



September 2005 - Volume 2 Number 9

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President's Message

Dear fellow orchidists,

This month our thoughts and prayers are with our fellow orchidists in southern Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama as they begin to rebuild their lives after the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. I know that most of us are considering ourselves very lucky here in South Florida, in spite of the felled trees, flooding and extensive power outages that we suffered. Our sympathies and condolences are certainly with our members that have suffered local losses or have friends and family in the Gulf States. We wish everyone a smooth recovery.

Although it seems a very long time ago, it was great to see such a fantastic turnout at our August meeting! In spite of the horrific hot weather, many of you were in attendance for Frank Smith's program. He certainly showed us beautiful slides on Paphiopedilum species and hybrids along with invaluable growing tips.

Speaking of heat – the hottest thing going in the coming month are our Speakers Day tickets! Get yours now by calling the office. It's going to be an incredibly exciting day for all of us.

I would like to thank all of our exhibitors for the outstanding plant table at the last meeting. You all should be commended for growing such wonderful orchids and, also, for bringing them in for us to enjoy. Particularly thanks to Richard Brandon for the plant table review and congratulations to Judy Mezey on the Silver Medal her beautiful Ascda. Ken Kone 'Confetti' garnered.

I'm looking forward to seeing everybody at our September meeting for another outstanding evening.

Sincerely,
Robert Fuchs
President

Program: "The Fascinating and Ever-Surprising Bifoliate Cattleyas of Brazil"

presented by Luiz Hamilton

This month we've arranged for a speaker that can certainly tell us everything we want to know about Brazilian Cattleyas.

Luiz has been an aficionado of the Brazilian Bifoliate Cattleyas since age nine, when he cultivated *Cattleya violacea* in a lath house, built by his father, in the backyard of their home in Manaus, Amazon, Brazil.

The vast majority of bifoliate cattleyas are endemic to Brazil and, in his lecture; Luiz will review all of these, including *Cattleya walkeriana* – a unifoliate and bifoliate *Cattleya*. He will also cover the introgressive "hybrid" populations, habitat climatic conditions, variations of color forms, and valuable, practical cultivation tips for this fascinating group. Luiz will concentrate on growing advice for the greenhouse, window-sill or lath house of the North American grower.

As a special treat, our raffle table will be provided by R. F. Orchids, Inc. While known primarily for their vandaceous plants, R.F. has also received numerous America Orchid Society awards on Cattleyas. So look for some fine quality *Cattleya* species in the raffle.

This will be a "not-to-be-missed" lecture for those who love exotic Cattleyas – The Queen of Orchids (...and who does not?!)

Michael Coronado

Program Chairman

UPCOMING AREA SHOWS

The Florida West Coast Orchid Society and the Florida Botanical Gardens present the "Orchids of Autumn" annual show and sale. The event is Friday Sept.30, noon till 4pm...Sale only, Sat. Oct. 1st, 9am till 5pm... Show & Sale, Sun. Oct 2nd, 10am till 4pm...

The location is Florida Botanical Gardens, 12175 125th Street, N. Largo (next to Heritage Park). There will be a \$2.00 admission. There will be hourly door prize drawings There will be orchid culture experts to answer questions. For more information, contact Bill at 727-392-6864

IN MEMORY OF F. LEROY OWEN

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of F. LeRoy Owen. F. LeRoy Owen was President of SFOS from 1953-1955. He died on 8/16/05.

Thank You

A big thank you to the donors of the plant table for the fabulous orchids – DeLeon's Bromeliads, Inc for the Paphiopedilum plants and R. F. Orchids, for the blooming plants.



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SFOS SPEAKERS' DAY 2005

SFOS will host its annual Speakers' Day on Sunday, October 2, 2005 at the Fire Fighters' Memorial Building, 8000 N.W. 21 Street, Miami. We have a wonderful panel of highly respected speakers presenting an enjoyable and educational program. Speakers' Day also includes AOS judging and SFOS Ribbon Judging (all points for Ribbon Judging will be doubled for this event). Plants for judging must be registered by 10:00 A.M. and can be picked up starting at 12:00 P.M. Speakers' Day has AOS approval for judging seminar credits as well. Several of our speakers will have plants to sell. Sales will be open only to registered seminar participants. This year's speakers are:

David Banks (Australia) will speak on lesser-known genera in the Sarcanthinae. David P. Banks has been growing orchids for over 30 years, having started at the age of five. David has had over 200 papers relating to orchids published since 1980. David lectures extensively throughout Australia and overseas at various workshops, society meetings and Orchid Conferences. He has already conducted ten successful international lecture tours. David's first book, *Tropical Orchids of Southeast Asia*, was published in 1999. His second book, *Growing Orchids*, was published by Kangaroo Press (an imprint of Simon & Schuster) and released in August 2001. It is now out-of-print, having sold out in less than two years. His third effort, the first of a planned series of four instalments – *Orchids of Australia, Volume 1* by John J. Riley and David P. Banks was released in October 2002, being published by University of New

Continued on page 3



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South Wales Press. David wrote the orchid text for the major botanical opus, *Flora* – published in 2003. His latest book, *Orchid Growers Companion* was released in early 2005 through Timber Press.

Art Chadwick (Virginia, USA) will speak on large-flowered *Cattleyas*. Chadwicks, the orchid business he founded in 1989 with his father who has been growing orchids since 1945, currently operates nine greenhouses of orchids selling retail, wholesale, and boarding over 10,000 plants at their Powhatan nursery. Last year, they opened a retail orchid store in the museum district of Richmond. The company was also featured in the March 2005 issue of *Southern Living* magazine. Chadwicks has named *Cattleya* hybrids after many high profile women including the wives of the last three U.S. Presidents, as well as a Vice President, a Prime Minister (Margaret Thatcher), and the late Princess Diana. In most cases, Art has personally presented the flowers to the honored recipients. Art is the narrator of the popular video, 'Orchids are for Everyone' and his orchid advice column appears monthly in the *Richmond Times Dispatch*. He spoke at the 2005 World Orchid Conference in France. Art's father is an authority on *Cattleya* species having written 28 articles for the *American Orchid Society* and a book entitled *Classic Cattleyas* to be released Jan 2006.

Alex Hirtz (Ecuador) will speak on habitats and new species in Ecuador. Alexander Hirtz is currently president of *Harmony Tours*; a travel agency specialized in eco-tourism, sport fishing and orchid safaris in Ecuador and Peru. He is also Regional President for South American of the *Species Survival Commission* for orchids of

Continued on next column



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the *IUCN* since 1999, President of the *Latin American Orchid Council* since 1992, Andean representative to the *Conservation Committee* of the *American Orchid Society* since 1992, President and co-founder of the *Botanical Garden of Quito*, President of the *Botanic Foundation of the Andes* and *Fundacion Tropica 2000*, vice-president of the *Network of Botanic Gardens of Ecuador*, honorary member of the *Academic Section of the Biological and Natural Sciences of the Ecuadorian Casa de Cultura* and vice-president and co-founder of the *Quito Orchid Society*. He is co-discoverer of more than a thousand species of orchids, bromeliads and gesneriads and co-author of the descriptions of more than 600 new species.

Ken Roberts (Florida, USA) will speak on new *Paphiopedilum* species. Ken is a retired government official who has been growing orchids for more than 55 years. He is a member of the *American Orchid Society*, an *AOS* judge in the *Florida North-Central Judging Center*, and the *Training Coordinator* for that Center. He is one of the *North American* representatives of the *Orchid Species Group (OSG)*, *Species Survival Commission* of the *International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)*. In his youth he worked for two commercial orchid growers, *Earl Small Orchids* in *St. Petersburg, FL* and *Bob Wilson's Fantastic Gardens* in *Miami, FL*. Ken is a former *AOS* Trustee and *Chairman of the Historical Committee*. He specializes in growing and line breeding species *cattleyas*.

Joyce Stewart (Great Britain) will speak on *Angraecoid* orchids. Joyce Stewart is a botanist with a special interest in orchids and their cultivation. She spent 22 years in Africa, where she held various positions in botanical research and teaching, both at the *East African Herbarium* in *Nairobi* and at the *University of Natal* in *Pietermaritzburg*. From 1985 to 1995 Joyce was the first *Sainsbury Orchid Fellow* at the *Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew*. Her last post was with the *Royal Horticultural Society* where she was *Director of Horticulture, Science and Education* for seven years, retiring in 2003. Since 'retirement' she has been working on a book

about Angraecoid orchids for Timber Press, which will be published next year. Joyce is the Chairman of the International Orchid Commission, a Trustee of the World Orchid Conference Trust and President of the British Orchid Council. She has been a member of the American Orchid Society since 1968 and was thrilled to receive their Gold Medal of Achievement in 1993.

- Please see page 7 for the Speaker's Day Registration Form -

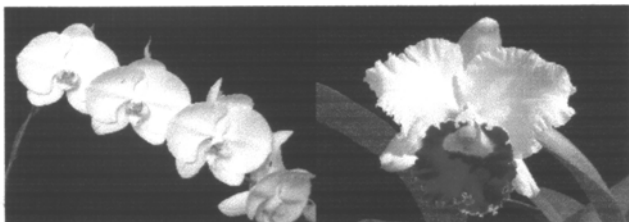
Menu for Speakers Day

Assorted freshly baked Bagels with Cream Cheese
Miniature Danish & Muffins
Orange Juice, Coffee & Tea

Lunch

Dinner Rolls & Herb Butter
Mixed Green Salad with Raspberry Vinaigrette
Boneless Breast of Chicken Francoise, White Wine
Sauce with Capers & Black Olives
Rice Pilaf
Normandy Veggies

Apple Crumb Cake with Creme' Anglaise
Coffee & Tea



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The South Florida Orchid Society is looking for volunteers with experience using Audio Visual Equipment, specifically large screen monitors and cameras to help film the demonstrations that will be taking place at the Miami Orchid Show. If you have any experience with this equipment or know anyone who you think would be able to help us, please contact Ellen Hanson at the SFOS office 305-255-3656 or via email sforchid@bellsouth.net.



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SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, September 21st, 2005

Fire Fighters Memorial Building
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- 7:30 pm - Registration & Judging of Plants
- 7:45 pm - Announcements
- 8:00 pm - Program
- 8:45 pm - Orchid Clinic & Refreshments
- 9:00 pm - Awarded Plants Discussed
- 9:15 pm - Raffle

Book Review - Dendrobium and Its Relatives

If you are a fan of the Dendrobium orchid family, this is the book for you to own. The three authors; Bill Lavarack, Wayne Harris and Geoff Stocker, have extensive experience studying these orchids in their native habitats and in growing them in their own collections.

Part 1 of the book covers the cultivation, ecology, conservation, classification and some of the traditional uses of the Dendrobium and its relatives. The chapter on conservation goes into detail regarding some of the most threatened of these orchid plants. There are beautiful close-up photographs of these endangered orchids. Several sections detail the various threats to the future of these plants.

The chapter on cultivation is a fascinating look at the various ways that orchids can be propagated. Seed propagation and the subsequent care of the seedling plants are covered thoroughly. Suggestions are given for choosing the correct potting medium, containers and location for growing the Dendrobium.

Part 2 describes 413 species orchids, including at least one plant from each of the 48 recognized sub-groups. Each plant description includes the distribution and habitat of the species, a general idea of the size of the plant and the name of the first person to describe the plant. Cultural details include temperature recommendations, lighting and watering needs. A color photograph shows the flower shape and color of each plant.

The final sections of the book include a glossary and an amazing list of sources for further reading keyed to each of the earlier chapters.

This is an important book to Dendrobium growers especially, but also to all orchid lovers. The conservation chapter is very informative and covers orchids of all types.





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Dendrobium, The Spray Orchid

Dendrobium (den-DROH-bee-um) is a diverse genus and is the second largest genus with over 1200 species. They range throughout the Pacific, including Australia, and in Asia from India east through China. They are one of the most commonly encountered orchids offered for sale today and are well worth the time to grow since their flowers will last from weeks to months at a time.

In general, they have a cane-like pseudobulb that looks something like a bamboo cane with leaves growing along the canes. The inflorescences will develop from the top of the plant either on new growth or re-bloom from the previous year's growth. The stem will grow up initially until the weight of the stem and buds cause it to arch down. They can be allowed to arch naturally or be staked to hold the flowers upright. I like to allow them to develop naturally and place the plant on an upturned pot so that they are displayed well.

The most commonly seen Dendrobiums are those from the Phalaenopsis group. The name comes from the shape of the flower which looks much like a Phalaenopsis. They generally bloom in the winter or spring and often will bloom twice a year. The blossoms come in a variety of colors from white to dark purple. There are even some with striped flowers.

There are two main size groupings of Dendrobiums seen—standard (approximately 2-3 feet) and the miniatures (1 foot) tall. The large types are grown for their long-lasting flowers mainly for the cut flower trade. There is no reason that the hobbyist cannot grow them, but they do take up a lot of room. The miniatures with their smaller flowers and size are much more suited to the home grower.

Many of the Dendrobiums go through a growth period and then a rest period based on time of year and temperature but hybrids based on Den. Phalaenopsis grow year round. They should be potted in well draining medium and need me-

dium light and heavy fertilizer while in a growth period. They are warm to intermediate growers (60 degrees at night, and 85 degrees to 90 degrees during the day) and will do well grown in the same conditions as Phalaenopsis including the cooler month of 50-55 degree weather in the fall to promote blooming. During this rest period, cut back on watering until new growth is seen. If it is too cool or dry, the canes will lose all their leaves. Don't throw them away, increase heat and watering in the spring and they should put out new growth.


Most of these orchids grow best rather pot-bound—in other words in pots that look too small for the plant. This encourages growth and flowering. If you are growing the standard types (2-3 feet), be sure that you put regular rocks in the pot before you put in the potting medium. This adds necessary weight to hold the plant upright and keep it from tipping over. I also use stakes to hold the plants upright and keep them straight.

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Continued on next column

SFOS SPEAKERS' DAY 2005 REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ AOS Judging Center & Status _____

Please reserve _____ seats @ \$45.00 Total amount enclosed: _____

Address to mail tickets: _____

Please return this form along with your check to: SFOS, 10801 S.W. 124 St., Miami, FL 33176.

Speakers' Day 2005 Schedule:

- 8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast, plant registration (for judging), sales open*
- 9:00 - 10:00 David Banks will speak on lesser-known genera in the Sarcanthinae.
- 10:00 - 11:00 Art Chadwick will speak on large-flowered Cattleyas.
- 11:00 - 12:00 AOS Judging and Panel discussion, plant sales open
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 - 2:00 Alex Hirtz will speak on habitats and new species in Ecuador
- 2:00 - 3:00 Ken Roberts will speak on new Paphiopedilum species
- 3:00 - 4:00 Joyce Stewart will speak on Angraecoid orchids
- 4:00 - 5:00 Plant sales open

* Plant sales area will also be open during breaks and between speakers

Tickets for Speakers' Day are \$45.00 per person. The price includes a continental breakfast and a sit-down lunch. This is one of the major orchid events held annually in South Florida! Be sure to register early since tickets are limited and sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets are not available at the door. To register, please send your check and the order form on the front of this page to the SFOS office: 10801 S.W. 124 St., Miami, FL 33176. For more information call (305) 255-3656.

REMINDER

We only have 100 seats available for the upcoming speaker's day. If you haven't purchased your ticket for this fantastic and annual event, please call Ellen at 305-255-3656.

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