



THE BULLETIN

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May, 2018

jaxorchidsociety.org

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President's Report for April 2018

I hope to see a lot of you at the picnic. It is a chance to talk to our members and for others to learn more about you and what you would like the JOS to do. The JOS picnic has always been one of the high points of the year for me. The food, fellowship, and orchid auction make for a fun day. We want to see ALL members and their guests.

The picnic organizer and VP Art Russell has sent out detailed instructions regarding the date and time of the picnic. He has also published extensive instructions about how to get there. Set aside this Sunday, May 6, from 12-3pm, for a good time, and go home with a few new orchids.

Recently, older members and friends have come to visit or called me. I have been made aware of some of the thoughts and concerns of older members. We have a lot of members that live long distances from our meeting place. Middleburg, Macclenny, Yulee, Callahan, St Augustine, and Amelia Island are some of the more distant places where members live. A lot of older members quit coming due to night vision problems that develop with age. Some members only come during summer months when days are a little longer and night vision is not as much a factor. Nights when weather is really bad and the trip home may be adventurous even for those of us without night vision problems are also of concern. We try to please everyone but often find ourselves not pleasing some. We could meet earlier but that would be a problem for those who work. We could meet on a weekend but that would interfere with the sports fans. Keeping meetings as they are is ok if we keep an eye out for the weather and finish the meeting earlier on bad weather days, but even that has its detractors. It would be very beneficial to hear your opinion about what we should do. Any positive comment will be welcome.

Harry

Minutes

April 10, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by our president, Harry McElroy.

Harry mentioned that the President's Star should be given all members for who volunteered during the March Show.

Art Russell announced the need for a Committee Chairman and the new members make this happen.

During the June meeting, we will discuss themes for the 2019 Show. We will vote at the meeting.

Treasurer's report and minutes were accepted; Mike Heinz motioned, Art Russell seconded and all were in favor.

Harry covered:

- 1) The need for a new membership secretary.
- 2) Celia McElroy has taken over hospitality.
- 3) Sunday, May 6th, the JOS Picnic 12-3pm. Both steak and pulled pork are free. Pot luck sign-up being passed around.
- 4) Meeting program changes. Up for membership vote, Lois Rasmussen suggested an email vote for the change. Harry agreed.
- 5) Dorothy VanBrocklin needs dues paid by the end of the month.

New Members:

Anna Parrish
Deborha Courtney
Luba Khmykov
Dr. Scott Trenor and Mrs Jill Trenor
Lorraine Conover
Inci Willard
Heather Whitmarsh
Jessie Doutz
Fran and Pat Henderson

Sunshine: Marv Ragan is doing good from cataract surgery.

Harry announced show table pictures from the March meeting.

We broke for the hospitality table - Carol and Bill donated the cake for the meeting.

Lois Rasmussen started the hands-on potting clinic. Harry McElroy, Margie Johnson, Art Russell gave demo as well.

Annalee McPilomy called the raffle table.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernice Dunn, Secretary

Officers

President..... Harry McElroy
First Vice President..... Lois Rasmussen
2nd Vice President..... Art Russell
Treasurer..... Stacey Schwab
Secretary..... Bernice Dunn
Membership Secretary..... Bonnie Myers
Director..... Frank Warnken *2018*
Director..... Jerry Fowler *2017-2019*
Director..... Rob Stomfay-Stitz *2018-2020*
Immediate Past President..... John Van Brocklin

Standing Committees

Newsletter Editor Tracy Curato
Librarian Mary Malouin
Raffle Tickets..... Annalee McPhilomy
Sunshine..... Beth Strate
Hospitality..... Beth Strate
Website..... Jane and Art Russell
Photographer..... Art Russell *2010-*
Show Chairman..... Art Russell
Meeting Show Table..... Jeff Sturgis

RE-POTTING CLINIC

Saturday, May 5

Saturday, June 2

Hagan Ace Hardware

12501 San Jose Blvd, Mandarin

10am-1pm

We need help at our re-potting clinic
each month!

If you're new, come and help and learn
along the way!

2018 JOS Speaker Schedule

The 2017 Speaker Schedule is being constantly revised. Here's the current picture of the next couple of months:

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 9, 2018	Houston Sneed, Horticultural Assistant at Jacksonville Zoo	He will speak about an orchid research project he is leading at the zoo.
February 13, 2018	Marv Ragan	Encyclias
March 13, 2018	No speaker. We discussed the 2018 JOS Orchid Show	
April 10, 2018	Potting clinic and time to ask questions of our members	
May 6, 2018	<i>Annual JOS Picnic - NO MAY MEETING</i>	
June 12, 2018	Carlos Cahiz, Owner, OFE	Topic to be determined
July 10, 2018	Ivan Portillo, Owner, Ecuagenera	Topic to be determined
August 14, 2018	Francisco Miranda	Orchids from Brazil
September 11, 2018	Phillip Hamilton, Breden Orchids	Topic to be determined
October 9, 2018	Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids	ABCs of Orchid Nutrition
November 13, 2018	Fred Clark, SVO	Catasetum Culture
December 2018	<i>Christmas Party! Date To Be Determined</i>	

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report for April will be distributed in the June newsletter.

JOS Picnic

The 2018 JOS Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, May 6, beginning at noon. Like previous years, we'll follow our meal—Eric Cavin's BBQ pork or steak—with an auction about an hour and a half later.

As before, Eric and Margaret Cavin are hosting the picnic at their home. If you need the address, please respond to the newsletter email and we will send it to you.

Everyone had a wonderful time last year and I can only imagine this year will be just as much fun!

Please bring a side dish or two!

We ask that you bring a table and chairs, and, if possible, a canopy. We will group canopies and tables together and move them with the shade.

Plastic tableware will be provided, but you may wish to bring your own. If you will be eating steak, you may want



Auction Information!

If you're planning to provide orchids for the auction, please follow the guidelines below:

- ⇒ The plant must be in bloom and clean of insects, etc.
- ⇒ If the plant is not in bloom, it must be a named orchid and have an AOS certification. It must also be clean of insect, etc.
- ⇒ You must complete the registration form for your orchid
- ⇒ You must attach a tag with a minimum bid for your orchid
- ⇒ Contact Stacey Schwab (or send email to info@jaxorchidsociety.org) with a list of the orchids you plan to auction.

Please use the interactive **Auction Plant Seller Sheet** at the following link:

<http://jaxorchidsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/AuctionPlantsSellerSheetInteractive.pdf>

American Orchid Society

Seasonal Orchid Care Checklists

The American Orchid Society (AOS) provides a wealth of information on their website (see <http://www.aos.org>) for members and non-members alike. If you are not a member, please consider joining as you have the interest and opportunity.

Monthly Checklist for May and June

Cattleya



The last of the spring-flowering types - those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can

still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.



Paphiopedilum

The Paphiopedilum Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in Paphiopedilum fairrieianum-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the

lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

Phalaenopsis

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new



medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

March Show Table



Laeliocattleya Orange Delight
Harry & Celia McElroy
1st Place — Cattleya



Cattleya Nold
Annalee McPhilomy
2nd Place — Cattleya



Guarthroleya Haddie Notch 'Paradise'
Art & Jane Russell
3rd Place — Cattleya



Cymbidium Mimi 'Lucifer'
Harry & Celia McElroy
1st Place — Cymbidium

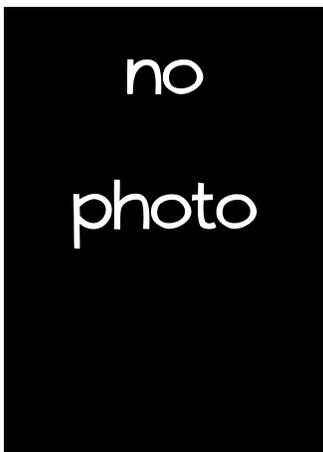
March Show Table



Oncidium splendidum
Art & Jane Russell
1st Place — Oncidium



Oncidium NoID
Dr. Rahaim
2nd Place — Oncidium



Dendrobium Adrastrva
Harry & Celia McElroy
1st Place — Dendrobium

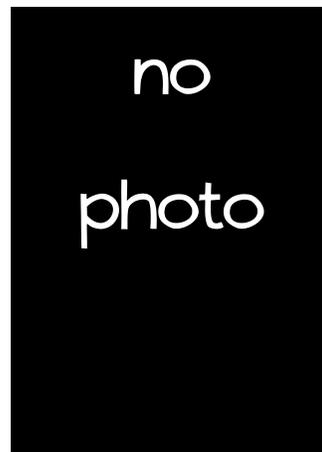


Dendrobium nobile - Yellow
Art & Jane Russell
2nd Place — Dendrobium

March Show Table



Chiloschista 'Freckle Face'
Frank Warnken
1st Place — Misc



Catasetum NOLD
Art Whittier
2nd Place — Misc

Galeopetalum
Lois Rasmussen
3rd Place—Misc



Paphiopedilum rothschildianum
Bob Gafney
1st Place — Paphiopedilum



Paphiopedilum laevagatum
Lois Rasmussen
2nd Place — Paphiopedilum

March Show Table



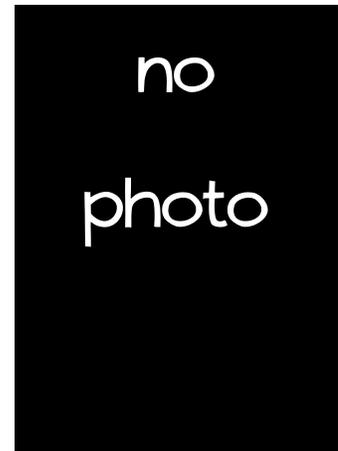
Phalaenopsis Fuller's Berry Burgandy
© Art Russell, 2018

Phalaenopsis Fuller's Berry Burgandy
John Van Brocklin
1st Place — Phalaenopsis



Phalaenopsis lobbii fma flavilabia
© Art Russell, 2018

Phalaenopsis lobbii fma flavilabia
Lois Rasmussen
2nd Place — Phalaenopsis



Phalaenopsis NoID
Dr. Rahaim
3rd Place — Phalaenopsis

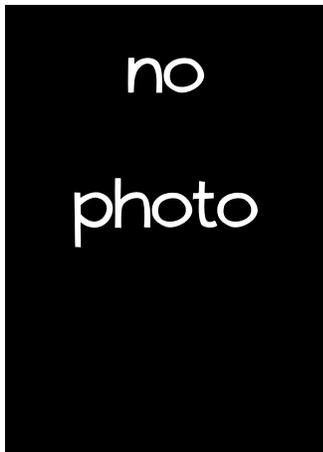
March Show Table



Pleurothallis perijaensis
John Van Brocklin
1st Place — Species



Oeoniella polystacays Madagascar
Art & Jane Russell
2nd Place — Species



Maxillaria richii (Embree)
Lois Rasmussen
3rd Place — Species

March Show Table



(*Neofinetia falcata* Toyo Yakura X *Ascocentrum christensonia* 'Orchid Classic')
Lois Rasmussen
1st Place — Vanda



Ascocentrum miniatum
Unknown
2nd Place — Vanda

April Show Table



Laeliocattleya Irene Finney 'Spring's Best'
Larry McNally
1st Place — Cattleya

People's
Choice

Cattleya skinneri var alba 'Cherokee'
Art Whittier
2nd Place — Cattleya



Potinara Love Passion 'Island Romance'
Frank Warnken
3rd Place — Cattleya

April Show Table



Cymbidium Dorothy Stock Still 'Forbidden Fruit'
Harry & Celia McElroy
1st Place — Cymbidium

Cymbidium Dorothy Stock Still 'Forbidden Fruit'
© Art Russell, 2018



Dendrobium Lucky Charms
Harry & Celia McElroy
1st Place — Dendrobium

Dendrobium Lucky Charms
© Art Russell, 2018



April Show Table



Brassostela Tarantula 'Sweet Orange'
Lois Rasmussen
1st Place — Oncidium



Oncidium sphacelatum
John Van Brocklin
2nd Place — Oncidium

Paphiopedilum rothschildianum
James Arnold
1st Place — Paphiopedilum



April Show Table



Leptodes bicolor
Lois Rasmussen
1st Place — Species



Eria stellata
John Van Brocklin
2nd Place — Species



What I Am Potting in These Days

By Harry McElroy

Both of my grandparents lived on 80-acre farms in Arkansas. The farms provided some income from cash crops but the life had one great advantage. The food on the table was plentiful and the quality was the best I have ever had the pleasure of eating. The one essential element for feeding the thriving family of eight was the vegetable garden. One of my grandmothers coined the phrase that applies to anyone attempting to grow any plant. "Success in gardening is directly proportional to the dirt under your fingernails."

Grandma's wise observation is so very applicable to the orchid grower/lover. You may grow a new orchid for a while in whatever potting material it came in – but in time, the health of the orchid will depend on repotting the plant in a media that matches your growing habit and the plant's needs. You will really need to get some dirt, or potting media, under your fingernails if you want to be a good grower.

My latest venture in potting media centers on cypress mulch. Not a cypress blend, but 100% cypress mulch mixed with my own concoction, as I call the other ingredients. My tests compared seedling cymbidiums of the same size from the same flasks in different media including Orchia. My concoction gave at least equally good results and I believe better results than anything else I have tried.

The other ingredients - are a mix of the following:

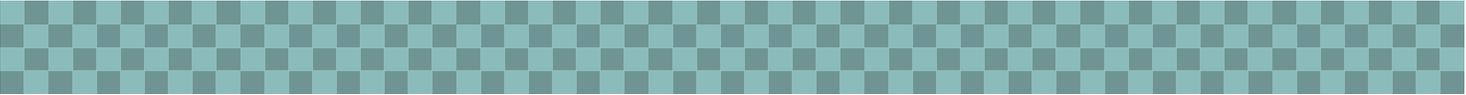
- 2 parts coconut coir
- 2 parts perlite (the coarser the better)
- ½ part Purely Organic fertilizer
- ¼ part granular gypsum
- ¼ part crushed seashells (wash well before using or skip)

Mix all five ingredients well when dry then slowly moisten to fairly wet. Place in a dry place and let dry. The mix seems to ferment and gives off a little heat. Use after it dries.

The cypress mulch - The people who make the mulch seem to have a problem getting consistency in particle size. It may be that the grinder blades that makes the mulch get dull as they are used and the result is that some bags may be coarse and some fairly fine. Select the bags carefully, most are transparent, and you can see how coarse or fine each bag is.

If you are potting vandas, get a really coarse looking bag; cattleyas, a fairly coarse bag; paphs, phrags, and cymbidiums need as fine a bag as you can find. If you find coarse pieces in a bag that looked fine when you bought it, either put the big pieces aside and save for cats or vandas or put the big pieces in the bottom of the pot.

After opening the bag, use the mulch as quickly as possible. Store unused portions in a sealed container to prevent it from drying out and dry rotting.



Local sources of materials - I use a brand of cypress called "Estate Mulch" which is 99% cypress. I buy it from Prestige Mulch located at 6330 Blanding Blvd, Jacksonville Florida 32244. Lately Lowe's has a 100% cypress mulch in stock. It looks good but I have not used it.

Select Coconut coir that has no salt and no heavy metals. If you use salty coir, the procedures in this article will not work. I am using coconut coir (CHC) from a hydroponic store, Growers Choice South, 8535 Baymeadows Rd Ste 13, Jacksonville FL. (904) 647-7156. CANA Brand CHC is acceptable but gypsum should be added to the mix. Complete COCO was better but only because it has gypsum already added. Complete COCO is not available in Jacksonville anymore.

Repotting - The mulch packs into the pot better if it is wet when placed in the pot. I soak mine at least an hour before I use it. I place a wet five gallon bucket of mulch in one end of a concrete mixing pan and the prepared "other ingredients" in the other end (about 3 gal of other).

- When potting paphs, phrags, and cymbidium seedlings, I use a lot of the other ingredients and a lot less mulch. Paph, phrag and seedling mix looks very dirty when it goes into the pot.
- Mature cymbidiums, cattleyas, and phalaenopsis get potted in dirty looking mix with larger chunks for the cattleyas and phalaenopsis.

It seems impossible to determine exact ratios of mulch to other ingredients. What particle size you buy will determine the ratio, but you will find that you can use the mix suggested here after you get the feel of how to mix it. How much you water and how much fertilizer you use should also be considered.

Remember, cypress mulch is made is made for flowerbeds – not orchid pots. You can use it for orchids, I do, you just need to learn to make adjustments. It only takes a little common sense to make the adjustments. If you cannot make the adjustments, go on and pay \$35 for a bag of Orchiata. I will stick to \$2 a bag cypress mulch. Both should grow fine.

Thinking of another of my grandmother's sage observations about growing Bermuda grass: "the secret to getting Bermuda grass is to get a small patch started in your garden, then try to kill it with a garden hoe."

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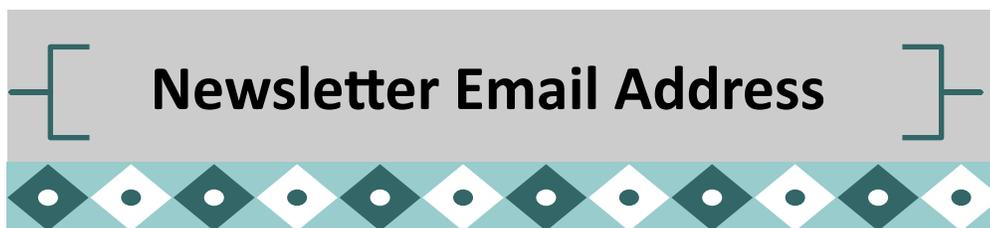


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Nguyen	So	So Orchids 210 Brigadoon Pt.	Orlando	FL 32835		so.orchid@gmail.com
Nguyen	Thanh	Springwater Orchids		FL	321-223-6173	thanhnguyen79@earthlink.net



If you have an article, story, or photos you would like to feature in the newsletter, or need to update an email address, please email those to jaxorchidnews@gmail.com. This ensures nothing gets lost in a personal email account.



Dinner Before the Meeting!

A number of JOS members meet for dinner before the monthly meeting. We meet at “**The Derby House**” on Park Street, in the Riverside District of Jacksonville, at 5pm. Please feel free to join us— We look forward to seeing you.

See the link on GoogleMaps:

<http://goo.gl/maps/VQzAI>

JOS Picnic and Auction

Sunday, May 6

Noon

Eric & Margaret Cavin’s Home

More info on page 4