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President's Message

Dear fellow orchidists,

It was great to see you all at the last meeting in spite of the storm stress and mental anxiety we've all experienced in the past month. Although our judging table, and the crowd, was smaller than usual we had an outstanding program by Luis Hamilton Lima on Brazilian *Cattleya* species.

We're all certainly looking forward to October which will really kick-off our orchid event season. Speakers Day was wonderful and we were fortunate to have so many terrific lecturers from all over the world. This month also will bring the East Everglades Orchid Society Show – the first of the season in South Florida – followed closely by the Delray Beach Orchid Society Show up north.

I want to take this opportunity to thank one of our very special members, Marlene Clark. Most of you know Marlene as the monthly refreshment coordination. She's done a great job with the goodies! But Marlene has also served the Society for many years in other capacities, also. She's been on the Board for many years and is always the first to volunteer to help with any new project. Marlene has provided set-up lunches at our show, organized our annual parties and banquets, warehouse inventory and many other unsung tasks – all the while continuing to work and raise children and grandchildren. She truly embodies the spirit of "volunteerism" that SFOS depends upon. So if you have an opportunity – be sure to thank Marlene for all she's done for YOUR Society.

I'd also like to wish a very Happy Birthday this month to one of our long time members and constant supporters – Mrs. Jane Lukens. Although she hasn't attended meetings for awhile, she's always with us in spirit.

I'm looking forward to seeing everybody at our October meeting. There will be a special Halloween "treat" for everyone that attends.

Sincerely,

Robert Fuchs
President

September Program: "Orchid Adventures in Borneo"

presented by Jerry Fischer

Join us at this month's meeting for a fascinating visit to the wilds... and wild orchids... of Borneo with Jerry Lee Fischer of Minneapolis, Minnesota. This program is an adventure story representing a compilation of three trips to Borneo between the years 1995 and 1999, including a rediscovery of *Paphiopedilum sanderianum*. The presentation will be filled with pictures of beautiful orchids and has been well received all over the world.

Jerry Lee Fischer is founder of Orchids Limited, now in its twenty-seventh year. The nursery is located on 5 ½ acres in Plymouth, a western suburb of Minneapolis and specialized in many unique orchid species and hybrids.

Jerry has traveled extensively to Peru, Borneo, Malaysia, Venezuela and other countries to study orchids in their native habitat. He has served as a consultant on numerous projects for both hobby and commercial greenhouses.

Orchids Limited will be supplying our monthly raffle table and Jerry will also be bringing a selection of plants to sell at the meeting.

So be on hand for a great "armchair travel" adventure at the next South Florida meeting.

Michael Coronado
Program Chairman

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President

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BOOK REVIEW

Every gardener, it seems, arrives at Flora's realm by a different path. My own journey began on a path marked "Orchids." One of the professors at the college I attended was an expert orchid grower, and periodically he would bring in blooming plants from his collection and put them on display in the student lounge. I don't know if he was consciously trying to enlist "recruits," but in my case, at least, the technique worked. I was hooked instantly. Never had I seen such dazzling variety, such a mixture of the bizarre and the beautiful, in a group of plants. I vowed then and there that someday I, too, would raise orchids. I read every orchid book I could lay my hands on, and made long lists of the plants I wanted to grow. By the time I was out of graduate school and working as a fledgling editor in Chicago, I had almost one hundred plants clustered on the windowsills of my apartment. Some died; some thrived; some just sat there. But the thrill I felt when a plant at last unfolded its intricate flowers has stayed with me over the years.

Inevitably, my passion for orchids began to send out tendrils (or perhaps it was rhizomes) in other directions, and eventually I succumbed to the temptations of hardy plants and outdoor gardening. My orchid collection dwindled but never entirely disappeared. Even now, when I pick up a comprehensive reference like Flora's Orchids, with its abundance of photos (more than 1,300) and descriptions of some 1,500 species and hybrids, I'm reminded of how vast and fascinating the world of orchids is, and the old urge rekindles. Maybe it's time to start building up that collection again.

Tom Fischer is Executive Editor at Timber Press and former Editor of Horticulture magazine.



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The South Florida Orchid Society is looking for volunteers with experience using Audio Visual Equipment, specifically large screen monitors and cameras to help film the demonstrations that will be taking place at the Miami Orchid Show. If you have any experience with this equipment or know anyone who you think would be able to help us, please contact Ellen Hanson at the SFOS office 305-255-3656 or via email sforchid@bellsouth.net.

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SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, October 19, 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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