

February 2005 - Volume 2, Number 2

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President's Message

Dear members:

It was a great seeing the crowd that came to the last meeting to hear Eric's presentation. It was a wonderful talk, but to me, more rewarding was the large presence of our members. What a way to start the new year!

Our Orchid Show is not around the corner, it is here. Are you ready? Now is the time to display your ideas, feel artistic, show your talent and be proud. We have a lot of expectations to fulfill, but a lot of capable people are ready to go into action. Don't just sit and watch, be part of it. Call one of the committees and volunteer. I'm sure there will always be something you can do to make a difference. After all it is your club and your show.

I'm encouraging you to participate and bring your orchids; you might end up taking home a medal or a trophy. You never know until you try.

I would like to see a lot of you at this next meeting, and as usual, bring a friend or two along.

Sincerely,

Eduardo Marcellini



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Program: Robert Fuchs and Dorothy Bennett

"The Show"

This month's program will be presented by two key members of our Show Committee: Robert Fuchs, Judging Chairman and Dorothy Bennett, Show Chairman.

Dorothy will clue us in to the finer points of "Entering Your Beauties in the Show". Be on hand to learn how to enter your plants or exhibits, little-used categories that you may want to consider, and various information to be gleaned from the Show Schedule. You'll learn how the plants are categorized for competition and the best way to maximize your chances of winning.

Bob Fuchs will follow with detailed insight into "What Judges Look For" in presenting the various awards. You'll learn the difference between ribbons, show medals and AOS awards and be able to determine which prizes your entries will be eligible for. Bob will also educate us on the qualities that judges recognize when evaluating the orchid exhibits at our show.

Bob and Dorothy are both Past Presidents of SFOS, Past Presidents of East Everglades Orchid Society, have served as our Show Chairmen, and are Accredited judges for the American Orchid Society. In addition, Bob is currently Chairman of the SFOS Judging Committee, has been a Trustee of the AOS, and is President of R. F. Orchids, Inc.

Be on hand this month and be ready for the Show!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Feb.: Dorothy Bennett and Bob Fuchs team up to get us ready for the show with talks on "Entering Your Beauties in the Show" and "What Judges Look For", respectively. Be on hand to learn how you can participate and maximize your chances for medals, ribbons and trophies.

Mar.: To be determined

Apr.: Annual Auction - Plan now to be on hand for some of the ultimate orchid bargains donated to support our Society's annual fund-raising event.

May: "Schomburgkia Intergenerics", Paul Storm, Meke Aloha Orchids

June: Installation and Awards Presentation Awards Committee Chairman, Robert Fuchs, will provide a review of the SFOS awards for the past year and make presentations to the winning exhibitors.





HELP NEEDED

If you admire Wyatt Earp and Matt Dillon, or couldn't make it in the police academy, or were fired as a security guard, your chance is knocking at your door. We need volunteers for security, to work at the Miami International Orchid Show. Those who are interested in this brilliant career please contact Eduardo Marcellini at 305-246-1492 or via e-mail: edumarcel@aol.com

Don't let this opportunity go by!

HELP WANTED

Do You Want To Have Fun?

Then come along with me to the Hospitality Extravaganza at The 60th Miami International Orchid Show. We are interviewing highly skilled persons who can answer our guests questions.

Where are the restrooms?
When does the next walking tour begin?
Who is the next speaker and what is the topic?

Where is their favorite vendor?

And Promote The South Florida Orchid Society by signing up new members as well as handling any emergency that comes along.

2 Hour shifts - Friendly, interesting co-workers

See: Julia Hamner at the February 16, 2005 meeting or call 561-496-3186 after 5PM.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

What do you suppose those out-of-town guest speakers look for when they get off the airplane? Maybe it could be you with a sign that says, "South Florida Orchid Society". They will know immediately that a friendly person is there to help. Perhaps you would be willing to host our speaker overnight in your home. Accompany the guest to dinner, to the meeting or return them to the airport. We are preparing a list of members willing to serve in this capacity. One or several could share these duties each month. Please volunteer by calling Ellen @ 305-255-3656.

SFOS NEW MEMBER PACKETS

To welcome new members into our Society, SFOS now offers an amazing new member packet that is mailed to all new members. The new packets contain updated pesticide information, our bylaws, a membership roster and several coupons, the value of which far exceeds the cost of membership. Please talk to your friends and let them know about our wonderful new member packets as well as the other benefits of being a member of South Florida Orchid Society like free entrance into the Miami Orchid Show and our wonderful and informative monthly programs, just to name a few. Below is a list of the businesses that have donated coupons for our packets:

· Orchids by Allison

• Krull Smith

· Ruben In Orchids

· Grow-Mor Collection Orchids

Impact Orchids & Exotics

R.E. Orchids

Dan & Margie Orchids

• JEM Orchids

· MAJ Orchids

· Mickey's Orchids

· Sedona Orchids

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· Miller's Tropicals

Alberts & Merkel Bros. Inc.

Piping Rock Orchids

Palm Hammock Orchid Estate, Inc.

 Godlove & Son Orchids, Inc./ Palm Bay Orchids American Orchid Society
 Fairchild Tropical Gardens

· Amazonia Orchids

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

The Tampa Bay Area Orchid Societies will hold their Annual Spring Orchid Extravaganza Show and Sale on Friday, March 4th, noon - 4:00pm, sale only; Saturday, March 5th 9:00am - 5:00pm, show and sale and Sunday, March 6th 10:00am - 4:00pm, show and sale, at the Tampa Garden Club, 2629 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa. There will be domestic and international orchid growers. Parking is free; \$3.00 admission at the door with hourly door prizes. For further information contact Jo Anne at 813-310-7676 or Bill at 727-392-6864.

Thank you so much,

Barbara Pecan, Publicity Florida West Coast Orchid Society





Bring Your Orchids in for Judging!

You can win with your orchids by bringing them in at our next meeting February 16th. Dress your plants up and bring them in.

From Seed to Community Pot

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It takes from six months to one year for a seed capsule to mature. It is not uncommon for a seed capsule to contain 10,000 to 100,000 seeds. Some seed capsules may contain as many as 3,000,000 seeds. Orchid seeds are very transparent and very small, tiny specs, at times barely visible to the human eye. Seeds having the possibility for growth are said to be viable. A viable seed must contain an embryo, but the presence of an embryo in a seed is no guarantee that it is viable. Seeds may be checked for embryo presence, or absence, by placing them under a microscope.

Orchid seeds have only minute reserves of nutrients and need a fungus for germination in nature, this is called "symbiotic" germination. The required nutrients are provided by the fungus. Growth of seedlings is rapid. Until 1922, it was the only known method of propagating orchids from seeds.

In 1922, Dr. Lewis Knudson of Cornell University provided us with a simpler method, "asymbiotic germination." Seeds are germinated and seedlings are grown on a sterile, jelly like, culture medium containing sugars and many other nutrients. Germination takes place without the aid of a fungus. Today, Knudson's formula "C" medium is still being used in laboratories all over the world. Since unwanted bacteria and fungi grow even faster on a sugar rich medium than orchid seedlings, all seeds, flasks, medium, and tools used must be sterilized. All the work involved, like sowing, transferring seedlings etc, is performed in a sterile environment, such as a laminar flow hood or a glove box.

Sowing of orchid seeds in a "mother flask" is done in a sterile environment, like a laminar flow hood. Filtered through a HEPA filter, sterile air enters the cabinet and passes over the work area. Sowing of seeds is a simple procedure. Germination medium is prepared and poured into clean flasks. Flasks with medium are then autoclaved at 120 degrees Celsius and 15 lbs. pressure for 20 minutes if small quantities of medium per flasks; longer for larger quantities. Cooled flasks

are moved into the laminar flow hood where sterilized seeds are distributed evenly on top of the medium. Flasks are tightly sealed and may have a filter to allow air and moisture exchange between inside and outside. The filter must be dense enough to keep microorganisms out. The latter would spoil the germination process. Flasks are then placed under fluorescent lights for a 12-hour photoperiod, for most epiphytic species. Some orchid seeds need total darkness to germinate. After two to three months in the "mother flask", seedlings are large enough to be transferred to a richer medium and larger vessel. The transfer process is called replating.

Replating, or moving seedlings from the old vessel to another with fresh medium, is done in a sterile environment. Seedlings are replated when they have reached a stage of growth at which they will greatly benefit from being placed on nutrient richer medium. Seedlings will now grow very rapidly and usually remain in these flasks for approximately one year, or until they are large enough to be planted out to a community pot.

The community pot may hold from fifteen to 30 seedlings. Plants may spend up to one year in the community pot, before being transplanted to individual pots. After several more transplants and lots of tender loving care in years following, the orchids reach the "flowering size" stage, finally! From seed to flowering plant takes from three to seven years, depending on which orchid species seeds were sown.



Continued on next column

The Ninth Annual International Orchid Show

Presented By

The South Florida Orchid Society February 20, 21, 22 and 23 1953 Municipal Auditorium - Miami Florida



South Florida Orchid Society Medallion

Pictured above is the artists model of the new South Florida or chid Society Medallion which will be presented in this years or chid show for the first time. Cast in bronze, 3½ inches in diameter, this trophy will be given the winners of the Group Exhibits in 200 sq. ft., 150 sq. ft., and 100 sq. ft. classes.

Standing beside the model is Mr. Ralph Humes, staging chairman of this years show as well as the 1952 event, who conceived and executed the bronze medallion.

Mr. Humes, a member of the Board of Trustees of the South Florida Orchid Society, was born at Philadelphia on December 25th, 1902. He studied for two

ORCHID CHARACTERISTICS

It is a mistake to believe that at its a mistake to believe that all orchids look alike. Their foli-age varies considerably; the flowers themselves range from very simple to exoticly beauti-ful, sometimes fantastic shapes. ful, sometimes fantastic shapes. However, all orchid blooms have three features in common. First, there are sepals, usually three, which are narrow and form a protective covering of the bud. Second, there are three petals, two of which are alike. The third petal known as the lip is shaped differently, is spectacularly colored, and is quite often the most heautiful part of the flower. Third, there is the fleshy column in which the stamens and pistils are united. This column is not found in any other plant family. plant family.

ORCHID BUGS BITE HUMANS, TOO

BITE HUMANS, TOO

The orchid bug will get you if you don't watch out. Sometimes its bite will not be noticed for a while, but more often than not it will bite with a bang.

The orchid bug gets around, too, as it is found all over the United States and in many foreign countries. It not only selects the female member of the family but will also cause the male of the household to sit up and take notice once he gets bitten. bitten

The orchid bug is peculiar in The orchid bug is pecunar in its actions. It soars around for a while looking for a likely prospect, then after making up its mind it sets its jet-propelled wings into action and before you know it you've been bitten.

S.F.O.S. Holiday Party 2004



























Caring for Flasks

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It is fun and educational watching orchids grow inside flasks. Flasked seedlings need light/dark, proper temperature and humidity. Handle flasks by grasping them near the bottom, away from the foil covered filtered top. Covered filter tops keep out microorganisms that could spoil the contents when allowed to enter the flasks.

Never place flasks in direct sunlight, unless you wish to cook the seedlings. The light should be of low intensity, 300 foot-candles, gradually increased as seedlings grow bigger. Place them 30 centimeters below two four feet cool white 40Watts fluorescent lamps that cover a growing area of two by four feet. Lights must be on 12 hours per day. Remember the 12 hours uninterrupted darkness is equally important for seedling development.

Temperatures in the 24 degrees C (75 degrees F) range are adequate, give or take 2 degrees C. Keep the variation between day and night time temperatures to an absolute minimum.

Flasks that have filtered tops allow air and humidity exchange of the inside with the environment in which they are placed. To prevent the culture medium from drying out, place flasks in an environment where the relative humidity is about 60%. Keep air movement in the flasking area to a minimum. No fans!

Preparing Community Pots

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Use a well-drained, clean pot and line the bottom with drainage material. Fill the pot to within one inch from the rim with damp, loosely packed sphagnum moss. Wrap the roots of a dry seedling loosely with the same damp sphagnum moss and place the "package" in the pot. Repeat the process until the pot is filled with seedling packages touching each other. Finish by filling gaps between seedlings and pot edge with some loose sphagnum. Write the proper orchid name plus the "compot date" on plant labels and put one label in every pot.

Deflasking Seedlings

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Seedlings stay in replates flasks for about one year, but can stay longer if the medium has not yet been depleted of necessary nutrients. Seedlings are deflasked, when leaves are at least 5 centimeters long, cleaned of all agar and transplanted to a community pot.

Pour some tepid water into the flasks and carefully swirl it to break up the agar. A spatula may be used to gently aid the breakup. Pour water and seedling mix into a bowl half filled with tepid water. Rinse seedling roots and leaves free of agar. Submerge the seedlings for about ten minutes in a weak systemic fungicide solution, like Benomyl, then place them on paper towels to dry.

Taking Care of Community Pot Seedlings

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Seedlings deflasked have come from a 100% relative humidity environment inside the flask. Do not shock them by moving them to a 50 or 60% immediately, but rather do it gradually. This can be done by placing the pots in a tray covered with a clear plastic dome with top vents closed, which over a period of time can be gradually opened. Keep the pots about 30 cm below two 40W fluorescent lamps, as described above for flask lighting. Keep temperatures around the 24 degrees C. Prevent seedling medium from drying out, but do not have it soaking wet and cause root rot. Start a regular watering program right away; fertilizing program in one or two weeks from compotting date. Peter Croezen email:orchids@golden.net



18470 S.W. 206 St Miami Fl. 33187 Phone/Fax (305) 238-5615 Cell. (786) 402-0331 Hours 9:00A.M. to 5:00P.M. Monday Through Friday

1st time buyer 10% discount

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SHOW NEWS

The 60th Miami International Orchid Show

Show Theme: Jungle Odyssey

Honorary Show Chairman: Mary Noble McQuerry Location: Coconut Grove Exhibition Center

2700 South Bayshore Drive

Schedule:

Plant Registration Judging Premiere Party Open to the public	Wednesday, March 2 Thursday, March 3 Thursday, March 3 Friday March 4 Saturday, March 5 Sunday, March 6	2:00 pm -8:00 pm 8:30 am 7:30 pm -10:00 pm 10:00 am -8:00 pm 10:00 am -8:00 pm 10:00 am -6:00 pm
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Admission and Tickets

* At the gate: \$10.00 per person, members free WITH MEMBER BADGE AND PHOTO ID ONLY

* No discounts; no three-day passes

Pre-sale tickets: \$8.00, available from Ellen at the office. On February 28th these will no longer be available. Premiere party tickets: \$50.00 - purchase through the office

Volunteers are needed for the following committees:

- Security Eduardo Marcellini
- Hospitality Julia Hamner
 Box Office Joan Viggiani
- Walking Tours Sandy Schultz,
 Clerking Dorothy Bennett
 Trophy Placement Mona Heider

Contact the committee chairman either directly or through the office.

Sponsor a trophy:

Two sponsorship levels: \$50.00 and \$100.00. Includes a sentation sign indicating the sponsor, name in the Show Schedule, as well. Contact the SFOS office.

Please support your society and help us make this the very best Miami International Orchid Show ever

Dorothy Bennett 2005 Show Director

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT ADMISSION: Many of you will remember that our admission policy for members is changed last year. Members are still admitted to the show free of change, but you MUST document your membership by providing your membership ID badge AND a photo ID (e.g. driver's license) at the time of admittance.

Mickey's Orchids Specializing in frequent bloomers Gift Certificates & Arrangements available 315 SW 23 St. Ft. Laud, FI 33315 954-523-8867 1 block North of St. Rd 84 1 mile East of I-95 Open Wed - Sat 9-5, Sun 12-4 Closed Mon - Tues

ORCHID STAMPS

Make plans to be at the American Orchid Society visitor center Friday Evening, March 4, 2005 for a rare South Florida event. The last time orchids were significantly featured on US issue postal stamps was with the 11th World Conference held in Miami in 1984. This year, something bigger is scheduled! The United Nations Postal Administration will; be releasing its endangered species stamps and collector folio on Sheets of 16 first-class stamps issued in US and 2 international currencies. South Florida's own Greg Allikas contributed heavily to this project. His photographs were used extensively in the collector folio as well as reference for the stamp paintings themselves.

Greg and Kathy will be hosting a wine-cheese stamp sale at the AOS Visitors Center on Friday evening, March 4, 2005. You will be able to purchase stamps, collector folios and first day covers. Stamp sales will begin at 5:30pm followed at 7:00pm by an auction of signed original photographs used in the folios. These beautiful framed limited edition photographic prints by Greg Allikas, will make a unique collection addition to this stamp issue. Proceeds from stamp sales and print auction will go toward funding AOS conservation grants. RSVP required by February 25 - Cassie Costa 561-404-2001 or at ccosta@aos.org.

SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, February 16th, 2005

Fire Fighters Memorial Building 8000 N.W. 21st Street Miami, Florida 33122

7:30 pm - Registration & Judging of Plants

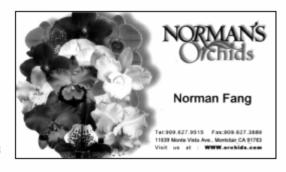
7:45 pm - Announcements

8:00 pm - Program

8:45 pm - Orchid Clinic & Refreshments

9:00 pm - Awarded Plants Discussed

9:15 pm - Raffle



PREVIEW PARTY MENU

A party not to be missed. The following is the menu that will be served at the SFOS Preview Party, Thursday Evening, and March 3, 2005, 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm. Reservations are necessary and NO Tickets will be available at the door. Reservation form included in this newsletter.

Butler Passed Hors d'Oeuvres

Petite Lamb Chops - Impeccably Grilled to the Ideal Temperature, Offered with Pomegranate Mint Julep Sauce

Sautéed Scallop - Resting on a Golden Yucca Chip, Garnished with Minted Sweet Pea Puree

Caribbean Vegetable Spring Roll Wrapped in Rice Paper with Goat Cheese and Ginger Soy Vinaigrette

Salmon Carpaccio Presented on a Rice Noodle Cake Garnished with Pickled Mango & Papaya

Coconut & Pistachio Encrusted Shrimp Deep Fried to a Golden Perfection Offered with a Tropical Fruit Coulis

Jazzy Sweet Potato & Walnut Beignet served with Honey Jack Daniel's Dipping Sauce

Lump Crabmeat Cake Offered with Roasted Red Pepper Aioli

Florida Flat Bread Crowned with Mesquite Grilled Chicken, Smoked Mozzarella & Chef Steven's BBQ Sauce

Bruschetta of Tenderloin Crowned with Pink Peppercorn Crusted Tenderloin of Beef and Drizzled with Pungent Blue Cheese Aioli

Brie French Toast Drizzled with a Fig Honey Garnished with Slivered Almonds

Delightful Dinner Stations

Carving Station - served with Petite Snowflake Rolls

Sirloin of Beef - Marinated in Herbs & Seared Medium Rare Thinly Sliced & Cut Into Bite Sized Pieces at the Station & Drizzled with Chimichurri Sauce & Horseradish Sauce Herb Rubbed Breast of Turkey - Tender & Juicy Turkey Sliced to Order for your Guests Offered with Cranberry-Mayonnaise

Iced Seafood Station

Large Chilled Shrimp Served on Ice and served with Savory Spicy Cocktail Sauce and garnished with Lemon Wedges Outrigger Oysters of the Sea on the Half Shell Shucked and served in their own liqueur

Chilled Mussels Concassee, drizzled with Extra Virgin Olive Oil, Dusted with Finely Chopped Tomatoes, Garlic & Basil Chiffonade

Sip Of Soup Station

New England Clam Chowder offered in a Petite Cup

Caribbean Conch Fritters offered with Tequila Cocktail Sauce

Pasta Bar

An Interactive Sauté Station Prepared by Our Chef's in Front of Your Guests

Caesar Salad - Crisp Romaine Lettuce Tossed with Homemade Croutons, Parmesan Cheese & Sun Kissed Caesar Dressing

Petite Pasta - Crowned with Sautéed Mushrooms & Onions Tossed with Arrabiata Cream Sauce & Garnished with Fresh Basil Leaves

Garlic Rolls Dusted with Fresh Parmesan Cheese

Sauté Station

Tenderized Breast of Chicken Marsala Pan Seared in an Herb Olive Oil

Fluffy Lemony Rice - Delectably Aromatic Rice accented with Fragrant Lemon Zest

Crisp Asparagus Platter Drizzled with a Citrus Glaze

Decadent Desserts

Chef's Selection of Desserts

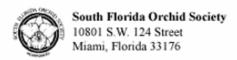
Robust, Freshly Ground Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee & Harney & Sons Tea Selection

Open Bar



Premier Party Registration

Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	
Please reserve seats @ \$50.00	
Total amount enclosed: \$	
Address to mail tickets:	
Please return this form along with your check to: SFOS, 10801 S.W. 124 St., Miami, FL 33176.	
If you have any questions please direct them to Ellen Hanson at the SFOS office at 305-255-3656	



Dated Material-Do Not Delay