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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear South Florida Members;

I want to thank Elly Carroll for her most entertaining and informative program. I had no idea you could use cinnamon as a paste; nor did I know you could dry the crowns of your phals. with rubbing alcohol. Our next speaker is Mac Rivenbark who will speak on Phalaenopsis, so plan to attend. Our speakers bring us very interesting information where everyone can learn something new.

How are you holding up during our "Dog Days" of summer? I can't decide which scenario is worse- the 32 degrees on my patio this January, or walking out side in air that does not let you breathe. I think it is a toss-up! How are your plants holding up? Remember, as you keep yourself extra hydrated, they need extra water also. I have to water my orchids, with the exception of my vandas that get watered every morning, more often in the warmer months. I believe that if you are hot, they are hot.

It's also a good idea to inspect them daily for pests and disease. The problems seem to occur more frequently and spread more rapidly in the summer. I like to keep my orchids well spaced so proper ventilation goes through my growing area; that seems to keep the problems to a minimum. Remember to keep your area clean and free from debris, such as fallen blooms, weeds, leaves, etc. You will have less difficulty keeping your collection healthy during these stressful months.

I am happy to announce that October 3, 2010 is our Speaker's Day which will be held at Signature Gardens. Last year we had such a good time. Remember when Bob and Mike auctioned off an AOS award. I think it was Joyce Kelly who went home with the Award of Merit. Marlene Clark arranges a wonderful lunch, and Carol De Biase has lined up very interesting speakers. There will also be plants to buy as some of the vendors have them for sale. Tickets can be obtained through the South Florida Office, or you can purchase them at the meeting. Please try to attend; you will be very happy with the day's events.

I am looking for some members to become involved on our Education Committee. You will enjoy the club so much more when you participate. Not only do you help other people enjoy their orchids more, but you make strong connections in the club.

Until our meeting--Good growing,
Judy

PROGRAM

Wednesday, August 18, 2010

Fire Fighters Memorial Building, 8000 NW 21 St., Miami, FL 33122

8:00 PM Program begins

This month our program will be presented by Mac Rivenbark of Mac's Orchids located in Ft. Lauderdale. His program is titled "Phalaenopsis - The history, species and culture". Mac's Orchids has been in business for nine years. Mac specializes in Asian species mostly from the Philippines. His lecture this month will be covering the topic of growing Phalaenopsis orchids. He will give a brief history, show a short species slide show and give in depth advice on culture. Don't miss this informative lecture on growing the most popular orchid in the world. Mac's Orchids will supply the raffle for this meeting.

SFOS DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, September 15, 2010 Craig Morell of Pinecrest Gardens will present a program titled "" Using Orchids in the Permanent Landscape"



On December 5, 2010 SFOS will have its annual Holiday Party in the gardens of RF Orchids. 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.

March 4, 5, 6, 2011 – the South Florida Orchid Society will be hosting the 65th Miami International Orchid Show. The show will be located at the Mayfair complex in Coconut Grove. More information on this exciting event will be in this newsletter next month.

JUDGING



Starting this month our very own AOS judge Bonnie Riley will be taking over as Judging Chair for SFOS.

Thank you for everyone's participation and I know you will all continue to bring in your gorgeous plants for all of us to see and enjoy.

SFOS SPEAKER'S DAY 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.

ORCHID INFORMATION

Western prairie fringed orchid numbers up from recent years - (Released July 26, 2010)

Braving the elements and wading through knee-deep water, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and The Nature Conservancy crews and volunteers recently spent some time on the lookout for the federally threatened Western prairie fringed orchid.

Teams completed annual counts of the species in 90 percent of the state's 80 known surviving populations. The 2010 tally to date stands at approximately 4,500 plants - almost double 2009 totals and roughly comparable to 2003 counts.

The majority of these orchids are in northwestern Minnesota. The sole population in southeastern Minnesota reached 10 plants, which is the highest count in 10 years. No new populations were discovered this year, but new patches of plants were documented at known sites in Polk and Rock counties.



Volunteer Clifford Steinhauer of rural Thief River Falls admires an orchid he found in Pennington County. Photo courtesy of Alice Sather perhaps because the long spring was favorable for plants' emergence during the first week of April, the orchid season was a week and a half earlier than normal.

Plants in northwestern Minnesota flowered the last week in June and early July. Participants in the DNR's Digital Bridge to Photography workshop at Touch the Sky Prairie in Rock County photographed the plants on July 10. Volunteering on such crews is the most reliable way to see the plant each year.

The Western prairie fringed orchid once extended from Oklahoma to Manitoba, east to central Iowa and west to central Nebraska. It has subsequently disappeared from Oklahoma and

has been declining in the southern part of its range. Minnesota and North Dakota together support more than 80 percent of the plants in the U.S., but the only place where populations appear to be consistently on the rise is in Manitoba. Their numbers often top those of the neighboring two states. In the U.S., Western prairie fringed orchid is protected by state and federal endangered species laws. In Manitoba, it is protected by provincial law and the Canadian Species at Risk Act. It is the only Minnesota plant on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

Western prairie fringed orchids recently received publicity in North Dakota when the Department of Transportation sprayed herbicide on a large population of plants in a no spray zone. In Minnesota, DNR and MnDOT staff meets regularly to avoid such errors. To find out more about volunteering on DNR's monitoring crews, contact the volunteer office at 888-646-6367 888-646-6367 . Registration begins each June. Photo courtesy of Alice Sather.

Orchid Growing Tips by Bella Online

Foliar Fertilizing

During the peak growing months of summer use a foliar fertilizer of very dilute fertilizer with 1/2 teaspoon per gallon soap as a wetting agent so that the fertilizer will stay on the leaves long enough to allow the plant to absorb the nutrients. Be sure to spray early in the morning before the sun gets to the plants and provide excellent air circulation to allow for rapid evaporation to prevent rots. Be very careful with the crowns of Phals and Paphs.

Seal cuts when you trim plants

You can use melted candle wax to seal the cut when you trim back your orchids after blooming or when cutting off old pseudobulbs or leaves. This will completely seal the cut and prevent the introduction of bacterial or fungal diseases. Other ways to seal cuts are cinnamon (without sugar), Elmer's Glue, and various commercial products.

Be consistent with staking

Staking new growths is one of the most underutilized growing principals in orchid growing. This is a important element in getting your plants to look good and to present your flowers correctly when they open. Stake when the growths are about half done or for larger plants when the growth is about 5 inches, or 12 centimeters, tall. Continue to train the growth to the stake and then include the inflorescence when it appears.

Attaching to stakes

There are many different ways to tie your plant to a stake. For whimsy, use the little insect shaped clips that come in butterfly, dragonfly or other shapes. They should be large enough to hold the growth to the stake without impeding the growth. If you use a clip that's too small it will damage the new growth. Twist ties will work as well as raffia which can be used to tie together the entire plant for a nice shape.

Mist in the mornings

Misting is great for your plants, but you must be careful to mist early in the day so that your plants have time to completely dry before nightfall. Fans to circulate air will also help deter the growth of fungus as they do not like moving air and it makes it more difficult for the spores to attach.

Rotate your plants to display blooms

Orchids in bloom need less light than those that are developing new growths or are resting. In fact, too much light will fade some flowers. So, when you have a well-developed inflorescence, move your plant further from the light source and toward the front of your area so you can display it and enjoy the flowers more easily. I often put the pot on top of another pot to lift the plant up so that the flowers are closer to eye level.

HOT! HOT! HOT!

Ideally, most orchids do best in the 70's and 80's, going cooler at night. During mid-summer, when they receive week after week of 90 degree temperatures, they need a bit of extra TLC to keep them happy.

Misting your plants will help to cool them off. In very humid climates, one needs to mist very lightly so that the plants don't stay too wet. In a hot and DRY climate, one can mist more heavily to create a bit of humidity. The water droplets on the leaves help to cool off your orchids' leaf tissue.

Shade your plants heavily during hot summers. Think of yourself sitting in the hot sand at the beach. If you sit in the shade, you feel much cooler. Taking a dip in the water (or misting yourself) will bring down your body temperature. The same holds true for plants.

Back off a bit on fertilizer when extreme heat hits. When it's 95 degrees plus in the greenhouse, I very rarely feel hungry during the day. Orchids also seem to slow down their growth in extreme heat. Skip a week or two of food every so often during those high heat weeks to give your plants a break from the high nitrogen rush!

Air movement is also a key. Just as I like to stand in front of a fan during a warm spell, our orchids also will benefit from extra air movement.

The flowers on those few orchids that are brave enough to bloom this time of year don't last very long. This time of year our Phalaenopsis fold after 4-6 weeks, whereas during the cooler winter/spring season they last 3-4 MONTHS. This is why most orchids bloom between Thanksgiving and Mother's Day. Summer is more of a "growing" season for plants.

Try not to add undue stress to your plants during extreme heat. Usually it is fine to repot throughout the summer months. However, when extreme heat hits, it is best to wait a week or two until things cool off. We usually try to repot our most tender orchids in Springtime (March through May), leaving some of the sturdier varieties (i.e. Cattleyas and Dendrobiums, etc.) for summer potting.

If growing in a bark mix, watch for moldy bark (snow mold) this time of year. It is very common due to the high humidity levels. It helps to use a fungicide periodically during very humid months. Phyasan 20, Captan, and Phyton 27 all will help to keep mold and rot at bay. If you do see mold in your mix, it is usually best (and cheapest) to simply repot the plant in fresh mix.

Stay cool,
Liese



Paph. niveum is a diminutive species of subgenus Brachypetalum that is native to the Malay Peninsula, near the border between Thailand and Malaya. It is one of the easier-growing brachys, and appreciates good light, warm temperatures, less fertilizer, slightly less water, and a little crushed oyster shell. The plants are very small, and can bloom on growths as little as four inches across in leafspan.



Q. I have a healthy vanda that flowers freely. Now, however, it is growing two plantlets. How do I remove them and pot into their own baskets? *M.H. Starzinger*

A. The offsets are known as keikis which means "baby" in Hawaiian. When the young plants have developed roots of their own that are 2 inches or more long, they can usually be broken off the mother plant quite easily. Some growers snap them off, while others sever them with a sterilized blade, taking care not to injure the main stem. Winter is not a good time to perform this operation, however, especially as far north as you are. Rather, wait until spring when you see active new root growth. The plants may then be put into appropriately sized baskets and will quickly establish. Alternately, you may wish to simply leave the keikis attached and allow the plant to form a clump, which will give proportionately more flowers than will the single stem. See our [Video Library](#) for tutorials on removing and potting keikis.

Ned Nash

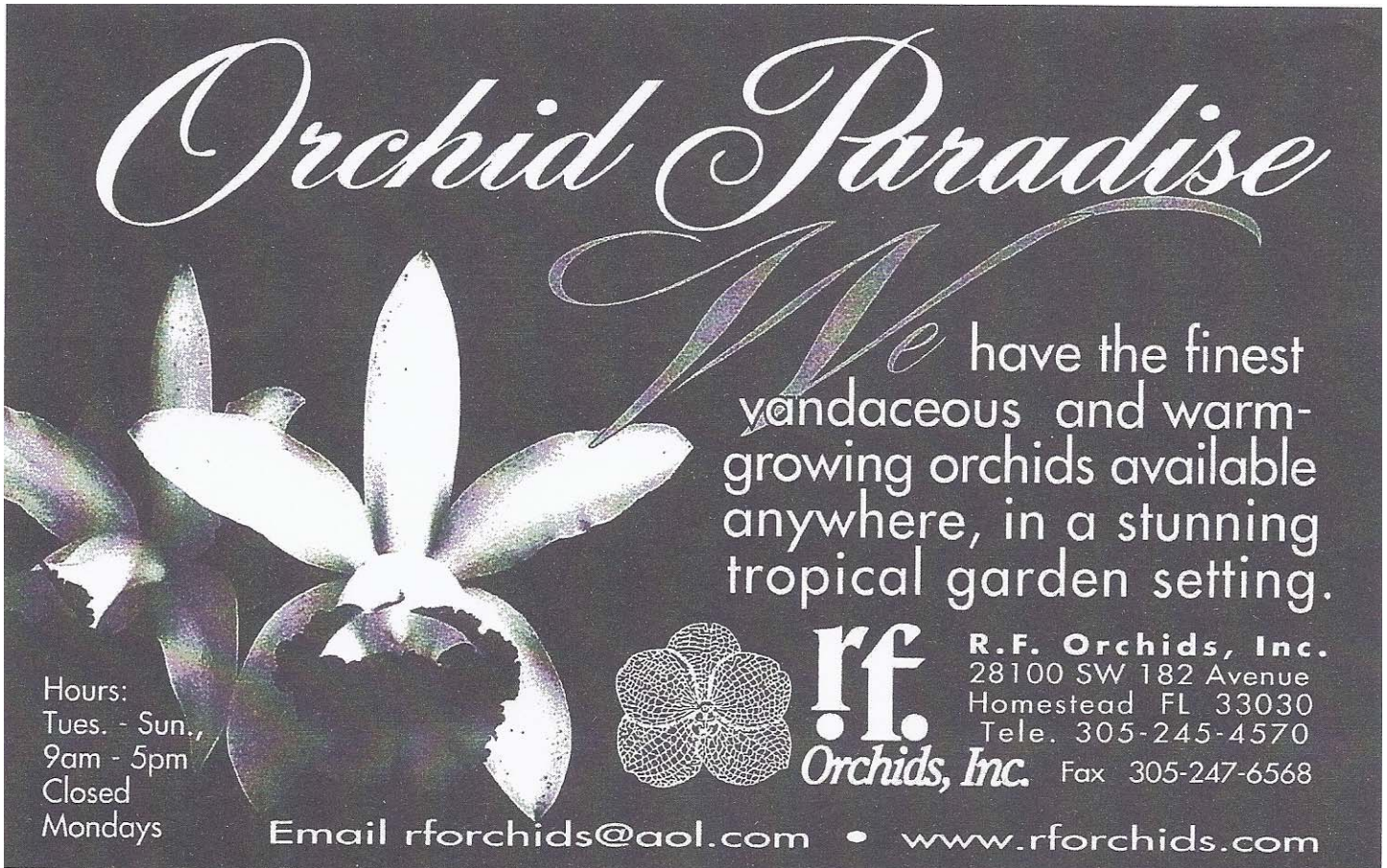


Refreshment Reminder

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

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.

Thank you to the following vendors for advertising in our newsletter. Please patronize their businesses.



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