

August 2007 - Volume 4 - Number 8

President's Message

Greetings

If you weren't at our July meeting, you missed Mac Rivenbark's great presentation on the Philippine Islands and the orchids that grow so spectacularly there, and according to Mac, grow very well in South Florida. The Philippines are now on my future travel list!

I plan to develop a list of goals for SFOS for the next two years, but need to get members' input first. Remember that this is YOUR orchid society and your opinions will give us direction. At the August meeting we will have a questionnaire available at the door so that you may give us feedback and suggestions on how to improve SFOS.

Please consider becoming more involved in SFOS. We need people to help with member recruitment, hospitality, show, refreshment, library, judging, education, auction, events and plant doctor. Would you like us to arrange a bus trip, either locally or overnight, to orchid vendors? How about an orchid safari, visiting different members' homes and seeing their orchid collections and growing conditions? Are there features that you would like to see included in our monthly newsletter? Would you care to contribute an article for it? What about suggestions for improving our website?

If you can't wait until August with your great idea or want to volunteer NOW, please contact me by email at sschultz@mdc.edu or call my cell at 305-632-0019.

Stay cool,

Sandy Schultz



Sandi Jones Tom Wells

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August 15, 2007 Program: "New Techniques in Landscaping with Orchids"

Tonight's program will be presented by Peter Kouchalakos. Peter and his wife Clara own PCK Orchids. Peter is a native of Coral Gables, Florida and is past President of the Pan American Orchid Society and past President of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida.

Peter is a Certified Horticultural Professional by the Florida Nursery Growers Association, a licensed Commercial Landscape pesticide applicator, and Private Applicator by the State of Florida. He has operated a private orchid maintenance/consulting business with his wife Clara for the last 6 years and also is a Miami-Dade County Code Violation Appeals Hearing Officer and a lawyer.

PCK Orchids will provide the raffle table tonight and also have plants for sale. This is a great opportunity to learn about landscaping your yard with orchids from someone who has a great deal of experience in this area. We look forward to seeing you there.

Carol De Biase



Water Quality for Orchids

By Susan Taylor, Bella on Line

Water quality is one of the more important aspects of growing almost any kind of plant and especially in growing orchids. Although they are in general fairly hardy plants, orchids seem to react to hard water worse than many others. Some will grow in hard water, but others will simply sulk. Softened water will kill most orchids, so if you have a water softener only use bottled water or water that has not gone through the system.

The best water, of course, is rain water -- it is inexpensive and environmentally friendly. For a small collection it's possible to use bottled water. Nurseries usually use reverse osmosis (RO) water, but for the average grower this is quite expensive. Hard water from a hose can be filtered through a calcium filter which will help reduce the amount of minerals reaching your plants. If you use any of these demineralized waters though, you will need to use a fertilizer with trace minerals, or water with unfiltered water about once a month to replace minerals lost through the filtering process.

There are many advantages for your plants to using pure water. If you have naturally hard water where you live, you will find that misting with it will eventually cause a white buildup on the leaves which is not only unsightly, but keeps the leaves from breathing naturally and does not allow the sun to reach them. The leaves can be cleaned with a lemon juice wash, but if you have very many plants, this is a real chore. Species orchids seem to resent this buildup more than the hybrids, but they all perform better when watered with purer water.

There also seems to be a positive reaction in root growth, particularly among those orchids that have air roots when the water quality is improved. It is not apparent to the eye, but my experience has shown that plants seem to grow better and produce more flowers when the water quality is changed from very hard water to rainwater and monthly watering with water from a hose with a calcium filter.

When collecting and using rainwater, be sure that you either dispose of any standing water or cover your container so that you do not encourage mosquitoes. They will lay eggs in any kind of water left uncovered. A suggestion is to use a container with a cover and only uncover it when you expect rain. We use an old garbage can under a rain spout for this purpose.

"TOP 10 REASONS TO JOIN AOS TODAY!"

- 1. For every member your Society has join, your Society will get a \$5 credit towards one ad in Orchids magazine. This ad can be used to promote your annual show or promote a fundraiser.
- 2. Monthly copy of Orchids Magazine
- 3. You will receive a coupon for 50% off AOS book of choice and 10% off any other AOS book you would like to order.
- 4. Free Orchid Source Directory Lists orchid growers and nurseries all over the country. You can use it when you go on vacation to different parts of the US to visit orchid growers.
- 5. Discounts on classes at American Orchid Society, including take four classes within 12 months and get the 5th class for free (of equal or lesser value)! Class offerings are expanding to include photography, art and Yoga/Meditation.
- 6. 10% Discount at Gift Shop and on orders made online from the Emporium.
- 7. AOS members receive a 25% advertising discount in Orchids magazine.
- 8. Reciprocal admission to more than 200 of the great Botanical gardens and Arboretum in the US including Fairchild Gardens in Coral Gables.
- 9. Free Admission to AOS gardens and 50% off for one guest each visit.
- 10. AOS Web Site has special members only section.
- 11. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT AOS IN THE FUTURE

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Mango Sherbet

I envelope (I tablespoon) unflavored gelatin

3 cups sieved mango puree

1/2 cup sugar

3 tablespoons lime juice

Sprinkle the gelatin on 1/3 cup cold water, then dissolve, stirring, over low heat. Cool. Mix mango puree, sugar, lime juice and gelatin. Chill until the mixture is syrupy. Beat until light and fluffy. Serve with whipped cream, or ice cream. Serves 6.

Fruit Salsa by ivillage.com

4 freshly squeezed limes for lime juice

I cup of mango, sliced

2 cups strawberries, diced

I tsp cilantro

I tsp grated ginger root (raw)

I/4 cup canned crushed tomatoes

I finely chopped Jalapeno pepper, remove seeds

2 Tbsp granulated sugar

Directions:

Finely chop Jalapeno pepper, removing seeds, set aside, reminder to wash hands thoroughly with warm soapy water after handling Jalapeno, or wear gloves

- 1. Squeeze 4 limes for juice. In a bowl, whisk lime juice, gingerroot and sugar
- 2. Add all remaining ingredients including Jalapeno, and toss until well mixed. Serve immediately





American Orchid Society Fall 2007 Members Meeting & Symposium

Hosted by the South Florida Leadership Council

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Keynote Address:
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Orchids Across the Millennia:
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19TH WORLD CONFERENCE UPDATES

If you would like to volunteer and participate in the WOC and do not have access to a computer, please direct all you inquiries to Amy Simon at 305-662-8024. This is the conference office and all inquiries should be made through this office.



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ORCHIDS OF THE EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

By Dr. Ruben P. Sauleda

As orchid enthusiasts we are very fortunate to live in South Florida, we have over fifty species of orchids growing naturally in the South Florida area. On almost any day within just a few minutes drive from our homes we can observe many species of orchids flowering in the wild.

Just a few years ago we could find thousands of Encyclia tampensis growing at the base of cabbage palmettos in the pinelands in southern Dade County. Bletia purpurea, Spiranthes torta, Habenaria quinqueseta, Habenaria floribunda and Eulophia alta were all very common in the pinelands and along the roadsides. Unfortunately they are almost all gone now. However, we still can find an occasional E. tampensis and B. purpurea in some of the small pockets of pinelands that have survived. In the spring Spiranthes vernalis can be found along the roadsides if they have not been recently mowed. The grassy shoulders of the Turnpike Extension starting in Florida City is a host to thousands of S. vernalis. At times there are so many plants that they appear as white patches. Triphora gentianoides is also found commonly in back yards along with two imports which have become naturalized, Oeceoclades maculata and Zeuxine strateumatica. Oeceoclades maculata was brought to Florida and cultivated at Fairchild Tropical Garden from where it escaped. The reproductive history of this plant was not known at the time, but as we later found out it self-pollinates and can grow from seed to flowering in one year. This is an amazing orchid which can grow in almost any habitat from the deepest shade to full sun. The other import which now can be found in every county of Florida, Z. strateumatica., was first imported into the United States with grass seeds from China.

Although historically nearly 50 species were known to occur in what are now the populated areas of Dade County and Broward County just the few species

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mentioned above have survived the extensive habitat destruction. However, all of the species that have been known to occur in South Florida still can be found in the Everglades National Park with the exception of Brassia caudata. Until recently it was believed that both B. caudata and Macradenia lutescens were extinct from South Florida due to a combination of illegal collecting and habitat destruction by natural forces. Macradenia lutescens was just discovered in a remote hammock several miles from where it was originally found. Although B. caudata was not seen it may still be discovered in the same area.

In early spring only a short ride south into the Everglades National Park many species of orchids can be seen flowering along the roadside. A sharp eye is necessary to see most of the species since they tend to blend in with the other roadside flowers common at that time of the year. In the wet ditches and along the rocky edges of the pinelands the following species can be observed in flower: Bletia purpurea, Habenaria floribunda (syn. Habenaria odontopetala), Habenaria quinqueseta, Habenaria repens, Mesadenus polyanthus, Platanthera nivea, Spiranthes praecox, Spiranthes torta, Spiranthes vernalis and Zeuxine strateumatica. In the early fall Spiranthes ovalis becomes the common roadside species.

Growing in cracks and soil pockets in the pinelands can be found: Basiphyllaea corallicola and Ponthieva brittoniae. Both of these species are found in large colonies but few colonies have been located.

In the hardwood hammocks can be observed the following species growing epiphytically or terrestrially: Anacheilium cochleatum var. triandrum, Beadlea elata, Beloglottis costaricensis, Cranichis muscosa, Eltroplectris calcarata, Encyclia tampensis, Epidendrum anceps, Epidendrum nocturnum, Epidendrum rigidum, Galeandra beyrichii, Govenia utriculata, Ionopsis utricularioides, Liparis elata, Macradenia lutescens, Malaxis spicata, Oeceoclades maculata, Oncidium floridanum (usually growing lithophytically), Pelexia adnata, Platythelys querceticola, Polystachya concreta, Triphora

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Amy Simons

7210 Red Road, Suite 214 South Miami, Florida 33143 Tel. 305.662.8024 Fax 305.662.8502 Email adetailetc@aol.com gentianoides, Vanilla mexicana (syn. Vanilla planifolia) and Vanilla phaeantha.

In open grassy wet praries or open depressions in the pinelands the following can be found: Calopogon multiflorus, Calopogon tuberosus, Eulophia alta, Spiranthes odorata, Stenorrhynchus lanceolatus var. lanceolatus and Stenorrhynchus lanceolatus var. luteoalba.

Growing epiphytically on cypress trees in the open cypress country are found: Encyclia tampensis and Cyrtopodium punctatum.

Many of the above epiphytes also grow along the mangrove and buttonwood lined creeks and rivers which penetrate deep inland into South Florida. If some of the creeks and rivers in Seven Palm Lake, Hell's Bay, Whitewater Bay, Lostman's River and Turner River areas are explored the following orchids can also be discovered: Campylocentrum pachyrrhizum, Epicladium boothiana var. erythronioides (syn. Encyclia boothiana var. erythronioides), Epidendrum difforme (The epithet difforme has been incorrectly applied to the Florida populations. A new name is in press for this species), Harrisella porrecta, Oncidium undulatum (This species was incorrectly identified as Oncidium luridum. Oncidium luridum is a Central American species), Polyrhiza lindenii and Vanilla barbellata. Many of the orchids in the Everglades National Park can be observed by a relaxing Sunday drive through the park. However, the rarer species can only be found deep into the interior parts of the park.

With a shallow draft boat a very exciting and rewarding excursion can be made from the Flamingo Marina to Chokoloskee Island. The trip is approximately 100 miles one way through some of the most unique and beautiful country in the world. The ride can be made from Flamingo to Chokoloskee and back in one day but, it would be best to stay overnight in Chokoloskee. The motel at the marina is excellent as is the Oyster House in Everglades City for dinner.

The trip is best made at a slow pace in order to fully enjoy the orchids and animal life. An early morning

Continued on next column



start in the Buttonwood canal which joins Flamingo with Coot Bay will be rewarded by the animal life which can be seen. Along the canal and sometimes overhanging the canal can be seen hundreds of Encyclia tampensis in flower during the summer. Oncidium undulatum, Epicladium boothianum var. erythronioides, Epidendrum difforme, Polystachya concreta and Vanilla barbellata can be found abundantly along the east side of the canal growing epiphytically in the mangroves and buttonwoods. These same species can be found along the rest of the Wilderness Waterway. The mangroves along the Shark River, Harney River, Broad River and the many narrow creeks joining the large bays are especially productive to observe orchids. Short trips off the Wilderness Waterway into Hell's Bay, Robert's River and North River can be very interesting. My favorite trip is from Shark River into Tarpon Bay, through Avocado Creek past Canepatch into either Squawk Creek or Rookery Branch. These creeks are so far inland that they become fresh water and many more species of orchids and bromeliads are found.

It is extremely important to remember that collecting of any plants is strictly prohibited by law and can result in stiff penalties and confiscation of property. It must be emphasized that by only observing the orchids in their natural habitat they will be there for us and for future generations to enjoy every year. Although the water levels have changed in South Florida due to mismanagement of resources and greed the orchids are adapting and their numbers are increasing and will continue to do so if they are not collected.

Several orchids previously believed to be rare and endangered or even extinct have been observed to be abundant and common. Exploring the rivers and creeks by boat can be very rewarding not only for observing orchids but for the animal life. During a normal day of exploring for orchids eagles, ospreys, and many other birds can be observed along with alligators, porpoises, manatees, huge rays and turtles. In addition the sea trout, snook and redfish are not only fun to catch but great to eat!



SFOS SPEAKERS DAY 2007

SFOS will host its annual Speakers Day on Sunday, October 7, 2007 at the Sheraton Miami Mart Hotel & Convention Center, North Ballroom, 711 N.W. 72 Avenue, Miami. We have a wonderful panel of highly respected speakers presenting an enjoyable and educational program. Speakers Day also includes AOS Judging and SFOS Medal Judging. 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:

Sandy Ohlund from Rolling Prairie, Indiana, has been an avid orchid grower for twenty-five years and is an accredited American Orchid Society judge with the Great Lakes Judging Center. She is a frequent speaker at orchid societies and seminars, most recently as a featured speaker at the Paph Guild in Morro Bay, California. She has coauthored articles with noted orchid taxonomist Guido Braem, published in the French journal Richardiana, the Australian Orchid Review, and the Colombian journal Orchideología. Her orchid interests include paphs, phrags, and the vandaceous alliance.

To support her orchid addiction, she is Associate Professor of Spanish at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Indiana, where she also gives classes on orchid growing. The title of Sandy's presentation is: "Why Be Round? Renantheras, Arachnis and Paraphalaenopsis".

Jason Fischer of Orchids Limited will Lecture on "Breeding with Slipper Orchids". This lecture will cover the genera paphiopedilum & phragmipedium, and show characteristics and traits that result from breeding. It will also cover the steps taken in breeding from pollination to the first flowering, with a look into the lab process that is used to germinate orchids. Jason has a life-long education in orchids by having the opportunity to be raised in a family orchid business. He took interest in orchid hybridization and lab work around 14 years of age, and first started breeding with phalaenopsis, which later on led to paphs and phrags, and now just about anything he can get his hands on that is unique.

Ron McHatton, PhD is a chemist by training and is currently the AOS Director of Education and Regional Operations. Prior to that position he was Apopka production manager for Kerry's Bromeliad Nursery, possibly the largest wholesale orchid nursery in the United States. In addition to his professional position, Ron is an accredited American Orchid Society judge and he has also been a long-time supporter of the Orchid Digest. The title of Ron's talk is "The Orchid World in Microcosm – Masdevallia and Pleurothallis". This lecture will examine a slice of this diversity along with a discussion of some of the newest taxonomic changes and cultural information for those preferring warmer conditions.

Continued on next column

Paul Alan Wetter, MD became interested in orchids in the late 1960's when he was studying the natural history of South Florida. Miami has been his home since childhood. He has been growing orchids as a hobby ever since, with a special interest in epiphytic orchids in the subtropical garden. In 2003 Paul joined the West Palm Beach Judging Center where he is an AOS Probationary Judge. Paul is a Professor Emeritus at the University Of Miami School Of Medicine and has been a pioneer in minimally invasive surgery and has numerous honors for his contributions to the field. His talk is titled "Red Phalaenopsis: A Pigment of Our Imagination"

Robert Fuchs President and Co-Chairman of the 19th World Orchid Conference will present "19WOC Update" and Dorothy Bennett, Judging Chair for the 19WOC, will present "19WOC Judging -- What Judges Can Expect". Bob is an accredited AOS judge in the West Palrm Beach Judging Center, and president of R.F. Orchids, Inc. Dorothy is Chairman of the AOS's West Palm Beach Judging Center.

Speakers Day Schedule for Sunday, October 7:

8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast, plant registration (for judging), plant sales open*

9:00 - 10:00 Sandy Ohlund 10:00 - 11:00 Jason Fischer

11:00 - 12:00 AOS Judging and panel discussion, plant sales open

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 2:00 Robert Fuchs and Dorothy Bennett

2:00 - 3:00 Ron McHatton 3:00 - 4:00 Paul Wetter 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 cold buffet lunch. There is a \$5.00 self-parking fee at the hotel; valet parking is also available. 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 this order form to the SFOS office: 10801 S.W. 124 St., Miami, FL 33176. For more information call (305) 255-3656.

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Please reserve seats @ \$45.00
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SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, August 15, 2007

Fire Fighters Memorial Building 8000 N.W. 21st Street Miami, Florida 33122

7:30 pm - Registration & Judging of Plants

7:45 pm - Announcements

8:00 pm - Program

8:45 pm - Refreshments

9:00 pm - Awarded Plants Discussed

9:15 pm - Raffle





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