SOUTH FLORIDA ORCHID SOCIETY INCORPORATED

The Orchidist

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President's Message

Dear fellow orchidists,

Wow! What an incredible show! Our Society has certainly climbed to the "next level" of orchid show production with our move to the larger venue of Miami Beach Convention Center. I have no doubt that the 61st Miami International Orchid Show will go down in history as one of the most memorable and well-attended that we've ever had. For 61 years our Society has hosted one of the country's most prestigious orchid shows. SFOS has always been proud to produce truly high-quality orchid events and we are continuing this tradition now at Miami Beach. We are certainly well on our way to accommodating the 150,000 attendees expected at the coming 19th World Orchid Conference in 2008.

A huge "thank you" goes to Richard Brandon, our show chairman, Dorothy Bennett, his assistant chair, and all the various show committee chair people. An absolutely incredible amount of time and effort has gone into making this historical event a reality. All the subcommittee chairs have worked diligently and flexibly to accommodate the move. Thank you!

A special thank you to Judy Mezey who coordinated our first live fund-raising auction at the show opening. It was a great success and hopefully will also become a tradition at our Show.

The list of volunteers, of course, is too large to name here. Please know that I, your Board, and the general membership feel truly blessed to have such wonderful, hard-working and dedicated volunteers.

I look forward to seeing you at the March meeting.

Sincerely,
Robert Fuchs
President

March Program: "Orchid Adventures in Borneo"

presented by Jerry Fischer

Our March program will be presented by Jerry Lee Fischer from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Jerry is the founder of Orchids Limited, now in it's 27th year. The nursery, located on 5.5 acres in Plymouth, a western suburb of Minneapolis, specialized in many unique orchid species and hybrids.

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

This month's topic, "Orchid Adventures in Borneo" will be an adventure story compiled from three trips he took to Borneo during the years 1995-1999 and will include the rediscovery of Paphiopedilum sanderianum. This program is filled with pictures of beautiful orchids, also.

Jerry will have plants available for purchase at the meeting and Orchids Limited will provide the raffle table.

It promises to be a most exciting and captivating evening. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Michael Coronado
Program Chairman

P.S. – Remember to mark your calendars for the Annual Auction, on Wednesday, April 19th. This is our annual live plant auction. Plants are donated by various commercial and hobby growers and proceeds benefit the Society's events and programs. Once again, Bryan Kinsley of Sunset Auction Company, Inc. will be our professional auctioneer. Please let us know if you have plants (in good condition) to donate by calling the office. Bring your wallet, credit cards and check books on April 19th for some fabulous bargains on all types of orchids!

MEETING INFORMATION

The South Florida Orchid Society meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Fire Tower (Fire Fighters Memorial Building), 8000 NW 21 St., Miami. Mini-class begins at 7:30pm and the regular meeting begins at 8:15pm. Members and visitors are encouraged to bring their blooming orchids for ribbon and medal judging. The Society makes every effort to present the very best orchid programs available, and meetings always include a raffle table with exciting species and hybrids to enhance your collection. And of course we have complimentary refreshments and plenty of friendly orchid folks to meet!

SFOS Meeting Schedule:
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

SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

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

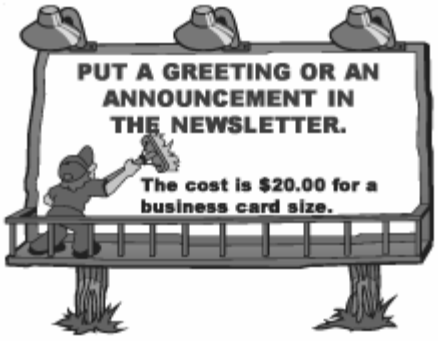
7:30 pm - Registration & Judging of Plants
7:45 pm - Announcements
8:00 pm - Program
8:45 pm - Orchid Clinic & Refreshments
9:00 pm - Awarded Plants Discussed
9:15 pm - Raffle

Bring Your Orchids in for Judging!

You can win with your orchids by bringing them in at our next meeting January 19th. Dress your plants up and bring them in.

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 by-laws, 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.



Exhibiting Your Plants At Meetings

Growing orchids is a wonderful hobby for almost anyone. Exhibiting them at a local orchid society meeting is the next step. We all have the need to show off our plants when they are looking beautiful!

Most orchid societies have a "plant table" which is basically a mini-show for the members to bring in their flowering orchids. This is a very helpful tool for the beginning grower. You can see what the plant as well as the flowers look like before you actually buy one. Talking to the grower in your area of the country to see how they grow the specific plant can also be extremely helpful. You learn that not all plants are specimen size with hundreds of blooms, some are young plants with only one or two flowers like the ones you have!

The principles for preparing your plant to exhibit at a plant table and at a show are very similar -- you are trying to present your plant in the best light possible. This begins as soon as the plant starts to show an inflorescence.

For Phalaenopsis this means staking the inflorescence when it reaches approximately 12 inches or 30 cm high. Use a stake of your choice, usually wire or bamboo, to carefully provide support and exhibit the flowers most beautifully. It is also important to make sure that the plant is not turned once the inflorescence has started to grow -- if this happens, the inflorescence will twist and the flowers will not present evenly.

Continued on next column

For Cattleya Alliance plants and Paphiopedilums, use the stake to hold the inflorescence upright so the flowers are presented facing the viewer. This may be done with standard stakes or taking thin wires and making a "u" hook in them to hold the inflorescence. The important point is to provide support to hold the flower in the best possible position for viewing.

Clean up your plant, taking off all old materials, trimming leaves of brown areas and sponging off leaves with either milk and water, or lemon juice so that all chemical residues are removed. Put it in a decorative container with some moss to finish it off and "Voila" a plant to be proud of and wow your fellow growers.

SPECIAL EVENT AT THE AOS VISITORS CENTER & BOTANICAL GARDEN

On March 25, 2006, from 5-7pm, the AOS will host a "Meet The Authors" book-signing event. Greg Allikas, Ned Nash and Michael Tibbs, internationally known orchidists and authors, will be on hand to personally autograph "their" books, which will be available for sale in the AOS Orchid Emporium giftshop.

In addition to featuring a tantalizing wine-and-cheese spread for attendees, the social affair will feature an exhibit of images by award-winning photographer Allikas, an auction and raffle of framed prints and other enticing items to benefit the nonprofit organization — and great fun! Attendees will also have an opportunity to casually stroll in the AOS's botanical garden and greenhouses.

More details will follow. The event will be RSVP — again stay tuned for more information!

Allikas and Nash are the authors of The World's Most Beautiful Orchids, and Nash is a contributing author of Flora's Orchids. Tibbs is the co-author of A Very Victorian Passion — The Orchid Paintings of John Day. Each of these books is a striking reference work — must-haves for orchidists, but very definitely alluring as table-top publications, as well.

This very special evening of friend- and fund-raising is being underwritten by the generosity of Carol and John Holdren, Kathy Figiel and Greg Allikas. The AOS extends a very special thanks to these very special individuals, as well as to the authors for donating their time.

Mark your calendars … and ask your fellow society members to do the same!

Lee S. Cooke, Executive Director
American Orchid Society

Trivia Note - World's Smallest Orchid

The smallest orchid is *Platystele jungermannioides* which has flowers only half a millimeter or one-hundredth of an inch in diameter. The entire plant is only about a quarter of an inch or half a centimeter tall. They grow naturally in the cloud forests in Central America, principally in Costa Rica. The flower, when viewed through a magnifying glass, is a pale greenish color with a purple lip.

The South Florida Orchid Society Presents

Orchid Auction

Wednesday, April 19, 2006, 8:00PM

Conducted by Sunset Auction Company at the Fire Fighters' Memorial Building 8000 NW 21 St., Miami.

This is your chance to add orchids from some of the finest growers in the U.S. to your collection! We'll have an extraordinary selection of blooming plants, mericlones, species, hybrids, seedlings and lots more! Items offered at this auction also include orchid growing supplies, orchid collectibles and more! Proceeds from this auction benefit the South Florida Orchid Society's educational programs.

For more information, visit our website, www.SouthFloridaOrchidSociety.org or www.SunsetAuctionCo.com

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ORCHIDACEAE

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Orchids (Orchidaceae family) are among the largest and most diverse of the flowering plant (Angiospermae) families, with over 800 described genera and 25,000 species. Some sources give 30,000 species, but the exact number is unknown since classification differs greatly in the academic world. Revisions of different genera occur on a monthly basis and this will increase with the growing use of genetic research and biochemistry. There are another 100,000+ hybrids and cultivars produced by horticulturalists, created since the introduction of tropical species in the 19th century. The Kew World Checklist of Orchids includes about 24,000 accepted species. About 800 new species are added each year. Orchids, through their interactions with pollinators and their symbiosis with mycorrhizae fungi, are considered by some, along with the grasses, to be examples of the most complex floral evolution known.

Orchids get their name from the Greek orchis, meaning "testicle", from the appearance of subterranean tuberoids of the genus Orchis. The word "orchis" was first used by Theophrastos in his book "De historia plantarum" (The natural history of plants). He was a student of Aristotle and is considered the father of botany and ecology.

All orchid species are protected for the purposes of international commerce under CITES as potentially threatened or endangered in their natural habitat, with most species listed under Appendix II. A number of species and genera are afforded protection under Appendix I, including all of Paphiopedilum and all of Phragmipedium. Many other species are protected by both international and national legislation, while hybrids are specifically exempted.

These monocotyledonous plants are cosmopolitan in distribution, occurring in every habitat, except Antarctica and deserts. The great majority are to be found in the tropics, mostly Asia, South America and Central America. They are found above the Arctic Circle, in southern Patagonia and even on Macquarie Island, close to Antarctica.

The following list gives a rough overview of their distribution:

* Eurasia: 40–60 genera
* North America: 20–30 genera
* tropical America: 300–350 genera
* tropical Africa: 125–150 genera
* tropical Asia: 250–300 genera
* Oceania: 50–70 genera

Orchids can be grouped according to the way they retrieve nutrients:

* A majority of species are perennial epiphytes; they are found in tropical moist broadleaf forests or mountains and subtropics. These are anchored on other plants, mostly trees, sometimes shrubs. Note that they are not parasites.
* A few are lithophytes, similar to epiphytes but growing naturally on rocks or on very rocky soil. They derive their nutrients from the atmosphere, rain water, litter, humus, and even their own dead tissue.
* Others are terrestrial plants. They grow in the soil or in the loose substrate atop the ground and obtain their nutrients from the soil or the substrate. This group includes nearly all temperate orchids.
* Some lack chlorophyll and are epiparasites, also referred to as "myco-heterotrophs" (formerly incorrectly called saprophytes). These achlorophyllous orchids have an ectomycorrhizal relationship, i.e. they are completely dependent on soil fungi feeding on decaying plant matter (usually fallen leaves) to provide them with nutrients. Typical examples include the Bird's-nest Orchid (Neottia nidus-avis) and Spotted Coralroot (Corallorhiza maculata).

All orchids have these five basic features:

* The presence of a column
* The flower is bilaterally symmetric
* The pollen are glued together into the pollinia, a mass of waxy pollen on filaments.
* The seeds are microscopically small, lack-

ing endosperm (food reserves) in the overall majority of the species. There are notable exceptions, such as Disa cardinalis, whose seeds may grow to a length of 1.1 mm. Seeds of Vanilla may weigh 20 times or more that of other orchids

* The seeds are microscopically small, lacking endosperm (food reserves) in the overall majority of the species. There are notable exceptions, such as Disa cardinalis, whose seeds may grow to a length of 1.1 mm. Seeds of Vanilla may weigh 20 times or more that of other orchids, so therefore are used in the food industry as the extremely popular "vanilla".

* The seeds can, under natural circumstances, only germinate in symbiosis with specialized fungi. Under artificial circumstances, however, germination is possible "in vitro" on sterile substrates of agar in specialized laboratories. Germinating seeds in agar, usually done in flasks, is an advanced technique, requiring sterility at all costs. It takes anywhere from one–up to five to ten years for an orchid seedling to mature. An alternative artificial germination, however, is done by cultivating the fungus and sowing the seeds on them. This is called in-vitro symbiotic culture and is used most commonly for terrestrial orchids.

Leaves

Orchids have simple leaves with parallel veins. Their shape is highly variable between species; ovate, lanceolate, or orbiculate. Their size and shape can be an aid in identifying the orchid, since it reflects the taxonomic position. The leaves can be enormous or minute, or they can even be lacking (as in the Ghost Orchid (Dendrophylax lindenii), a mycoheterotrophic species, and Aphyllorchis and Taeniophyllum, which depend on their roots, which contain chlorophyll for photosynthesis).

The structure of the leaves corresponds to the specific habitat of the orchid. Species that typically bask in sunlight, or grow on sites which can be occasionally very dry, have thick, leathery leaves. The laminas are covered by a waxy cuticle. These retain their necessary water supply. Shade species, on the other hand, have tall, thin leaves. They cannot tolerate a drop in atmospheric humidity or exposure to direct sunlight. Between these two extremes, there is a whole range of intermediate forms.

The leaves of most orchids live on, attached to their pseudobulbs, for several years. Some species, especially those with plicate leaves, shed their aged leaves annually, through an articulation between the lamina and the petiole sheath, and develop new leaves together with new pseudobulbs (as in the genus Catasetum).

The leaves of some species can be most beautiful. The leaves of the Macodes sanderiana, a semi terrestrial or lithophyte, show a sparkling silver and gold veining on a light green background. The cordate leaves of Psychopsiella limminghei are light brownish green with maroon-puce markings, created by flower pigments. The attractive mottle of the leaves of Lady's Slippers from temperate zones (Paphiopedilum) is caused by uneven distribution of chlorophyll. Also Phalaenopsis schilleriana is a lovely pastel pink orchid with leaves spotted dark green and light green. The Jewel Orchid (Ludisia discolor) is grown more for its colorful leaves than its fairly inconspicuous white flowers.

Stem

The stem of an orchid determines the habit of the species. Each type of stem can grow in one of these two ways:

* monopodial ("one-footed") growth. The new shoots grow upwards from a single stem, originating in the end bud of the old shoots. It then produces leaves and flowers along this stem. The stem of these orchids can reach a length of several meters (as in the genera Vanda and Vanilla).

* sympodial ("many-footed") growth. The plant produces a series of adjacent shoots which grow to a certain size, bloom, and then stop growing, to be replaced by the next growth. Plants of this type grow laterally rather than vertically, following the surface of their support. The growth continues by development of new leads (with their own leaves and roots) sprouting from or next to those of the previous year (as in the genus Cattleya). While this lead is developing, the rhizome may start its growth again, this time from an 'eye', or undeveloped bud, thereby causing the rhizome to branch.