



CLUB NEWS



December 11 Christmas Auction

Our annual Christmas Auction was a success. More than 45 members convened at the Moultrie Trails Clubhouse for fun, food and flowers.

Lola Stark and Dick Roth organized the event and our members rose to the occasion with the terrific dishes to share. There were salads, appetizers, casseroles, chicken and honey baked ham main dishes and cakes and pies for dessert. The food was so good each person had to have several plates full!

Then it was time for the auction. There were many gorgeous orchid plants provided by Fred Keefer with donations from Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids, Janet Skinner of Ace Hardware and George Hausermann of EFG. There was some spirited bidding as members decided which beauties they wanted to bring home. Mike finally got the OrchidWiz Encyclopedia program he's bid on so many times before. Fred outdid himself as our Auctioneer Extraordinaire. It was a great fund raiser, so we can afford the best speakers in 2011.

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Upcoming Orchid Events

January

- 4 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Ed Bugbee, Featherstone Orchids
Orchids of Mexico
- 8-9 [Sarasota Orchid Society Show](#)
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
- 11 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Topic TBA
Francisco Miranda, [Miranda Orchids](#)
- 14-16 [Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show](#)
War Memorial Auditorium
- 22-23 [Manatee River Orchid Society Show](#)
Manatee Convention & Civic Center
- 29-30 [Tamiami International Orchid Festival](#)
Dade County Fair Expo Center

February

- 1 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Prem Subrahmanyam, [Fl Native Orchids](#)
Native and Naturalized Orchids
- 5-6 [Venice Area Orchid Society Show](#)
Venice Community Center
- 8 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
TBA
- 12-13 [Boca Raton Orchid Society Show](#)
Safe Schools Institute
- ?? Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners
How to Select an Orchid
Date and Venue to be Determined

March

- 1 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Ernie Gemeinhart, [Enlightened Orchids](#)
Semi-Hydroponic Orchid Culture
- 4-6 Martin County Orchid Society Show
Martin County Fairgrounds
- 5 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 8 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Growing Vandas in Northeast Florida
Ed Cavin

www.staugorchidsociety.org

- 11-13 [Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show](#)
Port St. Lucie Community Center
- ?? Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners
Repotting and Potting Mixes
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
[6916 Cypress Lake Ct. St. Aug 32086](#)
- 19-20 [Jacksonville Orchid Society Show](#)
The Garden Club of Jacksonville
- 25-27 [Naples Orchid Society Show](#)
First Presbyterian Church

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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We had a wonderful time, a testament to our members' dedication to having fun. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Feliz Navidad and a very Happy New Year to all!



Vivienne Rowe, Mary Ann Bell & Monica Long pick through plants donated by Sunset Valley Orchids



Harriet Wright & Dick Roth put the buffet line in order



Members queue up for the buffet



Rae & Norm Coletti start the buffet line



Members socialize while waiting for the buffet



Wendy Thomas & Sue Bottom go back for seconds



Nicky Makruski previews the auction table



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Florence Powers does the 'Orchid Auction Mambo'



Fred Keefer in 'Auction Mode'



Barbara Conrad admires her auction purchases

Programs Scheduled for 2011

January 4: The Orchids of Mexico
Ed Bugbee, Featherstone Orchids

February 1: FL Native and Naturalized Orchids
Prem Subrahmanyam, [Florida Native Orchids](#)

March 1: Semi-Hydroponic Orchid Culture
Ernie Gemeinhart, [Enlightened Orchids](#)

April 5: Pedilonum Dendrobiums
Greg Allikas, [Orchid Works](#)

May 3: What Do You Mean It Won't Grow?
Brian Monk, [Blu Llama Orchids](#)

June 7: Orchids in Colombia
Ruben Sauleda, [Ruben in Orchids](#)

July 5: Summer Orchid Auction
Fred Keefer, Auctioneer Extraordinaire

August 2: Modern Trends for the Cattleya Grower
Alan Koch, [Gold Country Orchids](#)

September 6: Growing Novelty Phalaenopsis
Peter Lin, [Big Leaf Orchids](#)

October 4: How to Kill Your Orchids
Linda Wilhelm, [Woodland Orchids](#)

November 1: Orchid Species of Venezuela
Rafael Romero, [Plantio La Orquidea](#) (tentative)

December 10: Christmas Orchid Auction
Fred Keefer, Auctioneer Extraordinaire





Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners Winter Hiatus

With the holidays and winter cold, we're going on winter hiatus. Keiki Club meetings will resume in the spring beginning in February. We're planning programs on How to Select an Orchid, Potting Mixes and Repotting, Mounting Orchids, and Watering and Fertilizing. Let Keiki Club Coordinator Bob Martin know if there's a topic you'd like covered at one of the spring Keiki Club get-togethers.



January 4 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Ed Bugbee of Featherstone Orchids will speak about the Orchids of Mexico at the January 4th meeting of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Ed will be talking about his travels in Mexico and the orchids that grow there, along with cultural tips.

In 1994, Featherstone Orchids opened in Crystal River, north of Tampa and the business has grown to 3 greenhouses with 6500 square feet of space, a large potting shed, a large work shed and a small seed lab. They began selling at shows and teaching their customers more about orchid growing. They also started doing educational exhibits and giving talks at society meetings. Many of us bought dendrobiums and other orchids at society shows. There will be plants available for purchase on the raffle, auction and plant sales tables.



November 21 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners

Understanding Your Plant Tag

About 15 orchidists came to the fall Keiki Club get together for a discussion on understanding your plant tag. The plant tag is the key to your orchid's family tree and unlocks information about how best to care for your plant.

The First Letters or Word – tell you what genus your orchid belongs in. Typically the letters are an abbreviation for the genus, e.g., Phal. is the abbreviation for the genus Phalaenopsis, L. is the abbreviation for the genus Laelia. Sometimes two or more different genera are used in making a cross, in which case the progeny carry an intergeneric name, e.g., a cattleya bred with a laelia produces an intergeneric Laeliocattleya, abbreviated Lc.

The Second Word(s) – is either the name of the species or the name of the registered hybrid. If the second word is uncapitalized, it indicates the plant is a species, e.g., *L. purpurata* is the species *Laelia purpurata*. If the second word or series of words is capitalized, you have a hybrid that has been registered with the Royal Horticultural Society. Lc. Canhamiana is a Laeliocattleya intergeneric hybrid that is a result of crossing two species *C. mossiae* and *L. purpurata* to make a seed pod. This hybrid has been registered with the Royal Horticultural Society, so every time these two species are crossed, all the offspring will carry this same name Lc. Canhamiana.

Words in Single Quotations – Sometimes an orchid is given a clonal name which is denoted with single quotation marks. Every division of this individual plant (or mericlones if it were to go through the mericlone process) will also carry this clonal name. Every time an orchid is awarded by the American Orchid Society, the owner gets to select a clonal name for that orchid. Lc. Canhamiana "Topaz" HCC/AOS won an HCC (Highly Commended Certificate) from the American Orchid Society and the owner selected the clonal name 'Topaz' to distinguish that orchid from other Lc. Canhamiana plants.





Ted Mikalsen



Auction Donations

Ted Mikalsen donated these two prints on canvas that were auctioned at the SAOS Christmas auction. Thanks Ted! Auction proceeds ensure that we get the best speakers at our monthly meetings.

Since his initial training at the Southeastern Center for the Photographic Arts, Ted Mikalsen's photographs have appeared in a variety of locations. They've been used as backdrops for dance performances at Atlanta's Seven Stages theater, displayed in galleries, cafes, restaurants and shops, published in magazines (*Atlanta Magazine*, *Poets, Artists and Madmen* among others), and displayed at the shows (Atlanta Second Photography Show, New York City Ceres Gallery, Georgia Botanical Garden and others).



CLUB NEWS

Financial Statement	2010	2009	2008
INCOME			
Plant raffle	1,998.00	2,164.00	1,885.00
Plant auction	3,105.99	2,529.00	4,637.00
Silent auction	25.00	277.00	568.00
Dues	1,665.00	1,550.00	1,140.00
Supply sales	1,087.00	817.25	740.75
Donations	1.00	115.00	-
Awards & Prizes	-	-	40.00
Book sales	-	105.00	480.00
Shirt sales	-	15.00	420.00
Name tags	56.00	48.00	246.00
Other	-	0.22	-
Total Income	\$ 7,937.99	\$ 7,620.47	\$ 10,156.75
EXPENSES			
Plant auction	648.83	477.68	1,245.68
Plant raffle	350.00	300.00	258.60
Silent auction	16.67	184.00	361.99
Speaker fees	1,600.00	1,625.00	1,450.00
Speaker meals	276.72	292.48	415.90
Speaker lodging	-	-	-
Speaker travel	159.00	-	308.00
Shows/displays	-	138.85	287.73
Cultural Supplies	613.81	360.86	612.58
Library	64.97	299.76	398.51
Books for sale	-	-	400.00
Office supplies	28.44	83.07	199.15
Copy costs	-	63.39	24.85
Web site	114.14	276.36	96.53
Shirt cost	-	9.00	248.04
Building mntce.	-	31.79	334.85
Insurance	198.36	196.39	199.36
Name tags	62.93	44.52	258.11
Other	461.20	339.66	772.67
Total Expenses	\$ 4,595.07	\$ 4,722.81	\$ 7,872.55
NET INCOME	\$ 3,342.92	\$ 2,897.66	\$ 2,284.20





Growing Tips for December

Dr. Courtney Hackney,
hackneau@comcast.net
Dept. Biology, Univ. North
Florida

“Happy Winter Solstice”! That means the shortest day of the year arrives this month and

after that, lengthening days. Unfortunately, there remain many cold days and even colder nights requiring vigilance for those of us that grow tropical orchids.

This is also a time when having flowering orchids inside the house is really nice, not just for fragrance, but a reminder that good times will return and we can enjoy spring flowers and warmer days.



There are a few aspects to bringing orchids inside that require your attention. First remember that home heating takes moisture out of the air. The same thing that dries your skin in winter dries out your orchid flowers and the plant itself. If you can set the pot containing your orchid inside a larger clay pot that sits in shallow water you will help your orchid flowers to last longer. A porous clay pot will wick water up and around the orchid plant limiting water loss. The ideal is for the clay pot to be large enough that there is space between pots. Misting occasionally will also help, but be sure you are not using water that goes through a softener.

One last suggestion is that you sterilize any pot you are using to hold your blooming plant while inside. More and more orchids sold in the pot plant market are reportedly virused. While these flowers may look fine, viruses may be transferred to the next orchid that occupies the pot and lead to deformed flowers and the ultimate death of the orchid. Few hobbyists spend the time or money to test pot plants so it is best to just sterilize pot surfaces with a 10% chlorox solution.

Cymbidium growers need to pay careful attention to outside temperatures now in case there is a hard freeze. The cold should have initiated bloom spikes by now. If that has not happened yet you may need a few more weeks of cool nights. A light frost will not hurt the plant, but a solid freeze will likely damage your cymbidium. Once spikes begin to form, cymbidiums should be kept from temperatures lower than 45 F. In the South, they may be moved into a garage on very cold nights and in colder climates maintained in the cool part of the greenhouse until buds open.



There are many types of dendrobiums that also need a cool, dry period to initiate buds. Some of these maintain their leaves such as *Dendrobium aggregatum*, while others, such as the nobile-types, drop leaves in response to the cold dry period.



If you purchased the plant in flower and it has never bloomed again it may need this type of treatment. Unfortunately, the Dendrobium family is so large and found over such a wide range of environments that no single recommendation can be made. If you check the parentage of your dendrobium you can figure out its required growing conditions.

The flowering process for phalaenopsis should also be well along by now, with spikes emerging and perhaps even buds developing on larger plants. Once buds form, it is necessary to maintain temperatures above 60 F to prevent bud drop and to limit various diseases that ruin flowers. You will also need to watch new leaves for rots that flourish in a closed growing space.



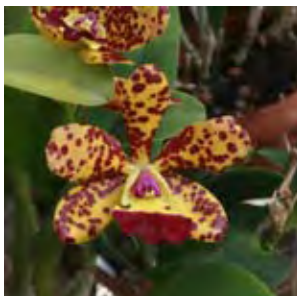


Your Orchids in December

based on Robert Scully articles,
courtesy of the AOS

General Growing Tips. Winter's cool days and nights have already affected most collections; if all plants are not already indoors, they soon may be. Concerning daylight intensity and its duration, the seasonal change must be obvious by now. Don't allow daytime temperatures to rise too high before ventilating the growing area. Fresh air is important for healthy plants and their owners. Just remember that if the grower can be reasonably comfortable with the temperature and humidity conditions in the growing area, the plants are likely to be satisfied too.

Cattleyas. *Cattleya skinneri* should be pushing its buds up into dried sheaths for a January flowering; do not cut the sheaths off or open them. *Cattleya trianae* and its hybrids ought to be blooming for several months beginning now. Many Sophronitis hybrids typically flower this season. *Laelia anceps*, the Christmas orchid, will have well defined buds just waiting for nature's signal to open.



Dendrobiums. Generalizations are hard within this very diverse group. The winter resting deciduous dendrobiums of the Dendrobium (Nobiles and Seminobiles) and Callista sections (email us if you're not sure) can be kept dry and cool this month. Shoot for minimum temperatures of 40 F. Nobile type dendrobiums may show some swollen nodes on their leafless pseudobulbs and flowers may appear by the month's end. Your other dendrobiums will also be resting up this month though not dormant. You'll water these half as often as you did in the summer. Shoot for minimum temperatures of 45 to 55 F and 55 to 60 F for the biggibum types.



Oncidiums. The mule-ear oncidium, *Oncidium splendidum*, and the popular thin-leaved type, *Oncidium maculatum*, should be producing inflorescences. Stake the oncidium inflorescence as it grows upward, but do not allow the tip to droop as you would for a phalaenopsis.



Paphiopedilums. Some of the mottled leaved species like *Paphiopedilum fairrieianum* and *sukhakulii* bloom now. Keep their potting medium moist and avoid getting water in the pouch.



Phalaenopsis. Groom and stake each phalaenopsis spike. Avoid excess plant movement while the buds are developing or the buds may blast (wither). High humidity in a closed house can lead to flower spotting caused by Botrytis; provides supplementary air circulation with fans and/or increase temperatures above 60 F.



Vandas. Vandas are starting to rest now. You can gradually reduce your watering to every other day and cut back on fertilizer. *Ascocentrum aurantiacum* may have some beautiful orange to yellow flowers in bloom by the end of the month.



Miscellaneous Genera. The Catasetinae (catasetums, clowesia, cycnoches and mormodes) are going dormant now and their leaves have been yellowing and dropping. Restrict watering until the spring growth is a few inches tall. The jewel orchid *Ludisia discolor* will begin to develop inflorescences soon. Clean the foliage now before the inflorescences grow.





[Visit a Local Orchid Society Meeting](#)

by Susan Taylor, BellaOnline.com

One of the best ways to learn to grow orchids in your particular area is to join a local society and talk to people who are already proficient with the conditions. All societies have people who have grown orchids for years who like nothing better than talk about their hobby and to pass on information to new growers.



Many societies have a plant table which showcases plants in flower grown by members. For me, this was one of the most important parts of each meeting when I joined my local society. You can see the actual size of the plant as well as the flower, smell the flowers for aroma, and ask questions on culture and special requirements. It is important to actually see the plant as well as the flower, especially if you are growing in a limited space. You don't want to try to grow a large cattleya in a windowsill when a smaller plant will take up much less space no matter how beautiful the flower. If you see something that is particularly interesting to you, talk to the grower to see if you can provide the right conditions for it to grow well.

You will also learn about those plants which are not suited for your climate conditions so that you will not waste money on plants which will not survive. Sometimes particular strains of plants which normally do not do well will survive in local conditions when others will die. These are all things that local growers will be able to tell you about.

Local vendors will also generally be members of local societies and meetings are a wonderful way to meet them and find out what they offer. There is nothing better for success than growing plants which have been grown in your area, although many plants sold will be plants imported from other areas.



Many societies have special groups for new growers which visit local greenhouses to learn how they grow and what works for them. These groups are particularly informative since you actually see local conditions and what works for experienced growers. Northern growers will be able to see what kind of heating conditions are necessary and southern growers will learn about cooling needs during hot summer months. These groups are often the recipients of plants or divisions that society growers give away and provide a good source of practice plants for new growers.

Give your local society a visit! Here is the link to the American Orchid Society listing of societies in the US so you can find one near you [AOS Affiliated Societies](#).



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@bellsouth.net



Q. I have a number of older orchids growing on trees down in South Florida. They are currently covered with light and brown spots. I have attached a photo of each side of one of the leaves,

showing the problems, as well as one of the area affected (in better times) How can I return them to health?



A. Those are some beautiful dendrobiums in bloom! It looks like you have fungal leaf spot caused either by *Cercospora* or *Phyllosticta*. It doesn't much matter which because the cure is the same. Spray with a fungicide containing the active ingredient Thiophanate Methyl, like Cleary's 3336 or Banrot (available from OFE International). Apply it as a spray to the leaves (2 tsp/gal) or a drench to the media (1 tsp/gal). Different fungicides and their application rates for leaf spots are provided in the spreadsheet at the top of the orchid diseases webpage. If weren't a dendrobium orchid, you could use a copper fungicide, which is very effective and cheaper than Cleary's 3336 or Banrot, but dendrobiums have an adverse reaction to the copper.

The bad news is that the leaf spotting will remain on the leaf after the fungus is no longer active. Ultimately the dendrobiums will lose the infected leaves. The good news is that dendrobiums are very spunky and resilient orchids and will grow new canes with new leaves to sustain themselves. The best news is that dendrobiums will bloom from old and leafless canes.



The thing we have to ask is why did the dendrobiums suffer from a fungal infection? The obvious answer would be too much leaf wetness or too little air movement. You've got your dendrobiums in a



perfect place in the trees and they obviously get plenty of air movement normally, so that's not the problem. We up in north Florida had a very very dry fall, though I understand south Florida had lots and lots of rain. Perhaps you got fungal leaf spotting from leaf wetness this autumn. When you have wet gray weather for extended periods during the fall (or any season for that matter), you could consider preventative spraying, perhaps monthly, to prevent the fungus from taking hold, following all label instructions. Next year your dendrobiums will be beautiful once again



Enc. oncioides

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Q. A couple years ago, I bought an encyclia at EFG. Last year it sent out a spike which I promptly broke when moving plants in. I believe the label is Enc. oncidoides x Enc. cordigera. It may be a February bloomer, brown with a fuschia lip. I just took it out of its plastic pot and placed it in a larger basket without disturbing anything. Can you verify the name and tell me anything about it.

A. The Enc. oncidoides blooms May to July, mostly in June and the Enc. cordigera blooms February to July, mostly in May, so your primary hybrid should bloom in the May to June time frame. Your cross is unregistered, so your label is correct (Enc. oncidoides x Enc. cordigera). There are different color forms for each so you'll have to bloom it to be sure, but bronze with a fuschia lip sounds likely and it should also be fragrant from the cordigera. You'll let it rest a bit in the winter reducing water and fertilizer like you do for your other cattleyas and taking it out of plastic and putting it into a basket should be good for it. Encyclias like a coarse freely draining mix that dries rapidly after watering and should be repotted immediately if the mix starts to break down.



Enc. cordigera

St. Augustine Orchid Society on Facebook



The St. Augustine Orchid Society is now on [Facebook](#). If you don't have time to Facebook, no worries. But if you're interested, you can share pictures of your orchids, ask orchid questions, engage in orchid discussions, get linked to the St. Aug Orchid Society website and more. If you want a real world demo of how another society uses

it, check out the [Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society](#). Many of our folks have expressed an interest in an orchid forum



**FORT LAUDERDALE
ORCHID SOCIETY**

where photos and experiences can be shared, this may be it! If you are interested, click on the "Like" button on the bottom left of the St Aug Orchid Society Facebook page or website. If you're not a Facebook member, it will prompt you to join. If you are a member, it will create a connection to your account so you'll receive automatic updates.



SHOW TABLE



Terry Bottom

Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Most Fragrant
Bulb. phalaenopsis



Terry Bottom

Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Best Single Bloom
Paph. Vexillarium



Terry Bottom

Grower Courtney Hackney - March
Bc. Memoria Grant Eichler 'Lenette'



Terry Bottom

Grower Marv & Jan Ragan - September
Bc. Miya's Fascination



Terry Bottom

Grower Courtney Hackney - August
Lc. Allen Condo 'Hackneau'



Terry Bottom

Grower Sue Bottom - October
Bc. Bow Bryce 'Brillant' HCC/AOS



Grower Harriet & Mike Wright - November
Bulb. rothschildianum 'A-doribil' FCC/AOS



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom - January
C. Chocolate Drop x C. amethystoglossa



Grower Bill Gourley - July
Blc. Copper Queen



Grower Sue Bottom - February
Cycd. Opalina



Grower John Van Brocklin - June
Lc. Irene Finney 'Springs's Best' x Bl. Morning Glory



Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz - April
Den. chrysotoxum



Grower Sue Bottom - May
Den. spectabile

