



April 2008 - Volume 5 - Number 4

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South Florida Orchid Society Orchid Auction

South Florida Orchid Society presents our Annual Orchid Auction.

We have orchids from all over the world

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Preview 7:30 PM

Auction begins at 8:00 PM

Visa & MasterCard accepted

**Conducted by Sunset Auction Company
at the Fire Fighters' Memorial Building
8000 NW 21 St., Miami, FL 33122**

For more information call (305-255-3656)

****All members are requested to bring plants to donate to the Auction. ****



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President's Message

My favorite time of year, Spring, is here! I love to walk through our garden and shade houses and see which flowers have just opened. Of course, I also notice all the cattleyas begging to be repotted.... Speaking of repotting, please bring some divisions of your plants to our auction this month. If you can't attend the auction but would like to donate some orchids, call me and I will arrange to have them picked up.

Many members have said they want to participate in a SFOS orchid safari but we need places to go to! If you would consider putting your orchid growing area on our "tour", please let me know. We need to do this before the weather gets hot or perhaps wait until Fall.

At the March Board Meeting, it was my honor to present Marlene Clark with the Distinguished Service award, which has not been given since 1994. Marlene has done so much for the South Florida Orchid Society over the past 20 years; she has volunteered to serve on and/or chair numerous committees and has been a board member for several years. Thank you, Marlene, and thanks also to your husband Charlie and daughter Debbie who have also helped SFOS in so many ways.

Hope to see you at the auction!

Sandy



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AUCTION TIME

April at South Florida Orchid Society is AUCTION TIME! We will not have a guest speaker, raffle or orchid clinic this month. Instead, we offer you a wonderful opportunity to purchase fabulous plants from supporting donors at unbelievable prices.

We've collected wonderful donations from various show vendors and more are coming in. If you'd like to donate plants, please contact me at 786-385-2616.

Once again professional auctioneer, Bryan Kinsley, of Sunset Auction Co, will conduct our auction. It promises to be an entertaining evening of fun.

Support your society and build your orchid collection by bringing your friends, neighbors and checkbooks. Credit cards will also be accepted.

Sincerely,

Carol De Biase
Vice President/Program Chairman

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NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS

Report of Nominating Committee for 2008-2009

The duly constituted Nominating Committee of the South Florida Orchid Society met on March 19, 2008 at the Firefighters Memorial Building. Present were the full committee, consisting of Dorothy Bennett (Chair), Michael O'Dea, Sally Taylor and Joan Viggiani.

By unanimous agreement, the committee (with nominees and spouses abstaining when appropriate) selected the following slate for the Society's 2008-2009 year, all of whom have agreed to serve in these offices if elected by the membership:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| President | Sandra Schultz |
| First Vice President | Carol De Biase |
| Second Vice President | Judy Mezey |
| Secretary | Maria Wood |
| Treasurer | Dorothy Bennett |
| Director, term expiring 2011 | Richard Brandon |
| Director, term expiring 2011 | Julie Rosenberg |
| Director, term expiring 2011 | Tony Viggiani |

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Bennett
Chair, 2008-2009 Nominating Committee



Sandi Jones
Tom Wells

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Category Famous botanists orchid works **Publisher** Naturalia
Parution 1992 **Format** 2300 pages
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The monumental work in the history of literature on orchids was printed in Belgium by the Lindens in the form of a monthly review between 1885 and 1906 in French and also between 1891 and 1898 in English. This was the "Belle Epoque" for orchid enthusiasts. The 814 plates contained are more than a mere record of all that was known about botanical orchids - they form a veritable encyclopaedia. The drawings are of exceptional quality and delicacy, depicting species gathered in tropical forests and raised in the greenhouses of great collectors. Each plate is accompanied by Latin assignment of the species together with bibliographical references. There follows a description of the plant, where it was discovered, acclimatized, distributed throughout the world and advices on how to grow it. Bound in 5 volumes with a gold-stamped cloth binding and a colour cover this item is a collector's object for both, orchid and book art

SFOS SPEAKERS DAY 2008

SFOS will host its annual Speakers Day on Sunday, October 5, 2008 at Signature Gardens, 12725 S.W. 122 Avenue, Miami, FL. 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 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 and sales will be open only to registered seminar participants. This year's speakers are:

Continued on page 4

Roberto Agnes started growing orchids while living in South Africa at the age of 11. In 1984 he moved to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where he continued to expand his collection and soon after participated in founding of the Rio Orchid Society - OrquidaRio. Roberto was involved in running the judging school and was the editor of the orchid magazine for several years. Roberto also helped tender the bid for the WOC which was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1996 where he was Chairman of Judges. Roberto is a partner of Aranda Orquídeas. They are actively involved in the preservation of species in their laboratory. They have produced several improved strains of their various Cattleya and Laelia species. The title of Roberto's program is "Brazilian Cattleya and Laelia Species and Their Hybrids". Roberto will be bringing plants to sell.

Ron McHatton, Ph.D. 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.

Glen Decker began growing orchids at the age of 15 and holds the degree of Associate in Applied Science in Ornamental Horticulture. Glen is the owner of Piping Rock Orchids in Galway, New York. He was the previous chair of the American Orchid Society's Publications Committee and is presently a Director of the Orchid Digest Corporation. He has appeared in Martha Stewart's Better Living Magazine and on the PBS TV special "Orchid Delirium". He recently rewrote the Slipper section of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's "The Best Orchids for Indoors" and was the technical editor for the "Orchids for Dummies" book. The title of Glen's program is "PHRAGMIPEDIUMS - Past to the Present". This is a complete look at hybridization, past to

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the present and what we could expect in the future. Glen will be bringing plants to sell.

Ruben P. Sauleda, Ph.D. has been growing orchids since the age of 12. He started the family business in 1962, Ruben In Orchids. His main interest is hybridizing the unusual, specializing in *Encyclia* and *Schomburgkia* hybrids. In addition he propagates many species from seed, especially Florida Natives. Dr. Sauleda with his wife, Claudia, moved three years ago to the Redlands after 45 years in the Kendall area. Dr. Sauleda has a Masters Degree in Orchid Ecology and Taxonomy from Florida Atlantic University and a Ph.D. in Orchid Taxonomy from the University of South Florida. He has written several books and has published dozens of papers in scientific journals. He was Chairman of Education for the 19th World Orchid Conference as well as a speaker. The title of Ruben's program is "The Genus *Psychilis*, A Little Known Caribbean Group." Ruben will have plants for sale.

Howard Ginsberg is an accredited AOS judge and head of the Montreal Judging Centre. He began growing orchids in 1977. He has spoken to orchid societies across North America, throughout New Zealand, Australia and has been a featured speaker in AOS judges training at several centers. Howard has also been a featured speaker at AOS Trustees meetings and was a featured speaker at the 18th WOC in Dijon, France. He is the most recent winner of the Ernest Hetherington Award for an article on *Sc. Beaufort*. The title of Howard's talk is "Golden Pecker, Golden Parent". Howard will be bringing plants to sell.

Speakers Day Schedule:

8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast, plant registration (for judging), plant sales open
9:00 - 10:00 Roberto Agnes
10:00 - 11:00 Ron McHatton
11:00 - 12:00 AOS Judging and panel discussion, plant sales open
12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 Glen Decker
2:00 - 3:00 Ruben Sauleda
3:00 - 4:00 Howard Ginsberg
4:00 - 5:00 Plant sales open

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

Tickets for Speakers Day are \$40.00 per person. The price includes a continental breakfast and cold buffet lunch. 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 the order form, located on the last page, to the SFOS office: 10801 S.W. 124 St., Miami, FL 33176. For more information call (305) 255-3656.

Miniature Laelias

The genus *Laelia* has a number of species which qualify as miniatures. These little plants are mostly rupicolous (growing on rocks) and most are from Brazil. The flowers range from yellow to shades of purple to white and either are star-shaped or somewhat like a *Cattleya*. Most of them flower in the latter part of the year, summer through the winter. If you are unable to find the plants listed under *Laelia*, check out the genus *Sophranitis*. Recently, many of the Brazilian *Laelias* have been moved to the *Sophranitis* genus, but most vendors will still recognize the old names.

Laelias are considered to be part of the *Cattleya* Alliance and in many ways they are similar. The flowers can be *Cattleya* shaped and they can be crossed to make many of the smaller hybrids which are very popular today. *Laeliacattleya*, abbreviated *Lc*, and *Sophranilaeliacattleya*, abbreviated *Slc*, are among the fastest growing hybrids in the alliance.

For this discussion I've picked out six of the best miniatures, two each of yellow, purple and white. For yellow flowers, consider *Laelia itambana* and *Laelia bradei*. The flowers on both these little plants are bright yellow and well displayed on the plants. They are found only in Brazil and are both rock growing. They need extremely good drainage and need to dry out between waterings.

There are a number of purple *Laelias* so I picked what I consider to be the best of the miniatures. The type species for the genus *Laelia speciosa* with lovely orchid colored flowers with a white striped lip. I believe this is my favorite of all with the lovely color-

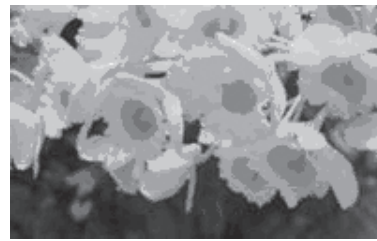
ing and contrast. This plant is from Mexico where it grows in extremely dry conditions so it needs to be kept dry and given a winter rest to encourage it to bloom. *Laelia lilliputana* is the smallest *Laelia*. It has a rose/purple flower held up over tiny leaves -- the whole plant is less than an inch tall.

The two white species are *Laelia fournieri* and *Laelia reginae*. *L. fournieri* is a cool growing species with a star-shaped flower originally from Brazil. The flower has a crystalline appearance and is truly lovely. *L. reginae* has 2 to six flowers and a bright yellow lip which provides a nice contrast with the white. By BellaOnline's Orchids Editor, Susan Taylor

Mascarpone and Dark Chocolate Cream in White Chocolate Cups

8 ounces good-quality white chocolate, chopped
 4 ounces bittersweet or semisweet chocolate, chopped
 1 cup whipping cream
 3 tablespoons sugar
 8 ounces mascarpone cheese
 1 teaspoon grated orange peel
 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
 White chocolate curls, for garnish

Line 8 muffin cups with paper liners. Melt the white chocolate in top of double boiler over simmering water, stirring until smooth. Spoon 1 tablespoon melted chocolate into each paper liner. Using a pastry brush, coat the chocolate evenly over the bottom and up the sides of the liners. Freeze until the chocolate is firm, about 30 minutes. Remelt the white chocolate in the bowl. Spoon 1 tablespoon into each cup and brush over the bottom and up the sides, forming a second coat. Freeze until completely set, about 1 hour. Melt the bittersweet chocolate in top of a clean double boiler over simmering water, stirring until smooth. At this point, set aside to cool completely. Using an electric mixer, beat the cream and sugar in a large bowl until soft peaks form. Set the whipped cream aside. Using an electric mixer, beat the mascarpone cheese, melted bittersweet chocolate, orange peel, and vanilla in a large bowl just until smooth and glossy, about 30 seconds (do not overmix). Fold the whipped cream into the chocolate mixture in 2 batches. Transfer the mousse to a pastry bag fitted with a star tip. Pipe the mousse into the white chocolate cups. Sprinkle the white chocolate curls over the mousse and serve immediately, or cover and refrigerate overnight, and then let stand at room temperature 1 hour before serving.



Dendrobium chrysotoxum

The Dai cultural minority of Yunnan, Southern China, are flower loving peoples.

Their favorite is *Dendrobium chrysotoxum* which they plant on the roofs of their houses. There they bloom in the Buddhist orange colour of their religion exactly during the Dai water splashing festival in April.

This is one of the hardiest species of orchids and it can tolerate a very wide range of climatic conditions. Give it half a year of rain and half a year of drought, both with maximum sunshine, and it will blossom regularly. The flowers stay for about 1 month.



Dendrobium aphyllum

A shower of thousand and one flowers is cascading down rain forest tress in Xishuangbanna when this *Dendrobium* species opens its fragrant blossoms.

If you intend to keep this orchid in your home, it requires a distinct dry season during winter where temperatures can be low and the plant looks very odd without leaves. Be patient: 1001 flowers will suddenly open in spring. After flowering, more shoots will grow and now you can also see leaves. We know of one plant that is growing inside a family's yard and where grandpa says it has been there already when he was a child. When it flowers its scent and beauty are filling the yard. This is surely a species living with you all through your life - and it is easy to keep.



Ruben in Orchids will be having an Inventory Reduction Sale with wholesale prices on April 19 and 20 for South Florida Orchid Society friends and family.

SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Fire Fighters Memorial Building
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7:30 pm - Preview of Raffle Plants
8:00 pm - Raffle Begins

Refreshments Available During Raffle



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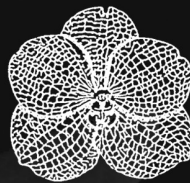
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