St. Augustine Orchid Society NEWSLETTER
October 2013
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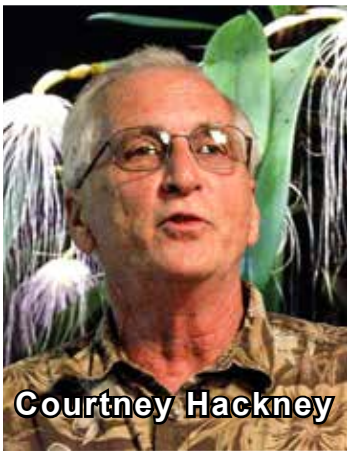
Club News



October 1 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Linda Stewart,
lindstew@hotmail.com

Welcome and Thanks. President Jeannette Pacetti, as she opened the October meeting, welcomed members, guests and renewed member Cammy Koeber. President Jeannette also thanked Jeanette Smith for the great refreshments, reminding everyone to please drop a dollar in the jar for next month's refreshment table, inviting the membership to bring refreshments as well. Please let Jeanette know in advance so that we don't duplicate. Linda Stewart, Sunshine Coordinator, reminded anyone with an October birthday to be sure to get their free raffle ticket. Also everyone needs to be sure to vote for the Member's Choice award from the many beautiful orchids on this month's display table. Bob Schimmel will announce the winner after the break.

Club Business. Penny Halyburton has a list of orchid books available for loan from the SAOS library, including Courtney's book on Cattleyas, which is also available for sale in a limited number.

Keiki Club. The Keiki Club will be making field trips on October 18 and 19 to Orchtoberfest at EFG Orchids in Deland. Those carpooling will meet at the Flying J before the 10:00 am departure.

Supplies. SAOS has a number of items available for purchase, most of which are $5.00 each. We have a variety of potting mixes and fertilizer. The newest addition is our pH and alkalinity testing strips, which are available for $2 per kit. Our coffee cups are here. They are $8 each or 2 for $15. All from the first order were sold and/or reserved by the end of the evening. If anyone is interested, please let either Sue or Linda know so you can be added to the next pre-order list. If there is sufficient interest, SAOS will place another order. There were also plants available for sale at the back of the room, some from members, our speaker, and some compliments of Roy Tokunaga of H&R, our speaker in September.

Nominating Committee. Penny Halyburton, Terry and Sue Bottom will announce recommendations at the November meeting.

Ace Repotting. The next repotting clinicis on October 5 at the Ace Hardware on US1 in St. Augustine from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Orchid Events. Florida West Coast, South Florida, Fort Pierce, Gainesville and Delray Beach Orchid Society Shows this month; check the website for dates and locations. Gainesville has invited SAOS to participate with a display. Harry would like to participate, but will need assistance from the membership to do so. Dates for the show are October 18 to 20. If you are interested, please contact Harry right away. Otherwise we will have to send the Gainesville society our regrets.

Fred's Open House. Open House at Orchids by Del-Rei is scheduled for November 3. All are requested to bring toys for needy children in the Hastings area. There are flyers with directions available at the welcome table.

Xmas Auction. Our annual SAOS Christmas Auction and potluck dinner will be at the Moultrie Trails Clubhouse on Tuesday, December 3, at 6 pm. Dinner will be served from 7 to 8, followed by the auction. The society will provide the main meat dishes, beverages and coffee. Please plan to bring your favorite dish to share, and BYOB.

Program. Sue Bottom introduced the speaker of the evening, Courtney Hackney, of Hackneau's Art and Orchids. Courtney's topic for the evening was orchid growing tips and other facts of orchid culture. Courtney began by sharing a photo of his bulbophylum medusae, which was covered with magnificent flowers. He explained that it is a difficult plant to get to judging, as the flowers only last for two days.

Genetics. Plants and flowers can differ considerably dependent upon cultural differences. C. Triumphans (C. Rex x C aurea) for example is a primary hybrid between two species. This gives consistency in flowering. On the other hand, Blc. Serengeti Sands, which is a complex hybrid, has variation in color, lip shape, blooming season

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Club News

Upcoming Orchid Events

October

5 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic

8 JOS Meeting, 7 pm, Topic TBA
Louis Del Favero. Del Favero Orchids

11-13 South Florida Orchid Society Show
Bank United Center, Coral Gables

12-13 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show
Fort Pierce Shrine Club

18-20 Orchtoberfest at EFG Orchids
4265 Marsh Road, Deland

18 Keiki Club Field Trip to Orchotoberfest
Meet at Flying J, leave at 10 am sharp
Exit 305 on US 95, SR 206 Intersection
Meet Under Tall Sign and Carpool

19 Keiki Club Field Trip to Orchotoberfest
Meet at Flying J, leave at 10 am sharp
Exit 305 on US 95, SR 206 Intersection
Meet Under Tall Sign and Carpool

19-20 Gainesville Orchid Society Show
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

25-27 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show
Old School Square

26-27 Brevard County Orchid Society Show
Melbourne Auditorium

November

2 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic - tentative

3 Open House at Orchids by Del Rei
Orchids, Food and Libations, 1 to 4 pm
4270 Cedar Ford Blvd, Hastings

5 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Rafael Romero, Plantio La Orquidea
Schomburgkia Species and Hybrids

12 JOS Meeting, 7 pm, Topic TBA
Segundo Cuesta, Quest Orchids

December

3 SAOS Christmas Auction, 6 pm
Different Location, Earlier Start
Moultrie Trails Clubhouse
121 Crooked Tree Trail, St. Aug 32086

8 JOS Christmas Auction, 5:30 pm
Orange Park Country Club
2525 Country Club Blvd, Orange Park

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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and flower size. There is also variation within species, with Phal. violacea being a good example.

Plant genetics have a great influence on plant growth, flowers, and colors. A 4n designation for a plant means that it is a tetraploid plant and has 4 sets of chromosomes. When a tetraploid is used as a parent in hybridizing, you get bigger and better flowers. However, they do grow more slowly. Crossing two complex hybrids together can result in unexpected color, form and shape variations because the progeny can revert to prior generations. Courtney's recommendation for success is to select plants for your space and light requirements, whether you grow on a window sill or in a greenhouse.

Culture. While everyone's conditions are different, you do need to come as close as possible to the plant's natural conditions. Plants grown from seed tend to do better than those collected in the wild. The elements of good culture are water, light, nutrients, air movement and medium (including containers). Water is the most important of the elements, and if you change any one element, you change them all. An "artificial nature" can be created and you can come close to a natural environment when you hang your plants from the trees.

Orchid roots tend to store water and absorb best when they have been wet for a certain period of time. Paphiopedilum roots are basically terrestrial in nature with roots covered in fine hairs. Epiphyte roots have a thickened cuticle that act as a storage reservoir for water and nutrients. The best root to shoot ratio, which is what you generally find in nature, is a 10 to 1 ratio.

Epiphyte roots need to be wet before you fertilize. if plants are dry, the medium and not the roots will absorb the fertilizer. You only need enough nitrogen for the orchids to get 100 ppm. A balanced nutrient would be 8-3-13, N-P-K with a 5 to 1 calcium/magnesium ratio. The key is to fertilize weakly weekly. Micronutrients are important but can become toxic if they are too high. Courtney recommends flushing thoroughly each month if you use well water or city water with a high amount of dissolved solids. This is not needed if you have R/O water or rain water. There are certain orchids that are more sensitive to the calcium/magnesium ratio, and it will particularly impact flower quality. If you have high dissolved solids, then you may want to limit species and hybrids from the rain forests. Primary hybrids are generally more tolerant of poor water, but species tend to be more sensitive to salts. Just remember that more is not necessarily better. Fertilizers are still salts and can be toxic when levels are too high.

Organic fertilizers such as fish emulsion can be used as an alternative. It is almost impossible to burn a plant with fish emulsion. Sea weed emulsion has also been popular. Sea weed contains large quantities of auxins, a plant hormone that can influence plants to grow and divide a lot. This can be helpful for jewel orchids and paphiopedilums. However, if it is used too much, the plants won't flower.

Problems. If rot spreads fast, it is bacterial in nature. Hydrogen peroxide works well and you can sometimes even save a phalaenopsis with crown rot. Hydrogen peroxide can be applied with a spray bottle or poured directly into the crown. Some growers also use cinnamon for any cut or bruised edges when they repot. Cinnamon is toxic to bacteria and fungi. When the problem is a fungal rot, it is important to cut off all of the affected plant tissue. Fungi like moisture, so the treated plant can then be placed in a dry pot for awhile to complete the process. If the fungus hasn't already become too embedded, you may be able to save the plant with this process. Good air movement is essential in avoiding bacterial and fungal rots.

Leaf damage can be caused by a number of different situations. It can be sun scald, chemical burn, a sheath that held water, or even damage to the tissue with metal rings that get hot in the summer.

Insects can come in a wide range depending on your growing conditions. Cockroaches (palmetto bugs) can live in your pots and eat your roots and flowers. Pill bugs can hide in the pot as well and come out at night to eat the tissue. Slugs and snails can eat the flower buds before they open. Larval crickets can eat holes in the flowers. Liquid Sevin works well when used as a drench (1 tsp per gallon), and even kills snails and slugs. Many hobbyists use a Liquid Sevin drench when they are preparing to bring their orchids into the house for the winter.

Viruses are a real problem today. Virus saps the strength of the plant and deforms the flowers. Odontoglossum Ring Spot virus is a common one for which there is no cure. Nurseries are not as careful as they used to be and there are cases where an orchid with virus was used in cloning. The best preventative is good sanitation, making sure that you sterilize your cutting tools between each plant so that you don't spread any virus that you might unknowingly have.

Meeting Conclusion. Following a brief intermission the Member's Choice award was announced. This month's winner is Ascda. Somsri Gold 'Pachara' grown by Bob and Yvonne Schimmel. The silent auction concluded and the meeting ended with Fred Keefer and our plant raffle.

Thanks to Watson Realty and Jeanette Smith for the use of their meeting space at 3505 US 1 South

November 5 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Schomburgkia Species and Hybrids
Rafael Romero, Plantio la Orquidea

Rafael Romero of Plantio La Orquidea is returning to St. Augustine to talk about Schomburgkias and their hybrids. In 1986 Rafael started working with orchids for a man who would later become his father-in-law, Henrique Graf. Henrique owned the largest and oldest orchid nursery in Venezuela; Plantio La Orquidea which has approximately 5 acres of covered greenhouses. Rafael and his wife Tina started the flasking laboratory at Plantio La Orquidea. This laboratory, now the largest orchid producing laboratory in Venezuela, is where they produce the fine orchid species and hybrids they sell. In 2003 Rafael moved his family to the United States and established Plantio La Orquidea in Sarasota where they grow a variety of the various species and hybrids they produce, complementing their production with select species and hybrids from around the world.

Keiki Club on October 18 and 19

Field Trip to Orchtoberfest at EFG in Deland

We're planning field trips to EFG Orchids in Deland for their Orchtoberfest on both Friday October 18 and Saturday October 19. EFG Orchids is a commercial orchid grower, owned by George Hausermann Jr. originally of Chicago and fourth generation orchid grower. Orchids and tropical plants will be offered for sale by EFG and the half dozen or so vendors participating in the event. The Hausermann clan will be busy preparing all the German food they will have for sale, usually rouladen, wienerschnitzel, brats, spaetzle, German potato salad and more, including German beer! For those that want to carpool together, we'll meet by the tall sign at the Flying J truckstop at exit 305 off US 95 before 10 am so we can get to EFG by 11 am. EFG is located at 4265 Marsh Rd, Deland, FL 32724. If you have any questions, contact Keiki Club Coordinator Mary Colee at keiki@staugorchidsociety.org.

Inspiration

Lc. Panipasa 'Royal Satin'

Growing Tips for October

Dr. Courtney Hackney,
hackneau@comcast.net
Dept. Biology, Univ. North Florida

Hubris is a term that I think about whenever I get to a point where I think that I have finally figured out the culture of orchids. I have thought a lot about that this year. Never in my 50 years of growing orchids have I encountered such consistent issues with various rots. Yes, it has been a wet and rainy summer, but those have occurred before. Hurricanes always seem to bring more rot issues, but there have been none of those, so why this year?

The rot that has been an issue looks like it is fungal and resembles rots that turn up occasionally. First a pseudobulb on a cattleyas yellows and turns black, which eventually spreads up the leaf. Often by the time the dying bulb has been discovered, rot has spread to the rhizome. In many cases large cattleyas were lost and in others large plants reduced to just one bulb. Ironically, phalaenopsis that usually develop rots first have been unaffected as have all other orchid groups.

The speed of infection has been faster than most fungal infections, but slower than bacterial problems I have encountered. So how did I know that the problem was fungal? The fact that the bulbs stayed fairly firm was the first indication that the problem was fungal in nature, but once I opened up an infected bulb and looked carefully under magnification, I could see the fine filaments called hyphae that are characteristic of many fungi.

Standard treatments that always proved effective largely did not work. Even the "nuclear" option, Kocide, failed to halt the progression of this rot. I call this the "nuclear option" because the active ingredient in Kocide, copper, is fairly toxic, even to plants, so it is only used when absolutely necessary. If you must use this product be sure you raise the pH of the water you mix with it above 7 to limit plant toxicity. Most of the well water in my area is above a pH of 7. The product that finally seems to have stopped the carnage was Banrot, an old, reliable fungicide that I stopped using years ago. It was necessary to use it as a drench because the rot seemed to be entering my cattleyas through roots, even though most cattleyas were growing in lava rock. My guess is that old, dead roots were providing a starting point.

So what is next? Just because a problem seems to be solved does not mean it is really gone, especially if it is a bacterial or fungal problem. The greenhouse and all orchids are being maintained drier, i.e. less frequent watering, than would otherwise be occurring. Those few orchids that require more water, e.g. Bulbophyllums, are getting hand-watered when they look dry. Anytime a suspicious spot is found it is hit with Banrot. This will continue until the problem is gone, however long that takes. Kocide was also sprayed under benches and on walkways to kill as many fungal and bacterial spores as possible.

But where did this new rot come from? It is always easy to blame a new acquisition, but spores from rots can come from anywhere. My bet is the origin was the swamp next to the greenhouse, which was flooded all summer thanks to the wet weather, but there is no way to know for sure. The incident has prompted me to look at what led to the spread of rot in my growing area. The typical culprit is a lack of air movement, which can be caused by orchids packed too closely together or a need for more fans. The trick now will be to eliminate rots before winter comes and the greenhouse is closed up.

Your Orchids in October

based on Robert Scully, Ned Nash & James Rose checklists, courtesy of the AOS

General Growing Tips. We usually receive our first cold snap around Halloween, so if you are growing outdoors, this is the time for you to make your winter preparations. Check your winter structure, test fire your heaters and start cleaning your plants. The shortening day length and cooler nights initiate all sorts of changes in your orchids. Your plants require less water and fertilizer now. Observe the rate at which your plants dry out after watering and make adjustments, gradually adding days in between your normally watering cycle.

Cattleyas. Many fall blooming cattleyas are getting ready to bloom and buds are swelling in their sheaths. *C. labiata, C. bowringiana* and the fall blooming form of *C. skinneri,* and their hybrids typically have double sheaths. *Sophronitis coccinea* enjoys a peak flowering season this month. Some of its hybrids should also be blooming, particularly those with summer-fall flowering parents. While the plants are usually small, the show of color makes them conspicuous. Also blooming now is *Enc. cochleata, Epi. ciliare* and *Epi. pseudepidendrum.*

It seems that the big change in day to night temperatures can cause moisture to accumulate between the inner and outer sheaths causing buds to rot. Watch these orchids carefully and be sure there is lots of air movement around these orchids. If you observe any moisture accumulating, carefully open the outer sheath and allow air movement into the space between sheaths. That usually solves the problem.

Paphiopedlums. Paphs and phrags really seem to love the cool nights too. Mature growths, especially in the multifloral paphs will prepare to flower. Usually development of new growths is the first sign that a flower spike will soon emerge.

Phalaenopsis. Phalaenopsis require a significant day to night temperature change to initiate spikes. It usually takes a couple of weeks of these conditions to get phals to put their energy into growing spikes instead of leaves. Phals will be fine on a porch or in a greenhouse even after nights are in the upper 50s F as long as the day temperature rises above 80°F. Once daytime high temperatures are below 78-80°F, phals need to be kept no lower than 60°F at night.

Vandas. Autumn marks the end of the vanda growing season. Vandas are known as heat-loving orchids, but seem to bloom better in the fall and winter as long as temperatures do not get below 60°F and there is enough light. Colors are always brighter when nights are a little cooler. This is especially true for any vanda or ascocenda with *Vanda coerulea* in the parentage.

Other Genera: Catasetum Relatives. You should be seeing flowers on catasetums and their relatives now. Handle catasetums with care when the blooms are open because a minor jarring of the plant can cause the flowers to eject their pollen-carrying anther caps, resulting in a much shortened flower life. This interesting and unique method of natural pollen dissemination is always a stimulating topic of conversation for those seeing it occur for the first time.

Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q1. Over the last two weeks, I noticed this Dendrobium farmeri kept dropping leaves from its new growths, after growing vigorously all summer long. Why did I wait so long to investigate?

A1. I forgot my cardinal rule. When a plant starts dropping lots of leaves, cherchez les roots! Once I came out of denial I took a hard look at this dendrobium growing in a wooden basket with no potting medium. Much to my surprise, there was snow mold digesting the wooden basket and suffocating the roots in the process. As the roots were getting killed, the leaves on all my new growths started to yellow and drop. To fix this, the wooden basket was dismantled from the bottom up, first cutting the metal wires that hold it together and then prying the rotting wooden slats apart one by one. There was a little root damage along the way, but the roots were happy to be rid of the snow mold. I dropped it in a tree fern basket to reestablish over the next 6 weeks or so of the growing season and expect it to bloom in the spring!

Q2. I just brought this orchid home and wanted to drop it in a clay pot when I saw all these mealybugs eating my orchid roots. What now?

A2. Before you introduce a new plant to the growing area, apply a protective drench to kill any lurking pests. The Bayer imidacloprid product is a great systemic pesticide that can be introduced to the plant via the roots and absorbed throughout the plant. It will kill scale, mealybugs, etc. from the inside out without your having to spray it. If you are lucky enough to find the imidacloprid product

that is 1.47% strength, mix up 1 ounce of it in a gallon of water and thoroughly drench the growing media (at 0.74% strength, add 2 oz/gal; at 0.47% strength, add 3 oz/gal, etc.).

Q3. The sheath on my cattleya is turning yellow and then brown, what should I do?

A3. Whenever the flower sheath starts turning a sickly yellow or brown, it should be removed. Often there is condensation inside the sheath that will rot the emerging flower buds, particularly this time of year when there are large day night temperature changes. You should gently peel the sheath apart down to its base, and if it can be easily removed, peel it away from the pseudobulb. If it does not pull away easily, leave it alone so you don't damage the emerging bud. It'll pull off easily in another couple of days.

Q4. This miltonias looks like a mutant. What is wrong?

A4. Your plant is telling you that it would like more water. The accordion-like pleating on the leaves will never go away, but the new leaves should emerge normally if you start watering a little more frequently.

Cold Tolerance of Orchids

Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

If you allow your orchids the pleasure of growing outside during the warm season, they will reward you with an abundance of growth and blooms though you will have to make some adjustments to protect your orchids when the cool season arrives. Some orchids are very cold intolerant and may have to be relocated to a warm winter home and others are more cold tolerant and may only need protection on the coldest nights. Each type of orchid has its preferred minimum night temperatures during the winter cool season, below which cold damage to the plant will occur.

- Most phalaenopsis, the large two toned vandas, the evergreen dendrobiums and the mule eared oncidiums are the least tolerant of cold, preferring night time temperatures above 60°F though some tolerate temperatures in the 50's.
- Most cattleyas and oncidiums prefer winter night temperatures in the mid 50's though some tolerate temperatures in the mid 40's.
- Deciduous dendrobiums bloom better after a cooler, drier winter rest period with no fertilizer tolerating temperatures in the low to mid 40's.
- Dendrocoryne dendrobiums and cymbidiums are the most cold tolerant orchids of those grown in our summer heat accepting of temperatures down into the 30's.

Cattleyas. As a general rule, cattleya alliance plants prefer temperatures above 55°F though many will tolerate temperatures into the mid 40's. Cattleyas from the Amazon like *C. violacea* prefer warmer temperatures, and there are many cold hardy varieties that tolerate temperatures in the 30's, like *Soph. coccinea, C. loddigesii, C. intermedia, L. anceps* and *L. purpurata*. As a general rule, protect your cattleyas when temperatures drop below 50°F particularly if they are in bud or in bloom.

Cymbidiums. Cymbidiums as a group are probably the most cold tolerant of all the orchids we grow in Florida. Their ideal minimum temperature is 40°F although they tolerate temperatures into the mid 30's and will survive light freezes with some cold damage. Our bigger problem in Florida is finding heat tolerant cymbidiums that will survive our summers and reward us with blooms.

Dendrobiums. There are over 1200 species of dendrobiums organized into more than 40 sections that grow in a wide variety of habitats and elevations. For those dendrobiums that grow in our Florida climate, cold tolerance ranges from the least cold tolerant Phalaenthe section dendrobiums to the most cold tolerant Dendrocoryne section dendrobiums. The warm tropical growers will quickly drop leaves if exposed to too cool conditions. The more cold tolerant dendrobiums actually flower better when exposed to cooler and drier conditions during the winter, though they shouldn't be fertilized after Thanksgiving until the new growth begins in the spring. Their cold tolerance by section:

Minimum Temperature of 60°F:

- *Phalaenthe Section.* Flowers resemble phalaenopsis flowers, includes the species *bigibbum* (syn. *phalaenopsis*) and *compactum*

- *Spatulata Section.* Antelope dendrobiums, flowers have twisted petals, includes the species *antennatum*, *canaliculatum* and *gouldii*

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Minimum Temperatures in mid 50's:

- *Formosae Section.* Cane like pseudobulbs with black hairs on silvery sheaths, includes the species *cruentum*, *dearii* and *formosum*

- *Latouria Section.* Mostly yellow green long lasting flowers, includes the species *aberrans*, *atroviolaceum*, *johnsoniae* and *spectabile*

- *Pedilonum Section.* Bright pink, red and purple flowered inflorescences on leafless canes, includes the species *bracteosum*, *bullenianum*, *goldschmidtianum* (syn. *miyakei*), *purpureum*, *secundum* and *smilieae*

Minimum Temperatures in mid 40's:

- *Callista Section.* Showy pendant golden grapelike flower inflorescences, includes the species *aggregatum* (syn. *lindleyi*), *chrysotoxum*, *densiflorum*, *farmeri*, and *thyrsiflorum*

Minimum Temperatures in mid to low 40's:

- *Dendrobium Section.* Upright and pendulous inflorescences on leafless canes, includes the species *anosmum* (syn. *superbum*), *aphyllum* (syn. *pierardii*), *loddigesii*, *moniliforme*, *nobile*, *parishii*, *primulinum* and *unicum*

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Minimum Temperatures in mid to upper 30's:

- *Dendrocoryne Section.* Very freely flowering plants from Australia, includes the species *kingianum* and *speciosum*

Oncidiums. While orchids in the Oncidiinae alliance have a wide range of cold tolerance, many of the cool growers that can withstand near freezing winter temperatures are not grown in Florida because they cannot tolerate our summer heat. The thick leaved mule ear oncidiums like *Onc. lanceanum* are from lowland tropical areas and resent temperatures below 60°F. Most of those oncidiinae that grow well in our summer heat like brassias, cochiliodas, miltonias, odontoglossums, oncidiums and similar genera as well as the myriad of intergenerics like *Beallara, Burrageara, Colmanara, Vuylstekeara, Wilsonara,* etc. prefer night temperatures in the mid 50's, but will tolerate temperatures down to the mid 40's.

Phalaenopsis. Phalaenopsis are fairly cold intolerant although they enjoy the cold snap we seem to get around Halloween. Allow them to chill down to 55°F for two or three weeks during this time frame when the daytime temperatures go back above 80°F during the day. This brief chilling will tell your phals that it is time for them to set their bloom spikes. After this brief chilling, you should find a winter home for your phals. As a general rule, phals enjoy nighttime temperatures above 60°F. If temperatures drop below this minimum, some phals will drop their buds, particularly the standard phalaenopsis like *amabalis*, *schilleriana* and *stuartiana* that are less cold tolerant. Phals from higher elevations or the foothills of the Himalayas like *lindenii*. *lobbii* and *mannii* are more tolerant of lower temperatures down to around 50°F.

Vandas. Vandaceous orchids as a whole are fairly cold intolerant although there are some species from higher elevations that withstand lower temperatures. If you are unsure of your plant's genetic background, keep nighttime temperatures above 60°F. This is particularly true of the widely hybridized *Vanda sanderiana* that has large two toned flowers and species of the fragrant genus Aerides. *Vanda coerulea*, *denisoniana,* and *tessellata* are more cold tolerant as are many members of the genera Ascocentrum, Renanthera and Rhynchostylis that are comfortable down to 50°F. *Neofinetia falcata* is probably the most cold tolerant vandaceous orchid accepting of temperature in the lower 40's. If exposed to too low temperatures, the vandaceous orchids will start dropping leaves giving the plants an unappealing palm tree appearance.

Orchids are often categorized into general temperature groups that are based on the preferred winter night temperature below which growth slows. The three temperature groups are the warm growers with nights from 60 to 65°F, the intermediate growers with nights from 55 to 60°F and the cool growers with nights from 50 to 55°F. Many orchids that demand cool conditions in winter also prefer cooler summers than Florida offers so they are not good candidates for Florida growers who don't have special coolers in their growing area. Most plants suitable for growing in the Florida summer heat are intermediate to warm growers that grow best when plants are protected from winter night temperatures below the 50's. If you cannot protect plants during the cooler weather, be careful to choose plants that both thrive during our summer heat and tolerate our winter cold.

Orchid Adventures at Hampton Court
Stephen Edwards, Foreign Correspondent

Our penpal Stephen Edwards of Almeria, Spain recently visited the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, the largest flower show in the world. The Show is run by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) at Hampton Court Palace in southwest London. See all Stephen's pictures on Terry's Flickr account.

Show Table

Grower Sue Bottom
Cyc. cooperi 'Jumbo Sunrise'

Grower Sue Bottom
Paphinia Majestic

Grower Sue Bottom
Aerides Punchinello

Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Lc. Ditto Head

Grower Courtney Hackney
Blc. Dickie Brooks Hackneau

Grower Linda Stewart
Alcra. Hilo Ablaze 'Hilo Gold' AM/AOS

Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
C. Portia coerulea 'Mrs. Carl Homes' HCC/AOS

Show Table

Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Lc. Angel Heart 'Hihimanu' AM/AOS

Grower Yvonne & Bob Schimmel
Ascda. Somsri Gold 'Pachara'

Grower Linda Stewart
Phal. bellina

Grower Courtney Hackney
Phal. equestris var. coerulea

Grower Courtney Hackney
Pot. Elaine Taylor 'Krull Smith' FCC/AOS

Grower Sue Bottom
C. Angel Bells 'Suzie' AM/AOS