



October, 2010 - Volume 6 - Number 32

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear South Florida Members:

I truly could have listened to Craig Morrell for the entire evening. I found his talk extremely interesting and his delivery most entertaining; he literally held me captive. How lucky we are to live in a climate where we really can take advantage of our weather and decorate our landscapes with orchids. I have many orchids in my trees, and it does beautify your home and yard. And of course the added benefit is that you make more room in your growing area for more orchids! It never ends; does anyone know a 12 step program for this addiction?

As previously mentioned, Bonnie Riley is our new Awards Chair and Javier Morejon will be doing the newsletter starting November. I want to thank Carol De Biase for her hard work chairing those committees over the past years. Michael Coronado of RF Orchids will be our Education Chair. I want to thank these individuals for taking on these duties, and know we all will enjoy working with them.

I hope you all enjoyed Speaker's Day as much as I did. The lectures were very interesting, and the lunch was great. Thank you Marlene Clark for arranging the menu and to Carol De Biase for organizing the speakers. Please try to attend our meeting this month when our speaker will be Catharine Mannion. Her talk will be "What the heck is eating my orchids in 2010." I think we will all find that informative so we can keep our plants in their best condition.

Next month we will again have our holiday auction. We will have orchids and gifts to help you start your holiday shopping. I can still see Diana wearing her beautiful rings! So please plan to attend and bring your friends. If you have extra divisions from summer's repotting, we will be glad to raffle them off. So start looking around your growing area to see if there is something to donate. And of course, that, too, makes more room for more orchids! (Where is that 12 step program?)

Our Holiday Party this year will be held on December 19 at RF Orchids. I want to thank Bob Fuchs and Michael Coronado for opening their nursery for us. The price for members is FREE, and there will be a \$10.00 charge per guest. The club will provide the meat, and members attending will be asked to bring a covered dish that will feed 8. All members attending will receive a beautiful holiday plant from SFOS, and we will also have a great raffle. Please see Marlene Clark at our meeting to sign up for your dish, or you can call Ellen at the SFOS office-305-255-3656.

Until our meeting.....Good Growing

Judy



## 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 October meeting, thank you so much and please remember to pick up your special raffle ticket at the meeting. Anyone that brings snacks will receive a special raffle ticket for a drawing that evening. Please talk to Marlene Clark at the October meeting to volunteer to bring snacks for the November meeting or you can call her at 305-253-7627.**

## PROGRAM

Wednesday, October 20, 2010

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

8:00 PM Program beings

This month our program will be presented by Catharine Mannion and is titled "What the heck is eating my orchids in 2010". Catharine is an Associate Professor and Extension Specialist with the University of Florida, Tropical Research and Education Center located in Homestead, Florida. She is responsible for developing a research and extension program on IPM (Integrated Pest Management), of ornamental plants with an emphasis on exotic pests. Catharine has focused her research on several of the introduced pests such as cycad aulacaspis scale, lobate lac scale, root weevils, and thrips. She received a B.S. degree in Biological Sciences from University of California, a M.S. degree in Entomology from North Carolina State University, and a Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of Florida. Catharine will focus her talk on the current pest problems of orchids and other tropical plants.

Our raffle table tonight will be provided by the South Florida Orchid Society.

## SFOS DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Wednesday, November 17, 2010** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Orchid and Gift Auction
- **December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010** – **Holiday Party at R.F. Orchids. Please call Marlene Clark (305)253-7627 or the SFOS office (305)255-3656 to sign up to bring a dish.** 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.

## JUDGING

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. There were some very interesting species as well as lovely hybrids. Keep up the good growing and share your plants with us! Thank you also to Georgia Tasker for taking all the pictures. The following are all the first place winners. Remember, judging starts promptly at 7:30 pm.

Bonnie

Blue Ribbon Winners

Ascocenda

First: Ascda. Banjong Delight "Prince Harry" SM/SFOS—John King

Other Vandaceous

First: Aer. Quinquévulnèra—Dave Foster

Large Flowered Cattleya

First: Blc. Alma Kee "Tipmalee" AM/AOS—John King

Small Flowered Cattleya

First: Bct. Little Marmaid "Janet" BM/JOGA—John King

Dendrobium

First: Den. Charak (Jairak?) Red "703"—Jan and Allen Mink

Other Species

First: Oeceoclades maculate—Odalís and Lazaro Navarro

### September Medal Judging Report

Silver Medal 82 points:

Ascda. Banjong Delight "Prince Harry"—John King

## ORCHID INFORMATION

Fall Orchid Growing Tips *by Bella Online*

### **Nobile Dendrobium Hybrids - Orchid Profile**

Nobile Dendrobiums are a section of the Dendrobium family which produce flowers which are especially attractive for hobbyists. The defining visual factor is the "eye" in the center of the flower which contrasts with the outer color of the blossom. My favorite is the one with a dark eye, generally a dark maroon color, with a yellow or pink outer ring which provides a wonderful contrast. The flowers are produced on short inflorescences near the stem or cane of the plant so that the whole plant appears to be covered with flowers.

The cultural requirements for these Dendrobiums are different than the Phalaenopsis types. In early spring when new growth is evident, increase watering and fertilizing and reduce the amount of light. During this period they grow well with Phalaenopsis conditions. Then in the fall stop fertilizing completely, increase the amount of light, and reduce watering. They need a drop in temperature during the nighttime hours to initiate flowering, so indoor growers should attempt to put the plants outside at night until freezing temperatures appear. A cooler room near a window after that should be sufficient. Normal flowering is during January and February in the northern hemisphere.

It is extremely important to follow this schedule with Nobiles, or you will get lots of growth but no flowers. Some growers recommend almost completely reducing watering during the fall months to the point that the canes start to dry up before watering again. Since the plants are semi-deciduous this will cause the leaves to drop so I don't recommend that. For both attractive leaves *and* flowers, just cut back to about half of what you normally water.

These plants, as most Dendrobiums, like to be pot bound so should be grown in the smallest pot possible. They seem to do well in clay pots and these provide a good base for the plants which can grow fairly tall, about 2 feet or 60 centimeters, for standard size plants. Some can get bigger. Supports to train the canes as they grow are useful in order to keep the plants a pleasing shape. Some Nobiles are sensitive to minerals in water, so try to use filtered water or rainwater.

Repotting should be done after flowering and done every two years for best flowering. Nobiles are well known for producing keikis (baby plantlets) and these can be cut from the mother plant when the roots are about 2 inches, or 5 centimeters long.

### **Candy Striped Phalaenopsis**

One of the most exciting upgrades in Phalaenopsis breeding has been the introduction of [candy striped](#) flowers named for their lighter backgrounds with darker stripes. The first ones were white with pink to purple stripes. Then pink background with darker stripes, sometimes with spots in the middle of the flower appeared. A real breakthrough appeared with [Phal. Balden's Kaleidoscope](#) which has a yellow to golden background with bright orange/red stripes. This particular cross is a vigorous grower and many varieties will produce multiple spikes with side spikes. A well grown mature plant is spectacular.

These Phals are grown the same way as the regular Phals and require cool fall evenings to induce the spikes. Temperatures between 50 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit, or 10 to 15 degrees Centigrade, will encourage spiking and once the spike is about 2 inches, or 5 centimeters in height, the plant can be returned to regular conditions.

For best presentation of the flowers, Phals should be grown facing one direction to the light. Put a marker on the side of the pot to show which side should be facing the main source of light so that if you move the pot for watering or checking for insects you can correctly place it back. Start staking the inflorescence when it is about inches, or 10 centimeters, high giving yourself enough height on the stake for that particular plant. Attach at about 2 inch, or 5 centimeter intervals. Then when the buds start to appear, allow the spike to turn toward the light and bend slightly so you will have the nice arching spray of flowers that make such a great show.

Once your plants have started to produce buds, you must guard against bud blast. This is the sudden drying up of the buds all at one time after they have formed. Bud blast is most commonly caused by low humidity or air pollution. In the home environment, put your Phals on a humidity tray and make sure that they are away from any source of gases. Even ripening fruit close to the plant will affect the buds. Gas from ovens should also be avoided and cigarette smoke can cause problems.

When purchasing a new plant, be sure to get a healthy one. If you are purchasing from a non-orchid nursery, only buy the plant if there is already a flower open so you can see

exactly what you are getting. Look for a plant with healthy leaves and roots so that you will be able to enjoy it for years to come.

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**BULBOPHYLLUM phalaenopsis**



*Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis*, a rare species from Irian Jaya has very wide Phalaenopsis-like leaves. The leaves can grow up to 48 inches long with round softball sized pseudobulbs on mature specimens that are several years old. The flower scapes emerge in the spring to fall months. The flowers are very unusual in that they are carrion scented and smell of rotting flesh. Fortunately you have to get fairly close to the flowers to catch the scent. Most likely these are fly pollinated.

There are three related species including *phalaenopsis*, *fletcherianum* and *acrobulbon*. They are all very similar when flowering. Some have more hairs on the outside of the flowers. The foliage is exactly the same on all three. There

has been a great deal of confusion regarding these species. Most likely if you were to observe these in nature flowering en masse you would observe all three variations in the same population. This orchid is easy to grow and would be treated as a *phalaenopsis* for culture. The plants we offer are flowering size.

**Light:**

Low to medium as for *Phalaenopsis*. Bright diffused light is best. Too much light will cause an intense reddening of the foliage.

**Temperature:**

Intermediate to warm with daytime highs being 70 degrees Fahrenheit or warmer. Night time lows should not fall below 60 or 62.

**Humidity:**

50% or higher is ideal. The use of humidity trays or room humidifiers is beneficial.

**Water:**

It is best to use rainwater, distilled or reverse osmosis water. Municipal water with a pH of 7.5 or lower can also be used. Water as the hydrolog approaches dryness but do not allow it to become completely dry between watering. The hydrolog will become quite heavy when fully saturated with water. It will become light as it approaches dryness. If it dries out too much you may have to water it 3 or 4 times to get it to recharge to its full capacity.

**Fertilizer:**

Urea-free for municipal or well water. Use at the rate of ½ teaspoon per gallon. Fertilize every other watering in the summer and every third watering in the winter.

**Flowering:**

This plant produces clusters of three inch tubular flowers at the base of the pseudobulbs. The flowers can be smooth or hairy on the outside with a smooth dark blood red inside. They have the scent of carrion. The fragrance can be overpowering but fortunately you have to be fairly close to pick it up.

**Repotting:**

Bulbophyllums are best grown on hydrologs (or tree fern slab) which are made out of oasis wrapped in sphagnum with a coco fiber overlay. The hydrolog holds water for several days allowing the water demanding bulbophyllums to thrive. Hydrologs will last for 10 to 15 years as long as the water does not have much mineral content. As the plant out grows the hydrolog it does so in a pendulous fashion. You can simply extend the hydrolog by attaching another to the bottom and wiring the two together.

**THEIR PLACE IN ORCHID HISTORY**

**Albert C. Burrage (1859-1931)** An outstanding patron of horticulture from Massachusetts who assembled one of the country's finest collections of orchids, he served as the first President of the American Orchid Society from 1921-1929.

**Olaf Swartz (1760-1818)** The first orchidologist, he published the first enumeration of West Indian plants, including orchids, in 1788, and the first article devoted exclusively to orchids in 1800, which he established the two great divisions of the Orchid Family which later were designated Monandrae (Mo-nan-drus) with one stamen and Diandrae (Dye-an-drus) furnished with two or twin stamens. Stamen (Stay-men) the male organ of the flower, which bears the pollen.

## **Jamaica Aqua Fresca Red Hibiscus Refresher**

(Reprinted from The Vanilla Chef by Patricia Rain)

Jamaica flowers (dried hibiscus) can be found in Mexican, Latin American, or Asian grocery stores, or in the ethnic section of supermarkets. The flowers make a very refreshing, bright red drink. Jamaica is often used as a tea as well.

### **Ingredients:**

1-quart water  
2/3 cup (1 ounce) dried hibiscus flowers  
3/4 - 1 cup sugar (to taste)  
1 vanilla bean, sliced lengthwise  
1 quart cold water

### **Instructions:**

In a large saucepan, bring the quart of water to a boil. Add flowers and vanilla bean to the boiling water, remove from stove, and allow to steep for at least 20 minutes. Strain the mixture into a 2-quart pitcher, saving the vanilla bean for another use. Add the sugar and stir to dissolve. Add cold water and adjust sweetening. Chill and serve over ice.

Variation: Cut cold water to 1 pint and add 1-quart cold ginger ale.

### **ORCHID WORD SEARCH**

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  
G H R T U S A T T B B A  
O D D S S L O I U O W I  
T U V Z O E N R L L S S  
H Y B C I O D L E F D S  
Y O C U R E E O T T I A  
R A H H M A V Q M I P T  
S D P A L L A M I R L L  
U O G A B L E S A N D I  
S A I L L A V E D S A M

SOPHRONITIS  
SYRINGOTHYRSUS  
MORMODES  
PALLENS

PROFUSUS  
DEVA  
GOMESA  
BOLLEA

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