



May 2010 - Volume 6 - Number 26

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear South Florida Members:

I am so sorry I missed Mirta Russis Heineman's talk on Encyclias at our May meeting. I heard that the talk was very interesting and well presented. However, I was welcoming my third granddaughter, Caroline Maya Schwartz into the world. She was born May 12, and weighed in at 6 pounds 5 ounces; she is a very good baby and everyone is doing well. Thank you Sally Taylor for running the meeting.

I hope to see everyone at our next meeting on June 16, Greg Allikas will be presenting his program titled: "Jewels of Oceania; the Pedilonum Dendrobiums. He is a wonderful speaker, and I know you will fully enjoy his presentation. Our meeting will also include our Annual Awards presentation and the Installation of Officers and Directors. Carol De Biase, our Awards Committee Chair, will be in charge of presenting the awards. It promises to be a full evening, so don't miss out on the fun.

How is everyone managing the heat? It seems we went from a cold winter right into summer. I vaguely remember another season called Spring. What happened to it this year? When you are warm so are your plants. Our plants do best when they are watered early, so the leaves and roots are dry when the sun is at its warmest. I put my misters on for about 20 minutes around midday, if the temperature in the greenhouse goes above 100 degrees. Just that little bit of mist reduces the temperature about 10 degrees. You can also cool your plants with a hand held mister. They will greatly appreciate your care.

Good growing,
Judy



Membership Note from Sally Taylor – The first member bringing 5 first time visitors to one meeting will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Carmela Orchids.

PROGRAM

Greg Allikas

"Jewels of Oceania" the Pedilonum Dendrobiums

The plant raffle table will be a beautiful assortment of plants provided by Carter and Holmes. See you all there

Sincerely,

Carol

SFOS DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, July 21th – Elly Carroll will be our speaker this month. Elly's program is "How to Safely Handle Orchid Chemicals and Non-Chemical Alternatives".

2010 - 2011 SLATE OF OFFICERS

Sandy Schultz, chairman along with Marlene Clark, Joan Viggiani and Michael O'Dea present the following Slate of Officers for the 2010 - 2011 year.

President	Judith Mezey
1st Vice President	Sally Taylor
2nd Vice President	Carol De Biase
Secretary	Javier Morejon
Treasurer	Dorothy Bennett

Director's term expiring 2011--Christa Collins, Julie Rosenberg, Tony Viggiani
Director's term expiring 2012 --Marlene Clark, Ralph Hernandez, Bonnie Riley
Director's term expiring 2013 -- Dan Christensen, Maria Wood
Special Directors -- Immediate Past President: Sandra Schultz

Be sure to be there to welcome them.

The main program for the evening will be a review of the awards presented during the year (June 2009-May 2010). Carol De Biase, Chairman of the Awards Committee will review the medal winners, the annual ribbon winners, and the present the perpetual trophies to the newest recipients. You'll definitely want to be there to watch as these proud exhibitors take their place in SFOS history.

We will have our regular monthly judging at this meeting.

As we end our "old" year and start our "new" one, I'd like to thank everyone that has helped us coordinate our programs, most particularly Ellen Hanson. I'm looking forward to another year of terrific presentations!

Carol De Biase
VP – Program Chairman

The next regular meeting of the South Florida Orchid Society will be Wednesday, June 16th.

Fire Fighters Memorial Building
8000 NW 21 St., Miami, FL 33122
7:30 Judging begins
7:45 Announcements
8:00 Program begins

INTRODUCTION TO ORCHIDS

An Introduction to Orchids

A Guide to Orchid Growing in the Subtropics

Third, revised edition, 2005,
ISBN 0-9679831-1-8

New for 2005, this completely revised edition brings 15 of South Florida's foremost orchid experts together to share their expertise on orchid care. Lavishly illustrated with hundreds of color photographs by award-winning photographers, this new edition includes useful appendices as well as informative chapters on the care of our most popular genera. 128 pages, edited by Julie Rosenberg; contributing editors Chuck McCartney and Michael Tibbs.



The contents include:

Foreword by Mary Noble McQuerry
General Orchid Culture, Ruben P. Sauleda, Ph.D., Ruben In Orchids
Growing Cattleyas, Bill Peters, Whimsy Orchids
Growing Phalaenopsis, Robert Randall, Carib Plants
Growing Vandas, Robert Fuchs, R.F. Orchids
Growing Dendrobiums, Lynn Bretsnyder, Impact Orchids & Exotics
Growing Oncidiums, Milton Carpenter, Everglades Orchids
Growing Tolumnias, Bill Peters, Whimsy Orchids
Growing Catasetums, Francisco Miranda, Miranda Orchids
Growing Slipper Orchids, Gene Monnier, JEM Orchids
Cymbidiums for Florida, Andy Easton, K-B Orchids
Orchids in the Landscape, Robert Fuchs, R.F. Orchids
Growing Terrestrial Orchids, Kerry Richards, A World of Orchids
Native Florida Orchids, Ruben P. Sauleda, Ph.D.
Orchid Pests, Catharine Mannion, Ph.D., University of Florida TREC
Orchid Diseases, Robert T. McMillan, Ph.D., University of Florida TREC
Potting and Mounting, Greg Allikas, The Potting Workshop
Caring for Seedlings, Ken Cameron, Redland Orchids
Judging and Exhibition, Dorothy Bennett, Judging Chair, 19th World Orchid Conference

To purchase your copy of this book or give it as a gift to someone come to the meetings or call Ellen at the office at 305-255-3656.

JUDGING



We will have regular monthly judging this month. We look forward to you bringing in your spectacular plants for all of us to admire.

AWARD



Miami Dade College proudly salutes *Miami Today* and its Best of Miami Issue and **Dr. Sandra Schultz** *Miami Today* Gold Medal Winner and Professor of the year for the State of Florida from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education

AOS

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!

ORCHID INFORMATION

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 one 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 confectioner's 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.

ORCHID TIPS

Use 70% Alcohol Spray when Repotting

One product in use frequently at our greenhouse during repotting is 70% alcohol. Now this product works extremely well to rid the different orchid genera of the pesky unwanted insect rascals. Placing the alcohol in a spray bottle full strength, then using it to spray down the whole plant (leaves - front and back, pseudobulbs and roots) before repotting will kill the insects and eggs. Remember to clean up the plant as mentioned in the previous tips by removing sheaths from the pseudobulbs as well as dead leaves, dead roots, and old brown flower stems before spraying. Let this spray set on the plant 20-30 minutes prior washing the plant thoroughly with water before repotting. (We have sprayed hundreds of different kinds of orchids with alcohol and never experienced orchid death or damage from this procedure. However, if you have rare or expensive orchids, please beware that you should check with your local orchid grower before using any solution on your orchids. Also, we have sprayed alcohol on *Phalaenopsis* and *Oncidium* flowers without damage but it will wilt the flowers of some *Dendrobiums* and other orchid genera). Thanks to Rose and Ron Poehler owners of County Line Orchids for this tip.

Work on the same size orchids

if you have a fairly large collection with different sized orchids, work on one size or one type at a time. I have standard, compact and miniature cattleyas. I always try to work on just one size at a time because it takes a different touch cleaning and working with standards than it does minis. I've broken off spikes and whole pseudobulbs on the minis using the same pressure that worked just fine on the standards.

Use water from your fish tank for your orchids

If you have freshwater tropical fish, use this water for your orchids when you change the water. It will have good fertilizer and really make the leaves green! The wastes contained in the water provide wonderful natural fertilizer for all your plants.

Stake your orchid flowers as they grow

In order to enjoy your orchid's flowers to their best advantage, start staking the inflorescences when they are about half grown on *Cattleyas*. This allows you to control the inflorescence as it grows and you will eliminate the possibility of breaking it off that occurs when the inflorescence is more mature.



THIS AND THAT

The South Florida Orchid will again be having their annual Speaker's Day on Sunday, October 3, 2010. Plan to be there.

Orchid True/False Key. 1. False (Ornithocephalus bicornis) 2. True 3. False (Nun's Orchid) 4. False (Moth Orchids) 5. True 6. False (Foxtail Orchid) 7. False (Coral Orchid) 8. False (Stanhopea wardii) 9. True 10. False Umbrella Star Orchid 11. True 12. True 13. False (Eulophia alta) 14. False (Polystachya concreta).

The last few pages of the SFOS Membership Roster are devoted to advertising. The money generated from selling these ads helps to defray the cost of printing and postage. Any member that would like to advertise their business or if you have any friends that would like to advertise we would greatly appreciate your ad. The ad must be in black and white and camera ready. The prices and sizes are listed as follows:

Full page (4 1/2 x 7 1/2) \$100.00; Half page (3 3/4 x 4 3/4) \$50.00; and Business Card \$25.00.

ORCHID THIS AND THAT

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 1/2 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 QUIZ

Orchid True or False

1. *Oncidium pusillum* is known as the bird's head orchid.
2. The Lady Slipper orchid is *Paphiopedilum bellatulum*.
3. *Phaius tankervilleae* is better known as the moth orchid.
4. *Phalaenopsis mannii* and *parishii* are known as the peppermint twins.
5. *Phragmipedium caudatum* var. *sanderae* is also known as the mandarin orchid.
6. *Rhynchostylis gigantea* is the coral orchid
7. *Rodriguezia secunda* is called the foxtail orchid
8. *Sophronitis coccinea* is known as El Toro Orchid
9. The Three birds is *Triphora trianthophoros*
10. *Epidendrum floridense* is the ladiestresses orchid
11. The Blue orchid is known as *Vanda coerulea*.
12. *Vanilla planifolia* is called the vanilla orchid.
13. *Polystachya concreta* is better known as the Wild Coco Orchid.
14. The Yellow Helmut Orchid is the *Eulophia alta*.



REFRESHMENTS

The Refreshments have been Great!!



I want to thank everyone that has been bringing refreshments to our meetings. The selection has been great and everyone has been enjoying all of the good food. I want to also thank Bob Fuchs and Michael Coronado for donating the raffle plant that everyone who brings refreshments has a chance to win.

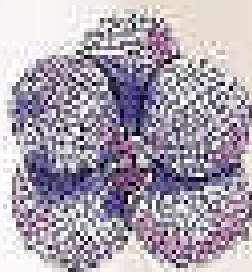
Marlene Clark

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