



The Orchidist

February 2009 - Volume 5 - Number 13

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FEBRUARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Valentine's Day! Hopefully you have kept your orchids warm during the recent January cold and they will reward you with spectacular blooms for our show. Groom those plants now so you don't damage the flowers or buds. We want to encourage all of you to enter your plants; we have lots of awards and trophies available for individual entries as well as exhibits.

We are one of the oldest orchid societies in the United States and have a rich history of putting on one of the largest and most beautiful orchid shows anywhere. This year's show is our 63rd Miami International Orchid Show. We work very hard all year to plan for this event and we would like each member to help with the show in some way. Perhaps you would like to lead a walking tour. This involves guiding a small group of people around the show for about 45 minutes, showing off the exhibit highlights, explaining how exhibit judging is conducted, and answering general questions. It is great fun! Contact Ellen Hansen or Mike O'Dea if you're interested.

Christa Collins is heading up our hospitality booth. She and her team will sell raffle tickets for a large TV and orchids. Also for sale will be the Orchid Wiz and SFOS shirts.

Eduardo Marcellini always does a superb job with our volunteer security personnel. And we have other volunteer opportunities available. Please contact Ellen Hansen or one of the above-mentioned chairpersons if you would like to volunteer. You will be reimbursed the \$5 parking fee for each day that you volunteer. As always, paid members will receive free admission to the show. Be sure to wear your membership badge.

We also have trophy sponsorships available. This is a great way to honor someone or advertise your business. A professional sign listing the donor and the award will be placed next to the trophy and winning plant. Contact Ellen Hansen for available trophies.

We would like to welcome new members Eric Huhta, Lorraine, Huhta, Gloria Quero, and Flavio Risech! We hope to see you at the next meeting! And we wish Leigh Elliott a speedy recovery from back surgery.

Sandy

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

PROGRAM

Wesley E. Higgins, Ph.D

Wesley E. Higgins is the Head of Systematics and editor of *Selbyana* at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. Dr. Higgins graduated magna cum laude from the University of Florida, earning a Ph.D. in Horticultural Science with a minor in Botany. Although his research is in the holomorphology of *Encyclia sensu lato*, he is better known for its segregated genera such as *Prosthechea*, *Oestlundia*, and *Microepidendrum*. Wesley has worked at Missouri Botanical Garden and the Jodrell Laboratory of Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew. He is the coauthor of *The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens Illustrated Dictionary of Orchid Genera*. Dr. Higgins serves on the IUCN-SSC Orchid Specialist Group and works with the Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) on Everglades restoration. He is a member of the International Scientific Committee of Lankesteriana and a Research Associate at Centro de Investigación en Orquídeas de los Andes, Universidad Alfredo Pérez Guerrero, Ecuador. Wesley is also an accredited AOS judge, approved AOS taxonomic authority, and serves on the AOS Publications Committee.

The plant for tonight's meeting will be provided by St. Germain Plants & Orchids.

Carol

MEETING NOTICE

SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, February 18, 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.

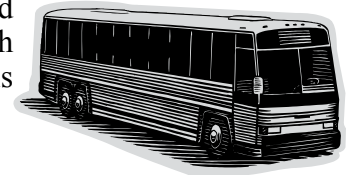
We are looking forward to a spectacular Show but we need everyone to do their part. For more Show information please call Ellen at the SFOS office.

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.

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.



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Marlene Clark is selling SFOS shirts. See Marlene at next meeting for details, colors & pricing.

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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, February 18th.

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:

_____ Best in Class Trophies @ \$50.00 each

_____ 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)

Billing address: _____



Sandi Jones
Tom Wells

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NATIVE ORCHID CONSERVATION

Native orchids around the world are in trouble as a result of collection from the wild, habitat destruction, and increasingly climate change. Orchid societies and conservation groups are working to slow this ____ by reintroducing seedling orchids back into the wild where they previously grew. This work has been aided due to the fact that it is now possible to germinate seeds in flasks. It is illegal to take any orchid seed without permissions since most of them are considered endangered, but with proper paperwork and help from local governmental conservation agencies some good work is being done.

Growing orchid seed in flasks has allowed conservationists to start returning wild orchids to areas where they used to grow, but have virtually disappeared. In the wild perhaps one of every 100,000 orchid seeds will germinate, grow and live long enough to produce seed. The seeds are like dust and can be carried by the wind great distances. But, since they are so small they do not contain food to sustain the growth of the nucleus and require specific fungi to sustain them in a delicate balance between the two. If the fungi grow too fast they kill the seed and eat it; if the seed grows too fast and there are not enough fungi to sustain it, the seed dies. It is an amazing natural process!

When grown in a flask in the proper medium, up to 90% germination can be achieved. The plants are then treated like any other orchid and grown to planting size in flasks and then transplanted into community pots and then individual pots. There are a number of organizations such as the Native Orchid Conference which promote orchid conservation and provide a forum for those interested in the subject to gather.

Orchid societies around the world are using their expertise to help re-introduce native orchids by growing seedlings and then placing them back into areas where they once grew. Since these efforts are still new, the results have been mixed. But with more and more people trying different ways to do it we are hopeful that trial and error will produce some success stories that others can emulate.

There are some really interesting stories, both

on conservation and habitat destruction – which is one of the main causes of the loss of native orchids around the world – at the Orchid Conservation Coalition website.

STAKING ORCHID FLOWERS

Staking your inflorescences so that the flowers can be presented and shown to their best effect is an art into itself. If you go to an orchid show or society meeting where blooming plants are displayed, you will see all kinds of different staking methods depending upon the type of orchid.

Staking should be started as soon as the inflorescence is about 6 inches, or 15 centimeters, high. Place the stake as close to the bottom of the inflorescence of pseudobulb as possible without damaging roots. Choose a stake that will be appropriate for the flower – heavier stakes are necessary for bigger plants. Metal stakes work best for tall inflorescences such as *Oncidiums*.

Use clips, twist ties, raffia, or plant tape to hold the inflorescence to the stake. Remember that the inflorescence grows from the tip and that you will need to check the staking on a weekly basis. This is best done in the late afternoon or evening as the plant is at its most pliable then. They can be very brittle and break off easily if you attempt moving and tying in the early morning hours.

Once an inflorescence has started to grow it is best to leave the plant facing the same direction so that you do not get twisting of the stem or flowers. Some growers will put a piece of colored tape on the front of the plant so they know just how to replace the plant if it has to be moved for watering.

Cattleya Alliance plants are generally staked vertically so that the flower is shown directly facing the viewer. If necessary use a clip to hold the flower to the stake at the top to achieve this. *Oncidiums* are generally staked almost to the top so that their thin inflorescences will not break. They also tend to try to intertwine if many inflorescences are grown and staking will keep them separated. *Dendrobiums* pose a slightly different problem. I prefer to stake the plant rather and let the inflorescence bend naturally to present the flowers. Some people do stake them with metal spikes all the way to the end. If you are

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 and mail it with your check to: SFOS 10801 S.W. 124 St., Miami, FL 33176. 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:



Staking Orchid Flowers continued:

transporting the plants, this is often necessary to preserve the flowers. Phalaenopsis are generally staked to just below the first flower and then allowed to naturally arch gracefully. For transporting the plants some growers will use a metal stake which is inserted into the pot, attached to the inflorescence and then bends down so that the metal touches the ground and supports the whole inflorescence for moving at all. Paphiopedilums come in two major varieties – the multi-florals with long inflorescences and the individual flowered types. The multi-florals need to be staked so that the upward growth of the spike can be staked as each flower opens. The best staking I've seen for the individual flowered types are metal stakes made by bending wire that holds an individual flower.



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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

HOW TO ENJOY YOUR ORCHIDS FOR A LONGER TIME

The blooms of your orchids will stay fresh longer if you follow these simple steps.....

Do not let water stagnate in between their leaves as it promotes bacterial rot that may kill plants (Phalaenopsis).

Do not let plants sit in water as their roots will rot and the plants will die.

Do not water them too often. Most orchid plants need watering on a regular basis, depending upon the climate. When placed in decorative containers such as baskets and china, they take longer to dry out so stretch your watering intervals by a few days. Water your plants properly.

Do not expose them to drafts, however faint, or forced air heat, or air conditioners. Such drafts will dry buds and flowers in no time.

Do not place them next to or on top of heat sources (radiators, refrigerators, etc.) at these heat sources continuously dry the air around them and this will desiccate your plants.

Do not expose them to direct sun in the middle of the day. Leaves will burn and flowers will wilt.

Maintain reasonable temperatures: daytime temperatures from 65 degrees to 85 degrees at nighttime temperatures from 50 degrees to 65 degrees. If your air is dry, mist leaves and buds once or twice a day.

LOOKING FOR AN ORCHID



Brian Gaine was President of SFOS from 1975 - 1976. His daughter is getting married and her fiancé is looking for hybrids that her father made for her.

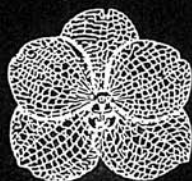
The names of the plants were Jenni Lynn and Jena Gaine. If anyone knows anything about these plants or any information about her father Brian Gaine, please contact Chris Hale at chris@a1fargo.com or 786-200-5930



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63rd Miami International Orchid Show Education Schedule

Friday, February 27, 2009

- 11:00.....Ed Bugbee Featherstone Orchids – “Repotting Psychology”
12:00Carol De Biase – “Growing Miniatures in Florida Conditions”
1:00Axel Cahiz Amazonia Orchids – “Care of Cattleyas” (Spanish)
2:00Russ Vernon New Vision Orchids – “Growing Orchids in Coconut Media”
3:00Sally Taylor & Carmela Watanabe Carmela Orchids – “Preparing Orchids for Gifts and Judging”
4:00Linda Wilhelm Woodland Orchids – “Oncidiums and their Culture”
5:00Roy Tokunaga H & R Nurseries – “Dendrobium Culture”
6:00Bob Fuchs R.F. Orchids – “Vandaceous Culture”

Saturday, February 28, 2009

- 11:00.....Ed Bugbee Featherstone Orchids – “Repotting Psychology”
12:00Duncan Bass H & R Nurseries – “Mounting Orchids and their Care”
1:00Axel Cahiz Amazonia Orchids – “Care of Cattleyas”
2:00Alex Lamazares Orchidmania – “Orchid Care and Repotting” (Spanish)
3:00Wagner Vendrame University of Florida – “Orchid Research at University of Florida”
4:00Linda Wilhelm Woodland Orchids – “Oncidiums and their Culture”
5:00Bob Fuchs R.F. Orchids – “Vandaceous Culture”
6:00Yolanda Cuesta Quest Orchids – “Cattleya Culture”

Sunday, March 1, 2009

- 11:00.....Rafael Romero Plantio La Orquidea – “General Orchid Culture” (Spanish)
12:00Peter Kouchalakos PCK Orchids & Exotic Plants - “Landscaping with Orchids”
1:00Carlos Cahiz OFE International – “Introduction to Orchid Supplies”
2:00Alex Lamazares Orchidmania – “Orchid Care and Repotting”
3:00Carlos Cahiz OFE International – “Introduction to Orchid Supplies” (Spanish)

Dated Material - Do Not Delay

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

