

CLUB NEWS



Mark Reinke

June 6 SAOS Meeting

by Linda Stewart,
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staugorchidsociety.org](mailto:veep-membership@staugorchidsociety.org)

Welcome and Thanks.

President Bob Schimmel opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with 64 attendees. Bob thanked Jeanette Smith for organizing the refreshments and Dorianna for her festive cheese dish. He then

reminded all to drop a dollar in the blue jar when you enjoy the refreshments. We welcomed six guests along with three new members, Gloria MacDonald and John and Megan Porter. Membership Veep Linda Stewart delivered free raffle tickets for those with birthdays in June. New exhibitors to the show table received three raffle tickets. Bob encouraged all to vote for their favorite orchid on the show table.

Club Business. The next Ace Repotting Clinic will be on July 1 from 9 am til 1 pm. The Keiki Club is on summer hiatus until fall. Our July meeting is rescheduled due to the July 4th Holiday to Thursday evening, July 6. It will be an interactive program with Courtney as host. The topic will be "What's Wrong with My Orchid?" Starting now, please take pictures of your problem orchids and send them to Sue Bottom at sbottom15@gmail.com at least several days in advance, so we can use them for topics for discussion. If you really feel that you must bring the actual problem plant, we will have a table set up outside for that purpose.

Shows in Florida this month: CFOS/Orlando, June 10 and 11

T-shirts are available at the side table (\$20 for S to XL, and \$25 for XXL), along with potting supplies and fertilizers. Please e-mail Sue Bottom if you need potting supplies, special quantities or different items, and Sue will bring them to the next meeting for purchase.



Club Librarian Penny Halyburton brought *Dendrobium* and Its Relatives by Bill Lavarack for members to borrow along with the June copy of the AOS Magazine. Please remember to e-mail Penny (librarian@staugorchidsociety.org) with your book or DVD request and she will bring the item(s) to the next meeting.

Our AOS Representative, Suzanne Susko, noted that there are pictures in the current AOS magazine of orchids that are native to Long Island. There is an online seminar available on June 22. The topic is culture for the vanilla orchid. Registration is free to AOS members and further information is on the inside back cover of the June AOS Magazine.

Show Table Review: Courtney Hackney commented on the varied color forms of the *L. purpuratas* on the show table this month, which are native to Brazil and tend to bloom well this time of year. He also mentioned that this orchid can take temperatures close to freezing without damage. He did not discuss the dendrobiums, as that is the topic of our speaker. Courtney then moved on to the encyclias, most of which are quite fragrant. The *Encyclia tampensis* is native to Florida and was named *tampensis* because it was first found in the Tampa area. He has memories of them growing outside his window as a child in South Florida. Encyclias are often crossed with cattleyas and the cross is referred to as "epicats." There is also a cross referred to as "schomobocats" that was championed by Paul Storm and this hybrid does well in our Florida climate. Courtney then moved on to the unusual miniature *Macroclinium lezarzanum*, making note of the masses of tiny perfectly formed flowers on a very small plant. There were several *catasetums* and *catasetum* hybrids on the show table, with their wonderful and unusual flowers. Courtney also mentioned the *Vanda denisoniana*, which is extremely fragrant and tends to maintain more manageable size. The *Vanda Robert's Delight* is a large flowered vanda variety. There was a mounted *B. nodosa*, also known as "Lady of the Night" for its nighttime fragrance with unusually large flowers. Make sure to see the pictures of our Show Table orchids displayed at the end of this newsletter, and on our SAOS website.

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Upcoming Orchid Events

June

- 10-11 Central Florida Orchid Society Show
National Guard Armory
- 11 JOS Picnic
3611 Richmond St., Jax 32205
- 13 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Debrief 2017 JOS Show

July

- 1 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 6 **SAOS Meeting, 7 pm**
Rescheduled to Thursday from July 4th
Courtney Hackney and Sue Bottom
What's Wrong with My Orchid?
- Send pictures of problem plants for diagnosis & inclusion
in program - sbottom15@hotmail.com**

- 11 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Speaker TBA
- 22 SAOS Program – Repotting Orchids 2 pm
SE Branch of St. Johns County Library

August

- 1 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
George Hausermann, EFG Orchids
Orchid Growing Basics
- 3-5 Seventh Annual Cattleya Symposium
Sponsored by Odom's Orchids
Indian River Research & Education Ctr
Fort Pierce
- 5 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 8 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Speaker TBA

September

- 2 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic

- 5 SAOS Meeting, 7 pm
Basics of Orchid Hybridizing
Courtney Hackney, SAOS
- 12 JOS Meeting, TBA, 7 pm
Speaker TBA
- 16-17 Ridge Orchid Society Show
Lake Mirror Center, Lakeland
- 17 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Get the 'chids Ready for Winter
Bob and Yvonne Schimmel's Home
702 Wilkes Court, St. Aug 32086

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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SAOS Program. Mark Reinke of Marble Branch Farms spoke on the topic of “Decoding Dendrobiums” addressing mainly those types that can be grown in our climate here in Florida. The taxonomists kept all 1200+ dendrobiums in one genus group, which they then divided into 40 different “sections” of related species.

Dendrobiums come from a wide range of climates and parts of the world. Those from Japan and Korea have freezing winters while those from Australia and New Zealand can grow from sea level up to 10,000 ft. Some grow in areas where it rains daily during the summer season, followed by a cold and dry winter with the only moisture being the mist and dew.

Dendrobiums all share three basic characteristics:

- 1 - The inflorescence develops from the side nodes of the stem.
- 2 - They flower only on fully mature growths, with some exceptions.
- 3 - Dendrobiums often bloom repeatedly on old growths, sometimes over several years.

Section Phalaenanthae: These dendrobiums have moth-like flowers and are readily available. They prefer growing very bright and very warm, with a daytime temperature up to 98F and a 60F low. If nighttime temperatures get much lower than 60, the plants will quickly begin to defoliate. They require lots of moisture during the summer months, and a dryer period in winter. Although they are evergreen, they should not be fertilized during their dryer rest period.

Section Spatulata: The “antelopes” typically have twisted sepals and upright, twisted petals that suggest an antelope’s horns, and have a wider color range. These dendrobiums inhabit two different climate areas. The species native to Australia generally experience a very seasonal climate, with distinct wet and dry periods during the year; the New Guinea species hail from areas where there is moderate to heavy rainfall throughout the year, with little if any dry season. Understanding this difference is important to success with these dendrobiums, particularly as the most popular “den-phal” hybrids have the most seasonal species in their ancestry.

Section Dendrobium: The type species for this section is *moniliforme* that partially defoliates during the winter months. Some are pendent like *anosmum*, while others tend to grow vertically like *nobile*. They all bloom in the spring, some for as long as 2 months, and the nobiles in particular have been extensively hybridized so they come in a wide variety of colors. Stop fertilizing after August, keep them drier after Thanksgiving, and let them grow cooler in the winter for more vivid colors, particularly the yellow varieties.

Section Callista: These produce clusters of short lived flowers in the spring, so Mark describes them as azalea-like. They enjoy culture similar to the Dendrobium section. These include *farmerii*, *lindleyi* (*aggregatum*) and *jenkinsii*, which is a miniature version of *lindleyi*.

Section Latouria: The New Guinea Latouria dendrobiums produce long lasting flowers from several flower nodes under each leaf. They get bushy after a few years, growing well under year round warm conditions with even watering and light fertilization.

Section Formosae: This section includes the species *formosum*, *crumenatum*, *sanderiae*, and *dearii*, all of which are evergreen plants. These require year round watering and perfect drainage for best blooming.

Section Dendrocoryne: This section from Australia includes *speciosum*, which can get very large, and *kingianum*, that stays quite small and is fragrant, and the lesser known *tetragonum*. These enjoy very bright light and are very cold hardy.

Section Pedilonum: These dendrobiums are “gradually deciduous” so each growth can take two to three years to mature after which it loses its leaves, and then begins blooming. These continue to bloom for many years on leafless canes. These enjoy warm, moist conditions with a slightly drier winter rest. Species include *bullenianum*, *goldschmidtianum*, *bracteosum* and *smilliea*.

Section Calcarifera: The best known examples are the beautiful *amethystoglossum* and the blue, cool growing *victoriae-reginae* that bloom on mature growths and older canes.

Section Calypstrochilus: The group includes *glomeratum*, *chrysopterum* and *lawesii* that bloom several times a year from leafless canes.

Section Oxyglossum. Enjoy these beauties like *laevifolium*, and *cuthbertsonii* from afar. They require cooler temperatures than we can provide in Florida.

Meeting Conclusion: Harry announced the Members Choice Award, *Encyclia gracilis* x *adenocaula*, brought by Sue Bottom. Dianne Batchelder closed out the meeting with the raffle. Our thanks to those who stayed to move the tables and chairs and clean up the room. We do appreciate it when members go the extra mile to help return the Watson conference room to the way we found it before the meeting.

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



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July 6 Monthly SAOS Meeting What's Wrong with My Orchid?

On Independence Day, you will be celebrating the birth of this great nation with friends and family. Our normal first Tuesday meeting night falls on July 4th this year, so we moved the meeting night to the first Thursday, July 6th.

We are planning an open discussion about any problems you may be having with your orchids. Courtney Hackney and Sue Bottom will talk briefly about the types of problems growers typically face and then we will have a dialogue about the specific problems you might be having with your orchids.

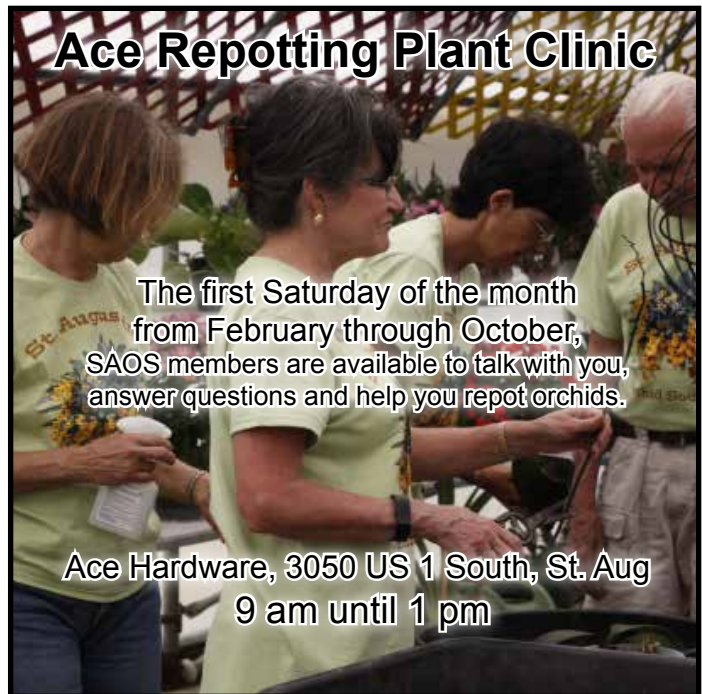
Here is how we are hoping it will work. You take a picture of your problem orchid anytime from now until several days before the meeting and send it to sbottom15@hotmail.com with a short description. Sue will compile these into a slideshow so the entire audience can see the issue. With audience participation, Courtney and Sue will diagnose the problem, talk about how it might be corrected and, more importantly, prevented in the future.

Pictures are preferred so the audience can easily see the issue, as well as to prevent spreading problems to other orchids in the conference room including those on the show table. We will set a table up outside you can set your problem plants on and they can be brought into the conference room one by one for discussion.

This is a great opportunity to talk orchids in a friendly, open forum. Members are invited to bring orchids to sell on the Sales Table. Bring your flowering orchids to exhibit on the Show Table. Don't be shy, first time exhibitors get 3 free raffle tickets. We will have our normal raffle at the end of the meeting. Friends and guests are always welcome!

Keiki Club – Summer Vacation

The Keiki Club is on summer vacation. Keep watering and fertilizing your plants and be on the lookout for pests and diseases. SAOS members are available at the monthly Ace repotting clinics if you have any questions or problems. We'll see you in September!



The first Saturday of the month from February through October, SAOS members are available to talk with you, answer questions and help you repot orchids.

Ace Hardware, 3050 US 1 South, St. Aug
9 am until 1 pm



INSPIRATION



Dendrobium Gatton Sunray

© Terry Botta '17



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Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@hotmail.com

Q1. Courtney Writes: This is the first C. Terry Bottom that bloomed, and is the one you kept while my greenhouse was being rebuilt. For some reason, it is sprouting new growths from up on the pseudobulbs; five so far. I did put a poo ball of Purely Organic on it, but I did that on most of my catts including other seedlings of C. Terry Bottom. I checked the other catts that you kept for me and none of them are doing the same thing.



A1. Guess one never knows what a Terry Bottom is going to do!

Q2. I've had this orchid for a long time. Last year it had 21 flowers, this year it has 40. Do you know what it is? I think it's the fertilizer I've been buying from SAOS.



A2. OMG, that is an incredible *Laelia purpurata* (now they call it a *Cattleya purpurata*). I think it's not the fertilizer, you found the perfect place for it and are growing it perfectly. I hope you'll be able to lug it to the show table this month!



Q3. I have recently started growing *Catasetums*. There are "blisters" or bumps mainly the upper leaf surface and they feel a bit rough. The plant has been growing in a west bathroom window with frosted glass on a humidity tray. The plan is to move outdoors to join the rest of my collection but I'm concerned it might have something contagious.

A3. Those small bumps are edema, little water blisters from when the plant takes up more moisture through the roots than it can shed via the leaves. It happens when watering late in the day when the nights turn cool or when watering on a gray or rainy day. I've never heard of a plant getting it from shower humidity, but I suppose it's possible. It won't do much damage to the plant, which looks great!



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Watering When the Humidity is Low

Courtney's Orchid Growing Tips

Once again, I find that I have misjudged how quickly my orchids are drying out. The humidity has been low for the past few months with lots of bright sunny days, but it still surprises me how quickly pots dry each year when these conditions

persist. This year, the wakeup call occurred when I began to repot cattleyas from a crowded bench. Despite watering earlier that morning, some of the pots were very dry. Clearly, I was not getting water into the interior of the bench. No matter what the time of year, it is important to thoroughly drench your orchids each time you water. The more plants you have, the more difficult this can be.

Many years ago, an old-time commercial grower demonstrated how his growers were instructed to water. It seemed silly at the time, but his method of watering at a sharp angle really does work. When cattleyas are placed on a bench and allowed to grow, their leaves will cover the surface above the pot to maximize light capture. Watering directly onto these plants from above allows water to flow around the pot and not wash through the medium. A good drenching means that the water flows generously through the pot. Watering at an angle can accomplish such a drench and soak the medium. Soaking the medium is necessary if you are going to deliver adequate water to roots.

Some growers have a formula they use to decide when it is time to water, which takes into account temperature, light, air movement and especially humidity.

Watering at night or late afternoon is strongly discouraged in most "how to" books. However, this is what happens in Nature and is practiced by many commercial growers, especially in the tropics. It also works for me here in Florida if I can meet the following criteria. The daily humidity is relatively low, my greenhouse is open with great air movement, and night temperature is above 60 F. I water late afternoon and plants are still wet in the morning when I water again with a dilute dose of fertilizer. As soon as I began the practice this spring my orchids immediately perked up. Once humidity gets high again, usually in May or early June, the rate of drying declines and I begin the normal early morning soaking practice. When humidity is high and air movement low do not water at night.

Obviously, if other media are being used, e.g. sphagnum, it is relatively easy to wet your medium. While it is easy to wet sphagnum, some media that hold water well most of the year may be hard to wet. Media (and soil too) become hydrophobic if they are dry too long under low humidity. Fir bark is vulnerable, especially if a white mold appears on the surface. Once this appears, it becomes almost impossible to adequately wet the bark and repotting is necessary.

My experiments using sphagnum showed me that tightly packing sphagnum in the pot worked best for that medium, at least under my growing conditions. If packed properly, water will actually sit on the surface and only slowly drain through the medium. If you are growing in sphagnum, which is a common medium for pot plants, be sure you flush the pot at least once a month or high levels of salts will accumulate. This may require two passes through the greenhouse or in your sink.

Air conditioning has or will become necessary throughout the South soon. If you grow inside under lights or in a window, you will experience what those of us growing in a greenhouse have been experiencing, low humidity and rapid drying of pots and plants.

If there are spikes with a few flowers left on your phals, consider cutting the spikes off. First bloomed orchids will appreciate this and start their growth cycle earlier if you remove remaining flowers.

You should already be applying fertilizer so that increased light levels can be converted into more roots and leaves by your orchids. Remember, fertilize weakly weekly, using just one quarter of the recommended fertilizer concentration. This remains one of the hardest things for most new orchid hobbyists. If you are using Nutricote, also known as Dynamite, no additional fertilizing is necessary, but continue to flush once a month.

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 June 2012.



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Phalaenthe and Spatulata Dendrobium Care

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Den. Agena Peach 'Peachy'

Two closely-related sections: Phalaenopsis and Spatulata are commonly known as the “phalaenopsis type” and “antelope type” Dendrobiums. The species interbreed readily and most of the popular dendrobium hybrids, sometimes called “den-phals”, are descended from these two groups. The “phalaenopsis” or “den-phal” type gets its name from the flowers’ resemblance to *Phalaenopsis* orchids; the plants produce arching sprays of flat, white or pink to red-purple flowers.



Den. tangerinum

The “antelopes” typically have twisted sepals and upright, twisted petals that suggest an antelope’s horns, and have a wider color range. Some hybrids between the two groups, especially those with a lot of “antelope” ancestry, are called “semi-phal”, as the flower characteristics are intermediate between the two.

These orchids are native to northern Australia, parts of New Guinea and Irian Jaya, where they inhabit two different climate areas. The species native to Australia generally experience a very seasonal climate, with distinct wet and dry periods during the year; the New Guinea species hail from areas where there is moderate to heavy rainfall throughout the year, with little if any dry season. Understanding this difference is important to success with these dendrobiums, particularly as the most popular “den-phal” hybrids have the most seasonal species in their ancestry.

Cultural requirements.

Except for the seasonal rainfall pattern in their habitats, other growing conditions are similar. These are generally upright plants, with leafy, tall, cylindrical pseudobulbs or “canes” that can grow to quite large size in some of the New Guinea species.

Den. canaliculatum and *Den. affine*, from Australia, are typically compact growers and their relatively small size is often used to reduce the plant size in

hybrids, but some of their cousins can produce canes 6 or more feet tall. Even the common “den-phals” one sees in nurseries and garden centers are often two or three feet tall; a well-grown plant of *Den. violaceoflavens* can reach 7 feet or more in height, without the long stem of flowers. Not many “windowsill” orchids among the species in these sections!



Den. lineale



“Den-phal” hybrids

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Temperature. All of the species in these two groups, and consequently their hybrids, are very warm-growing. Only *Den. crispilinguum* will grow under “intermediate” conditions, with night temperatures below about 60F; it grows at higher elevations in New Guinea, and is not common in cultivation. The rest require warm to even hot daytime temperatures, and warm (above 60F) nights, year-round. Exposure to cooler temperatures can result in rapid leaf-drop, so these dendrobiums need to be protected in cool weather. Even here in South Florida, our winter nights can be too cool for these orchids to remain outdoors.



Den. Agena San

Light. These are generally high-light orchids. Some of the species grow in full sun, and all want as much light as possible without burning the leaves. Most will do well under “vanda” light conditions.

Water. As indicated earlier, these orchids fall into two groups with respect to watering. The Australian species are native to areas with a distinct dry season. This group includes *Den. bigibbum*, *Den. phalaenopsis*, *Den. affine* (syn. *dicuphum*), *Den. canaliculatum* and *Den. undulatum* (syn. *discolor*). During the summer and early fall growing season, water generously and regularly, but gradually reduce water in the fall and keep the plants on the dry side through the winter and early spring. Humidity is fairly high during the dry season, so the plants do need a little water, but allow them to dry thoroughly between occasional light waterings. Most of the common “den-phal” hybrids are in this group.

The second group, which includes the New Guinea “antelopes”, come from habitats where rainfall is moderate to heavy all year, with only a slight reduction (if any) in moisture for a short period in late summer or early fall. These plants do not want a dry rest. Water regularly throughout the year, and make sure the potting medium drains well. Good air circulation is important. Species in this group



Den. sylvanum

include *Den. antennatum*, *Den. gouldii*, *Den. lasianthera*, *Den. lineale*, *Den. mirbelianum*, *Den. stratiotes*, *Den. strebloceras*, *Den. sylvanum*, *Den. tangerinum* and *Den. violaceoflavens*. Hybrids with mostly “antelope” ancestry require these same conditions.



Den. Blue Seas



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In all cases, be careful with water when the new growths begin, and keep water out of the tops of the new growths until they are two or three inches tall. The new growth is highly susceptible to rot if water is allowed to collect in the tip.



Den. Andy Cheah

Fertilizer. These dendrobiums benefit from regular feeding when they're actively growing. Any balanced, water-soluble fertilizer can be used, diluted according to package directions. Jack's Classic 20-20-20 is a good option; we feed once a week during the growing season. For the dry-season plants, reduce feeding in the fall and eliminate it completely when the plants are resting in the winter. Resume feeding when the plant begins to grow again.

Potting. Given the size of most of these orchids, pots are the best solution, and heavy clay pots are a necessity. Like many other dendrobiums, these have fine root systems and do best when somewhat underpotted, with their roots crowded in a container that seems too small for the size of the plant. To add weight to an obviously top-heavy plant, set the pot into a larger size and fill the space between pots with clean river gravel for weight. The potting medium must be open, well-aerated and very free-draining; we prefer coarse expanded clay and/or coarse charcoal. Some successful growers use charcoal exclusively. Until the plant is well-established in its container, you may have to stake the tall canes to keep everything upright.

Problems. These dendrobiums have few really major pest problems. Snails and slugs may damage the leaves and canes, and occasionally during wet weather you may see some minor damage from leaf-spotting fungal diseases.

In dry weather, mites can set up housekeeping on the underside of the leaves. Stale or decayed potting medium can lead to root problems, as with any potted orchids.

Reminder: all the orchids in these sections are very warm-growing. The plants must never be exposed to cool temperatures.

With good care, these orchids are capable of blooming multiple times from the same canes!



Den. Peter Shen x Den. Nida



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Plant Hormones and Apical Dominance

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@gmail.com

Plant hormones are naturally produced substances created in small amounts in one part of the plant that affect the growth of plant tissue in a different part of the plant. Auxin, the first plant hormone to be discovered, is present throughout the plant with the highest concentrations found in the actively growing parts, the shoot and root tips, young leaves, pollen and seed pods. Auxin produced in the growing tips of plants is transferred downward encouraging root formation, while cytokinins, another plant hormone that is produced in the roots, are transferred upward encouraging the formation of stems and leaves.

Apical Dominance. The auxin produced in the growing point of the plant, sometimes called the shoot apical meristem moves downward suppressing lateral bud formation. This phenomenon, called apical dominance, causes the main, central stem of a plant to grow more strongly than the side stems. When you pinch the top of an annual to encourage it to have a bushier shape, you remove the part of the plant that produces auxin that inhibits lateral branching, and then cytokinins become more dominant promoting the differentiation of tissue into side growth. Our orchids also exhibit apical dominance although differently depending on whether they are monopodial or sympodial orchids.

Monopodial Orchids. Apical dominance in monopodial orchids is very straightforward. Monopodial orchids, like vandas and phalaenopsis, grow upward, sprouting new leaves from the apex of the plant and sprouting roots and inflorescences from the axillary buds adjacent to the leaves. If the top of a vanda gets damaged, the apical tip and source of auxin is compromised. Without the suppressing effect of auxin, lateral buds are encouraged to sprout keikis from the leaf axils (axillary buds). Vanda growers sometimes let their too tall plants flop over on their sides, using the same principle to encourage the formation of keikis.

If you find yourself in the unfortunate situation of having a phal suffering from crown rot, your plant may still live to bloom another day. The crown rot destroys the apical tip of the plant. The cessation of auxin production means that lateral bud growth is no longer being suppressed, which will encourage the formation of a keiki from the base of the plant. Do not repot or disturb the roots during the several month period while you are waiting for the new plantlet to form. Simply remove the rotting tissue, disinfect with some hydrogen peroxide, water sparingly and wait. When the new plant is large enough to be self-sustaining, you can cut it away from the mother plant.

You may have seen a phal with an apical spike, in which the flower spike emerges from the central crown of a phalaenopsis rather from an axillary bud adjacent to the

leaves. This inflorescence consumes the apical tip of the plant so it can no longer grow more leaves or flower spikes from the plant apex. You will have to wait for a basal keiki to form for this plant to continue growing and flowering for you.

Sympodial Orchids. Sympodial orchids have a lateral growth pattern so they do not have a top and bottom like a monopodial orchid. In cattleyas, a new shoot arises from the apical renewal bud or eye on the basal, rhizomatous part. The new growth enlarges into a swollen stem, the pseudobulb, as it matures with an apical mainly leafy part. The apical tip of the pseudobulb is consumed when it forms the flower buds. Once the apical tip terminates through either through flowering or becoming damaged, auxin production ceases and lateral growth is no longer suppressed. This stimulates the growth of a renewal bud in which the reserve lateral meristem takes over to form another pseudobulb, repeating the process. The result is that the rhizome, which may appear to be continuous is derived from multiple meristems, different from a monopodial plant whose stem derives from a single meristem. In the sympodial dendrobium, the apical tip of the cane is consumed when it forms the terminal leaf and the inflorescences arise from the leaf axils.

The older parts of plants can get a new lease on life as long as there are viable eyes. The back bulbs can be set in a tray or empty pot, misted daily and potted up once the renewal eye starts to swell. Better yet, if you know you are going to divide a plant, you can cut the rhizome several months prior to repotting to encourage the dormant eyes to sprout prior to disturbing the root system. When the time comes to repot, the new plant growth has already begun and it will reestablish more quickly.

Supplements. There are many different auxin bearing rooting hormone powders and liquids of varying strengths and formulations that can be used to encourage root growth. Many orchid growers use seaweed on their orchids on a routine basis, partly because it contains hormonal plant growth regulators. Using natural substances like seaweed or synthetic rooting hormones for a month or two on newly repotted plants or plants with compromised root systems is a common practice for returning plants to health.

Apical dominance is not a plan for world domination, it is an adaptation to encourage upward growth that allows the plant to capture as much light as possible. In the event of damage, plants have a Plan B in which plant hormones trigger a growth response designed to ensure their continued existence. With healthy growing orchids, you should not need to supplement nature by supplying hormones from external sources. After you have stressed your plants in the repotting process or if your root system is ailing, a jolt of the rooting hormones, can help stabilize them.



ORCHID ADVENTURES



Orchid Adventures Redland International Orchid Festival

We made our annual pilgrimage to the Fruit and Spice Park in the Redland district. It's an orchid overload event with more than 60 vendors from all over the world. We celebrated Terry's birthday by buying lots of cattleya seedlings and some unusual orchids that you can only find at orchid shows. We looked at every booth, but we have our favorite vendors who went home with most of our cash! We had lots of fun with orchid friends on both sides of the booths, sellers and buyers. If you've never been to this show, put in on your bucket list!



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
Clo. Sandy Kasner



Grower Suzanne Susko
Den. prenticei



Grower Joanne Stygles
Neofinetia falcata
var. Suruga Fukurin



Grower Tom & Dottie Sullivan
B. nodosa



Grower Linda Stewart
Ctsm. splendens



Grower Linda Syewart
Lc. Sarah Sears



Grower Sue Bottom
Lc. Indigo Mist 'Cynosure'



SHOW TABLE



Grower Courtney Hackney
C. purpurata var. cernua



Grower Sue Bottom
E. Patricia Sander



Grower Joanne Stygles
Macroclinium lejarzanum 'Gold Country'



Grower Joanne Stygles
Neofinetia falcata var. Kyobijin



Grower Ken Weeks
C. Sea Breeze



Grower Sue Bottom
Lc. Spotted Doll x C. guttata alba

