

SAOS HAPPENINGS

Tuesday, March 2 Monthly Meeting

The Magnificent Stanhopeas

Linda Wilhelm - Woodland Orchids

Linda Wilhelm, of Woodland Orchids in Charlotte, NC is an accredited judge for the American Orchid Society and recipient of the American Orchid Society's Certificate of Education.

Linda's presentation will be on 'The Magnificent Stanhopeas' - and they aren't called magnificent without good reason. This group of Central and South American orchids is considered to be among the most highly evolved and specialized plants on the planet. These epiphytic, but occasionally terrestrial, orchids can be found in damp forests from Mexico to NW Argentina. They have large, pleated leaves and bear the most dramatic looking incredible flowers with intricate and complex structures. If you ever see a large plant in full bloom, you will never forget it.



Stanhopea nigripes



Stan. tigrina

Most Stanhopea flowers are spicily fragrant, and although the flowers are short-lived, lasting three days or less, each plant may produce many inflorescences throughout the year. Most have inflorescences that grow downward, so the plant must be hung to grow - potted in hanging baskets or similar containers

BEGINNERS: Stanhopea (stan-HOPE-ee-ah), abbreviated Stan. When buying Stanhopeas, look for three or more pseudobulbs. The more pseudobulbs, the greater the likelihood of flowering in a shorter time.

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, March 14, 1-3 pm

HOW TO REPOT A CATTLEYA: A Hands-On Experience

Each type of orchid has different potting requirements. At this Keiki Club meeting, Sue Bottom will demonstrate how to repot a cattleya. Then, generously donating two flats of her nodosa hybrids that have outgrown their pots as your guinea pigs, she'll turn the pruning shears over to you. Don't worry though; she and other potting pros will be watching over your shoulders giving assistance. You'll learn the basics, like - which roots to trim, which potting medium to use, where to position the plant in the pot, how hard to pack the medium, how to put in a pot clip to hold the orchid in place and why a pot clip is even necessary. Potting medium & clips will be available for purchase. Join in the fun at [6916 Cypress Lake Ct in St. Aug.](#) Bring a folding chair - and your own cattleya to repot if you have one. Call Sue at 797-4360 if you have any questions.



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.

Orchids Around Town: Saturday, March 6 SAOS & Master Gardeners at ACE Hardware



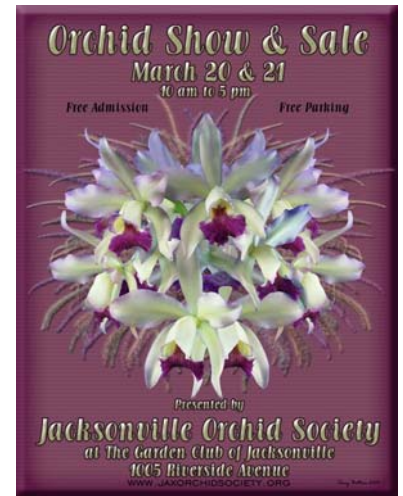
Stan. wardii in bud

The first Saturday of the month, Master Gardeners and St. Augustine Orchid Society members will be available to talk with you, answer questions and help you repot orchids. We will be at the Ace Hardware on US 1 S. from 9 am until noon. Stop in ahead of time and ask SAOS member and ACE's gardening and orchid guru Janet Skinner for details or call 797-4360 with any questions. **BEGINNERS: Feel free to bring problem plants for discussion.**

Jacksonville Orchid Society Show March 20-21 10 am-5pm

Our orchid-growing friends to the north will shortly be having their annual show, and it's an event not to be missed. It will be at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Avenue. Entry is **free**. You can spend your time gazing at gorgeous orchid displays, buying plants till you run out of money – or both. Commercial orchid growers will be happy to discuss any aspect of orchid growing. Potting supplies and orchid items like prints, coffee cups and cards will be available. More info? jaxorchidsociety.org or call Mike and Harriett Wright 904 696-7729

Many of our favorite commercial orchid growers will be at the show: D&B Orchids; EFG Orchids/Powerplant, Featherstone Orchids; Louis Del Favero Orchids; Hicks Orchid Supplies; Krull-Smith Orchids, Miranda Orchids, Plantio la Orquidea, Quest Orchids, Ritter's Tropic 1 Orchids; Woodland Orchids, The Fantastic Orchid



BEGINNERS - and experienced alike: Interested in learning more about orchid judging? Ever wonder why one orchid wins over the other – especially when they both look exactly the same to you? Come find out by being a clerk at the show. You don't need to know one thing about orchids, but you sure will know a lot by the time judging's over. Volunteer as a clerk to assist in the Saturday morning judging. It's easy. It's fun. And you'll be surprised how much you can learn! Contact SAOS/JOS member Mike Heinz at 904 962-2531 for details. Mike, like a number of SAOS members, is active in both orchid societies.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT, JACK HIGGINS



Jack Higgins is a retired US Army artillery officer and Russian specialist who moved to St. Augustine from St. Louis. New adventures and ideas intrigue him, and he enjoys immersing himself full force in things that catch his interest. He has certainly done that with orchids and our society. A few words from Jack follow.

"Two years ago, I responded to the SAOS invitation in the newspaper and was immediately impressed by the friendly, supportive attitude of the members. The good-natured fun we have at our meetings is complemented by and complimented upon by the guest speakers who really seem to enjoy their time with us. I am honored to have been elected the new president of SAOS, and I look forward to continuing our dynamic programs and sharing our knowledge and experiences with one another." Thanks, Jack

For more SAOS and orchid info visit www.staugorchidsociety.org