



The Orchidist

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AUGUST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are so sorry our meeting in July had to be canceled, but it would have been a real challenge to have an "open air meeting." We now have a brand new room and roof for our meetings, and our speaker for July will be rescheduled at a later date.

How is everyone holding up during our 'Dog Days' of summer? I hope you all are finding ways to stay cool. Our plants, too, need some extra assistance during these long, hot days. It's probably a good idea to hose them down, or mist them, later in the day to cool them off. I use my misters in my greenhouse every day for about 20 minutes and the temperature actually drops almost 10 degrees.

Remember, too, that the summer brings more bugs and diseases in the warmer weather. Inspect frequently and keep your growing area free from debris, such as weeds, fallen blooms, leaves, etc., and keep your orchids well spaced. You will have less problems with disease.

October 4, 2009 is our Speaker's Day, and I hope you will attend. We have planned a wonderful day, with very interesting speakers and a great lunch! The months of October, November and December will be filled with excitement with Speaker's Day, our holiday party in December and a surprise in November which I will announce at our next meeting.

Until then.....good growing,

Judy



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AUGUST PROGRAM

Carlos Cahiz - OFE Plant Supply

Our speaker this month will be Carlos Cahiz of OFE Plant Supplies. Carlos will be presenting a program titled "Introduction to Orchid Growing Supplies". Carlos will be bringing actual samples of orchid growing articles and he will explain how to use them. The orchid products will include fungicides, fertilizers, insecticides, baskets and pots, tree fern and various orchid mixes, growing media, sprayers and clippers.

Carlos was born in Valencia, Venezuela and graduated from the University of Kansas. He has worked at OFE a family owned business for the last nineteen years. He is married with a seven year old son, two adopted dogs, a rescued parrot, and a turtle. He shares his backyard with the family's orchids, ferns, their guest lizards, frogs and possums.

Carlos has a favorite orchid phrase "Tender neglect" and his favorite orchid is one that is "in bloom".

OFE Orchid supply will provide the raffle table which will consist of plants and supplies. Carlos will also have orchid supplies for sale.

MEETING NOTICE

SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, August 19, 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

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 Odonoglossums, 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 talk 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, un-Limited. 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 conservations 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 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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS SAVE THE DATE



Wednesday, November 18, 2009 the SFOS will hold its 1st Annual Holiday Pre Sale and Orchid Auction. All types of articles will be available not just orchids. More information to follow.



On December 13th, 2009 SFOS will have its annual Holiday Party at Signature Gardens. We will have a wonderful raffle and all members attending will receive a free plant. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend our wonderful party.

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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:

Expiration date _____

Address to mail tickets: _____

Please return this form to: SFOS,
10801 S.W. 124 St., Miami, FL 33176.

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

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

As the Membership Chairman for the coming year - I would like to challenge YOU!

At our next regular meeting, August 19, 2009, I will give a seedling orchid plant to each South Florida Orchid Society member that brings a "**First Time Visitor**". Even more, I will give a seedling orchid plant to your visitor, too!

Watch our "Newsletter" for future challenges! There will be one each month - and the rules and gifts will change each month. As a look into the future - a gift certificate from a major grower is coming soon!

Sally Taylor,
1st VP and Membership Chairman

LUBBER GRASSHOPPERS

By Susan Jones

One of the largest and slowest moving grasshoppers, lubbers can attain 3 inches (7.5 cm) in length at maturity, and cause a great deal of damage to an orchid collection. Different species are found in various geographic regions of the United States: eastern lubbers (*Romalea guttata*, found from central North Carolina west through southern Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas to Texas and throughout Florida), horse lubbers (*Taeniopoda eques*, native to Texas and Arizona, down into Mexico), plains lubbers (*Brachystola magna*, most commonly found on the prairies of the western part of the United States and Mexico) and southeastern lubbers (*Romalea microptera*, which spread out from North Carolina to Florida, west to Louisiana and northeast to Tennessee).



A swarm of nymphs can devour everything in their path.

DESCRIPTION

Although there is some variation among the different species, all are flightless and quite large as grasshoppers go, with females attaining greater length at maturity than males. Distinctively colored and patterned, the immature ones have different coloration from their adult counterparts. All share the chitinous exoskeleton typical of grasshoppers that helps protect them from predators and prevent dehydration.

Eastern lubbers are flightless, although not wingless. They move from place to place primarily by walking, but are capable of jumping short distances. Adults of this species are yellow, spotted black, with red coloration under their wings, and reach $2\frac{3}{8}$ (6 cm) to more than 3 inches (8 cm) in length.

Unlike some of their less athletic cousins, horse lubbers have long hind legs that allow them to cover distances of up to 20 times their own length in a single jump. These lubbers are black at maturity,

with yellow markings and black-and-orange-striped antennae, and attain a length of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches (6.4 cm).

Flightless plains lubbers are also capable of jumping from several inches to several feet using their oversized hind legs. Their bodies are reddish brown in color, marked with greenish brown. Their wings are colored with ABOVE Southeastern lubber nymphs feeding on landscape foliage. reddish brown and black spots, and they have a row of light-colored dots on their abdomens. The smallest of the lubbers, this grasshopper is still fairly large, reaching up to $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches (4 cm) in length as an adult.

Adult southeastern lubbers come in two color schemes: mustard yellow with black markings, the southerners among them with a reddish stripe as well, or black with yellow stripes. They grow to be $2-2\frac{3}{4}$ inches (5–7 cm) in length, and are flightless.

LIFE CYCLE

After mating, lubbers deposit caches of approximately 25 to 50 eggs, depending on the species, in the ground during the summer. These eggs overwinter underground and begin to hatch out from mid-March to June, depending on the region. In warmer areas, such as the southeastern United States, the hatching is earlier, while for species such as the plains lubbers in the western parts of the country, later spring is the expected arrival time for the young. The wingless nymphs (immature grasshoppers) crawl up out of the soil in groups and begin their search for food. The young lubbers will molt their exoskeletons five times at roughly 15-day intervals before reaching adulthood, when they settle down to breed and begin the cycle anew.

HABITAT AND FEEDING

Although each type of lubber has its preferred plant or plants on which it feeds in its natural environment, all are fairly catholic eaters and, given the opportunity, will usually cause damage to a wide variety of greenery. This includes one's prized orchids. Young lubbers usually travel in large numbers, swarming and devouring plant material as they go. Knowing which plants they favor can help growers to be on the lookout for these pests; also, keep orchids far away from host plants. Eastern lubbers are most often found in open pinewoods, weedy fields and the vegetation along roadsides. Their preferred foods include the foliage of citrus, vegetables and ornamental plants. Horse lubbers stick to grasslands and oak woods, desert annuals and foliage of peren-

nial shrubs, including mesquite. The plains lubbers hang out in the prairies, roadside vegetation, in vacant lots or at the edges of fields. Their favorite food is sunflowers, but they will also consume various grasses, weeds and many other types of flowers and young cotton plants. Southeastern lubbers frequent roadsides, field edges and gardens, noshing on ornamentals, vegetables and even citrus leaves.

DEFENSIVE CHARACTERISTICS

Lubbers have at their disposal a variety of relatively unpalatable means of defending themselves against threats from other creatures.

The bright coloration and patterning on a lubber's shell is an aposematic, or warning, pattern to predators that they are unpalatable to downright poisonous. Lubbers ingest and assimilate substances in the plants they consume that, although harmless to humans and the lubbers themselves, are toxic to many predators. These chemicals may kill smaller creatures such as birds or leave larger animals quite ill after ingesting a lubber.

If their color pattern is insufficient to warn off a would-be predator, the lubbers are capable of secreting a noxious foam while making a loud hissing sound when threatened. In addition, like most grasshoppers, they can also regurgitate a dark brown liquid (commonly called tobacco spit) as a defense.



Lubber adults are colorful and formidable in appearance.

CONTROLS


Chemical control is effective only against the nymph stage. There are several insecticides toxic to

grasshoppers that are registered for use on ornamentals, fruits and vegetables, such as Cygon. These are not, however, approved for use on orchids. If control of the young lubbers on host plants for which the insecticides are approved is the goal, chemical control is an option. Otherwise, these pests are best eradicated by hand.

Because most species are fairly slow moving and all are harmless to humans, they can be handpicked from a favored plant or netted. Various orchid growers recommend their own preferred lubber-control weaponry, including a brick, shoe, broom or even the broad side of a machete, but squashing them does seem to be the favored approach.

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ORCHID DISTRIBUTION

Most of us think of orchids as coming from tropical areas and many of them do. But orchids can be found from the fringes of the Arctic Circle to the north to the southern tips of South America and Australia. The only continent without orchids is Antarctica. They vary in size from several tons to those that are so small that the whole plant will fit in a thimble. In variety, the orchid family is the largest in the world with somewhere between 20,000 to 30,000 different species. They are thought to be among the oldest of the flowering plants.

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AOS REPORT

1st South Florida Leadership Conference

Carol De Biase, AOS Rep

On July 11 and 12, I attended the first South Florida Leadership Conference, in Boca Raton, Florida at Embassy Suites. "Let's Grow Together" was the title of this conference, which was attended by about 50 members of different orchid society leaders from all over Florida, Society representatives came from Key West to Jacksonville, Gainesville, Naples; club leaders from Texas, New Jersey, and even from Puerto Rico attended as well.

The main purpose of the Conference was to help orchid societies become more effective at all aspects and activities within their club. Rhonda Heide, facilitator of the South Florida Leadership Council gave the opening remarks and Paul Weber, MD was the keynote speaker. Dr. Wetter was followed by different speakers that covered such subjects as, how to plan an orchid show, having fun at your meetings, recruiting and maintaining members, fund raising, newsletters, communications, finding society leaders and board members, as well as how to promote your society and reach out to your community.

I heard a great number of wonderful ideas that will be incorporated into SFOS meetings, programs, and the Miami International Orchid Show.

Next year, at the next conference, I urge you to make plans to attend with me as it was a great week-end of fun learning and inspiration.

If you are not a member of AOS consider becoming one. Go to the AOS web site www.aos.org

SFOS GOING GREEN

The South Florida Orchid Society is trying to go as green as possible by sending out the newsletter via email. Many of our members use email everyday and would not mind receiving their newsletter via email. If you are one of them please send us an email at (sforchid@bellsouth.net) telling us you want to receive your monthly newsletter via email. We will take you off the snail mail list and add you to our email list. For those members that prefer to have the newsletter mailed to you by "US mail" we will be happy to do that for you. Remember the less paper we can use the more trees we can save and the less SFOS has to pay for printing and postage.

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN?


by Greg Allikas

Last week Dianne Gorbach informed me that the AOS had an account with a Yahoo search spinoff called Goodsearch and asked me to mention it on the website. Turns out that we have had this account since 2007 and have not promoted it!!!!

How this works is that when you search (or shop) through the Goodsearch portal, the AOS makes money. Not a lot (a penny per click) so if I am the only one using the service I can tell you right now, it isn't going to make a whole heck of a difference. But if ALL of you search through Goodsearch, and tell your friends to, we might just create a pyramid scheme to rival the fortunes of Bernie Madoff...or at least we can hope. There are a couple ways you can do this...

The easiest is to download the Goodsearch toolbar and turn off your. Just click on the link below and you can install that toolbar already aiming pennies at the AOS. Just follow the directions. Although you can keep your Google toolbar, I have turned mine off for now so I get in the habit of using the Goodsearch window. Another way to raise peanuts for the AOS is to click the Goodsearch graphic on the AOS homepage and that will take you to their search portal.

Hey, don't laugh...we have already made four bucks in a few days by doing absolutely nothing!



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SPIDER MITES ON ORCHIDS

by Susan Taylor
BellaOnline's Orchids Editor

Spider mites are closely related to spiders. They are nearly microscopic in size and are not often suspected until the damage is visible, usually on thin leaved orchids such as Dendrobiums. The leaves will have a silvery look caused by the death of cells at the surface of the leaves due to the sucking of sap by the mites. This is most apparent on the undersides of leaves and sometimes it will look like there is dust or dirt on the top of the leaves.

Some spider mites spin a protective web which can cover the underside of leaves during a bad infestation. To verify that you have mites, spray the underside of the leaves with a fine water spray and then hold up to the light. The webs should be made visible from the spray. You may also be able to see the tiny bugs moving on the webs. These webs will keep any spray off the eggs and the adults if you do not destroy it manually.

They are particularly invasive during hot, dry weather and the life cycle only takes about a week during warm temperatures. Each female can lay three to five eggs per day and thus produce more

than 100 eggs in about three weeks. It is very important to identify the problem early and take immediate action especially since you already have an infestation before you can see any signs of the problem. Keeping humidity in your growing environment is detrimental to mites since they prefer dry air. Hand washing of leaves or spraying with water will remove many of them from plants and kill them from the pressure of the water spray.

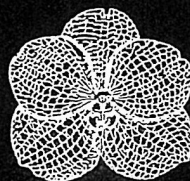
After you have determined that you have mites, it is very important to move quickly or they can kill your plant. Wipe the leaves on both sides with a damp cloth moistened with water and soap. This will destroy the webs and will manually kill the mites you touch. Then spray with a mixture of 409 Cleaner (one pint), rubbing alcohol (one pint) and water to make a gallon. Spray all surfaces of the plant as well as all surrounding plants. You will need to spray every fourth day for about a month to contain the infestation.

There are also chemical controls called miticides which can be used to control these pests, but most are not available to hobby growers. Horticultural oils such as Neem Oil will help control these pests, but their application during hot weather must be done carefully. Apply in the evening so that there is time for the oil to kill the pests without any direct sunlight on the plants.

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65TH MIAMI INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW - PASSPORT TO PARADISE



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PREMIER PARTY

Thursday, February 25 – 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Show Hours:

Friday, February 26 – 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 27 – 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 28 – 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



The 64th Miami International Orchid Show. South Florida goes blooming crazy when the Miami International Orchid Show debuts every year. The largest exhibiting orchid show in the country and one of the most prestigious orchid shows in the world, the Miami Show features rare and exotic blooms from professional growers, amateurs and orchid aficionados from across the globe. In addition to extraordinary orchid displays, the 64th Miami International Orchid Show features a juried awards competition, thousands of orchids and related items for sale, and daily interactive demonstrations taught by world's leading orchid experts.

For more information contact the South Florida Orchid Society at sforchid@bellsouth.net or 305-255-3656.

Dated Material - Do Not Delay

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

