



The Orchidist

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President's Message

In the weeks ahead, we're going to make you an orchids offer you can't refuse: We will be holding a \$5 per ticket raffle for a full registration for the World Orchid Conference in January worth \$300 at the November meeting and another raffle for a full registration at the Holiday Party in December. The full registration at the WOC includes admission to the Preview Party, Closing Ceremonies, unlimited access to the show and all lectures, and a registration packet.

How are your mystery orchids growing? Well enough to flower first and win \$100? Second prize is \$50, and third is \$25 for the first, second and third mystery orchid to bloom. First plant to spike - \$25.00 (spike must be 1/2" or more - no flowers are necessary). Judges will break ties with number and quality of flowers. Sally Taylor has a few plants left if you want to enter our contest. They will be available (still only \$5 per plant and Sally has been taking good care of them) at the November meeting. We will publish photos of the winning plants in our monthly newsletter and on our website to show the great flowers our members can grow!

Rafael Romero's talk last month on Venezuelan Species other than Cattleyas was uniquely informative. In addition to wonderful photos, he included a location map on each species as well as altitude, and growing conditions. That was a thoughtful and creative way to educate us. Thank you Rafael.

I would like to thank Helen Lloyd, one of our longtime members, for her years of excellent service as our librarian. I am thrilled to announce that Daisy Suero has volunteered to be our new librarian, and our extensive collection of orchid books and periodicals will be available at the next meeting.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Sandy Schultz

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

This month we will have a hands on program demonstrated by all our own members. Lore Wigley will enlighten us with the secrets and tricks of the trade on how she grows those amazing Cattleyas. Sandy Schultz will give us her tricks for growing Renanthera. Sally Taylor is a wiz growing Phalaenopsis. Joan Viggiani will enlighten us on how she grows those beautiful Paph's of hers. Remember the Grand Champion at the Miami Show in 2005 - Judy Mezey will wow us with a tips and hints on growing prize winning Vandas and Ascocendas. Valerie Foster will tell us what it takes to grow those amazing Dendrobiums that she and David are known for.

Don't miss this truly wonderful evening of fun, tips and wonderful orchid growing.

See you all there,

Carol De Biase

Program Chair

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2007 SFOS HOLIDAY PARTY

December is approaching which means we should take time to be thankful for our health, good friends, and family and, of course, our beautiful orchids. Which brings up our next and favorite subjects – Christmas, Chanukah, and everything that goes with December, like our Holiday Party? There will no regular meeting/judging this month. Dress code will be semiformal.

The party will be on Sunday, December 2nd at Signature Gardens, 12725 S.W. 122 Ave. from 6:30 P.M. until 10:30 P.M. If you've never been there, this will be a real treat for you. Plenty of parking and large banquet rooms decorated beautifully for the holidays. The food is wonderful and there will be an open bar!

The meal will be a buffet and will include: Caesar Salad, Cold Pasta Salad Primavera, Whole Honey Glazed Ham, Roast Vermont Turkey with Old Fashioned Stuffing, Giblet Gravy and Cranberry Sauce, Tender Pork Slices, Sweet Potato Soufflé with Crushed Pineapple and Marshmallows, Steamed Long Grain White Rice, Black Beans with Chopped Onions, Assorted Cakes and Pies, Rolls, and Coffee. Happy Hour will begin at 6:30 P.M. and dinner will be ready at 7:00 P.M.

We will have a D.J. for the evening and they will play music for all generations. We will also have our gift exchange. There is a \$5.00 limit on the gifts and please put tags stating male or female. You don't have to participate; this is optional, but fun! There will be a raffle during the evening. All members will, of course, receive a beautiful seedling upon presentation of their membership badge; if you have lost your badge, please notify the office (305-255-3656).

Continued on next column



Sandi Jones
Tom Wells

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Remember the party is scheduled for Sunday, December 2nd and admission is by reservation only. We must know by Monday, November 26th if you plan to attend. The price for members is \$20.00 and \$35.00 for non-members. Tables of eight can be reserved. If you have any questions, please call the office (305-255-3656) or Marlene Clark (305-253-7627). We invite all of our members, especially our new members, to join us for a delightful evening.

Please See the Registration Form on Back Page

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Give the Gift of Membership

**An American Orchid Society Membership
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Orchid conservation was an important topic when the American Orchid Society was founded in 1921. And since the AOS Conservation Committee was established on May 6, 1922, it has addressed concerns voiced by the Society's founders: education, scientific research and protection of orchid habitats. Meeting twice yearly, the committee works in concert with the Education and Research Committees, evaluating proposals for scientific grants in the field of conservation. To further its goals, the Conservation Committee has worked with volunteer photographers and authors worldwide to create the 2008 American Orchid Society Conservation Calendar. This gallery of 12 plant portraits reflects the mission of the American Orchid Society, to promote and support the passion for orchids through education, conservation and research. Hailing from Madagascar, the Himalayas, Peru, Florida, Japan, China and elsewhere, the 12 orchid species shown illustrate the amazing diversity found within the orchid family. Embrace a passion for orchid conservation by purchasing this calendar for yourself — and as gifts for friends. The 2008 calendar is 24 pages with 12 color photographs. It is shrink-wrapped with heavy card stiffener and opens to 11x22 inches. Order a copy of this beautiful calendar today for yourself or as a gift for a friend or loved one. Only \$12.95 while supplies last. \$2 from each calendar sold benefits orchid conservation efforts.

MAKES A GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT

Remember a membership in your local society makes a wonderful holiday gift.



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Molten Chocolate Cakes

4 squares BAKER'S Semi-Sweet Baking Chocolate
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1 cup powdered sugar
2 eggs
2 egg yolks
6 Tbsp. flour
1/2 cup thawed COOL WHIP Whipped Topping

PREHEAT oven to 425°F. Butter four 3/4-cup custard cups or soufflé dishes. Place on baking sheet.

MICROWAVE chocolate and butter in large microwaveable bowl on HIGH 1 min. or until butter is melted. Stir with wire whisk until chocolate is completely melted. Stir in sugar until well blended. Blend in eggs and egg yolks with wire whisk. Stir in flour. Divide batter among prepared custard cups.

BAKE 13 to 14 min. or until sides are firm but centers are soft. Let stand 1 min. Carefully run small knife around cakes to loosen. Invert cakes onto dessert dishes. Serve immediately, topped with whipped topping.

IN MEMORY

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Lynn Parker and her family on the passing of her husband David.



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Orchid Profile – Brassocattleya Maikai

by Susan Taylor

This is one of the first hybrids to be spotlighted in my Orchid Profile series because it's one of my favorites and very easy to grow. There are two well known clones of the hybrid available Bc. Maikai 'Louise' AM/AOS and Bc. Maikai 'Mayumi' HCC/AOS. They are very similar in appearance and growth, but the flowers on 'Louise' do not fade quite as much as 'Mayumi'. I was lucky that I picked this plant as one of the first that I purchased when I started growing orchids. It did not bloom for me the first year I had it because it was not getting enough light. But since then with better conditions, it has been one of my favorites.

There are several reasons I really like this orchid. It is considered to be a compact size plant which means that it rarely exceeds 12 inches or 30 centimeters in normal leaf height (the flowers will grow up above the leaves); it regularly produces multiple leads (growths) so that normally you will get more than one inflorescence at a time; and each inflorescence has multiple flowers (called multi-floral). When all these are put together you get a plant that really produces a show for you.

The flowers are about 3 inches or 10 centimeters across with interesting spotting that shows through to the back of the petals and sepals. The spotting is particularly noticeable on the throat in the center of the flower where it can be almost solid. The color varies from light to dark orchid in color and the tone will change as the flowers mature. Some growers can get them to bloom several times a year, but I have only seen them bloom in the late fall/winter here in Houston. They do require fairly high light during their growing season in order to produce flowers so putting them outside in the summer can be very beneficial.

Bc. Maikai is a cross between Cattleya bowringiana and Brassavola nodosa. As with most nodosa crosses, the flowers are star-shaped with divided sepals and petals rather than a rounded flower.

Continued on next column



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The nodosa background gives the plant its nice size and leaf shape as well as its growth habit.

They need repotting when they have filled their pot, or they will simply stop flowering. Mine filled the pot after 3 years and produced 44 flowers on one flowering; the next year when I did not replot it produced 4. This is a plant that will grow into a good sized container and allow you to split it up for friends or newcomers groups in your orchid society.



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The Sweet Breathing of Plants

by Karen Stewart

This month's featured book review is a departure from the usual orchid how-to book. This is a book of 39 essays and poems all written by women on the subject of plants. The editors are Linda Hogan and Brenda Patterson. The pieces run the gamut from the Ode to Mold by Claudia Lewis, by a biochemist named Linda Jean Shepherd, to *The Twilight Zone*, a scientific study of the ocean floor by Sylvia Earle. Such variety in tone and author is what makes this book so enjoyable and easy to read.

Isabel Allende writes about the hidden symbolism of flowers, which originated in Turkey. Love notes using this secret language were exchanged in harems. In England during the 1700's combining certain flowers in bouquets became a means of corresponding without written words. These hidden meaning eventually extended to printed papers, handkerchiefs and the positioning of flowers or ribbons within a bouquet. A poignant note ends the essay by Allende--when leaving her native Chile after the military coup in 1973, she took a small bag of Chilean soil in her suitcase, intending to plant Forget-Me-Not seeds as a remembrance of her home country. Dr. Tanaka from Japan who refers to *Paphiopedilums* as his "Sweet Daughter". I thoroughly enjoyed this book and the variety of essays that are presented. There are many more entertaining and thought-provoking articles than can be mentioned here in such a brief review--it is better for you to read and enjoy the book for yourself.

How to grow orchids in the winter


Fall is a time when some kinds of orchids need very different care from what they required in the summer. In some cases, these differences are very great, while in others, the cultural changes required are more subtle.

Standard *Phalaenopsis*, those with large flowers and no fragrance, require a cool down period of 7-10 days to initiate flowering. How cold should they get? Most experienced hobbyists let temperatures get into the low 60s or even upper 50s, which generally works well. This process is even more effective if day length is getting shorter and plants are allowed to get a little drier than usual. It is also a good idea to only let phals get cooler when there is some assurance that day temperatures will warm up at least 10-15 deg F. Many commercial growers accomplish spike initiation simply by providing this day to night temperature differential and do not worry about how cool the night temperature. Many indoor growers of phals find that their plants do not initiate spikes until much later in the year because they do not let their home get as cool or experience this temperature range. Putting phals in an unheated porch can get them to spike.

Once the first spikes appear, it is important to maintain a night temperature of at least 65 deg F to limit disease. This becomes more critical when those gloomy days appear in winter. It is also important to increase fertilizer, especially nitrogen to growing spikes and buds. Conventional wisdom used to dictate a fertilizer low in nitrogen and high in phosphorus until buds began to form and then switch to high nitrogen fertilizer to get the most and largest blooms. Recent studies point to just using nitrogen-rich fertilizers throughout the process. While commercial or exhibition growers practice this, the hobbyist is better advised to use their normal fertilizer regimen if their phals are growing well.

Catasetums and related genera are in the process of becoming dormant. Withhold water and fertilizer as their leaves begin to yellow. A light misting is OK, but let the plant and medium become much drier than when the plant is actively growing. Any orchid that loses its leaves needs to be treated similarly. Many semi-terrestrial orchids, e.g. *Eulophia* species, need similar treatment. Too much water at this time of year will cause the plant to lose its roots to rot and the entire plant could follow. The ideal situation is to set orchids with this requirement in a different growing area where water can be carefully controlled until growth begins in late winter or early spring.

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Many members of the Cattleya Alliance will also benefit from drying more thoroughly. Bifoliate cattleyas and cattleya species are generally grown drier in winter, although there is much variation among them. Some species reputed to be hard to grow, e.g. *C warszewiczii* and *C dowiana*, need to be kept very dry from about October through February or they will not produce good flowers and might even die. Modern hybrids have had the tendency to “die if they do not dry” “bred out”, but they still grow better if they are kept drier in winter. The exceptions to the rule are those small stature mini-catts that have a good dose of *Sophranitis coccinea*. They usually are generally identified by their bright red, yellow or orange flowers. These need a constant temperature, above 60 F, regular water supply, and may not experience any dormancy.

Cymbidiums require cool weather to initiate flower spikes too, but they require far cooler temperatures and lots of light. Place them outside as temperature drop and keep them there until there is the forecast for a hard freeze or hard frost. They will tolerate light frosts.

Vandas are the last group that needs to be singled out. They like it hot and bright all year long, although they are perfectly capable of surviving nights in the mid 50s on occasion. They may, however, drop flowers or buds if the cold is prolonged. The exceptions are those members that have blue flowers. The parent contributing blue color to flowers comes from higher elevations and so, tolerates or even prefers cool nights

More Fun Facts About Vanilla

✓ *Burn your tongue on pizza or other hot food?* Put a few drops of vanilla on your tongue to ease the pain and soothe the burn.

✓ *Love the flavor of chilies but can't take the heat?* Sweet neutralizes heat: add some vanilla to soften the bite but bring out the sweetness and flavor of the peppers.

✓ *Have problems with spiders living on the underside of your furniture?* Add a vanilla bean or two to your furniture polish. Apply to both sides of your furniture. Bugs don't like the smell and will leave, whereas you will have the sweet smell of vanilla lingering in the air.

✓ *House paint smell too strong?* Add a tablespoon of vanilla extract to a gallon of paint to help cut the smell.

✓ *Want to disguise your scent when fishing?* Rub vanilla on your hands before handling your fishing line. Lots of seasoned fishermen and women use this trick.

Continued on next column

✓ *Want to attract attention with the opposite sex?* Maybe even bring that special someone into your life? Wear some vanilla, check out the section on love and aphrodisia, and be sure to look at our wonderful selection of natural and pure vanilla-fragranced products.

✓ *a stomach sedative?*

Add pure vanilla extract to mineral water or apple juice to settle a nervous stomach. To soothe and please cranky, teething or sick children add a few drops of vanilla to their milk or juice. Away from home and need something quickly? Coca cola is filled with vanilla, and therefore used in many countries for calming an agitated stomach.

✓ *a natural calmative?*

Place several vanilla beans in a bottle or jar. Use as aromatherapy to soothe jangled nerves. Sloane-Kettering and other medical facilities use the vanilla aroma to calm patients undergoing MRI and CAT scans.




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SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, November 21, 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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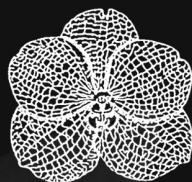
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2007 SFOS Holiday Party

Please make _____ reservations for the SFOS Holiday Party

Name: _____

_____ Members @ \$20.00

_____ Guests @ \$35.00

Total Amount Due _____

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