



CLUB NEWS



Eric Milstrey

February 3 Meeting

by Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks.

Eric opened the meeting at 6:50 pm with 57 attendees. He thanked Dottie, Dianne, Amy, Julie and Paul for the treats and reminded all to remember to "Drop a Dollar" if you enjoyed. The dollar helps us pay for the coffee and paper good supplies. Eric reminded all to bring their plants to the first repotting clinic of the year

on February 7th at the SE Branch Library.

Club Business. The orchid show season has started with shows this month in Venice, Orlando, Boca Raton and Naples. Details are on our [website](#). The Virtual Show Table will be February 11 featuring Courtney. An email invitation will be sent with link and details. Send in your photos for the next show by the 23rd of this month. There were also T-shirts on the back table.

Membership - Rachel announced our new members, Jeff Haluch, Pamela Segal, Christine Thiessen and John Whistler and welcomed our 12 guests. She thanked the many who have already renewed their membership. If you haven't, you can pay in person at the Welcome Table, send via Zelle (904-501-0805 or staugorchidsociety@gmail.com), Venmo at St. Aug Orchid Society under charities, or for an extra dollar, use the PayPal link online. Dues are \$20 for an individual or \$30 for a family. Next, she asked all February birthdays to raise their hand for a free birthday raffle ticket. If anyone is having a major life event or needs cheering up, let Linda know.

SAOS Turns 20 - Sue announced that the club was celebrating its 20th Anniversary this month. Dianne brought cupcakes to celebrate, and at the April picnic we'll party like it's 2006 again.



Potting Supplies - The repotting season has started so check your supplies and if you need any, email staugorchidsociety@gmail.com so they can be brought for pick

up at the next meeting. She also announced that we're considering the possibility of placing a large order for high quality Kiwi Pine Bark and New Zealand sphagnum if enough people are interested. These products are probably twice the cost of material you can find locally, but they have a longer life so you can extend the time between repotting by several years. If you want to go in on the order, email her as soon as possible.

Members Choice - Christine reminded all to vote for their favorite orchid during the break after the Show Table.

Library - Our librarian Howard noted that there were many new faces in the audience so he described the library borrowing procedure and encouraged all to use the website for all types of information on growing orchids. If you would like a book, magazine or light meter from the Library list on the website, send Howard a request to staugorchidsociety@gmail.com and he will bring the item(s) to the next meeting.



Show Table. Courtney started with one of Harry's beautiful Cymbidiums, a Rudy Baker x Sweet Spring cross, which he is growing in his greenhouse due to our cold spell. A tall Den. Sherry Abe was abundantly filled with striking star shaped purple blooms with slightly curved petals and dark purple veins. Courtney said these used to be quite popular but due to their tall size, have grown out of favor. A fast growing dendrochilum with many small flowers on numerous inflorescences was next. A Renanthopsis, coerulea form, was striking and well grown. Stenorrhynchos speciosum, Vermillion Ladies, is a terrestrial grown in soil. It dies back in winter and requires little water. Then, in the

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CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

February

- 7 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 7-8 Venice Area Orchid Society Show
Venice Community Center
- 10 JOS Meeting, Orchids of Jamaica
Claude Hamilton
- 11 Virtual Show Table
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 13-14 Greater Orlando Orchid Society Show
Orlando Garden Club
- 14 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 10 am
Bob Foster Center, Mt. Dora 32757
- 14-15 Boca Raton Orchid Society Show
Safe Schools Institute
- 20-22 Naples Orchid Society Show
Moorings Presbyterian Church
- 28-1 Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show
Tampa Sons of Italy

March

- 3 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Jim Roberts, Florida SunCoast Orchids
Spring Pendulous Dendrobiums
- 6-8 Martin County Orchid Society Show
Martin County Fairgrounds
6670 US-1 N, 32086
- 7 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
- 11 JOS Meeting, Show Update, 7 pm
JOS Show Chairman
- 12 Virtual Show Table
Courtney Zooms into Cyberspace
Invitation Will be Sent by Email
- 14-15 Jacksonville Orchid Society Show
The Garden Center of Jacksonville
- 14 FL North-Central Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Garden Center, 849 West Ave

- 20-22 Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance Show
North Collier Regional Park, Naples
- 21-22 Nature Coast Orchid Society Show
St. John of Arc Church, Spring Hill
- 28-29 Orchid Society of Highlands County Show
Agri-Civic Center, Sebring

April

- 3-5 Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society Show
Flamingo Gardens, Davie
- 4 SAOS Repotting Clinic, 10 am til noon
Southeast Branch Library
- 7 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Ben Oliveros, Orchid Eros
Bifoliate Cattleya Hybrids
- 10-12 Apopka Int'l Spring Orchid Show
Krull Smith Nursery, Apopka

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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spring, it regrows and blooms striking red flowers on upright inflorescences. *Clowesia* Grace Dunn 'Chadds Ford' was covered with pink flowers and had a fragrance similar to Lemon Pledge. Next Courtney talked about a cattleya with splash petals, where the petals are mimicking the lip. That was followed by a *Brassavola* Aristocrat, a primary hybrid that likes bright light. The Show Table ended with two *Paphiopedilums*, *Paph. Cougar Lady*, which is a multi-floral, and *Paph. insigne* var. *sanderianum* with solid green leaves. Both are often found on limestone outcroppings in nature.



SAOS Program. Sue introduced our speaker and club president, Eric Milstrey. He has been growing orchids for decades and has a deep personal knowledge of orchids growing in their natural habitats from having lived for years in the Caribbean, Central and South America while serving in the Army. Eric stated that his presentation will show how to adapt commercially procured supplies or locally harvested materials to grow your orchids outside much of the year like he does. His outdoor orchids are watered three times a week with his irrigation system. Then on alternate days he fertilizes. He lives near the St. Johns River and has access to many natural materials in the land around him such as sphagnum moss, palm sheath or spathe, fern root, charcoal, coquina, driftwood and cypress. One can buy these materials commercially but he prefers to get them for free or little cost. The moss in Florida is available summer to fall and found in shaded ditches. Put on your boots (laced up preferred) and grab a fistful. Remove the rotting part of the clump, leaves and sticks and wash out dirt and weed seeds. Dry on a screen rack or tray for 3 or more days then it's ready to use. The local Coconut Palm, Saw Palmetto and Oriental Palmetto provide the sheath or spathe, which can be used to line your baskets. Pull these off the plant and wash. Royal fern and Cinnamon fern are native and grow in wet ditches or swamps. Eric cautioned all to follow the law, which states that only two plants can be collected per day. Dig up the fern and cut away the

roots from the rhizome. Then replant the rhizome to harvest another year. Wash, squeeze, wash, squeeze, clean out sticks and rewash then dry and voila, you have fern fiber. He added that the Cinnamon fern roots are good for plants with fine roots. Eric gathers charcoal from his firepit stating that oak or hickory work best and he also gathers limestone which is great for our *paphiopediliums*.

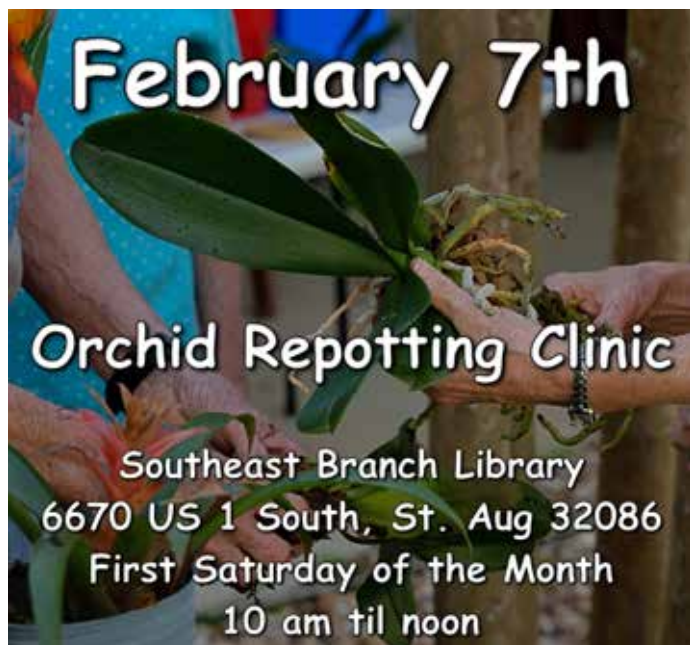
Many of his outdoor plants are mounted and he finds Cypress knees or pieces in the river. He also picks up driftwood from the river and uses any untreated hardwood from home projects. He advised choosing a mount size that will work with the orchid as it matures to a full size. If you obtain plastic pots, one can use a hot iron tool that has a round nib and burn holes into the pots. For regular clay pots, he uses a saw with masonry blade and a drill with concrete bits to add extra drainage similar to the more expensive orchid pots. Before cutting a clay pot, it is essential to soak the pot for 24 hours to prevent breakage. Many of the plastic net pots require manipulation to work with *Vandas*. He uses the hot iron to melt away sections that are blocking the roots. He also makes his own wooden baskets using commercial pine or hardwood scraps. He has devised a jig that allows him to cut consistent width strips of wood and create baskets of any size he needs. Eric showed us how to undo the corner wires in commercially produced wood slat baskets and remove the slats to produce a shorter basket that works better with your particular plant. He showed how to make orchid cages from 1 x 2 wire fencing to support *Arachnis*, *Renanthera*, *Papilionanthe*, *Vanilla* and reed stem *Epidendrums*. Finally, he advised when working with wire materials, it is important to use safety glasses because the curvy wire goes everywhere you don't want.



Meeting Conclusion. Christine announced that the Members Choice went to Sue Bottom for her *Clowesia* Grace Dunn 'Chadds Ford'. Dianne then announced winning ticket numbers for the raffle table. Thanks to the helpful hands that stayed to help clean the room and store the tables and chairs.



CLUB NEWS



Renew Your Membership

It's that time of year! The dues are \$20 for an individual or \$30 for a family if paid by Zelle or Venmo (904-501-0805) or check (mail c/o Linda Stewart, 1812 Diana Drive, Palatka 32177). For an extra dollar, use the PayPal link on our [website](#). Easy Peasy!

Culture Notes

Spring is around the corner. Order your potting supplies early to make sure they are not sold out when it's time to repot. Observe plants (including companion plants like bromeliads) carefully for signs of disease and insects. Avoid having heated or air-conditioned drafts blowing directly on orchids. Don't bring your plants out too early. It is starting to warm but you can expect more orchid threatening cold fronts through March.

American Orchid Society Corner

Webinars

February 10, 8:30 pm, Everyone Invited

Greenhouse Chat - Ron McHatton

February 12, 8:30 pm, AOS Members Only

Inorganic Potting Media - 2 – Harvey Breneisse

Orchids Magazine this Month

Coelia bella 'Stunning' - David Rosenfeld

V. Pachara Delight – Martin Rivas

Bringing Home New Orchids – Sue Bottom

March 3 Meeting

Jim Roberts, Florida SunCoast Orchids

Pendulous Spring Blooming Dendrobiums

Jim will talk about the pendulous spring blooming dendrobiums, like Den. anosmum, aphyllum and others, sometimes called soft cane dendrobiums. These cold tolerant orchids erupt into a multitude of blooms in the spring and thrive on heavy watering and feeding during the summer months. Jim will talk about the different varieties and give care guidance for their summer growth season and winter resting season.

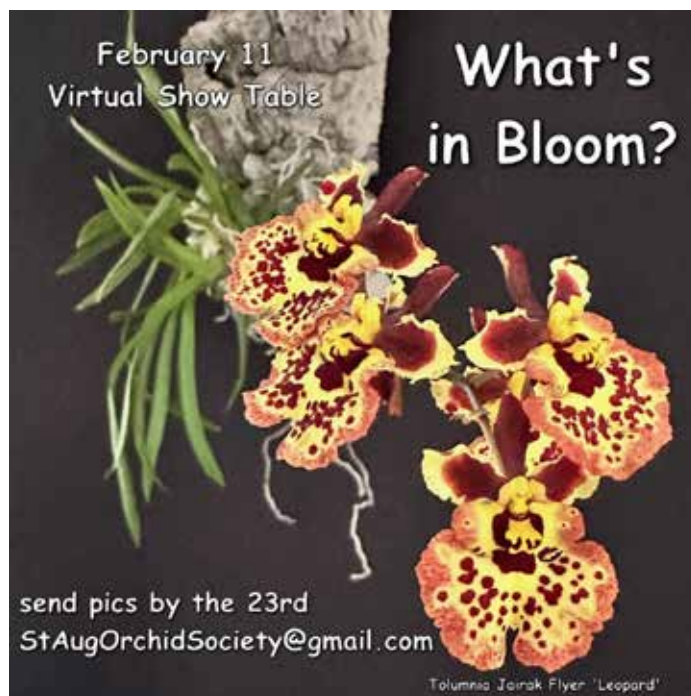


With more than 30 years of experience growing orchids in climates from Minnesota to Florida, Jim has built a reputation as one of the top hybridizers in the country. Since founding Florida SunCoast Orchids in 2004, he has registered over 200 hybrids across nearly 60 genera, with a strong focus on the Cattleya alliance. His work has earned national recognition, including the prestigious AOS Hybridizer of the Year award. Jim is a passionate educator and a favorite among orchid society audiences for his knowledge, humor, and practical growing advice.

When: Tuesday, March 3, 6:30 til 9 pm

Where: Memorial Lutheran Church

3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086



SAOS 20th ANNIVERSARY

2006 – 2026



B/c. Chia Lin 'Shin Shy' AM/AOS

© Terry Botton



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@hotmail.com

Q1. What would you do with this Lc. Carlad's Mini-Quinee 'Angel Kiss'? The roots have grown way out of the pot. Now it has growth coming out of both sides into the air. New roots and new growth are

starting now. Should I shove it into a bigger pot and let the roots bunch up, cut it in half and put it into two larger pots, or just let it fly in the air and let it figure it out?

A1. It looks like a wild child that will never be happy in a pot. Maybe it would be happier in a basket, cut away the plastic pot and drop it into the basket as is and let it go hog wild. Or maybe get a long vertical mount and cut it into 2 pieces, mount them on opposite sites at the bottom and let it climb to its heart's content.

Q2. Does this C. percivaliana 'Summit' look like it has virus induced color break? The plant is vigorous and without any leaf issues.

A2. That sure looks like color break, pretty severe. I find that color break is sometimes more obvious when looking at the back of the flower. As to the leaves, sometimes virused plants have leaf markings, such as chlorotic or necrotic streaks or red V shaped lesions, though sometimes the leaves are clean. Sometimes growth vigor is



poor with virused plants, and sometimes it is excellent. In any case, that is a real shame, because that is an otherwise beautiful orchid.

Q3. My specialty phals have been in the garage with grow lights. I've not been watering as much as usual (twice to three times a week) and given them no fertilizer. I've not seen a spike turn this color before.



A3. That spike is getting ready for the final goodbye. You can just wait for it to turn brown or cut it off. We've had more cold nights this season than I remember in the last couple of years, and that may have hastened its demise.



CULTIVATION



Deflasking

by Dr. Courtney Hackney

Every January the mail brings beautiful seed catalogs to help us get through the winter. The Orchidist's equivalent is buying community pots or flasks. Many books caution the amateur from taking this step until one attains more growing experience. While there are many pitfalls awaiting the amateur, the

thrill of watching plants you raised from "babies" is well worth the effort.

There are also steps you can take that maximize your potential for success. For many years my success with flasks was low because I did not recognize the special care that infant plants require. My criteria for success were also unrealistic as I counted the loss of each small plant as a failure. There are several keys that will ensure success for even amateurs. Be sure you start with inexpensive hybrids that are easiest to grow in your conditions. Try expensive hybrids and species only after you have mastered the techniques required to get plants from seedlings to bloom.

Flasks are often judged the most difficult, but provide the most plants for the buck. Plants actively growing in flasks when purchased make the transition to pots more easily than those that have stopped growing. Seedlings stop growing in flasks when they use all the sugar in the gel like media in which they are planted. Do not get a flask if the media is almost gone or if there are few roots in the media.

Remove plants from the flask when they begin to slow growth or begin to fill the space in the flask. It is better to buy a flask with fewer large plants than one with lots of small ones. To transplant from a flask to community pots loosen by filling the flask with warm water. Gently agitate until seedlings begin to separate from the media. A Chop Stick can help the process.

The transition from flask to pot is where expert and amateur alike lose most plants. To limit loss dissolve one tablespoon of sugar in a quart of rainwater or distilled water. Heat the sugar water mix in a microwave to a temperature adequate for a baby bottle. Soak seedlings in this mixture for 15 minutes, no longer. Each seedling will appear plump when you take them out. Spread seedlings out on a paper towel to dry. Do not add hormones like Superthrive, fertilizer, bactericides or fungicides to the water. Seedlings are already sterile and these products tend to desiccate seedlings. Seedlings survive best if placed into community pots even if they are large enough for small pots. They



Jewel Orchids in a flask ready to be potted.

take up less space and seem to like each other's company. You can use either clay or plastic pots, whatever you use for Orchids. Add proper drainage and fill pot with a fine potting mix appropriate for the type of Orchid. ProMix for Phals works well for me as does fine bark. Be sure and leave the surface of the media 1.5-2 inches from the top of the pot. This maintains a microclimate of higher humidity around seedlings. How many plants do you put into each community pot? Best results occur when there are enough plants to fill the entire space of the pot when viewed from above. Roots of each plant should be in contact with the media.

Highest survival rates occur when more plants are together. You can separate them later after they have adapted to life outside the bottle.

Do not place new community pots in high light. For the first 3-4 days place under a bench or between densely growing plants under lights. Also do not put in an area that is getting high air movement that can dry them out quickly. If you cover them with plastic there is the risk of bacterial infection and they will not get adapted to life outside the bottle. During these first few days, plants will be shifting from getting their food from their roots via the media to photosynthesis. The sugar solution you gave them gets them through the transition. Seedlings need to be kept moister than their adult counterpart and you will likely lose a few. Once you get the hang of it you will have fun seeing how different siblings can be and sharing your extra plants with friends. A prominent California Phalaenopsis grower stated that he considered getting 30% of seedlings removed from flask to blooming size a success. Use that as your definition of success and give it a try. P.S. Deflasking techniques were borrowed from H.P. Norton at Orchidview.

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 February 2001.



CULTIVATION

Rebasketing Stanhopeas

by Sue Bottom

When you first start growing orchids, you scoff at the idea of growing one that blooms for only 2 or 3 days at a time. That reticence flies out the window once you see a Stanhopea in bloom. Stanhopeas are generally grown in baskets with wide openings to allow the ephemeral flowers to emerge from the bottom or side of the basket. Squat vanda baskets and lined wire baskets are often used with a variety of mixes including sphagnum, bark or custom blends. Here are some thoughts on how to basket your stanhopeas.

Timing of Rebasketing. As with most orchids, a very good time to repot is right before new roots start to grow, which generally happens after the new growths have begun in early spring. If you miss this window of opportunity, wait until early to mid-fall after stanhopeas are done blooming to avoid the potential for damaging a developing inflorescence.

Potting Mix. The potting mix should allow for consistent moisture levels as well as very fast drainage, which sounds



Stanhopea inodora with beautiful and fragrant flowers emerging from the sides of the basket.

like a contradiction of terms. Of course your ideal potting mix is largely dependent on your watering habits. In his book *The Astonishing Stanhopeas*, Aussie Barney Greer suggests it doesn't matter two hoots what mix you use. He talks of one grower who used nothing but old horse manure with the added benefit that the grower never needed to

fertilize. As a general rule, a fairly shallow bed of potting media is preferable so the flower doesn't have to travel too far to emerge from the base of the basket.

The Basket. The wider the slats in the basket, the better because wide open spaces increase the odds that your flower will find its way out of the basket. Some of the wooden slatted baskets can be problematic because the emerging bud will simply stop growing if its growth is impeded by a wooden slat. Of course, the more wide open the basket, the more likely a basket liner may have to be used, particularly if potting in a bark based mix.



Stanhopea Assidensis a year after placement in the wire basket.

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CULTIVATION

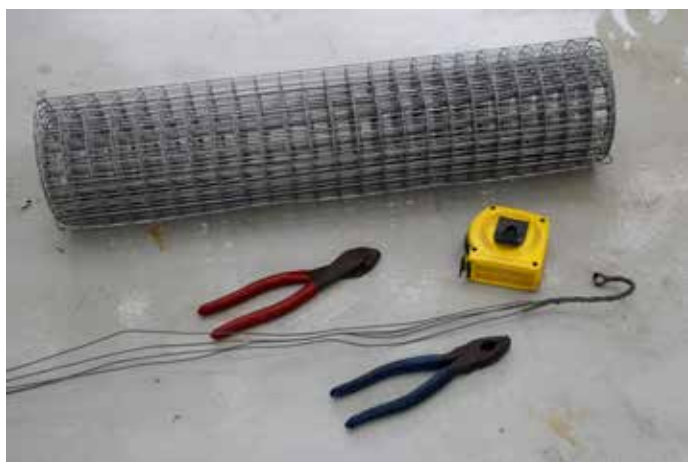
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Lining the Basket. The basket can be lined with anything that will hold the potting medium in place without being so dense a barrier that the flower can't peak through. Some alternatives include several layers of newspaper, moss, coconut fiber and preformed coco fiber liners, which are convenient but don't forget to remove that annoying plastic layer from between the bottom layers of the liner or you'll never see any blooms.

Jill Godfrey, an American Orchid Society judge from Central Florida, talked to our orchid society about growing stanhopeas. Jill builds her own wire baskets using hardware cloth and uses New Zealand long fibered sphagnum moss around the roots. Jill gave a hands on demonstration on her

rebasketing technique. We adapted her technique with some modifications for our growing conditions.

Of course, if you really want to go uptown, put them in one of Joanna Shaw's Stanhopea baskets. Joanna of Venice, Florida is an accomplished orchid grower who started making slatted clay pots for her cattleyas. She's a "form follows function" potter. Bulbophyllum growers wanted a shallow slatted basket, stanhopea growers wanted a deeper basket with wider slats, phalaenopsis growers wanted a slatted pot that would allow for the drooping habit of the violacea, bellina and gigantea type phalaenopsis, and well, you get the picture. Joanna's Stanhopea baskets are great for growing the plant, and create an extra showy display when your orchids are ready to bloom.



The materials clockwise from top, hardware cloth with 1" spacing, tape measure, wire hanger, lineman's pliers and nippers.



Measure twice and cut once! Decide what size basket you need to house your plant.



Snip away, use nippers to cut flush along the edge of the wire.



Remove the extra wire using snips to prevent blood loss later. That protruding wire catches on everything.

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CULTIVATION

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Bend each end of the basket, wires will be attached later.



Voilà, your basket is reporting for duty.



Add a thin layer of wet sphagnum moss.



Place your Stanhopea on top of the moss.



Add a little sphagnum around the roots.



Cover the edges with green tree moss.

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CULTIVATION

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Secure the plant in place with wire



Attach a 4 wire hanger, give a good watering and wait for the roots to reestablish.



A happy Stanhopea blooming in one of Joanna Shaw's specially designed Stanhopea baskets.

Citations and Additional Reading:

Kraus, L. 1984. The Culture of Stanhopeas – “Confessions of an Unrequited Love”. AOS Bulletin 53(4). 358-366.

Greer, Barney. 1998. The Astonishing Stanhopeas. Collaroy Beach NSW 2097, Australia.

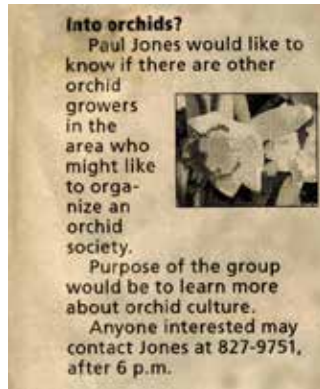
Lauri, Robert. Stanhopea Culture Blogspot, <http://stanhopeaculture.blogspot.com/>



SAOS 20th ANNIVERSARY

St. Augustine Orchid Society Turns Twenty

Our first get together was a chilly evening in February, 2006 when a group of orchid growers got together in the parking lot of the Lighthouse and decided to form the St. Augustine Orchid Society. There were about 20 people who showed up and expressed interest in forming the orchid club. We met for several months at the Lighthouse with different members talking about their orchid culture and Fred Keefer supplying the humor and raffle plants. Of the original SAOS members, Mary Ann Bell, Sue and Terry Bottom, Marilyn Costanzo and Ralph and Shirley DePasquale are still members, joined in 2007 by Bill Gourley, Harry and Celia McElroy, Christie Peppard and Maria Yessian, and Courtney Hackney in 2008. We've lost some of our early members. We've added many new members over the 20 years and now our membership totals almost 200.



Fred Keefer owned Orchids by Del Rei, and he was our raffle master and auctioneer for many years

We work hard maintaining our educational resources, which include our great speakers at the monthly meetings, Courtney's monthly Virtual Show Table presentations on Zoom, the monthly repotting clinics at the SE Branch Library, and the monthly newsletter and website, both jam packed with information about growing orchids.

We'll be celebrating the anniversary of our founding at the April Picnic and Orchid Swap, where we'll be looking forward to the next 20 years. Hope you'll join us!



Dick Roth, who had a vanity license plate that read 'Loophole' handled all the legal documentation for the club.



Marv Ragan was recognized as an orchid taxonomist and local orchid expert, operating MAJ orchids with his wife Jan.



2009 SAOS Officers, from left to right: Lola Stark, Mike Heinz, Vivienne Rowe, Dick Roth, Sue Bottom, Paul Jones, Terry Bottom and Bill Gourley



SHOW TABLE



Grower Deborah Fox
Phrag. Hai An N Le 'Darlene' AM/AOS



Grower Suzanne Susko
Ornithocephalus ciliatus



Grower Sheila Nathanson
Angcm. Lemforde White Beauty



Grower Ellen Fay
Blc. Goldenzelle 'Lemon Chiffon' AM/AOS



Grower Courtney Hackney
Blc. Joe Walker 'Cotton Candy'



Grower Deborah Fox
Lc. Dinard 'Blue Heaven' AM/AOS



Grower Sue Bottom
V. Rothschildiana



SHOW TABLE



***Grower Suzanne Susko
Blc. Miami Gold 'Mendenhall'***



***Grower Sue Bottom
Pot. Teruo Nagai***



***Grower Sheila Nathanson
Cym. NoID***



***Grower Deborah Fox
Slc. Tutankamen 'Pop' AM/AOS***



***Grower Courtney Hackney
Blc. Pamela Hetherington 'Coronation' FCC/AOS***



***Grower Gordon Cromwell
Lc. (Drumbeat x Bonaza Queen)***

Link to all Submissions: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBX388>

