



# The Orchidist

June 2008 - Volume 5 - Number 6

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## President's Message

Our May speaker, Bill Thoms, gave a super presentation on bulbophyllums. He and his wife Doris have grown award winning specimens and have produced tantalizing crosses, which he shared with us in his slide show. Bill's culture tips were applicable to several other orchid genera as well. Now highly motivated to do better with bulbophyllums, I started repotting them last weekend in fresh sphagnum moss and put the pots in trays of water.

The extremely hot weather we experienced in late May was not good for plants nor people. Be careful to stay hydrated when you are working outside. Don't wait until you are really thirsty to drink water. Wear clothing that will protect you from the sun but also allow perspiration to escape. And don't forget your hat and sunscreen!

We have been putting a lot of orchids on trees in our yard this spring and most of them seem happy to be outside, plus it frees up bench and hanging space. The plants on palms and trees seldom have insect and disease problems.

As we melt into summer, just remember David Fairchild's motto: "Push on".

Sandy

## JUNE PROGRAM

### "Why Be Round? Renanthera, Arachnis and Paraphalaenopsis"

*presented by Sandy Ohlund*

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 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.

We will also be having a small presentation of awards and the annual installation of officers. Hope to see all of you there

Carol

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## JUDGING REMINDER

This month we will not be having our usual orchid judging. We will have the annual presentation of awards.



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## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If you have a change of address, phone number or email to please let Ellen at the SFOS office (305-255-3656) know by July 1, 2008. The new roster is going to press and we we like to have this information by then.

Coming to a meeting! Bring friends and family, get them to join and receive a free orchid seedling.

Don't forget The South Florida Orchid Society Culture book written for growing orchids in this part of the country. The member price is \$15.00

See you all at the next meeting, June 18.

## 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 Orquideas. 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

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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 Brook-

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lyn 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 Peoker, 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

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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

*Melba and Jim Butler, AOS Representatives*

Orchid Trivia: "Despite the enormous variety found among the approximately 25,000 species and more than 105,000 manmade hybrids, all of the members of the orchid family are related to each other by their flowers. The five main characteristics common to orchid flowers are: 1) zygomorphy; 2) the column; 3) the rostellum; 4) two or more pollinia, and 5) the labellum (lip). Ref: "Ultimate Orchid" by Thomas J. Sheehan; 2001; DK Publishing, Inc., p. 10.

What is New at the AOS?  
The AOS Web site is progressing.

If you haven't taken the "virtual tour" of the gardens, it is worth your time. Go to the AOS Web site at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) and click on "Garden Tour", then follow the instructions. Not only can you see orchids, but there are hundreds of plants listed and the search feature allows you to see photos of them growing in the AOS Gardens. This is a fantastic program that Alan L. Kaitz, MD, AOS Volunteer prepared with assistance from Nick Ewy, Director of Botanical Garden and Greenhouses and Pat Jennings, Head Gardener. They have done a fantastic job and it is a great addition to the Web site.

The Sitemap helps with navigating the different areas of the Web site. You should find it useful, too, especially when in a hurry to locate something. Give it a try.

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**Sandi Jones**  
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Visit the "Volunteer" area of the Web site and you will get just a glimpse at what is done by these neighbors of the AOS. Volunteers are very important to the whole organization and it is not uncommon for some to report for duties several times a month and some even several times a week. Volunteerism is appreciated and the dedication, loyalty and work efforts of AOS volunteers are unsurpassed.

Beginners to the orchid hobby will locate helpful information under "Orchid Basics". In fact, some experienced growers may benefit from some of the information. Here, again, the Sitemap is the key to locating "Orchid Basics".

It is obvious that progress is being made on the Web site and we all look forward to having it complete. For now, the material that is there is good. Be sure to check it out and let someone know you appreciate it!

Susan Taylor  
Orchids Editor

## Orchid Growing Tips #19

### Kill those slugs

Spray slugs with straight rubbing alcohol and it will kill them. The only problem is finding the slugs to spray! Another remedy is to put a cut apple out overnight where the slugs can find it. They generally can be found on the underside in the morning. Then apple and slug can be disposed of. Slugs can be a major problem in a collection, so if you see any signs of them don't ignore it. Treat them immediately.

### Monitor plants by checking them out on a regular basis

Talking to your plants has been a joke and a piece of conventional wisdom for years. But as much folklore, it has a great deal of common sense attached to it. When you pay attention to the plant, by talking to it, you are much more apt to notice any change or invasion of pests. Thus it is a good tip to monitor your plants on a regular basis. Check out a couple plants a day, or a certain area of your collection regularly. You will be able to see any problems much earlier this way and take care of problems before the plants are adversely affected.

### Attack your ant problems

Ants tend scale and aphids just like we tend sheep and cows. They will carry in eggs and deposit them on your plants so that when they hatch the ants will

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have honeydew to harvest. You need to be sure to use an integrated (and aggressive) approach to eliminating these pests. Bait outside the greenhouse or area where you have your plants should reduce the number that actually makes it to your orchids. Use of DE (Diatomaceous Earth) in pots will make life difficult for the ants. Spray any area where you see them with water with soap in it which will kill them. Use bait that kills the queen when you have a mound.

Use children's hairclips to as plant clips  
A reader sent this idea in and it's a really good one. The hair clips come in different sizes and shapes and colors. You can use just the right size for the specific plant and stake. And you can color code the clips to your flowers, too! They are easy to find in almost any store that carries hair products and come in an amazing variety of sizes and colors.

Garden hoses and bacteria  
In a recent presentation a speaker mentioned something that had not even entered my mind -- the garden hose used to water orchids outside or in a greenhouse. Especially during the summer months the water that is in the hose in the sun gets warm enough to provide a wonderful growing environment for bacteria which we then spray on our plants. It is a good idea to clean this water out before using it on plants that you are fond of. Let the water run for about 30 seconds or more in order to get clean water in the hose.

## TERRESTRIAL ORCHID FACTS

Terrestrial orchids are mainly herbaceous perennials that grow in soil at ground level and have either underground tubers or a tuft of fleshy roots at their base. The leaves are strap-shaped; they range in color from pale to dark green, and are sometimes spotted or mottled. Several terrestrial orchids are cultivated, but they are usually more difficult to grow than epiphytic types.

Witch factor - It is said that withes used the tubers of terrestrial orchids in their potions and drugs, many of which were planned to influence love. Fresh tubers were said to promote true love, while withered ones were thought to check wrong and ill-advised passions. Nicholas Culpeper, the English seventeenth-century physician and herbalist, wrote about orchids being under the dominion of Venus. In addition, bruised orchid tubers were used medicinally in the treatment of certain infections.

Fragrant Flowers - a few terrestrial orchids have

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scented flowers; in some, the scent is pleasant, but often it is offensive. *Herminium monorchis* (Mush Orchid) develops small greenish-yellow flowers, and these emit a soft, honey-like fragrance that attracts small bees and beetles. *Himantoglossum hircinum* (Lizard Orchid) flowers resemble a lizard and emit the rancid smell of stale perspiration akin to goats. *Leucorchis albida* or *Pseudorchis albida* (Small White Orchid) has an attractive fragrance, with strongly vanilla-like scent. *Orchis mascula* (Early Purple Orchid) has bright purple flowers that when newly opened give off a vanilla scent, but after fertilization this changes to a goat- or cat-like redolence. *Orchis ustulata* (Dark-winged Orchid) has flowers with a sweet, almond-like fragrance. *Spiranthes autumnalis* (Autumn Lady's Tresses) emits an almond-like scent.

## What Does A Spider And A Brassia Orchid Plant Have In Common?

What does a spider and an orchid plant have in common? Yes, Halloween is a special day. Brassia orchid plant is a name given to these spider orchids.

These beautiful orchids are from the Genus, Brassia, the spider orchid. The long and slender petals and sepals are like spider legs.

They are named in honor of William Brass, a 19th-century British botanical illustrator, this orchid grows in the wet forests of tropical Central and South America, but it is also comfortable in cultivation.

Many species in the genus Brassia orchid plants are pollinated by parasitic wasps, which normally lay their eggs on spiders. The patterns and structure of Brassia orchids resemble a spider in its web enough to encourage these wasps to lay their eggs in the plants' blossoms and in doing so pollinate them.

The flower spike will provide you with a number of these flowers which do resemble spiders along the spike. Brassias are crossed with *Miltonia* and *Ondontoglossums* to produce some very pretty orchid plants. Some have flowers that reach about 10 inches in diameter.

And did I mention they are extremely fragrant as well.

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They are not hard to grow but do require some specific parameters for their growth. First, spider orchid plants do require either high intensity bright light. This can be diffuse light. They should not have the direct noon-time sunlight.

During the day and into their growth and blooming period they like temps between 65 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit. At night the temps for the Brassia orchid plant should be between 55 and 65.

Just after their blooming period the Brassia orchid plant need a rest for several weeks. This means that the temperature should be kept on the lower end of the range, 55 - 60 degrees.

As far as watering, they need to be kept moist but not wet during their growing season. The growing period is during the development of the pseudopods which are flat and when the inflorescence (flower spike). After this period you should water only once a week.

Spider orchid plants do need both humidity and air circulation. The humidity is between 50-70%. This is a little higher than most orchids. For air circulation you can use a small fan, but don't point the fan on the plant.

Now when you remember or see a spider you can imagine the beautiful Brassia orchid plant.

## Prune Your Orchids Can Stimulate More Growth

The flowers have all died so when should you prune your orchids or cut the flower stalk back and how far? This is part of the basic care of orchids.

Once the stalk turns yellow or brown and it is obvious that no blossoms will be produced. You can then prune your orchids to within an inch from where the blossom stalk originated on the plant. You can also cut it (preferably with a new one sided razor blade or a sterile cutting blade) there when it is green if you don't mind losing potential blossoms. Another option is to just remove the end of the blossom stalk to shorten the stalk, but retain enough so that it may bloom again. If you do this, cut it back to about 1/4 inch above a node (indicated by a small leaf-like bump clasping the stalk).

In general, this might produce another flower stalk a little sooner than if you cut the stem off completely.

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This method is more appropriate for Phalaenopsis orchid however it can be harder on the plant itself, forcing it to flower a little sooner. This method is NOT appropriate for the Dendrobiums that flower from the leafless canes. Some of the plants in this group will flower repeatedly from what appears to be a spent cane. If you cut this cane off the plant you will not see it rebloom.

Pruning the spent flower spike should cause no harm to the plant. However, some orchids like Phalaenopsis will produce a new spike from the nodes on the old blossom stalk. Sometimes some plants will produce small baby plants (keikis) from these nodes. Keiki is the Hawaiian word for "baby". The new little plants are genetically identical to the parent plant (a clone). These new little plants may eventually be removed and potted on their own after they develop roots that are one to two inches long. Of course, some orchids do neither of these things. In either case, it doesn't hurt the plant if you remove the old flower stem.

## Vanilla Sugar Cookies

by Mr. Food's Favorite Cookies

### Ingredients:

1/4 cup (1-1/2 sticks) butter, softened

1 cup sugar

1 egg

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1/8 teaspoon salt

2 cups all-purpose flour

### Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C). In a large bowl, beat together the butter and sugar with an electric beater. Add the egg, vanilla, and salt; beat until smooth. Stir in the flour and knead lightly until a soft dough forms. Divide the dough in half, then wrap each half in waxed paper to form a cylinder about 1-1/2 inches in diameter. Refrigerate the dough until firm, about 2 hours. Cut the dough into 1/4-inch slices and arrange on greased cookie sheets. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes.

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## SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

**Fire Fighters Memorial Building**  
**8000 N.W. 21st Street**  
**Miami, Florida 33122**

- 7:30 pm - No Judging of Plants
- 7:45 pm - Announcements
- 8:00 pm - Program
- 9:00 pm - Refreshments
- 9:30 pm - Raffle



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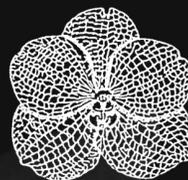
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# Speakers Day Registration Form

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