



May 2005 - Volume 2, Number 5

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## President's Message

Dear members,

We had a very successful annual auction and it was possible because of the people involved behind the scenes. Michael Coronado, our program chairman, worked on it since the beginning of the year. He managed to collect an immense amount of orchids from the vendors at the show, local growers and member donations. I would like to thank Mike for his leadership in this annual event, R.F. Orchids, for putting their facilities and employees at our disposal and to all the members that helped in many ways.

This week finally we had some rain. It has been so dry, that after the first hard rain some of the frogs around my pond drowned; they forgot how to swim. It seems that now we will get showers almost every afternoon. I love it and so do my plants, but don't forget that this atmospheric occurrence also awakens the fungus. Be prepared, have your fungicide available and don't be afraid to use it. For more information you can go to our website and download the culture sheets.

This coming meeting features Paul Storm as the speaker. It is also the time of the year when we have our election of officers. Please plan on making the meeting, not only for the program but to be part of the election and support the members that volunteer for these positions.

Sincerely,

Eduardo Marcellini

Ellen is working on our new roster and if you have any updates (address, name, phone number, email, etc) please contact the office by phone or email no later than May 18, 2005. Thank you for all your cooperation.  
(sforchid@bellsouth.net or 305-255-3656)

## May Program: Paul Storm Presents

*"The Weird, Wild, Wiggly and Wonderful World of Schomburgkias and Their Relatives"*

Paul Storm was born and raised in Buffalo, New York where he never even saw an orchid! When his family retired in Florida, Paul graduated from Stetson University and moved, married and worked in Miami – where he still never saw an orchid although he lived around the corner from some of Miami's leading orchid nurseries. When the Storms moved to Sarasota and Paul, for some unknown reason, attended an orchid sale and purchased a small division of Schomburgkia tibicinis – their world changed forever!

Approximately eight years ago the "Wonderful World" of Schomburgkias and their hybrids became Paul's obsession and, in spite of the initial disinterest of his wife and the derision of his friends, he realized that he was born to convert the world to "Schombo-Appreciation"! Together Paul and Mary traveled the US, Western Europe's conservatories, the Caribbean, and Hawaii seeking the best cultivars of each species and collecting registered Schomburgkia hybrids. Very quickly they discovered there were a genetic puzzle waiting to be unlocked and a public relations campaign waiting to be waged.

The Storms' Schomburgkia search has led them to friendship with some of the finest orchid specialists and growers and enthusiastic orchid hobbyists around the world. Three breeding specialists have each named a new hybrid for Paul: Robert Benevides (Raymond Burr's orchid partner at Sea God Nursery), Tom Moore (creator of the Schomburgkia hybrid genus Mooreara), and beloved and respected Claude Hamilton of Jamaica.

*Continued on page 2*

In turn, Paul has named one of the most beautiful hybrids for his beloved wife and another for their first granddaughter, Corinne Elizabeth. One of these plants received an AM/AOS last year. Together the Storms have made literally hundreds of new crosses – some merely to unlock genetic secrets and some which they truly believe (translate that as “hope”!) will make Schomburgkia history. One of Paul’s greatest moments was receiving the personal Schomburgkia collection of his hero and the author of the finest Schomburgkia book ever written – Dr. Carl Withner.

Paul is currently working on a book about Schomburgkia species with a history and discourse on their use in hybridizing. He is working on a few new hybrid genera also and believes that there is a whole new world of Schomburgkia hybrids waiting to be discovered. But most of all, Paul is on a mission to help bring Schomburgkias and their hybrids the respect and appreciation they so justly deserve.

Paul will be supplying the blooming plants for our special raffles this evening, and our regular raffle table will be provided by R.F. Orchids, so there will be lots of goodies! See you there!

Michael Coronado

Program Chairman

### **Our Auction was a Success!!**

If you attended last month’s auction, you already know that we had a great evening of fun and bargains! With a fabulous collection of plants donated by members and sponsors, a professional auctioneer, and a large group of orchid lovers on hand to bid, our annual fund-raiser was an overwhelming success. The proceeds from this event will be used to fund our educational programs and society events for the coming year.

A huge “Thank You” goes to everyone that participated:

- R.F. Orchids staff for housing and tending donated plants

- Dorothy Bennett and the “cataloging committee”: Joan & Tony Viggiani and Bonnie & Will Riley

- Bryan Kinsley of Sunset Auction Company who did a great job for us

- Mike and Angie Pitiriciu for their help as “runners”

- Dorothy Bennett and Carol DeBiase, our “clerks”

- Joan Viggiani, Ellen Hanson and Sally Taylor at the Cashier’s Desk

- Christa Collins, our “registrar”

- Marlene Clark for fabulous refreshments

### **Our donors:**

- |                          |                          |
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| o Krull-Smith            | o Water Orchids          |
| o Norman’s Orchids       | o Whimsy Orchids         |
|                          | o Woozworks              |

With a special thanks to the folks whose donations brought us the most income:

- Hawaiian Island Orchids for the multitude of Dendrobiums

- Will & Bonnie Riley for the fabulous species specimen plants

- R. F. Orchids for the wonderful blooming vandaceous items

And, of course, above all, THANK YOU to all those that participated as bidders and buyers!

Michael Coronado  
VP, Program Chairman

*Continued on next column* **2**

## BIG THANK YOU

by Sandy Schultz

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following volunteers for all their help during the Miami Show. The following list gave of their time and talent to enlighten the public on what it takes to put an orchid show together: Richard Brandon – a special thanks. He led a lot of tours all three days, Betty Eber, Maria Wood, Judy Mezey, Sue Blackmore Jan & Alan Mink, Mercedes Steverwald, Javier Morejon, Lynn Corson, Carol De Biase.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank all the speakers who gave us there tips and tricks for growing orchids: David Kridel, Mac Rivenbark, Luiz Hamilton Lima, Marv Ragan, Ed, Bugbee, Segundo Cuesta, Roy Tokunaga, Axel Cahiz, Matt Godlove, Michael Sinn, Bill Peters, Rafael Romero, Mike Coronado Todd Miller.





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## Smelly "Spiders" that Enhance and Enchant the Home

The most intriguing "spiders" in the plant world are known as Brassia. This genus was named in honor of William Brass, an 18th century botanical illustrator and plant collector for Sir Joseph Banks in western and southern Africa. Current orchid growers appreciate Brassias as adaptable, easy-to-grow orchids, well at home in a mixed collection.

This orchid is knick-named the "spider orchids" because the sepals and petals, which can be up to several inches long, resemble the legs of spiders. Although their color forms are usually green or yellow with spots or blotches of red-brown to almost black, they are well worth growing for their stunning flowers, light fragrance, and ability to bloom two to three times a year as the new growth matures.

Many species in the genus Brassia are pollinated by parasitic wasps, which normally lay their eggs on spiders. The patterns and structure of Brassia orchids resemble a spider in its web enough to encourage these wasps to lay their eggs in the plants' blooms and in doing so pollinate them.

Brassia species come from the areas of tropical America, including Jamaica, Central America, and tropical South America. One species, Brassia caudata, is found in the semitropical southern Florida Everglades as well as in warmer habitats such as Panama. Brassia maculata, a yellow-flowered species with compact growth, comes from tropical Central America. In El Salvador these sturdy plants can be found growing on coffee bushes. Brassias in these areas receive bright light and intermediate to warm temperatures, depending on the season. During the relatively dry months in their native habitat, these epiphytic orchids can survive for weeks without water. Primary hybrids (two species crossed), as well as hybrids can easily adapt to more dramatic temperature and light fluctuations. Culture for Brassias is similar to Cattleyas. Requiring intermediate temperatures, bright diffused light, and an evenly moist medium that does not dry out completely, plants will produce strong new growths to support the quick growing inflorescences. Feeding Brassias on a regular basis with a dilute solution of fertilizer is required except for about a month after blooming when active growth has stopped. Repotting Brassias should be done with care. They resent being disturbed, however, they often grow over the pot edge into a specimen size plant in just a few years.

Popular hybrids are available from numerous sources. Outstanding selections include Brassia Edvah Loo (longissima x gireoudiana majus), Brassia Lance (caudata x gireoudiana), Brassia Memoria Fritz Boedeker (Rex x arcuigera), Brassia Santa Barbara (Rex x Edvah Loo), and Brassia Memoria Walter Bertsch (Rex x maculata). Popular species include Brassia maculata, verrucosa, caudata, gireoudiana, and longissima.

*(Reprinted with permission from the New Mexico Orchid Society)*

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**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.



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## Highlights of the 60th Miami International Orchid Show

By Julie Rosenberg

"Jungle Odyssey", Our 60th Miami International Orchid Show in March, was a huge success, with more exhibitors and vendors, special events and spectacular orchids than ever.

This year, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the event known world-wide simply as "The Miami Show", we welcomed an honorary Show Chair, Mrs. Mary Noble McQuerry. Mary, a well-known author and orchid judge, attended the very first "Miami Show" and has been with us every year since then. The South Florida Orchid Society also launched the third edition of our "Introduction to Orchids" culture book at the show. This entirely new edition proved popular with show attendees and the show hosted an informal gathering on Sunday morning where visitors could meet some of the authors and contributors.

Of course the magnificent exhibits are the main attraction at the Miami Show, and this year exhibitors outdid themselves again. First-place honors in the 500 sq. ft. Open class went to **R.F. Orchids' "Orchid Idyll"**. This spectacular entry with a



jungle theme won the AOS Show Trophy, an AOS Gold Certificate, AOS Artistic Certificate, an SFOS gold medal and the Marion Sheehan Artistic Merit Trophy. Individual plants in the exhibit won 2 gold medals, 9 silver medals, 3 bronze medals, 9 Best-in-Show Trophies and 3 AOS flower-quality awards. The show's Reserve Champion plant (see below) was also part of this amazing display.

Quest Orchids' entry "Nature's Treasure" took sec-

ond place in this class with a lush tropical garden setting, complete with waterfalls and a spectacular collection of specimen cattleyas set among animal-shaped topiaries. Five show medals graced the beautiful orchids in this lovely exhibit.

Carmela Orchids of Hawaii took third place and a bronze medal in this class with their exhibit "Heavenly Treasures". This beautiful display featured a hillside of cascading white phalaenopsis with many gorgeous, deep-pink phals lining a path to a jungle grotto.



In the 400 sq. ft. class, **H&R Nurseries' "Hawaiian Promenade"** won the first place trophy and a silver medal with an unusual and attractive design. The exhibit was split by a pathway lined with an amazing assortment of rare and unusual orchids, allowing visitors to view the flowers at close range. Four show medals, two AOS awards and the trophy for the Best Hybrid Dendrobium in the show were awarded to plants in this exhibit.

Soroa Orchid Gardens' "Oriental Fantasy" took second place with a beautiful display of blooming orchids in containers, surrounded by Japanese screens. Two show medals and the Best Species Oncidium Trophy were bestowed in this display.

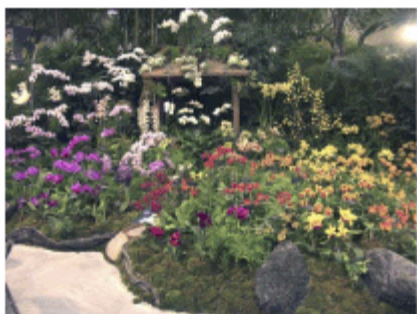
The third place winner in this class was Norman's Orchids' entry, "Giraffe Fantasy". This exhibit featured a collection of stunning harlequin phalaenopsis, and the Lewis and Varina Vaughn Trophy for the show's best white phalaenopsis.

This year's show had nine entries in the 300 sq. ft. Open class. Top honors went to **Carib Plants "Forest Glen"**, a beautiful hillside Asian garden

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highlighted by a cascade of white and pink phalaenopsis and dendrobiums in the background, and a collection of luscious jewel-toned phalaenopsis in the foreground. A number of spectacular plants graced this exhibit, including the show's Best Species and Spotted Phalaenopsis, and three medal winners, too.

Redland Orchids won second place in this class with "A Jungle Nook". An amazing waterfall framed a gorgeous collection of fine cattleyas, including the Best Specimen Plant in the Show, an AOS cultural award and six show medals. Third place went to Millers' Tropicals' display "Summer Festival in the Garden"; a fascinating garden filled with wonderful and unusual species orchids. Seven show medals were bestowed on these amazing orchids.

Six more exhibitors competed in this class, and several of the "Best in Show" trophies, AOS awards and many show medals were granted to these exhibitors. Whimsy Orchids had the show's Best White Cattleya, Best Semi-Alba Phalaenopsis, and Best Equitant Oncidium, in addition to three AOS flower-quality awards and three medals. Marty's Orchids had the show's Best Species Dendrobium, and a number of show medals were granted to exceptional plants in the exhibits of Odom's Orchids, Baldan's Orchids and EFG Orchids.

As in most years, the 200 sq. ft. exhibit class had the largest number of entries. Twelve exhibitors

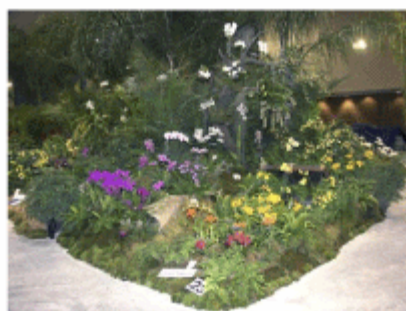


competed for honors in this class. First place honors and a silver medal went to **Krull-Smith's** gorgeous display "**Nature's Excitement**", which featured a wonderful collection of award-winning orchids in a captivating, lush palm glade. The display garnered six Best-In-Show trophies, the Show's Grand Champion and Show Theme Trophy, 14 show medals (including three gold) and five American Orchid Society awards including the coveted First Class Certificate (FCC/AOS) granted to Paph. St. Swithin 'Crystelle'.

Second-place honors went to Mac's Orchids' entry "Wonderfall", a collection of beautiful orchids in a woodland setting with an amazing water feature. Three medal-winners graced this lovely entry. Third place in the class was Piping Rock Orchids' "Jungle Masterpiece", a handsome display of beautifully arranged flowering orchids in containers. Several show medals and an AOS flower-quality award were granted to the beautiful flowers in this display.

The other nine entries in this class garnered a number of show medals for their beautiful displays and gorgeous blooming orchids.

Five international and three domestic, non-commercial exhibitors competed in the 100 sq. ft. Open

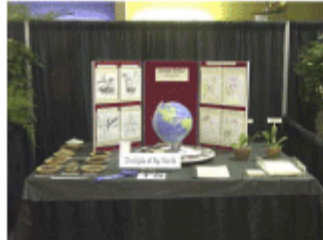


class. The winning display in this class was **Sanctuary Orchids' "Jungle Treasures"**, a driftwood tree covered with blooming orchids including several lovely Miltoniopsis, a genus we seldom see at this latitude! Several show medals and the show's Best Oncidiinae Intergeneric Trophy graced this lovely display. Second place honors went to Plantío La Orquídea from Venezuela, for "Bus Stop", a whimsical Venezuelan roadside display full of gorgeous South American species. Four show medals and the show's Best Miniature Trophy were granted to orchids in this exhibit. Colombia's

Orquídeas del Valle won third place with their entry, "Jungle Garden", featuring an amazing collection of blue dendrobiums and a very large plant of Bc. Imperial Jade, its enormous whiskered green flowers simply incredible.



The East Everglades Orchid Society entered a 200 sq. ft. floor exhibit, "Jungle Cats", featuring a bronze leopard and a wonderful collection of blooming orchids. **Maria Wood** had two entries, both first-place winners. Her 50 sq. ft. floor exhibit



took first place in the Hobby Grower class, and she also won first place in the Educational Exhibits. Marie Selby Botanical Gardens also entered an educational exhibit which garnered the second place trophy in this class, the show's Best Encyclia, two AOS awards and several show medals.



This year's Show included eight table-top exhibits in three classes. **Michael and Sheila O'Dea** won the trophy for the best hobby entry in this class. Three orchid societies competed in their class, with the Boca Raton Orchid Society taking top honors; South Dade Amateur Orchid Club won second place and the Key Largo Orchid Society was third. Suwada Orchids received the second place trophy in the Table-Top Open Class, and Orquídeas




Nitsuga of Venezuela was the first place winner in the International Cut-Flower class.

Top honors in the five-plant arrangement class went to Carol DeBiase's beautiful basket. Maria Wood's entry won second place, and Georgia Tasker and Sandy Schultz took the third place prize in this class.

Grand Champion of the 60th Miami International Orchid Show was Paphiopedilum St. Swithin 'Crystelle' FCC/AOS, entered by Krull-Smith. This paph won a number of honors, including the trophy for the Best Cypripedioideae Hybrid, as well as the AOS's highest award for flower quality, a 92 pt. First Class Certificate. Reserve Champion honors went to Ascda, John De Biase 'Angela' FCC/AOS, entered by Judy Mezey. This gorgeous red ascocenda also received the Best Red Ascocenda Trophy.

The 60th Miami International Orchid Show granted a total of 380 awards, including 34 trophies and 99 ribbons to hobby growers, 153 show medals to plants and exhibits, and 31 AOS awards. Congratulations to each and all, and thanks for making the 60th Miami International Orchid Show a resounding success. See you next year...at our new location, the Miami Beach Convention Center!

*Photos courtesy of Greg Allikas*



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## ORCHID GENERA

<b>Aer.</b> - Aerides <b>Aerdv.</b> - Aeridovanda <b>Angcm.</b> - Angraecum <b>Arnps.</b> - Arachnopsis <b>Arnth.</b> - Aranthra <b>Asda.</b> - Ascocenda <b>Ascps.</b> - Asconopsis <b>B.</b> - Brassavola <b>Bak.</b> - Bakerara <b>Bc.</b> - Brassocattleya <b>Bepi.</b> - Brassoepidendrum <b>Bl.</b> - Brassolaelia <b>Blc.</b> - Brassolaeliocattleya <b>Blira.</b> - Beallara <b>Bro.</b> - Broughtonia <b>Brs.</b> - Brassia <b>C. &amp; C.</b> Cattleya	<b>Chrta.</b> - Chrisceara <b>Colm.</b> - Colmanara <b>Ctna.</b> - Cattleytonia <b>Den.</b> - Dendrobium <b>Dor.</b> - Doritis <b>Dtps.</b> - Doritaenopsis <b>Enc.</b> - Encyclia <b>Epc.</b> - Epicattleya <b>Epi.</b> - Epidendrum <b>Eplc.</b> - Epilaeliocattleya <b>Gram.</b> - Grammatophyllum <b>Hknsa.</b> - Hawkinsara <b>Kgw.</b> - Kagawara <b>L.</b> - Laelia <b>Lc.</b> - Laeliocattleya <b>Mkra.</b> - Mokara <b>Mtdm.</b> - Miltonidium	<b>Mtssa.</b> - Miltassia <b>Neof.</b> - Neofinetia <b>Neost.</b> - Neostylis <b>Odbrs.</b> - Odontobrasia <b>Odm.</b> - Odomoglossia <b>Odtma.</b> - Odontonia <b>Onc.</b> - Oncidium <b>Phal.</b> - Phalaenopsis <b>Rdza.</b> - Rodriguezia <b>Ren.</b> - Renanthera <b>Rhy.</b> - Rhynchostylis <b>Sc.</b> - Sophrocattleya <b>Slc.</b> - Sophrolaeliocattleya <b>Soph.</b> - Sophronitis <b>V.</b> - Vanda <b>Vasco.</b> - Vascostylis <b>Vf.</b> - Vandofinetia
AWARDS		
<b>AM</b> - Award of Merit <b>AOS</b> - American Orchid Society <b>CBE</b> - Certificate of Botanical Excellence <b>CBR</b> - Certificate of Botanical Recognition <b>CHM</b> - Certificate of Horticultural Merit	<b>CR</b> - Certificate of Recognition <b>FCC</b> - First Class Certificate <b>HCC</b> - Highly Commended Certificate <b>SM</b> - Silver Medal	



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### JUDGING CLARIFICATION

At special events such as Holiday Party, Auction and Installation of Officers, the South Florida Orchid Society Judges will only be doing medal judging.

## Summer is Almost Upon Us

*By Andy Easton, VP Life Sciences, KB, Homestead, FL*

These are a few things, in no particular order, that you might wish to consider that could help your plants through what is often a very difficult growing season in South Florida.

It's hot and the plants are growing like crazy so we need to fertilize more, right? Wrong! The two periods of most rapid growth in our area are Spring and Fall. When the days and nights get uncomfortably hot for us, they are too hot for many of our orchids too. The respiration rate will exceed the photosynthate storage rate for much of the 24 hour period and consequently, just like when we go on a diet and exercise more to lose weight, our plants will actually struggle to hold their own or may even go backwards. In the months of July, August and September, it is prudent to actually feed at a lower concentration and also to make sure you are feeding a formulation that is at least even concentrations of Nitrogen



and Potassium and preferably with a Potassium level around 25% higher than Nitrogen. Don't skip feeds however as the higher temperatures mean that fertilizer is quickly metabolized by media microflora. Now if you just grow Vandaceous types these comments are less applicable but anything in the Cattleya Alliance will benefit from the above regime.

Be sure too that you water and fertilize in the early or late hours, I personally prefer morning but the orchid leaf stomata are open at either time. It is not necessary to get into a debate about foliar feeding here but I am sure the elevated bacterial leaf presence in warmer months greatly assists in plant nutrition by converting fertilizer into gaseous ammonia which is then readily taken up through the leaf stomata. Research has shown that Phalaenopsis stomata are open at night but be careful watering them in the evening as crown rot will be a problem. People say to me that if Phalaenopsis can survive in their natural environment where it rains every day in Summer and often in the evening, why can't they behave the same in cultivation? There are two main reasons why we run into problems with cultivated plants. Firstly. The plant orientation is all wrong. Phalaenopsis in nature develop so that the leaves drain water away from the crown. We place them in pots and all the water essentially runs backwards and accumulates in the crown, just where we don't want it at night-time. Secondly rainwater is a different "cat" to well or city water with added fertilizer and it is much less likely to support pathogen growth.

Plant disease researchers have found that elevated levels of certain nutritional elements like Magnesium will contribute to a plant's ability to resist fungal and bacterial infection. Epsom Salts (Magnesium Sulfate) is a cheap and effective source of this critical plant nutritional element. Once a month in Summer, instead of watering and feeding, water and feed Epsom Salts. It doesn't mix well with fertilizers so should be used on its own and even if you don't have the capacity to liquid feed it, you can even apply it as a topdressing without any risk of injury to your plants. Feed at the rate of a level teaspoon per gallon or top-dress at the rate of a level teaspoon

per six inch pot.

There are oils and oils. Some people have done major damage to their plants by using the wrong oil at the wrong time of day or year! But, the paraffinic oils like Ultra-Fine which can be purchased for around \$11.00 a quart at Home Depot are wonderful for home growers. I spray all my plants in the greenhouse at home with Ultra-Fine every month, year round. You have no toxicity issues to worry about so you can spray in your swimsuit if you wish and these paraffinic oils will really keep mites, scale, thrips and mealy bug on the back foot. If your water is high in Calcium, they will also help keep your plant leaves shiny. I tend to spray in the early hours because it is more pleasant for me but even if the sun is higher in the sky, only the thinnest leaves and most sensitive plants would be likely to be affected, if at all. Caution: with any spray it is always better in terms of efficacy and for systemic uptake, to spray when the stomata are open, i.e. in the cooler hours.

Although summer is not the most pleasant time to be in your greenhouse, make some time each week to do a slow walkthrough. For people who hand water this is not a problem but if you have overhead watering capacity, don't just water and run! Things can go bad very quickly in the summer months and a small spot of bacterial infection can become a sorry mess in hours rather than days. Spacing plants and a good fan for night air movement is critical to the prevention of most fungal and bacterial problems. Never let your plant roots come within 18 inches of the soil. The ubiquitous Fusarium wilt fungus is just waiting to attack your prize orchid and it is essentially, incurable. Just a splash of water which hits the soil under your bench and then bounces up onto a healthy Vanda root can spell disaster. Whenever I see people placing plants on the ground for easy watering, I just shudder. It is one of the most dangerous and unhygienic practices for your orchid plants.

Good growing! Make it through summer and be ready for the pleasures of the Florida Fall with a group of robust and healthy orchids.

## STANHOPEAS

Stanhopeas are epiphytes that bear the most dramatic looking incredible flowers with intricate and complex structures and mechanisms for pollination, from channeled "walkways" for insects, to buckets of a watery solution. All have inflorescences that grow downward, so the plants must be potted in hanging baskets with 1~2" slats spacing at bottom or similar containers. Most flowers are spicily fragrant, and although the flowers are short-lived, each plant may produce many inflorescences throughout the year. Stanhopeas are endemic to the New World ( Central and South America and the Caribbean's) Those found in Mexico requires some dry spell in order to flower. Just like the Cymbidiums, when buying Stanhopeas, look for 3 or more pseudobulbs. The more pseudobulbs, the greater the likelihood of flowering in a short time. The usual Stanhopeas seen in the wild have few pseudobulbs.

**LIGHT** should be bright, with direct sunlight diffused so as not to burn the leaves. The plants need to be suspended due to their pendulous inflorescences. Light levels approximating those for cattleyas, or 3,000 foot-candles, are best.

**TEMPERATURES** for Stanhopeas should be moderate: 52 to 60 degrees F at night, with day temperatures 68 to 75 degrees F in the winter. Plants can stand short spells of higher temperatures, but air movement, humidity and shading must all be increased. Cool night temperatures seem to promote flowering. Many species flower in the summer, and putting them outside in the summer may be ideal.

**WATER** in ample quantities is important to produce strong pseudobulbs and healthy flowers. They grow in moist locations in open medium and watered frequently, especially when warm. Dry roots lead to leaf-tip dieback, or a browning of the leaf tip. Watering frequency can be reduced in the winter months, but these plants should never dry out completely.

**HUMIDITY** should be kept at 50% to 80% and at high levels especially when temperatures are high. Frequent misting reduces the chance of mite and insect infection; at the same time, strong air movement must be provided to prevent spotting of the foliage.

**FERTILIZER** should be applied at regular intervals. Most growers fertilize with a diluted concentration every week to two weeks. For plants in bark, use a 30-10-10 high nitrogen formulation, alternating with a 20-20-20 balanced formulation; in the blooming season, which is mainly summer, use a 10-30-20 bloom booster formulation. Plants grown in osmunda need fertilization only infrequently.

**POTTING** is best right after summer bloom, as most plants seem to grow year-round. Plants that rest in the winter may be repotted in the spring. The best flowerings come from large clumps of plants, so large baskets with 1~2" spacing between slats are usually used. An airy, yet moist medium seems to work best, such as medium-grade fir bark (often mixed with sphagnum peat) or osmunda fiber. Baskets are most often lined with moss before plants are placed in the medium; this allows the pendulous inflorescences to grow through the bottom of the basket. Pre-moisten the potting medium so that the roots do not dry severely after repotting. Vigorous plants may need repotting every three years.

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## JEWEL ORCHIDS

Orchids that have patterned and reticulated leaves are known as Jewel Orchids. Usually distributed from northeast India throughout southeast Asia and into Indonesia usually found in the low to medium elevation rain forests and so require warm to intermediate temperatures, high humidity and relatively shady conditions. Best place to grow this plants are in a terrarium.

*Continued on next column* 10

## Arundina (Bamboo Orchid)

At first glance, the flowers of *Arundina* may be mistaken for *Cattleya*, except that they are rather papery and the lateral sepals are close together, almost hidden by the lip. The pseudobulbs of *Arundina graminifolia* grow close together bearing many grasslike leaves with overlapping sheaths. The inflorescence is held well above the plant and carries a succession of flowers at its tip, one or two opening at a time and each lasting 3 to 5 days. The flowers are large and striking with white petals and sepals and a contrasting purple lip. A patch of yellow is present in the throat.

*Arundina graminifolia* is widely distributed throughout the Indo-Malaya region and is found in open, sunny places, never in the shade of the forests. They grow much better if potted in a large pot or planted on the ground and exposed to full sunlight. The beds should have good drainage with broken brick at the bottom and good topsoil, well mixed with compost. The plants must not be planted too deeply. When newly planted, the stems can be supported by stakes. They grow well if given organic fertilizer. Old flower stems produce side shoots at the base of the inflorescence and when these offshoots have produced a firm swelling at the base they may be removed and planted into sand or gravel where they will quickly produce roots. If cultivated in pots indoors, *Arundina* should be brought out during the warm months and given full sunlight to facilitate flowering.

## Spathoglottis

The name *spathoglottis* is formed from the Greek words *spathe* and *glotta* which means broad spathe, in reference to the broad midlobe of the lip. They have corn-like pseudobulbs which are exposed above the soil with veined leaves. The inflorescence is tall, slender and erect, arising from a basal leaf axil and bears small to medium-size flowers in succession. The flowers have sepals and petals equal in size with a tri-lobed lip. The tip of the midlobe is widened and sometimes cleft. Water more when the plant is actively growing, in spring and summer.

They are found growing on hilly slopes exposed to full sun in the morning till noon under intermediate to warm temperatures unless otherwise noted.

## The Orchid Hobby - One Person's Opinion

Orchids are, to me, an escape from artificiality into a sane world of order and balance. They give me a feeling of security and satisfy a primitive need for the assurance of unchanging fundamentals. In my greenhouse I find never shifting fundamentals. I find the eternal laws of the universe in a most tangible form.

Growing orchids makes me humble, for there, I am working with a force stronger than I. When I realize that flowers absorb color, perfume, beauty and form within a dimension beyond my understanding, my belief in God is strengthened. Orchid Culture satisfies my hunger for spiritual beauty and creation.

If ideals seem futile, if friends disappoint me, if my heart is sad, or my mind in turmoil, if my eyes are dull, and my body sluggish, I can go into my greenhouse, among my orchids, and find faith, tranquility, comfort and physical exercise, all of which gives me a renewed feeling of well-being, confidence and inspiration.

*Anonymous*

## White Phalaenopsis

By Varina W. Vaughn  
(published in SFOS Show Program, 1956)

In your Florida garden I quietly wait  
For the patient care captive orchids take.  
But deep within me there is a dream  
Of moth white flowers by a jungle stream.

Hot, still air slashed by swift bird's flight,  
A million fireflies with their stars alight,  
Chorus calls from life in the grass  
As soft night winds so fleetingly pass.

I bend over water that mirrors dark land  
While I nod my thanks to Him whose hand  
Fashioned in beauty my vestments white  
And named me Queen of the Tropic Night.

When for you one day my blossoms unfold  
Their wings of silver and throat of gold  
'Twill be neither your skill nor lavish care  
But the jungle dream that is shining there.

## SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, May 18th, 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



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