



The Orchidist

September 2009 - Volume 5 - Number 20

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SEPTEMBER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

I was disappointed that I missed my first meeting as your President, but the Mezey's of New York were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, so the Mezey clan of South Florida flew up to join the family. Thank you Sally for running the meeting; I'm sure everything went very smoothly.

Did you notice some new faces doing the raffle last month? Thank you Leigh Elliott, Carlos San Martin, and Ralph Hernandez for stepping up to help out. A very big thanks goes to Mike and Sheila O'Dea for their 4 years manning the raffle table and doing a wonderful job!!

I'm sure you enjoyed Carlos Cahiz's talk on orchid growing supplies. It's so helpful to know what to use and when. And there is no better way than an actual demonstration.

Have you purchased your tickets for Speaker's Day, October 4th, yet? You can purchase them at the South Florida office, or see Ellen at the meeting. I hope many members will attend because we have a great day with interesting speakers orchids for purchase, and of course, a great lunch! It's amazing that it is right around the corner.

I hope you are as excited about our November auction as I am. As was announced at the meeting, we will be auctioning off gifts that can be used during the holidays. We already have restaurants, a facial, objects d'arts as well as beautiful orchids. Please make sure you bring your friends along so they can purchase gifts on their holiday list too! And don't forget our holiday party in December.

Have you been able to stay dry with all this rain? I believe the adage which states "a rainy May keeps the Hurricanes away." So my motto is "Let it rain!" Make sure your orchids are well covered with fungicide to prevent rot, and let us all keep our fingers crossed!

Until our next meeting.....good growing

Judy

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Lou Lodyga

Our speaker this month will be Lou Lodyga. Lou will present a program titled "Species YOU Can Grow in South Florida". Lou has been an accredited American Orchid society judge for over 30 years and is also a Senior Judge for the South Florida Orchid Society.

Lou is a life long orchidist, receiving his first Cattleya orchid at age 10. Later he spent 11 years as grower and manager for Black River Orchids in South Haven, Michigan. In 1979 he moved to our area from Michigan when he accepted a grower/orchid manager position with Jones and Scully in Miami where he worked for 10 years. Lou was an Inspector and Supervisor with the Florida Department of Agriculture until 1999 when he became an administrator there.

The raffle table will be provided by Quest Orchids.



MEETING NOTICE

SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, September 16, 2009
Fire Fighters Memorial Building
8000 N.W. 21st Street
Miami, FL 33122

- 7:15 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 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 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, Pphrags 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 Paph. Species and How They Influence Their Hybrids. Norito will also have plants to sell.

Tom Mirenda - 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 communities 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

MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE # 2!

South Florida Orchid Society members - you will receive ONE "Special Raffle Ticket" for each "first time visitor" you bring to our September 16th meeting - (i.e. you bring 5 first time visitors you get 5 special raffle tickets). The prize this time is a blooming plant. Watch our newsletter for the next challenge.

Sally Taylor,
1st V.P., Membership Chairman



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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.

REFRESHMENT REMINDER



Remember SFOS has changed the refreshment policy. We are now having members volunteer to bring snacks. If you volunteered to bring snacks for the September meeting, thank you so much and please remember to pick up your special raffle ticket at the September meeting. Anyone that brings snacks will receive a special raffle ticket for a drawing that evening. We need volunteers to bring snacks for the October meeting. Please talk to Marlene Clark at the September meeting to volunteer to bring snacks for the October meeting or you can call her at 305-253-7627.

RAISING BOTANICAL LITERACY ... WITH ORCHIDS

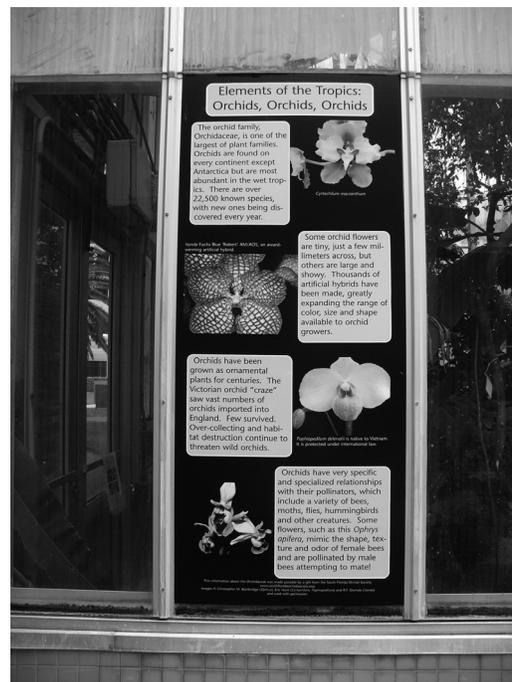
Since 1993, Florida International University has been home to the Wertheim Conservatory, a 2900 sq. ft. glasshouse on the north side of the campus, just off SW 8 St. The Conservatory is a showcase of tropical rain forest plants from around the world with an emphasis on species that cannot ordinarily be grown in Miami's climate. It is used for display, teaching, and as a venue for informal gatherings. Since February 2008, it has been under the direction of Dr. Scott Zona, who is bringing the Conservatory back to life and finding innovative ways to use the Conservatory to "raise botanical literacy" on campus. The South Florida Orchid Society recently joined him in that effort.



Along a heavily traveled walkway between the Conservatory and the adjacent lecture hall, Scott envisioned window "clings" – colorful printed posters, similar to the advertising used on city buses – to bring awareness to "Elements of the Tropics," those plants that are especially emblematic of the tropics. Orchids are quintessentially tropical, so naturally, he wanted to make an educational "cling" about orchids. He approached the SFOS to underwrite the project, and the finished "cling" is now on display on one of the panes of the Conservatory.

"I could have done ten 'clings' about orchids, so I really had to focus and refine the message," said Scott. The poster is 53.5 inches tall and 22 inches wide. The text describes the size and geographic distribution of the family, the effort hybridizers have made in expanding the range of cultivated forms, conservation issues, and the intricate relationships

orchids have with their pollinators. The photos used with permission were supplied by Christopher M. Bainbridge, Eric Hunt (orchidphotos.com), and R.F. Orchids. The "cling" carries an acknowledgement of the support of the SFOS and the address of the SFOS website.



"The walkway has been pretty quiet during the summer break, although I've already heard lots of positive comments from the faculty," said Scott. "The fall semester classes begin on August 24th, so soon hundreds of students will be exposed to these clings."

The high-traffic walkway, where students often wait for lectures in the adjacent building, was dull and uninteresting. Now, the area is a venue for learning and appreciating the diversity and value of tropical plants, a venue where orchids hold pride of place.

The orchid "cling" is one of four clings currently on display (a fifth, accidentally damaged, is being reprinted). Additional "clings" will be installed as funds permit. The "clings" can be viewed at any time, but the Conservatory is open to the public Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is free. During weekdays, visitors must pay to park on campus.

Stay tuned for information about a future SFOS project to increase the Wertheim Conservatory's orchid collection!

**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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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.

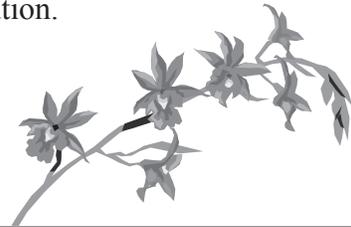
HOW DO I FEED MY ORCHID?

Experienced orchid growers fertilize their orchids weakly, weekly.

Orchids need to be fed regularly. Growers suggest using a "balanced" fertilizer such as 20-20-20 that includes all "necessary trace elements."



Regardless of the fertilizer formulation you choose to use, it should contain little or no urea. If you are unsure of what fertilizer to use, you can generally use any fertilizer you would for your other container plants. Orchids will do far better with too little fertilizer than with too much. Many growers recommend the "weakly, weekly" approach, applying a dilute (1/4 strength) fertilizer each time they water, rather than applying a full dose once a month. Also, it is best not to fertilize a completely dry plant as the fertilizer can burn the dry roots. Water first then follow with fertilizer solution.



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GETTING ORCHIDS READY FOR FALL/WINTER

by Liese

Even though it's early September, fall seems to be in the air. The days are slowly getting shorter, the nights cooler, and some trees are even beginning to lose their leaves. The kids are back in school and our summer "routines" must change.

Most of us are creatures of habit. Watering our plants every Saturday morning and fertilizing once-a-month, whatever it may be. What one must remember is that as the seasons change, the climate conditions change, thus, the care of your orchids must also change.

Fall brings shorter days, cooler nights, and lower light intensities. These conditions are necessary to push many orchids into spike. However, the care we give them must change slightly to accommodate the new season. During the fall and winter months, the plant growth of orchids slows down and, in some cases, stops entirely until spring. Because of this, we usually cut back of our watering and fertilizing. It is good to switch foods to a blossom booster formula during the fall and winter. Blossom booster cuts back on the nitrogen and pumps up the phosphate, a combination that encourages blooming. With the lower light during these months the orchids simply do not use up as much food, so make sure to reduce your fertilizing frequency and/or switch to a blossom booster.

The plants also do not use up as much water during the fall/winter months. You will want to water your plants thoroughly as usual. However, due to the darker, cooler days, it may take longer for your plants to dry out. The best thing to do is to evaluate and change your orchid care as the seasons change. Be aware of the plant growth and moisture content. Don't get caught up in too much of a "routine" of caring for your orchids. Learn to study the plant and decide on it's specific needs for that week, month and season.



UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

SFOS SPEAKERS DAY

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FLORIDA WEST COAST ORCHID SOCIETY FALL SHOW AND SALE

"Fall Orchid Frenzy"

Friday, Saturday, Sunday - October 2,3,4, 2009
10am-4pm Each Day

Orchid classes and potting booth Saturday and Sunday 15 Vendors, free parking, displays, refreshments for sale Entries for AOS judging are accepted 10am-4pm on Friday. Vendors will be able to register beginning at 8am on Friday. Located at the Honeywell Minnreg Building, 6340 126th Ave., Largo, FL. (126th Ave between 66th St. and US19). Admission \$5. Contact Brett Finke: 727-460-4606.

EEOS SHOW & SALE

"Parade of Orchids"

Friday, Saturday, Sunday - October 23 - 25, 2009
9am - 5 pm each day.

Admission is Free. Located at r.f. Orchids, Inc., 28100 SW 182 Avenue, Homestead, FL 33030. For more information contact Melana Davison: 305-242-3161



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WATCH FOR FUNGAL INFECTIONS

by AOS

Fungus infections are especially prevalent during the hot and humid months, especially on thin leafed orchids. If you notice spotting on the leaves of your plants, spray with a good fungicide such as Physan or Consan to keep the problem from getting worse. Be sure to spray both the bottom and the top of leaves for best results. Increase your air circulation around that specific plant if possible since poor air circulation is one of the causes of fungal infections.

WATCH FOR NEW GROWTH AND STAKE INFLORESCENCES

by AOS

Stake new inflorescences on most of the summer growing orchids such as Epidendrum, Dendrobium, Brassavola, Oncidiums and Phrags. It is a good idea to put in the stake as soon as you notice the inflorescence so that you can keep track of where it is and stake when the growth has reached about 4 inches. Be careful not to pinch the inflorescence because all the growth and flower development is nourished through the stem.

GROWING THE BEST

Share the magic and joy of growing orchids with a gift of the AOS 2010 Calendar. The 12 superbly grown orchids pictured show the diversity in color, size, shape and fragrance found in the orchid family. Join author Ken Slump as he shares secrets for growing the best orchids and then offers advice for successfully cultivating and flowering a dozen choices suitable for the greenhouse, home and under lights.

\$2 from each calendar sold benefits orchid conservation

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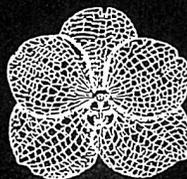
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MEMBERS ORCHIDS: SPOTLIGHTED FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Photos by Georgia Tasker



**Mokara Jasso's Pride
Georgia Tasker &
Sandra Schultz**



**Catasetum tenebrosum 'Doris Viola'
Betty Eber**



**Den. Burana Stripe
Manuel & Estela Lasarte**



**Oberonia japonica
Carol De Biase**

Dated Material - Do Not Delay

**South Florida Orchid Society
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