would like a book or magazine, send a request to info@staugorchidsociety.org and he will bring the item(s) to the next meeting.



Supplies. If you need supplies, email info@staugorchidsociety.org. We have Potting Mixes, Butterfly Clips, Plant Tags, Time Release Fertilizer, Fertilizer Baskets and SAOS T-shirts (\$20).

Continued on page 3



CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

March

- 4-5 Englewood Area Orchid Society Show
Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park
- 4-6 Martin County Orchid Society Show
Martin County Fairgrounds
- 5 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til 1 pm
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 5-6 Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show
Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center
- 8 JOS Meeting, Show Update, 7 pm
Lorraine Conover, JOS Show Chairman
- 9 Virtual Show Table
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 12 FL North-Central Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Garden Center, 849 West Ave
- 19-20 Jacksonville Orchid Society Show
The Garden Center of Jacksonville
- 19-20 Nature Coast Orchid Society Show
VFW Post 8681, Spring Hill
- 25-27 Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance Show
North Collier Regional Park, Naples
- 26-27 Orchid Society of Highlands County Show
Agri-Civic Center, Sebring

April

- 3 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til 1 pm
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 5 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Repotting Orchids
Sue Bottom and Courtney Hackney
- 10 FL North-Central Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Garden Center
849 West Ave
- 12 JOS Meeting – Hands On Demo, 7 pm
Mounting and Potting Orchids
- 13 SAOS Virtual Show Table
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
Invitation Will be Sent by Email

- 16-17 Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society Show
Flamingo Gardens, Davie
- 23-24 Vero Beach Orchid Society Show
Riverside Park
- 24 SAOS Picnic and Orchid Sale, 4 to 6 pm
Memorial Lutheran Church
3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086
- 29-1 Platinum Coast Orchid Society Show
Kiwanis Island Park Gym and Annex

May

- 1 JOS Picnic, 12 pm
3611 Richmond Street, Jax 32205
- 3 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Summertime and the Growin' Is Easy
Jim Roberts, Florida Suncoast Orchids

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Tom Sullivan tomjs91@gmail.com
Vice President Communications	Janis Croft croftie1984@gmail.com
Vice President Events	Dianne Batchelder ladydi9907@aol.com
Vice President Membership	Linda Stewart bindstew@hotmail.com
Vice President Programs	Sue Bottom sbottom15@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Cathy Mayo allatoonalady@gmail.com
Directors	Leslie Brickell, 2022 lesliebrickell@gmail.com Charlie Bridgham, 2022 tech@burrindustries.com Charlie Rowell, 2021 charlierowell75@gmail.com
Exhibit Committee Chair	Janis Croft croftie1984@gmail.com
Librarian	Howard Cushnir hscushnir@gmail.com
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom sbottom15@gmail.com bottom406@gmail.com



CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1



SAOS Program. Sue introduced Sarah Hurdel from the Washington, DC area who live-streamed her presentation on Habenarias to us. She started as a hobbyist, like all of us, twenty years ago and now grows over 600 plants in her basement under lights! Sarah is now starting her own orchid business and will soon have a website up and running. For now, check out her Facebook store [Need More Orchids](#). Currently you can follow her on her Facebook page [Something About Orchids](#) or her blog, [Something About Orchids](#). About seven years ago, she took her blooming orchids and arranged them in a “basement show.” She posted the photo of the display on social media and the image went around the internet rapidly. She then decided to develop her Facebook page and blog and has been sharing her tips and photos ever since.

In 2011, Sarah won her first *Habenaria rhodocheila* at her local orchid society and loved the foliage. She bought more and started growing Habenarias outside but ran into issues with slugs and snails so she moved them indoors. As she started getting more plants, she soon turned her living room into her growing area and eventually moved all down into her basement. Habenarias grow from tubers and after each year of growth, the tubers multiply each year. In 2015, she realized she would have to start giving tubers away because she was outgrowing her space. She installed “orchid growing condos” which are a shelving system that uses all her vertical space in her basement and LED strip lights. Her Facebook page has details and sources for her supplies.

Habenarias have over 800 species and the taxonomy is not yet settled. They are related to *Cynorkis*, *Pecteilis* and *Platanthera*, which are now being used by growers to cross with Habenarias. Sarah grows the habenarias from Southeast Asia and they don't like cold weather which is another reason she grows indoors. Most are terrestrial with some lithophytic. Many species are small but there are a few that grow quite large, *Habenaria medusa* for example.

She then showed a slide of the *Phalenopsis* flower and its parts—column, sepals, petals and lip. The next slide then compared the differences of the *Habenaria* flower which has insignificant petals (2), three sepals, and a rostellum which is similar to a column but not fused with the lip.

Habenaria live in an environment with both a dry and a wet season. If they have cold and wet, they die. She plants the tubers in peat based media, e.g. ProMix HP, when the tuber shows growth, beginning to sprout. The mix is barely moist at this stage as you need to keep water out of the crown. As rapid growth begins and foliage grows, add slow release fertilizer, e.g. Nutricote, and keep moist. This is the time to always keep plant moist mimicking the rainy season. When the last flowers open, start a slow drying between waterings. When blooms fade, dry completely between waterings. Then when leaves begin to die back and the plant gets “crusty”, dry completely for two weeks. This hardens off the tuber and then you can dig it up and place in a plastic bag for the winter. Remember when you pot the tubers, pick your pot size to allow for two new tubers to form and pick a tall pot so the new tubers don't grow into the bottom of the pot. She puts a layer of medium perlite in the bottom. Remember to plant the tuber with the pointy end up, where the sprout is starting. Sarah sent the club tubers to purchase so it will be interesting to see our successful growing this fall. She told all that tubers come with free tech support! We sold all the tubers Sarah sent us, so we can expect a bumper crop of *Habenaria Tracey* this fall!

Show Table Review. We will continue conducting our Courtney Hackney led Virtual Show Table via Zoom. The next one will be at 7 pm on Feb. 9 which is the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Watch for an email invitation. Each month's Virtual Show Table is recorded and posted on our website.

Courtney talked about the plants that were brought into the show table, offering his considerable knowledge and insight into the various types and their culture. Harry brought in some incredible blooming cymbidiums and gave us a quick tutorial on selecting Cymbidiums that are tolerant of our summer heat. Of course, some of the ones he has had success with are not necessarily considered heat tolerant, but they apparently haven't read the orchid books. There were several of the spring blooming dendrobiums on the show table, so we know spring has begun. The final plant was a beautiful *phalaenopsis* with multiple branched inflorescences. Gorgeous!

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



CLUB NEWS

Renew Your Membership

Thanks to the many of you who have renewed your membership for 2022. If you haven't had a chance to renew but wish to remain a member, you can mail your membership check to SAOS c/o Linda Stewart, 1812 Diana Drive, Palatka 32177. Dues are \$20 for an individual or \$30 for a family. If you prefer to renew your membership online, you can use the PayPal link on our [website](#).

Shop Smile.Amazon.com Not Amazon.com

Do your shopping at [Smile.Amazon.com](#), which is a mirror site to Amazon.com. If you order from Amazon.com rather than [Smile.Amazon.com](#), no donations will be made to the St. Augustine Orchid Society. On your web browser, you can add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](#) to make it even easier to shop and donate at the same time! You can also activate AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app on your phone (from the Settings or Programs & Features menu).



American Orchid Society Corner

Webinars

March 16, 8:30 pm, AOS Members Only
Jewel Orchids – Nicholas Rust
March 22, 8:30 pm, Everyone Invited
Greenhouse Chat Orchid, Q&A - Ron McHatton

Orchids Magazine this Month

Candy Striped MiniCatts – Fred Clarke
Epi. pseudopidendrum - Judith Rapacz-Hasler
Phototropisms in Inflorescences – Larry Litwin

Photos of Latest AOS Awards

April 5 Monthly Meeting

Repotting Orchids

Sue Bottom and Courtney Hackney, SAOS

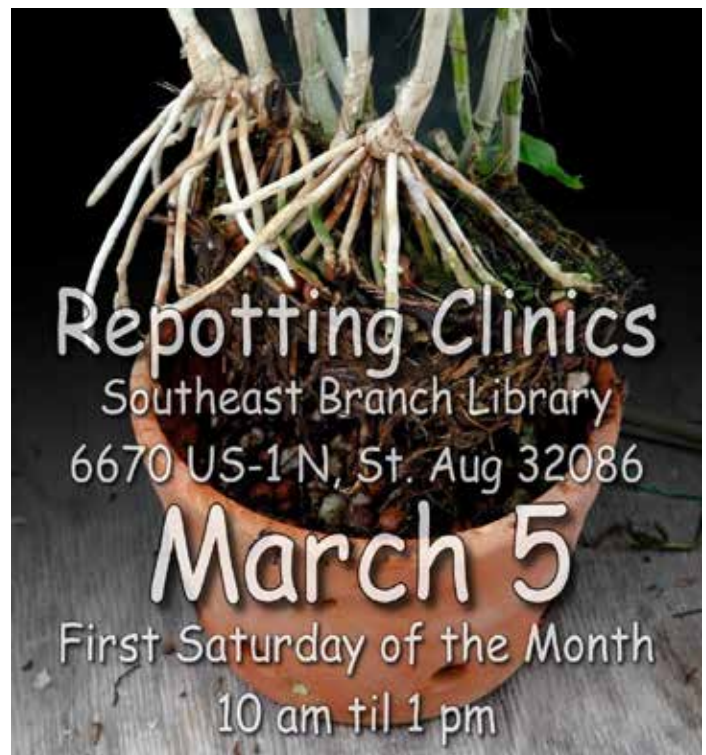
Sue and Courtney will talk about repotting orchids, all those things you should think about to keep your roots happy in their new home. When is the right time, what mix should you use, how do you select the pot, are there any tricks (you betcha!). We'll talk about mounting orchids, using baskets and repotting. If there is enough time, we will have hands on demonstrations.



We'll have plants available on the sales and raffle tables. Friends and guests are always welcome.

When: Tuesday April 5, 6:30 til 9 pm

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



CLUB NEWS



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@gmail.com

Q1. I am in a panic mode. I lost my *Vanda tessellata* 3 weeks ago to what appeared to have been a sudden bacterial infection that spread like fire in a few days. This morning my very healthy *Gongora atropurpurea* is covered with what appears to be bacterial infection. I discovered the problem on 4 more *stanhopeas*, all in the immediate vicinity of the *Gongora*. All 5 plants are very good plants and I am disheartened but hopeful that trimming and spraying will allow them to come back. I also keep them dry for now and isolated.



A1. I don't think that is rot from the cold weather per se, I'd guess the damage was caused by cold water dripping onto the leaves and causing the localized cell collapse followed by a bacterial infection. With this cold weather, water can readily condense and drip on the leaves. Wet plus cold is a deadly combination. I think your instincts are correct, trimming away the bacterial infection will help stop it from spreading and copper sprays should be protective of the remaining leaves. I'm guessing your well established plants will throw off a bumper crop of new unblemished leaves soon.



Q2. My first concern is the wine colored marks that have appeared on the newest growth of my *Laelia purpurata*. Should I be concerned?

A2. My first thought when I saw that wine colored discoloration on the new leaf was the possibility that it was a sign of virus, in particular *Odontoglossum Ringspot Virus*. I asked for a picture of the flower, because ORSV often is reflected in color break in the flower. The flower could just be exhibiting a suffusion of color in the petals, or it could be color break because the markings are more distinct on one petal than the other, and color break is asymmetrical. Jan ordered some test strips, and alas, it tested positive for ORSV.

Q3. On repotting an epidendrum recently, I noticed this half circle of red on the rhizome. Is this red ring always *fusarium* fungus, even in an otherwise healthy plant? If I can't prune it away and it appears to be throughout the whole rhizome, do I need to throw the plant out?



A3. It sure looks like *fusarium*, but perhaps it hasn't totally invaded the vascular system in that the entire rhizome doesn't look affected. I would sterilize between cuts, and keep cutting until you don't see the red ring. The pseudobulbs don't look compromised/dehydrated like they would from a *fusarium* wilt. I don't know if you can cure *fusarium* as opposed to prevent it from spreading/infecting new tissue, but a highly rated chemical would be one containing the active ingredient pyraclostrobin like Pageant or Empress Intrinsic.



CULTIVATION



Dolomite on Paphs by Dr. Courtney Hackney

Remember that old expression, "There is no such thing as too much chocolate"? That same idea seems to apply when it comes to Paphs and calcium carbonate (Lime). Many years ago, Paul Phillips of Ratcliff Orchids, told me that they could not repot Paphs as frequently as most hobbyists so they just added a teaspoon of dolomite limestone to each pot and it had the same effect as repotting.

There is nothing fancy or expensive about dolomite limestone, which comes in 50-pound bags that cost just a few dollars. Perhaps that is why it has never been marketed to orchid hobbyists. Typically it is used to raise the pH of the soil on our lawns so that nutrients are available to the grass. Liming is also called sweetening the soil. Dolomite limestone contains not only calcium carbonate, but also magnesium. All limestone rock contains calcium, but only certain deposits have the combination of calcium and magnesium, which is called dolomite limestone. There are also minor amounts of other nutrients as well, but it is the calcium and magnesium that is important.

There is a powdered formulation as well as a granulated form that lasts much longer when added to orchid pots. The rotting bark medium in which Paphs are usually grown gradually becomes more acidic as the decomposition process releases organic acids. As more acids are released, the pH drops in the medium and roots have a more difficult time acquiring nutrients, especially calcium. Calcium and magnesium are extremely important for leaf growth. Roots also seem more susceptible to rots when calcium is lacking in the soil or water. While frequent, thorough flushing removes these organic acids, they are quickly regenerated in a rapidly decomposing medium. Lime counteracts the process to some degree, but mostly it raises the pH and neutralizes the acidity.

Most Paphs are found in nature growing in areas with lots of rocky outcrops made of limestone. There, Paphs thrive nestled amidst the decaying plant litter and eroding limestone. Only a few Paph species are found growing as epiphytes or on rocky soils that are not limestone. Surprisingly, these other species also thrive when supplied with additional lime.

I usually add lime to all my Paphs when the first signs



of rot appear on new leaves on any plant. The granulated lime lasts a month in the summer when Paphs are being watered twice a week and longer in winter when watering is less frequent. The powdered form washes through too quickly. Lime seems to have the same effect when used in just about any medium from mixtures of peat and bark to straight bark and even to rock.

In an experiment begun over a year ago, several multifloral Paphs were planted in fine lava rock with nothing else added except granulated lime and Nutricote. Their growth has been extraordinary and led to other types of Paphs going into other types of rock such as Stalite following the same approach. The ultimate goal is to never have to repot until the Paph bursts the pot. Even the Parvisepalum Paphs seem to love the rock as long as it is mixed with lime. One old-fashioned bulldog-type Paph that was almost given up for dead was even resurrected when planted in rock mixed with limestone. The only downside to growing paphs in rock is that they require more frequent water, especially when potted in Stalite. This spring most of my remaining Paphs will go into rock.

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 March 2005.



CULTIVATION



Habenaria Tracey (rhodocheila x erichmichelii).

Sarah unpotted a large planting of *Habenaria Tracey* and sent us 32 of the largest tubers. We packaged the tubers with enough ProMix HP and sponge rock to pot them up, and offered these to our members for \$15.

Habenarias – Repotting and Unpotting by Sarah Hurdel, reprinted with permission

Habenarias are terrestrial orchids that are deciduous and die down after the flowering process leaving fleshy tubers beneath the ground. When the plant is dormant it needs little to no water but as the new shoot appears it is time to water and keep wet until after flowering has occurred. *Habenarias* are considered by some to be difficult orchids to grow; although Sarah Hurdel has had great success in growing and propagating these beauties. We suspect that her unpotting and repotting techniques may be the secret to growing and blooming *habenarias* year after year. Sarah authors a Facebook blog site *Something About Orchids* in which she shares pics and growing tips. With her permission, her blog posts are reproduced below. Sarah has recently opened a Facebook store *Need More Orchids* featured her plants and orchid inspired designs. Check it out! (Editor's note)

Starting in February. It is time to start checking your tubers. Mine are earlier every year, but they are all on a different schedule, even some that are the same clone, just grown

in different pots! The earlier they go dormant in the fall, the earlier they may start sprouting. Even with many that have already gone dormant, I still have some that are green. (Go to sleep, already!)



Continued on page 9

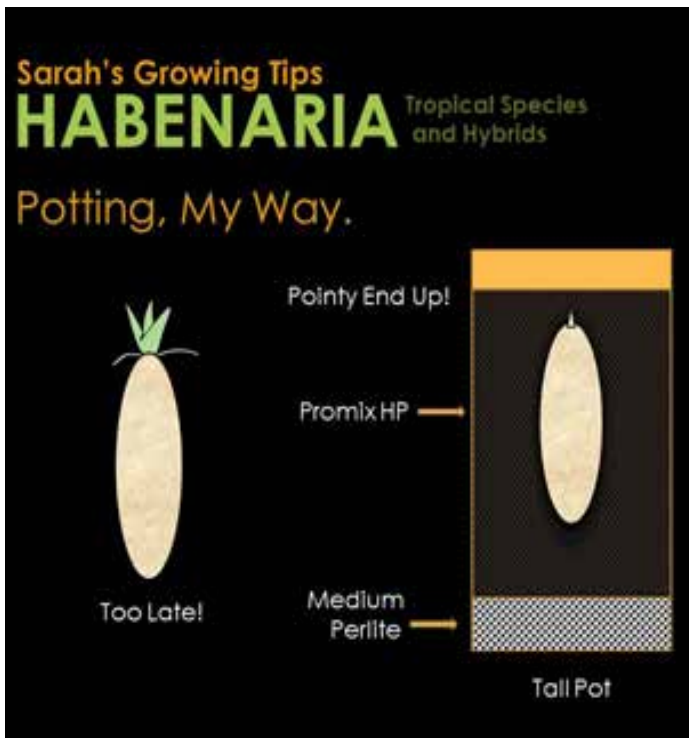


CULTIVATION

Continued from page 8

Editor's Note: Habenarias typically have a single growing tip from which the new growth will sprout. If this growing tip is damaged or missing, the tuber will not sprout a new growth. Extreme care in handling the tubers is required, particularly once the new growth has started.

If not repotted every year, habenarias will crowd each other out and slowly decline. They really respond well when given lots of space to grow. I leave enough space for each planted tuber to make 2 new tubers of equal or larger size. If I don't give them space, they do not multiply as well, and the new tubers are generally smaller.



Potting Media. My preferred potting media is medium perlite and ProMix HP (which stands for High Porosity) Pro-Mix HP is a peat based soilless mix to which extra perlite has been added to make the mix more open. Both can be found at local hydroponic shops and good garden centers. Yes, you can grow these in a variety of different media. This is just what I have found works best for me!

Moistening ProMix for Use. These materials are very dusty so they should be moistened before use. The ProMix should be BARELY moist. When dry, it is a light color. After moistening, if you squeeze the media to create a ball, it should not drip with water. It also should not form a ball that holds together. It should fall apart. It should be slightly darker when compared to dry media. Do not pack the media down. Gentle tapping of pot on work surface to settle it in is ok.

Timing of Repotting. Best to pot the tuber below the surface, before tip splits open. If you wait too long, be sure to keep new growth above surface. Water in the expanding rosette will cause rot and fungal disease. Too late? It is



never too late unless the tubers have shrunk so much that they cannot recover. However, it will stress the plant, and makes it more difficult to get started, and less likely to bloom.

Use Tall Pots. Use tall pots and give the tubers space. This pic shows one reason I do not like shallow pots for even the tiniest Habenaria tubers. It must have been one

of the Rice Krispie sized tubers if I potted it up like this. The new tuber was completely embedded in the drainage holes. The rationale for the extra perlite in the bottom of the pot in the potting diagram is not only to provide extra drainage; it is an area into which the tuber can easily expand. **Habenaria Yearly Growth.** If you planted one tuber in the spring, and unpot to find one dried up husk and two new tubers, you are doing it RIGHT! Small tubers from flask generally make one new tuber, but it is several times larger than the original one. I repot every year, pick out the dried husks from the previous year's blooming growths and re-plant all of the remaining tubers.



Blooming sized tubers will generally make two new tubers of equal or larger size, and sometimes three if they are really happy! So, with that in mind, give your tubers space! Keeping them in the same pot, they will eventually decline, since each tuber is a separate plant, competing for light, nutrients and water. Give them space!

Continued on page 10



CULTIVATION

Continued from page 9

Watering after Repotting. The goal when they are breaking dormancy is to introduce water without soaking. Moistening the surface and waiting until the surface is dry/nearly dry before moistening again is a good strategy. Placing newly potted tubers in clear plastic bag until new growth emerges is also a good way, and eliminates problems of too much, or too little water. Once potted, a quick sprinkle of water is all that is needed. Do not soak! No water should run through the pot. Another quick sprinkle when surface dries, until new growth pops up above surface. Do not allow water to collect in leaf rosette. Once leaves separate, increase water and add slow release fertilizer.



Habenaria medusa 'Owen'. Last year, I put 17 tubers in a 12-inch pot. This year, 26 tubers were put in a 16-inch pot. Second photo is before I covered the tubers with promix, otherwise it would be a pretty boring picture! Yes, that is a 10-gallon nursery pot. That is IT, though. This is the largest

pot I will use. Never mind that I said the same thing about the 12-inch pot.



Give Habenarias lots of light, fertilizer and water while actively growing (in addition to plenty of space when potting). Some tolerate abuse better than others do. Even with proper watering at this stage, many species and hybrids will still begin to die back. BUT, underpotting and under watering will guarantee the leaves die back prematurely. If they begin to die back before flowering, it is definitely a cultural issue. Could be over-fertilizing, under watering, or nutrient



Continued on page 11



CULTIVATION

Continued from page 10

deficiency. For my rhodocheila 'Yellow' too moist seems to be an issue. Its long narrow tubers are easy to overpot. An underpotted division looked nearly perfect this year, while the larger potted specimen looked just as ratty as ever. *Habenaria rhodocheila* 'Nuuanu' is another fussy one; possibly wanting conditions a little drier and less fertilizer. If only plants could talk - and I could finally get an answer to the question "What do you want from me?" Lately the answer would undoubtedly be "Water. Please."



Habenaria season is officially over when carnea goes to sleep. The spikes should last a while as cut flowers, so I will be able to bring them upstairs to enjoy. Soon the leaves will brown and dry up, and then I can unpot to see how well they grew this year! Every year the number of tubers has doubled, with the new ones being larger than those I planted. Cutting the flowers early was not a way to save energy for larger tubers next year. The new tubers for next year had already developed by the time the first blooms opened. This was done to save space. At least half of the spikes were totally spent, not very pretty anymore!

I usually cut back on watering gradually once the blooms begin opening, and let them get slightly more dry between waterings. After blooming, I cut the spikes and place the pot in a bright corner where it still gets a good bit of light between two light racks. Then I wait until it is dry before wa-

tering, and only water lightly at this point. When the leaves begin to die back, I stop watering until the foliage dries out completely. Once the leaves and the base of the growths are dry and crispy and the media dried out, the stems pull away easily from the pot with no resistance. The tubers are ready to be stored for dormancy.

Sarah's Growing Tips
HABENARIA Tropical Species and Hybrids

SIMPLE STEPS to Dormancy

As blooms begin to fade

- REDUCE WATER

Leaves begin to brown

- STOP WATERING

When leaves AND media dry up

- Remove foliage
- Place entire pot in plastic bag *

* Dealing with slugs, snails or other chewing pests? If so, remove from pot, clean off media (spray, DO NOT SCRUB) Dry and place only firm, healthy Tuberooids in bag.

Now growth tip

Healthy Tuberooids
firm, fuzzy, light color

Storing Tubers during Dormancy. . Habenarias are not cold hardy, so aim for above 60°F minimum. I have stored them dormant in a cool area (55°F min) though more often just in my growing space, which is warm. They can be left in the pot over the winter. If stored during dormancy in a low humidity environment (like most homes in winter) in a pot with absolutely no water, they are likely to dry out too much. Zero water during dormancy really only applies to a high humidity environment, like a greenhouse.

Unpotting. Do you HAVE to unpot? No. But, if you are new, have had trouble bringing them through dormancy, or have a lot of plants in a variety of sizes, it is easier to just bag the tubers as soon as the foliage and the media have dried. It is fun to unpot. Here is my [Unpotting Video](#). The videoed plant was a little more difficult due to all of the extra small tubers, and trying to show the camera what I am pulling out. It usually goes very quickly.

Have you unpotting your Habenaria, and found tubers like this? Maybe it was labeled rhodocheila, or Regneri? Before you pull it apart - READ THIS!



Continued on page 12



CULTIVATION

Continued from page 11

If this plant only had a one or two growths before going dormant, you have a species or hybrid with dendritic tuberoids! If it were *rhodocheila* - there would only be a single carrot shaped tuber with a single growing point.

Those in the photo have only one growth point as well, but all of the 'fingers' are connected to that growing point. They cannot be separated to grow new plants, unless there is more than one growing tip. This can be nearly impossible to determine without damaging the tubers.

As long as the media and the foliage have dried completely before unpotting, it should be ok to bag the tubers. Surface should be dry, but tubers should still be firm. After bagging, check in 24 hours for condensation, you may need to open the bag for a few days or add a piece of paper towel to soak up the extra moisture

Dendritic (branched) *Habenaria* tubers are tied to a piece of recycled plastic - a mini blind, and a plastic card, with floral tape. Cardstock and cardboard do not work well, they wick away some of the moisture and tend to mold if used inside of the bag. You can tape it to the outside of the bag, however, I personally prefer everything to be inside of the bag.

Why? They are especially tricky to bag while still protecting the growth tip and the delicate fingers from damage. They tend to grow at an angle from the original tuber,



before turning downward - leaving an L shaped tuber with the growth point sticking out when laid flat.

The floral tape is just a waxy paper tape, and though slightly sticky. It grips, but does not leave behind residue, and is easy to remove. It is also much easier to remove the tuber from the baggie this way without damage.

If you questioned the method of bagging *Habenaria* tubers when dormant, this is why I do it! One reason, at least. Sometimes they wake up early. This is *Pectabeneria Thai Dancer*, and it is on its own schedule. When looking over the bagged tubers clipped to a wire grid panel on my light racks - I initially only noticed one of these sprouting. When I looked at the rest, I found two more. They are ready to be potted up in slightly moist media.

Imagine if I had left these in a pot somewhere in a corner, dry until spring. At best the tubers would be shriveled up like raisins, (sometimes they can be carefully rehydrated) but more than likely I would have had a shriveled up husk; and left wondering what went wrong.

If the flowers are not enough to convince you to grow *Habenarias*, how about the foliage!



SHOW TABLE REVIEW



Grower Steve Dorsey
Den. Angel Moon 'Love Letter'



Grower Allen Black
Bl. Tomiko



Grower Glo MacDonald
Clo. Alexandra Savva



Grower James Broussard
Pot. Kat Green Power 'Big Triple G-Laetitia'



Grower Sue Bottom
Ferg. Chichiriviche Sunset



Grower Suzzane Susko
Dendrophylax funalis



Grower Sue Bottom
C. aurantiaca



SHOW TABLE REVIEW



Grower Suzanne Susko
Tolumnia 'Tequila Sunrise'



Grower Leslie Brickell
***Lc. Gold Digger 'Orchid Jungle'* HCC/AOS**



Grower Steve Dorsey
Pot. (Lcn. Newberry Fireworks x Rth. Burana Love)



Grower Sue Bottom
Den. bullenianum



Grower Debra Brandt
***Phal. Orchid World 'Bonnie Vasquez'* AM/AOS**



Grower Bob Schimmel
Cym. Mimi 'Lucifer'

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

