



## CLUB NEWS



Keith Davis

### April 7 2015 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Janis Croft, secretary@  
staugorchidsociety.org

#### Welcome and Thanks.

President Bob Schimmel opened the meeting at 7:05 pm with approximately 50 attendees. Bob welcomed our visitors including Brevard County OS prez and SAOS members Joe and Boon Bryson, Hybridizer Joe and Bobby

Grezaffi, and John Odom of Odom's Orchids in Fort Pierce. We welcomed new members Suzanne and Robert Susko, Jan McIntire and Leslie and Chip Brickell, we'll see the last two at the Keiki Club. He also thanked Jeanette Smith, Shirley Brown and Loretta Griffith for their wonderful refreshments and reminded all to enjoy while dropping a dollar in the jar. Linda Stewart recognized our two birthday people with free raffle tickets and Bob reminded all to vote for their favorite orchid on the show table.

**Club Business.** Thanks to all that have rejoined, we'll be updating our mailing lists this month so if you want to continue receiving the newsletter, you can send Bill your dues, 807 Kalli Creek, St. Aug 32080, \$15 individual and \$25 for a family.

SAOS Librarian Penny Halyburton advises members to just email her with your book selection (see our website) and she will bring your requested book(s) to the next meeting.

The next Keiki Club will be meeting April 12 at the Bottom's Home, 6916 Cypress Lake Court. The topic will be Potting without Pots. Bring an orchid and mount with you along with a folding chair.

Orchid supplies are again available for sale. Potting mix for \$5 and slow release fertilizer for \$3, and SAOS T shirts for \$20.

The next Ace Repotting Clinic is on May 2 at Ace Hardware on U.S. 1 from 9 am - 1 pm.



**Orchid Events.** Our exhibit took third place at the Jacksonville Orchid Society show. Thanks to Harry for chairing our efforts and to the volunteers who helped us set up and break down.

There are shows in Florida this month in Orlando, Tallahassee and Vero Beach. Check out our website for more details.

**Show Table Review.** Courtney Hackney reviewed the Show Table and talked about the wide varieties of plants on the table that were growing in lava rock. When using lava rock you don't need to repot as the rock never breaks down and the orchids do quite well growing in that medium. It is quite informative to hear Courtney share his knowledge about the plants that other members are growing in our area.



*Courtney shares his knowledge of orchids while reviewing the Show Table*

**SAOS Program.** Courtney Hackney introduced our guest speaker, Keith Davis of Keith Davis Orchids in Reidsville, N.C. whose topic was "Demystifying the Bifoliate." Keith's talk centered primarily on about 20 species of bifoliate and some hybrids. A bifoliate is a cattleya with two and sometimes three leaves at the top of the bulb. They are mostly epiphytic or grow on rocks. They are known for being difficult to grow but Keith's talk shared important tips and information on how to be successful. The bifoliate range in size from the small 4 inch C. nobilior up to the C. guttata

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# CLUB NEWS



## Upcoming Orchid Events

### April

- 11-12 EPIC Celebration of Spring  
Annual Flower and Garden Expo  
Ag Center, St. Augustine
- 11-12 Tallahassee Orchid Society Show  
Doyle Conner Building
- 11-12 Central Florida Orchid Society  
Bahia Shrine
- 12 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm  
Orchids Outside the Pot  
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home  
6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086
- 14 JOS Meeting, 7 pm, Topic TBA  
Jill Godfrey, AOS Judge & Orchid Hobbyist
- 25-26 Vero Beach Orchid Society Show  
Riverside Park
- 26 JOS Picnic

### May

- 2 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm  
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine  
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 2-3 Platinum Coast Orchid Society Show  
Kiwaniis Island Park Gym & Annex  
3611 Richmond St., Jax 32205
- 5 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm  
Tom Kuligowski, The Angraecum Blog  
Angraecums
- 9-10 Volusia County Society Show  
Volusia County Fairgrounds
- 15-17 Redlands International Orchid Festival  
Fruit and Spice Park, Homestead
- 17 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm  
Summer Orchid Care  
May and Louis Colee's Home  
855 Oak Ridge Road, St. Aug 32086

### June

- 2 SAOS Meeting, Stanhopeas, and More, 7 pm  
Jill Godfrey, AOS Judge & Orchid Hobbyist  
Stanhopeas, Sobralias, and Phaius
- 6 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm  
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine  
Repotting and Plant Clinic

- 9 JOS Meeting, 7 pm,  
TBA
- 14 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm  
Repotting Phalaenopsis  
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home  
6916 Cypress Lake Ct., St. Aug 32086

### July

- 4 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm  
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine  
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 7 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm  
Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids  
Orchids 101
- 14 JOS Meeting, 7 pm  
Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids

## St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Bob Schimmel <a href="mailto:schimmelr55@bellsouth.net">schimmelr55@bellsouth.net</a>
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Operations Committee Chair	Jeanette Smith <a href="mailto:jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com">jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com</a>



# CLUB NEWS

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**Keith's daughter April with his prize *C. guttata* 'Brecko-Leopard' CCE 91 point blooming. Notice the rooting pot on the right side**

that can grow over 5 ft tall as shown in a slide of the plant towering over his daughter. Keith strongly encouraged all to research and educate yourself about each species because "one size does not fit all" with bifoliate.

For successful growing, you have to have good roots. He showed a photo of a root system that was growing in mostly styrofoam and the roots were healthy and white. Bifoliate like an open mix with lots of air. If you damage the roots, they are very unforgiving and the plant will often die. What really kills the plant is a lack of air—not too much water. If you are in a medium that has broken down and you water, the medium becomes saturated and suffocates the roots by eliminating air flow. He likes to use a potting mix of charcoal, large sponge rock, hard chunky bark and styrofoam peanuts. Also never over-pot a bifoliate. Increase the pot size just enough to fit the roots into the



**Pot. Goldernell 'Southern Cross'**

new pot. Another tidbit he shared was that every time he waters, he uses a little fertilizer (1/8 - 1/4 tsp) in an effort to mimic nature.

If you want a division from a plant, be patient. He uses a stress free division system called over-the-pot. When a root starts growing over the original pot, he ties on a second smaller pot and lets the root grow into that smaller pot. He showed an example of a division that took over three years to get a large and stable root system growing in the new pot before he made the cut.

After sharing numerous slides of many of his favorites, Keith discussed a new fertilizing product that he discovered from a nearby garden center owner, Jim Young. The two of them will continue to test the product on orchids and he asked for volunteers to use it on their plants and provide feedback. The fertilizer is called *Purely Organic* and can be purchased by calling Jim Young at 803-892-2651 or 803-622-6622. Currently it is available in 25 and 50 pound bags but they are working on a way to package in smaller quantities for orchid growers. Keith ended by sharing his website ([www.keithdavisorchids.com](http://www.keithdavisorchids.com)) and email ([dowiana51@gmail.com](mailto:dowiana51@gmail.com)) and encouraged all to trade orchids with others.



**Lc. Allen Condo 'Joe's Beauty' 20 & 13 flowers**

**Meeting Conclusion.** Harry McElroy announced the Member's Choice Award which went to Harry McElroy for Phal. Bataan. A close runner-up was the *Leptodes bicolor* entered by Dania Borreo. Members also brought in four plants for the Silent Auction. The raffle table was the final event of the evening with Christie Peppard and Dianne Batchelder presiding with an assist from Mary Colee. Thanks to all of those that stayed and cleaned up the room.

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



# CLUB NEWS



## March 22 Keiki Club Spring Repotting

About two dozen familiar and new faces came to the March Madness repotting session at the Bottom's home. We talked about why you only repot orchids if you have a good reason to repot them. Good reasons include:

- Bringing a new orchid home and repotting it in your mix of choice so you can water all your orchids that are potted in the same mix at the same time,
- Repotting an orchid when the potting mix has started to rot which also causes the roots to rot,
- Repotting when an orchid has gotten so unruly in the pot that it is unmanageable. Many cattleyas bloom best when there is a bulb or two out of the pot, but when three or four buds hang outside the pot it can get tippy.

You don't want to repot an orchid unless it needs to be repotted, because each time you disturb the roots the plant will go into transplant shock and take time to recover and grow new roots. You can minimize the transplant shock by choosing the best time to repot your orchids, which is just before the new roots start to emerge. This is of particular concern with the bifoliate orchids that only initiate new root growth once a year and can be severely compromised if repotted at the wrong time.

We also discussed the selection of potting mixes and how your selection of a potting mix is based in part on your watering habits. Coarse mixes are better for people with a heavy watering hand while mixes with more organic matter retain more moisture and may be more suitable for those having a busy schedule. The downside of organic matter is that it will ultimately decompose which can cause root damage.

Then it was time to get busy. We had lots of cattleya divisions to give all our members and guests. We divided up into teams and proceeded to repot with wild abandon. We also repotted various orchids brought to the meeting. This month we repotted into pots, next month we'll be potting without pots!

## Have You Forgotten Anything?

Thanks to all our renewing members. Our newsletter and website are jam packed with information to help you grow your orchids. If you have been overcome by events and haven't sent in your dues (\$15 individual, \$25 family), you can mail your check to SAOS c/o Bill Gourley, 807 Kalli Creek Lane, St. Augustine, FL 32080. By this time next month, we'll have updated our SAOS roster and newsletter distribution list. We hope you're still enjoying orchids and all the benefits of being a member of the St Aug Orchid Society!

## May 5 Monthly SAOS Meeting Angraecums

Tom Kuligowski is an avid orchid hobbyist and photographer, specializing in angraecums. Angraecums are known for their beautiful, showy flowers, many that are fragrant at night. Angraecums have very unique shapes and the most pristine white coloration. Tom's presentation will help you learn how to grow these beauties successfully and in turn, grace you with years of enjoyment. All of the plants shown in his presentation are from his collection, in various stages of maturity from seedlings to first time bloomers to specimen plants.



## April 12 Keiki Club Orchids Outside the Pot

Sue and Terry Bottom's Home

We'll talk about the differences in caring for a potted orchid vs. one outside the pot. We'll look at the different options available, on a mount, on a plaque, in a basket, etc. and demonstrate how to attach an orchid to its new media-less home. You won't be surprised to know that we'll have some divisions suitable for mounting, one to a customer. Bring baskets or custom mounts for your new beauties, we've given all the ones we had away at prior Keiki Clubs. Bring a folding chair and any plants you have questions about. Guests and visitors are always welcome. Call Sue at 797-4360 if you have any questions.

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

**When:** April 12, 1 to 3 pm



# INSPIRATION



*C. Chocolate Drop x C. amethystoglossa*

Terry Botta



# CULTIVATION

## Your Orchids in April

based on Robert Scully articles,  
courtesy of the AOS



**General Growing Tips.** This is one of the most exciting months of the year, filled with an abundance of flower spikes emerging. It's the beginning of the long growing season, enabling us to provide our plants with the foundation for maximum flower production in the next flowering season

**Cattleyas.** *C. aclandiae* and *C. forbesii* produce flowers that last for weeks. *C. mossiae* and its hybrids are well known for their spectacular, long lasting heads of 6 in blossoms that provide an abundance of flowers. *Enc. cordigera*



should be blooming profusely now. The spicy fragrance will last for several weeks. Consider shifting it to a wooden basket when flowering is complete. Begin the annual repotting cycle by shifting and dividing those cattleyas that flowered earlier this year and are beginning to produce new growth. Typically you should repot only when the new growth is emerging to take advantage of the plant's tendency to make new roots when it is forming new pseudobulbs.

**Cymbidiums.** If you have more than one or two brown leaves, you may have a cultural problem. If the plant is loose in its pot, the mix has degraded and the plant should be repotted. If the plant is firm in its pot, it is asking for more fertilizer.



**Phalaenopsis.** Moth orchids are in their prime, boasting arching and branching sprays of beautiful flowers. Most growers don't spray chemicals on blooming phals so check for signs of pests like scale or mites that you can spot treat with alcohol.



**Vandas.** Vandas are entering into their growth period and you should see an abundance of new rootlets. Locate them where they get bright bright light (though not direct light) and plenty of fresh air. Increase water and fertilizer to fuel their growth, they'll reward you later in the season with abundant blooms. Water them every day with an automated spray system or water wand, water again 30 minutes or so later and then apply fertilizer 30 minutes later.



# CULTIVATION



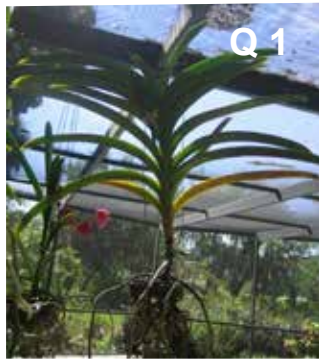
## Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,  
sbottom15@bellsouth.net

**Q1.** I'm having some accelerated lower leaf loss with one of my vandas. It has produced 3 to 4 new leaves since November and it even has 4 big healthy new roots.

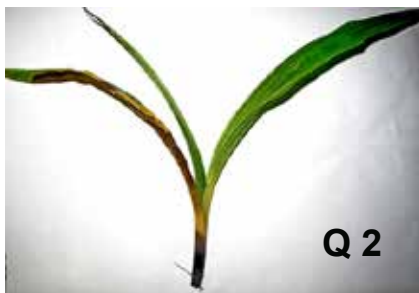
However, since the end of winter, it has started having yellowing of the lower leaves, and has lost 4 to 5 leaves. It is hanging with my other orchids, getting lots of sunlight and good air movement.

**A1.** I would say the lower leaf loss is due to the cooler weather rather than anything you have or haven't done. The vandas with a lot of the big two toned *sanderiana* in the background really don't like to go below 60F while the ones with *coerulea* and *tesselata* in them are much more cold hearty. They can probably drop below 50F without missing a beat. I'd say it's just the vanda's parentage coupled with the recent cold weather that has caused the leaf yellowing, but it'll probably grow keikis at the base of the plant so it will fill out for you.



**Q2.** This Phaius has now done this twice, has new growth that looks good, and then rots off at the base and falls off. I thought maybe I was overwatering, but I only water once per week typically and maybe twice in the summer. They all start with good looking new growths, but then they get a lot of brown spots in the leaves and they never really develop a full sized leaf and pseudobulb.

**A2.** We turned to George Hausermann of EFG Orchids who grows a lot of Phaius, who responded: I would check in the pot and see how the root system looks. Chances are that the roots are rotted and causing a systemic infection, most likely bacterial. Repot the orchid and apply an antibacterial drench.



**Q3.** I live in Massachusetts and I've had my orchid plant in the window. I'm wondering if it got too cold one night, because half way up the bloom shoot it seems to be shriveling up! I also had the plant clip on it, but I didn't think it was too tight. Any ideas of what caused the problem?



**A3.** I bet you are right, the cold probably damaged that tender tissue. What a bummer! Perhaps you'll luck out and it'll throw off another spike, or it will bloom twice as nice next year!

**Q4.** I am forwarding you a photo of damage by some pest on my phalaenopsis. I am in the Bahamas and have never had this problem in 14 years. The buds on the spikes have also been eaten. Can you help?



**A4.** Whoops, somebody stopped by for lunch. If it happened here, I'd say lubber grasshoppers are likely culprits. Cockroaches, rats, etc. are also possible. You'll have to think of what kind of fairly large pests might be around some of your other landscape plants to figure out what ate it. I wonder if there are iguanas or other large lizards in your area? Whatever ate those leaves is big though, you can see the mouth marks on the leaves.



# CULTIVATION

## How to Distinguish *C. guttata* from *C. tigrina*

by Greg Allikas, [Orchid Works](#)

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*Cattleya guttata*: Very tall, graceful plants, often with three leaves per pseudobulb

*Cattleya tigrina*: Tall, stocky plants, usually with two leaves per pseudobulb



*Cattleya guttata*: Flowers in the late summer from a dried sheath after brief rest

*Cattleya tigrina*: Flowers from early to mid-summer from a green sheath as soon as the new growth matures



*Cattleya guttata*: Side lobes of lip clasp column tightly. In profile, side lobes totally conceal column. Lip reniform, mid-lobe not broad.

*Cattleya tigrina*: Side lobes do not clasp column. Wide sinuses from front view. In profile, side lobes partially reveal column. Lip distinctly reniform, mid-lobe broad.





# CULTIVATION

## ***Cattleya tigrina***

by Greg Allikas, [Orchid Works](#)  
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One of the pleasures of collecting Brazil's bifoliate cattleyas is that with the exception of the late autumn months, there are species in bloom throughout the year providing the grower with satisfying variations in color, form, fragrance and plant habit. As I write this on the last day of June, we have had *Cattleya tigrina* plants in bloom now for couple of weeks and I have seen others at AOS judgings. The species is blooming late this year, as are many orchids, due to an extended cold spell in January. *C. tigrina* typically flowers the end of May and into June in the Northern Hemisphere - about the same time as that other Brazilian favorite, *Cattleya* (formerly *Laelia*) *purpurata*.

*Cattleya tigrina* is a species that inhabits coastal swamps of Brazil from south of Rio de Janeiro south to Rio Grande do Sul. It is rarely found much above three or four hundred feet elevation. Parts of its range overlap those of *C. intermedia* and *C. purpurata* and there are naturally occurring hybrids with both species. *Cattleya x elegans* (*C. tigrina* x *C. purpurata*) has been occasionally seen in the trade over the years and artificially made using various forms of *C. purpurata*. There are several color forms of the species including *immaculata*, *coerulea* and *alba*, representing a dark form with coalesced spots, a pale form with bluish lip, and green flowers with white lip (lacking anthocyanin). The latter have been sold over the years as *C. guttata* var. *alba*, which they are not. *Cattleya tigrina* is not for the meek; this is a robust orchid that can grow two to three feet tall and produce many-flowered inflorescences. And that is exactly what makes it so wonderful! The individual flowers are not especially large, averaging about three inches across. What they lack in size they make up for in numbers, with mature plants capable of producing 30 or more flowers per inflorescence! The flowers have a strong spicy fragrance that I can best describe as smelling like bubblegum.

Although *Cattleya tigrina* is a large orchid, it can be grown in small greenhouses, or even windowsills, by keeping it in

small pots. It may eventually outgrow its allotted space at which time it can be divided and shared with friends. A six inch pot will accommodate a mature, flowering size plant. Here in our South Florida shadehouse we like to grow large orchids, so as plants of *C. tigrina* get bigger, we eventually move them up to eight or nine inch pots. If you are growing this or other large orchid in a six inch pot or larger, it is important to allow air at the roots in order to maintain their good health. We pot in clay pots and enlarge the center drainage hole by tapping the edges with lineman's pliers. With large pots sizes, we often use an inverted net pot over the drainage hole to provide extra aeration and fill the bottom of the pot with large inert material such as landscape lava rock, charcoal or broken chunks of styrofoam packing. Most importantly, regardless of the pot size, use large size media, either fir bark or coconut chunks. Mixing in large grade diatomite or lava rock also works well to keep the pot interior from getting stale and soggy.

*Cattleya tigrina* will grow in the same light as your other cattleyas, although it can stand quite bright light if acclimated gradually (up to 3500 fc). The only other major consideration is when to repot. Bifoliate cattleyas in general, are intolerant of stale media. They do not tolerate potting at the wrong time either. As with all orchids, the best time to repot is when there is active root growth, preferably a cluster of root tips at the base of a new lead. This does not always work out with *C. tigrina* because it flowers directly from a recently matured growth which has begun some root growth. We like to wait until a second flush of roots begins, usually a month or so after flowering. There should be active root growth in any case and some roots will be well developed. Be as gentle as possible with these longer roots and work the old media away carefully. If the media is in good condition you can leave some of it attached and merely move the orchid up to a bigger pot, and fill in around the root mass.

Fertilize as you do your other sympodial orchids and keep the temperature range between 85° and 50° F year-round, although plants will tolerate extremes for short periods.



*Cattleya tigrina* by Greg Allikas,  
photographed by Greg Allikas



*Cattleya leopoldii* grown and  
photographed by Greg Allikas



# CULTIVATION

## Orchid Toolbox

### What's in Your Wallet?

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

My sainted Mother used to say that the sin isn't in making a mistake, it's making the same mistake twice. You learn from the mistakes you've made, and I thought I would share some of the handy tools and tricks I've learned to help grow healthy and happy orchids.

**Hose End Systems.** I use a water wand fit with a water breaker to manually water my orchids. The water breaker creates a soft shower. There is a handy off on switch to easily control watering. I switch out the water breaker for a



Fogg It nozzle when watering vandas and mounted orchids. I use the heavy volume 4 gpm nozzle. I keep a hose end sprayer that has multiple settings, including shower, jet and flat. The shower setting is a nice soft spray. The flat setting can be used when you are blasting the sheath or scale off pseudobulbs. The jet setting works well when you want to blast old decaying potting mix out of a pot without doing too much damage to the roots.

**Applying Fertilizer.** I now use a Dosatron which is an automatic proportioner for fertilizing my plants, but at \$300 it is too pricy for most folks. For years I used a Hozon injector (around \$20) which siphons a concentrated fertilizer mixture through a rubber tube into the hose you use for watering so you can water and fertilize at the same time. It's simple to use, just get a 5 gallon bucket and make marks on the side at 1 gallon increments.



Place it next to your hose bibb and drop the rubber hose on the siphonex into the 5 gallon bucket in which you'll make your fertilizer concentrate. Then mix up your fertilizer concentrate using the Hozon siphonex ratio of 16:1 (the Dramm siphon uses a 20:1 ratio). For 16 gallons of fertilizer, you would put in the suitable amount of fertilizer (say 4 tsp if mixing 1/4 tsp/gallon) and fill the bucket up with water to the 1 gallon mark. For 80 gallons of fertilizer, you would add a little



over 3 oz or 3/8 of a cup of fertilizer (at 1/4 tsp/gallon and 6 tsp/oz) and fill the bucket up to the top with water. You have to be careful to minimize pressure drop for it to work best so make sure your hose is less than 50 ft long (35 ft is better) and your hose is a larger diameter (5/8 inches is better) and you use a water breaker (like Dramm's 170 Water Breaker). And if you have any question about whether the siphonex is working properly, get a 1 cup (8 oz) and a 1 quart (32 oz) measuring cup. Fill the small cup up with 1/4 cup of water (2 oz) and drop the siphonex hose in it. Then run your hose to fill up the larger measuring cup. If the smaller cup containing 2 oz is empty by the time the larger 32 oz cup is filled, you'll know that your Hozon siphonex is dispensing at the proper 16:1 ratio.

**Spraying Fertilizer and Chemicals.** Now that you've refreshed your arithmetic skills, you're ready for the Ortho Hose End sprayer that has a myriad of uses. You can spray concentrated or diluted chemicals and fertilizers easily with the sprayer remembering that the total volume you want to spray in gallons, divided by the top setting for dilution rate in tsp or oz/gallon equals the amount of oz you mix into the sprayer reservoir as measured on the side of the sprayer. That sounds more confusing than it is, here are some great applications.

- *Spray Fertilizer.* – I often use the Ortho sprayer to fertilize vandas that are very heavy feeders. I want to use the highest settings so the application rate will be the most accurate, so I set the top dial to 8 oz/gal and fill up the reservoir to 32 oz with water.



This means I'll get 4 gallons of spray (32 ounces divided by 8 oz/gal) so I'll add 4 tsp of fertilizer to the mix, if I want to fertilize at the rate of 1 tsp/gal.

- *Spray Fungicides or Pesticides* – If you want to spray a single chemical at the recommended dilution rate, you would simply add the chemical to the reservoir and set the top dial to the dilution rate. So if you wanted to spray with pool algacide (a cheaper form of Physan or Consan) for leaf spotting fungi, you would pour 10% pool algacide into the sprayer and set the dilution rate to 2 tsp/gal. If you wanted to spray two compatible chemicals that each had different dilution rates, you could do that too. Say I was battling scale and wanted to spray a mixture of imidacloprid and Distance and say I know it will require 4 gallons of spray for me to spray my plants. The imidacloprid at a 1.47% concentration has a dilution rate of 6 tsp/gal, so I pour 24 tsp or 4 oz of the imidacloprid into the reservoir (6 tsp/gal times 4 gallons is 24 tsp which divided by 6 tsp/oz

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# CULTIVATION

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## Continued from page 10

equals 4 oz). The Distance has a dilution rate of about 0.5 tsp/gal, so you'd add 2 tsp Distance to the reservoir (0.5 tsp/gal times 4 gallons is 2 tsp). Then you'll want to use the highest top dial setting possible, that is 8 oz/gal, and fill up the reservoir with water to the 32 oz line (4 gallons times 8 oz/gal equals 32 oz). If you wanted to make 8 gallons of spray, using the maximum 32 oz of concentrate in the reservoir, your top dial setting would be 4 oz/gal (32 ounces divided by 4 oz/gal equals 8 gallons), and of course you would add enough chemicals to make 8 gallons of spray.



- *Bleach Spray to Disinfect* – I periodically spray bleach under benches and walkways to disinfect them and remove algae. Typically you'd want a 10% solution, but the closest you can come with the Ortho sprayer is about 6% if you set the dilution dial to 8 oz/gallon. (8 oz/gal divided by 128 oz/gal equals about 0.06 or 6%).

**Disinfect Cutting Tools.** Singled edged razor blades are often recommended for cutting off damaged leaves or old flower spikes, even for cutting plants apart during repotting. However, I enjoy the use of all 10 fingers so I use shears to make the tough cuts. I used to disinfect them between plants by dropping the shears into a supersaturated solution of TriSodium Phosphate or TSP, made by pouring more TSP into a jar than can be dissolved in water so there is some residual solid TSP in the jar once you add the water. Once the shears have sat for 30 seconds or so in the supersaturated solution you're ready for your next cut. Then some bureaucrat decided that TSP should be reformulated with nonphosphates which do not have the same sterilization capacity, so if the box says no phosphates, don't buy it because it will not disinfect your cutting tools. The best tool for disinfecting your cutting tools is a torch. Buy the one with the propylene (MAPP) gas in a yellow tank and spend the extra couple of bucks on the automatic igniter version. The fat boy tanks can be found at Fastenal. Sterilize your shears by flaming them after use for about 15 seconds on each side, remembering the hottest point of the flame is about an inch or so out at the end of the inner cone of the flame.

**Drench After Repotting.** I have heard many people recommend that you not water your plant after repotting it so that the pathogens ever present in the environment are not drawn into the plant through the repotting wounds as well as to encourage the plant to send out new roots seeking water. That's probably great advice that I am constitutionally incapable of following. Instead, I apply a

precautionary fungicide drench of Banrot at 1 tsp/gal to protect the plant from water molds along with seaweed at 1 tsp/gal to encourage root growth. This math is pretty simple, get a 1 gallon jug and put 1 tsp each of Banrot and seaweed, fill it up to the top with water, and pour a drench through the pot.

**Mounting Orchids.** I've tried many ways of attaching an orchid to a mount while you are waiting for the roots to adhere, including nylon stockings, bell wire, cords, even staples. The difficulty always is having the connection remain tight enough that the roots don't get damaged before they can attach. Enter Michael Polen of Art Stone Orchids in St. Pete who shared his tip for using cable ties to secure the orchid tightly to the mount. Once the orchid has adapted the tie can be cut away. It works better than anything else I've tried.

**Household Chemicals.** Isopropyl alcohol is great as a contact pesticide for scale and mealybugs or to help remove sooty mold. Hydrogen peroxide is a great bactericide for people and for orchids. Walgreen's sells both in little spray bottles that can be refilled and the sprayer continues to work for months after it is put in service unlike those quart spray bottles you buy and then throw out 2 weeks later because they no longer spray. A lot of people recommend dusting cinnamon on open wounds due to its antifungal qualities, but I believe in better living through chemicals so I would probably dust with Captan or Banrot rather than cinnamon if I felt the need to apply a fungicide.

**Weed Removal.** In days gone by I've used a hemostat for other things, but have found they are primo for removing ferns, oxalis and other weeds from the pot. They can get into places my fingers can't. There are chemicals that contain Diuron that



can also be used, just a pinch in the pot, but I don't have the guts to add a herbicide to my orchid pots. I do spread Diuron under benches, under vandas (keep the roots trimmed 6 inches above the ground level) and in areas where I don't want anything to grow, like between pavers, etc. It must have some systemic qualities because weeds don't return for months after spreading it.

Please feel free to share any special tricks or tools you employ to grow your orchids, send an email to [info@staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@staugorchidsociety.org). We've learned lots from other orchid growers, hobbyist and professional, and our orchid speakers and suspect we'll keep on listening and learning of new things to add to our toolbox.



# ORCHID ADVENTURES



## Orchid Adventures Jacksonville Orchid Society Show

The March JOS show is always a pleasure to visit. We got to meet and buy from our old favorite vendors plus some new faces this year, including Odom's Orchids. We spent Thursday putting in our SAOS exhibit with Harry McElroy, Terry Bottom and Bob Schimmel doing most of the installation supported by Dianne Batchelder, Mary Colee, Janis Croft, Gail Marshall, Linda Stewart and Sue Bottom. Our exhibit won third place and all who entered plants won ribbons. Harry won a trophy for best cymbidium, Cym. Muffett's Touch. Sue won three trophies, best dendrobium, best specimen and best miniature as well as a 90 point AOS cultural award for Den. Micro Chip 'St. Augustine' CCE/AOS.



# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Courtney Hackney**  
*Paph. Bel Royal*



**Grower Nellie Wiggins**  
*Psychopsis papilio*



**Grower Dania Borrero**  
*Leptotes bicolor*



**Grower Linda Stewart**  
*Ascf. Cherry Blossom 'Carmela'*



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
*Paph. Doctor Toot 'Pine Ridge 2'*



**Grower Bill Gourley**  
*Phal. Mistral's Sunrise Flame 'Mendenhall'*



**Grower Yvonne & Bob Schimmel**  
*Den. Little Atro*



# SHOW TABLE



Terry Bottom

**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**Den. Golden Aya**



Terry Bottom

**Grower Harry & Celia McElroy**  
**Phal. Bataan**



Terry Bottom

**Grower Bill Gourley**  
**Eplc. Charlie Brown**



Terry Bottom

**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**Phal. schilleriana 'Pink Butterfly' AM/AOS**



Terry Bottom

**Grower Courtney Hackney**  
**Blc. Karen's Sunrise 'Lakeview Green'**



Terry Bottom

**Grower Bill Gourley**  
**C. intermedia var. orlata 'Rio'**

