



The Orchidist

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JANUARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As 2008 comes to a close, I want to reflect on the good things that have occurred this year in our South Florida Orchid Society. The SFOS sponsorship of the 19th World Orchid Conference was obviously the highlight of the year. You should be very proud to have participated in one of the best WOC's ever held. The Proceedings of this memorable event, including fabulous photos of the exhibits and awards, will soon be published; it is fast and easy to order online at the WOC website.

We have had excellent speakers at our monthly meetings and at our Speakers Day event, thanks to Carol De Biase, our program chair. And of course, we couldn't do without Marlene Clark, who makes sure we are well fed at meetings as well as Speakers Day and our Holiday Party. Thanks to Sally Taylor who arranged for the free Holiday Party orchid plants and to the Officers and Board Members who donated some incredible arrangements and plants for the raffle. I am grateful for our SFOS Officers and Board of Directors who have worked so hard all year long.

As we get closer to our 63rd Miami International Orchid Show at the end of February, the SFOS Show Committee is meeting often to plan that event, which is chaired by Dr. Paul Wetter. We will be signing up volunteers for various committees for the show at the January meeting and hope that each member will help us out. Consider sponsoring a trophy in honor or remembrance of a special person or to advertise your business.

How about them Noles- oops, I mean Phals! Maybe it's time for a dose of magnesium for your contest plants. Ours have some pretty big spikes.....

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2009!
Sandy

JANUARY PROGRAM

Jewel and Painted Leaved Orchids

by Leon Glicenstein

Leon Glicenstein joined Hoosier Orchid Company in September 1998. He began growing orchids in 1954, and became assistant to the curator of orchids at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens then Carl Withner from 1957 to 1960. He has advanced degrees in Chemistry and Horticulture, with an emphasis on plant breeding, cytology, and cytogenetics. Working as a plant breeder for five years at Linda Vista S.A. in Costa Rica, he photographed, in the wild, approximately 80% of the then known orchid species of Costa Rica. He also found new species such as *Telipogon glicensteinii*, *Macroclinium glicensteinii*, *Pterichis leo* and *Lepanthes glicensteinii*. He won the second American Orchid Society Dillon/Peterson Essay Contest using one of his Costa Rican experiences. He has photographed many of the orchids in the Northeastern United States, Florida, and all of the orchids in California, where he located some taxa not formerly known to exist there. He has given numerous conservation oriented lectures, both nationally and internationally, showing orchids growing in their native habitats. He was a guest speaker at the Miami WOC. Before coming to Hoosier Orchid Company he worked for an internationally known plant breeding company breeding crops such as Chrysanthemum, Carnation, Azalea and Roses. Leon was also past chairperson of the AOS Conservation Committee.

EFG Orchids will provide the raffle table this month.

Happy New Year to one and all, Carol

MEETING NOTICE

SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, January 21, 2009
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

The 63rd Miami International Orchid Show

"Secret Orchid Gardens"

**February 27 – March 1, 2009
Doubletree Airport Mart Hotel &
Convention Center
711 N.W. 72 Ave., Miami**

South Florida will go blooming crazy when the 63rd Miami International Orchid Show debuts this year. The largest exhibiting Orchid Show in the country and one of the most prestigious Orchid Show in the world, the Miami International Orchid Show features rare and exotic blooms from professional growers, amateurs and Orchid aficionados from across the globe. In addition to extraordinary orchid displays, the 63rd Miami International Orchid Show features a juried award competition, thousands of orchids and related items for sale, and daily interactive demonstrations taught by leading orchid experts.

Putting on a Show of this magnitude requires a great deal of time and effort from Paul Wetter our Show Chairman and his committee. But they can't do it alone - they need SFOS members to volunteer to help. Volunteer sign up sheets will be at the January meeting. If you can't make the meeting, please call the SFOS office (305-255-3656) to volunteer.

Pre-sale tickets have been mailed to SFOS members to sell. Please call the office if you need more tickets. Also, remember to send your ticket proceeds and any unsold tickets back to the SFOS office: 10801 S.W. 124 St, Miami, FL 33176

Show flyers will be available at the January meeting. Please help us get the word out about our Show by delivering flyers to local businesses in your area.

We are looking forward to a spectacular Show but we need everyone to do their part. For more Show information please call Ellen at the SFOS office.

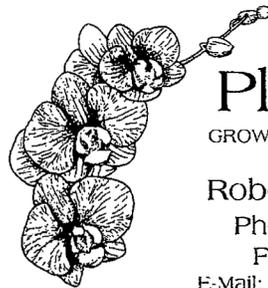
JUDGING REMINDER

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

HOLIDAY PARTY

I want to thank everyone for attending and supporting our club and Holiday Party. I think everyone enjoyed it. It's a time for everyone to get together and get to know other members and relax from the hustle and bustle of the holidays. Maybe next year attendance will be better. Signature Gardens is a great place and the food and service is great. Two people at the party left without taking their gift. I have it, just give me a call (305-253-7627) and I'll bring it to the meeting.

Sincerely,
Marlene Clark



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BUS TRIP

On May 30th SFOS will be taking a bus trip to Marie Selby Gardens and a few other stops. Watch for updates and mark this date on your calendar.



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, January 21th.

SFOS Show Trophy Sponsorships

Each year the SFOS Show Committee selects fabulous trophies that make our event memorable for both exhibitors and visitors. It is important to us to reward our competitors – after all their plants make the Show. Whenever possible the costs for these trophies are covered by individual sponsorships. Please take this opportunity to sponsor a trophy. You may sponsor in your name, the name of your business, in recognition or memory of a friend or loved one. Trophy sponsorships will be recognized in the Show Schedule and on prominent signs placed with the trophies as they are presented. And remember, your donations to the South Florida Orchid Society, a 501 © 3 not-for-profit corporation may be tax deductible. To become a sponsor, please complete the enclosed form and return to:

SFOS, 10801 S.W.124 St., Miami, FL 33176

63rd Miami International Orchid Show Trophy Sponsorship Request

Please print

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

I wish to sponsor the following Show Trophies:

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_____ Best in Show Trophies @ \$100.00 each

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Sponsor Name(s) as you wish them to appear on signs and in publications:

If you have a preference for a particular trophy or a particular type of plant or genus, please indicate here. We will do our best to honor your preferences on a first-come-first-served basis:

Check One:

_____ I have enclosed my check in the amount of _____

_____ Please bill my credit card, number _____

_____ Exp. _____

(Note: SFOS only accepts Visa or MasterCard)

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PICKING YOUR ORCHID

Picking a healthy orchid is a good idea even if the plant is meant as a gift or just a tabletop display. You want one with nice flowers, but there are other, more important factors to consider:

The wiggle factor. Gently grab the plant near the potting media and wiggle it a little. Epiphytic orchids (including dendrobium, cattleya, phalaenopsis, oncidium, and brassavola) are usually potted in a coarse mixture of bark nuggets, charcoal, styrofoam, and other inorganic and organic material. If the roots haven't firmly affixed themselves to the pot, you can gently lift the orchid from its pot and carefully inspect them. If it's firmly affixed to the pot, don't tear it out. You don't want to damage the roots. It's OK if a few roots are poking out of the top of the pot. If the orchid is potted inappropriately, but healthy, you can still buy it as long as you repot it at the first practical moment.

Healthy roots. The roots are the most important part of the orchid plant. Orchid roots are highly specialized organs that rapidly collect water and even perform photosynthesis. In the case of epiphytic orchids, they are designed to cling onto rough surfaces and anchor the plant high above the forest floor. A healthy orchid's roots will be light green when dry and dark green when wet. There should be a long, pointed and shiny green growing tip. The longer the growing tip, the healthier the plant. Dead orchid roots are shriveled and tan when wet and white when dry. A plant with dead roots will not survive.

Look at the leaves. This is a difficult topic to address because there is so much variation among orchids. Some have thin, pencil-like leaves, while others have fleshy, flat leaves. Some, like the ghost orchid, have no leaves at all and look like a small tangle of roots. In general, however, you should look for leaves that are thick, lightly colored and hard. The leaves should be slightly yellow-green, almost like a green apple. Leaves that are too glossy green mean the plant has likely been overfed and it will not bloom as well. The leaves should also be free from bugs, obvious blemishes and mushy spots. Finally, make sure the growing point is not destroyed.

Check the bulbs. There are basically two kinds of epiphytic orchids: those that grow from a single growing point (phalaenopsis, for example) and those

that grow from a creeping rhizome (cattleya, for example). The plants with a single stem are called monopodial, while the plants with a creeping rhizome are called sympodial. Sympodial orchids send up a fresh bulb, or pseudobulb, every year with new leaves and blooms. If you're buying this kind of orchid, make sure the pseudobulbs are plump and fat.

Count the blooms. If you're buying a plant in flower, resist the urge to buy a plant with all of its blooms already opened. Long-lasting orchid blooms might last for a month or more, but if you buy a plant with unopened blooms, you'll enjoy the overall show for longer. Do not buy plants with yellow or shriveled blooms, however, as these will most likely fall off.

Get a name. This might sound unnecessary, but it's a good idea to make sure your orchid has a tag with a full name on it whenever possible. Don't buy plants labeled as "ORCHID" or "FLOWERING ORCHID." It's better to buy a plant with the full species or hybrid name whenever possible. This will allow you to learn more about that particular plant, and if you decide to start a collection, it's always nice to know what you're growing.

ACCLIMATING YOUR ORCHID

It's fine to display your new orchid on the table for a week or so when you first get it home, especially if it's in bloom. But keep in mind that no orchid will survive for long on a dining room table. Also, remember that the plant will be in shock when it first gets home. Orchids do not like to be moved, especially when they're in flower. You're most likely to lose unopened buds right when you take the plant home.

Ideally, the first few days in your home should be gentle ones. Do not expose the plant to direct sunlight, cold drafts or downdrafts from your vents, or get carried away with watering. This is counterintuitive to many people, but it's usually better to let an orchid dry out somewhat than drown. These plants like high humidity and regular moisture, but they have a limited tolerance for constant exposure to water, which can cause black rot and kill the plant. When you're ready to move the plant from its display location, follow the tips specific to each species.

The 63rd Miami International Orchid Show Premier Party

February 26, 2009
7:30 – 10:00 PM
Doubletree Airport Mart
Hotel & Convention Center
711 N.W. 72 Ave., Miami

Please join us for the Premier Party for the 63rd Miami International Orchid Show. This is the first time the sales marts will be open and the first time the public will have a chance to view the beautiful exhibits and to see who won the prestigious awards. Tickets for the evening are \$50.00 and can only be purchased in advance from the South Florida Orchid Society office. The menu for the evening will include heavy appetizers, dessert and coffee. You will also receive one complimentary glass of beer or wine. The food will be set up at stations around the hall for you to enjoy along with entertainment and a cash bar.

Remember tickets for the Premier Party must be purchased in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door. The deadline to purchase tickets is Friday, February 20, 2009. Please fill out the order form below and mail it with your check to the SFOS office. You can also charge your tickets on Visa or MasterCard. To use your charge card please fill in your charge number and billing address below.

2009 Premier Party Ticket Order Form:

_____ Premier Party Tickets @ \$50.00 each
Total Enclosed _____

Please mail tickets to: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Charge Card Number _____

Visa MasterCard _____ Expiration date _____

Please write billing address if different than mailing address including your zip code:

Be aware also that many orchids thrive on being pot-bound. It may look as if the roots are smothering the pot, but it is their thick root system that nourishes spectacular blooms. So do not be in a hurry to re-pot too soon!

Whatever type of orchid pot you want, there is a wide range from which to choose. For anyone who loves orchids, there is immense pleasure to be gained from matching an orchid with an appropriate pot, choosing the right compost, light and temperature, then watering and fertilizing. The careful balance of all these will lead to your ultimate success in orchid cultivation.



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SHOW HOURS:

Friday, February 27 – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday, February 28 – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 1 – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

PREMIER PARTY:

Thursday, February 26, 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Premier Party Tickets: \$50

Daily Show Tickets: \$15 cash at the door.
Children 12 and under are free. Parking \$5.

Doubletree Miami Mart/Airport Hotel and Exhibition Center
(formerly the Sheraton Miami Mart Hotel & Convention Center)
711 NW 72nd Ave.
Miami, Florida
Immediately south of Miami International Airport



For information:

www.southfloridaorchidsociety.org

sforchid@bellsouth.net

(305) 255-3656

RECIPIES

RED VELVET CUPCAKES WITH CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

Recipe courtesy Paula Deen, 2007

Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cocoa powder
- 1 1/2 cups vegetable oil
- 1 cup buttermilk, room temperature
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 2 tablespoons red food coloring
- 1 teaspoon white distilled vinegar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Chopped pecans and fresh raspberries or strawberries, for garnish

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line 2 (12-cup) muffin pans with cupcake papers.

In a medium mixing bowl, sift together the flour, sugar, baking soda, salt, and cocoa powder. In a large bowl gently beat together the oil, buttermilk, eggs,

food coloring, vinegar, and vanilla with a handheld electric mixer. Add the sifted dry ingredients to the wet and mix until smooth and thoroughly combined.

Divide the batter evenly among the cupcake tins about 2/3 filled. Bake in oven for about 20 to 22 minutes, turning the pans once, half way through. Test the cupcakes with a toothpick for doneness. Remove from oven and cool completely before frosting.

Ingredients For the Cream Cheese Frosting:

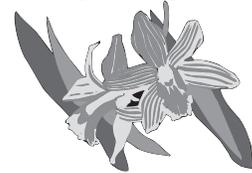
- 1 pound cream cheese, softened
- 2 sticks butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 cups sifted confectioners' sugar

Directions

In a large mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese, butter and vanilla mix until very light and fluffy.

Garnish with chopped pecans and a fresh raspberry or strawberry.

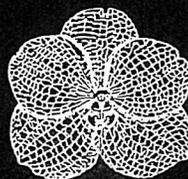
Cook's Note: Frost the cupcakes with a butter knife or pipe it on with a big star tip.



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2009 Orchid Resolutions *by Susan Taylor*

Each year I present my orchid resolutions to help you define some of your own so that your orchid growing will be better in 2009 than in 2008. Every one of us has special growing problems due to our own conditions so my problems probably are not the same as yours.

Staking and Presentation – This year I am going to work on keeping up with the presentation of my flowers on the plants. Up to now I've pretty much let the plants grow as they will and then put in stakes to hold the flowers. This year I'm going to start working with the plants themselves and the inflorescences in particular as soon as they appear so that the plant as well as the flowers looks better.

Monthly Cleanup – I'm going to work to do a better job at keeping my plants cleaned up. I need to keep the leaves cleaned from mineral buildup and dust as well as making sure that the old sheaths are removed from plants and old pseudobulbs removed when they turn brown. This will work in with the "Staking" resolution above as well as the one to spend an hour a day enjoying and working with my plants.

Consistent spraying – I have finally made headway in reducing (but not eliminating) scale in my greenhouse with the use of Bayer's systemic. This year I will institute a monthly schedule of spraying all my plants to eliminate the problem. I will also work at spraying with soap and water to eliminate live bugs that the Bayer's will not kill such as ants that do not directly suck on the plants.

Cooler in Summer – I am still having big problems with keeping down the temperature in the greenhouse since it faces west and gets full sun during our hot summer months. This has caused problems with some plants such as Phals which really don't like 100 degree temperatures. With careful use of misting, I can keep the temperatures down to around 95 degrees Fahrenheit, but then have problems with mineral buildup on the plants. I will change out my mineral filter quarterly rather than every six months to see if this will help the mineral problem and increase the use of the mister as well as use rainwater when available for misting.

Spend one hour per day – Orchids are my hobby and I have gotten away from enjoying them like I used to. I will spend some time each day just enjoying and talking to them. This is supposed to be fun, not something that is work or increases stress.

Dated Material - Do Not Delay

South Florida Orchid Society
10801 S.W. 124 Street
Miami, Florida 33176

