



July 2010 – Volume 6 – Number 27

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear South Florida Members,

Congratulations to all our trophy winners! The awards were well deserved and prove that we have wonderful growers in our club. It was wonderful to see so many individuals being honored. Thank you, Carol, for putting together a lovely presentation. And congratulations go to our new, and returning, Board Members and officers. We have very dedicated people working to plan interesting programs and events for our members, and I am honored to work with them. I hope you enjoyed Greg Allikas's talk as much as I did, and I hope he comes back to speak to us again soon (I promise, Greg, that the projector will be working properly). His information was very interesting and informative. I think we are very lucky to have such knowledgeable speakers come to our meetings, and they really can help us with our growing problems. I have often stated my frustrations growing *Pathiopedilums*. I truly think Harold Koopowitz's program (and a fertilizer suggestion from Joan Viggiani) helped me bloom my plant. Our speakers and fellow members are wonderful resources for many of your orchid questions and problems.

Do you believe how hot it is? And it is only June! Take care that your plants don't burn up in the afternoon. Remember, if you're hot, they're hot. Give them a little misting in the early afternoon, and be on the lookout for pests and disease. If you catch something early, you will prevent a nasty spread throughout your collection.

We are already planning for Speaker's Day. The date is Sunday, October 3 at Signature Gardens. Carol has arranged a wonderful program of speakers, and it is definitely an event worth attending. We had so much fun last year. Remember Bob and Mike auctioned off an AOS award!! And of course, we ate a wonderful lunch arranged by Marlene Clark. So be part of the fun and plan to attend. Hope to see you all at the meeting.

Good growing,
Judy

OCTOBER PROGRAM PRESENTED BY ELLY L. CARROLL

This month our program will be presented by Elly L. Carroll and is titled "How to Safely Handle Orchid Chemicals and Non-Chemical Alternatives". Elly lives in Broward County and has been growing orchids for nearly 20 years. She is a chemist by profession and this has given her the knowledge base on the how-to's of orchid chemicals. She will share tips, do's and don'ts, and alternate non-chemical means of combating the many pests and challenges the hobbyist orchid grower faces. Elly has been awarded several AOS awards. Her most recent was a dual award on *Angraecum sesquipedale*, 'Dr. Nicholas C. Katz', AM-CCM/AOS which was featured on the cover of the December 2009 ORCHIDS magazine. Her many years as an orchid grower and her knowledge of chemistry gives her the ability to provide good sound chemical advice to the hobbyist grower. Our raffle table will be provided by Carter & Holmes.

**The following is a list of the SFOS Perpetual Trophies some of our members won
at the last meeting**

**Jones & Scully Award
Jan & Alan Mink**

**John D. Simmons Award & SFOS Award
Julie Rosenberg & Ron Hunt**

**Fields Award
Jorge Loreda**

**Fennell Cultural Award & William H. Sparks
Award - R. F. Orchids, Inc**

**Del-Oar Award
Sandy Schultz/Georgia Tasker**



SPEAKERS DAY OCTOBER 3, 2010

SFOS will host its annual Speakers Day on Sunday, October 3, 2010 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.

The following is the list of speakers and their topics:

- George Carr** - *Catasetum* subgenus – *Pseudocatasetum* and its Natural Hybrids
- Eric Christenson** - *The Chaos of Maxillarias*
- Gene Crocker** - *Cattleyas for the New Millennium*
- Dr. Wagner Vandrame** - *Sex, Crime, Hollywood and Orchids - A Brief History of Orchids*
- Peter Lin** - *Hybridizing with Novelty Phalaenopsis*

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.

Growing Orchids in a Fishbowl

If you are having trouble growing orchids indoors, especially if you like the tiny ones, you can try growing in a simple fishbowl. My first trial came when I purchased a *Masdevallia* I couldn't resist at an orchid show. These are generally rather cool growing orchids and we live in southern Texas where it gets very hot during the summers. Most of my orchids grow in the greenhouse and must be able to survive temperatures up to 100 degrees Fahrenheit or 38 degrees Celsius. Once I got the orchid home I realized that it would never survive outside. Mind you, this is completely against one of the most important orchid tips I espouse: only buy orchids that will grow in your conditions! But it was so cute I simply couldn't resist.

These little orchids need quite high humidity to grow well so I decided to try growing in a fishbowl near a north window indoors. The ball-like fishbowl was about six or seven inches, or 15-18 centimeters in diameter. I put white gravel in the bottom, about one half inch or 2 centimeters deep, then placed the plant in the middle and then used rainwater to just below the surface to increase humidity. Do not put anything over the top of the container. Your orchids need air circulation as well as high humidity.

The only problem I've found with this system is that the plants grow so quickly, and flower so much that I keep having to find larger and larger fish bowls so that the flowers do not stick to the sides. Also watch the leaves to make sure the plant is not getting too much light. The leaves will turn very light green. Try to keep the leaf color about the same as the leaves when you purchased the plant. Do not cut off the inflorescences if they stay green because they will develop new buds on the live growth. I'd recommend finding out how large a plant the orchid will be before starting this project – I'm on my third fishbowl for one of them (I now have three since I had to fill up the empty fishbowls). Garage sales are good sources for glass containers that can be used for this. They're decorative looking and the orchids love the humidity. Give it a try with one of the great miniature orchids available to orchid growers!

Ants in Orchid Pots

For those of us who grow outdoors part of the year or in a greenhouse, ants are a nuisance in our orchid pots. In addition, they farm aphids, mealy bugs and caterpillars which can seriously damage tender new growing parts of the plant, especially buds and inflorescences. The honeydew which is left from these insects allows mildews to grow and provides another place for attacks on our plants.

The ants themselves do relatively little damage to the plants, but if you've ever picked up a pot with ants in it, especially fire ants in the southern United States, you know how the ant bites will feel to the plant grower! Spring and summer tend to be the times that ants are attracted to orchid pots. It is a great home for them -- they can move right in without digging through soil and removing it for their tunnels.

If the pot is seriously infected and the ants come swarming out when you try to pick it up, mix up a gallon of water with a cup of insecticidal soap or dishwashing liquid and pour about half of it slowly through the pot. It will not kill all the ants, but will kill any that it comes directly in contact with. If you have a spray bottle, spray the plant with the solution to kill any that escape the pot and swarm on the foliage. It is best to do this in a shady location or when the plant is in the shade since you don't want to allow sun to burn the leaves through the water. Allow the pot to stay in the same location for about an hour without disturbing it.

Put the rest of the solution in a bucket and fill with water. If it's large, then add more detergent. Pick up the pot carefully and submerge in the water. This will kill the rest of the ants as they come in contact with the soap. Leave in the water for about 15 minutes and watch out for any pests that come out of the media and climb up the foliage. Remove from the water and then drench thoroughly with water from a hose to remove all residue of the soap and to eliminate the chemicals which ants secrete when they make their nests. Be sure to allow the plant foliage to dry completely before returning to a sunnier location and the media to dry before watering the plant again.

Fortunately ants are more a nuisance to us than a danger to our plants. Removing them is relatively simple once you know what to do!

2009 - 2010 MEDAL AWARDS

Pablo Esperson - BM 76 - *Laelia lundii* 'Pablo'
Jan & Alan Mink - BM 78 - *Rlc Caricia en Paraiso* 'Jan'
Betty Eber - BM 78 - *Rl. glauca* 'Betty'
Jorge Loredó - BM 78 - *Oncidium sphacelatum* 'Jorge'
Jorge Loredó - SM 84 - *Oncidium sphacelatum* 'Jorge'
Erna Maxwell - SM 85 - *C. nobilior* 'Erna'
Sandy Schultz & Georgia Tasker - SM 86 - *Ren. Kalsom* 'Kiaora'
Julie Rosenburg & Ron Hunt - SM 86/ CCA 90 - *Sobralia callosa* 'Pink Surprise'

The Awards Committee would like to thank all the people that brought plants in for judging. The plants brought in for judging help our members to learn about growing as well as add beauty to our meeting place.

Coalition for Orchid Species - Symposium

Sunday - August 1, 2010 8 am to 4 pm

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, In the Garden Room, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, FL

Tickets: \$45.00 for COS members \$50.00 for non-COS members

Price includes lectures, continental breakfast, and homemade buffet luncheon.

Tickets can be obtained from: Mrs. Erna Maxwell, 14736 SW 85th Lane, Miami, FL. 33193, (305) 382-3055

hendrinamax@bellsouth.net

Lynn O'Shaughnessy - AOS Judge - *"Those Strange Pleurothallid Species!"*

Tom Mirenda - Smithsonian Institute, AOS Judge - *"Species Orchids, Their Pollinators and Symbionts: A Conservationist's Approach"*

Paul Storm - Meke Aloha Orchids - *"Schombo Love - Schombolaelisa and Myrmecophila"*

Linda Wilhelm - Woodland Orchids, AOS Judge & Trustee - *"The Wonderful World of Oncidium."*

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11am and 3pm.



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