



# The Orchidist

July 2009 - Volume 5 - Number 18

## JULY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am honored to serve as your President and I am very excited about the upcoming activities for our club. We have many exciting programs planned, including wonderful speakers, 2 auctions, Speaker's Day, our holiday party, and our show in late February.

I hope you will be involved because we really have a great time!

What a wonderful program we had last month. Harold Koopowitz was a great speaker, and I was so glad to see so many people attend the meeting to hear his presentation. Maybe now I'll finally be able to get a Paphiopedilum to rebloom!

I want to congratulate Ralph Hernandez on his election to the Board and welcome back Marlene Clark and Michael Coronado. We have an outstanding Board who work very hard to make our club so successful. Robert Fuchs will be our Show Chairman, so I already know our show will be spectacular!

And finally, thank you Sandy for two years of expert leadership; your shoes will be very hard to fill!

Have fun growing,  
Judy

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## MEETING NOTICE

Due to circumstance beyond our control the July 15, 2009 SFOS Membership Meeting has to be canceled. The Fire Fighters Memorial Building "Fire Tower" meeting room is being totally renovated and will not be ready in time for our July 15th meeting. The Fire Tower management regrets this unusual turn of events and looks forward to us meeting there in August and beyond.

Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to seeing you on August 19th, 2009.

## 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

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## SFOS SPEAKERS DAY 2009

SFOS will host its annual Speakers Day on Sunday, October 4, 2009 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.

This year's speakers are:

**Bob Burkey** – owns Kamuela Greenhouse/Specialty Orchids along with his wife where they raise *Odontoglossums*, *Oncidiinae* Intergenerics, *Cymbidiums*, and *Paphiopedilums*. For the past four years Bob has also been the Director of the Hawaii Biotech Tissue Culture Center. He is an accredited *Cymbidium* Society Judge and an accredited American Orchid Society Judge. He has written many articles on growing orchids and judging, and has lectured on the subjects throughout the U.S., New Zealand, Japan, and the U.K. He is currently the Vice President of the *Odontoglossum* Alliance. Bob will speak on “Judging *Oncidiinae*/*Odont* Intergeneric Hybrids” and will have plants to sell.



**Jason Fischer** – Jason has had a life-long education in orchids mainly from the opportunity to be raised in a family orchid business. Jason Fischer works at and helps manage Orchids Limited in Plymouth, Minnesota with his father Jerry Fischer. Their operation consists of four greenhouses with 15,000 square feet of growing space, a shade house, and laboratory. He took interest in orchid hybridization and lab work around 14 years of age, and first started breeding with *Phalaenopsis*, which later on lead to *Paphs*, *Phrags* and miscellaneous hybrids. Jason's first lecture on *Neofinetia Falcata* at the Minnesota Orchid Society in 2004 was the kick-off for an amazing journey of lectures across America including the WOC in Miami in 2008. Jason will speak on “The *Phragmipedium* Craze” which will cover breeding and growing techniques. Jason will also have plants to sell.

**Norito Hasegawa** - is the owner of Paphanatics, unLimited. He has been a judge in both the American Orchid Society and the *Cymbidium* Society of America for over 35 years. He is primarily a hybridizer of Slipper Orchids (*Paphiopedilum*) although his interests and collection of 15,000 orchids include *Miniature Cattleyas*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Cymbidiums* and variegated orchids of all sorts. Norito is a 3 million miler travelling to many foreign countries talking and/or judging in places such as Japan, South Africa, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Germany, New Zealand, Taiwan, England, France, Switzerland and many cities in the USA. Norito will speak on *Paphiopedilum* Species and How They Influence Their Hybrids. Norito will also have plants to sell.

**Tom Miranda** - trained as a Marine Biologist, and has been an orchid addict since his childhood. Tom is presently the Orchid Collection Specialist at the Smithsonian Institution where he cares for a huge collection of orchid species and hybrids, and produces a four month long orchid exhibit each year and supplies information about orchid cultivation, ecology and conserva-

tions to the public year round. His mission in life is trying to bring the horticultural, scientific and conservation community's closer together. He has been writing two popular monthly columns in Orchids magazine 'The Orchid Checklist' and the 'Genus of the Month' for the last four years. Tom will speak on "Judging and Breeding of Miniature Art Shade Cattleyas".

**Marguerite Webb** - Marguerite Webb began her orchid growing career in the mid-1970's when she took a job at J&L Orchids in Easton, CT. In 1979 she and her two partners Cordelia Head and Lucinda Winn purchased J&L, a small nursery that specializes in unusual species and miniature orchids. Marguerite has become an authority on certain New World genera such as Masdevallia, writing and lecturing about them and other aspects of orchid growing. She has traveled to places like South Africa, New Zealand and Japan to speak at orchid conferences and seminars, as well as lecturing at many World Orchid Conferences including Miami in 2008. She is a frequent contributor to orchid publications such as The Orchid Digest and Orchids. Marguerite will lecture on "Warm Growing Pleurothallidinae" and will be bringing plants to sell.



**SPEAKERS DAY TICKETS**

Tickets for Speakers Day are \$45.00 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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

AOS Judging Center & Status \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats @ \$45.00

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa & MasterCard accepted:

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Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Address to mail tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

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We also accept Visa & MasterCard. Please call the SFOS office (305-255-3656) to process your charge.

**SPEAKERS DAY SCHEDULE**

- 8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast, plant registration (for judging), plant sales open
- 9:00 - 10:00 Jason Fischer
- 10:00 - 11:00 Bob Burkey
- 11:00 - 12:00 AOS Judging and panel discussion, plant sales open
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 - 2:00 Marguerite Webb
- 2:00 - 3:00 Norito Hasegawa
- 3:00 - 4:00 Tom Miranda
- 4:00 - 5:00 Plant sales open

\* Plant sales area will also be open during breaks and between speakers



**NEW SFOS EXECUTIVE BOARD  
& DIRECTORS**

President	Judy Mezey
1st Vice President	Sally Taylor
2nd Vice President	Carol De Biase
Secretary	Maria Wood
Treasurer	Dorothy Bennett



A real big THANK YOU to all the judges and clerks who helped make this years awards possible. I really appreciate all your efforts.

**2009 SFOS PERPETUAL TROPHIES**

**Fennell Cultural Award**



Presented to an exhibitor whose plant received the highest number of points in the fiscal year at an SFOS judging event.

Den. undulatum ‘Crownfox’  
CCM 85 pts **r. f. Orchids, Inc.**

**Del-Ora Award**



Presented to an exhibitor whose flower in the Vanda or Allied Genera received the highest number of points in the fiscal year at an SFOS judging event.

Ascda. Crownfox Avocado Honey  
‘Crownfox Raspberry’  
AM 83 pts **r. f. Orchids, Inc.**

**William D. Sparks Award**



Presented to an exhibitor whose flower in the Dendrobium Alliance received the highest number of points in the fiscal year at an SFOS judging event.

Den. Super Ise ‘Estela’  
SM 86 pts **Estela & Manuel Lasarte**



Director’s Term Expiring 2012  
Marlene Clark  
Ralph Hernandez  
Michael Coronado



Retiring President Sandy Schultz being presented with her president’s gift by incoming President Judy Mezey

### The Fields Award



Presented to an exhibitor whose flower in the Oncidium Alliance received the highest number of points in the fiscal year at an SFOS judging event.

Onc. Kandyan Dancer 'Kiaora'  
SM 84 pts **Georgia Tasker & Sandy Schultz**

### John D. Simmons



Presented to an exhibitor whose flower in a genus not recognized by another perpetual award received the highest number of points in the fiscal year at an SFOS judging event.

Sobennikoffia robusta 'Kiaora'  
SM 82 pts **Georgia Tasker & Sandy Schultz**

### Fuchs Award

Presented to an exhibitor whose plant received the highest number of points for Botanical Excellence in the fiscal year at an SFOS judging event.

Trichoglottis bataanensis  
CBR **Tom Coffey**



**Sweepstakes  
SFOS Award**

Total Points 257

***OLD GARDNER'S  
NEVER DIE  
THEY JUST LOSE  
THEIR BLOOMERS***

## SFOS MEDAL WINNERS - 2008-2009



**Christa Collins**  
81 pt SM  
Ren. Singaporeans  
'Scarlet'



**Leigh Elliott**  
80 pt SM  
Den antennatum  
'Leigh'



**Estela & Manuel Lasarte**  
86 pt SM  
Den Super Ise  
'Estela'



**Georgia Tasker &  
Sandy Schultz**  
84 pt SM  
Onc Kanydan Dancer  
'Kiaora'



**Georgia Tasker &  
Sandy Schultz**  
81 pt SM  
Sobenikoffia robusta  
'Kiaora'

## CULTURAL RIBBON AWARDS - 2009

Den Golden Aya  
**David Foster**

Den Super Ise  
**Estela & Manuel Lasarte**

Den undulatum  
**r.f. Orchids, Inc.**

Paph kolopangkii  
**Joan & Tony Viggiani**

Vanda lamalatta v. boxalli  
**Leigh Elliott**

## SNAILS AND SLUGS ON ORCHIDS BY BELLA ON LINE

Snails and slugs are a constant problem for outdoor and greenhouse growers of orchids. They love the open medium of bark used for orchids and can cause great damage to new growths of both roots and plant tops. Most of the time the first sign that there is trouble will be an almost ruined plant, they will invade that fast. It is important to get rid of these pests before bringing in plants for the winter.

The first suggestion, as always, is that prevention is the best solution to the problem. There are as many ideas on preventing the critters as there are people who battle them. One ex-military expert suggests a "perimeter defense, local defense and all out war" approach. Others advocate diatomaceous earth (DE), others various slug and snail pellets. My personal prevention regimen involves a monthly application of approximately a tablespoon DE to each pot; scattering a snail and insecticide inside on the floor of the greenhouse and outside the perimeter; and using the "beer in a container" catch approach. I personally can't stand having to mess with the dead pests in the beer approach, but periodically I will do so just to get those that have escaped the other ways. Please note, **never put slug or snail bait in your orchid pots, always put it around them on the ground.**

Other recommended approaches are to use a .5 to 1 inch (3 centimeter) strip of copper around the bottom of all benches or approaches to the orchid location. This can also be used around the bottom of pots. The theory is that the snails and

slugs will not cross the copper because it gives them a very slight shock which they dislike.

A recent test confirmed that spraying with a 1% caffeine solution (strong brewed coffee has about .5% caffeine) will kill 65-90% of snails present in potting medium without harming orchids. This can be done by spraying or by pour-through. Caffeine can also be purchased in purified form for agricultural use and mixed with water for this purpose.

In almost all instances a combined approach always works better than relying on just one preventative or poison. There will be some of the pests that will get past your defenses, but few will make it past two or three.

Snail and slug poisons vary by state, so you should consult with your local nursery to determine what is available in your area. As noted above, never put any of these products in your pots -- many of the products can be toxic to orchids. Most of the products are granular and will attract the pests from the medium where they hide during the day. Be sure that you read all directions in relation to children and pets. If you chose to use the DE method, be sure to use a mask when applying so that you do not inhale any of the product. Beware of dogs and children who might inhale also.

### A NOTE FROM MARLENE

I just want to thank everyone that brought refreshments to the meeting. I heard you had quite a feast. I look forward to seeing all of you in August.



**Bill & Carol  
Peters**  
[305] 242-1333  
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Sandi Jones  
Tom Wells

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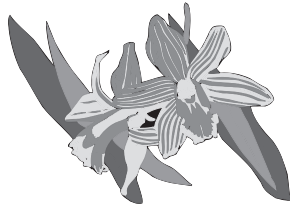
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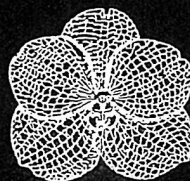
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## VANILLA SUGAR

There are a number of recipes for making vanilla sugar. The simplest is to place whole or split vanilla beans into a jar of granulated or confectioners sugar. Seal the lid tightly and allow the beans to remain at least one week before using the sugar. Shake the jar once or twice a day to circulate a fragrant sugar, but with minimal vanilla flavor.

To make a more richly flavored vanilla sugar, use one of the following two techniques:

1. Split a vanilla bean in half, then scrape the seeds of the two halves into 3 cups of granulated sugar, or 1 box of confectioners sugar. Place the vanilla sugar into a jar with a good seal. Add the sliced pieces of the bean, and then close tightly. The sugar will be flavorful in about 1 day and will continue to grow in flavor over the next week.
2. The other technique is to put sugar into a blender or food processor. For each cup of sugar, use approximately 2 inches of the vanilla bean, split in half and cut into small pieces. Whirl through the blender or pulse in food processor until the pieces of bean have been pulverized. Store as above. Before using sugar treated this way, pour it through a sieve.

Beans that are used to flavor custards or other liquids (except for chocolate) can be stored in the sugar jars. This will keep the beans well protected and will add additional fragrance to the sugar.

Beans stored in sugar will keep indefinitely, but the fragrance will slowly wear away with time. The beans will probably need replacing within a year or so. Beans used to flavor liquids will lose their flavor and scent more rapidly.

**Dated Material - Do Not Delay**

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

