



May 2006 - Volume 3 Number 5

Published by the South Florida Orchid Society

President's Message

Dear fellow members,

Our April auction was a great success. I know it was hard for a lot of you to pull yourselves away from "American Idol", but those that attended took home armloads of beautiful orchids. I want to personally thank the Auction Committee and our generous Donors, and especially Marlene Clark who provided fabulous refreshments for the event.

Your Board is very excited to announce that we will be moving the 2007 Miami International Orchid Show to the Sheraton Miami Mart Hotel (formerly the Radisson Merchandise Mart). This location is centrally located for all of the South Florida community. It offers a beautiful, carpeted exhibition center than will lend itself perfectly to a great show! There also will be plenty of parking - over 1700 spaces - with easy access.

Richard Brandon, our 2007 Show Chairman, and I will be working together to produce one of the grandest orchid events we've ever held. All leading up to the 19th World Orchid Conference in 2008.

In the more immediate future, please be on hand at the May meeting when we hold our annual election of officers and directors. Come, vote, and show your support for our society!

Following the May election, we will hold the Installation and Awards presentation at the June meeting. Carol DeBiase, our Awards Committee Chair, will provide a wonderful program as well as presenting the awards.

I look forward to seeing you all then.

Sincerely,
Robert Fuchs
President

May Program:

"Orchid Propagation from Pollination to Blooming"

presented by Ruben Sauleda, PhD

This month, we have a real treat in store! Our own Ruben Sauleda, past-President of SFOS, long-time exhibitor in the Miami International Orchid Show, and owner of Ruben In Orchids since 1962 will tell us all about orchid propagation.

Ruben is an orchid taxonomist with particular expertise in the Encyclia family. At Ruben In Orchids, he has specialized in the process of "flasking" orchids for over 40 years.

Ruben will explain how orchids are pollinated and seed pods develop. He will enlighten us on the mysteries of flasking, the removal of seedlings from their flasks and subsequent potting. Ruben will include a slide presentation showing the variation that can come from hybrid crosses, as well.

Ruben In Orchids will provide the raffle table and will have plants available to sell, also.

It promises to be a very interesting and entertaining evening, as well as educational. I hope to see you all there.

Michael Coronado
Program Chairman



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NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The 2005-06 Nominating Committee, comprised of Sandy Schultz (Chair), Maria Wood, Carol De Biase and Marlene Clark, met during the period of March 1-3, 2006 and proposes the following slate of nominees for the coming election to be held in May 2006:

President	Robert Fuchs
1st Vice President	Richard Brandon
2nd Vice President	Michael Coronado
Secretary	Maria Wood
Treasurer	Joan Viggiani

Directors, term expiring 2009: Valerie Foster, Marlene Clark, Judy Mezey

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Schultz, Chair Person

SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, May 17, 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 - Refreshments
- 9:00 pm - Awarded Plants Discussed
- 9:15 pm - Raffle



Corporate Event Planners

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Culture of Miltoniopsis

The Miltoniopsis produce among the most beautiful and often fragrant flowers in the Subtribe, Oncidiinae. The cultural requirements of these intermediate growers have long been misunderstood. Because these Hybrid Miltoniopsis are so far removed from the species it is fair to say they possess a great deal of hybrid vigor. They grow quickly into specimen plants with great numbers of spikes and flowers, rewarding the grower with exquisite display plants for show and enjoyment. Cultural requirements well practiced will yield plants that grow and flower year after year with ease.

Temperature and Light

Miltoniopsis prefer temperatures that do not fluctuate a great deal. They do not require a great deal of temperature difference between night and day for flowering, as is the case with other orchids. A night temperature close to 60 degrees. Daytime temperatures 65 to 75 or even 80 are fine. The only difficulties in temperatures are during non-peak growth periods of winter and Summer. In the winter, plants can be kept drier when the outside temperatures are in the 30s. In Summer more frequent watering is ideal as the plants are in active growth. Light levels should be between 1700 and 2200 foot-candles. When the light levels are correct the leaves will be turgid and upright. When too shaded, growth

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is limp. Here in the Pacific Northwest we use shading from the first of March to the 2nd week of November, clear glass the remainder of the year.

Watering and Feeding

Milniopsis will require special treatment during non-peak growth periods which are during the winter and Summer. In winter the plants should be kept drier when the outside temperatures are very cold. In the Summer the plants will require more frequent watering. Milniopsis should not be kept too dry during active growth periods, and will respond to dry conditions with accordion pleating on the leaves. Milniopsis respond well to fertilizer, as do all living things requiring food. A low phosphate fertilizer is what we recommend. Always water your plants well the day before applying any fertilizer, as the plants should be well hydrated. Fertilize your plants once a week at half the recommended strength. This will be adequate.

Humidity and Air

Humidity is an important factor often overlooked. Milniopsis are native to the Andes of South America in cloud forest and need 55% to 65% humidity. More is required when the temperatures are higher. Good fresh air movement is always a benefit to living things. Plants are no exception.

Potting

There are many different potting mix blends. From 50% peat/perlite for fiber pots, to the standard bark mixes for plastic pots. The key here is

the dynamics involved in growing in a particular mix and pot. Whatever your choice, plants benefit from repotting. When the medium breaks down, flower size and productivity drops off. Milniopsis respond better if underpotted in a smaller pot rather than overpotting in a larger pot. Potting is done after flowering season from fall to early spring.

Orchid Ailments

Milniopsis are relatively free of pests and diseases. Slugs and snails are always the most common problem with any orchid. We do recommend the A.O.S. handbook, "Orchid Pests and Diseases", available from The American Orchid Society.




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Orchids in Commerce

Phalaenopsis Hybrid

One orchid genus, *Vanilla*, is commercially important, used as a foodstuff flavoring, the source of vanilla. The underground tubers of terrestrial orchids are ground up and used for cooking, such as in the hot beverage salep or the so-called "fox-testicle ice cream" salepi dondurma. The scent of orchids is frequently used by perfumists (using Gas-liquid chromatography) to identify potential fragrance chemicals. With these exceptions, orchids have virtually no commercial value other than for the enjoyment of the flowers (see also Botanical orchids).

There are a great number of tropical and subtropical orchids, and these are the most commonly known, as they are available at nurseries and through orchid clubs across the world. There are also quite a few orchids which grow in colder climates, although these are less often seen on the market. Temperate species available at nurseries include *Ophrys apifera* (bee orchid), *Gymnadenia conopsea* (fragrant orchid), *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (pyramidal orchid) and *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (common spotted orchid).

The family of orchids is remarkably diverse. The plants found in "casual" culture, such as *Phalaenopsis*, *Cattleya*, *Dendrobium*, and so forth, represent a tiny fraction of the thousands of species of orchids. Also within the Orchidaceae are "leafless" orchids, which often appear as nothing more than masses of roots, achlorophyllous orchids that are entirely reliant upon their mycorrhizal symbiont for their nutrition, "jewel" orchids with foliage that is as pretty as their flowers, and so many others that are capable of affecting the most dedicated of growers very deeply. Ranging in size from tiny moss-like *Pleurothallis* species to massive (7 m) *Grammatophyllum* species in New Guinea, their

beauty and sophistication have captivated many. The National Orchid Garden in the Singapore Botanic Gardens is considered by some to be among the finest collections of orchids in cultivation open to the public. In 2004, Taiwan established the Taiwan Orchid Plantation, a science-based industrial park, to develop its commercial orchid exports in the future. See also botanical orchids.

Orchids, like tulips, have become a major market throughout the world. Buyers now bid hundreds of dollars on new hybrids or improved ones. Because of their apparent ease in hybridization, they are now becoming one of the most popular cut-flowers on the market. Though orchid hybridization has been happening for many years, only recently has new technology made it into what it is. Thailand is the leading country in the orchid-buying world, with one of the only pure white orchids.

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How to Grow Masdevallias And Draculas

Masdevallias and draculas have a wide geographical distribution. This is especially true in the case of the former. Masdevallias can be found from Mexico to Brazil and Bolivia. Draculas are from Costa Rica to Ecuador and Colombia, with one species, *Dracula netiae*, being found near Tingo Maria, Peru. The draculas, because of their hydrophilic (water loving) nature, are found more abundantly at high elevations in the cloud forests of the Colombian and Ecuadorian Andes. Here they are subjected to frequent mist and fog.

The Masdevallias, being more diverse, are found at low and high elevations. Species can be found growing as terrestrials, epiphytes, and even lithophytic. The flowers can appear singly as *M. uniflora* or multifloral, as *M. polysticta*, *M. medusa*, and *M. tridens*. Several species reflower from old triquetrous inflorescences, as *M. infracta* and *M. ephippium*. Flower spikes can be upright or decumbent like *M. naranjapatae* and *M. angulata*, the latter growing well on cork slabs.

Because of this great diversity, it is possible through careful selection to have Masdevallias and Draculas in bloom throughout the year. Masdevallias and Draculas are compact and attractive plants, even when not in bloom. A good number of plants can be grown in a relatively small area. They can be grown in a cool spot in the intermediate house, along with *Odontoglossums* and *Cymbidiums* in the cool house, or in-doors under lights with great success. These beautiful jewels, the rage of the Victorians, are finding new favor among orchid enthusiasts.

Potting

Fir bark has been the standard potting medium used for orchids for a number of years; however, there are

as many potting media as there are orchid growers. No two growers have the same growing conditions. We use a mix consisting of five parts fine fir bark, and one equal part each of charcoal, sponge rock or perlite, milled sphagnum, and fine aquarium gravel. Masdevallias and Draculas should be repotted every two years, at which time you may want to take divisions. Each division should have seven or more healthy leaves.

Masdevallias can be potted in standard plastic pots. Add a few broken crocks to aid drainage. Try not to overpot; select a pot that holds the root system snugly. Draculas, because of their decumbent flowering habit, should be potted in wire baskets made from aluminum gutter guard. These aluminum baskets should be set in shallow plastic containers. This allows a two or three inch reservoir of water. Masdevallias should be kept slightly on the dry side after repotting. The Draculas, however, need moisture at all times.

Water and Humidity

While it is virtually impossible to overwater the draculas, care must be employed with the Masdevallias. If they are kept too wet, bacterial rot can quickly take its toll on the collection. Allow the Masdevallias to dry on the surface of the pots before

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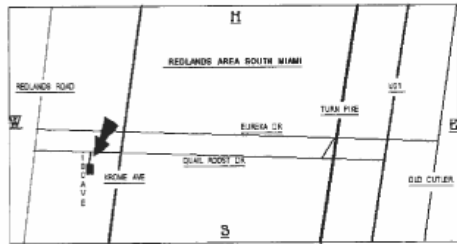
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watering again. During the Summer when temperatures are high, water in the mornings and mist early afternoon when possible to keep the temperature cool and humidity high.

For basement and indoor culture, mist the Masdevallias and Draculas every morning. The Dracula baskets should be set in shallow pans filled with water. Plastic margarine containers are ideal for this purpose. The water is drawn up by capillary action.

Feeding

All orchids benefit from the use of fertilizers. Masdevallias and Draculas are in active growth throughout the year. We do not use fertilizers from November through February. The rest of the year we use high nitrogen fertilizer at 1/4 strength at every third watering. Always water plants before applying any concentrated fertilizers. Work out a regular schedule. A calendar in the greenhouse will allow you to keep an accurate record of watering, fertilizing, and spraying, etc. Consistency is very important and pays beautiful dividends.

Temperature

Masdevallias and Draculas prefer a night temperature of 50-55°F and 65°F during the day. At these temperatures Masdevallias and Draculas can be grown outdoors in northern California for most of the year. We have grown our collection of Draculas outdoors in a shade house from May 15, until mid to late October here in Portland, Oregon. During the Summer months when temperatures are above 70°F, the Draculas are misted frequently. Should the temperature rise above 75°F, the mist system is left on until the temperature drops. The louvers are left open in the greenhouse for the Masdevallias throughout the Summer and whenever possible.

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The basement is an ideal place to grow Masdevallias and Draculas because of the unique thermodynamics of the concrete walls. They offer a cool haven in Summer and warmth in winter. Small spot fans should be employed to keep air moving around plants. Basement windows should be opened whenever possible to admit fresh air.

Light

An average year round intensity of 1000-1500 foot candles is sufficient for good growth and flower production. Bright sunlight and high temperature in combination is very harmful to Masdevallias and Draculas. During the Summer months the plants must be shaded. The Draculas can be suspended under a bench during the Summer as they require very low light intensity. All shading is removed by the first of November and reapplied the first or second week of February. For basement and indoor light culture, Sylvania Gro-lux wide spectrum tubes are used in eight foot lengths. For good growth and flower production, 12-15 watts per square foot is ideal.

Pests and Diseases

Masdevallias and Draculas have few pests. The most damaging are the slugs and snails. These can be controlled with metaldehyde sprays and granules. Do not use expanding meal pellets around plants, as they tend to mold and may cause damage to Masdevallias.

Aphids find the flowers and young leaves of Masdevallias and Draculas to their liking. These insects must be controlled as they are vectors for virus and disease. Aphids can transmit bean yellow mosaic virus (BYMV) which appears as yellow mosaic or mottled patterns on the leaves. Once infected, a plant must be removed from the greenhouse or growing area and destroyed. Contact your local agricultural office for information about control. There are many new biological controls that are very effective.

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Masdevallias of the coccinea section (*M. coccinea*, *M. veitchiana*, *M. ignea*) have an affinity for leafspot caused by various fungi. Cut off and destroy affected leaves and treat plants with an appropriate fungicide bactericide. Again your local county agricultural agent will be most helpful. We strongly recommend the "Handbook on Orchid Pests and Diseases" published by the American Orchid Society, 6000 South Olive Ave., West Palm Beach FL, 33405.

May - June 2005 Classes

May

6th - Orchids in the Garden
13th - Philippine Orchid Species
20th - Growing Cattleyas
27th - Phalaenopsis: Tips for Success

June

3rd - Vandas: Care and Potting
10th - Orchid Species
17th - Orchids A to Z
24th - Repotting Orchids

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Sincerely,

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Thank You

A big "thank you" goes out to all who helped make our annual April auction a success. In addition to an entertaining evening with Bryan Kinsley of the Sun-set Auction Co, we were able to raise over \$3,000 to benefit our Society -- only possible because of donors, bidders and volunteers!

So, "thank you" to our donors, for all the fabulous contributions. Please patronize the commercial firms whenever possible, they continue to support our Society's program:

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Another "thank you" to the Auction Committee and helpers for all their assistance: Carol DeBiase, Sheila & Michael O'Dea, Maria Wood, Dorothy Bennett, Joan & Tony Viggiani, Ellen Hanson, Christa Collins, and Lance Stelzer and son Jordan. And, of course, a special thanks to Marlene Clark for the wonderful refreshments that sustained us through out the auction. Last, but not least, "thank you" to everyone that attended and purchased items. You are helping to support future SFOS events and programs, including research and scholarships.

Sincerely,
Michael Coronado
Program Chairman



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79.95\$



Classic Cattleyas (The)
Chadwick, Arthur A. & Chadwick, Arthur E.
69.95\$



Fragrant Orchids
Frowine, Steven
39.95\$



Orchids of Asia, 3rd ed.
Teoh Eng Soon
72.95\$



An Enthusiasm for Orchids -
Sex and Deception in Plant Evolution
Alcock, John
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World's Most Beautiful Orchids (The)
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