



January 2006 - Volume 3 Number 1

Published by the South Florida Orchid Society

President's Message

Dear Fellow Orchidists,

I imagine that the holidays were a whirlwind for all of you, as they were for me. We certainly were blessed with beautiful weather for entertaining our out-of-town friends and family, for enjoying all of those holiday gatherings. And wasn't the SFOS Holiday party terrific! Thank you, Marlene, for arranging a really fabulous evening. We had a great group and everyone really seemed to have a wonderful time.

Now that a new year has arrived, I want to wish each and everyone the best for 2006. It's going to be a busy year for us here at SFOS - so buckle your seat belts, keep your check-books handy, and PLEASE volunteer to help out whenever you can.

Our first *priority*, of course, will be our coming show. Things are starting to move very rapidly toward March. Be sure to sign up now to help on your favorite committee, like Hospitality, Security, etc. This will be our first year at the Miami Beach Convention Center and it promises to be a fabulous one. The space is larger and we've got it pretty well filled! This year, in addition to our beautiful orchid displays and vendors, we'll have an expanded orchid-related mart, a floral decorating competition, a photography competition and a cake decorating competition - all about orchids! At the Thursday night opening you'll be able to see the show, enjoy wine-and-cheese or dessert-and-coffee, get first crack at the sales area and enjoy a live auction of wonderful donations (artwork, antiques, jewelry, travel tickets, etc.) Don't miss it! It promises to be a fabulous new beginning in a new venue.

Following the show, of course, we'll have our annual orchid auction in April, and our annual awards presentation in June, before using the summer to recoup our energy for the whirlwind of the fall with Speakers Day in October followed shortly by the 2nd Southland Mall Orchid Fair in November. And then, in a few short months, it will be time for another great holiday party.

Of course, every month we'll continue to have wonderful speakers at our meetings. Don't miss out on the best orchid lectures anywhere in town. And we will continue with our great raffles, fabulous refreshments and monthly judging, too.

Please make 2006 a year when you participate in our Society's activities. Be an attendee. Be a sponsor. Be a volunteer.

With best regards to all,

Robert Fuchs, President

January Program:

"AOS Judging System: The Hows and Whys"

presented by Will Riley

Orchid lovers are always interested in why a particular orchid grabs a judge's eye while another appearing equally beautiful is looked over rapidly. Will Riley will discuss the merits of various orchid judging systems, focusing on that used by the American Orchid Society. He will present a brief overview of the AOS system including its purpose, benefits, and promises. And, of course, the evening would not be complete without providing a few pointers that growers can master to help their plants attract the judge's attention.

Will has been growing plants all his life with a specific interest in orchids developing over the last twenty years. "Escaping" a farming and ranching background in the desert of West Texas, he pursued his doctorate in Medical Microbiology and Immunology at Emory University in Atlanta. Realizing he could not truly escape his farming heritage, he became a Master Gardener and a serious interest in tropical plants followed. Pursuit of his career brought him to South Florida and opened the door to the orchid world. Within the orchid clubs and show committees of South Dade, he met his wife Bonnie, who shares equally his avid interest in orchids. Both he and his wife are accredited American Orchid Society judges. He is currently the judging chairman of the West Palm Beach Judging Center and an AOS Trustee. He and Bonnie live in a natural hammock in the Redland area of South Dade. They have an area reserved for landscaped tropicals, a water garden and a 40 x 60 greenhouse which houses an ever-changing collection of several thousand plants.

So, be on hand in January for a terrific opportunity to learn more about the fascinating area of orchid exhibition and judging. I hope many of you will be inspired to exhibit your own plants, both at our monthly meetings and at the coming Miami International Orchid Show.

This month's raffle table will be provided by R. F. Orchids, Inc.

Michael Coronado
Program Chairman



MICKEY'S ORCHIDS
Specializing in Frequent Bloomers
Gift Certificates & Arrangements Available

315 SW 23rd Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

954 523-8867
Open Wed - Sat 9-5, Sun 12-4
Closed Mon - Tues

www.mickeyso orchids.com

INDOOR ORCHIDS

So, you want to grow orchid indoors? Well, the grower's task, and it is no easy one, is to set in motion the complicated growth processes of the orchid plant, and, through maintenance of proper balance, insure continuation of that process. When it comes to growing orchid indoors, using the energy provided by light, the green leaf chlorophyll transforms the carbon dioxide from the air and the mineral salts from moisture into sugar and other carbohydrates.

These energy carbohydrates are stored until needed either for rebuilding plant tissue or for flowering. The pseudobulbs of some types, the large leathery leaves of others, and the slender grass-like leaves of orchids lacking pseudobulbs are the storage reservoirs.

The cycle will continue only if the grower devotes the utmost attention to the special requirements of the orchid. The reward for his devotion comes when the brilliant bloom and beauty of the tropics is reproduced in the greenhouse. No hard and fast rules can be set down for the beginner to follow when it comes to growing orchid indoors. When you want to grow orchid indoors, the amount of each element in the light-heat-moisture-air formula will vary according to season, experience, and variety. One of the things that make the growing of orchids unique and stimulating is the spirited controversy that arises over every aspect of culture. One of the many points on which there is no incontrovertible procedure is the matter of how much light should be admitted when grown. It must be decided whether to grow the plants 'soft' or 'hard,' to use the parlance of experienced growers.

The amateur must make his own choice. To grow 'soft' means to shade the plants from the sun so that the leaves remain a beautiful dark green. There can be no doubt that this method produces the most beautiful plants, but the quality of bloom is a question that cannot be answered so definitely. In 'soft' conditions care must be exercised not to shade to the point where flower growth will be hindered. To grow 'hard' means to allow so much light that the leaves have decided overtones of yellow. This method, while marring the appearance of the plant, is said by its proponents to give increased bloom. Too much light must

Continued on next column

be avoided, since it will burn the plant and growth will be interrupted.

Dry, yellow flower sheaths will at times result from such sunburn, and incipient buds will become steamy and subject to destruction by wet rot. Cutting off the very top of such a sheath with a sharp knife will allow air to reach the bud and may save it. The claim that growing orchids 'hard' increases flower growth appears logical if the conditions under which orchids grow in their natural state are considered: the natural environment is 'hard.' It must be remembered, however, that nature controls sunlight in a way difficult to approximate in the greenhouse. Even in those areas where certain varieties grow in so-called 'full sun' it will be found that drifting clouds give a protection that is absent under intensely directed light in the greenhouse.

Once the amateur has made the choice between 'soft' and 'hard' methods, the subsequent treatment must be consistent. If much sun is provided, more moisture and air will be required. If the plants are grown with minimum sun they will require less moisture, but an increase in ventilation may be needed to keep the air sweet. Too great an increase in heat during the winter is a common error of orchid growers. Plants store up energy during the daylight hours and give off or transpire energy at night. Increase in night heat increases transpiration.

Shorter periods of daylight lessen the manufacture of energy. If the plant loses more energy at night than it is able to store during the day, obviously it will suffer. Orchids are very susceptible to shock of any kind, and they take considerable time to recover—if they ever do. This danger must be borne in mind regarding sunburn, chilling, or energy deficit. There is the further difficulty of each species' having its own light requirements. Quick reference to conditions in the native homes of the species

Continued on page 3

**DETAILS
etc.**

Corporate Event Planners

Amy Simons

7210 Red Road, Suite 214
South Miami, Florida 33143
Tel. 305.662.8024
Fax 305.662.8502
Email adetailetc@aol.com

Ruben In Orchids



22585 S. W. 187 Ave.
Goulds, FL 33170
305 247-4144
rsaucda@bellsouth.net

**TRAVEL
IN STYLE**

SHEILA RANDALL, CTC
Certified Travel Counselor
Vice-President

954-742-3228
888-919-5669
Fax: 954-749-8944
www.travelinstyle-online.net

3951 NW 90th Way
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33351

that the amateur is likely to acquire will illustrate the point. Cattleyas, native to Central and South America, are found hanging on trees in the tropical rain forests. The burning sun of midday is usually kept off the plant by foliage directly overhead. The grower, guided by this knowledge, lets Cattleyas be exposed to the sun, but provides shade in summer during the warmest part of the day, for sunburn must be avoided.

The increased exposure to sun necessitates a corresponding increase in humidity to prevent the pseudobulbs from shriveling. The grower should vary heat conditions to balance other conditions of the house and plants. As in most native habitats, the temperature can be some degrees lower in winter than in summer. This is another point on which there is difference of opinion. Some growers increase the heat a bit during the winter day, reducing it again at night to sustain balance. With the proper balance of light, heat, and ventilation there remains only moisture to round out the growth formula. The technique of watering orchids includes, besides watering in the pot, spraying and damping. With orchids the old familiar watering in the pot is the trickiest and the most dangerous procedure. There are a few general rules to be observed. Watering or spraying should be done only with a rising temperature. Daily watering of plants up to three inches in height is recommended; thereafter caution is urged.

Tiny seedlings should be kept wet at the roots, but must not be allowed to become soggy. Finally, the beginner is warned once more not to acquire too many plants. There should be only as many plants as can be handled individually once a week—never less often than once every two weeks. This is the only efficacious manner of checking watering needs, to say nothing of the fact that it provides a needed check on scale, fungus, and pests. In watering, the amateur again finds wide variance in the needs of the many species.

When watering Cattleyas, it is well to soak the pot thoroughly and then allow the potting material almost but not entirely to dry out. The pots should not become completely dry since the bulbs may shrivel and plant growth may be retarded for at least a year. Yet, if there is any doubt, it is far better to err on the dry side. Dryness will deter growth, but too much moisture will kill the plant. If

Continued on next column

water remains in the pot and does not dry out in a week or ten days, it is likely that the roots will have rotted off. The pseudobulbs will shrivel and the leaves droop. Many amateurs mistake this for an indication of dryness, and treat the pot to another drubbing, thus rotting the remaining roots and probably killing the plant. A plant that shows signs of shriveling from lack of roots will often respond to a daily gentle overhead spray.

Laelias and other plants with light, heat, and air requirements similar to the Cattleyas need about the same watering treatment. Laelias like slightly more water after complete growth and before flowering. After flowering they will require slightly less. Vandas, since they are without pseudobulbs, must have water at all times, but their lusty aerial roots will take care of some deficiency in watering by taking moisture from the air.

Phalaenopsis, also pseudobulb-less, must not be allowed to dry out entirely.

Watering of this species must be done with care to prevent water from remaining in the crowns, a condition that is conducive to the growth of fungus.

Oncidiums must not be allowed to shrivel. They need a great deal of water when growth is being completed and flowering is beginning, but require less after flowering. The bulbs of

Cymbidiums should not be allowed to shrivel. Standing pots on damp gravel on the floor seems to give them the warmth at the top and coolness below that they find congenial. They prefer water at the roots at all times, but the potting mixture should be well drained and not soggy.

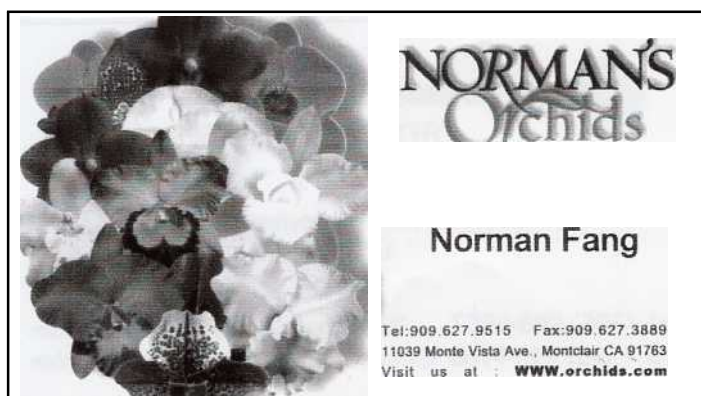
Cypripediums have no bulbs and require copious water at the roots.

Odontoglossums also require much moisture at the roots, and must be kept cool and shaded.

The amateur will soon learn to recognize signs of well-being or need in his plants.

Jewel-tipped roots and fat, rosy growths are indications of health. Root growth is usually, though not always, apparent, and pots indicating healthy roots can be wa

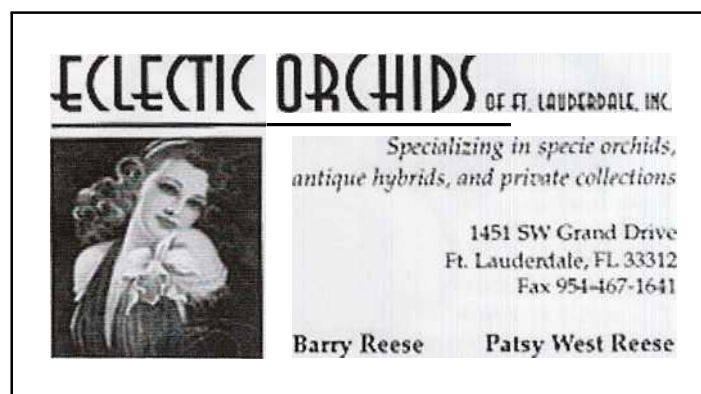
Continued on page 4



NORMAN'S
Orchids

Norman Fang

Tel: 909.627.9515 Fax: 909.627.3889
11039 Monte Vista Ave., Montclair CA 91763
Visit us at: WWW.orchids.com



ELECTIC ORCHIDS OF FT. LAUDERDALE, INC.

*Specializing in specie orchids,
antique hybrids, and private collections*

1451 SW Grand Drive
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312
Fax 954-467-1641

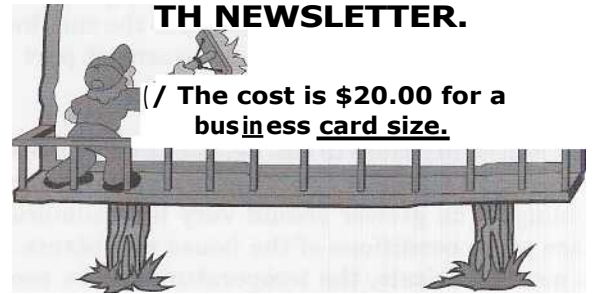
Barry Reese **Patsy West Reese**

tered more frequently than those where root growth is doubtful. The latter should be treated to plentiful overhead spray. This brings us to consideration of the importance of the overhead spray. Orchids appreciate diffused water as they do diffused light. A fine spray makes a hot, dry day bearable for all the plants. A daily spray is routine except for dark, cold days in winter; at the height of summer two or more sprays a day will be gratefully received. Daily light spraying over the potting material is prescribed for tiny seedlings, back bulbs without roots, sick plants, and newly potted plants. Healthy roots attest the value of this treatment. Some growers pot with damp material and allow the newly potted plants to go without pot watering until roots show. Light spray over the top of the potting material supplies enough moisture to prevent shriveling. Damping is the simplest of the watering operations. Its virtue is enhanced because it is hard to do damage with this method. It consists of watering down the walls, floors, paths, and benches between the pots. In most climates this should be almost a daily procedure, omitted only when the house is too cold or the outside air too damp. But there is one caution that should be heeded. It is popularly believed that orchids grow in steamy jungles. This is a misapprehension. What takes place in the jungle is rapid evaporation.

Steam is injurious to orchids, and when the house is being damped down, care should be taken not to play the water on hot pipes. Finally, it is imperative that the plants have water with an acidity reading of approximately 4.5 to 5 pH. Where the local water supply is very alkaline, some method of putting it on the acid side must be arranged.



PUT A GREETING OR AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE NEWSLETTER.



LIVE AUCTION

Any items you would like to donate for a live fundraising auction please contact Judy Mezey and leave a message on her voice mail at 305-275-23 18.

SHOW PROGRAM

This year we are planning on printing a show program. It will include a map of the show with the vendors listed, calendar of events and speakers. If you would like to place an ad in this program, please contact Carol De Biase (orchidmom@juno.com) or Ellen Hanson (www.southfloridaorchidsociety.org) for prices and available sizes.

Your Orchids Are Waiting!

Visit G1.F (6,1,1) for Sntnl, fl" i 1. l,r,1,si Will lion ,,l lim . i, lds.

rf Orchids, Inc.

()rlhi:l arranSps,unt5 fl- rvcry ruc.rsic:n ami cfcccr. Thousands of crchi plants to Cl sc from. Lar,IC S1lecLOn of uni:lU.e :asl-15, coniainctrs ,,n] J.i.d5 d'arl. (,r.l.,, tours .S5,tur5l. :M] Sun:la y,

HAITI ml3pm- L%clivar.l is ~vailal:le.

Open Tuesday - Sunday, 9am - 5pm
 (:L ,,-i ~'ionria,t li.: 3(r5-? 'l")- i57(E_x: 3(i-) .17 -(')G'11:.

www.rforchids.com Email rforchids@aol.com

OFE International
 orchid supplies

Mailing:
 PO. Box 161081
 Miami, FL 33116;
 Ph:305.253.7080
 Fax: 305.251.8245

Shipping:
 121Y0 SW. 129th court
 Miami, FL 33186
 Wets. www.ofe-intl.com
 E-mail: sales@ofe-intl.com

Amazonia (9rd:ids, Inc.
 CATTLEYA SPECIALTIES

17899 S.W. 280th Street . Homestead, FL 33031-3310
 U.S.A.

Tel: (305) 248-6557 Web: www.amazoniaorchids.com
 Fax: (305) 248-9766 E-mail: sales@amazoniaorchids.com

SHOW NEWS

The 61st Miami International Orchid Show

March 3-5, 2006

Show Chairman:	Richard Brandon
Theme:	"ORCHID SEASONS"
Location:	Miami Beach Convention Center 1901 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL
March 2:	Preview Reception Show & Sale \$25.00 Preview Reception
Daily Admission:	\$10.00 All tickets will be available at the door. \$5.00 Parking

South Florida goes blooming crazy when the 61st Miami International Orchid Show debuts each year. The largest exhibiting orchid show in the country and one of the most prestigious orchid shows in the world, the Miami show features rare and exotic blooms from professional growers, amateurs and orchid aficionados from across the globe. In addition to extraordinary orchid displays, the 61st Miami International Orchid Show features a juried awards competition, thousands of orchids and related items for sale, and daily interactive demonstrations taught by world's leading orchid experts. One thing that sets the Miami Show apart from most other orchid shows is the scope, quality and design of the exhibits. Guests can see the world's finest warm-growing orchids, artistically arranged in a tropical wonderland of individual displays ranging in size from tabletop to 500 square feet, featuring more than 200 exhibitors from around the world, selling and displaying more than 500,000 orchids. For more information please call Ellen at (305) 255-3656 or visit www.southfloridaorchidsociety.org.

Posters will be available at the next meeting.

SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

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

Contribute to YOUR Orchid Show.....Sponsor a Trophy

Can you believe it's show season again! In just a little over a month your South Florida Orchid Society will once again present the largest annual orchid exhibition held in the U.S. This year our show will be even bigger and better – expanding to fill a larger hall and including more events and activities for orchid growers and general public alike.

Of course, the move to Miami Beach and the expansion of the show will require additional expenditures by the Society. While we fully expect the show to be a great financial success, we need your support NOW to tide us through until the show opens. So PLEASE sign up today to sponsor one of our beautiful show trophies.

Each year, the SFOS Show Committee takes particular care to commission or select fabulous trophies that make our event memorable for both exhibitors and visitors. It is important to us to reward our competitors -- after all their plants make the show. Whenever possible the costs for these trophies are covered by individual sponsorships.

Continued on page 6



Quest
ORCHIDS
RETAIL ORCHID ARRANGEMENT

Segundo & Yolanda
Cuesta

12110 SW 43 St.
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33175
TEL.: 305-227-6759
FAX: 305-227-7714
WWW.QUESTORCHIDS.COM
WE OFFER A LARGE VARIETY OF ORCHIDS.
Email: QuestOrchid@bellsouth.net

Please take this opportunity to sponsor a trophy. You may sponsor in your name, the name of your business, in recognition or memory of a friend or loved one. Trophy sponsors will be recognized in the show schedule, the show program and on prominent signs placed with the trophies as they are presented. And remember, you donations to the South Florida Orchid Society, a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit corporation may be tax deductible.

To become a sponsor now, complete the enclosed form and return to:

Ellen Hanson

South Florida Orchid Society

10801 SW 124 Street

Miami, FL 33176

Or call the SFOS office at 305-255-3656.

Sponsorships are not limited to SFOS members. Please ask your friends, family and business associates to contribute as well.



Caribants, Inc.
 BARS OF FINE PHALAEOPSIS
 AND OTHER GENERA
 Bert & Diana Randall
 Phone: (305) 245-5565
 Fax: (305) 245-5113
 E-Mail: caribplants@worldnet.att.net
 26505 S.W. 203 AVE. • HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA 33031-2109

Hello South Florida Orchid Society:

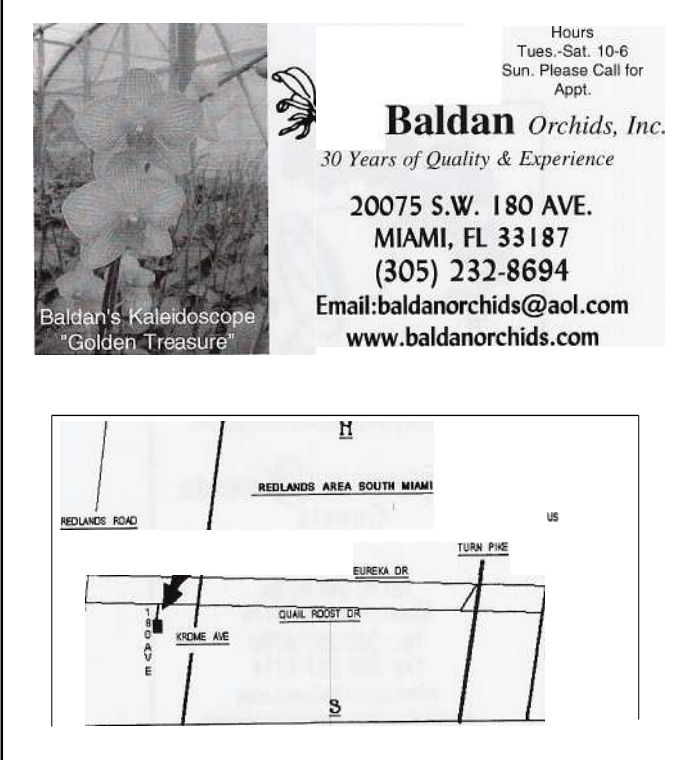
It was announced last night that famed photographer Clyde Butcher's "Ghost Orchid," – a series of three photographs of the same ghost orchid taken over three consecutive years (1999, 2000, 2001), has been named as the official poster of the 2006 Coconut Grove Arts Festival. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime at 954.583.7168 or via email at jodi.ziskin@gmail.com. Thank you for your time and consideration. Jodi Ziskin

IN MEMORY OF Leslie E. Hamner

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of LESLIE E. HAMNER Age 70, of Delray Beach who passed away Sunday, December 25, 2005. Leslie was a veteran of U.S. Army, member of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) West Palm Beach, member of Boy Scouts of America, the American Orchid Society, Delray Beach Orchid Society, and South Florida Orchid Society. Leslie was predeceased by his parents, Edward and Sybil Hamner and sister, Rose Irene Stenfeld. Leslie is survived by his wife of 40 years, Julia Ellen Hamner; son, Edward Daniel Hamner, Phoenix, AZ; 2 daughters, Suzanne (Kyle) Gero, Port St. Lucie and Jenni (John) Lock, Goodlettsville, TN; sister, Joyce Walker, Los Angeles, CA; 5 grandchildren, Kylee, T.J., Haylee, Heather, and Katlyn. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Philmont Staff Association, 17 Deer Run Road, Cimarron, NM 87714.

GET WELL WISHES

We all wish Charlie Clark a speedy recovery. Charlie fell off the roof of his home and suffered some bad bruises and broken bones.



Hours
 Tues.-Sat. 10-6
 Sun. Please Call for
 Appt.

Baldan Orchids, Inc.
 30 Years of Quality & Experience

20075 S.W. 180 AVE.
 MIAMI, FL 33187
 (305) 232-8694
 Email: baldanorchids@aol.com
 www.baldanorchids.com

Baldan's Kaleidoscope
 "Golden Treasure"

REDLANDS ROAD
 REDLANDS AREA SOUTH MIAMI
 TURN PIKE
 EUREKA DR
 QUAIL ROOST DR
 KROME AVE
 180 AVE
 S

The Holiday Party was a wonderful success. A very big thank goes to Marlene Clark for all her time and effort in arranging this for us.

Thank you Marlene.



An Orchid Grower's Resolutions (author unknown)

The holiday season is almost over and it's time to start thinking about the New Year and what we would like to do differently with our orchids. Here are some thoughts I have had during the past year based on successes and failures with my plants.

Be less impulsive in buying

Every time I go to a show or sale or nursery, I simply can't resist buying something new and often it is a plant that I simply don't do well growing. I tell myself that this time it is going to be different and the plant will thrive and bloom for me. And if I cannot determine what I did wrong with a plant that died or did not thrive then don't buy any more of them!

Treat my plants the same

Earlier this year I happened to watch what I was doing with some extra fertilizer water I had. My favorite plants got it.. These plants are the ones that flower and grow the best for me. Now is that because I fertilize them more and pay more attention to them or just because they grow better in my conditions? This year I will give that extra bit of love to those that are not doing so well and see if that will help them!

Automate one thing in the greenhouse

I want to automate at least one of the many things that must be done to keep my plants happy. This is going to be the year that I get that thermostat controlled exhaust fan and self opening vents!! I will not be so tied down to the care of my plants and the conditions will be less likely to get out of hand.

Pay more attention to being consistent

I will work at taking measurements of heat, humidity and light at various times to determine what the conditions are and then put the right plants in the right places. The best grown plants are produced from the best attention to the conditions they need. And consistency is the key to good conditions.

South Florida Orchid Society
10801 S.W. 124 Street
Miami, Florida 33176

Dated Material-Do Not Delay