

SOUTH FLORIDA ORCHID SOCIETY  
INCORPORATED

# The Orchidist

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*Happy Holidays To One And All*



## DECEMBER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I remember my mother telling me that as you get older, time goes faster. She was correct! The holidays are fast approaching. Our fabulous holiday party is not to be missed - Sunday, December 14 is the date. Drinks, buffet dinner, dancing, and a lovely orchid plant for only \$20 is an incredible deal and only one of the benefits of SFOS membership. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so and remember that a membership to SFOS is a great holiday present that the lucky recipient can use all year long.

Speaking of holiday gifts, you might consider orchid books including Robert's Road about RF Orchids, Florida Orchid Growing by Martin Motes, Orchid Growing in the Tropics, or look at orchidbooks.com and you'll find a Selby book for \$300 by all the famous orchid writers. And who cannot use another good pair of pruning shears or garden gloves?

Remember to reduce general fertilizer and put the dormant genera in a bright, dry area. It is not too early to start grooming your plants and staking those spikes for holiday displays.

Happy holidays to all our members and we hope to see you at our holiday party!

Sandy



**63RD MIAMI INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW**  
**"Secret Orchid Gardens"**  
**February 27 – March 1, 2009**

Once again and to be precise for the 63rd time, the South Florida Orchid Society will present the largest and most prestigious all Orchid Show in America. This year's theme "Secret Orchid Gardens" should inspire very beautiful exhibits. We have several new vendors attending this year as well as many of the vendors that have supported our Show for years. We will also be repeating the successful Orchid Art and Photography Contest. The Show will be held at the Airport Mart Hotel and Convention Center (formerly the Radisson Mart) located at 711 N.W. 72 Avenue.

The Show Committee under the direction of our Show Chairman, Paul Wetter, is working very hard to make this a spectacular Show.

As in years past we will again have pre-sale discount tickets. The price of a ticket is \$10.00 and they are being mailed to our members to sell in advance of the Show. The ticket stub on each pre-sale ticket is a \$5.00 off coupon that you can use on a minimum purchase of \$25.00 at participating Show Vendors. We are asking our members to please help us by selling these tickets to family, friends, and colleagues to help raise funds before the Show, while also encouraging increased attendance. Pre-Sale tickets also make great holiday gifts.

The Show will open with a Premier Party on February 26th from 7:30 - 10:00 PM. This will be a festive party with food and entertainment and of course the sales marts will be open for the first time - so you get first chance on purchasing the orchid plants of your dreams. The ticket price for the Premier Party is \$50.00 and tickets are available from the SFOS office. You can purchase your tickets by mailing your check to: SFOS, 10801 SW 124 St., Miami, FL 33176. If you would like to charge your tickets, please give Ellen a call at (305-255-3656).

Trophy sponsorships will also be available for our Show. This is a beautiful way to show your support for our Show by honoring a loved one or through a company sponsorship of a trophy. We will have Best in Show Trophies available for \$100.00 or Best in Class Trophies available for \$50.00. If you are interested in sponsoring a trophy please contact Ellen at the SFOS office (305-255-3656 or sforchid@bellsouth.net).

Please mark the Show dates in your calendar now and plan not only to attend but to volunteer to help your Society make the 63rd Miami International Orchid Show the best and most wonderful Show we have ever had.



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## TIPS FOR GETTING YOUR PLANTS READY FOR SHOWS

Orchid shows give us a wonderful opportunity to look at and sometimes help set up beautiful displays. Shows also give us an opportunity to see plants in bloom we are not familiar with, to socialize with our orchid growing friends, and of course to shop. Exhibits and shows give us another wonderful opportunity; to show off those beautiful plants we have been nurturing all year. It is an exciting feeling to receive a ribbon or a trophy on one of your plants.

Once the plants are in bud, try not to move the light source, or change the plants direction to the light, at this causes some of the flowers to turn.

Some inflorescences need to be gently staked early, so they grow upright and arc gracefully.

When staking a plant, be as inconspicuous as possible.

Pull off any dead sheathing and dead leaves.

Leaves can be cleaned with a rag dampened with milk, lemon juice or beer. When cleaning pay particular attention to any insects. If you find bugs, spray the plants with a soap solution to clean the plant and kill the uninvited guests. By doing this step early, you will have a second chance to treat the plants again.

Take off pot hanger when warranted.

Take plants out of decorative pots or baskets.

Place your name and phone number along with the name and cross of the plant on a mailing label secured with tape towards the bottom of plant or basket.

Pack plants securely in a box. Newspaper can help keep plants from sliding.

Make a list of your plants and give one to the person whose house you will be picking your plants up and keep one for yourself.

Plants tend to dry out at shows, so water and drain them well before you box them.

## ORCHID GROWING TIPS BY BELLA ON LINE

### Change your watering and fertilizing schedule

Fall and winter is a time to watch your watering schedule as your plants will be using less water and growing more slowly with reduced temperatures. In conjunction with this slowing down, you will want to reduce your fertilizing. Instead of a twice a week watering schedule, you may need to water only every 10 days. One of the moisture meters available can be very helpful in determining whether you need to water, or use the "pick up the pot" method to see if the plants are dry. Continue with a every-other-watering fertilizing.

### Consider additional lighting

Windowsill growers in the northern latitudes should monitor how many hours of light your orchids are getting and if it is under about 10 hours, consider adding lighting fixtures to extend the hours to encourage flowering.

### Watch out for insect infestations

As the weather turns cooler, insects will find your orchid plants and take up residency. When you bring in plants that have lived outdoors, be sure to dunk them in a solution of 1 tablespoon of liquid dish soap or insecticidal soap in a gallon of water. It's best if you can dunk them entirely to catch any bugs on the plant itself. Allow to drain thoroughly.

### Try to give your orchids a cooler night

Many orchids need a 10 degree, or 21 degree Fahrenheit, drop in temperature at night in order to grow properly. For windowsill growers this is a real challenge, but in the fall when it is extremely important, Mother Nature provides a hand. If possible al-

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## BY allison

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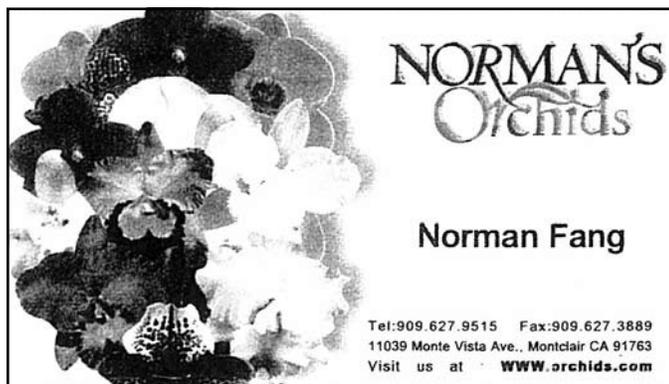
low the cooler night time temperatures from outside cool your growing area. Be sure that freezing temperatures do not get to your plants or that your plant leaves are not touching cold glass.

### Use bubble wrap on your glass

In order to keep your plants from getting frozen leaves, be sure to keep them from touching cold window panes during winter weather. One idea I have recently seen recommends using commercial bubble wrap to cover your windows as extra insulation as well as providing protection for leaves close to glass. Many growers in very cold climates even use this idea in their greenhouses to add insulation and save on heating costs.

### Tester pots

If you have trouble determining when to water, put a “tester pot” with your orchids and use it to determine when the media in your pots is dry. A tester pot is a pot without any plant in it filled with the same media that you use with your plants. Water the pot at the same time you do your other plants. When you want to see if the plants need water simply dump out the tester pot and feel the media in the middle of the pot to see if it is still damp. When it’s dry, then you know to water.



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## WARM GINGERBREAD BY JAMIE GWEN

Serving Size: 9

### Ingredients

½ cup unsalted butter, at room temperature  
1 ¼ cups sugar  
1 large egg  
½ cup molasses  
2 tablespoons corn syrup  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
¾ cup hot water  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
¼ teaspoon ground cloves  
2 teaspoons ground ginger  
pinch of salt

### Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Grease an 8-inch-square cake pan.
2. In a medium mixing bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
3. Add the egg, molasses and corn syrup; mix well.
4. Combine the baking soda and water in a measuring cup.
5. In a separate bowl, combine the flour, cinnamon, cloves, ginger and salt.
6. Add the flour mixture and the baking soda/water mixture, alternately, to the creamed butter mixture, to form a batter. Beat just until the last addition is incorporated.
7. Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Bake 30 minutes, or until a cake tester inserted in the center of the bread comes out clean.
8. Cool on a wire rack.

### Note

The combination of molasses and corn syrup keeps this bread moist even in its low-fat form Use 1/3 cup of reduced-fat (50 percent-less-fat) butter or non-diet tub-style margarine and 2 egg whites to lighten the gingerbread.



## 2008 SFOS HOLIDAY PARTY

December is approaching which means we should take time to be thankful for our health, good friends and family, and of course, our beautiful orchids. Which bring up our next and favorite subjects – Christmas, Chanukah, and everything that goes with December, like our Holiday Party. There will not be a regular meeting/judging this month. Dress code will be semiformal.

The party will be on Sunday, December 14th at Signature Gardens, 12725 S.W. 122 Ave. from 6:30 P.M. until 10:30 P.M. If you've never been there, this will be a real treat for you. Plenty of parking and large banquet rooms decorated beautifully for the holidays. The food is wonderful and there will be an open bar!

The meal will be a buffet and will include: Caesar Salad, Cold Pasta Salad Primavera, Whole Honey Glazed Ham, Roast Vermont Turkey with Old Fashioned Stuffing, Giblet Gravy and Cranberry Sauce, Tender Pork Slices, Sweet Potato Soufflé with Crushed Pineapple and Marshmallows, Steamed Long Grain White Rice, Black Beans with Chopped Onions, Assorted Cakes and Pies, Rolls, and Coffee. Happy Hour will begin at 6:30 P.M. and dinner will be ready at 7:00 P.M.

We will have a D.J. for the evening and they will play music for all generations. We will also have our gift exchange. There is a \$5.00 limit on the gifts and please put tags stating male or female. You don't have to participate; this optional, but fun! There will be a raffle during the evening. All members will, of course, receive a beautiful seedling upon presentation of their membership badge; if you have lost your badge, please notify the office (305-255-3656).

Remember the party is scheduled for Sunday, December 14th and admission is by reservation only. We must know by Wednesday, December 10th if you plan to attend. The price for members is \$20.00 and \$35.00 for nonmembers. Tables of eight can be reserved. If you have any questions, please call the office (305-255-3656) or Marlene Clark (305-253-7627). We invite all of our members, especially our new members, to join us for a delightful evening.

## SAVE THE DATE

### 2008 SFOS Holiday Party

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for the SFOS Holiday Party.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Members @ \$20.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Guests @ \$35.00

Total Amount Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your reservation form along with your check before December 10th, 2008 to:

South Florida Orchid Society  
10801 SW 124 St., Miami, FL 33176



**Bill & Carol Peters**  
[305] 242-1333  
whimsy@bellsouth.net

18755 S.W. 248 Street  
Homestead FL 33031

### 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 Holiday Party,  
December, 14th.

## WHY WON'T IT BLOOM?

The usual reason is lack of light. Many new growers take the term 'houseplant' a bit too literally and presume that the phal will need about the same light that a foliage houseplant needs...and then despair at the lack of flowers. Fact is, if the phal is given too little light, it will vegetate very nicely and produce pretty, dark-green leaves...and nothing else.

Asking the new grower to guess at what 10% of full sunlight looks like is a bit much, but a reasonably close estimate can save you a whole growing season that may be needed to show that a given spot has not enough light for the plant to flower. One thing I really fret about is that some new growers will give up during that first season and try something else.

So, the guess at what is enough light to make a phal flower is an important guess. If you have to guess on the wrong side of 10% of full sunlight -- which is what the phals need to bloom -- guess on the high side.

Let me qualify that comment: 'A little on the high side'.

A little high gets you -  
yellow-green leaves and small flowers

A lot high get you -  
a sunburned or even a dead plant

A little on the low side gets you -  
sparse, but large flowers

Check out our web site  
([www.southfloridaorchidsociety.org](http://www.southfloridaorchidsociety.org))  
for information on the photo contest

### “LIGHTS, CAMERA, ORCHIDS!”

also, the art contest at the upcoming  
**63rd Miami International Orchid Show**

Homestead Art Club Hosting  
63 International Orchid Show - Art Exhibit  
sponsored by South Florida Orchid Society

A lot on the low side gets you -  
no flowers, but a pretty, green plant

The phals will tolerate considerable overdosage of light before getting into any trouble. I'd rather see new growers overdose them a little than underdose them, because at least they see the flowers.

I have never known a new grower to overdose a phal on light except by leaving them in direct sunlight and heat in a parked car with the windows rolled up. When that happens, ZAP! The plant is dead.

There are a few other reasons why a phalaenopsis orchid will not bloom given the other recommended cultural conditions, but they are infrequent. Flower spikes may sometime fold and collapse when splashed with cold water in winter. Immaturity or poor health of the plant, of course, will usually deter flowering. Sometimes a plant will flower while it is in bad health as an act of desperation...to keep the species alive. It's a pathetic sight; the poor thing trying to carry on by flowering even when the flowering may rob it its strength it needs to stay alive. It's a jungle out there.

Don't let it happen to your plants. If a sick plant throws a flower spike, cut it off at the base and nurse the plant back to health before allowing it to flower again.



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# The 63rd Miami International Orchid Show

The largest and most prestigious  
All-Orchid Show in America

**“Secret Orchid Gardens”**

**Friday, February 27 - Sunday, March 1, 2009**

**Airport Mart Hotel & Convention Center**

**711 NW 72 Ave., Miami, FL**

Pre-sale tickets have been mailed to our members. Please sell them to your friends, colleagues, and family. The ticket price is \$10.00 and includes a \$5.00 coupon off a minimum purchase of \$25.00 at participating show vendors. This is a considerable savings off the at-the-door price of \$15.00. Remember these tickets make great holiday gifts. If you need more tickets please call or email Ellen at the SFOS office (305-255-3656 or [sforchid@bellsouth.net](mailto:sforchid@bellsouth.net)).



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*Carantha*

**Dated Material - Do Not Delay**

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