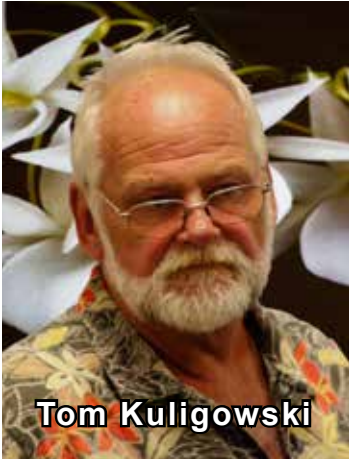




CLUB NEWS



Tom Kuligowski

May 5 Monthly SAOS Meeting

by Janis Croft, secretary@staugorchidsociety.org

Welcome and Thanks.

President Bob Schimmel opened the meeting at 7:15 pm with approximately 45 attendees. Bob welcomed our two new members, Nellie Wiggins and Bobby Graeff. He also thanked Jeanette Smith, Berthe

Gross, Thery McKinney, Barb Conrad and Loretta Griffith for their wonderful refreshments and reminded all to enjoy while dropping a dollar in the jar.

Linda Stewart recognized our three birthday people with free raffle tickets and Bob reminded all to vote for their favorite orchid on the show table.

Club Business. Thanks to all our renewing members for 2015 dues (\$15 individual and \$25 for a family). If you've forgotten, you can send payments to Bill Gourley, 807 Kalli Creek, St. Aug 32080. The directory will be updated and newsletter email list will be revised this week

We are looking for volunteers to assist our various committees. A sign-up sheet was passed around with a list of areas needing assistance. Contact Bob Schimmel if you can volunteer to help on a committee.

Remember to email SAOS Librarian Penny Halyburton if you want to borrow a book (see our website) and she will bring your requested book(s) to the next meeting.

The next Keiki Club on Summer Orchid Care will be on May 17 at Mary and Louis Colee's Home, 855 Oak Ridge Road, St. Aug 32086.

T-Shirts, Name Badges and Orchid supplies were available for sale. T-Shirts for \$20, Name Badges for \$8, Potting mix for \$5 and slow release fertilizer for \$5.

There was also a sign-up sheet for Purely Organic Fertilizer which we are ordering in 25 or 50 lb. bags. There will be 2 lb. bag lots for sale on the side table



Tom & Sue review the show table

after bulk delivery is received.

The next Ace Repotting Clinic is on June 6 at Ace Hardware on U.S. 1 from 9 am – 1 pm.

Orchid Events. There are two shows in Florida this month. The [Volusia County Orchid Society show](#) and [THE REDLANDS](#) (biggest annual show in Florida). Check out our website for more details.

Show Table Review. Sue Bottom and our guest speaker, Tom Kuligowski, reviewed the Show Table. Tom was impressed with our society's growing skills and variety of plants. Of special note was a native Florida plant brought in by Christie Peppard, *Spiranthes lanceolata*, now called *Sacoila [Soi.] lanceolata*.

SAOS Program. From Fort Lauderdale, our speaker Tom Kuligowski shared his passion on growing angraecums. Angraecum is the informal name of several varieties of orchids from the vandaceous subtribes of orchids, Angraecinae and Aerangidinae (this just means that the term "angraecoid" includes two subdivisions of the much larger family of orchids). There are approximately 700 angraecoid orchid species. They have single monopodial stems with alternating leaves and no pseudobulbs. Every flower has a nectary spur which makes them different from vandas.

Tom started growing orchids 12 years ago when he bought his first Angraecum in a plastic bag at Home Depot. He likes

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CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

May

- 9-10 Volusia County Society Show
Volusia County Fairgrounds
- 15-17 Redlands International Orchid Festival
Fruit and Spice Park, Homestead
- 17 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Summer Orchid Care
May and Louis Colee's Home
855 Oak Ridge Road, St. Aug 32086

June

- 2 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Jill Godfrey, AOS Judge & Orchid Hobbyist
Stanhopeas, Sobralias and Calanthes
- 6 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 9 JOS Meeting, 7 pm,
TBA
- 14 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Repotting Phalaenopsis
Sue and Terry Bottom's Home
6916 Cypress Lake Ct., St. Aug 32086

July

- 4 **SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm**
Canceled due to Independence Day
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 7 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids
Orchids 101
- 14 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids
Topic TBA
- 19 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Growing Different Types of Orchids
Mark and Kathy Young's Home
160 West Genung St, St. Aug 32086
- 27 Coalition for Orchid Species
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

August

- 1 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 4 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Orchid Growing Basics
Michael Polen, Art Stone Orchids
- 7-8 Fifth Annual Cattleya Symposium
Sponsored by Odom's Orchids
Indian River Research & Education Ctr
Fort Pierce
- 11 JOS Meeting, 7 pm
TBA
- 17 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Staking Your Orchids
Mark and Kathy Young's Home

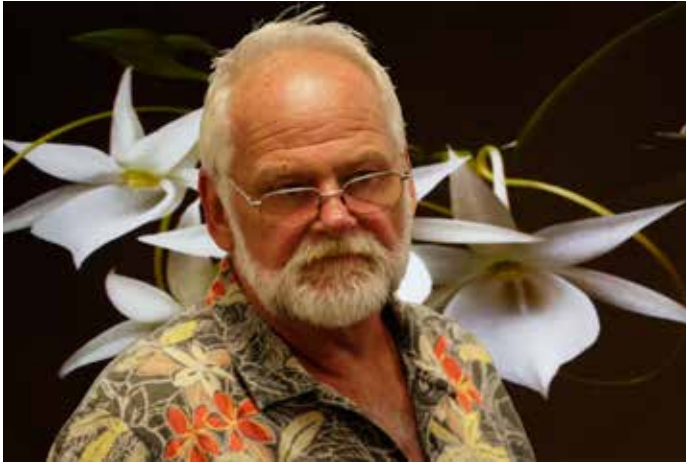
St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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Operations Committee Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com



CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1



to experiment so typically he will buy 4 to 6 plants of the same kind. He will then grow each differently to see which process produces the best plant. He typically mounts on flat slats, flat pieces of wood or cork and clay pots with his preferred medium of lava rock, charcoal and sponge rock. He feels strongly about using only inorganic materials in his potting mix. Growing in inorganic media allows the roots to grow uninhibited and with plenty of access to air. Angraecums protect their flowers in a sheath on the inflorescence. Tom described some species where the inflorescence can take up to 15 months to grow before the sheaths start to appear. Then the flower can come out as quickly as 12 days afterwards. Other species flower more quickly but sparingly for two or three flowerings and then on the next blooming, can have over 35 flowers. His one warning was that the angraecoids do not like to have their roots disturbed or cut so one should take that into account when initially choosing a mount or pot for a new plant.

The first plant that started Tom's orchid passion was the Angraecum Longiscott. He initially photographed this plant for his art work (he is a photographer also). Longiscott is an easy grower that is very fragrant. He tested growing this plant in a clay pot vs. a slatted mount. The one in the



pot grew twice as fast which showed him that the roots benefited from absorbing fertilizer and water better in the medium vs. the plant on the mount. Another bonus of this plant is that the flowers can last 8 to 12 weeks if they are protected from the elements. Tom shared photos of a variety of his plants providing notes on how he grows them and what issues he has had. A recurring theme seemed to be that these genera can be susceptible to fungus. He cautioned to watch for spots on the leaves and use a fungicide immediately if even one spot appears.

Tom has a wonderful blog with many excellent photos and narratives on different species in addition to his orchid artwork. Check it out at angraecums.blogspot.com.



Dianne & Mary handle the raffle

Meeting Conclusion. Dick Roth announced that Yvonne and Bob Schimmel's *Mystacidium [Mycdm.] braebonae*, an angraecoid, received the Member's Choice Award. The raffle table was the final event of the evening with Christie Peppard, Mary Colee and Dianne Batcheldor presiding. Thanks to all of those that volunteered to stay and clean up the room.

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



CLUB NEWS



May 17 Keiki Club Summer Orchid Care

We'll talk about how to water and fertilize your orchids, provide enough of the right kind of light and make sure your orchids get enough fresh air to maximize their growth during the summer growing season. Bring a folding chair and any plants you have questions about, although we will not be repotting at this Keiki Club. Guests and visitors are always welcome. Call Mary at 669-8760 if you have any questions.

Where: Mary and Louis Colee's Home
855 Oak Ridge Road, St. Aug 32086

When: May 17, 1 to 3 pm

June 2 Monthly SAOS Meeting Stanhopea Calanthe and Sobralias

Jill Godfrey will be speaking on "Thin-Leafed Orchids of South Florida: Stanhopeas, Sobralias, and Calanthes." Jill is a Miami native who started growing orchids at the age of 12 and joined the North Miami Amateur Orchid Club. She worked for the firm of Jones and Scully when they were located on the Miami River in the late '70's. Jill is an AOS judge and avid orchid hobbyist, who loves her cattleyas and also grows dendrobiums and a wide variety of species which include Calanthe, Sobralia and Stanhopea. If you have ever had an interest in the orchids that bloom from the bottom of the pot (Stanhopeas) or the other plants that have thin-leaves, this will be a great lecture. Jill is very knowledgeable and even if you are not familiar with these orchids, you will be by the end of the evening!



April 12 Keiki Club Potting Without Pots

Almost two dozen familiar and new faces came to the April Keiki Club Get Together where Linda Stewart talked about potting without pots. Linda talked about the difference in orchid care for mounted orchids stressing the importance of frequent watering for most mounted orchids. Linda talked about the myriad of choices you have in mounting orchids and brought a handful of her beauties to show how they adapt to their environment.

- Plaques, cork or wooden mounts that don't hold water can be used as either horizontal or vertical mounts, and a little sphagnum moss or coco fiber can be placed around the roots to help the plants adapt to their new home. Tree fern slabs and totems can also be used and because the tree fern retains some water, watering every other day during the summer is generally enough.

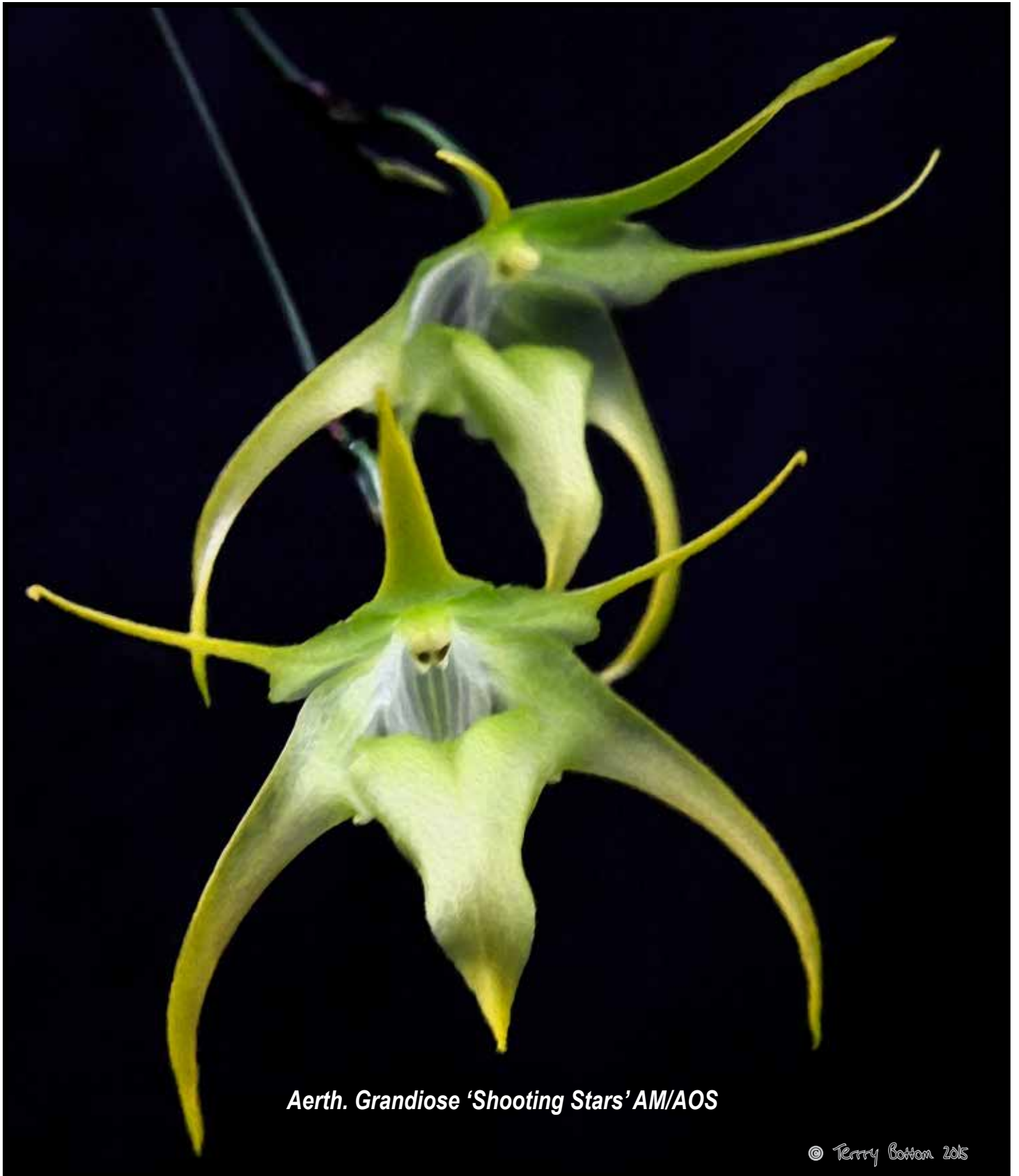
Baskets are a neat way of providing the aeration around the roots that orchids love. The orchids can be placed in plastic, wooden or metal baskets with or without potting media. Those potted without media are essentially mounted and enjoy frequent wetting. If potting media is used in the basket, the material chosen will determine watering requirements. Tree fern baskets are a very attractive way of potting up smaller orchids and keikis

Linda explained that the new growth and emerging roots should be placed immediately adjacent to the mount surface so the roots will adhere to the mount. In order for your plant to acclimate quickly, it is necessary to tightly secure the plant to the mount. Linda prefers a stretchy florist's tape that can be tied and retied if necessary so the roots will be held stationary while they are attaching.

Then Mary had a lottery where everyone drew lots so they could select their orchid of choice from the divisions and keikis Sue had available. Mary, Linda and Sue helped everyone decide how they wanted to mount their orchids and everyone brought home a new plant. The club is very grateful for all the donations that helped pay for supplies.



INSPIRATION



Aerth. Grandiose 'Shooting Stars' AM/AOS

© Terry Bottom 2015



CULTIVATION

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. Recycle your clay or plastic pots but be sure to sterilize them first along with any wire products. Do not reuse potting mix or drainage material.

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. Continue feeding cattleyas with a dilute fertilizer solution with each watering and flush with fresh water monthly.



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 to another with the addition of a small amount of medium and not disturb the roots. Keep the pots moist and syringe the foliage frequently, particularly if you have moved the plant into brighter light.

Paphiopedilums. This is the ideal month to complete repotting of your lady's slippers into a fresh terrestrial mix. 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 (though *Brachypetalum* types generally like drier conditions).



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. Resume fertilizing when new roots become visible. Consider a spraying program with a recommended fungicide.

Vandas. Some plants may need more room for root development. If your plant is in a basket, 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 being careful to secure it so roots will not be damaged in the wind. Keep the bottom section of the plant in the old basket as it will usually sprout keikis at the base and be well established by the end of the summer.



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q1. I have a recently bloomed Paph. Petula's Glory that's bottom cup dried out. This happened overnight and I don't know why, what can I do for this not to happen?

A1. Water must have gotten into the pouch. When water gets into the pouch, it starts to rot greatly reducing the flower life. You have to be careful when watering or misting to not get water into the pouch. In nature, the dorsal sepal often leans over the pouch to prevent rainwater from accumulating in the pouch.



Q2. I just bought this plant on Ebay and it arrived with discoloration on one of the leaves. One is sunken and goes completely through. I sent a picture to the seller on Ebay and he says the plant is fine. Can you identify the problem?



A2. There are good orchid vendors on Ebay, but perhaps you should strike that vendor from your list for future purchases. The brown and black parts look like heat damage or sunburn. Pull it out of the pot and cut off the back ugly pseudobulbs, water blast it with the hose end sprayer set on flat to remove any papery sheaths and any scale that may be hiding underneath. Pour hydrogen peroxide over the above ground part of the plant to kill any bacteria. Put it in fresh mix and pour a drench of imidacloprid through it just in case there is lingering scale. Then wait for it to grow new leads and gather strength.

Q3. Do you have any idea of what is causing the yellowing of the older leaves on this cattleya? The division of the same plant immediately adjacent to it does not have this symptom.



A3. That yellowing is very different from the leaf yellowing you'd get if an older leaf were dying. The yellow marks are on the highest points of the leaf, which would suggest that it's increasingly bright light that isn't bright enough to sunburn but is bright enough to damage chlorophyll. There's not much you can do but wait for the plant to grow new leads and leaves.



Q4. I have read that Dithane M-45 (1.5 tbs/gal) can be mixed with Thiomy! (1.5 tsp/gal) to treat possible Fusarium on my Prosthechea. Do you have any suggestions for what to do with my plant?



A4. Thiomy! is actually repackaged Cleary's 3336 (thiophanate methyl) and it will work on fusarium although whether it can actually fix a fusarium infection is questionable. I don't believe Dithane will do anything to fusarium, it is for leaf spotting fungi. When I look at your huge prosthechea, I see rhizoctonia rather than fusarium. It may be time for surgery and a thorough drench with Thiomy! which is labeled for both fusarium and rhizoctonia. Our Miami friend sent a before and after picture, finding a lot of new roots and growths in the process, great job!



CULTIVATION

Growing Aerangis Species and Hybrids

by Tom Kuligowski, tkangcm@live.com

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Over the last thirteen years growing Angraecoids, I have learned that when something works well, don't change it. But I also want to know what my parameters are. Then of course I try to push the envelope by experimenting with different cultures. Giving my presentations to various societies, I usually talk about Angraecoids that are relatively easy to grow for the beginner. Gain some confidence and then start thinking about plants that may take a bit more understanding to grow them into fantastic specimens.



Over the last two years I have posted articles on three Aerangis (*Aergs. articulata*, *Aergs. biloba* and *Aergs. citrata*) which I would consider easy to grow. This post will deal with several species that I consider easier to grow than others. As you will see, the culture of many of these plants can be very similar and some with a wide range of culture parameters/variables. Whether it be a species or a hybrid, cultures can be similar.

The cultures that I talk about in this post are the cultures I use to grow my Aerangis. I will make comments regarding the cultures that should be considered in cooler or different climates compared to here in South Florida. These should be looked at as guidelines or starting points. What works for me may be different for you.

There are about seventy Aerangis species; but it is not uncommon that a plant or two does get reclassified. Plant size can range from a near non-existent stem to a stem that can reach a height of 31 inches in cultivation (*Aergs. ellisii*, the seed parent of *Aergs. Mire* in Image 1). My present Aerangis collection contains *Aergs. hyaloides*, a stem that would barely be 1 inch to the lengthy *Aergs. articulata* with a stem that can reach 12 inches. There are numerous other Aerangis in the collection at various lengths.



Image 2- *Aergs. articulata*, *Aergs. biloba* & *Aergs. citrata*



Image 1 *Aerangis Mire* (*Aergs. ellisii* x *Aergs. verdickii*)

The first thing that you should keep in mind is the individual plant's natural habitat. Take the time to do a bit of research. Having a basic understanding of the plant's requirements should prevent severe mistakes. Talk to someone who is growing the plant at the present time and pick their brain. Learning about a plant's climate, including annual monthly rainfall totals and seasonal temperatures, what it is growing on and the type of light it receives at various times of the year should put you in the proper place.

All Aerangis have a wet and a dry season. These seasons may vary in length depending upon location. During the wet season, usually the active growing season, many of these plants will flourish quite rapidly. *Aergs. articulata*, *mystacidii*, *kotschyana*, x *primulina* and *somalensis* to name a few of mine will grow considerably faster being exposed to moisture all day and can handle being damp during the evening. Here in South Florida, the rainy season is heavy and the plants take advantage of the large amounts of water. Late spring into early fall, temperatures can be in the upper 80s to mid 90s daily. My mounted Aerangis are watered 2 to 3 times a day and often misted very late in the afternoon. Roots that are attached to the mount as well as the aerial roots will dry out by the air movement that surrounds them (Image 3). They are then watered again with this process being a daily regiment as long as the temperatures stay high and the plant is actively growing.

This much water can start to cause an issue with fungus. Watch for any brown or black spots on the leaves. When temperatures do begin to drop, plants will still need moisture. With the combination of moisture and cooler temps, fungus can rear its ugly head rather quickly. My

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collection is treated on a monthly basis with a systemic fungicide. I alternate between Thiomyl and Dithane 45 every two to three months, keeping a spray bottle of Physan 20 (a topical fungicide) handily available.



Image 3-Aerangis articulata

Many of the Aerangis can be grown under lights, although they are usually some of the smaller variety such as *Aergs. citrata*, *decaryana*, *fastuosa*, *modesta*, *mystacidii*, *hyaloides* and *luteo-alba* var. *rhodosticta* to name a few. While under lights, these Aerangis should receive about the same amount of water but you must make sure that the root systems are receiving a fair amount of air movement. When seasonal temperatures begin to drop and active growing has slowed down considerably, watering should be cut back. Do not let the plants stay dry for extended lengths of time. If you start seeing wrinkled or withered roots, they are not getting near enough water. Water them at least twice a week.

For those that are growing them on window sills or on tables next to windows during the colder winter months, have your plants setting in or very near humidity trays. When your home or apartment is being heated during the cold winters of the north, humidity drops much lower than the plant is exposed to in its natural habitat. For small mounted plants, arrange the plants on some sort of a stand

so that it is in very close proximity or directly above the tray. Small pots can be set in the tray resting on glass marbles or anything that can keep the pot above the water line.

As mentioned, the majority of my Aerangis collection is mounted. Some of the larger Aerangis can be grown in pots or baskets as long as a coarse medium is used to allow for fast drainage, good air flow and room for root development. A good sampling of larger plants for potting would include *Aergs. articulata*, *cryptodon*, *ellisii*, *fuscata* and *kotschyana*. Because these plants produce somewhat pendulous inflorescences, they can be hung on a slight angle so that the spikes can drop over the edge of the pot and flower freely.



Image 4-Aergs. Rob's Angry Birds (*decaryana* x *mystacidii*) and *Aergs. mystacidii*

Flower shapes of the various Aerangis species that I grow range in shape from a flock of birds in flight to various star shapes and sizes to unusual fan shapes. Their sizes vary from flowers that are less than a half an inch (8mm) wide by less than a half an inch long and a spur that is club shaped and only 1/4 inch long (*Aergs. hyaloides*) to flowers that are up to 2 3/4 inches wide by 2 3/4 inches long with a spur that can reach 5 to 6 inches long (*Aergs. articulata*). Colors are white while some of them may have delicate hints of green, yellow or pink at the tips of their sepals and petals. Spurs will be white, a very pale green or a very subdued yellowish green.

These are just a few of the Aerangis species that I am presently growing. The culture that I am currently using is what works best for me in the South Florida climate. Do the research and ask questions and you will grow these plants successfully. They will become wonderful specimen plants.



CULTIVATION

Secrets of a Great Orchid Grower James Arnold

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Have you ever looked at someone's plants and wondered if they have been feeding their 'chids royal jelly? James Arnold of the Jacksonville Orchid Society has spectacularly well grown plants. He had some seedling paphiopedilums for sale at one of the meetings and they looked terrifically healthy and vigorous. When you lifted the pot you could feel the fat and happy thick roots through the thin plastic pot. The plants he displays on the show table and at orchid society exhibits are impeccably grown and flowered. I had to learn his secrets.



Watering and Water Quality. I think his secrets are his powers of observation, attention to detail and his determination to solve any problems, which together give him the ability to identify a potential problem and take whatever steps may be necessary to correct it. Take his approach to his water system. He started out using city water but became concerned about the residual chlorine and its impact on some of his sensitive species. So he decided to install a reverse osmosis (RO) system, which treats the softened water from his house from which calcium, magnesium and iron are removed in the softener so the RO unit can easily remove the sodium and produce a very clean water for his orchids. This solved one problem and created a different problem because the clean water had no buffering capacity and when fertilizer was added to this clean water, there were precipitous drops in the root zone pH and the acidity caused some premature plant deaths as well as nutrient deficiencies. Now James blends about 25% well water with his clean RO water ending up with a water low in total dissolved solids (100 ppm TDS), slightly acidic pH (6.2 pH units) and having a moderate alkalinity for pH buffering. His 100 gpd system with a booster pump produces enough to water his greenhouse thoroughly every 4 or 5 days in the warm season and every 7 to 10 days in the cool season. His observation of problems pushed him toward the ultimate fix, and then his attention to detail and handy nature came into play. He added an aquarium aerator in the water tank to keep the water fresh and full of oxygen, and in the winter, he drops in an aquarium heater to keep the water about 70°F. The end result is near perfect water quality for his orchids yearround.



Growing Area. We made the trip up to Jacksonville to visit his growing area, where James specializes in paphs, phrags and phals, but also has cattleyas, miltoniopsis, and catasetums in the greenhouse and cymbidiums and dendrobiums growing in the yard. He built his 12 ft x 20 ft greenhouse from a kit purchased from Greenhouse Supply. It is made of a double layered greenhouse film with an inflated air space, double walled polycarbonate at the ends and is covered with 70% aluminet. It has been retrofit with a water wall for cooling. There are two circulation fans that operate continuously and two exhaust fans on temperature control that cycle on to keep temperatures below 85F at the water wall in the summer. There are two small electric heaters to keep winter temps above 55F along with a ventless blue flame propane heater for the really cold nights. It's a very nice set up, fairly conventional, although it doesn't really explain his growing success.



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CULTIVATION

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Fertilizer. So what about that royal jelly, does he have some secret orchid food or snake oil that he's using? With his RO water blend, he had great success with the JR Peters fertilizer formulated for RO water, a 12-3-15-7Ca-2Mg formula with micronutrients and for the last six months he's used a K Lite fertilizer having the formula 12-1-1-10Ca-3Mg although he hasn't noticed a difference in his plants since the switch. He periodically gives them different fertilizers including MiracleGro to vary their diet. He gives the plants calcium nitrate and Epsom salts monthly and says the calcium nitrate gave his plants the biggest boost of any of the orchid fertilizers he's used. He doesn't use supplements like seaweed or fish emulsion on any regular basis. He waters his plants thoroughly and then mixes up a batch of fertilizer and comes back and fertilizes the prewetted plants with every watering. He has recently increased his fertilizer application rate from about 125 ppm nitrogen to 200 ppm nitrogen and is watching his plants to gauge their response.

Potting Mixes and Repotting. He addresses other aspects of orchid growing with a similar approach, observe the plants, make modifications if they don't look vibrant and fine tune the orchid culture. You know there are many choices when it comes to potting mixes, from inorganic stalite, clay pebbles, lava rock, the organic coco husks, several varieties of bark, sphagnum moss, and blends containing various degrees of each. James says when he first started out and would hear a speaker extol the virtues of this or that potting medium, he would run out and buy it and make wholesale changes. No mas. He is an Orchiata man now, blending in sponge rok at a 6 part Orchiata to 1 part sponge rok ratio. He uses the smallest size (Classic #9) for compots although he advises this small size lasts only a year or so in the pot. He blends the two medium grades together using large sizes for larger pots and smaller

sizes for smaller pots and finds that the bark seems to stay fresher for longer than other barks he's tried, although the pot life is an unknown at present. Suffice it to say that the plants are growing incredibly well now and he will notice when the mix becomes stale and must be refreshed.



Chemicals. James might break out the big guns on occasion, like when he had to resort to Safari to get rid of a scale infection on his cattleyas. But he relies most heavily on two household chemicals, isopropyl alcohol to dispatch the occasional mealybug and hydrogen peroxide to combat the bacteria that cause the fast moving rots. He doesn't experience fungal infections probably due to the buoyant air movement in the greenhouse. He inspects his plants (no surprise there!) regularly and takes immediate action if any problems are found (no surprise there either!). It's a great example of good cultural practices eliminating 90% of any potential pest and disease problems.

Culling. James is a student of Darwin and believes in natural selection. If a plant in his care struggles, even after changing its growing conditions in the hopes of finding its sweet spot, and the similar plant in the next pot grows well under those same conditions, guess which one stays in the greenhouse? Once James concludes the plant does not grow well for him, whether because it is a genetic weakling or his conditions simply do not agree with it, the plant is shown the door. It may be ruthless, but he selects his keepers based on vigor and flower quality and thereby gets the most blooms per square foot of growing area.

James got interested in orchids with an assist from his grandmother and perhaps she passed her green thumb on to him. He has gobbled up information about the many different aspects of orchid growing and honed his cultural skills. His real secret, and what elevates him from a great orchid grower to an exceptional orchid grower, is the troika of keen observation skills, attention to detail and the determination to grow the healthiest and happiest orchids.



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Orchid Adventures Miranda Orchids

How could it get any better than this, a three hour road trip each way sitting between Courtney Hackney and Keith Davis talking orchids... Oh yeah, if the destination is Miranda Orchids so you get to add Francisco and Cristina Miranda into the orchid mix. Francisco has talked to our club several times, he's a world renowned orchid taxonomist and Cristina handles the day to day nursery operations, and can she grow orchids! We got to feast our eyes on the prize Brazilian cattleya clones as well as sort through the seedling trays for this and that line bred cattleya species or interesting cattleya hybrid. So much fun, it probably should be illegal!



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
Ctsm. tenebrosum



Grower Suzanne Susko
Den. Peng Seng



Grower Sue Bottom
Aerth. Grandiose 'Shooting Stars' AM/AOS



Grower Linda Stewart
Renanetia Sunrise



Grower Yvonne & Bob Schimmel
Onc. Space Race 'Coco'



Grower Dick Roth
V. White Crane



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Leptotes bicolor



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
Phal. tetraspis 'C#1'

Terry Bottom



Grower Yvonne & Bob Schimmel
Mystacidium braebonae

Terry Bottom



Grower Linda Stewart
Nakamotoara Newberry Apricot

Terry Bottom



Grower Christie Peppani
Spiranthes lanceolata

Terry Bottom



Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Poor Roger 'Conquistador'

Terry Bottom



Grower Sue Bottom
Angcm. leonis

Terry Bottom

