



CLUB NEWS



November 1 Meeting by Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks. President Tom Sullivan opened the meeting at 6:50 pm with 52 attendees. He thanked Dianne Batchelder, Dottie Sullivan and Julie Smith for the treats and while reminding all to "Drop a Dollar" for the coffee.

Club Business. Membership VP Linda Stewart welcomed our guests and introduced our new members Don and Gail Amesbury, Andrea Kohn, Mark Nielsen and Christina Pulido-Lopez

Birthdays This Month - Linda then asked the November and December 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.

Christmas Auction - Dianne Batchelder announced the menu for the holiday dinner to be held on our meeting night, Dec. 6, starting at 6:30. There will be home smoked pulled pork and meatless baked ziti. She then passed around a sign up sheet for members to bring side dishes. Contact Dianne if you didn't get a chance to sign up at the meeting, 954-560-6470.

Virtual Show Table - Wednesday, November 9 at 7 pm, will be the last one of the year. Email invitations will be sent out. Each month's Virtual Show Table is recorded and posted on our website. We would love our show table to return to its former glory. Start bringing your blooming plants to the meetings so we can appreciate them "live."



2023 Calendars - We're ordering a limited number of the wall calendars featuring the Members Choice plants, \$25 each. We can only order in batches of 25 so sign up to reserve your calendar. If you weren't at the meeting and want one, send an email ASAP to Sue Bottom at info@staugorchidsociety.org.

Nominating Committee - The committee of Linda, Sue and Howard made recommendations for next year's officers. Sue stated that several have agreed to remain. They include President Tom Sullivan, Communications VP Janis Croft, Events VP Dianne Batchelder, Membership VP Linda Stewart, Programs VP Sue Bottom, Treasurer Cathy Mayo, Directors Leslie Brickell and Charlie Bridgham. We welcome new Director Jerry Fowler, who will be heading up our beginners programs. A warm thanks to Charlie Rowell for his past service as Director.

Library - Librarian Howard Cushnir brought in the latest magazines, Orchids and Orchid Digest, along with two books, Native Orchids of Florida and Orchids for Beginners for loan. 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.

Recognition - Howard then commended the contributions past president, Bob Schimmel, has made to the club including his years as past president, all his work at the repotting clinics and facilitating our meetings at his church. Howard retold how Bob was the first person he met at the club and at the repotting clinic where he taught Howard how to snip off those old yellow leaves without a worry. All applauded Bob to his embarrassment. Marv Ragan also announced that club member Christie Peppard won her first AOS award for her Vanda, which she named 'Pepper Sunshine'.

Orchid Shows in Florida this Month - Fall Orchid Festival at Krull Smith is this weekend, as well as the Vanda/Slipper Symposium in Apopka. Deerfield Beach on the 12th/13th, Delray Beach 26th/27th. Check out the [SAOS calendar](#) for more details.

SAOS Program. Our program, Preparing for Winter, was broadcast via Zoom to our offsite members. Sue Bottom and Courtney Hackney spoke about their many years of experiences growing during the North Florida

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Upcoming Orchid Events

November

- 4-5 Fall Orchid Festival
Krull Smith Orchids, Apopka
- 4-5 Vanda and Slipper Symposium
NW Orange Cty Improvement Assoc
4253 W. Ponkan Rd
Apopka 32798
- 8 JOS Meeting, Wiinter Growing Tips, 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

December

- 6 SAOS Christmas Auction, 6:30 pm
Memorial Lutheran Church
- 11 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 13 JOS Christmas Auction
Enza's in Mandarin

January 2022

- 3 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Kristen Uthus, New World Orchids
Honey, I Shrunk the 'chids
- 7-8 Sarasota Orchid Society Show
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
- 10 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Speaker TBA
Mandarin Garden Club
- 11 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email

- 13-15 Tamiami International Orchid Festival
Dade County Fair Expo Center
- 14 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 20-22 Apopka Int'l Winter Orchid Show
Krull Smith Nursery, Apopka
- 20-22 Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show
Fort Lauderdale/Broward Convention Ctr
- 28-29 Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show
Seminole Recreation Division

February

- 4 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til 1 pm
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 4-5 Venice Area Orchid Society Show
Venice Community Center

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 lindastew49@outlook.com
Vice President Programs	Sue Bottom sbottom15@hotmail.com
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winters, although they weren't around when the big snowstorm of 1951 occurred. Sue showed a slide where there are, on average, four days in winter with temps below 32°F. Of course in any given year there may be more or less. She also stated that for all advice they are giving, it is the General Rule. Some years have colder weather and some have less, so you have to be prepared to protect your orchids.

They providing specific information about each of the major groups of cultivated orchids, starting with Phalaenopsis. As a general rule, keep your phalaenopsis in night temperatures above 60°F. They do like a chill down to 55°F for two or three weeks as long as daytime temperatures go back above 70°F. More commonly available species will drop their leaves and buds if kept too cool. Phals from higher elevations like *lindenii*, *lobbii* and *mannii* are more tolerant of cooler temperatures and can go down to around 50°F.

The slide presentation for all the different groups of orchids can be viewed [online](#). To summarize:

- Most phalaenopsis, the large two toned vandas, the evergreen hard cane dendrobiums and the mule eared oncidiums prefer temps above 60°F (tolerate temps in 50's)
- Most cattleyas and oncidiums prefer winter night temperatures in the mid 50's (tolerate temps in mid 40's)
- Soft cane dendrobiums bloom better after a cooler, drier winter rest period with no fertilizer preferring temps in low to mid 40's (tolerate temps in mid to high 30's)
- Australian dendrobiums and cymbidiums are the most cold tolerant orchids of those that can grow in our summer heat, accepting of temperatures down into 30's
- If in doubt, protect your orchids when temps drop below 50F

Linda Stewart then talked about preparing protected spaces for winterizing your orchids when one doesn't have a greenhouse with heater. She advised that any prep you need to do should be done before Thanksgiving and plan to keep your plants protected through March. She showed us how she grows her Phalaenopsis on a bakers rack under the eaves of her house on the back patio, facing north and protected from most of the summer rains. Then in October, she moves the bakers rack to her guest room bay window and orchids rest on trays filled with gravel. Her next slide showed how she put tarps around her pergola and sealed the top edges with insulating pipe foam. She is able to open and close the tarps on days when the temperature is above 70° so as not to bake her plants and provide circulation. She also has a 6' x 8' temporary pop-up greenhouse where she houses most of the species, bulbos and more delicate and warmth-loving orchids. The temporary greenhouse has zippered roll-up doors on both ends along with 2 roll-

up windows on each side that are secured with velcro. On balmy days, the doors and windows can be rolled up to circulate lots of fresh air. The cover is removed, folded up and stored away during the summer months with the help of her brother Steve, so that the poly cover doesn't degrade from the UV rays during the hot summer months.

Linda then showed some tools that she recommended. A wireless thermometer system is placed inside the greenhouse/pergola so that the temperature can be checked and monitored without leaving her house. She recommends a fan for circulation, preferably one that oscillates. She adds a ceramic heater, one with a thermostat tends to make life a bit easier. After her first use with a cheap extension cord that melted, please make sure that it's heavy duty and that the connection is protected from the elements. Each heater should have a dedicated circuit, so the breaker doesn't trip on cold nights.

The last speaker was Terry Bottom, who is also Sue's greenhouse builder extraordinaire. Terry discussed how to get more permanent solutions from re-purposing a portable storage frame to buying ready made kits. He showed a garden equipment storage unit he had 31 years ago that had a frame and a green plastic covering. Once they moved here, it was repurposed as a potting shed, and then as a hoophouse, when he recovered it with greenhouse film using U-channel and wiggle wire. Later, Terry added shade cloth and end panels and installed roll-up curtains for better circulation. This year it was retired and given to a new owner who has since rebuilt it for their purposes. Terry said you see these frames unused all over the countryside. Perhaps you could offer to take the units off of their hands and build a winterizable shade structure of your own. Pergolas and other structures also can be winterized. It will need to have a water tight roof using either greenhouse film or polycarbonate. These two materials can be attached to walls using U-channel & wiggle wire. Be sure to add a door and create rollup curtains on 2 sides for air circulation. If you use a portable electric heater for heat, make sure each heater is on a separate breaker. If you don't want to repurpose a structure, Terry then showed examples of units you can buy from \$200 to \$5,000.

Show Table Review – We had more plants on the show table this meeting! Courtney started with the Cattleyas, a Schomburgkia splendida, a fragrant Epi. ciliare hybrid and others. There were lots of unusual orchids, including Habenaria crinifera, Dendrochilum formosanum, Bulbophyllum rothschildianum, an Oncidium intergeneric, and a huge yellow Cymbidium. It was great to see and smell all the orchids.

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



Jerry Fowler Keiki Club Coordinator

Jerry Fowler is our new Keiki Club coordinator! He will be managing the beginner programs for our newer orchid growers. We will be scheduling several growing area tours, to Tom and Dottie Sullivan's home in Palm Coast where they grow outdoors under trees, and Leslie and Chip Brickell's home in Jacksonville where they grow in a greenhouse and pergola structure. We will have a rain barrel workshop run by Steve Hawkins and Linda Stewart for those interested in having a source of pure water for their orchids. We'll also be scheduling a repotting madness program at the Bottom's in the spring. Jerry is interested in restarting our beginner culture classes before the main meeting, if we can work out the logistics.



Jerry writes: "Sue asked me if I would take over the beginners programs and I decided to do it as a "Pay It Forward" opportunity. Ten years back at the Jacksonville club, Mike Heinz had a good "Newbie's Class", and Mike and Sue had the Keiki Club going here at SAOS. They provided me with a good foundation on fundamental orchid knowledge, that I look forward to passing on to new sprouting newbies, as well as setting up weekend Keiki Club adventures. Thanks Mike... but I still don't like Bulbophyllums". If you have any thoughts or suggestions for beginner programs, Jerry would love to hear them!

Paul Storm - Rest in Peace

Paul Storm died on October 16th while up in the North Carolina mountains. Paul was well known for his schomburgkias and schomburgkia hybrids, and there is even an AOS award, the Paul and Mary Storm Award, for the best schomburgkia hybrid of the year. Paul is often credited with popularizing these large plants that have twisted flowers on long spikes. Rest in Peace Paul!



2023 Wall Calendar

The 2023 calendar contains pics of all the Members Choice orchids throughout 2022. We are ordering a limited number, available for \$25 each. Email us at info@StAugOrchidSociety.org to reserve your calendar!

American Orchid Society Corner

Webinars

November 8, 8:30 pm, Everyone Invited
Greenhouse Chat - Ron McHatton

November 13, 2:00 pm, AOS Members Only
Disas, Flowers of the Rainbow – Michael Tibbs

Orchids Magazine this Month

Growing Spaces – Sandra Mucucci
Sobennikoffia robusta - Judith Rapacz-Hasler
Resupination – Joseph Arditti

Photos of Latest AOS Awards



INSPIRATION



Rhynchonopsis Leong Pak-Lin

© Terry Botta



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@gmail.com

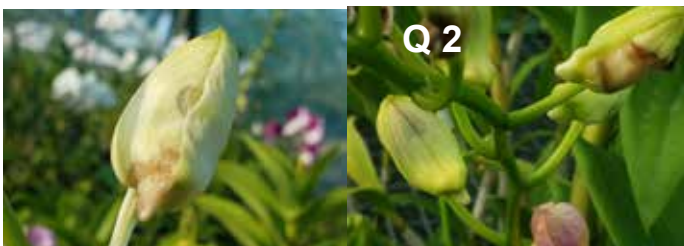
Q1. The pseudobulbs on this *Oncidium Sharry Baby* plumped up so big and her leaves did the wrinkle thing. I am afraid of overwatering her. She's in media that allows water to freely run through; in

fact I try to put her in a bucket at least once a week for one of the waterings and I'm trying to use up my Palmers fertilizer that turned black and mushy on me (ugh!).

A1. That *Sharry Baby* looks totally happy. Pseudobulbs plumping up big, check, good job. I don't see any accordion wrinkling in the leaves, but you may be seeing in person what I can't see in the pics. If she's in a freely draining mix, watering two or three times a week should be fine. If that requires more time than you have, you might consider adding a little chopped sphagnum (only the good stuff!) into your mix next time you repot so it will retain a little more water. Also, you could use a plastic rather than a clay pot to help retain moisture, you can still drop the plastic pot into a clay pot for stability. I don't think I'd change a thing that you are doing right now. And don't worry about the mucky fertilizer, if you're using a Cal Mag type fertilizer it is hydroscopic so it absorbs moisture from the air. If you just have a small bag, you can store it in the fridge going forward and that will help keep it dry. Enjoy the blooms, looks like they're going to be fantastic!



Q2. One of our Barbados Orchid Society members is experiencing problems with his dendrobiums. These photos showing the damage done especially to the buds. He believes it might be hibiscus gall midge but would appreciate your input.



A2. I haven't had blossom midges (that I knew about), but from what I understand, blossom midges are tiny flies, about the size of a gnat, where the larvae feed inside unopened flowers. The eggs are deposited into the open tips of flower buds. They are white to cream colored, invisible to the naked eye, and hatch within 24 hours into maggots that move into the bud and feed on fluids from the damaged plant tissue. The maggots mature in 5–7 days, growing to 1/12 inch long (about the thickness of a nickel). The maggots can exit the buds and burrow into the soil to pupate, like fruit flies. Most of the control methods I've read involve removing any damaged flowers, double bagging and discarding them to remove the larvae. I'd probably also do a sloppy drench of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), applying it to any buds and letting it seep into the soil/potting mix below the flowers to try to interrupt the life cycle.

Q3. I have this yellow discoloration on several *Dendrobiums*. They both are negative for virus, and neither has bugs at this time, but they have had random mite issues in the past. Of course, both of these orchids get high natural light in my sunroom. Is this sun damage, a fungal or bacterial issue, or a deficiency of some kind?



A3. The first leaf image looked like a possible infection with one of the cercosporoid fungi, but Laurie said there is a ceiling fan in the sunroom and she hand waters her orchids in the sink so rarely has fungal issues. She asked about possible orchid fleck virus and sent over images of some more severely impacted leaves. These pictures match some of the images of orchid fleck virus (OFV) shown in technical papers and the Hark Orchideen website. Symptoms vary but leaves can exhibit chlorotic or necrotic flecks, spots or ring spots, as well as chlorotic mosaics and mottles, and it is spread by a type of flat mite. There is no test strip for OFV and we are not aware of a commercial laboratory that tests for OFV, so we can't confirm the diagnosis.



CULTIVATION



Water Quality

by Dr. Courtney Hackney

It has always been apparent to me that growing orchids well requires good water. This year's extreme drought has reinforced that view and impressed me with both the ability of some orchids to resist water with high dissolved solids and with the sensitivity of some types of orchids to salts in water.

The thin leaved orchids, such as the intergeneric oncidiums, *Coelogyne*, and *Eulophia*, are the first to show symptoms of salt stress. Brown leaf tips are "the canary in the mine" when it comes to water quality, but can also be induced by too much fertilizer. Cattleyas do not typically exhibit this type of symptom but may still be suffering when water quality is poor. Exactly what causes the symptom within plant cells is not clear. A number of growers claim that providing soluble dolomite lime will prevent this type of leaf tip burn, but water low in salts will always prevent this condition.

In my collection the orchids most sensitive to salt are the few phrags that have survived the summer heat. They may show a little tip burn, but mostly they get bacterial rots that ultimately lead to death, even if treated with bactericide or high quality water. Many of the phalaenopsis species as well as any species that comes from mist forests are also sensitive to water with high dissolved solid content.

Leaves, however, are not the only indicator. This year, the lack of rain has been accompanied by very low humidity. In this climate, orchid roots will shrivel and stop growing even if they are being watered with high quality water. If water quality is poor and humidity low, roots may seem thicker than normal at first, but the growing tips will turn black and shrivel. Eventually, the entire root will shrivel from the growing tip and die. Under normal conditions, the root may shrivel, but quickly thicken to its normal size when provided moisture. That does not happen when the root is subjected to high salt content.

The first significant rain fell in our area last week, filling my cistern and providing enough water to finally give my orchids a good soaking. Afterwards, it was clear which orchids still had good root systems and which did not. Most surprising was that the orchids in lava rock appeared to still have good root systems, despite the long held belief that salts tend to concentrate on that medium. Orchids in bark/charcoal-type mixes definitely lost roots during the drought when they were provided water high in dissolved solids.

Like it or not, winter is finally here along with an array

of things to do. With the exception of cymbidiums, all orchids need to be moved inside or into the greenhouse if they have been enjoying the "natural life" in your backyard under the trees. We are also just 1 month shy of the winter solstice so the sun is just about at its lowest point in the sky. Greenhouse growers that use shade cloth, often remove it, or at least reduce shading during the next couple of months.



Phal. Paradise Lost

Phals exposed to a week or two of cooler temperatures have initiated spikes and now need to be kept warmer, especially at night. A night temperature of at least 65 F will virtually eliminate winter bacterial rots, although some growers use 60 F as the absolute minimum to keep heating bills down. The key for phals is the minimum temperature and avoiding water in the crown of the plant especially when night temperatures are low.

Contrary to some of the published orchid growing books, apply high nitrogen fertilizer to your phals now, but at lower concentrations. At one time high phosphorus fertilizers were recommended, but studies have not been able to document a benefit. To obtain the best flower color use a high nitrogen cal-mag type fertilizer.

Cattleyas, especially species, need to be kept on the dry side now. Let them dry more thoroughly than you did in summer. There are a number of fungal rots that are around all of the time that really thrive on these cooler nights if the medium is moist. Some of these can kill a cattleya almost as fast as bacterial crown rot kills phals.

This is also the time to dry out catasetum and similar species and hybrids, which thrive on water during summer. They will rot if watered in winter. Some growers remove them from the pot, shake the medium from roots and set them back in the pot to dry. Other growers just set them in a part of the greenhouse that does not get watered. A little mist on sunny days is all they need. There are any number of species that require the same approach and you may need to refresh your memory of their natural habitat for these unusual forms. If the species comes from a wet-dry type habitat, drying is usually required.

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 November 2007.



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Late Season Catasetinae Care

by Fred Clarke, reprinted with permission

As we can tell, the weather is changing and your Catasetinae should now be in their final stages of growth. This was an excellent year for Catasetinae; many growers from around the country reported a fantastic flowering season.

The first signs of dormancy will soon be evident, with some areas of the country already seeing the start of the dormancy. Soon, it will be time to stop fertilizing and begin to decrease irrigation frequency.

In nature three important changes are occurring: 1) the rainy season is nearing its end with less frequent rain, 2) nights and days are cooler and 3) day length is shortening. These are the environmental factors that start the dormancy process.

With less rain fall fewer nutrients are moved to the root system (thus stop fertilizing) and the roots stay dryer longer (thus reduce irrigation frequency). This increasing dryness between irrigations is an indicator to the plant to harden off their pseudobulbs in preparation for the 2-4 month winter dry period. Hardened off bulbs are better at storing water through dormancy.

Humidity should be maintained at 40-60% however brief periods outside this range are not a problem. Maintain light levels and keep night temperatures at or above 55 degrees.

No re-potting at this time, the roots are well-developed and will resent being disturbed. If you were negligent, it is better to wait until next spring.

One of the great attributes of the Catasetinae is their deciduous nature. If you experienced some leaf damage this summer don't worry those leaves are going to drop off soon and next spring your plant will grow a new set. How many orchids are that forgiving when the leaves are damaged?

This is my favorite time of year, as walking through the greenhouses it looks like almost everything is blooming! There are Catasetums in flower, the Cynoches are blooming, and the first of the Mormodes are in spike! But there is still more to look forward to as the blooming season for Clowesia rosea hybrids begins in December and January.

If you haven't done so, please post your pictures to these Facebook group pages:

Catasetinae Canada:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/Catasetinaecanada/?ref=br_rs

Catasetum Fever:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/Catasetinae.Fever/?ref=br_rs

Fred Clarke sends out a regular newsletter on catasetum culture, you can [sign up for newsletter here](#).



These four plants demonstrate the first stages of dormancy, from left to right: 1) no signs, 2) slight leaf tip yellowing, 3) obvious yellowing and beginning of leaf tip die back, 4) several yellow leaves and tip die back clearly evident.



CULTIVATION

Late Autumn Orchid Care

by James Rose of Cal-Orchid, reprinted with permission

All the active growth that developed during spring and summer is now mature. Enjoy the last of the good weather both with your plants and during your preparation for the dull days to come. Winter, such as it is for those in Southern California, begins about December 1 with a chance of frost finally threatening around the New Year. New growth is noticed again by the first of February. For us the duration and severity of winter is shorter lived, but we all experience "the seasons."

If temperatures plummet and greenhouse heaters stop, a collection could be lost in hours. Be prepared for the worst. Rig up heaters to an alarm, and also have a generator for backup power in case of an emergency. Many collections are lost during the first frost before the plants have been moved inside. Be cautious and take them in early enough.

Less water and fertilizer are the rules now. In South Florida, where winter is less pronounced, orchids will continue growing uninterrupted. At the same time, the shortest day of the year is experienced. What a few months ago was a rapidly growing plant now seems to stall. The

green-thumb principle of observation is paramount. Be aware of the subtle changes and adjust accordingly. Those who grow under lights may not think about these changes of season, but the natural rhythms of plants will dominate. Temporary forced adjustments in growth patterns will only result in future problems.

The common pests of orchids love this season. Greenhouses provide warm, humid environments where they multiply. Insects on plants once outside but now moved indoors will increase at an unbelievable rate. Watch plants closely and battle the bugs appropriately and immediately. Do not be lax about pest control.

The late autumn and winter seasons bring one of the most wonderful times for flowers, especially among genera derived from the New World. Splendid winter-white cattleyas show off next to the exotic Mexican laelias. Lycastes will begin their run of beauty beginning with La Monja Blanca (*Lycaste skinneri* var. *alba*). Masdevallias will flourish, putting forth abundant flowers.

November Checklist by Ned Nash and James Rose

Calanthe - The tropical hybrids derived from *Calanthe vestita* will be at their peak. Plants should have been dried



Dendrobium kingianum

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off some and be totally leafless now. Flower spikes are up, and remember, flowers will resist spotting from botrytis if kept in drier conditions. Enjoy these flowers that last many weeks.

Catasetum – It's natural for these orchids to begin regressing. The leaves will start to degenerate, a signal the flowering season is about to begin. Reduce watering to compensate for lack of active growth.

Cattleya - Almost all potting should have been completed by this month. The summer's growth is mostly finished, and sheaths that will flower from winter through April and May are set. Older sheaths on spring-flowering cattleyas, which may have been present since July, will begin to senesce and turn yellow. When this happens, gently remove the sheath to prevent condensation from forming inside that will kill any buds present. The growth should still flower in its time, but the developing spike will need additional support that would have been supplied by the sheath.



Calanthe Baron Schröder

they may simply be unavailable, having been sold to those who have planned ahead.

Cymbidium - Take special care of the flower spikes. Bait for snails and slugs to avoid damage. Lower light levels and temperatures will improve flower quality and longevity. Proper staking will prime the chosen candidate for Best of Show. When it becomes evident a plant is not going to bloom this year, it can be divided and repotted, if necessary.

Dendrobium - Australian type plants will have hardened off their growths by now and soon will be showing spikes. Hybrids derived from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* grow and flower best if kept much cooler in late autumn and winter. Keep plants in bright light and switch to a fertilizer with less nitrogen.

Paphiopedilum - Paphiopedilums can be potted almost year round. Examine those that flower in the summer and pot as necessary. November is when the "standards"-



Laelia anceps var. guerrero 'SVO' – photo courtesy of Fred Clarke

Watering and fertilizing will be needed less frequently, and temperatures can be decreased. Lengthening nights and cooler temperatures are what trigger winter and spring bloomers to spike.

The first of the winter whites and pinks will begin to show this month. Purchase plants for winter bloom so you can see the sheaths and buds that will give winter pleasure. By the time you really want these, it may be too cold to ship, or



Pleurothallis grobyii

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Zygopetalum Blue Blazes 'Barrie Ford'

sometimes called “toads” - begin to show their bloom sheaths and spikes in earnest. Be especially careful not to allow any water to lodge in the leaf axil, as this can lead to spike rot. Also, do not allow hot spells to damage the sheaths. If the weather is quite warm, spikes can develop almost too rapidly and require staking. Watch water needs carefully as weather cools, to avoid root loss during the winter.

Phalaenopsis - All repotting should be completed by now. The shortening days and cooling temperatures signal plants to begin flower-spike production. Any that can be expected to flower by Christmas will be 50 percent developed and need staking. Spike initiation for the main spring bloom is at its heaviest.

Be on the lookout for any disease or insect problems that may be cropping up with the onset of the cooler weather. Eliminate them now, before they spread.

Masdevallia and Other Pleurothallids - Most will be recuperating from the summer heat. Let them strengthen and show signs of active new growth before repotting or dividing. The next few months show plant resurgence and lush new growth. Wait until the new year to increase nitrogen.

Zygopetalum - This will be the main season for this spellbinding genus and the next couple of months will provide a show of color and fragrance. Reduce watering and keep the temperatures above 50 degrees to avoid black leaf ticking.

James Rose wrote a Flavor of the Month Column for the American Orchid Society. These articles appeared in the American Orchid Society ORCHIDS magazine in November 1994 (Vol 63:11, pp.1286-1289).



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Redland International Orchid Festival

The Redland Festival was held in October this year rather than in May as has been the tradition. It was just a week after Hurricane Ian struck the Florida West Coast and wreaked so much damage. Attendance was affected and many of the vendors were disappointed with the crowds. Fred Clarke had his talk in Venice cancelled so we had a free day to spend at the Festival before going over to talk to the Naples club. It was fun talking to old friends and meeting new ones. I came home with some paraphals, angraecoids and bulbophyllums... and not a single cattleya, that was a first!



SHOW TABLE



Grower Leslie Brickell
Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry'
FCC/AOS



Grower Steve Dorsey
Lepanthes saltatrix



Grower Bill Gourley
C. bicolor 'Mendenhall Beta'
HCC/AOS



Grower Suzanne Susko
Den. Enobi Purple 'Splash' AM/AOS



Grower Linda Stewart
Czl. Tsiku Chuchango



Grower Jeffrey Milkins
V. Uraivan Belle



Grower Sheila Nathanson
Bulb. vaginatum



SHOW TABLE



Grower Leslie Brickell
Blc. Harriet Brickell



Grower Steve Dorsey
Blc. Ports of Paradise 'Gleneyries Green Giant'
FCC/AOS



Grower Sue Bottom
B. Little Stars



Grower Allen Black
C. Maximum Lust



Grower Keith Davis
C. guttata coerulea ' #3 '



Grower Teresa Sellars
Monn. Millennium Magic 'Witchcraft' FCC/AOS

