



South Florida Orchid Society

THE ORCHIDIST

December 2010 - Volume 6 - Number 34

Newsletter Date

President's Message



Dear South Florida members,

Thank you all for coming to our November Auction. For those who were unable to come, you missed a good time. (Yes, Lou, you looked lovely in

that long scarf!)

I want to thank our auctioneer, Lou Lodyga, for his time and for giving us such an entertaining evening. I also want to thank our orchid vendors who were so generous with their beautiful blooming plants, arrangements, and gift certificates: RF Orchids, Ruben in Orchids, Amazonia Orchids, Carmela Orchids, Dan and Margie Orchids, and Orchids by Allison. Many thanks go to the numerous individuals who worked very hard for our auction: **Dorothy Bennett, Joan and Tony Viggiani, Ellen Hanson, Bonnie Riley, Marlene Clark, Javier Morejon, and Ralph Hernandez.**

We are all looking forward to this month's holiday party which will be held in the gardens of RF Orchids on Sunday, December 19. I would like to thank Bob Fuchs and Michael Coronado for allowing us to have our party at their nursery. Can you imagine a more beautiful location to celebrate? We hope to see all of you at our year end's event. Remember, the party is free for members and a \$10.00 charge for guests. The club is providing the meat, but please be sure to let Ellen (305-255-3656) or Marlene (305-253-7627) know what dishes you wish to bring. If you have not signed up, there still is time, just call one of the above numbers. Remember, the more the merrier!

Are you enjoying our wonderful weather? I know that I am. Remember to water your plants earlier than you did during the summer

as our plants have less time to dry. Have you thought about cold protection for your plants? This is the time of year to make those preparations. Are you going to bring your orchids indoors, or do you wrap your plants with sheets or drop plastic? I certainly hope we do not have a winter like last year, but we can bet on a few cold fronts coming our way, in December and January especially, that will force us to take action. If anyone needs advise how to properly protect plants, just ask around in the club. There are many individuals who are willing to help. Don't be shy!!

On a somber note, as I announced at our October meeting, the Miami International Orchid Show has been canceled for the year 2011. We ran into venue problems and were not able to reschedule so late in our planning. We do hope to be back for a wonderful show the following year.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday, and I look forward to seeing you at our Holiday party. Remember, there will be no judging until the January meeting, and we still need volunteers to bring in food for our January meeting. There will be an opportunity to sign up at the party. Thank you all again for supporting our club.

Good growing,
Judy

P.S. Will the individual who purchased the Orchid Wiz Program at this year's November auction please contact me at 305-275-2318 or my e-mail address judycatt46@aol.com. I accidentally gave you my update and I have your Orchid Wiz program. I am sorry for the inconvenience and would like to make the exchange as soon as possible.
Judy Mezey

Board of Directors

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

SANDY SCHULTZ

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE | 1 |
| GET GROWING WITH LOU LODYGA | 2 |
| HOLIDAY PARTY | 2 |
| UPCOMING EVENTS | 2 |
| THINK ABOUT IT | 2 |
| AUCTION REPORT | 3 |
| GAMES & PUZZLES | 3 |
| CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS | 4 |
| RECIPES | 4 |
| SPECIES OF THE MONTH CATTLEYA PERCIVILIANA | 4 |

South Florida Orchid Society



Angrecum sesquipedale
Darwin's orchid is a consistent Christmas bloomer.

Holiday Party

Just a friendly reminder that this year's holiday party will take place in the garden of R.F. Orchids on Sunday December 19, 2010.

The club is providing the meat and the beverages and the members are asked to bring a covered dish with eight servings. If you plan on bringing a guest, please bring an extra portion of your covered dish. Appetizers start at 6:30 and

dinner will be served at 7:00pm

Alcohol will not be served, but members may bring their own.

There is no charge for members; the price for guests is \$10.

All members will receive a beautiful holiday plant from the SFOS. Our gift exchange is optional but always fun; please label your gift for

male or female. We will also have a great raffle.

The party gives everyone an opportunity to get together and talk about our favorite topic - orchids.

To sign up, please call Marlene Clark at 305-253-7627 or the SFOS office at 305-255-3656 to sign up.

Please call soon, the deadline to sign up is December 10.

We hope to see you there!

Get Growing with Lou Lodyga... *Cattleya trianae*

This beautiful species is from Colombia's rain forest and is their national flower. It was selected for this prestigious position because it has the same colors as the Colombian flag.

A strong grower, with long-lasting flowers; it is in the background of many *Cattleya* hybrids. It was quite popular as a winter cut flower for corsages in the early 20th century.

The flowers are produced during the winter and early spring. New growth begins shortly after flowering finishes in the early spring and continues till August. The sheaths are formed when

the growth matures but flower buds do not start to form until November.

Give typical *Cattleya* growing conditions. Very bright light is a must!

There are some additional varieties available including *Cattleya trianae* var. *mooreana* which has a dark splash on each petal. At one time, there were more named varieties of this species than any other *Cattleya*.

Cattleya trianae is endangered in its native habitat as a result of environmental degradation and urbanization.



Cattleya trianae, native to Colombia and found in many named varieties.



Upcoming Events

December 3, 2010: South Dade Amateur Orchid Society Holiday Party

December 7, 2010: OSCG Holiday Party @ Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

December 15, 2010: COS Holiday Party.

Think About it

"Treat people as if they were what they should be and you help them become what they are capable of becoming."

Johann Wolfgang van Goethe

November 2010 Semi-Annual Auction

Although attendance was light, those who part in last month's semi-annual auction enjoyed some great bargains for their holiday shopping.

Fine scarves, candles, artwork, books, house wares, and a number of handsome orchids were among to over 80 items that members had the chance to bid on.

A separate auction where attendees could write down bids for artwork from Romero Brito as well as custom made jewelry was help concurrently with the auction.

Kudos go out to our auctioneer **Lou Lodyga**, runners **Ralph Hernandez** and **Javier Morejon** and our president **Judy Mezey** as well as our board members for their hard work in helping out and preparing for the auction.

Good bargains and good times were had by all.

See you at next month's party.



ORCHID BRAINTEASER

Here's some fun to ease the holiday brain kinks.

At your right, you'll see a number of answers and their clues regarding some well-known orchid species.

See if you can figure out which species corresponds to it's description. Puzzle solvers must match the correct description to their species.

Enjoy this chance to stretch your mental (and orchid) muscles and learn something about our favorite plants.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. <i>B. nodosa</i> | A. Kite orchid |
| 2. <i>Ang. Sesquipedale</i> | B. Tulip orchid |
| 3. <i>Bulb. Lepidum</i> | C. Jewel orchid |
| 4. <i>Onc. sphacelatum</i> | D. Coconut orchid |
| 5. <i>Cyr. punctatum</i> | E. Flor de Mayo orchid |
| 6. <i>Cyc. cooperi</i> | F. Vampire orchid |
| 7. <i>Cory. maculata</i> | G. Daisy Chain orchid |
| 8. <i>Masd. coccina</i> | H. Silver Dollar orchid |
| 9. <i>Onc. splendidum</i> | I. Cowhorn orchid |
| 10. <i>Enc. boothiana</i> | K. Cockleshell orchid |
| 11. <i>Max. tenuifolia</i> | L. Lady of the Night |
| 12. <i>L. discolor</i> | M. Dancing Lady orchid |
| 13. <i>Drac. vampira</i> | N. Bucket orchid |
| 14. <i>Pros. cochleata</i> | O. Swan orchid |
| 15. <i>Ang. ruckeri</i> | P. Darwin's orchid |
| 16. <i>Gong. hirtzii</i> | Q. Punch & Judy Orchid |
| 17. <i>C. trianae</i> | |

ORCHID SCRAMBLE ANSWERS

Below are the answers to last month's brain teaser .

1. - Prostechea cochelata
2. - Brassavola nodosa
3. - Ionopsis utricularoidies
4. - Stanhopea wardii
5. - Cattleya velutina
6. - Encyclia boothiana
7. - Eria ornata

Christmas Traditions Around the World

Have you ever wondered why we put up a tree during the holidays or why we hang stockings and look for kisses under the mistletoe? Well, enjoy reading the following meanings behind these timeless traditions.



Trees have been decorated as far back as the middle ages, In fact on of the earliest reports of something resembling a Christmas tree was a fir decorated and then burned to celebrated the winter solstice in medieval Russia. Current tradition dates to 16th century Germany where fir trees were hung with fruit, garlands and gilded candles. The tradition became popular in Britain and the US during the reign of Queen Victoria.

The idea of leaving a stocking to be stuffed is said to have started after a widowed nobleman squandered his fortune after the death of his beloved wife, thus leaving three young daughters without dowries and facing spinsterhood. Their plight was heard by St. Nick who tossed bags of gold coins down the chimney where they were captured by the stockings the girls had hung to dry.

Mistletoe was used in winter celebrations at least two centuries before the birth of Christ. Pagans saw it is a symbol of peace and it was sacred to Frigga, the Scandinavian goddess of love whose worshippers believed that kissing under its leaves brought fortune and good luck in the coming year.

Recipe: Heavenly Chipped Chocolate and Hazelnut Cheesecake

Ingredients: 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips, 1 1/2 cups vanilla wafer crumbs, 3/4 cup toasted ground hazelnuts, 2 tablespoons white sugar, 3 tablespoons hazelnut liqueur, 3 tablespoons melted butter, 3 8oz packages of cream cheese (softened), 1 cup white sugar, 3 eggs (beaten), 13 skinned, toasted hazelnuts, 4 tablespoons sour cream, 1 tablespoon hazelnut liqueur

- Using a blender or food processor, finely chop 1/3 cup of semisweet chocolate chips. Add vanilla wafer crumbs, ground hazelnuts, 2 tablespoons white sugar and melted butter. Mix until well combined. Press onto the bottom and sides of a 9-inch springform pan. Bake in a preheated 300 degree oven for 15 minutes.
- In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese until fluffy. Gradually add 1 cup white sugar; mix well. Add the eggs and 3 tablespoons liqueur. Mix until well-blended. Coarsely chop 1 cup of the semisweet chocolate chips and add to the cream cheese mixture. Stir. Pour batter into the cooled crust.
- Bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for 1 hour. Let cake cool for one hour. Remove outer ring from pan. Then let cool completely.
- Melt 2/3 cup semisweet chocolate chips over hot (not boiling) water. Stir until smooth. Dip 13 hazelnuts into the chocolate, covering 1/2 half of each nut. Shake off the excess chocolate. Place on a waxed-paper lined plate. Chill until set.
- To the remaining melted chocolate add sour cream. Mix well. Stir in 1 tablespoon liqueur. Spread glaze on top of the cooled cheesecake. Garnish with the chocolate-dipped hazelnuts.



Species of the month: Cattleya perciviliana

One of the Christmas blooming orchids, this species is native to Venezuela where it is found at altitudes of 1300 - 2000 meters, however the plant will grow and bloom well at sea level as it grows well for us in South Florida.

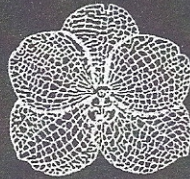
Like many cattleya species, other color forms include alba, semi-alba, and coerulea, as well as its normal pink. These plants are fragrant, although the scent is not pleasing to all.

Cattleya perciviliana is well known as one of the so-called Christmas orchid, named for their tendency to bloom in time for the holidays. Other such orchids include Laelia anceps and Angrecum sesquipedale, the "Star of Bethlehem" orchid.



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