St. Augustine Orchid Society NEWSLETTER
June 2022
Volume 17 Issue #6

Club News

June 7 Monthly Meeting

by Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks. Past President Bob Schimmel opened the meeting at 6:50 with 48 attendees. He thanked Dianne Batchelder for the coffee and cookies while reminding all to remember to Drop a Dollar for the treats.

Club Business. Membership VP Linda Stewart introduced our new members Barbara Ackerman, Virginia Hall, returning members Miki & Wolfgang Schau, Gail Spence, Roger Hamilton and Michelle Vornhagen. Linda then asked those with birthdays in June to raise their hands for their free raffle ticket. As our Sunshine Coordinator also, Linda announced that if you know of anyone in need of a cheering up or a get-well card, let her know by emailing her at info@staugorchidsociety.org.

Orchid Shows in Florida this Month – shows are over until the fall season begins.

Virtual Show Table - We will continue conducting our Courtney Hackney led Virtual Show Table via Zoom. The next one will be June 9 at 7 pm. Watch for an email invitation. Each month's Virtual Show Table is recorded and posted on our website.

Repotting Clinics – Join us July 2 at the Southeast Branch Library from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Library – Librarian Howard Cushnir brought in three books of interest—Vandas-Their Botany, History & Culture by Dr Motes, the Illustrated Encyclopedia of Orchids by Alec Pridgeon and The Classic Cattleyas by Arthur Chadwick. 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.

Supplies - If you need supplies, email info@staugorchidsociety.org.

SAOS Program. Our program was broadcast via Zoom to our online members so the program preceded the Show Table. Sue introduced our guest speaker, Peter T. Lin, Diamond Orchids, as a master of growing miniature orchids. His topic was Wild, Weird and Wonderful Orchids. The intro slide listed all of the categories he identified as unusual: Wild Color, Crazy Lips, Peloric, Fringed, Hairy, Animal or Insect Like, Weird and Bizarre, and Alien Looking. He then proceeded to share images of orchids under each category that either he or his international friends grow.

Under "Wild Color", he shared slides of *Pescatorea coelestis*, an Ecuadorian orchid whose flowers are blue and violet. The Harlequin Phalaenopsis orchids always present with splashes and blotches of color. He also showed an unusual *Maxillaria schunkeana* from Brazil that has one inch deep black flowers that last for 4-6 weeks and grow at the base of the plant.

The orchids with "Crazy Lips" included the *Den. spectabile* from Papua New Guinea. This plant, easily grown here, reaches a height of 2 1/2 to 3 feet tall and the flower is twisted and contorted. The very fragrant *Trichopilia suavis* from Central America has white flowers with pinkish red spotted lips. Peter has tried to grow it in southern California several times without success. He thinks the plant likes consistent even temperatures between 65-75 degrees. Another weird lipped orchid is the *Den. tobaense* whose cane has black hairs and the flower has a skinny, long appendage hanging from its lip.

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Club News

Upcoming Orchid Events

June

9 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email
11 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
14 JOS Meeting, Florida Orchids, 7 pm
Prem Subrahmanyam

July

2 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til 1 pm
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
5 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Winning Flower Quality Awards
Ben Oliveros, Orchid Eros
9 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
12 JOS Meeting, Orchids are Hard to Grow
Steve Arthur
13 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email

August

2 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Making Cattleya Hybrids
Courtney Hackney
6 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til 1 pm
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
9 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA
Speaker TBA
10 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email
13 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.

September

3 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til 1 pm
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
6 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Phalaenopsis Intergenerics
Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids
10-11 Fall JOS Orchid Show
Mandarin Garden Club
10 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
13 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA
Speaker TBA
14 SAOS Virtual Show Table, 7:00 pm
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
An Invitation Will be Sent by Email

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
Treasurer	Cathy Mayo allatoonalady@gmail.com
Directors	Leslie Brickell, 2022 lesliewbrickell@gmail.com Charlie Bridgham, 2022 tech@burrindustries.com Charlie Rowell, 2021 charlierowell75@gmail.com
Exhibit Committee Chair	Janis Croft croftie1984@gmail.com
Librarian	Howard Cushnir hscushnir@gmail.com
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom sbottom15@gmail.com bottom406@gmail.com

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The Peloric category includes flowers whose floral segments mimic other segments. Examples included the Dendrobium pansy types where the lip resembles the two petals and three sepals. The *Cymbidium* Strathdon was a pretty example showing the lip and petals having similar coloring and size. Another example is the *Neofinetia falcata* Hoshiguruma. This orchid has no lip but an extra petal, and no spur.

Many of our members were familiar with the examples in the "Fringed" category as several grow *Rhyncholaelia digbyana* because of its nighttime fragrance and ease of growing in our climate. The *Habenaria medusa* is a terrestrial grown from a tuber with fringed petals. The *Pleurothallis schiedei* is a miniature with 1/4" flowers with the fringes on the sepals that attract its pollinators.

Next Peter showed us "Hairy" orchids starting with *Haraella retrocalla*, which is a miniature generally grown in terrariums or under lights. One must look closely to see the hairiness on the flower. The *Bulb. phalaenopsis*, so called because its leaves resemble phalaenopsis leaves, is very hairy and stinky. Then there's the *Pleurothallis cypripedioideae* from Ecuador which has a very hairy, slipper shape and reminds one of a hairy toilet bowl.

The slides of the unusual "Animal or Insect Like" orchids received oohs and aahs from the audience because of their oddity. Many look like a female insect in order to entice the male to enter the flower for reproductive intentions and then fly out with the flower's pollen on to another insect looking orchid. The genus Ophrys has many amazing examples of insect looking orchids. The Cycnoches, from Costa Rica to Colombia, is referred to as the Swan Orchid and the *Peristeria elata* resembles a Dove in flight.

The "Weird & Bizarre" orchids include Stanhopeas with their pendent hanging flowers which only last 1 to 2 days as typical examples. They must be grown in baskets so the flowers can hang below the plant and bloom. The Coryanthes are referred to as the Bucket Orchid because the bottom of the hanging flower collects nectar from above and the pollinator gets drunk on the nectar and crawls out the only exit he can get through which is loaded with pollen.

The "Aliens" had a variety of examples including the *Masdevallia marthae* which looks like a bunch of slugs standing at attention and brought laughs from the audience. The genus Corybas is commonly referred to as Helmet Orchids. The terrestrial plant has one leaf and one flower that grows near the base. The Angraecoid *Microcoelia stolzii* is a leafless orchid that grows without any media, from Madagascar and parts of Africa in wooded areas with high rainfall. A truly Alien looking orchid is the *Zootrophion griffin* whose reptile looking flowers don't really open. The flower has two slits on the sides which allows pollinators access. In closing, he invited all to visit his website, http://www.diamondorchids.com/.

Show Table Review. Steve Hawkins substituted for Courtney and reviewed the show table plants. The first plant was *Ascofinetia* Peaches which blooms 2-3 times a year and can be grown here even with temps down in the 40s. Another vandaceous orchid was the large flowered *Vanda* Pachara Delight, though this type prefers 60 degrees and above. Steve advised the grower of the pretty nodosa and lundii cross to repot before the roots grow out into the air. If put back into the media, those roots will die off. Steve brought in two encyclias that were beautifully grown and fragrant, *Encyclia* Ruffly Profuse received an AQ from AOS and Steve's hybrid between *Epc*. Purple Glory and *Enc. cordigera* cross was a beautiful purple. Steve brought in *Lycaste* Yoko's Sister that goes dormant in the winter similar to Catasetums. The yellow orange flowers had a wonderful Cinnamon and Vanilla fragrance.

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.

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Not Amazon.com

American Orchid Society Corner

Webinars
June 7, 8:30 pm, AOS Members Only
Philippine Bulbophyllums – Jim Cootes
June 28, 8:30 pm, Everyone Invited
Mounting Orchids - Ron McHatton

Orchids Magazine this Month
Floriferousness, Andrew Coghill-Behrends
Wayquecha Cloud Forest – Tom Mirenda
Den. anosmum - Judith Rapacz-Hasler

Photos of Latest AOS Awards

July 5 Monthly Meeting

Winning Flower Quality Awards
Ben Oliveros, Orchid Eros

Ben Oliveros knows how to win AOS awards for his orchids. In the last 20 years, he has won over 200 of them. AOS judges are looking for certain things, and this month, Ben will demystify what it takes to win an AOS award for your orchid. In particular, he will talk about how to grow your orchids to their full potential.

Ben Oliveros is the owner of Orchid Eros, a mail order orchid nursery located on the slopes of Kilauea Volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii. He specializes in quality, not quantity, growing and breeding award quality Cattleya species and hybrids. Ben is an AOS judge who has judged in many regions as well as internationally at the World Orchid Conference and the Tokyo Dome orchid show. Even if you're not looking for AOS awards, you can learn a lot from this expert grower about how to grow your orchids to be the best that they can be.

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

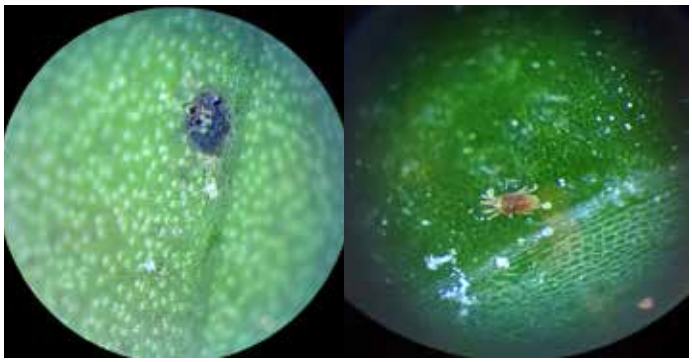
When: Tuesday July 5, 6:30 til 9 pm
Where: Memorial Lutheran Church
3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086

Inspiration

Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@gmail.com

Q1. The Pholidota grew, but didn't bloom. Each year I went through this process of nice new growth and then leaf spotting that looked like it was fungal in origin, perhaps Cercospora? When I looked at the underside of the leaf, I noticed a focal point that was considerably darker. With a stereoscope and about 60X magnification, there was an obvious wound or crater with dead tissue, and some odd white particles. Then I noticed the little leg projections on a white carcass at another wound site. So I started looking around the leaf in general and suddenly saw something moving, a mite! There's no way the naked eye could see this. This is at least 60X magnification. But at least I now know to use a miticide.



A1. Thin or soft-leaved orchids are more susceptible to mite damage than those with thicker leaves, but no variety is immune. Light infestations can be sprayed with the home remedy of isopropyl alcohol and liquid mild dish detergent like Ivory.

Q2. I have black smudges on my vanda from the top to the bottom leaves, that just appeared on an orchid I purchased in the last month. I've been told it is Thai crud. What can I do?

A2. Thai crud will produce diamond shaped lesions on the leaf that have a sandpapery feel. That's not Thai crud on your vanda, that is mold. You can take a hose end sprayer and wash it off the plant, and then spray it with some Consan or Pool algaecide (20% pool algaecide contains similar substances as Consan) and they are low toxicity products. Your plant is going to be fine. I would say you have too much leaf wetness causing the mold, or you don't have enough air movement drying the plant after it is wet. It is a much easier problem to solve than Thai crud, you just have to find the right place for it.

Low Humidity

by Dr. Courtney Hackney

For the first time in my orchid growing career, I understand why so many books on orchid culture discuss the difficulty of growing orchids under low humidity and how to counter the effects of low humidity. Typically, the only time humidity is lower than the ideal for orchids in most of the Southeastern U.S. is in winter, when days are short and the sun is low on the horizon. Raising humidity in winter-spring in a closed greenhouse is relatively easy with a humidifier or various types of misters. Keeping humidity up in late spring and summer has proven to be far more difficult.

Most orchid growers know that orchids prefer good humidity, but what is “good humidity”. The books say that the perfect humidity for most orchids is around 60%. Leaves open their stomata to let in Carbon Dioxide and evaporate water to cool themselves during the heat of the day. The ideal humidity is when the amount of water in the air is such that orchids undergoing photosynthesis are able to move enough water from the medium into their roots and to the leaves to compensate for the water lost to the atmosphere. The warmer the air, the faster the plant can photosynthesize, but the more water the orchid will need to evaporate to keep from overheating. When the need for water exceeds the supply, most plant leaves wilt, but the rigid leaves of most orchids simply overheat.

Thus, the same relative humidity levels in winter (cool) will not have the same effect as in the summer when it is warm or hot because orchids are not growing as fast when light levels are lower and so do not need the same degree of cooling. This past spring, relative humidity levels in the Southeast have been at a record low, not for just a day or two, but for months. Hobbyists with small greenhouses or windowsills have had to water with great frequency and still watch their orchids show signs of water stress.

Most of us in the South that have been hoping for an increase in humidity should remember the old expression; “Be careful what you wish for” because high humidity is a normal part of the Southern climate and will be here soon. It is much harder to manage high humidity than low humidity. The primary difficulty with hot humid summers results from the low evaporation rate as humidity approaches 100%. The closer the relative humidity is to 100%, the lower

the rate of evaporative cooling both in the leaves (via the stomata) and from the leaf surface. Not only does water stand in the crowns or on leaves until nightfall, but the evaporative cooling used by plants to cool leaves is also very ineffective.

As the temperature and humidity rise, orchids can be shaded more and air flow increased to limit overheating and increase cooling. If not, orchids will become stressed, even if excess water on plants at night is avoided. Stressed orchids are always more susceptible to attack by disease and pests. Fungal and bacterial problems will develop quickly in the heat, especially on thin leafed orchids or on orchids that prefer cooler conditions. My attempts to grow cool-loving masdevalias and other aliens to high heat always fail this time of year, with few exceptions.

Orchids in baskets, especially vandaceous types thrive in the high heat and humidity as long as there is enough air movement. This time of year, the few orchids in my collection that are reputed to be intermediate types are placed in lots of shade and misted on the hottest days every morning. A fan aimed right at them insures not just the maximum cooling, but that they will be dry by the evening. If you use distilled or deionized water in your misting, there will also be few rots that accompany the extra misting. Bacteria and fungi do not grow well in water with absolutely nothing in it.

New Product - Moist greenhouse conditions are tough on wood, even treated wood. After 13 years, some of the treated wood in my benches began to fail and was replaced. A product available today at a good price is plastic coated, steel shelving. It only comes in white, but is very attractive. Most new homes use this product in closets or in cabinets. Not only is this a strong product, but the plastic coating prevents rust. It is non-toxic, unlike many treated wood products, and slugs and snails seem to dislike moving across it. Even better, is the open nature of the shelving, which lets light through to shelves below and more importantly, allows additional air movement over slatted shelves. It comes in different widths and lengths and is relatively easy to custom cut with bolt cutters. It would be ideal for use indoors as well.

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 June 2006.

Flavor of the Month - Aerangis

by James Rose, Cal-Orchid, reprinted with permission

The genus Aerangis is one of the most beautiful as well as interesting groups in the orchid family. The species offer the grower many different attributes: attractive leaves or unique plant habit, ease of culture, exotic night fragrances. For anyone who grows on windowsills or under lights, they are especially well-suited as most are, if not dwarf in habit, at least miniature.

The genus was proposed in 1865 by Reichenbach. Before that and even for a while afterward, most of these white-flowered African epiphytes were considered part of the genus Angraecum. Schlechter resurrected the name Aerangis in the early 20th century. It was later revised by V. S. Summerhayes at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Today there exist approximately 50 species (including synonyms) which are found in widespread areas ranging from tropical Central Africa to South Africa and extending eastward to the adjacent islands in the Indian Ocean.

All species of Aerangis grow as epiphytes, either on trees and shrubs or on rock formations. These areas can be occasionally quite dry. The majority have rather short stems with a variety of fan-shaped leaves that slightly resemble miniature phalaenopsis. The often thick and fleshy leaves will vary from gray-green to very dark green and can be highlighted by marked tessellation.

Terrible confusion exists as to the correct names of many species. Over the years, many names have been discarded, some have been combined and unfortunately, some have been misapplied. In 1987 a plant was awarded as *Aerangis ellisii* when in fact it was *Aerangis articulata*.

Only very recently a plant was awarded as *Aerangis cryptodon* while Joyce Stewart, noted author and expert in this area, has written that not one of this species has been seen since it appeared in John Day's notebook drawing in 1883. As more and more plants in this genus are exhibited, clarification will result.

Cultural Requirements

Temperature Although a few Aerangis will tolerate cooler conditions, most must be considered warmer growers. This generally will be night temperatures of 60 F or more. Some plants from higher elevations or more southern habitats will be able to drop as low as 50 to 55 F at night - if kept on the dry side.

Light As a general rule, the light green-leaved species prefer more light (often as much as do cattleyas), whereas the darker-green-leaved varieties will do belter under bright but filtered conditions. Very shady conditions will most often result in poor weak growth.

Aerangis fastuosa, shown here mounted on cork, can reach blooming size in a 2 inch pot. Photo courtesy of Steve Marak.

Humidity and Air Movement These specifications generally apply to greenhouses as it would be most rare, and certainly uncomfortable, to have 100 percent humidity in your living room. Aerangis are really plants of two seasons: the hot wet summer months and the cooler, distinctly drier winter months. On a recent trip to Africa, I was in an area where Aerangis grows and the grasses had been burned off, often igniting the trees. Though the orchids were a little singed, it was obvious that they would recover when the rains came. Humidity during growing season should be above 60 percent especially if you are doing mounted culture. Provide adequate air movement.

Water and Fertilizer The seasons are dominant for this genus and they determine how to care for your plants under cultivation. The rainy season (summer) means just that; water twice a week, adjusting the amounts to the type of medium you use. Plants on mounts can be misted daily. During winter months, one will see very little root growth, a good indication that less water is required. As always, water quality is very important. It is amazing how quickly salts such as calcium carbonate will build up with daily mistings. Any well-balanced fertilizer will do. Use around 150 to 200 parts per million nitrogen during the growing season.

Potting Now this gets tricky, only because the options arc tremendous. In pot culture, these plants demand a porous mix with good drainage. Although we use mostly fir bark, we'd probably have to say the best roots seem to be the ones outside of the container. However, if the mix is wet

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Aerangis ellisii is the largest member of this genus. This clone 'Markus' was grown by M. Coker, photo courtesy of Orch. Soc. Council of Victoria.

and sodden in winter, there soon won't be any roots at all. As an alternative to bark, many growers have switched to New Zealand sphagnum moss with good results. Others prefer to mount their Aerangis, which I believe might be the best choice for most growers. The roots will not rot off in the winter but you must go the extra mile in the summer to provide water and good humidity. My advice is to experiment and don't get frustrated if you lose a plant or two.

Species to Try Here are a few readily available species to try.

Aerangis distincta From Malawi, this is one of the few species that has a hint of pink suffusion over the white flowers. Plants are quite beautiful with heavy tessellation on the leaves and a distinctive (hence the name) notch at the tip. Can be quite successfully grown on mounts.

Aerangis fastuosa A darling miniature. Mature flowering-size plants can be grown in 2-inch pots. Numerous spikes produce pristine while, fragrant flowers up to 1 inch across. First described by Reichenbach in 1885. Most plants in cultivation have come from areas of dry mountainous regions in Madagascar.

Aerangis macrocentra This species from the mossy forest of Madagascar is often overlooked because of its being smaller. Do not be fooled. The flowers are unlike any others. Long pendulous spikes hang down with opposing rows of flowers - up to 30 to the spike. A most unusual spur sets this apart from the others as it is colored and appears to be pinched flat.

Finally, there are so many more species of horticultural merit, some well- known and others almost never seen. A few of these are:

Aerangis hyaloides The smallest of the genus. A plant becomes a ball of white when in bloom.

Aerangis ellisii At the opposite end of the size scale, this species is the largest of the genus. It produces magnificent sprays of white flowers.

Aerangis luteoalba Formerly *Aerangis rhodosticta*, this species is everyone's favorite, although it is difficult to grow. White flowers are highlighted by a bright orange dot in the center.

Anyone wishing more information on Aerangis is directed toward the writings of Joyce Stewart and Fred Hillerman. □

This article appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine in March 1996 (Vol.67:3, pp.286-288).

Aerangis luteoalba was formerly known as Aerangis rhodosticta and is offered through some catalogs under this name. Although it is difficult to grow, this handsome species is everyone's favorite. The stunning white flowers are illustrated here with the photograph courtesy of Mauro Rosim.

June in St. Augustine

by Sue Bottom

The warming days and cool nights of spring induced vigorous vegetative activity. Spring's mild days are gone and the summertime blues lie ahead. Summer officially arrives in June, when the mild spring weather gives way to the hot humid summer. The sun rises higher in the sky with more hours of sunlight every day up to the longest day of the year on the Summer Solstice. Your plants need excellent air circulation and protection from the midday sun to prevent overheating and sunburn.

Temperature. It is starting to get hot. Most orchids come from intermediate mountain regions and they do not like it really hot. Who does? Only the very tropical orchids such as many vandas, phalaenopsis, bulbophyllums and species from the lowlands tolerate high temperatures. Others will appreciate some sort of relief. Cooling may be accomplished in various ways, such as shade cloth or tree cover to reduce light intensity, fans to keep air moving, and underbench misting for evaporative cooling.

The high volume Fogg-It nozzle is great for watering your mounted orchids and vandas.

Watering. You may have had difficulty keeping your plants hydrated during the low humidity spring months and switched over to nighttime watering. Once the summer humidity arrives in late May to June, your pots dry much more slowly, like that wet beach towel draped over the railing. Resume normal watering in the morning, and consider adding a day or two between waterings. Letting plants, particularly cattleyas, go completely dry before watering can help prevent black rot from infecting your orchids during the summer months. Black rot is caused by a water mold that spreads by "swimming" zoospores. Keeping the plants drier can help interrupt its life cycle. You should water less frequently in the humid summer months than you do during the low humidity spring and fall.

Repotting. The repotting season began in the spring, when many resting orchids began their annual growth spurt. Orchids repotted earlier in the year should be showing abundant root development and new growth. Most orchids need to be repotted every 2 to 4 years as they outgrow their pots or the potting mix starts to degrade. Most can be safely potted in the spring as new growth begins or after they finish blooming. Finish up the bulk of your repotting chores by the end of June.

July and August are dangerous months for repotting. The water molds thrive in the heat and humidity and easily gain entrance into your plants through the wounds incurred

Orchids will suffer the least transplant shock if they are repotted right before they throw off new roots.

during the repotting process. Use extreme caution if you have an emergency repotting situation during this danger period. After you clean your plants, let them dry before cutting them. Keeping everything dry will help prevent the spread of disease. Dust cut plant sections with a fungicide like Banrot. Do not water after repotting, let the wounds seal over for several days to a week before watering. Place the plant under a bench or in a shady spot while it is recovering from transplant shock.

Catasetums. Catasetums should be repotted just as the new growth appears in late winter through spring. It is too late now to repot catasetums without doing too much damage. If there are some you missed, don't disturb the roots. Simply slip pot them by putting them in the next size up pot with fresh medium wrapped around the outside.

Cattleyas. Some of the bifoliate cattleyas are notorious for resenting the repotting process, and they will sulk if repotted when they are not forming new roots. Some varieties don't send out new roots until after the new growth matures and it is about to bloom. There are a few different approaches:

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(1) sacrifice the bloom and repot the plant when new roots appear;

(2) jet out any loose media in the existing pot and set it into a larger pot with a minimum of root disturbance; or

(3) stabilize the plant in a new pot with a minimum of media leaving the roots exposed to the air, water normally and add a handful of mix weekly as new roots start to branch and form acclimating into the mix.

Phalaenopsis. Phalaenopsis need to be repotted when the top growth is too far out of the pot or the potting mix is degraded, usually every second or third year. Your spring blooming phalaenopsis should be repotted between Memorial Day and Independence Day. Cut off the remaining blooms and resituate the plants in fresh mix so they can reestablish themselves and build up sufficient reserves for next year's blooms. The summer blooming phals either have or soon will start blooming. They should be repotted in late winter, by February so they can be ready for their next blooming. It is too late to repot them now without interrupting their bloom cycle. Either slip pot them or wait until next February to repot them.

Orchid Pests. Watch for the insects that seem to multiply like rabbits in the summer. In the absence of a persistent problem, preventative spraying is not recommended. Be observant, and act quickly if you see a problem. Watch for scale on cattleyas, mealybugs on phals and paphs, mites on catasetums and thin leaved orchids and thrips causing dried flower buds or deformed flowers. There are many household cures and horticultural chemicals available for use. A very handy product to keep on hand is an affordable granular insecticide containing 0.5% imidacloprid that is sold as Grubs Away, among other trade names. It can be used to control scale on your palms, trees and shrubs as well as orchids. You simply spread some granules on the surface of the potting media and water it in, easy peasy.

Orchid Diseases. Certain fungal and bacterial diseases love the hot and humid months of summer. Strive to keep air moving around your plants to help minimize leaf wetness and prevent disease spores from settling on leaves. Keep a fresh bottle of hydrogen peroxide handy to treat bacterial problems, which can progress rapidly without intervention. Fungal problems are much slower to develop, so protective fungal sprays may be desirable when disease pressure is high, such as during the tropical storm season. If you notice a bacterial or fungal problem, consider moving the plant to a different location where it will be better capable of resisting disease.

June is purpurata season, and the nodosa hybrids and bifoliate cattleya blooms are soon to follow, along with the summer blooming phals, vandas and catasetums, yahoo! Enjoy quality time while watering your orchids. Whatever else you do this month, take the time to smell your orchids!

June is Laelia purpurata season!

Tamiami International Orchid Festival

by Janis Croft

Alan and I made the trip down to the Tamiami show this month. We went to the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables, home of the American Orchid Society. The next morning, we were in the long car line waiting to get into the Fair and Expo Center along with hundreds of other cars. The Center was huge, filled with over 55 orchid vendors, 13 other plant growers, and 14 allied vendors. I was able to find the orchids I wanted and chat with some vendors who have spoken to our club. After three hours, I was overwhelmed with the crowds and headed back home. An enjoyable trip, but I must say, I like the outdoor Redland Festival better!

Show Table

Hiker Steve Dorsey
Cypripedium acaule

Grower Courtney Hackney
Phal. Carol Swearingen 'Krull Smith' AM/AOS

Hiker Steve Dorsey
Cypripedium calceolus var. pubescens

Grower Joanne Stygles
Den. wassellii

Grower Linda Stewat
Bulb. maximum

Grower Leslie Brickell
Phal. cornu-cervi

Grower Janis Croft
Den. capituliforum

SHOW TABLE

Grower Suzzane Susko
Mps. Evergreen Premier 'Evergreen'

Grower Roberta Hicks
L. purpurata

Grower Sue Bottom
Bulb. eberhardtii

Grower Shelia Nathanson
Lyc. Pixie

Grower Shelia Nathanson
L. purpurata var. carnea

Grower Cattleya Nut
C. maxima 'Natural World' x self

Link to all Submissions: https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjzS1CW