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President's Message

Congratulations to Bob Fuchs, the World Orchid Conference Committee members and all of the volunteer members of SFOS and Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society for a fabulous Conference and Show. It was a truly amazing event with breathtaking displays. We are especially proud of those SFOS members who received WOC trophies and medals!

It was gratifying to receive so much positive feedback; the Get Growing talks were very popular and well-attended.

Christa Collins did a superb job coordinating the volunteers who staffed our SFOS booth. We were delighted with the success of the television raffle and the Orchid Wiz sales and also signed up some new members. Alex Maximiano was there every day to demonstrate his Orchid Wiz, and Marlene Clark chose the beautiful TV for the raffle. Eduardo Marcellini hooked the TV up to his DVD player so we could show the great picture quality. Thanks to the following members who helped in our booth during the show: Marlene and Charlie Clark, Ann Thayer, Nell and Brian Hammer, Leigh Elliott, Dorothy Isemonger, Jeanette Pearl, Sherril Marks, Jan and Allen Mink, Belen Conesa, Renate Von Komepena, Bill Harward, Jeanie DeBogory, Erna Maxwell, Ann Koch, Debbie Karge, Virginia Serrano, Daisy Suero, and our wonderful secretary, Ellen Hansen.

Dr. Paul Wetter is our show chairperson for next year's 63rd Miami International Orchid Show, Feb 27, 28, and March 1, 2009. The show theme is "Secret Orchid Gardens" and the beautiful poster was designed by Fred Caravallo. Alex Maximiano will assist Paul and I am confident that next year's show, which will be held again at the Sheraton, will be a huge success.

We certainly started off 2008 with a bang and are looking forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming meetings.

Sandy

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

The 25 Best Orchids I have Seen in the Past Three Years

presented by Greg Allikas

Greg Allikas has been a commercial photographer in the Palm Beaches and an orchid grower since 1970. He is awards photographer for the AOS West Palm Beach Judging Center, Florida-Caribbean Judging Center in Miami, and many annual south Florida orchid shows including Miami International, Ft. Lauderdale, Delray Beach, Deerfield Beach, Boca Raton and Naples. His photos are regularly seen in numerous AOS publications including the annual calendar and the AQ and Orchids magazine. He has written articles for both Orchids magazine and Orchid Digest and has been published in the Russian magazine, World of Orchids. Greg also has many photos in the latest editions of the Sunset and Ortho books on orchids. In November, 2005, Thunder Bay Press published their second book by Greg Allikas and Ned Nash. World's Most Beautiful Orchids features over 500 photographs and pages of insightful text about orchids. Christmas season 2007 will see a third Allikas-Nash collaboration for Creative Homeowner titled Four Seasons of Orchids.

In early 2005, Greg was honored to consult on, and supply photography for a United Nations

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postal administration endangered species stamp release featuring 12 endangered orchid species. Greg is a popular speaker and in demand at orchid societies across the U.S.

Greg especially enjoys field trips to photograph orchids in their native habitats. In 2005, he visited Venezuela twice to see *Cattleya mossiae* and *Cattleya violacea* blooming in situ, and to north Georgia to photograph *Cypripedium acaule*. In 2006 Greg visited both Colombia and Venezuela to do award photography at the International Show in Pereira, Colombia and a field trip to the Venezuelan habitat of *Cattleya percivaliana*.

Greg is the proprietor of the popular Orchid Photo Page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.orchidworks.com>. Greg and Kathy maintain a mixed collection of about 1,000 orchids comprised of *Cattleyas* & *Laelias*, Vandaceous, *Dendrobiums* and *Oncidium* allies as well as many unusual species orchids.

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS & CLASSES

The Naples Orchid Society With Naples Rotary Club Presents the 35th Annual Orchid Show and Sale

March 14, 15 & 16, 2008

Friday, 3pm – 6:30pm Saturday, 9am-5pm
Sunday, 12pm-4pm

At McSpadden Hall, Naples
United Church of Christ
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for info and a \$1 off admission coupon
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Continued on next column



Sandi Jones
Tom Wells

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Tampa Bay Orchid Society's Orchid Show & Sale "Rainforest Orchid Fantasy"

March 7-9, 2008

HOURS: Friday 10 am to 5 pm

Saturday 9 to 5 Sunday 10 to 4

Admission: \$4.00 Free Parking

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(North of Tampa Bay Downs Racetrack)

We meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at the
Seminole Garden Center at 7:30 p.m.
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Florida West Coast Orchid Society Annual Auction

Saturday, April 19th, 8am – 4pm. Plant preview 8am
– 9am, Auction 9am – 4pm or until plants are gone.

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Thank you, Barbara Pecan, Publicity

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Bonnet House Museum & Garden February Orchid Classes

February 23, 2008 Mac Rivenbark of Mac's Orchids - Orchid ABCs. Newcomers to orchids will value their time spent with Mac Rivenbark, who makes it easy to grasp the basics of orchid care. Discover how to choose plants and what they need – water, light, fertilizer, temperature – to be healthy and flower. Come learn from this enthusiastic teacher who has a passion for dendrobiums and orchids of the Philippines.

Watering Orchids in Drought

Drought restrictions on watering went into effect yesterday!. Many folks are asking how they will maintain their vandas and other genera that require frequent watering. The answer lies in the exception for hand watering plants for 10 minutes with a hose to relieve stress or prevent them dying.

Properly done, vandas and delicate genera can be watered easily in a ten minute interval. Remember when water is running off a surface, the surface is as wet as it can be with that application of water. Using a mist head, coat the entire plant and roots just till water is starting to drip off. This should take just a few seconds. Move on to the next plant and repeat until the entire collection is coated. At the end return to the first plants and repeat the process of misting for the entire collection.

Mist heads come in various volumes. A two gallon per minute head should do even a fairly large collection in ten minutes. The 20 gallons of water used is less than an average shower or a few flushes of an inefficient toilet.

Using the right instruments is key to proper water conservation. Mist heads are available at many garden shops. A watering wand permits accurate and efficient application of water.



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SOUTH FLORIDA ORCHID SOCIETY FUNDS ORCHID RESEARCH

I wanted to thank you and the South Florida Orchid Society for your support to our research program on orchids. It has been quite a challenge to find resources to perform good research on orchids. The SFOS has been fundamental in keeping us alive and kicking. That allow us to provide back to the community, orchid lovers and enthusiasts, and orchid nursery growers, information that could be relevant and of impact to improve the techniques of orchid cultivation, propagation and conservation, as well as orchid education.

Best regards,
Wagner A. Vendrame

Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Horticulture, Tropical Research and Education Center, IFAS - University of Florida, 18905 SW 280th St, Homestead, FL 33031-3314



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GOODYERA DAIBUZANENSIS

by Susan Taylor

Goodyera daibuzanensis is one of the popularly called Jewel Orchids known for their lovely foliage rather than for their flowers which are generally not very interesting. Terrarium enthusiasts use this and many other Jewel Orchid plants to add leaf color and variety to their generally plain green environments much as gardeners use outdoor plants for the same purpose.

Jewel orchids are distributed widely throughout Southeast Asia, North and South America, and Australia. They are generally terrestrial in nature, growing in leaf mold in forested areas. They are spreading plants so can be placed directly in medium in a terrarium and they will quickly spread to provide a great show. Many jewel orchids will grow when just one piece is broken off and placed in appropriate medium and these babies can be given to friends for them to enjoy.

The various sp species are found around the world, some even in the northern US where they are known to as "Rattlesnake Plantain." Most species are native to India, Sri Lanka, Japan, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

Goodyera daibuzanensis is found only on Taiwan, where it is quite common in mountainous forests between 800 and 2,000 meters where it will receive a good deal of rain. It is one of the smallest of the Jewel Orchids, with leaves only 2 inches, or 5 centimeters, long. The leaves grow in a really pretty rosette fashion which shows the silver and green striping and mottling to advantage. The flower inflorescences will grow to 10 inches, or 25 centimeters, high with small white flowers which are presented with a spiral around the stem.

Grow this little orchid in a terrarium with high humidity among other similar plants. Provide good air circulation to combat the formation of mold or bacterial problems. They require low light conditions which make them very easy to maintain in a home environment. Too much light will bleach their leaves to dull colors and you will lose the lovely contrast and velvety texture for which these plants are so prized. Many terrarium growers will simply cut off any inflorescences since they are often too big for a small container and are not at all showy.

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Orchid Growing Tips

by Susan Taylor

Kill those slugs

Spray slugs with straight rubbing alcohol and it will kill them. The only problem is finding the slugs to spray! Another remedy is to put a cut apple out overnight where the slugs can find it. They generally can be found on the underside in the morning. Then apple and slug can be disposed of. Slugs can be a major problem in a collection, so if you see any signs of them don't ignore it. Treat them immediately.

Monitor plants by checking them out on a regular basis

Talking to your plants has been a joke and a piece of conventional wisdom for years. But as much folklore, it has a great deal of common sense attached to it. When you pay attention to the plant, by talking to it, you are much more apt to notice any change or invasion of pests. Thus it is a good tip to monitor your plants on a regular basis. Check out a couple plants a day, or a certain area of your collection regularly. You will be able to see any problems much earlier this way and take care of problems before the plants are adversely affected.

Attack your ant problems

Ants tend scale and aphids just like we tend sheep and cows. They will carry in eggs and deposit them on your plants so that when they hatch the ants will have honeydew to harvest. You need to be sure to use an integrated (and aggressive) approach to eliminating these pests. Bait outside the greenhouse or area where you have your plants should reduce the number that actually makes it to your orchids. Use of DE (Diatomaceous Earth) in pots will make life difficult for the ants. Spray any area where you see them with water with soap in it which will kill them. Use bait that kills the queen when you have a mound.

Continued on next column

Use children's hairclips to as plant clips

A reader sent this idea in and it's a really good one. The hair clips come in different sizes and shapes and colors. You can use just the right size for the specific plant and stake. And you can color code the clips to your flowers, too! They are easy to find in almost any store that carries hair products and come in an amazing variety of sizes and colors.

Garden hoses and bacteria


In a recent presentation a speaker mentioned something that had not even entered my mind -- the garden hose used to water orchids outside or in a greenhouse. Especially during the summer months the water that is in the hose in the sun gets warm enough to provide a wonderful growing environment for bacteria which we then spray on our plants. It is a good idea to clean this water out before using it on plants that you are fond of. Let the water run for about 30 seconds or more in order to get clean water in the hose.

AOS MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL

From now through March 31st, new members can join for \$49.95/yr or \$99.95 for two years. Current members may extend their membership at the \$99.95/2 year rate. While the \$5 rebate to the sponsoring society has been suspended during this promotion, two year extensions or sign ups still receive the \$30 coupon. The website has been updated to reflect these prices so people can sign up through the secure website, call membership at AOS (561-404-2060) or one of the current membership brochures can be used. Just cross out the \$60 and enter the new price. In addition to the obvious benefits of membership like Orchids Magazine, membership in AOS gives our members privileges at over 200 American Horticultural Society member Gardens and Arboreta. This turns out to be, unfortunately, a rather well-kept secret. For a complete list go to: http://www.ahs.org/pdfs/07/0708_RAP_Brochure.pdf. Ron McHatton, Director of Education and Regional Operations

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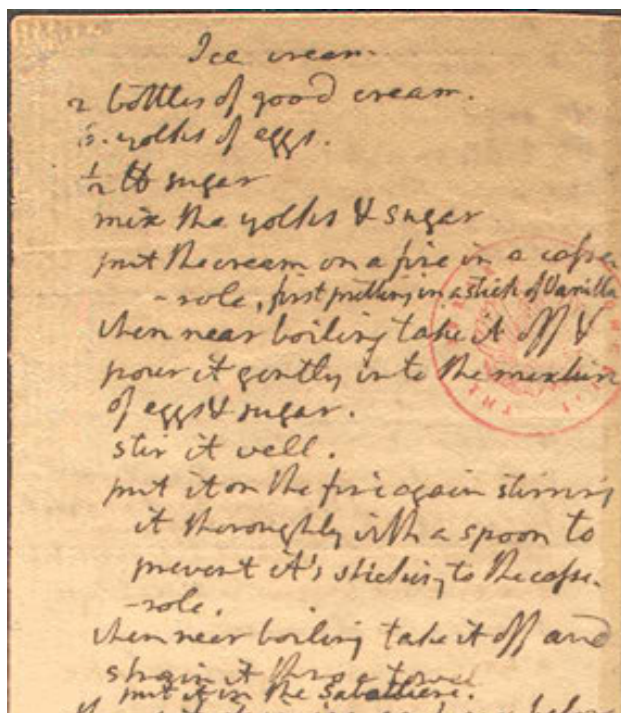
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American Treasures from the Library of Congress

Jefferson's Recipe for Vanilla Ice Cream

A passionate gourmet, Jefferson acquired a stock of standard French recipes for sauces, fruit tarts, French-fried potatoes, blood sausages, pigs' feet, rabbit, pigeons, and various other dishes. Among the most popular of these recipes at Monticello was this one for vanilla ice cream-written by Jefferson, with his own recipe for Savoy cookies to accompany the dessert on the back.



Fun Facts About Vanilla

Tahitian vanilla also originally comes from Mexican plant stock, but it mutated at some point in the last fifty to sixty years and became its own species. It is significantly different from Bourbon and Mexican vanilla.

The United States is the world's largest consumer of vanilla, followed by Europe - especially France. About 1400 tons of dried vanilla is produced worldwide each year. Our worldwide interest in natural vanilla has grown considerably in the past several years, however, and the current annual demand is for 2200 tons of vanilla.

Vanilla is not only used as a flavor in foods and beverages, but also in perfumes. It's also used in many industrial applications such as a flavoring for medicines and as a fragrance to conceal the strong smell of rubber tires, paint, and cleaning products.

Orchid Care

Keeping Your Orchids Healthy

by *Orchids-Plus-More*

You remember when it was thought that orchid care was only for the rich and famous. Well that was quite a while ago. Today most people know that orchids are easy to care for. The real trick in orchid care is to be preventive. Yes, it doesn't take much time or knowledge to keep them healthy.

One of the fundamental orchid growing tips is to look closely at each of your plants once a week. It doesn't take much time, probably 1 minute per plant. But this is a very important minute. Inspect closely at the leaves including the underside, at the pseudobulbs and at the spike. If you can see any of the roots look at those as well. This time spent on your orchid care will be valuable. After a while you will be used to seeing what is normal. Then you will be able to spot any abnormality and be able to diagnose and treat.

To make orchid care easy, purchase orchids at a reputable supplier and make sure they look vigorous. Once you bring them home it is wise to separate them from the rest of the collection for a couple of weeks. In case, they do have a disease or insects it is best not to spread it. When you spot a problem act on it quickly. If you are unsure what it is consult your local orchid society or the local nursery for advise on what it is and the best orchid care treatment.

Care of orchids includes identifying insects like aphids, scale, mealy bugs, spider mites are among the insects that attack orchid plants. To see the latter you will need a magnifying glass. Check with your local nursery or a handbook for the best treatment. Remember these insects have varying life cycles and need to be treated so you stop growth at all the cycles. For good healthy growth of your orchids you need the right amount of humidity as well as air circulation. Humidity with out circulation is the perfect set up for fungal and bacterial diseases. The leaves are the first to be affected. There will be soft or sunken spots.

The flowers can also be affected. Orchid care will help to spot this, it usually can be a fine speckling on the flowers. They will not last long as well. Orchid growing tips also show that flowers can be affected by virus'. You probably will notice some flower speckling, deformed flowers or irregular brown spots on the flowers. If this occurs and you feel this is a viral disease there is not much in the way of treatment. Care of orchids will tell you to throw out the plant before it infects others in your collection.

SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

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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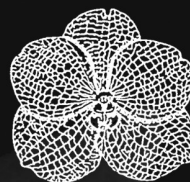
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