



CLUB NEWS



Alan Koch

September 6 Meeting

by Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks.

President Tom Sullivan opened the meeting at 6:50 pm with 48 attendees. He thanked Dianne Batchelder and Dottie Sullivan for the treats and coffee while reminding all to “Drop a Dollar” for the treats.

Club Business.

Membership VP Linda Stewart welcomed our guest, and introduced our

new members Tracey Price, Ellen Fay, Nancy Losgar and returning members Andre and Ann Mallegol and Marilyn Costanzo. Linda then asked the September birthday people to raise their hands for their free raffle ticket. As our Sunshine Coordinator, 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.

Want to Get More Involved in SAOS? – We need all the helping hands we can find, if you’d like to get more involved, talk to Sue or Linda at the Welcome Table. Among other things, we need help with setting up and monitoring our live stream efforts.

Orchid Shows in Florida this Month – The Jacksonville Orchid Society will be holding their Fall Orchid Festival at the Mandarin Garden Club this weekend Sept. 10-11, the Ridge Orchid Society in Bartow is Sept. 17 and the Tampa Orchid Club Show at the USF Botanical Gardens will be Sept. 28-29. Check out the [SAOS calendar](#) for more details.

Virtual Show Table - We will continue conducting our Courtney Hackney led Virtual Show Table via Zoom. The next one will be tonight, Sept. 7 at 7 pm. Email invitations have been sent out. Each month’s Virtual Show Table is



recorded and posted on our website. We would dearly love for our Show Table to return to its former greatness. Bring in your blooming orchids to the meeting so others can see and smell them!

Keiki Club Growing Area Tour – Terry spent the summer building Sue’s new greenhouse and the full time residents are moved in. Come check it out on Sunday September 18 from 1-3 pm at Sue and Terry Bottom’s home, 6916 Cypress Lake Court, St. Aug 32086.

Repotting Clinic – Join us for the last one of the year on October 1, from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm 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.

Library – Librarian Howard Cushnir brought in two books of interest—Miniature Orchids and How To Grow Them by R. Northen and Moth Orchids: The Complete Guide to Phalaenopsis by S. Frowine. He 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. Howard also took a moment to recognize the efforts of our volunteers. This month he talked about Lady Di, our Events Veep, who makes sure the meetings, picnic and Xmas party are properly provisioned.

Supplies - If you need supplies, email info@staugorchidsociety.org. This is the last month we’ll be bringing supplies, unless you email a special order.

SAOS Program. Our program was broadcast via Zoom



to our offsite members. Courtney introduced our guest speaker, Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids. Courtney first met Alan in North Carolina when the orchid groups would share guest speakers and someone had to drive the speaker from one location to another. They have been orchid friends ever since the 80’s. Alan’s talk tonight was on Phalaenopsis/Vanda Intergenerics. Intergeneric

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Upcoming Orchid Events

September

- 7 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 10-11 Fall JOS Orchid Show
Mandarin Garden Club
- 10 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 13 JOS Meeting, Building Your Collection
Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids
- 17-18 Ridge Orchid Society Show
IFAS Stuart Center, Bartow
- 18 Keiki Club, Growing Area Tour, 1 – 3 pm
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Court, St. Aug 32086
- 28-29 Tampa Orchid Club Show
USF Botanical Gardens

October

- 1 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til 1 pm
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 4 SAOS Meeting, Catasetums, 6:30 pm
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
- 7-9 Redland International Orchid Festival
Fruit and Spike Park, Homestead
- 8 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 11 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
- 12 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 15-17? Orchtobefest
EFG Orchids, DeLand
- 22-23 Gainesville Orchid Society Show
Kanapaha Gardens
- 22-23 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show
Fieldhouse at Old School Square

November

- 1 SAOS Meeting, Winter Setups, 6:30pm
St. Aug Orchid Society Members
- 8 JOS Meeting, Elections and Movie, 6 pm
Jax Orchid Society Members
- 9 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 12 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 12-13 Deerfield Beach Orchid Society Show
Safe Schools Institute
- 13 East Everglades Orchid Society
RF Orchids, Homestead
- 26-27 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show
Riverwalk Center

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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Phalaenopsis hybrids are easier to grow than Phalaenopsis, maintain the flowers longer and bloom more often than a normal Phalaenopsis plus many are even fragrant. The bright colors, fragrant flowers and smaller hardier plants were part of the reason he likes hybridizing them.

Alan said his love for Intergenerics started while he was judging the Taiwan international orchid shows. He said the college students would make crosses to get seedlings. If a large nursery purchased their seedlings, they could get thousands of dollars for one cross. It made for a lot of competition and variety. Alan also likes Intergenerics because one never has crown rot, absolutely never except for one plant, Irene Dobkins. He advises never buying this plant because he has never had one live for him. He then showed a slide of Phal. Aphrodite which had a spectacular array of inflorescences filled with white flowers. This was achieved by not letting the plant flower for three years, annually repotting, which produced a strong root system and then when let to flower, it burst out full of them. Another slide from the Taiwan show was of a *C. skinneri* with 702 flowers

Alan stated that breeding is important but your culture is more critical. Water, water, water is the most important key to good growing. He waters three times a session noting that the harder your water, the longer you water. He advises to water once to wet the surface, the second time with fertilizer to wet surface and media, and the third time to leach the plant and flush salts from the media. A discussion occurred about how long to water, and Alan said it depends upon humidity and water quality. He usually waters for 45 minutes once a week but during the current hot spells in California, twice a week. He is also misting his plants several times a day to cool them down, but with his low humidity the leaves dry quickly so he doesn't have a problem with the misting causing rots like we would here in Florida. He showed a slide of a test he conducted by growing identical seedlings for three months, half with RO water and the other half with well water. There was a striking difference in the plants grown with RO water.

Alan strongly encouraged using a well-balanced fertilizer and recommended MSU formulas for either hard water or rainwater. He suggested reading materials on rainwater by Dotty Woodson. When one sees the long green root tips, the plant is in active growth and has the greatest need for fertilizer. When the root tips shorten and aren't as bright green, the growth rate is slowing. For micronutrients, he suggested Plantex 20-20-20 Classic Water Soluble Fertilizer, which has twice the normal amount of trace elements, and STEM by Peters. Another fertilizer that provides calcium and micros is Metalosate (which smells like soy sauce due

to the presence of amino acids). Calcium is needed by orchids in order to build strong cell walls, increase disease resistance and promote strong flowering.

For the Intergenerics, Alan suggested that one can use any media as long as it is of high quality and has good drainage. Many of the intergenerics are made using *Doritis* (now *Phalaenopsis*) *pulcherrima* that grows on rocks, so it needs to dry out in-between waterings. Other Intergenerics can grow in clay pots with moss but since the roots photosynthesize, he normally uses clear plastic pots or mounts. Mounted plants are easier to flush. He uses panty hose to secure the plant to the mount and joked that's the only good use for panty hose. Plants that tend to stay wet in nature are more salt sensitive and need to be flushed more.

Alan ended his presentation with slides of various types of Intergenerics. Many of the intergenerics are made with *Doritis pulcherrima* and *Rhynchostylis gigantea*. One very cute intergeneric is *Vandaenopsis Newberry Whimsy*, made with *V. cristata* and *Phal. philippinensis*. One to avoid is *Vandaenopsis Irene Dobkin*, that no one seems to be able to keep alive. However, some of its offspring like *Jiaho's Orange* can be found in cultivation.

He ended by saying that when he does presentations at orchid clubs, he always makes reference to our club's outstanding website packed full of information.



Show Table Review. Courtney reviewed the show table plants with Sue and Steve Hawkins assisting. One plant was a cross between *Epidendrum magnoliae* and *Brassavola nodosa*. Courtney reminded us that *Epi. magnoliae*, aka Green Fly orchid, grows locally in the ferns on oak trees and can handle our cold nights in the winter. There was a beautiful *Doritis pulcherrima* var. *marmorata* with lovely spotted foliage and long stems of purple flowers. Courtney talked about all the interesting and beautiful flowers brought to the show table.

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



CLUB NEWS



Growing Area Tour Sue and Terry Bottom's New Greenhouse

Terry has spent most of the summer working on Sue's new greenhouse and it is finally finished, and filling up rapidly. We will tour Sue's growing areas, and you're invited! We'll talk about how you organize your growing area, deciding where the plants get the light, air and moisture they crave. We'll also be talking about some of the fall preparations for winter. Hope to see you there!

When: Sunday September 18, 1 - 3 pm

Where: Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Court, St. Aug 32086

American Orchid Society Corner

Webinars

September 13, 8:30 pm, AOS Members Only
Greenhouse Chat - Ron McHatton

September 19, 8:30 pm, Everyone Invited
Greenhouse Chat - Ron McHatton
Paphiopedilum venustum – Leslie Ee

Orchids Magazine this Month

Splash Petal Enigmas – Jason Harpster
Conservation in Colombia – Arias & Mejia
Who Were Those Guys – David Rosenfeld

Photos of Latest AOS Awards

October 4 Monthly Meeting

Catasetinae

Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids

Fred will talk about Catasetums, from the Tribe Cymbidieae. This talk will feature some excellent species and hybrids of Catasetum. Learn about the fascinating sexually dimorphic flowers flower with a complete plant culture section. These plants have a brief deciduous period in winter, when the plants need a definite dry rest period bordering on neglect

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 42 years and has been hybridizing for 38 of those years. With over 34 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

Fred talks to our club every year or two and always brings plants. You can get a 10% discount on preorders from his website. Select either COD or SOCIETYORDERS when ordering plants to be delivered to SAOS so the cart does not add standard shipping.

We will have plants available on the raffle and sales table. Friends and guests are always welcome.

When: Tuesday October 4, 6:30 til 9 pm

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



INSPIRATION



Vanda Arjuna

© Terry Botto



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@gmail.com

Q1. What's causing this blackening from the new growth tip down?



A1. My guess was that you must have had water pooling in there as the growth was forming and caused the localized rot. It is a problem this time of year when the high humidity doesn't allow leaves to dry out quickly. If you see areas where water can pocket around your soft new growths, gently pull the sheath down to allow any condensation or accumulation of water to drain freely.

Q2. This Cattleya Sea Breeze was gifted to me in April. I have kept it outside since then. It has had 6 blooms, all look like the one pictured. The plant looks okay, way over pot bound, had lots of leads this year, but the flowers look funky. What is going on?



A2. After looking at the first picture, I thought there was thrips damage. Those clearish areas with a bulls eye in the center are most likely caused by thrips. There were also some areas in the petals where there was darker pigmentation that was a concern, maybe viral color break or caused by thrips. I asked for more pictures and the verdict was in. Definitely thrips damage and most likely virused too. The dark asymmetric streaks that aren't associated



with the thrips damage and the black speckling on the older leaf are both suggestive of virus. This plant was tossed to avoid problems with his other healthy orchids.

Q3. This Vanda had a great spike that was coming out and it turned black on me. I have it hanging from a hibiscus on the side of the house. It does not get direct sunlight. I don't think it is because of the sun.



A3. I think the leaves got sunburned. Either there is more light there during certain times of the day than you are aware, or it was not acclimated to that level of light. The bloom spike could be sunburn, particularly if the blackening happened in one day like the sunburn. Otherwise, thrips are a possibility.



CULTIVATION



Light

by Dr. Courtney Hackney

The arrival of the equinox later this month (21st) makes September the perfect time to discuss light. In nature, orchids grow in light levels from direct tropical sunlight to the dimmest light levels found on dense forest floors. Hobbyists read about these orchids and expect that they can also grow their orchids in similar situations.

There are several reasons why this approach does not work. Hobbyists need to remember that most of the hybrids they find for sale likely arose from less than 50 of the 30,000 species found in nature. In most hybrids, less than ½ dozen species are in the background. These parent species are almost all tropical epiphytes, with the exception of the Paphs.

Epiphytes or tree-dwelling orchids grow in relatively high light in the highest branches of trees. While species in nature can be found in a variety of light conditions, they usually flower best in bright filtered light levels rather than in full strength sunlight. The best orchid growers duplicate these light levels. Light is the fuel that orchids use to grow and flower. If there is too little light an orchid will use all of its energy to grow and will not flower.

There are some exceptions to the rule, most notably, the tendency for orchids to produce large numbers of flowers just before dying. In cases such as this, something is killing the orchid and as a consequence, the orchid puts all the energy it would normally use for growth into one last reproductive effort.

Orchids flower best when they are exposed to ideal conditions and when the plant is mature. An orchid reaches maturity when there is enough energy stored in leaves, bulbs, and roots to initiate the development of tissues that produce flowers. Typically, this is a seasonal event, triggered by plant hormones, but always dependent on energy stores. Larger orchid plants always produce more and larger flowers than smaller plants if all other factors are the same.

Why won't my orchid bloom? This is a frequently asked question. If the orchid has leaves and a good root system the answer is almost always "light". Dark leaves or elongated growth and/or leaves usually confirm low light as the cause. Unfortunately, the usual response by hobbyists is to increase fertilizer levels. While orchids and

other plants do have some ability to adjust the density of chloroplasts that capture light or to produce thin leaves so more light gets through, there is a lower limit below which orchids will grow, but not flower. While this may be fine for Jewel orchids, grown for leaves and not flowers, it is not satisfactory for most orchids.

How does the orchid hobbyist determine the amount of light that their orchids are receiving? This is not easy without complex instruments, but there are some simple ways to evaluate light levels by simply noting how many hours a day direct light hits a plant. Chances are it is far less than the 12 hours of daylight during the equinox. Indoor growers expect light limitation, but the light may be just as limited in some areas of a greenhouse.

Some of the best grown orchids showing up at judging tables these days were grown indoors under full spectrum lights. The development of high intensity sodium or halogen light fixtures made this possible. With these lights, it is possible for plants to receive 100% of the maximum light they can use for 12 hours each day. In a greenhouse, that level would only be reached for a brief period each day; often less than half the light delivered by a full-spectrum system. There would be even less light if houses, trees, or overhanging plants blocked light for some portion of the day.

Remember, also, that the angle of the sun changes during the season, but not with full-spectrum lights. Some greenhouse growers supplement light with high intensity light systems turning them on in early morning or late evenings. In winter, there is the extra benefit from the waste heat from the lights. Windowsill growers often do the same with fluorescent lights providing afternoon light in an east facing window. Orchids that get some natural sunlight and fluorescent light as a supplement will flower fine, while fluorescent light alone will not usually produce as many flowers.

All light bulbs, including the full spectrum lights, lose their ability to produce the full range of light listed on their packages after a certain length of time. Grow light fluorescent bulbs produce their specified wavelengths for just a short time, while some of the halogen lights are supposed to last six months before they lose their vitality. Recall that only the red and blue wavelengths of light activate plant chloroplasts and lead to plant growth. If you want orchids to flower like they do in the orchid magazines they must have light.

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 September 2005.



CULTIVATION

Dianne Batchelder – Small Greenhouse Growing

by Janis Croft, St. Augustine Orchid Society



Dianne and her orchids enjoy the comfortable temps and good air movement from the sliding glass doors

Dianne Batchelder has approximately 150 orchids and was looking for a solution to help make her plant maintenance chores easier and less time consuming. All of her plants were spread around her back yard growing area. In the winter months, she had been using a small portable greenhouse to get her orchids through the cold winter nights we experience in St. Augustine. Unfortunately the units would disintegrate every two years so she was always replacing them.

In 2021, she decided to look for a more durable solution and purchased a Palram San Remo greenhouse from Costco. Dianne hired a contractor to handle the installation. First step was to match her patio pavers and lay a floor for the structure. The 14 1/2' x 11' greenhouse sits directly on



The first step was installing pavers for the foundation of the structure



The finished structure attached to the house with sliding doors on the other three sides

the pavers and is attached on one side to her house right outside her master bedroom. There are sliding doors on all the other three sides that she can open up in the warmer months and close down during the colder ones. The entire build took only three days. Dianne added shelving for her potted plants and strung wiring from the structural beams to use for her hanging and mounted plants. In one corner she installed her work bench. On the two short sides, bright sun came through the top panels. Dianne bought adhesive window film that solved that problem nicely.



Window film was attached to the upper glass surface to shade plants from too bright sunlight

A pole hung from the structural beams holds mounted plants

After testing her city water, Dianne decided to install a 50 gallon rainwater collection barrel and has noticed a marked improvement in her orchids health. She installed a 1/6th hp pump inside the rain barrel, attached a flexible hose with sprayer and now easily waters her plants using the pump's power.



The submersible pump in the rain barrel allows easy watering in the greenhouse

When the cold winter days arrive, she uses a small electric ceramic heater at night and is able to keep the greenhouse temperatures around 55-58 degrees. Last year she only used the heater approximately 10 times and the increase to her electric bill was inconsequential. Her overall costs for the greenhouse, pavers and installation ran around \$13K Dianne is now a much happier and more time efficient orchid grower. Her rain watered plants are also quite happy in their new growing area and blooming away.



CULTIVATION

Flavor of the Month Delectable Dendrochilums

by James Rose of Cal-Orchid, reprinted with permission



Dendrochilum cobbianum, photo by Terry Bottom

The Philippines is home to many showy orchid species, including the show-stopper *Vanda sanderiana*. But for the true orchid lover, nothing surpasses the eye-catching appeal of the genus *Dendrochilum*.

The genus was first described by C. Blume in 1825 and initially included only a few species. Now more than 120 are listed and more continue to be described, especially by Jeffrey J. Wood at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Although primarily concentrated in the Philippines and Borneo, species can be found throughout Southeast Asia and Indonesia. The name is derived from the Greek word *dendron* (tree) and *chitos* (green), probably in reference to the plants' epiphytic nature.

A few dendrochilums are fairly common in collections but the vast majority are rarely seen. This is unfortunate as they are easy to grow and rewarding when in flower, as witnessed by the many cultural awards given to *Dendrochilum* as listed in the *Awards Quarterly*. The size of the plants can range from 3 inches to 2 feet in height, making it possible to find the right plant for any growing area.

Cultural Needs – Light. Dendrochilums require quite bright, but filtered, light to promote strong growth. It is these robust new growths that produce the flower spikes. The color of the leaf is the best indicator of light quality. They should be light green, even a little yellowish. Lush, dark green foliage suggests the plants' flowering potential will not be reached.

Temperature. One must only think of where these plants come from to get an idea of their temperature range. Their habitat is often some of the hottest jungle areas in the world. Although a few species originate from higher elevations where temperatures may be milder these would be the exception, not the rule. Day temperatures can soar to 90 plus F but in a controlled setting it is best to keep it around 80 F. For the best growth, maintain the nights at approximately 60 F.

Water and Fertilizer. The better the water quality, the better the culture. As dendrochilums come from the tropics, these plants relish abundant water during their growing season, which starts in mid-spring and continues through summer. Once the pseudobulbs are formed, the plants can be kept a little drier. Fertilize at the rate listed on the container of fertilizer. Peters 20-20-20, for example, would suggest 2.5 ounces per gallon applied at a rate of 1:15 (1 tsp/gal). A lower rate is recommended in the winter.

Humidity and Air Movement. These plants thrive in high humidity in the growing season. Since the hot and humid weather also creates the perfect environment for bacterial and fungal spores to infect plants, maintain good air movement around the plants. Ventilate the growing area daily with fresh air.



Dendrobium bicallosum – grown by Linda Stewart, photo by Terry Bottom

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Potting the Plants - This is an important factor in the successful culture of dendrochilums. Normally, most orchids get potted as the new growths appear. Do not do that with dendrochilums. The flower spikes emerge from the center of the developing growth. If you repot as they emerge, there is a good chance the trauma will cause the spikes to blast. Wait until later when the pseudobulbs are formed. At this time you will see active new root growth. Repot then and the plant will quickly re-establish itself. One mix to use consists of 40 percent medium fir bark, 40 percent fine fir bark and 20 percent large-grade perlite. However, dendrochilums adapt to many media.

Pests - As with all plants, one can encounter a pest even though dendrochilums are relatively pest-free. Most commonly found will be mealybug and scale. Control them with an insecticide readily available at garden centers.

Species to Try:

Dendrochilum cobbianum is an attractive winter-flowering species that lends itself to making a terrific specimen. Inflorescences are long, with many 1/4-inch whitish flowers with bright, golden-yellow lips.



Dendrochilum filiforme – photo by Leslie Brickell

Dendrochilum filiforme has long been recognized and nicknamed the golden chain orchid as the long sprays of small bright yellow flowers resemble a golden necklace. As with many of the dendrochilums, *D. filiforme* has a spike growing upward at a more-or-less 45-degree angle, producing a pendent flower scape. One of the more-compact species of the genus, this one makes a staggering specimen. It flowers in July.



Dendrochilum wenzelii, photo by Steve Dorsey

Dendrochilum latifolium is a most attractive plant with broad leaves (compared with the other species). The flower spikes are not as pendulous as those of *D. filiforme*, but are numerous. Sprays of little white flowers add to the plant's appeal.

Dendrochilum wenzelii is a rather new species in collections. It is dwarf growing with thin, stiff, terete leaves. Many red flowers are borne on the upright, slightly arching spikes.

James Rose wrote a *Flavor of the Month Column for the American Orchid Society*. This article appeared in the *American Orchid Society ORCHIDS* magazine in July 1996 (Vol 65:7, pp.943-744).



CULTIVATION

Last Chance Repotting – Early Fall

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com

August is a great month for driving along the Blue Ridge Parkway, cruising in Alaska or floating down the Rhone River on a barge. But repotting, not so much! Repotting orchids between Independence Day and Labor Day is a dicey proposition. The plants are stressed from the high temperatures. High humidity levels mean pots dry out more slowly, an invitation for the water molds that cause black rot, the nemesis of cattleya growers. If you have to repot during these months, do your repotting dry. Let them stay dry for several days after repotting for wounds to seal over. Better yet, dust cut edges with a powder of Banrot. Put them under the bench or in a shady spot for a few weeks until they start to perk up.

The summer blooming bifoliate cattleyas present a dilemma every year. Bifoliate tend to throw off new roots only once a year, and that time period often coincides with their bloom cycle. If you repot them when new roots are not forming, they will suffer from an extended period of transplant shock because the old roots are damaged during repotting and new root growth is many months away. You can repot when you see that new root growth starting and accept you're going to shorten the blooming period, or repot Keith Davis style. Keith stabilizes the bare

rooted plant in a pot splaying the roots over lava rock or Styrofoam, watering or misting the roots regularly and only adding a handful of mix into the pot weekly once new roots start to form.

Sometime in mid to late September, the temperatures and humidity levels start to mediate. Our plants revive from their summer torpor and you start seeing new green root tips. You have several weeks of time to repot those plants needing fresh media or a new container. There is enough time for the roots to grow into the new potting mix and get established before their growth rate slows in response to shorter days and less intense sunlight.

After that you can put away your repotting supplies for the year, unless you grow catasetums. If you grow catasetums, you should check your dormant plants for signs of new growth on a weekly basis during the winter months. New growths can begin anytime from December to April or so depending on the variety. When you see that new green growth, the plant should be repotted and placed in a warm, sunny spot for it to grow until it is ready to be watered some weeks to months later.

The early fall is a beautiful time in St. Augustine. The high humidity is a distant memory, the days are warm and the nights are cooler. Enjoy some quality time with your plants as you get them cleaned up and ready for their winter home.



If you have to repot bifoliate cattleyas midsummer, fill the pot with lava rock or Styrofoam 1/3 to 1/2 way up, add some potting mix, and splay the roots out on top and secure the plant so it is not wobbly. Add a handful of mix weekly once you see new roots forming.



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Looking Glass Orchids

by Sue Bottom

We like to visit the mountains of North Carolina in August to enjoy the natural air conditioning, waterfalls and scenic views. A visit to a local orchid nursery is icing on the cake. We visited Russ Bolt at Looking Glass Orchids one morning. What a selection of orchids he has. A whole bench full of flowering Masdevalias in red, purple, yellow and neon orange. I had to bring one home, and gifted it to Linda who has set up an indoor growing area for the cool growers. I found other beauties for my greenhouse, phals, cattleyas and an odd vandaceous type with three spikes. It's always fun to visit orchid nurseries when you're on the road!



SHOW TABLE



Grower Steve Dorsey
Stan. frymirei maybe



Grower Suzanne Susko
Bulb. flabellum-veneris



Grower Allen Black
Pot. Florida Outbreak



Grower Sue & Jimmy Broussard
Pot. Chief Sweet Orange 'Sweet Orange' AM/AOS



Grower Linda Stewart
Bulb. Jo Davis



Grower Leslie Brickell
C. Day Tripper



Grower Sue Bottom
Ctsm. Louise Clarke



SHOW TABLE



Grower Suzanne Susko
Tolu. triquetra



Grower Steve Dorsey
Lc. Varut Startrack 'Golden Tiger'



Grower Sue Bottom
V. Rothschildiana



Grower Leslie Brickell
C. Bactia 'Grape Wax'



Grower Janis Croft
Stlma. Kelly 'Lea'



Grower Shelia Nathanson
Bc. Aussie Wedding Charm

Link to all Submissions: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjA4KQN>

