



The Orchidist

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SEPTEMBER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Have you ever looked at your orchids and said to yourself "What is THAT insect?" If so, you won't want to miss our September speaker, Dr. Catharine Mannion, professor and entomologist from the University of Florida. Dr. Mannion will enlighten us about how to identify and safely control the bugs that inhabit our shade houses and yards. It is so disappointing to wait all year for that special flower to open and find insects munching on it.

Last month we had a wonderful presentation by Bob Hatos, who showed us slides of his beautiful vandaceous hybrids and their parents. Bob provided an AMAZING raffle table of well-grown, healthy plants, many in bloom or spike, and also shared his growing tips

We in South Florida were lucky to escape the last tropical storm with minimal damage and rain. Those of us who have lived here for many years know it is just a matter of time before we are hit by another strong hurricane. Do you have extra shade cloth so you can cover your plants to protect them from the sun if your trees blow down or shade house is damaged? You need to have snail bait and fungicide on hand.

Our Program Chairperson, Carol De Biase, has put together a great program for Speakers Day, Sunday, October 5. For \$40 you get breakfast, lunch, five excellent speakers, AOS judging, and the opportunity to purchase some great plants supplied by the speakers.

R.F. Orchids has generously offered to give a seedling to members who bring in a new member, so please try to bring a friend to our meeting and get them to join. And thanks, Bob and Mike, for all you have done and continue to do for the South Florida Orchid Society.

Sandy

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

"What the heck is eating my Orchid?"

by Catharine Mannion

Catharine Mannion is an Associate Professor and Extension Specialist with the University of Florida, Tropical Research and Education Center located in Homestead, Florida. She is responsible for developing a research and extension program on IPM of ornamental plants with an emphasis on exotic pests. She has focused her research on several of the introduced pests such as cycad aulacaspis scale, lobate lac scale, root weevils, and thrips. She received a B.S. degree in Biological Sciences from University of California, a M.S. degree in Entomology from North Carolina State University, and a Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of Florida.

Carmela Orchids will be providing the raffle table this month.

SAVE THE DATE

The South Florida Orchid Society Holiday Party will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2008 at Signature Gardens. This is always a great evening. Please mark you calendars and plan to attend.

MEETING NOTICE

SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, September 17, 2008
Fire Fighters Memorial Building
8000 N.W. 21st Street
Miami, FL 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

MONTHLY CHECKLIST FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

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

Cattleya

Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom.

Check plants for potting needs for the last time this season. Any in dire need should be potted, even some that may be on the cusp, as there is just enough of the growing season left to allow the plants to establish before the days start to get really short and cold.

This is the month for purples derived from *Cattleya labiata* breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They are easy to grow, too.

Plants summered outdoors should begin to be prepared to be brought back into the winter growing area. Clean the plants up and be on the lookout for any pests they may have picked up during the summer. Treat as necessary.

Cycnoches

This little-known and under-appreciated genus, which can have male or female flowers, is at its best in the autumn. Two of the spectacular varieties are

Cycnoches loddigesii, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cycnoches ventricosum*, the swan orchid. This last one has large, fragrant green flowers. The biggest problem, culturally, will be red spider mite infestations that require immediate attention. Plants are quite seasonal, requiring heavy watering in the growing season and then a drier dormant winter season.

Cymbidium

Through diligent modern breeding programs, the cymbidium season gets stretched longer and longer. Now we can expect to have flowers open as early as September and October. Stake inflorescences and move the plants to a shadier location to help the flowers develop successfully. Because the plants will have warmth tolerance "built in" genetically, keeping the plants as cool as possible will help prevent bud curl. For the midseason varieties, inflorescences should be initiated by now. Feed plants on a regular schedule with a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20) and shade the plants lightly.

Dendrobium

This is a good season for hybrids of the *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* types. Both are capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be appropriate for this type.

Lemboglossum bictoniense

Both *Lemboglossum* (syn. *Odontoglossum*) *bictoniense* and its hybrids bloom in this season. *Lemboglossum bictoniense* is a showy species from Mexico that has three different color forms: *sulphureum* (green with white lip), *album* (brown with white lip)



Sandi Jones
Tom Wells

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and roseum (brown with a pink lip). It is a vigorous grower with tall inflorescences of many flowers, and imparts to its progeny (as seen in Odcdm. Bittersweet and Odm. bicross) ease of culture, warmth tolerance and eye-catching patterns. They make a prime candidate for odontoglossum beginners and advanced alike.

Paphiopedilum


Standard, green-leaved paphiopedilums begin to show their bloom sheaths this month. Late-season heat waves can blast these early sheaths, so be observant about proper cooling and air circulation. As with the rest of your plants that may have been summered outdoors, it is time to prepare for their move inside. Clean each plant and implement pest-control practices. Repotting, if necessary, is appropriate.

Phalaenopsis

The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences. Some night heating may be necessary in the cooler areas. Begin to watch watering more carefully, and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. An extra dose of phosphorus and potassium, such as a bloom-booster or high-acid-type fertilizer, is beneficial.

Rossioglossum grande

Once known as Odontoglossum grande, this is a spectacular orchid with six to eight flowers up to 8 inches across. Often known as the tiger orchid, it has bright golden yellow flowers heavily marked with chestnut brown barring. The plants are beautiful with a grey-green cast to the foliage, which is borne on succulent pseudobulbs. It prefers hot and wet summers with cooler, even down to 40 F, dry winters. Grow under filtered light. Watch for snails and slugs that eat the flowers, pseudobulbs and leaves.



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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If you move and have a change of address, phone number or email, please let Ellen know at the SFOS office (305-255-3656).

Coming to a meeting! Bring friends and family, get them to join and receive a free orchid seedling.

Don't forget The South Florida Orchid Society Culture book written for growing orchids in this part of the country. The member price is \$15.00

See you all at the next meeting, August 20th.



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JUDGING REMINDER

This month we will be holding our usual monthly judging. Please remember to bring your wonderful plants for our panel of judges to award.

A generous member has donated a
SFOS SPEAKER'S DAY TICKET
for this month's raffle.
The donor wishes to remain anonymous.

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SFOS SPEAKERS DAY 2008

SFOS will host its annual Speakers Day on Sunday, October 5, 2008 at Signature Gardens, 12725 S.W. 122 Avenue, Miami, FL. 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 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 and sales will be open only to registered seminar participants.

*** Due to a family illness Roberto Agnes had to cancel his appearance at Speakers Day. We are very fortunate to have Francisco Miranda as a speaker, presenting a lecture on the same genera - Brazilian Cattleyas.

This year's speakers are:

Francisco Miranda received his degree in Biology and begun his taxonomic studies in the orchid family in 1981. During the next 4 years, he lived most of the time in Manaus where he studied Amazon orchids and began his Master's degree. Shortly after returning to Rio de Janeiro, the Master's was completed on "Section Cattleyodes of the Genus Laelia". Since then, the main interest has been on the Brazilian laelias and cattleyas. He is the author of several papers in English, Portuguese and German on subjects of interest to growers' and species descriptions. Francisco is also author of two books. Since 2000, he has lived in Haines City, Florida, where he operates Miranda Orchids, an orchid nursery specializing in Brazilian species and the Cattleya alliance. The title of Francisco's talk is "The Genus Cattleya on Brazil - Species and Groups". Francisco will be bringing plants to sell.

Ron McHatton, Ph.D. 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.

Glen Decker began growing orchids at the age of 15 and holds the degree of Associate in Applied Science in Ornamental Horticulture. Glen is the owner of Piping Rock Orchids in Galway, New York. He was the previous chair of the American Orchid Society's Publications Committee and is presently a Director of the Orchid Digest Corporation. He has appeared in Martha Stewart's Better Living Magazine and on the PBS TV special "Orchid Delirium". He recently rewrote the Slipper section of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's "The Best Orchids for Indoors" and was the technical editor for the "Orchids for Dummies" book. The title of Glen's program is "PHRAGMIPEDIUMS - Past to the Present". This is a complete look at hybridization, past to the present and what we could expect in the future. Glen will have plants for sale.

Ruben P. Sauleda, Ph.D. has been growing orchids since the age of 12. He started the family business in 1962, Ruben In Orchids. His main interest is hybridizing the unusual, specializing in Encyclia and Schomburgkia hybrids. In addition he propagates many species from seed, especially Florida Natives. Dr. Sauleda with his wife, Claudia, moved three years ago to the Redlands after 45 years in the Kendall area. Dr. Sauleda has a Masters Degree in Orchid Ecology and Taxonomy from Florida Atlantic University and a Ph.D. in Orchid Taxonomy from the University of South Florida. He has written several books and has published dozens of papers in scientific journals. He was Chairman of Education for the 19th World Orchid Conference as well as a speaker. The title of Ruben's program is "The Genus Psychilis, A Little Known Caribbean Group." Ruben will have plants for sale.

Howard Ginsberg is an accredited AOS judge and head of the Montreal Judging Centre. He began growing orchids in 1977. He has spoken to orchid societies across North America, throughout New Zealand, Australia and has been a featured speaker in AOS judges training at several centers. Howard has

also been a featured speaker at AOS Trustees meetings and was a featured speaker at the 18th WOC in Dijon, France. He is the most recent winner of the Ernest Hetherington Award for an article on Sc. Beaufort. The title of Howard's talk is "Golden Peoker, Golden Parent". Howard will be bringing plants to sell.

Speakers Day Schedule:

- 8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast, plant registration
(for judging), plant sales open
 - 9:00 - 10:00 Francisco Miranda
 - 10:00 - 11:00 Ron McHatton
 - 11:00 - 12:00 AOS Judging and panel discussion,
plant sales open
 - 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
 - 1:00 - 2:00 Glen Decker
 - 2:00 - 3:00 Ruben Sauleda
 - 3:00 - 4:00 Howard Ginsberg
 - 4:00 - 5:00 Plant sales open
- * Plant sales area will also be open during breaks and between speakers

AOS CORNER

By Melba Butler, AOS Representative

Orchid trivia: "Orchids occupy almost every conceivable habitat type except the oceans, from tropical cloud forests to seashore scrub, from tundra to semi-deserts. You can find them in the Andes and Himalayas, the Everglades, ancient Roman and Mayan ruins, even your own back yard." Pridgeon, Alec. *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Orchids*; Lansdowne Publishing Pty Ltd, Sydney, Australia, 1992, Reprinted 1994; p. 7. Orchids currently seem to be more important and more rampant than ever.

If you grow them, as we do, as hobbyists, you probably have them all over house, your desk at work, on the patio, in the greenhouse, on the fence, in flower beds, maybe even on the front porch or entrance. We all see orchids everywhere: they are in the grocery store, hardware store, home repair store, orchid society meetings, shows, and workshops. All the magazines use them in their ads from furniture to jewelry and scented candles and room fresheners. Their beauty attracts attention and accents bathrooms, bedrooms, living rooms, and virtually any landscape looks better with orchids.

For the beginning hobbyist, orchids probably seem mostly mysterious. In the beginning, there is so much to learn and so many directions to take, like which ones to grow, how to grow them, where to find another one because the ones you have aren't blooming now. You have concerns and questions and your fascination goes on and on... If you judge them, you are probably trying to keep up with the continuous and challenging name changes. You think you can remember what it was before it became what it is now and then you get an e-mail or read in a bulletin that it has changed again.

Many years ago, people died trying to retrieve them from dark jungles and rain forests and delivering them across oceans or continents for the rewards they would be paid by wealthy horticulturalists. The orchid fever goes on even today as some become so possessed with orchids that they break the law to buy and sell them. We read in the news that some are being prosecuted, pay fines, and even go to jail because they became foolish and greedy.

In some countries, orchids are the livelihood of many people. They provide work for thousands who propagate, cultivate, market, and ship orchids across oceans and around the world for more people to continue their distribution, for orchid vendors, hobbyists, households and offices to enjoy. For us, orchids began with just wanting a few orchids for our own enjoyment in our home. How could we know they would become so important? Now we even write about them.

Whatever your reason for being involved with orchids, by now you know that the variety, vastness and even the mystery of orchids is endless. Let's continue to enjoy their beauty, read about them, study them, grow them, go to meetings, workshops and shows, and join even more societies! Let's share them with friends and family. Surely their main purpose in this world is to be admired and shared.

Find loads of orchid information on the AOS Web site at www.aos.org. Join the AOS and receive Orchids magazine each month...it's for orchid lovers!



RECIPES

Tina's Pumpkin Dip

2 cups confectioner's sugar
16 oz. can pumpkin
16 oz. cream cheese
1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
(or you can use)
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. nutmeg

Mix together all dry spices with sugar. Whip all the ingredients together refrigerate until firm. Serve with ginger snaps.

Tina B.

Christmas Dream Bars

3/4 C Brown Sugar
1 C Flour
1/2 C Sugar
2 Eggs
3/4 C Dried Cranberries
1/4 C Milk
2 C Old-fashioned Oats
1 tsp. Vanilla
3/4 tsp. Baking Soda
1/2 tsp. Salt
1/2 C White Chocolate Chips
3/4 C softened Butter

Preheat the oven to 350° F. Mix all ingredients until you have a consistent batter. Spread batter evenly in a 9" x 12" greased pan. Bake for 30 minutes. Allow bars to cool in the pan, then cut into squares

Apple Refresher

1 qt. chilled Apple Cider or Juice
1/2 tsp. Cinnamon
1 pt. Vanilla Ice Cream

Mix ingredients together in a blender until frothy. Serve immediately. Serves 2-3.

*Evie M.
Monroe, WI*

OTHER ORCHID TIPS

THE SPICIEST ORCHID?

The favorite cocoa-flavoring agent of the Aztecs was made from seed capsules of a climbing orchid they called tlilxochitl. Spanish conquerors, perhaps to ease pronunciation, renamed the plant vanilla, meaning "little pod." By any name, several species of some 90 orchids now included in the genus *Vanilla* became prized commodities; species, *Vanilla planifolia*. Today's familiar flavoring, if it is not synthetic, comes from orchid plantations where each field worker pollinates 1,000 to 2,000 flowers per day by hand; the natural pollinator, believed to be one kind of bee, is either too inefficient or too scarce to do the job.

THE CUPID OF ORCHIDS

Trichoceros antennifera bears an uncanny resemblance to a female fly - even to a stigma that mimics the fly's genitalia. Fooled into love at first sight, a male fly picks up pollinia as it attempts to mate and, unchastened by experience, pollinates the next proxy lover that catches its eyes.

WAYS TO RAISE HUMIDITY

To provide orchids with the humidity they need, but without risking root rot, fill a 3-inch deep plastic or rustproof metal tray, at least as wide as the spread of the foliage, with 2 inches of gravel or pumice. (The latter, being porous, is preferable since it increases the amount of evaporation.) Add an inch of water and maintain this level. For extra insurance, raise plants off the bed on upturned pots, saucers, bricks or a platform of wire-mesh hardware cloth bent at the edges to fit the tray.

COMPARETTIA coccinea

Though not large -- they measure only 1 inch across -- the flowers of this tree dwelling jungle plant have an unusual structure. The petals and upper sepal form a hood; the lower sepals unite to form a spur that sheaths the two spurs of the lip, in effect creating a lip with three spurs. The lip itself is broad and heart-shaped. The flowers appear in sprays of three to eight blooms along 10- flower spikes from late summer to midwinter, growing from the base of a small pseudobulb. The blossoms are red-orange shaded with yellow. Simultaneously each pseudobulb produces a solitary leaf about 4 inches long.



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POTS

Clay pots, plastic pots, pots with slits, clear pots, net pots, wood slat baskets..... Knowing exactly what to pot your plants into can become very confusing! When deciding what pot to choose, you really must consider your growing area, humidity level, watering schedules and specific plant requirements.

If your growing area is dry (low humidity) and you have time to water only once a week, you will want to choose a pot that holds moisture (usually plastic). If you like to water frequently and/or have a humid growing area, pots that breath (clay or "slit pots") might be your best choice. Clay pots are porous and dry out faster than plastic. These are perfect for Cattleyas, Dendrobiums and other varieties with pseudobulbs that like to dry out thoroughly between watering. Plastic pots hold more moisture. These work well for Phalaenopsis, Paphs, Miltonias, and varieties that require a bit more moisture. They also work well in homes during the winter months when the heat kicks on and dries out the air.

Pots with slits, net pots and baskets dry out very quickly. Air is allowed to get to the roots from all angles. Orchids love this, however they usually need watering more often when potted in these types of

containers. They are good for use in high humidity areas where additional exposure to air is needed to dry out plants. Clear plastic pots are nice because one can monitor the root growth of one's plants. They also make it easier to determine when the media is dry and in need of water. One thing to watch, however, is the green moss and algae which sometimes grows quickly in clear pots because light is exposed to the media below. This moss/algae can fill up the pot and block air flow to the roots. It can also hold moisture, which can lead to root rot.

In order to choose the correct pot for an orchid, one must simply ascertain the growing conditions, personal watering habits and the specific plant's needs before selecting the vessel. If you are confused, ask a fellow orchid society member or a commercial orchid grower for advice and guidance.



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SPEAKERS DAY REGISTRATION FORM

Tickets for Speakers Day are \$40.00 per person. The price includes a continental breakfast and cold buffet 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 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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