

SAOS HAPPENINGS

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 Monthly Meeting

ANGRAECUMS and related species

Tom Nasser, Carolina Orchids

In Clemson, SC, where he completed his Ph.D. in Textile Chemistry, Tom and wife Shan got their first greenhouse in 1979. Their business began in 1980, initially as Clemson Orchids. For over 20 years, Tom taught and Shan worked in the chemical industry. Recognized both as growers and speakers on angraecums and bulbophyllums for many years, they live in Fort Mill, SC and grow under the name of Carolina Orchids.

Angraecum scottianum



Angraecum eburneum

ANGRAECUM (an-gray-kum): There are currently 221 accepted Angraecum species, the majority found in tropical Africa and Madagascar with outlying species in Southeast Asia, on the Comoros, the Seychelles and the Mascarenes, occurring between sea level and 6,500 ft. in humid regions. They do not possess pseudobulbs but have an ever-growing monopodial stem or stems. Most are epiphytes, but a few are lithophytes. The long-lasting flowers, borne one to many on axillary inflorescences, are mostly white or creamy white, but a few are yellow, green or ochre. They are often very fragrant at night.

WHEN AND WHERE: SAOS meets at Watson Realty, 3505 US 1 South, St. Augustine. Come to the Conference Room via the REAR parking lot. Plant sale, Meeting and Program - 7 pm.

KEIKI CLUB: Sunday, February 21, 1-3 pm MAKING AN ORCHID CORSAGE

Want to surprise a special lady? How thrilled would your mother or grandmother be on Easter or Mother's Day to show off her orchid corsage (along with bragging rights) made by YOU? And an especially meaningful memory will be made if your daughter or granddaughter wore one of YOUR orchids to her prom. And think how it would fill the heart of someone in a nursing home to receive an orchid corsage "just because". There's no end to the joy this lovely gift would bring to anyone – created by you, made from the heart, with YOUR orchids.



We'll meet at Maria and Richard Yessian's home in St. Augustine Beach for grower and AOS judge Harriet Wright's presentation on "Making an Orchid Corsage". SOME blooms will be available (if YOUR plants aren't showing off this month), but there may not be enough to go around, so bring blooms if you have them and you'll be sure to go home with a corsage that day. www.staugorchidsociety.org for directions.

AOS judge Harriet Wright

The Keiki Club is a hands-on opportunity for beginner orchid growers. We meet at a member's home on a weekend afternoon to allow you to view how other members grow their orchids and to ask questions in an informal environment. While designed to meet the needs of our beginner growers, all members, visitors and guests are always welcome. ALL QUESTIONS WELCOME. FEEL FREE TO BRING PROBLEM PLANTS FOR DISCUSSION.

WINTER DAMAGE ORCHID CARE

Cold Injury Symptoms usually become visible, not during but somewhat after getting hit by low temps. How soon the symptoms show up depends upon how hard the plants were hit, how long the cold lasted, and the environment in which your plants are placed. Beginners often don't know what to be looking for, but if the freezing temps got some of your orchids, here's help.

Go to the SAOS site **Home Page** and check out **ORCHID ALERTS** by **Dr. Martin Motes**. Dr. Motes lives in S. Florida, speaks and shows internationally and is recognized as one of the leading orchidists in the world. In this article, Motes tells how to recognize the signs of cold damage and what to do about it.

BEGINNERS: DON'T MISS THIS ONE.

Frost damage on phalaenopsis leaves



BACK to ANGRAECUMS:



Angraecum sesquipedale

Interesting note: All angraecums have a long spur at the back of the lip. In the case of *Angraecum sesquipedale*, a species from Madagascar, Charles Darwin, on the voyage of the Beagle in 1831, observed the 11.8 inch spur in the lip and theorized that, since the nectar was at the bottom of the spur, a pollinator must exist with a tongue at least that long, otherwise the orchid could never be pollinated. At the time, he was not believed. However, long after Darwin's death, the predicted pollinator was discovered, a hawk moth now named *Xanthopan morganii praedicta*. This is a perfect example of mutual dependence of an orchid and a specific pollinator.



Xanthopan morganii praedicta (Hawk moth)



Angraecum leonis "Comoro"



Angraecum viguieri



Angraecum ramosum ssp *typicum*