

## CLUB NEWS



**Jim Roberts**

### **May 4 Monthly SAOS Meeting**

by Lola Stark,  
seacuter@bellsouth.net

*Welcome & Thanks.* The meeting was called to order by President Jack Higgins with 60 people present including guests and 2 new

members: Marian Blanchard, who joined at Hagan Ace last weekend and Sabra Provenza, who joined after the meeting. The membership list has been updated and those who did not renew have been dropped. If you'd like a list, please call Sue Bottom and she will e-mail you a list. If you do not have e-mail, call Lola and she'll mail you a list.

Please see Terry Bottom if you are a new member so he can take your picture for the newsletter. It's a wonderful way for folks to know who you are!

**SAOS Club Business.** Jack thanked Jeanette Smith for her refreshments and asked that members contribute a dollar when they go to the food table to help defray costs! Gail Marshall asked for May Birthdays. Those that have their birthdays in the meeting month are eligible to receive a raffle ticket. Jack also announced that we will announce a monthly winner for the show table if folks will please place their ballots in the silver boxes. We'd really like to have better participation in this. We know everyone looks longingly at the gorgeous orchids brought in and we'd like everyone's participation in voting. Dick Roth just loves counting lots of ballots!

**Upcoming Events.** The Keiki Club will meet at the Bottoms on May 23 from 1 to 3 PM to hear Bill Gourley tell us "How to Use the Light Meter to Find the Best Place to Grow your Orchids". Repotting and helpful advice will be the topic of the day at Hagan Ace Hardware on US 1 South on Saturday June 5 from 9 am until noon. Come to help if you like or come for help!

Upcoming Orchid Events announced were: Tom Aaron's Open House in Jacksonville on May 8<sup>th</sup> at Green Earth Nursery. The Volusia County Orchid Society Show will be May 8-9 at the Volusia Fair Grounds off US 4. Lots of great displays and vendors will be available. They also have lunch you can buy. The Redlands International Orchid Festival will be May 14-16 in Homestead, FL. If you love orchids, you'll get your fill there! Fred will be in attendance selling his gorgeous stuff! See the webpage: [www.staugorchidsociety.org](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org) for other events.



### **Summertime & The Growing Is Easy**

**SAOS Monthly Program.** Jim Roberts of Florida Sun Coast Orchids, outside Sarasota, was our speaker for the evening. He talked about grown orchids outdoors in his presentation, aptly named "Summertime and the Growin' is Easy". He suggested that you choose the location of your orchids using the path of the sun through your yard. Orchids want plenty of light, but no direct sunlight (except a few Vandas!), air circulation and food. He showed us lots of ways that growers have found to give their orchids what they want and need. Lath houses, plastic coverings over greenhouses (you have to be careful there to not bake them!), lean to structures attached to garages and houses, etc.

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## Upcoming Orchid Events

### May

- 14-16 [Redland International Orchid Festival](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org)  
 Redland Fruit and Spice Park, Homestead
- 23 Keiki Club – 1 to 3 pm  
 Find the Best Spot with the Light Meter  
 Bill Gourley  
 Sue and Terry Bottom's home  
[6916 Cypress Lake Ct., St. Aug 32086](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org)

### June

- 1 SAOS Meeting – 7 pm  
 Bill Thoms, [A-doribil](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org)  
 Growing Specimen Plants
- 5 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 til noon  
[3050 US 1 S](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org) in St. Augustine  
 Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 27 Keiki Club – 1 to 3 pm  
 Repotting Phalaenopsis  
 Sue and Terry Bottom's home  
[6916 Cypress Lake Ct., St. Aug 32086](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org)

[www.staugorchidsociety.org](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org)



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



## St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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### ***Jim Roberts gave a very entertaining presentation***

He also showed us various ways to plant. Bamboo planters can be made by carving open the space between the closures, thus giving each plant a spot of its own. When you plant cattleyas, be sure to plant the growing end into the pot rather than putting it in the middle. That way the plant will grow for several years without repotting.

Jim recommends that if you have a problem that can be easily solved using a chemical such as orthere rather than spending a lot of time doing it the old non-chemical way, do it. It's more efficient. However, botrytis can be treated by using 1/4 teaspoon of baking soda in a quart of water and spraying the flower. It won't cure the blighted flower but it will prevent the botrytis from spreading. Aphids and mealy bugs can be taken care of with a general pesticide as can scale. Do it as soon as you see the pests!



### ***Sun Coast Orchids offers a diverse selection of orchids for SAOS Collectors to purchase***

Be careful about where you place your orchids. They will not grow under the eaves of the house where they get neither air circulation nor much light. A baker's rack against your house is ok for display, but not for growing. Get them out from under and put them in the trees if you have them!



### ***Members & guests admire the show table***

Learn to identify what's wrong with your orchids. Cold damage will turn the leaves black, as will sun damage, but they do not look alike. The cold kills, sun damage can be cut off.

By learning where your orchids like growing, you will enjoy them that much more and if they're happy growing, they're far less work. Wonderful lecture!

***Intermission and Auction.*** Following a 15 minute break, Dick Roth announced that the favorite orchid on the show table was the Dendrobium spectabile brought in by Sue Bottom. Fred and Christie worked the raffle and auction with care and wit!



### ***Fred Keefer leads another rousing raffle & auction***



## April 25 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners Composing an Orchid Photograph

About a dozen camera buffs came to the April Keiki Club to listen to Wolfgang Obst talk about composing an orchid photograph. Using a relatively short depth of field so that the flowers are in sharp focus while background images are somewhat blurred is an important concept for orchid photography. If the orchid is to be the focal point of the photograph, the orchid image should be very sharp and not compete with a sharp focused background or else the flower image can get lost. Lighting is also a key concern and suggestions on how to use key lights, rim lights and fill lights to improve the photograph were discussed.



*Wolfgang Obst shares photographic tips and picture composition technique with club members*

## May 23 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners Using the Light Meter

Ever wonder if your orchid is getting enough light? Perhaps more light will give your plants enough energy to put forth those incredible blooms. Bill Gourley will show you how to use the light meter to find the best place in your home or backyard to grow your orchids. We'll meet at [6916 Cypress Lake Ct in St. Aug](#) from 1 to 3 pm on Sunday the 23rd! Bring a folding chair.



## June 1 Monthly Meeting

Bill Thoms will discuss how to grow giant plants and show them off the best ways at the June 1 meeting of the St Augustine Orchid Society. No matter what kind of plants you grow, Bill will give you tips to make them grow and bloom better. Many people say he is one of the best speakers they have ever heard.

Bill Thoms and his wife, Doris Dukes, have been growing orchids around Central Florida for 35 years and to date have won more Awards for Culture than just about anyone else in the world. Bill Thoms got his first orchid in 1969 when he rescued plants of *Enc. tampensis* in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. After moving to the Tampa area in the early 70's and, after having an orchid nursery for 20 years called Hilltop House, he and his wife, Doris Dukes, took several thousand of their favorite plants and built their own greenhouse at home to retire from the retail business, relax, and continue their hybridizing program (making about 200 crosses a year). Since then, their plants grew back up to 10,000 and the awards have grown too.



**14th Annual  
REDLAND  
INTERNATIONAL  
ORCHID FESTIVAL  
May 14-16, 2010  
9:00AM - 5:00PM**

**Fruit & Spice Park  
24301 SW 187th Ave.  
Homestead, Florida  
America's Favorite  
Orchid Festival!**

admission - only \$7





*Psychopsis papilio* by Terry Bottom



*Phal. Orchid World* by Terry Bottom



*Dtps. Taiwan Red Cat* by Terry Bottom



*Dtps. Sun Beauty* by Terry Bottom





## Growing Tips for May

Dr. Courtney Hackney,  
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Dept. Biology,  
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If emails and casual conversations are any indication, repotting is traumatic for many orchid hobbyists. It is not surprising to most of us that have been doing this awhile, because it was traumatic to us in the beginning too. Given how different orchid roots look, the cost compared to a petunia, and the number of pages in orchid books devoted to the “dos and don’ts” of potting, fear is not surprising. So here is what everyone should remember.

You should never use the reason of dividing your plant into two or more orchids as the justification for repotting, although that is a frequent consequence. Repot when your orchid is at risk because the potting media is breaking down or there is some other problem, e.g. heavy scale infestation that cannot be solved without removing the plant from its pot. Remember that the bigger your orchid is, the more and larger flowers it will have.



Always sterilize any instrument that cuts an orchid. The best method is to hold your snips in the flame for a few seconds making sure you have exposed both sides of the entire cutting surface to the flame. A hot cutting tool effectively sterilizes the cut surface of the plant.

Do not worry about damaging roots, since most will ultimately die from the repotting anyway. Some expert

growers remove almost all roots when they repot to avoid them rotting later and infecting the rest of the plant. If repotted at the correct time of the year, your orchid will quickly re-grow roots, but it may take a few years to acquire the root mass it had before repotting, hence the suggestion to avoid repotting unless absolutely necessary.



Many times I sit a cattleya with all of its roots removed in the bottom of a clay pot in a shaded portion of the greenhouse until I see tiny new roots starting. Only then do I add the medium and complete repotting. On occasion, I forget a plant and find it fully rooted to the pot the next spring. Again, the key point is that one should only repot during the growing season, i.e., now.

Most books recommend wetting the medium before using it, a recommendation that I do not endorse. This is an open invitation for bacteria and fungi to invade any open wounds on the plant. It is best to use dry medium and wait at least several days before watering your newly repotted orchid. Some growers lay their divisions on newspaper in an unused bedroom until new roots appear. Why waste a pot and medium if the division is not going to grow well.

The key to all repotting is to remember that your orchid has been shocked and lost most of its ability to obtain water. Cattleyas, dendrobiums and other orchids with thickened leaves will be fine if the plant is shaded heavily after repotting until they get new roots. Then, gradually give them more light. Other orchids that are terrestrial-like and/or have fine roots or thin leaves, need more care and may require some misting until new roots appear.

The one exception to the need to keep roots dry is when a medium is used that is toxic to bacteria and fungi, e.g. sphagnum or osmunda. The pH is so low that almost no bacteria harmful to plants will grow. This seems to be the medium of choice for many phal growers.





## Orchid Questions & Answers

Sue Bottom,  
[sbottom15@bellsouth.net](mailto:sbottom15@bellsouth.net)

Q & A Archive,  
 Courtesy of the AOS

**Q.** Can you tell me what the secretions are that some orchid plants put out around the stems of their flowers?

Sometimes it is sticky and develops sooty mold like on *Grammatopyllum scriptum*. On other orchids, such as *Oncidium Sharry Baby*, it is more watery. I find it seems to appear in the morning. - Tessa Harris

**A.** The secretion is simply plant sap, called honeydew, which is secreted by healthy plants. It is, as you note, basically sugar water, and can lead to sooty mold. This is why sooty mold can often be an indicator of sucking insects, which feed on this same sap, supplied to them by the plant's osmotic pressure. When the pressure is sufficiently high, the sap passes right through the bugs' digestive systems, resulting in conditions favorable for sooty mold. - Ned Nash



**Anoles are fond of the sweet exude and can help prevent sooty mold by licking it from buds and flowers.**

**Q.** I purchased a mature *Vanda* with 3 large keikis. It looks like the plant didn't bloom regularly. The lower leaves are covered with algae and dried fertilizer. I tried washing them off with a soft toothbrush with no success. Is there a product to remove this residue? - Elaine Stepler



**A.** I think there are several points here that need clarification. First, there are lines of *vanda* breeding that produce large plants that may be naturally shy blooming. I doubt that the leaf deposits that you cite are responsible for the poor flowering record of this plant. More probably, it is that the plant was in a position in the grower's greenhouse where it did not receive enough light or it is of the shy blooming type. Second, it is possible the leaves are beyond being cleaned easily. Other methods worth a try are lemon juice and one of the new horticultural oils such as Sunspray. Too much scrubbing may damage the leaves. Personally, I look at overlarge plants of any type with some skepticism, especially if they have what appears to be a poor blooming history. For example, I would never consider the purchase of a *cattleya* plant with multiple unflowered growths of what appeared to be flowering size. I would not know if it would or would not flower under my conditions, but I would not waste the space on a large plant when a smaller one might perform better under less-exacting circumstances. - Ned Nash



**Q.** I have a mature *Doritaenopsis* Dyak Pedito that produces a prodigious amount of keikis but few flowers. It grows under lights, is fertilized once per week and has many neighbors in the *phalaenopsis* family that bloom well. Any suggestions? - P.J. Hatcher

**A.** There are several reasons that this may be occurring, the foremost being that you simply have a plant that is a shy bloomer owing to its genetics. You may be overfertilizing for this particular plant, or it may not be getting enough light. *Doritaenopsis* require slightly more light than *Phalaenopsis*. - Ned Nash



## [Use Orchid Map™ to Find Orchids](#)

by Susan Taylor, BellaOnline.com



The makers of OrchidWiz™ have put together a new internet site called [Orchid Map™](#) which has a great deal of great information for orchid enthusiasts. In the United States, you can input your zip code and then choose to find:

- nurseries
- societies
- vendors of greenhouse equipment
- orchid judging centers
- orchid art
- orchid boutiques
- orchid conservation groups
- orchid flasking labs
- speakers
- supply vendors
- private collections
- public gardens



When you choose one of these functions, you will also see a list on the right which allows you to easily navigate if there are multiple locations in the same area. You will get the name of the nursery, for example, with a link to their website, if available, and directions on how to get there. You can filter by area of the country or city in the United States, Canada, Australia, Germany, UK and New Zealand, or by country for South Africa.



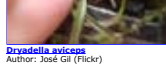
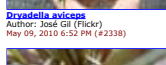
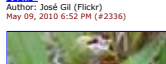
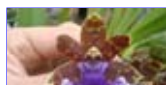
They also list orchid related functions such as shows which are coming up in your area. Each location listed also has directions to the event as well as a link to the society which is sponsoring the event for detailed information. This is a great way to keep track of

what's coming up in your area so that you won't miss any shows. There is also a related website, Orchid Agenda™, which only has information about shows that can be used by area of the country. This last site is only for the United States.

There is a linked area for orchid photos posted on several boards on the web with some really nice pictures of orchids grown by fellow enthusiasts. These are very interesting to see and you can go directly to the sourced of the posting through the links. If you are looking for information about orchids, you can find some good forums this way.

In addition, there is also an area for information posted on the web from all over which mentions orchids. Some of these can be fascinating scientific discussions and others are simply mentions about societies or art exhibits.

All in all, the site is a very useful tool for orchid growers and vendors. Societies and vendors can input their own information so that others will be aware of their products. Growers will be able to use this as the basis for trips to local vendors. If your area is not well represented, make sure that you tell your vendors and societies about the website!



## Your Orchids in May

based on Robert Scully articles,  
courtesy of the AOS

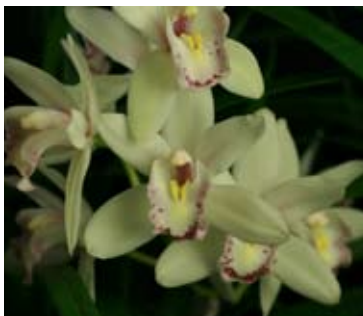


**General Growing Tips.** Summer is right around the corner. Now is the time to maximize growth and develop the plant strength and food reserves needed for good flower production. Larger plants typically produce bigger and better flowers than smaller ones so resist the urge to divide your plants just for the sake of having more plants.

**Cattleyas.** Get a head start on dividing cattleyas by severing the rhizome in whole or in part (at a point where you will have 3 to 5 pseudobulbs per division) with a sterile tool while the plant is still in the original pot. The new growths will emerge weeks later at which point you can finish repotting using a rhizome clip to secure the divisions.



**Cymbidiums.** Finish repotting these elegant orchids if they are bursting out of the pot. If the medium is in good condition, you may be able to move the plant from one container without disturbing the roots and adding a small amount of medium.



**Paphiopedilums.** This is the ideal month to complete repotting of your lady's slippers. Remove dead roots and keep as many growths together as practical. The single flowered types should be in shade though the multiflorals like more light. Keep root zone moisture levels high.



**Phalaenopsis.** Repotting plants that have finished flowering is a priority. When you repot, remove the old inflorescence and eliminate all rotten or completely dehydrated roots and cut the roots back to about 2/3 the depth of the new pot. Remove also the dried bottom section of the old crown until you reach fresh tissue. Consider a spraying program with a recommended fungicide.



**Vandas.** Vandas may need more room for root development. If possible, simply drop it into a larger size basket. If your plant has become top heavy and unsightly, cut away the top part of the plant as long as this section has three roots to sustain it and rebasket it. Pamper the bottom piece in the old basket in the hope keikis will emerge and produce a new plant.



# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Marv & Jan Ragan**  
***Paph. philippinensis* 'Albium'**



**Grower Dick Roth**  
***Enc. Cashens' Chocolate Rose*  
*x Enc. ambigua***



**Grower Marv & Jan Ragan**  
***Pot. Paradise Rose* 'Hawaii'**



**Grower Dick Roth**  
***C. skinneri* var. *alba***



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
***C. Peckhaviensis***



**Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz**  
***Den. nobile***



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
***Smbc. RIO's Pink Delight***



# SHOW TABLE



**Grower Marv & Jan Ragan**  
**Blc. Krull's Orange Glow**



**Grower Sue Bottom**  
**Den. spectabile**



**Grower Wendy Thomas**  
**Zygonisia Cynosure 'Blue Water Sailing'**



**Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz**  
**Den. linawianum #1**



**Grower Harry & Celia McElroy**  
**Den. Oriental Smile 'Sunset'**



**Grower Gil & Ellen Roehrig**  
**Lc. Exotic Smile**

