



January 2010 - Volume 6 - Number 23

Published by the South Florida Orchid Society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear South Florida members:

As the year 2009 draws to a close, I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard on our programs and events. Thank you Carol De Biase, our program chair, for arranging diverse and interesting programs each month. Speaker's Day, also arranged by Carol, brought us together for a lovely day of interesting lectures, friendship, and good food. Speaking of food, many thanks go to Marlene Clark for organizing our volunteers who bring in food for our monthly meetings (and get a special raffle ticket!), as well as planning for Speaker's Day and our Holiday Party. Thank you Sally Taylor for bringing the plants for everyone who attended the Holiday Party, and many thanks to Bob Fuchs and Michael Coronado for donating the beautiful raffle table! We have a Board of Directors and Officers who work hard all year long, and I would like to thank them for their dedication. A big thanks also goes to our secretary, Ellen Hanson, for all her help.

Believe it or not, our 64th Miami International Orchid Show is just around the corner and will be here before we know it. We need lots of volunteers to help put on the show and I hope many of you will become involved. We will be asking and signing up committees at our next meeting, so please sign up. You will truly enjoy the show so much more when you have taken part in the production and witness the end result which you helped to create. We also offer opportunities to sponsor trophies to honor some loved one, or advertise your business. Our Show Chairman, Bob Fuchs, will speak about our show at the January meeting.

January is our coldest month and we all need to make sure our plants are protected from the cold and the wind. The wind actually does more damage than the cold. If you wrap your house in plastic, make sure to raise it in the morning when the sun comes up; otherwise your greenhouse could become an oven. If you cover plants outside (no plastic here; just burlap or sheets), also remove in the morning when the sun is out. Phals. and Vandas are more cold sensitive, so take care to keep them warm.

Happy and Healthy New Year to all! I would also like to wish Leigh Elliot a speedy recovery and hope to see him back at our meetings real soon.

Good growing,
Judy

**Wednesday, January 20, 2010
Fire Fighters Memorial Building
8000 NW 21st Street, Miami, FL 33122
7:15 pm Registration & Judging of Plants
8:00 pm Program**

SFOS JUDGING

Bring Your Orchids in for Judging!

You can win with your orchids by bringing them in at our next meeting January 19th. Dress your plants up and bring them in.

PROGRAM

This month we will have a spectacular program provided by our own members. These members have won numerous awards for their Orchids. They are going to share with you their secrets to growing beautiful plants. They will talk about how they repot, stake, and prepare their plants for judging. You will also have a chance to ask them questions. Please join us for this wonderful program. The speakers for the evening are: Joan Viggiani - Paphs, Lore Wigley – Cattlayas, Sandy Schultz & Georgia Tasker – Vandas, David Foster & Gene Stevens – Dendrobiums, and Judy Mezey – Phals. The raffle table will be provided by R.F. Orchids.

PASSPORT TO PARADISE

The 64th Miami International Orchid Show

South Florida Orchid Society presents the 64th Miami International Orchid Show from February 26 to February 28, 2010. Not to be confused with the numerous other orchid shows that proliferate each spring, the Miami International Orchid Show is the original, and now the largest orchid show and sale in the country. Each year, orchid professionals and hobbyists from across the globe exhibit an exquisite, tropical array of more than 500,000 orchids and orchid-related items for show and for sale. Show organizers anticipate more than 15,000 attendees this year.

"The thing that sets the Miami International Orchid Show apart from the other orchid shows is the sheer size of the Show, the number of items for sale, and the extraordinary design of the exhibits," said Show Director Robert Fuchs. "The Miami International Orchid Show is a top-caliber, professionally produced show where guests get to see and buy the world's finest orchids from the world's top growers."

"Passport to Paradise" sets the theme for the 2010 show. In addition to extraordinary orchid displays, the 64th Miami International Orchid Show features a juried awards competition and thousands of orchids and related items for sale. New to the Show for 2010 will be an art exhibit and corresponding art contest spotlighting orchid imagery in three creative categories: art, sculpture and photography. The contest will be overseen by Terry Mulrooney from the Homestead Art Club and both ribbons and cash prizes will be awarded.

Fuchs also points out that there is much more to do at the Show than stroll among the dramatic displays and purchase a vanda or cattleya. There will also be a series of informative talks by world-renowned growers, walking tours by knowledgeable Orchid Society members pointing out the highlights of the show, and sales of orchid-related art and collectibles.

Kicking off this year's Show will be a special Premier Party to be held on Thursday, February 25, at 7:30 p.m. The highly anticipated Premier Party provides orchid lovers with a first glimpse at the show's exhibits, the first chance to buy the Show's best orchid plants, and it will also unveil the winners of the sought-after orchid trophies - including the Grand Champion trophy for best orchid in the Show. Ribbons and trophies will also be presented to the winners of the photography and art contests.

Regular hours for the 64th Miami International Orchid Show are
Friday, February 26- 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday, February 27 - 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday, February 28 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The 64th Miami International Orchid Show will take place at the Doubletree Miami Mart/Airport Hotel and Convention Center, centrally located at 711 N.W. 72nd Avenue in Miami, immediately south of Miami International Airport. Daily show admission is \$15.00 for adults, which includes a \$5.00 merchandise discount coupon. South Florida Orchid Society members and children 12 and under are free. Tickets for the special Premier Party are \$50.00 per person and must be ordered in advance through the South Florida Orchid Society office at (305) 255-3656.

To inquire about South Florida Orchid Society membership, for additional information on the 64th Miami International Orchid Show, or to order advance or group tickets, please call 305-255-3656 or visit www.sforchid.com <<http://www.sforchid.com>> .

TICKET ORDER FORM

Premiere Reception: Thursday, February 25, 2010, 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm.
Exhibits and sales marts open for the first time and a buffet.
Tickets are \$50.00

Admission Prices

\$10.00 Advance One Day Ticket (\$15.00 at the door; a \$5.00 savings)

Please mail your check (made out to "SFOS") along with your ticket order form by February 15th, 2010
to: SFOS, 10801 SW 124th Street, Miami, FL 33176

2010 Ticket Order Form:

_____ Premiere Party Tickets @ \$50.00
_____ Pre-sale Tickets @ \$10.00
_____ Total Enclosed

Please mail tickets to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

ORCHIDOPHILOS

by Tom Sheehan

Frequently I am asked by an orchidist how to tell whether or not he/she is doing a good job of growing his/her plants. Actually, this is a good question, because often times we look at our plants and wonder how well they are thriving, but have nothing for comparison. It is relatively easy to tell whether your plants are up to par or not. Color is always a good positive factor because the intensity of green will vary among genera, with some well grown plants dark green and some almost yellow green. But there is an excellent indicator that everyone can use to evaluate plants.

With sympodial orchids, e.g., *Cattleya*, *Dendrobium*, the new growth in mature plants should be equal to or larger than the height of the last growth, while in unflowered seedlings it should always be larger. If the newest growth is smaller, then you are not doing a good job of growing, or the plant may be suffering from soluble salt damage or possibly some pest problem and it is time to do something.

In monopodial orchids e.g., *Vanda*, *Phalaenopsis*, the situation is very similar. With these plants the spread of the new leaves should be equal to or greater than the last mature leaf or set of leaves. Again, in seedlings you expect each new leaf to be larger until the plant is mature and flowering, at which time the new leaves should be of equal size from then on. A well grown large strap leaf *Vanda* plant should have all the leaves the same length so the leaf tips would all touch a stick held perpendicularly to the leaves. I should point out that you are comparing mature leaves, not developing leaves. Consequently, you must be able to recognize the difference for all the genera you are growing. Once you do this the rest is easy.

Another problem that occurs in the fall of the year is the formation of brown papery sheaths on some *Cattleya* plants. Novices often cut them off, thinking they have lost the flowers, and this is not so. Those species and their hybrids that have the "mossiae" growth cycle, e.g., *trianaei*, *labiata*, produce their flowers from within the papery bracts. These plants flower from early fall through May, The other group, known as "gigas" flower in spring and summer while the sheaths are green and succulent. So be careful before you cut off any papery sheaths this fall when checking your plants. Gently squeeze the sheath and you will feel the buds inside.

ORCHID INFORMATION

Winter Orchid Dreaming by Susan Taylor

Orchid growing is somewhat like any other gardening – January and February are very slow months! Unlike outside gardeners in temperate climates, though, we are constrained by the problems of cold weather shipping and delivery rather than the growth of most of the plants we grow. During the coldest

months, many growers will take orders for later delivery, but hesitate to ship even with cold packs during the coldest months.

So now is the time for us to look through those catalogs, review what plants we already have and how they're growing and look seriously at what we might want to grow for the coming year. Each of us has slightly different conditions and some plants grow better than others under those conditions.

What is really doing well for you? If you like them, consider growing more of those kinds of plants. Look through the catalogs and see if you can find similar crosses and the chances are that they will also do well under your conditions.

What is really not doing well? If this is something that you really love and want to grow, then look at your conditions and see if you can change them slightly so that the plants will do better. Until you figure that out, it's probably better not to buy any more of them.

Is there something new that you want to grow and see if it will do for you? Develop an "Orchid Wish List" to take with you to orchid shows. If they are displayed there, talk to the owner and find out what kind of conditions he or she has to get some idea how that particular orchid likes to grow. Check out pricing from online vendors before you go so that you will have an idea of what you should be willing to pay for a plant. Many times it is less expensive to buy at a show because you're not paying extra for shipping.

Take some time to clean up your growing area and your plants. Stake new growth and clean up old dry growth. Wipe down leaves to remove residue and dust and allow the plant to better absorb the available light. This will also help remove any pests that have moved into your plants. Make a list of the plants that you are going to need to repot in the spring and make sure that you have the supplies necessary to do so. Buying supplies at this time of year is a good investment. There are generally sales from the vendors who cannot ship plants during the cold months.

AOS CORNER

THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY

For \$60.00/year, you reap the following benefits:

- Monthly subscription to Orchids magazine
- Free and discounted admission to more than 200 botanical gardens and arboreta
- Receive the annual Orchid Source Directory detailing orchid suppliers worldwide
- Access to Members-Only section of the Web site, www.aos.org
- 10% discount on purchases in the Orchid Emporium or on-line at www.aos.org
- Discount on back issues of Orchids magazine and on American Orchid Society published books
- Reduced processing fees for American Orchid Society judged plant and flower awards
- Discounts on orchid class fees at the American Orchid Society Botanical Gardens
- Free admission to the American Orchid Society Botanical Gardens and 50% off admission for any guests. JOIN TODAY!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Who: American Orchid Society

What: AOS Hosts Auction for Pediatric AIDS Relief

When: February 18, 2010

Where: American Orchid Society Gardens
16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33446

American Orchid Society Hosts Auction for Pediatric AIDS

Wine & Jazz at the American Orchid Society 2010!
Live and Silent Auction to Benefit Orchid Mania South Florida

What do orchids and Pediatric AIDS have in common? Dedicated orchidists volunteering their time to raise money supporting financially disadvantaged HIV positive children in the South Florida Community! Orchid Mania South Florida volunteers provide both financial and moral support to families in their struggles to deal with this deadly disease. Orchid Mania volunteers are devoted to their goal of encouraging interest and enthusiasm for orchid cultivation in public areas, conservation, and appreciation while providing a positive vehicle for anyone to donate their time and talents raising money for local pediatric AIDS relief.

The American Orchid Society is honored to help Orchid Mania South Florida by holding an auction during their Thursday, February 18, 2010 Wine & Jazz event. The AOS holds four Wine & Jazz events each year, on the third Thursday of Jan, Feb, March and April. It is a beautiful time to discover the beautiful, exotic, complex world of orchids. Here you'll find rare orchids growing as they do in the wild. Explore lush gardens woven throughout 3.5 acres and see exquisite orchids in our 4000 sq. ft. greenhouse. The stunning array of colors, shapes, sizes and fragrances are sure to capture your imagination and create an unforgettable experience. The garden is located off Jog Road, next to Morikami Museum. Monies will be raised through live and silent auction from beautiful orchid arrangements, orchid art, handmade orchid jewelry and other items.

The American Orchid Society was founded in 1921 to support the passion for orchids through education, conservation and research. The AOS is more than just a flower club. Throughout its 85-year history the AOS, in keeping with its vision and mission, has strived to bring our members timely and state-of-the-art orchid information, support basic and applied research in orchids, and monitor and support conservation effort both here in North America as well as throughout the World. AOS is proud to support the work of Orchid Mania South Florida and look forward to seeing you in February! Admission to the event is \$20/person for AOS members, \$25/person for non-members.

For reservations or for more information on the event, contact Susan Wayman at (561) 404-2031 or email her at swayman@aos.org. To donate items for the February auction, please contact Carol Holdren at cjholdren@gmail.com.

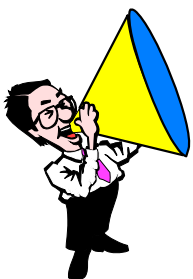
The American Orchid Society Botanical Gardens are open to the public Monday through Sunday, 10 to 4:30PM www.aos.org 561-404-2000 16700 AOS Lane Delray Beach FL 33446. Wine & Jazz Events: January 21, February 18 (Orchid Mania auction), March 18, April 15

SFOS

REMINDER: Renewals have been sent out so don't forget to send your payment.

Wednesday, February 17, 2010 - Hermann Pigors of Oak Hill Gardens will speak on Dendrobiums.

SAVE THE DATE: The 64th Miami International Orchid Show will be held on February 27 – March 1, 2010 at the Doubletree Miami Mart Hotel & Convention Center. Pre-sale tickets for the Show will be mailed to our members to sell in advance of the Show. Please sell these tickets to your family and friends and remember they make great Holiday gifts! The pre-sale ticket price is \$10.00; a \$5.00 savings off the \$15.00 at the door price. Pre-sale tickets also have a \$5.00 off coupon to use on a sale of \$25.00 or more at participating vendors. Please mail the proceeds from your ticket sales back to the SFOS office (10801 SW 124 St, Miami, FL 33176) as soon as possible. If you need more pre-sale tickets please contact Ellen at the SFOS office (3050-255-3656 or sforchid@bellsouth.net).



size.

Put a greeting or an announcement in the newsletter. The cost is \$15.00 for a business card

Ben Franklin's Almanac of Wit, Wisdom, and Practical Advice

Keeping Ants Out

- If you can tell where ants are coming into your house, plug the hole with petroleum jelly or soft soap.
- Surround anthills with used coffee grounds, and the ants will not cross the barrier.

Notes For Gardeners

- Instead of using chemical herbicides, pour boiling water on pesky weeds.
- Don't handle plants immediately after a rainstorm, or you might spread fungal diseases.

Home Remedies For Gardeners

- Garden chores leaving you with blisters? Apply calendula ointment (made from the pot marigold) or make an antiseptic wash with two drops of chamomile oil in ½ cup water.
- For pests, think pesto. Rub basil on the skin as an insect repellent.
- Mix together equal parts witch hazel and rubbing alcohol and use it to massage a tired back or sore muscles. This refreshes the skin, too.

ORCHID SEARCH-A-WORD

G A S T R I T I S X P B
S N E L L A P A J R T U
Y I I S S O L U O L M I
R E L E U U F E V U N A
I K M Y C C U Z I I S R
N O T A T S P B S I A A
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KEY

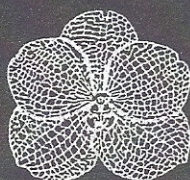
Sophronitis	Saccrolabium	Syringothyrsus	Miltassia
Mormodes	Pterostylis	Pallens	Profusus
Masdevallia	Deva Dracula	Gomesa	Gastritis
Bollea	Buiara		

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