



September 2007 - Volume 4 - Number 9

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## President's Message

Dear Members,

It was great to see so many members and a few guests at the August meeting! We enjoyed Pete Kouchalakos' informative talk with a demonstration of how to attach plants to trees. – I couldn't wait to get home and put some orchids and bromeliads together- mixing epiphytes can certainly enhance our landscapes.

Many members responded to the SFOS Survey which was available at the August meeting- we will have the survey at the September meeting for those who want to voice their opinions or volunteer. Thanks to all of the members who signed up for the various committees. We will be contacting you soon! The Orchid Safari received the most votes from those completing the survey. Now we need people who would volunteer their homes to be a stop on our Orchid Safari Day. Please contact me or any of the officers or Board members if you would be interested in showing your orchid collection and growing conditions to our members. Also, many people expressed interest in the one- day and overnight bus trips. We will explore some possible itineraries for a bus trip in the spring.

SFOS will have a table at the World Orchid Conference and we need volunteers to work half-day or all day shifts. This is a great opportunity to increase our membership and promote SFOS, so if you wish to volunteer, please let me know at the September meeting or email me.

Remember to bring your \$5 to the September meeting to get your plant for our growing contest. First place is \$100, second is \$50, and third is \$25 for the first plant to bloom.

And Michael Coronado of R.F. Orchids has graciously volunteered to be our Plant Doctor at the monthly meetings. If you have a plant with a problem, bring it in so Dr. Mike can diagnose it and give you advice!

See you in September!

*Sandy Schultz*

## SEPTEMBER SPEAKER ALAN KOCH

### *How to Succeed with the Brazilian Cattleya Alliance in South Florida*

This is a fun talk that covers over 35 popular Brazilian species and gives some insight on how to be successful in growing them. It covers the most current hybrids using these species as the building blocks and talks about world direction in breeding with them. Even the experienced grower will learn a few new tricks on how to be a better grower.

Alan Koch owns and operates Gold Country Orchids where he specializes in miniature and compact Cattleya's. Alan started growing orchids in 1969 with 3 Cymbidiums given to him by an aunt. While in college he became interested in other orchids and discovered many would grow outdoors in Southern California. He has moved five times as his orchid obsession has led to the need for more growing space. With the last move, he purchased 10 acres of land in Lincoln, California for his 300,000 orchids. He is recognized as an expert in the Brazilian Cattleya Alliance and a trend setter in miniature Cattleya breeding. Alan has been published in the Orchid Digest, and the American Orchid Society magazines. He has also been published in the proceedings of the World Orchid Conference. He is an internationally known speaker. He is a past member of the AOS Judging Committee, and the Research Committee, as well as an Accredited Judge and is Vice-chair and Training Coordinator for the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center. Alan also served two terms on the Orchid Digest Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and is one of the current directors, as well as Trustee for the AOS.

Alan will provide the raffle table as well as have plants for sale.

Carol De Biase  
*Program chairman*

# Orchid fossil reveals flowers' domination of Earth

29 August 2007 • *NewScientist.com* news service



The orchid pollen can be seen attached to the rear of this bee from 15 to 20 million years ago (Image: Santiago Ramírez)

Forget mammals - flower power may have ruled after the dinosaurs died out. So say researchers who have discovered the first fossil orchid, a 15 to 20-million-year-old pollen specimen encased in amber, in the Dominican Republic.

This small orchid, from the Amazon region named *Ligeophila* sp., is one of the closest living relatives of the fossil orchid (Image: Gustavo Romero)



The Orchidaceae family boasts the largest of all flowering plants, but it is poorly understood, because until now there has been no fossil record of its history. Previous speculations put the plants' first appearance at about 45 million years ago.

Santiago Ramirez of Harvard University and colleagues compared genetic information from the fossilised *Meliorchis caribea* with modern-day plants and reconstructed an evolutionary tree. It suggests that the first orchids bloomed about 84 million years ago (*Nature*, vol 448, p 1042). Those that survived the mass extinction 65 million years ago then rapidly proliferated, leading to today's 28,000 or so species.

From issue 2619 of *New Scientist* magazine, 29 August 2007, page 20



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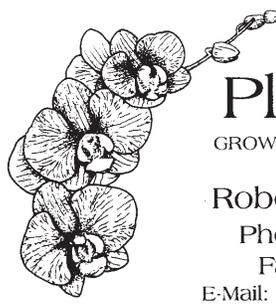
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## SFOS SPEAKERS DAY 2007

SFOS will host its annual Speakers Day on Sunday, October 7, 2007 at the Sheraton Miami Mart Hotel & Convention Center, North Ballroom, 711 N.W. 72 Avenue, Miami. We have a wonderful panel of highly respected speakers presenting an enjoyable and educational program. Speakers Day also includes AOS Judging and SFOS Medal Judging. Plants for judging must be registered by 10:00 A.M. and can be picked up starting at 12:00 P.M. Speakers' Day has AOS approval for judging seminar credits as well. Several of our speakers will have plants to sell. Sales will be open only to registered seminar participants. This year's speakers are:

Sandy Ohlund from Rolling Prairie, Indiana, has been an avid orchid grower for twenty-five years and is an accredited American Orchid Society judge with the Great Lakes Judging Center. She is a frequent speaker at orchid societies and seminars, most recently as a featured speaker at the Paph Guild in Morro Bay, California. She has co-authored articles with noted orchid taxonomist Guido Braem, published in the French journal *Richardiana*, the Australian *Orchid Review*, and the Colombian journal *Orchideología*. Her orchid interests include paphs, phrags, and the vandaceous alliance.

To support her orchid addiction, she is Associate Professor of Spanish at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Indiana, where she also gives classes on orchid growing. The title of Sandy's presentation is: "Why Be Round? *Renantheras*, *Arachnis* and *Paraphalaenopsis*".

Jason Fischer of Orchids Limited will Lecture on "Breeding with Slipper Orchids". This lecture will cover the genera *paphiopedilum* & *phragmipedium*, and show characteristics and traits that result from breeding. It will also cover the steps taken in breeding from pollination to the first flowering, with a look into the lab process that is used to germinate orchids. Jason has a life-long education in orchids by having the opportunity to be raised in a family orchid business. He took interest in orchid hybridization and lab work around 14 years of age, and first started breeding with *phalaenopsis*, which later on led to paphs and phrags, and now just about anything he can get his hands on that is unique.

Ron McHatton, PhD is a chemist by training and is currently the AOS Director of Education and Regional Operations. Prior to that position he was Apopka production manager for Kerry's Bromeliad Nursery, possibly the largest wholesale orchid nursery in the United States. In addition to his professional position, Ron is an accredited American Orchid Society judge and he has also been a long-time supporter of the *Orchid Digest*. The title of Ron's talk is "The Orchid World in Microcosm – *Masdevallia* and *Pleurothallis*". This lecture will examine a slice of this diversity along with a discussion of some of the newest taxonomic changes and cultural information for those preferring warmer conditions.

*Continued on next column*

Paul Alan Wetter, MD became interested in orchids in the late 1960's when he was studying the natural history of South Florida. Miami has been his home since childhood. He has been growing orchids as a hobby ever since, with a special interest in epiphytic orchids in the subtropical garden. In 2003 Paul joined the West Palm Beach Judging Center where he is an AOS Probationary Judge. Paul is a Professor Emeritus at the University Of Miami School Of Medicine and has been a pioneer in minimally invasive surgery and has numerous honors for his contributions to the field. His talk is titled "Red *Phalaenopsis*: A Pigment of Our Imagination"

Robert Fuchs President and Co-Chairman of the 19th World Orchid Conference will present "19WOC Update" and Dorothy Bennett, Judging Chair for the 19WOC, will present "19WOC Judging -- What Judges Can Expect". Bob is an accredited AOS judge in the West Palm Beach Judging Center, and president of R.F. Orchids, Inc. Dorothy is Chairman of the AOS's West Palm Beach Judging Center.

### Speakers Day Schedule for Sunday, October 7:

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 8:00 - 9:00   | Breakfast, plant registration (for judging), plant sales open* |
| 9:00 - 10:00  | Sandy Ohlund   |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | Jason Fischer  |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | AOS Judging and panel discussion, plant sales open             |
| 12:00 - 1:00  | Lunch  |
| 1:00 - 2:00   | Robert Fuchs and Dorothy Bennett                               |
| 2:00 - 3:00   | Ron McHatton   |
| 3:00 - 4:00   | Paul Wetter  |
| 4:00 - 5:00   | Plant sales open   |

\* Plant sales area will also be open during breaks and between speakers

Tickets for Speakers Day are \$45.00 per person. The price includes a continental breakfast and cold buffet lunch. There is a \$5.00 self-parking fee at the hotel; valet parking is also available. This is one of the major orchid events held annually in South Florida! Be sure to register early since tickets are limited and sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets are not available at the door. To register, please send your check and this order form to the SFOS office: 10801 S.W. 124 St., Miami, FL 33176. For more information call (305) 255-3656.

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## Hurricane Preparedness for Your Orchids

By Susan Taylor, *Bella on Line*

As another hurricane approaches the Gulf of Mexico I thought it would be appropriate to detail some of the things that you need to do if you believe you will be impacted by storms.

Before you do anything else for your plants (and this is true for all your potted plants) be sure to water thoroughly. Soak as many as possible so that the media retains water and will provide your plants with moisture for a longer than normal time. For the best protection you can provide them, plan to take all your plants indoors. Your house will be much more likely to survive the winds than any kind of greenhouse structure. I have an extra bedroom where I spread out plastic outdoor chair covers to hold my plants. I like these because they fold up on the sides and provide a mini-cocoon which contains humidity.

If you have time, spray all plants with some kind of bug spray before you bring them inside. They will be in much more crowded conditions inside than when they were outside and any bugs will be able to move from plant to plant easily. Use saucers of water between plants to increase humidity. Small plants in tiny pots can be placed in these saucers so they will not dry out.

The next issue will be space. If you have space inside for all of them, then you are very lucky. If not, then you're going to have to do some kind of triage on which will be saved and which will not. The first ones to bring inside are your favorites – those that bloom well for you and whose flowers you love. Next those that bloom for you, or any that are particularly valuable to you. As you run out of room, you will have to start making decisions. All of us who have been growing for any length of time will have some plants that are not doing well; some plants that

*Continued on next column*



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are on the verge of dying; some plants that are not dying, but are just sitting there taking up space. Those are the ones that you need to sacrifice if space is an issue.

Anything that is left outside should be placed on the ground in a structure – your greenhouse, a shed, or a garage. Even though they might get water, either sea water or rain water, they will still be better off than if they were up in the air and blown down. Then not only will they be wet, but damaged too.

Fill up your water barrels with water from your hose. They will be heavy enough not to blow away. In some areas after a storm is over the water supply is unreliable. This way you will have water available for your plants and to use in your toilets.



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# Orchids on the Beach

October 19-21, 2007

## Fall Members Meeting - Speakers Symposium

The American Orchid Society and South Florida Leadership Council, invite you to take part in their bi-annual membership meeting and symposium this fall in Delray Beach, Florida. If you're an orchid lover, this is an event not to be missed!

As the details of the Fall Members Meeting continue to come together, the weekend-long event continues to get more exciting. After the orchids, the sun, the sand, the parties, and the meetings, the event will wrap up with a Speakers Symposium that promises to be a grand finale. On Sunday, October 21 Keynote Speaker Dr. Alec Pridgeon will kick-off a series of lectures that no one will want to miss. In orchid circles Dr. Pridgeon is perhaps best known as past Editor of the American Orchid Society Bulletin (now titled Orchids) and Founding Editor of the scientific orchid journal, Lindleyana. However, he has also written or co-written more than 50 scientific articles or book chapters and 90 popular articles, co-written and co-directed five videotapes, edited 12 books including the Proceedings of the 14th World Orchid Conference and The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Orchids, and compiled the Orchid Action Plan for the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN in Geneva. While Dr. Pridgeon has promised an excellent lecture, he has successfully kept it under lock-and-key as a surprise for the event. Dr. Pridgeon has only said that those who attend will "step into Doc Brown's DeLorean and go as far back as the 1950s to ferret out some of the cultural, scientific, and economic forces that later undermined the orchid world as we once knew it. For those wishing a return trip, we'll go 'Back to the Future' and see what lies ahead, including a surprise...."

After Dr. Pridgeon wraps up, guests have the opportunity to see a series of speakers, from AOS President Carlos Fighetti to renowned orchid photographer Greg Allikas. If you are an orchid society President, VP or supporter be sure to catch "Keeping it

*Continued on next column*

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Fun! How to keep your society growing & thriving" with Cathy Sullivan. Maybe Dr. Paul Wetter's "The Elusive Scarlett Phalaenopsis" will intrigue you more. The full list of speakers and topics are as follows:

**Keynote Speaker** – Dr. Alec Pridgeon: Orchids Across the Millennia: The Times They Are A-Changin'

**Dr. Paul Wetter:** The Elusive Scarlett Phalaenopsis

**Carlos Fighetti:** Latest Trends in Phalaenopsis Breeding

**Alex Maximiano:** The Genus Ascocenda

**Dr. Robert McMillan:** Orchid Diseases & Treatments

**Greg Allikas:** The 25 Best Orchids I've Seen in the Past Three Years

**Craig Morrell:** Orchids in the Landscape

**Bill Thoms:** Bulbophyllums, Bizarre & Beautiful

**Alan Koch:** Miniature Cattleyas for the Warm Environment

**Cathy Sullivan:** Keeping it Fun! How to keep your society growing & thriving

**Tour the American Orchid Society Botanical Gardens** – take this opportunity to have an up-close-and-personal experience with the orchid gardens, see how they grow naturally on the native trees, see a great variety of orchids on display in the 4,000 square foot greenhouse.

**Shop for orchids** - visit two orchid growers on a bus trip down to Homestead and keep in mind that South Florida is the heart of the orchid growing community, dozens of growers and several shows are in close proximity

**Party!** Get caught up in the whirlwind of fun and food in the orchid gardens during the "Hurricane Party" on Friday, October 19

**Networking opportunities** – meet and learn orchid growing tips from many orchid professionals

**Get a one-of-a-kind souvenir** - take home one of many unique items and rare orchids from an array of raffles, silent and live auctions

**Education** – take part in the orchid lecture series with a line-up of top-notch professionals in the orchid community including Keynote speaker Dr. Alec Pridgeon, a former editor of Orchids magazine.

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Collector’s item ribbons will be given for first, second and third place “bests” in a multitude of categories. These ribbons will hold the 19WOC® logo and will be awarded in categories that recognize beautifully designed displays, quality flowers, rare orchids and excellent orchid culture. Exquisite lead crystal trophies will be awarded to the “Best of the Best” in each category. Made up of two crystal stylized cattleya leaves holding a globe of the world on a beautifully proportioned base and etched with the 19WOC® logo, the crystal trophies are guaranteed to become a collector’s item. Each trophy will be displayed on a wooden stand with a brass plaque designating the name of the trophy, the 19WOC® logo and the name of the trophy sponsor.

19WOC® medals will be presented at three levels: bronze, silver and gold. Designed by renowned graphic artist and sculptor Fred Caravetta, each medal will display the 19WOC® logo with the scenic design of South Florida’s signature coconut palms on the reverse. All medals will be cast in bronze; silver medals will be plated with sterling silver and gold medals with 18K gold. Each medal will include a commemorative rosewood box that will also serve as a display base.

The crowning glories of the 19WOC® will be the awards given to the Grand and Reserve Champion orchids and displays. These four winning entries will garner spectacular one-of-a-kind trophies designed exclusively for the 19th World Orchid Conference® by nationally renowned glass artist Larry Mayse of Nature’s Glassworks. Each of these works of art will be signed by the artist. They will be presented to the lucky winners at the Tropical Night Gala on Saturday, January 26th.

The opportunity to sponsor a trophy is available and open to the public. This is a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate support for the production of high quality orchid flowers or to recognize a loved one. To sponsor a trophy contact the 19WOC® office at 786-621-9962 or email [director@19woc.com](mailto:director@19woc.com). To register as a vendor or attendee for the 19th World Orchid Conference® or for more information on the Conference and a complete schedule, visit [www.19woc.com](http://www.19woc.com) or send an e-mail request to: [director@19woc.com](mailto:director@19woc.com). The website is translatable into a dozen languages via the Babel Fish link at the bottom of the home page.

## MEDAL AWARDS

**June, 2007**

Gramm. *speciosum* 'Valda' 94 CCA & 93 Point Gold Medal • Owners: David & Valerie Foster  
Beautiful grown plant 6' tall 7 1/2' wide with 14 inflorescences carrying 518 flowers & 280 buds; flowers lime green heavily spotted with deep maroon' deep maroon lip' texture matte; substance heavy.

**July, 2007**

Otr. Hidden Gold 'Horizon Spots' 84 pts. Silver Medal • Owner: David & Valerie Foster

Fifty-nine flowers and 6 buds on 14 inflorescences, flowers open, lemon yellow, becoming mango orange with age; trumpet-shaped lip spotted red basally, faint red venation marginally; substance firm; texture crystalline.

Ctyl. Envy 'Lore' 77pts. Bronze Medal  
Owner: Lore Wigley

Sixty-three flowers and 22 buds on 18 inflorescences, flowers open, chartreuse sepals and petals; lip cream overlaid fuchsia blush, fuchsia striations centrally; substance firm; texture sparkling.

Due to taxonomic changes what we use to know as "Epicats" are now called "Catcylaelia".

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## SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

**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

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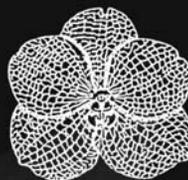
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