

Deep South Orchid Society Newsletter

www.deepsouthorchidsociety.com

July 2022

July Meeting

Date: Sunday 10 July 2022

Activity: Tip Talk - Share Your Orchid Growing Tips

Place: Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens, **Picnic Pavilion**, 2 Canebrake Rd., Savannah, GA

Time: 1:00 pm

Hosting: Caroline Hopkinson

This month we are going to share our orchid growing tips. Write your tips down and bring them to the meeting.

There will be Show and Tell.

DSOS Meetings At A Glance

14 August 2022

TBD

Hosting: Brenda Rithner,
Hilda Sukman and
Tina Gioco

11 September 2022

TBD

Hosting: Ginny Albro, Becky
Bradley and Mina Smith

9 October 2022

TBD

Hosting: ??????? (See page
2)



C. Leodigglossa x C. schilleriana coerulea, Owner:

Jaime Yu Photo Courtesy of Jaime Yu

A Volunteer(s) Needed To Host October Meeting

I have nothing against the month of October but I skipped it when I made up the hospitality sign up sheet. Please email me at karenschuck@yahoo.com or see me at the July meeting if interested in hosting.

Too Many Orchids and Not Enough Space. Consider the Greenhouse

All members are welcome to add their orchids to our greenhouse at the CGBG.

They need to be pest and disease free when you bring them to the greenhouse. The orchids will be cared for and in return we ask that you volunteer in the greenhouse on a monthly basis.

See Steve Tacopina at the meetings or text him at 603-533-8251 to coordinate when to bring in your orchids.

Volunteering In The Greenhouse - A Recap

Have 10 minutes or more of free time, come to the greenhouse and help out.

Here are some of the things you can do.

Please sign in at the Visitor's Center so they know that you are there.

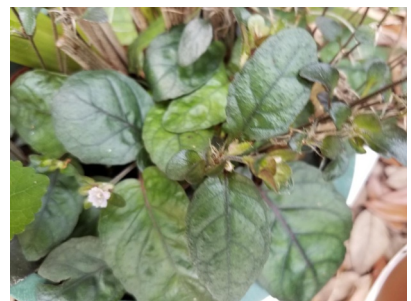
Pick up dead leaves and flowers on the benches. If you see a snail get rid of them too.

Weed the pots and benches. Don't worry if you can't get the roots.

Pull weeds in the gravel under the benches and in the aisles. The roots come up pretty easy.

Rake or pick up debris in the aisles.

Clean pots.



Common Weeds Found in the Greenhouse

In The Greenhouse This Month



July is for Fireworks



Top Center Going Clockwise
Dendrobium anosmum
Cynodes piliatum
Phalaenopsis NOID
E. Thomas Fennell 'Hamlyn' AM/AOS
Dendrobium Species
Bulbophyllum Hybrid
Vanda Cherry Blossom
Bulbophyllum frostii

The Importance of Fresh Air

Reprint of Give Us Air! by Sue Bottoms from the July 2015 Orchids Magazine

The importance of fresh air to orchids is possibly the least appreciated aspect of growing orchids. All the orchid books tell you to ensure there is air movement around your orchids. For years I kept adding fans to my growing area thinking I was satisfying this basic requirement. But orchids do not want recirculated stale air, they want to be bathed in fresh air, particularly the wafting breezes they get when they are outdoors.

The first time Ruben Saulea of Ruben in Orchids talked to our orchid club, we talked about how I could improve my orchid growing. At that time, we had the traditional greenhouse with a wet wall at one end, exhaust fans at the opposite end and polypropylene covering all the other surfaces. Ruben took one look at the greenhouse and said rip out the water wall and replace the side wall with stucco metal lath, keep the vents open at either end of the greenhouse and open the top vent. This allowed free movement of air throughout the greenhouse during the growing season. A retractable curtain closes off the stucco metal lath during cold weather, but otherwise the plants are always bathed in fresh air. That was the year the greenhouse exploded with new growth and an incredible display of blooms.

I struggled trying to grow vandas in the hoop house covered with greenhouse film with doors at either end. When Rafael Romero of Plantio La Orquidea looked at our growing set up, he told us to rip out the film on the side wall and replace it with stucco metal lath and a retractable curtain. Voilà, the vandas bloomed freely and the incidence of leaf spotting and rots was greatly diminished. During the summer growing season, the vandas are now all moved out into summer shade structures that allow free air on all four sides. The vandas grow like weeds in the fresh breezes.

This demand for fresh air makes sense if you think about how many orchids evolved from understory terrestrials to epiphytes. Many types of orchids left the forest floor to grow high in the canopy on the trunks or branches of tall forest trees where more light was available and where winds were stronger than on the ground.

Wafting breezes offer many benefits to your orchids:

Fresh moving air improves gas exchange through leaf pores and around the rhizomes and roots, a process that is required for the plant's metabolic processes.

Fresh moving air cools the leaves during warm weather when high light and high temperatures could otherwise cause the plant to overheat and restrict its metabolic processes, and possibly result in leaf sunburn.

Fresh moving air helps distribute warm and cold air so extremes in air temperature will not harm the vegetation.

Fresh moving air helps dry excess moisture from the leaves so bacteria and fungi will not proliferate.

Of course, air movement and humidity must be in balance. in a low-humidity environment, excess air movement will cause more evaporation and possibly result in dehydration. in a high-humidity environment, air movement is a must to prevent orchid disease problems.

During the cooler months, your orchids are probably in their winter homes inside. You can group your plants on humidity trays filled with pebbles to hold extra water after watering and provide some humidity around the plants. a fan blowing a gentle breeze around your plants is good. When the temperature is right, you can open a window by your plants and let them get a taste of the fresh air they crave.

When warm weather returns, try to find a location outdoors where your orchids can get loads of fresh air. a screened porch is great, particularly for phalaenopsis that want shadier conditions and a covered roof where water won't accumulate in the crown of the plant causing rot. Hanging your orchids under a tree where they'll receive dappled light and fresh breezes 24 hours a day will result in an incredible summer growth surge, particularly if you ramp up your watering and fertilizing schedules to match the increased plant vigor.

Proper air movement is just as important to your orchid as providing the proper amount of water and light to your plant. It is also the least appreciated aspect of orchid growing. If you struggle with fungal and bacterial problems on your plants, you can apply chemicals to treat the symptoms. However, in many instances, proper air movement would have prevented the problem from arising in the first place.

— Sue Bottom started growing orchids in Houston in the mid-1990s after her husband Terry built her first greenhouse. They settled into St. Augustine, Florida, Sue with her orchids and Terry with his camera and are active in the St. Augustine Orchid Society, maintaining the society's website and publishing its monthly newsletter. Sue is also a member of the AOS Editorial Board (sbottom15@hotmail.com).

Board Highlights

The Board met on 12 June 2022 and will meet again on 10 July 2022. Time and place TBD.

Treasurer's Report

As of 12 June 2022:

General Fund:	\$9899.00
Greenhouse Fund:	\$ 257.40
Speaker Fund:	\$ 788.20

Joseth Scott will move \$1000.00 from the General Fund to the Speaker's Fund



June Board Meeting Photo courtesy of Cheryl Holesovsky

Greenhouse

Greg Mosely and his team installed the shade cloth.

Greg also reported that the cool wall needs more work. The wall is soggy from the water running constantly and the fans are not running enough to prevent the soggy. Greg wants to adjust the fans to fix this problem.

Odds and Ends

The Membership List is available for members upon request.

The board had a discussion on making a donation to the Judging Center. The decision was tabled to next meeting to find out more information.

Jacksonville Orchid Society invited us to their show and we invited them to ours.

Jacksonville Orchid Society and DSOS will coordinate on speakers. Fred Clarke is coming to Jacksonville Orchid Society in October 2022.

Events Calendar

9 July 2022 - AOS Judging, 1:00 pm Mershon Hall, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Atlanta, GA

5-6 August 2022 - International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA), Hilton Garden Inn, Apopka FL

13 August 2022 - AOS Judging, 1:00 pm Mershon Hall, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Atlanta, GA

10 September 2022 - AOS Judging, 1:00 pm Mershon Hall, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Atlanta, GA

October 2022 - Fred Clarke speaking at Jacksonville Orchid Society

7-9 October 2022 - Redland International Orchid Festival, Fruit and Spice Park, Homestead, FL

The Final Word - Happy 4th of July

I hope everyone has a fun, safe 4th of July. Enjoy your family and friends. See you on 10 July.

Board of Directors



Guaritonia Henry Wan from the Greenhouse

President	David Holesovsky
Vice President	Jenni Brodie
Secretary	Karen Schuck
Treasurer	Joeth Scott
Member at Large	Kim Owens
Member at Large	Steve Tacopina
Past President	Greg Mosely