



# The Orchidist

May 2008 - Volume 5 - Number 5

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## President's Message

Wow!! What a great auction we had this year! Thanks to all the generous members and guests for supporting South Florida Orchid Society and a HUGE thanks to our program chairperson, Carol DeBiase, who cared for and cataloged all our beautiful auction plants. To our members and grower friends who graciously donated so many fabulous orchids and orchid-related items, we thank you so much. This was the most successful auction we have had in recent years.

Looking back on my year as SFOS president, I am so proud of the SFOS and its members. Our involvement in the 19th World Orchid Conference was an amazing, successful experience, thanks to the hard work and involvement of many members.

We are looking forward our 63rd Miami International Orchid Show next winter! Our Show Chairperson, Dr. Paul Wetter, and the Assistant Show Chairperson, Alex Maximiano (Father of Orchid Wiz) are already hard at work to make this a truly spectacular event! Now is the time to start preparing your plants for next winter's show! Repot! Divide! Groom! Fertilize!

And for those of you who are entered in the club's phal contest- better get out the fertilizer....ours are getting big...

Enjoy the beautiful spring weather while it lasts!

*Sandy*

## MAY PROGRAM Bulbophyllums, the Bizarre & Beautiful

*presented by Bill Thoms*

Bill Thoms got his first orchid in 1969 when he rescued plants of *Enc. tampensis* in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. (He actually just picked them off trees pushed over for a new Condo, but it sounds better.) After moving to the Tampa area in the early 70's and, after having an orchid nursery for 20 years called Hilltop House, he and his wife, Doris Dukes, (whom he met at the Tampa Orchid Club in the early '80s), took several thousand of their favorite plants and built their own greenhouse at home to retire from the retail business, relax, and continue their hybridizing program (making about 200 crosses a year). Since then, their plants grew back up to 10,000 and the awards have grown too: 62 Awards for Culture in over 20 genera including 20 in the bulbophyllum alliance and 6 Certificates for Cultural Excellence (90 points or better); First Class Certificates for *Cirrhopetalums*, *Paphiopedilums* and *Phragmipediums*; and about 200 total awards in all categories. Bill recently received one of the most prestigious awards given to a hybridizer, an Award of Distinction which is given for a worthy new avenue of breeding. The plant that received the award was a cross he made between two *Trias* species and was named *Trias Emily Clarkson*.

*Continued on page 2*



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No matter what kind of plants you grow, Bill will give you tips to make them grow and bloom better. Many people say he is one of the best speakers they have ever heard. Come and see for yourself. And take this opportunity to bring an orchid enthusiast friend with you, if possible.

Hope to see everyone there!

## REMINDER

Next month will our Annual Installation of Officers and Awards Ceremony. We will also be having a speaker Sandy Ohlund who will educate us on Renanthera, Arachnis and Paraphalaenopsis. Please plan to be there.

## ORCHID AUCTION RECAP

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the many vendors and sfos members who helped make this year's auction a resounding success. Without everyone's help, participation and the generosity of all those who gave, we would not have had such a successful auction.

The vendors who so generously donated plants are as follows: Amazonia, Carib, EFG, Hawaiian Island, Krull Smith, OFE, Owl's Nest, Lee Moore, Palm Bay Secret Garden, PCK, Plantio La Orquidea, Quest Orchids, RF Orchids, Ruben in Orchids, St. Germain, Sorora, Salley's Alley, Carmela, Water Orchids, Nature by Design. Dan & Margie Orchids, Mickey's Orchids, Coconut Orchids, Orchids by Allison, Whimsy, Orchis Floriculture, Cal Orchids, Norman's Orchids, Mac Orchids, Hawaiian Orchid Source, H & R Orchids, Maria Wood, Judy Mezey.

When you are in the market to purchase more plants, please consider purchasing from these vendors first and don't forget to say thank you again for their generosity to the South Florida Orchid Society.

The members who gave of their time to make this event a success are as follows: Dorothy Bennett who helped me record everyone's bid, Michael Coronado who show cased the orchids for our members,

Michael & Shelia O'Dea who gave out the bid numbers, Michael O'Dea who also show cased the orchids and who helped me catalog the orchids the weekend before, Argeo 'Ralph' Hernandez who helped move tables and assisted both Michael's in bring up the plants to be auctioned, Sally Taylor, Joan and Tony Viggiani for collecting all the monies for the club, Marlene and Charlie Clark for putting on a wonderful spread of food, Sandy Schultz who also came the weekend before to help me catalog the orchids and also helped show case the orchids for the members at the auction, Helen Lloyd and Erna Maxwell who helped organized the plants on the tables before the auction, Brian Kingsley our wonderful auctioneer who always makes this event fun, Maria Wood whose help of a friendly ear and the generous loan of her big truck to transport all the plants for this auction and Ellen Hanson who helped behind the scenes in calling all the vendors and volunteers, and getting all the correspondence done for me.

The words THANK YOU are not big enough. Give yourselves all a big pat on the back for making this auction a grand success.

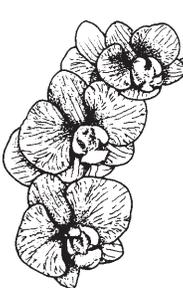
Thank you all again,  
Carol



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Continued on next column

# Orchid Growing Tips

by Susan Taylor - Bella On Line

## Labeling plants with a label maker

In a recent post on an orchid forum, the use of a Brother Labelmaker (models PT-1950 or PT1500PC) to make labels which do not fade was discussed. The TZ 1/2"W (BRTTZFX231) tape was recommended as it seems to have the longest life. This would be a real boon to orchid and other plant growers who face the prospect of re-labeling every couple of years due to the cracking and fading of labels.

## Sanitation

Keeping your growing area clean and free of plant debris is important. Fungi on dead leaves can produce millions of spores which will spread to living plant surfaces. Be sure that each time you monitor your plants you pick up and dispose of debris. Remove and dispose of any fallen leaves and flowers since bacteria and fungi will attack these.

## Find an Orchid Buddy!

There's nothing that can make a hobby more fun than having a buddy that you can share it with. A buddy can encourage you when a plant is dying. He or she can give you pieces of a plant that is growing well that should grow for you too. You can share your plants with him or her so that both of you can enjoy them. A buddy is fun to go to orchid shows, meetings or seminars so that you can share the knowledge as well as the driving.

## Use milk to kill viruses on your tools

Here's a great idea for those of us who just can't seem to flame our cutting tools or put them in those corrosive liquids to kill viruses. A 20% mixture of non-fat dry milk kills 100% of viruses on cutting tools when those tools are soaked in the solution for one to two minutes. You should then soak or spray a bactericide on the tools since it does not provide any protection against them. This preventative is used extensively by European growers, but is not well known in the US.

## Keep notes on what you try

Keep good notes on what you try and when something works for you with a particular plant, or your whole collection for that matter, you will know what has worked. An example is my change to

*Continued on next column*

rainwater two years ago. It made an enormous difference to my plants and I was able to document the improvement with my notes to myself.

## Use old Venetian blinds for labels

Venetian blinds are made of UV resistant material so that they will last longer as labels. Cut up the old blinds to the correct size and use a number 2 pencil or an indelible ink pen to write on them. It is a good idea to replace labels every two or three years since the plastic ones rarely last much longer and you want to make sure that you know the name of that plant.

## Hardware cloth for hanging or mounted orchids

Almost all of us run out of space in a growing area or greenhouse. Use hardware cloth (a kind of fencing generally with 4-inch by 2-inch spaces) to make additional room by attaching to an inverted "V" frame. The frame can be used to hang mounted plants. An alternative is to put the cloth on the inside of a wooden greenhouse which will provide all kinds of new space for hanging.

## Move your plants around if they are not doing well

Orchids need appropriate conditions to grow, flower and produce the best show. If you have one that is not flowering try moving it to a sunnier or lighter area. If you have one whose leaves are turning yellow from too much sun, move it to a shadier spot. Certain areas in your growing area -- either outside or inside -- will provide slightly different conditions and a specific orchid might do better there.

## Use fungicide when repotting

In order to prevent fungus when repotting and cutting roots, always soak the plant for a few minutes in a recommended fungicide with liquid soap added to the water for about five minutes. This

*Continued on page 4*



Sandi Jones  
Tom Wells

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will kill insects, protect and seal cuts from pruning roots and the plant, and prevent fungus and bacterial rot. This is always a good preventative when repotting.

**Fungus gnat control**

Here's a good idea for control of fungus gnats -- those annoying little bugs that live in your pots and buzz around the house. Sprinkle cinnamon powder (non-sugared) on top of the medium and it will kill the fungus that the gnats eat, thus eliminating them. This will work for any kind of potted plant.

**Homemade remedy for red spider mites**

Blend together equal parts of water and butter-milk and add a couple of drops of liquid soap. Spray affected plants thoroughly to the point of runoff to kill infestations.

**Epsom salts for Cattleyas**

Some Cattleya hybrids will develop reddish colored leaves under cool conditions in the fall and winter. Add a teaspoon of Epsom Salts to your fertilizing water to help prevent this. As always, do not spray the plant with this mixture, just provide it to the roots.

**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

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## 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:

**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 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.

## AOS Corner

*presented by Bill Thoms*

Orchid Trivia: "The earliest record we have of the introduction of a tropical orchid into cultivation is that by Peter Collinson in 1731 who sent a plant of *Bletia verecunda* to Mr. Wager in England, but no record exists of its survival to flowering. The first orchids which we know to have survived, albeit for only a short time, in cultivation are a *Vanilla* species possibly *Vanilla planifolia* and several *Epidendrum* species recorded by Phillip Miller in the second edition of his *Dictionary of Gardening* (1768)." "Ref.: *The Manual of Cultivated Orchid Species*, Third Edition; Helmut Bechtel, Phillip Cribb, Edmund Launert; 1992; p. 24)

### Recent Change at the AOS

Even though the AOS has endorsed a new logo, the original one continues to be useful. When we see the new logo, it reminds us that the AOS mission statement has three elements or aspects: education, conservation and research. The new logo's graceful, yet contemporary form translates: "AOS", while the three points of the form represent the three characteristics of the mission.

### Mission

The mission of the American Orchid Society is to promote and support the passion for orchids through education, conservation and research.

(Ref. AOS Orchids magazine, January 2008, p. 14)

New AOS logo:



American Orchid Society  
Education. Conservation. Research.

*Continued on next column*

Original AOS logo:



A Native American kneels and looks at a plant of *Encyclia tampensis* while holding a South American species *Phragmipedium caudatum* with his right hand. (reference AOS 2002-2004 Orchid Source Directory, p.19)

Above is the original and still official logo that will continue to be used for important documents, including the awards and recognitions issued by the AOS.

These are exciting times and more changes are on the horizon for our AOS. [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)



## An Orchid

author unknown

I never owned an Orchid, no mortal ever could,  
Because an orchid grew for God, within a tropic wood,  
And someone took its seedlings, the frailest things on earth,  
And sent them to an alien land to give its blossoms birth.  
A fragile fair exotic of rarest form and tone,  
It dreams against your shoulders, of skies to you unknown,  
I never owned an Orchid, but then, no more did you,  
God only lends us Orchids, as he lends us stars and dew.

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## SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

**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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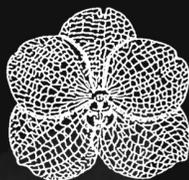
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# Speakers Day Registration Form

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