



June 2006 - Volume 3 Number 6

Published by the South Florida Orchid Society

## President's Message

Dear fellow members,

As summer rolls around again, it's time for South Florida Orchid Society to gear up for our new year. After our election last month, at this we will be installing our new officers and directors who will join our existing Board effective July 1st. Please remember, you Board is here to serve you and the Society. Please do not hesitate to bring your comments or suggestions to any of the Board members. And if you have an opportunity, please let them know that you appreciate the time and effort they put into attending meetings, chairing committees, etc.

As we make our plans to begin our "new" year, we'll also be wrapping up the "old" with the annual Awards presentation. Be sure to be there to recognize your fellow society members who will receive the "best of 2005-6" awards for the plants they have exhibited at our meetings, events and show.

With the beginning of the rainy season, along with the muggy humidity it brings with it, it may seem the time to kick back, slow down and relax. However, for SFOS it's time to get busy with fungicide and repotting – and with our many committee activities, planning next year's show, this year's Speakers Day, our holiday party, etc. So....Happy New Year...everyone. It's going to be another great SFOS year in 2006-7.

I look forward to seeing you all at our meeting.

Sincerely,  
Robert Fuchs  
President



**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.mickeysorchids.com](http://www.mickeysorchids.com)

## June Program:

"South Florida Orchid Society Annual Awards"

*presented by Carol De Biase,  
Awards Committee Chair*

The South Florida Orchid Society has a long history in the world of orchid judging and awards. Our SFOS judging system is one of the oldest standardized systems for evaluating orchids in the world. We should all be proud of this history and grateful to the judges of the SFOS Judging Committee for their competence, study, attendance and faithfulness.

As you may know, each month our judges present both ribbons and SFOS medal awards. We also present awards at our annual Miami International Orchid Show. This month we will recognize the top "winners", i.e. the "best of the best" orchid plants for the past year (July 2005-June 2006). Of course, their owners will receive their share of recognition, too.

Our Awards Committee Chair, Carol De Biase, will be our presenter for this month's meeting. She will guide us through an understanding of the various awards and present this year's winners.

Please be sure to be on hand to applaud your fellow members and exhibitors, their beautiful orchids, and to support the SFOS judges and judging system.

See you there,  
Michael Coronado  
Program Chairman



**Carib  
Plants, Inc.**  
GROWERS OF FINE PHALAENOPSIS  
AND OTHER GENERA

Robert & Diana Randall

Phone: (305) 245-5565  
Fax: (305) 245-5113  
E-Mail: [caribplants@worldnet.att.net](mailto:caribplants@worldnet.att.net)

26505 S.W. 203 AVE. • HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA 33031-2109

## THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the judges who have been at the monthly judging's and helped make this year so special and to everyone who brought in plants for all to enjoy. The judges are: Bob Fuchs, Dorothy Bennett, Erna Maxwell, Ruben Saulea, George Heider, Eduardo Marcellini, Sally Taylor, Joan Viggiani, Richard Brandon, Javier Morejon, Julie Rosenberg, Yolanda Cuesta, and Michael Coronado.

I would be remiss if I didn't say a great big thank you to Ron Hunt who takes all the pictures of the awarded plants.

My hats off to all of you for your dedication to SFOS.

### SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, June 21, 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

Amy Simons

7210 Red Road, Suite 214  
South Miami, Florida 33143  
Tel. 305.662.8024  
Fax 305.662.8502  
Email [adetailsto@aol.com](mailto:adetailsto@aol.com)

## Glossary of Orchid Awards

When you are looking at the tag that comes on your orchid you will note that many of them will have capitalized letters at the end of the name. It might look like AM/AOS, or FCC/AOS. It's important to understand what these initials mean and what they should be telling you about the plant you are looking at, especially if you are thinking of buying it. The letters after the / signify the authority that gave an award. So in the examples above, the AOS stands for the American Orchid Society. The most common awards you will see on mericlone plants for sale are AM, FCC and HCC.

### HCC - Highly Commended Certificate

A flower from this plant has scored 75-79 points on a scale of 100. This means that the flower is good, but there is room for improvement.

### AM - Award of Merit

This means that a flower from this plant has scored from 80-89 points on a scale of 100.

### FCC - First Class Certificate

A flower awarded a FCC has scored over 90 points on a scale of 100 points. It indicates an extremely high quality.

In addition, if you go to an orchid show, you will probably see many of these additional awards:

### AD - Award of Distinction

*Continued on page 3*

### Ruben In Orchids



22585 S. W. 187 Ave.  
Goulds, FL 33170  
305 247-4144  
[ruben@rubenorchids.com](mailto:ruben@rubenorchids.com)



SHEILA RANDALL, CTC  
Certified Travel Counselor  
Vice-President

954-742-3228  
888-919-5669  
Fax: 954-749-8944  
[www.travelinstyle-online.net](http://www.travelinstyle-online.net)

3951 NW 90th Way  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33351

This award is specifically awarded to recognize new and exciting directions for breeding.

#### **AQ - Award of Quality**

Recognizes high quality new breeding.

#### **CBR - Certificate of Botanical Recognition**

This certificate is generally awarded the first time a specific species is shown at a show hosted by the awarding board such as the AOS.

#### **CCM - Certificate of Cultural Merit**

This is a prize for the grower rather than the flower. It recognizes excellence in horticulture.

#### **CCE - Certificate of Cultural Excellence**

This is a certificate which is given only to those plants whose grower has shown an outstanding degree of horticultural care. It is given to a plant that receives more than 90 points on a 100 point scale for Cultural Merit.

#### **CHM - Certificate of Horticultural Merit**

Awarded to a cultivar of a well-grown and well-flowered species or natural hybrid with outstanding esthetic appeal that contributes to the horticultural aspects of orchidology.

#### **JC - Judges' Commendation**

This is an award that can be given at the Judge's discretion for an exceptional plant which does not fit into any other award category. It requires a unanimous decision by all judges at the exhibit to be awarded.



**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

## **ORCHID TIPS**

#### **Use 70% Alcohol Spray when Repotting**

One product in use frequently at our greenhouse during repotting is 70% alcohol. Now this product works extremely well to rid the different orchid genera of the pesky unwanted insect rascals. Placing the alcohol in a spray bottle full strength, then using it to spray down the whole plant (leaves - front and back, pseudobulbs and roots) before repotting will kill the insects and eggs. Remember to clean up the plant as mentioned in the previous tips by removing sheaths from the pseudobulbs as well as dead leaves, dead roots, and old brown flower stems before spraying. Let this spray set on the plant 20-30 minutes prior washing the plant thoroughly with water before repotting. (We have sprayed hundreds of different kinds of orchids with alcohol and never experienced orchid death or damage from this procedure. However, if you have rare or expensive orchids, please beware that you should check with your local orchid grower before using any solution on your orchids. Also, we have sprayed alcohol on Phalaenopsis and Oncidium flowers without damage but it will wilt the flowers of some Dendrobiums and other orchid genera). Thanks to Rose and Ron Poehler owners of County Line Orchids for this tip.

*Continued on page 4*



**NORMAN'S  
Orchids**


**Norman Fang**

Tel: 909.627.9515 Fax: 909.627.3889  
11839 Monte Vista Ave., Montclair, CA 91763  
Visit us at: [www.orchids.com](http://www.orchids.com)

---

**ECLECTIC 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**

### Work on the same size orchids

If you have a fairly large collection with different sized orchids, work on one size or one type at a time. I have standard, compact and miniature cattleyas. I always try to work on just one size at a time because it takes a different touch cleaning and working with standards than it does minis. I've broken off spikes and whole pseudobulbs on the minis using the same pressure that worked just fine on the standards.

Use water from your fish tank for your orchids. If you have freshwater tropical fish, use this water for your orchids when you change the water. It will have good fertilizer and really make the leaves green! The wastes contained in the water provide wonderful natural fertilizer for all your plants.

### Stake your orchid flowers as they grow

In order to enjoy your orchid's flowers to their best advantage, start staking the inflorescences when they are about half grown on Cattleyas. This allows you to control the inflorescence as it grows and you will eliminate the possibility of breaking it off that occurs when the inflorescence is more mature.

## Your Orchids Are Waiting!

Visit  
R.F. Orchids  
for  
South Florida's  
largest  
selection of  
fine orchids.

**rf.**  
**Orchids, Inc.**  
2800 S.W. 182 Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

Orchid arrangements for every occasion  
and decor. Thousands of orchid plants to  
choose from. Large selection of unique  
baskets, containers and objets d'art.  
Garden tours Saturday and Sunday,  
11am and 3pm -  
Delivery is available.

Open Tuesday -  
Sunday, 9am - 5pm  
Closed Monday  
Tel: 305-245-4570  
Fax: 305-247-6568

www.rforchids.com Email: rforchids@aol.com

## Orchid True or False

1. *Oncidium pusillum* is known as the bird's head orchid.
2. The Lady Slipper orchid is *Paphiopedilum bellatulum*.
3. *Phaius tankervilleae* is better known as the moth orchid.
4. *Phalaenopsis mannii* and *parishii* are known as the peppermint twins.
5. *Phragmipedium caudatum* var. *sanderai* is also known as the mandarin orchid.
6. *Rhynchostylis gigantea* is the coral orchid.
7. *Rodriguezia secunda* is called the foxtail orchid.
8. *Sophranitis coccinea* is known as El Toro Orchid.
9. The Three birds is *Triphora trianthophoros*.
10. *Epidendrum floridense* is the ladiestresses orchid.
11. The Blue orchid is known as *Vanda coerulea*.
12. *Vanilla planifolia* is called the vanilla orchid.
13. *Polystachya concreta* is better known as the Wild Coco Orchid.
14. The Yellow Helmut Orchid is the *Eulophia alta*.

Answers on back page



**Amazonia Orchids, Inc.**  
CATTLEYA SPECIALTIES

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

Tel: (305) 248-6557 Web: [www.amazoniaorchids.com](http://www.amazoniaorchids.com)  
Fax: (305) 248-9766 E-mail: [sales@amazoniaorchids.com](mailto:sales@amazoniaorchids.com)

## Cultural tips for Bulbophyllum

Most BULBOPHYLLUMS, including the CIRRHOPETALUMS, are easier to grow mounted and to us present a more natural appearance. Most are rambling growers and resent being disturbed; however, they do not seem to mind an occasional clipping of a few unruly leads to keep them neat.

In growing most Bulbos, we have found sphagnum moss pads mounted on the back side of cork slabs to be an excellent growing method. The recurved shape of the cork retains more moisture in the moss pad, which the Bulbos love. We have found the easiest method is to tie the plant with 6 lb test nylon fishing line. There are almost as many ways of mounting Bulbos as there are Bulbonuts.

After the plant has recovered from its self imposed pout and the new roots have gained a foothold, the nearly invisible fishing line can be removed. The fishing line does seem to injure the Bulbos, and is usually left in place. Other mounting materials are wood slabs, driftwood, cactus wood, tree fern plaques, TF pots, TF totems, and TF balls. Wood baskets with moss or osmunda pads are a close second choice.

If a potted Bulbo is your choice, they will enjoy any loose well drained media. The bulk of Bulbos have numerous short roots which do not penetrate the media deeply, so shallow media is a must to avoid root rots.

In our experience most Bulbos are in continual growth, except for a brief rest in the cool of the winter. They usually bloom on the matured new growth. If there is a peak bloom period it would probably be spring and early fall.

The majority of Bulbos are comfortable in a temperature range of 45 F to 95 F. Some of the higher elevation Bulbos, such as those from the Himalayas and New Guinean mountains prefer cool temperatures for part of the year and can be a little difficult in warmer areas.

Preferred light conditions are bright shade. If adjusted slowly, full morning sun up to noon is enjoyed by most Bulbos. If you can comfortably read

a newspaper without squinting or straining to see then you have the right light.

Bulbos prefer to be evenly moist, except a slight drying in the winter. During growth period, the Bulbos should be given heavy waterings, so they are never dry.

Because of the wet conditions loved by the Bulbos, fungus can be a problem. A monthly preventative spray of your favorite fungicide is desirable to ward off problems.

Good air movement is a must to keep leaf fungus down, because of the heavy watering regime.

Fertilization is simple - Bulbos love to eat. 1/4 strength at each watering is sure to keep them happy. We have found organic fertilizers, such as fish emulsion, cow manure teas are enjoyed as well as salt based fertilizers. If you use the salt based fertilizers ensure no salt residue is left in the roots. Always flush, with clear water, monthly to protect the short tender roots from fertilizer burn.

While not insect resistant, bulbos seem to rarely be bothered by insects other than an occasional scale or mealy bug infestation, which can be easily handled by a 70% isopropyl alcohol and soap drench, or your favorite insecticide.



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



Continued on next column 5

## Beginner Orchids

by Susan Taylor

One of the most common questions I get is "What kind of orchid should I start with?" For a true beginner, I would always recommend a Phalaenopsis or Moth Orchid. They are reasonably priced, the flowers are lovely and will provide enjoyment for a long period of time; they come in a number of different colors and are reasonably adaptable to conditions in the home. They normally come in either standard (12 inch or 30.5 centimeters leaf size with 3 foot or 1 meter inflorescence) or miniature sizes (4 inch or 10 centimeter leaves and 15 inch or 38 centimeters inflorescences). The most popular is the standard white or pink, large-flowered variety with 4 to 5 inch, or 10 centimeter flowers. These are used around the world in exotic arrangements at hotels, meeting places, airports, etc.

If you want to start at home with an orchid, this is the one to try. Many hardware stores, grocery stores, and markets now sell these in a variety of colors. This is how I got started in orchids. So you want to start growing orchids?.

At home these orchids need a bright location with no direct sunlight. They will be happier if you provide additional moisture by placing them on a tray with rocks and water to provide humidity. It is very important to be sure that the water is not touching the bottom of the pot since that will cause the roots of the plant to rot.

In a recent series of posts on an orchid forum *Oncidium Sharry Baby* was listed as one of the easiest of all orchids to grow. This can get to be a fairly large plant -- 15 inches or 38 centimeters high, with 24 inch or 60 centimeter inflorescences. The flowers are small, but extremely fragrant and long lasting. And best of all, the flowers smell like chocolate!! Other popular *Oncidiums* are *Grower Ramsey* and *Oncidium Sweet Sugar* which have attractive bright yellow "Dancing Lady" flowers. The flowers are so named because if you look closely, they look like little dancers with a big skirt. When in movement from air currents they look like they're dancing.

Another kind of orchid which is very good for beginners is the *Dendrobium*, also available at reasonable prices and widely distributed. I am particularly fond of this genus as the flowers are more varied in color than *Phalaenopsis* and are also extremely long lasting. I would recommend that if you are just start-

ing and don't have a greenhouse, just get the miniature size *Dendrobiums*. The standards, while beautiful, are very hard to handle as they are grown in small pots and can get to 3 or 4 feet or 1 meter tall. When I first started growing them I had all kinds of wires and ties trying to keep them from falling over. If you can grow outside on a patio or porch, they do well in hanging baskets. They are easy to grow and, in my opinion, easier to re-flower than *Phalaenopsis*.

## Care Of Potted Orchid

Aside from the known requirements of a particular orchid, to be learned by experience and research, there are certain indications of a need for repotting that will be obvious to any beginner.

One such sign, although not always to be trusted because of the sprawling nature of some roots, is the appearance of many roots ranging out of the pot and over the potting material.

There is an urgent need for repotting when new bulbs are crowding or overhanging the edge of the pot or climbing awkwardly in the air.

Repotting should have taken place long before such conditions appeared and the plant may be retarded by this neglect. Equally obvious is the case of a plant that has exhausted its compost.

The compost will appear entirely decomposed and will feel spongy and soggy. In spite of the risk involved in potting at the wrong time, it is best to remove plants at once from such unhealthy conditions, since otherwise rotting of the roots, loss of leaves, and death of the plant may result.

The question of the most suitable material for potting orchids is a matter of considerable debate among hobbyists. In making a decision it will be wise to refer to the native environment of the orchid.

Many of the showy orchids popular among amateurs are aerial-rooted epiphytes, receiving much of their sustenance from mineral salts in the moisture of the jungle air and from the debris washed into the crotches of trees on which the plants hang for support.

It cannot be expected that they will thrive after being cramped and packed in ordinary garden potting material. A special medium is required—some coarse, fibrous, and porous substance with an acid reaction of 4.5 to 5, which will not decompose too rapidly and so make the need for repotting too frequent.

*Continued on next column*

*Continued on page 7*



English growers formerly used with success a native fibrous peat, but the supply of this material is near exhaustion. Since the war many fine British and Continental orchid collections have suffered from the lack of suitable potting media.

Potting in tropical localities, where orchids can be brought in from the jungles and hung in the garden, presents no difficulties. Coconut half-shells with broken shells for a medium are frequently used. Manuring is usually an essential part of such outdoor culture.

While the problem of the American grower is not so easily solved as that of the orchid enthusiast in the tropics, he is more fortunate than European orchidists. The special needs of orchids are met very satisfactorily by the use of *Osmunda* fiber—the root of the cinnamon fern, either *Osmunda cinnamomea* or *Osmunda Claytonia*.

In addition to providing the required drainage and pH, it is clean, easily handled, sufficient in itself as a medium for most orchids, and found in abundant quantities in New Jersey, Indiana, and the swamps of Florida.

The only rival of *Osmunda* as a general orchid-potting medium is *Polypodium*, root of the fern *Polypodium vulgare*. It is found over much of the world, with the Pacific Northwest of the United States as a favored locale. In certain respects *Polypodium* is better than *Osmunda*. It decomposes as rapidly and has a finer texture, particularly suitable for tiny seedlings, back bulbs, and sick plants.

A mixture of chopped, live sphagnum moss and finely chopped *Polypodium* is a recommended formula for plants in poor condition.

The drawbacks of *Polypodium*, however, still make *Osmunda* the choice of most growers: it is more difficult to water plants in *Polypodium*; if not saturated it dries out more quickly; and when saturated it does not drain so well. It is difficult to change plants from *Polypodium* to other media without setbacks.

Proper equipment is the next requirement for a successful re potting operation. A sharp, strong knife will be needed to make a clean cutting of roots clinging to the pot.

A screw driver is valuable for freeing the compost and plant without damaging plant or pot. It is also handy for tucking compost into tiny seedling pots. Some type of shears will be indispensable. Grape shears with long, slightly curving, pointed blades are excellent.

The potting tool proper is often a matter of the grower's ingenuity. Many types are in use. Highly recommended is a piece of hardwood (such as a broom handle) about 12 inches long and from 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 inches thick, smoothed to fit the palm at one end and sharpened to a point, or flattened to a sharp wedge, at the other.

## Orchid Gardening

By Linda Fortner

After receiving many pleas from growers for help with snails and slugs devouring their beautiful flowers and flower spikes, I decided to share with you the experiences and ways I have been fighting these nasty creatures of the night! The dreaded snail, typically the brown garden snail (*Helix aspersa*) shown here, and the field slug (*Deroceras reticulatum*), are a nightmare every orchid grower wishes would go away. These slimy creatures come out at night and totally destroy new growth like that new tender flower spike on your favorite orchid. Whenever I go out to the greenhouse and my husband hears a blood-curling scream, he just looks over to my mother and says "Uh-oh, snails!" They both know how I hate these creatures!



I will have to admit that snails and slugs cause 98% of the damage to my orchids. I am just devastated when I see a slimy film all over a plant and the new flower spike I have been waiting a full year for chewed right in half. Or when I see my prize *Cattleya* bloom all slimy and shredded like it had been through a rough storm. There is no mistaking the signs of a snail or slug attack.

Snails and slugs are mollusks belonging to the class of Gastropoda. After insects, they are largest class in the animal kingdom. The name means "stomach foot." Slugs, related to snails, do not have an external shell and do as much damage as their cousins. Gastropoda come in all sizes, shapes and colors. I am so "privileged" to have three types. I have the large brown garden snail (*Helix aspersa*.) A common small snail with a round shell, which I have not been able to identify...any ideas? If any of you know what this snail is please write me. Last is the dreaded common common field slug (*Deroceras reticulatum*)

All of these critters prowl by night eating everything in their site and then hide by day digesting their ill gotten gain! The slugs and the tiny snails crawl inside the pot moving through the loose medium making their daytime hideout at the bottom of the pot where you will never see them. They hide so well in the potting medium that you can look and look but never find them until you re-pot. Then you are surprised when you find them lurking in the bottom of the pot!

Getting rid of these critters is hard but I have tried several methods (some are not humane). If I see a slug or snail, I try sprinkling them with salt and just watch them melt. You can also try putting small saucers of beer around and admire the dead bodies in the morning, or you can go to your nearest orchid nursery and get yourself a bag of Deadline. This Deadline works great also.

Happy snail/slug hunting.



**Key: (From Page 4)**

1. False (Ornithocephalus bicornis) 2. True 3. False (Nun's Orchid) 4. False (Moth Orchids)
5. True 6. False (Foxtail Orchid) 7. False (Coral Orchid) 8. False (Stanhopea wardii)
9. True 10. False (Umbrella Star Orchid) 11. True 12. True 13. False (Eulophia alta)
14. False (Polystachya concreta).

**Dated Material-Do Not Delay**

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

