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# **MARCH PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

A huge thanks goes to all our members -- and friends from other orchid societies -- who contributed to our 63<sup>rd</sup> Miami International Orchid Show. Congratulations to all SFOS member who received ribbons and trophies. (Next year, Judy Mezey promises to put in her own display!) R.F. Orchids created a stunning display, Siddhartha's Garden, which snagged the AOS show trophy and the artistic merit trophy. Segundo and Yolanda Quest of Quest Orchids received the Reserve Champion Best in Show for their beautiful specimen Ctn. Why Not x Blc. Gold Digger. Grand champion went to Tom Coffee of Naples for Phrag. Noirmount 'Danny' AM/AOS.

Our hospitality booth signed on 92 new members and raffled off the 42-inch plasma TV, won by Sergio and Silbana Cortella from Hollywood. A big thanks to Christa Collins and Marlene Clark, hospitality chairs; Eduardo Marcellini, security; Barbara and Danny Lutz, trophies and individual entries; Carlos San Martin, Joan Viggiani, Mike O'Dea, Ann Thayer, Brian Hammer, box office supervisors; Dorothy Bennett, plant registration and vendor coordinator; Tony Viggiani and Sally Taylor, exhibit staging; Mike O'Dea, walking tours and lectures; Ellen Hanson, our secretary, for going beyond the call of duty.

Thanks also to our vendors and orchid societies for the displays depicting our theme, Secret Orchid Gardens. Hats off to Terry Mulrooney, who managed the art show, and Brian Monk, who handled the photo exhibit. Paul Wetter, show chair, Robert Fuchs, chair of judging, and Alex Maximiano, assistant show chair, all get a big round of applause.

For all who sponsored trophies, another big thanks. Welcome to all our new members. We look forward to introducing you at the next meeting.

For members who entered our Mystery Phal contest, second (\$50) and third (\$25) places remain to be rewarded, so keep on growing! Christa Collins won the \$100 prize for the first Phalaenopsis in bloom, plus the \$25 for having successfully grown her plant to produce the first spike.

Our April 15 meeting is our annual auction. Carol De Biase has gathered lots of beautiful plants. Bring your friends (and checkbooks) to take home some great buys.

# **MARCH PROGRAM**

# **Intermediate to Warm Growing Pleurothallids**

Bryon K. Rinke

Bryon K. Rinke, lives in Winfield, KS. He has a medical background in Radiologic Technology, specializing in CT (Computed Tomography) and MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging). He has been growing orchids since 1980. Bryon started growing everything orchid wise under fluorescent lights and in a window, soon realizing that Vanda's don't work well under lights. This is when he came to the conclusion that miniature species did well under lights, and you could purchase so many more to fit the same area. He was bitten by the Pleurothallis bug when he went to the World Orchid Conference in Brazil. The rest is history, so they say. He now grows in a greenhouse with Max Thompson at Southwestern College in Winfield. Poinsettia's, bedding plants, and orchids are their main crops to pay the bills at the greenhouse.

Bryon will be speaking on "Intermediate to Warm Growing Pleurothallids". His talk will show photos of the greenhouses in Winfield, how they grow the pleurothallids, and a lot of photos from the Pleurothallid Alliance.

The raffle plants for this month will be provided by OFE Orchid Supplies. Thank you to Kathy Whalin of St. Germain Nursery for the wonderful plant we had last month.

Carol

# **MEETING NOTICE**

# **SFOS Meeting Schedule**

Wednesday, March 18, 2009 Fire Fighters Memorial Building 8000 N.W. 21st Street Miami, FL 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

Sandy

## **AUCTION TIME**

April at South Florida 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.

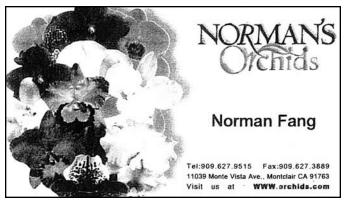
Once again professional auctioneer, Bryan Kinsley, of Sunset Auction Co, will conduct our auction. It promises to be an entertaining evening of fun.

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





# **JUDGING REMINDER**

This month we will be holding our usual monthly judging. Please remember to bring your wonderful plants for our panel of judges to award.

## ORCHID BASICS: THE HOW AND WHY OF WATER

By Ron McHatton AOS Director of Education January 2009 Copyright 2008 American Orchid Society



More orchids are killed by incorrect watering than by any other reason. There are two separate components to proper watering; when and how. The vast majority of orchids grown by hobby growers are epiphytes, growing on trees above the ground where the light is more

plentiful. These plants are adapted to having their roots exposed to light and air so in addition to water, orchid roots need air. The central core of an epiphytic orchid root is covered with a spongy material called velamen designed to store water. When this spongy material remains wet too long, the central core suffocates and begins to rot. Once the roots begin to rot, the plant can no longer take up water properly and a whole host of problems begin. At worst, root rot will spread upward into the rhizome and cause the death of the plant. In other cases, the loss of roots prevents the plant from absorbing sufficient water to maintain the plant in good condition and the leaves will take on a wrinkled appearance. Unfortunately, the symptoms of over-watering and under-watering are superficially similar and the tendency is to increase watering rather than inspect the roots. Overwatered roots will be brown and mushy while those on under-watered plants will be white or gray and obviously dry. Let's look first at when to water.

#### When do I water?

Orchids should be watered just as they dry out. This rule applies to all orchidswithslightvariations depending on whether your plant has pseudobulbs (thickened stems that are designed to store water) or not. Orchids such as cattleyas and oncidiums



should be allowed to just dry completely between waterings while orchids such as phalaenopsis and vandas that have no water storage organs should be watered just before dryness occurs. For vandas, this may mean daily watering during the warm summer months. Vandas and ascocendas that are properly watered will have actively growing root tips at all times. If the root tips on your plants dry up and seal over, you are not watering often enough.

There's unfortunately no magic formula; i.e., water a plant in a 6" pot every 7 days and you'll be trouble free. This is because your growing area is different from anyone else's. Humidity, air movement, potting medium (type and age) and light levels all play a role. There are several ways to determine when a potted orchid is almost dry: 1) the surface of the potting mix will appear dry; 2) dry pots will feel lighter when lifted; 3) clay pots feel dry; 4) a wooden stake or skewer inserted into the potting mix will come out almost dry. If in doubt, a finger inserted into the potting mix is perhaps the best tool to determine the moisture content of the potting mix. It will cause no harm to the plant. And remember, fresh potting mix will always dry out faster than the old medium

#### How do I water?

How to water is just as important to proper culture as when to water. When orchids are watered, they should be watered copiously. Water should be provided until it runs freely from the drainage holes. This serves several functions. First, thorough, copious watering is necessary to soak the potting medium. In addition, thorough watering helps to flush away the salts that naturally accumulate in the potting medium from the dissolved salts in our water supplies and the fertilizers applied for good growth. Also, this is your opportunity to examine how the potting mix behaves. If you cannot pour water rapidly through the pot, the potting mix is too dense and you run the risk of starving the roots for air. If you see finely divided material that looks like coffee grounds in the water coming from the drainage holes, your potting mix is breaking down and it's time to repot into fresh medium. At a minimum, try to thoroughly water your plants at least once a month.

Finally a couple of notes about mounted plants and those like vandas that are grown in baskets without additional potting medium. First, avoid dunking these plants in buckets of water. This practice very easily spreads diseases. If one plant has a disease, all those dunked in the same bucket

of water will have been exposed as well. Also, two short waterings a few minutes apart are much more effective than one long watering. Once water runs off the plant, the roots will have absorbed essentially all they can at that time and excess water simply runs off to the ground. The proper technique is to water your plants and then a few minutes later water them again, always beginning with the first plant you watered. This allows time for the roots of the last plant watered to finish absorbing water before you wet them again. Roots that are completely saturated will be a solid color while those that are not will appear mottled.



Sergio and Silbana Cortella 42" Television Winners

## **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

If you move and have a change of address, phone number or email, please let Ellen know at the SFOS office (305-255-3656).

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, March 18th.

## **MEANINGS OF ORCHIDS**

Orchids are a long-lasting and particularly elegant type of flower, making them the perfect gift for many occasions. Their graceful appearance draws immediate attention, and their reputation as an exotic and unusual flower evokes a sense of refinement and innocence. With many orchid varieties to choose from and the meanings of orchids being so special, you are sure to find one that can express the right message, whether it be Thank You, Happy Anniversary, Congrats on Your Promotion, or anything in between.

With an estimated 25,000 different types existing naturally and more being discovered each year, orchids are of the largest flowering plant families. Although they are commonly thought of as tropical flowers, orchids grow naturally in almost all climates. Despite their versatility, there is something distinctly exotic about orchids. They are intricately beautiful to the everyday flower lover and are considered to be some of the world's most evolved flowers to flower specialists. Of the many orchid varieties, the Phalaenopsis (or Moth), Cymbidium, and Dendrobium orchids are the most popular types, and the Vanilla Orchid (and its vanilla bean) is the most highly produced variety.

Orchids can impart a wide variety of messages, but historically the meanings of orchids have included wealth, love, and beauty. To the ancient Greeks, orchids suggested virility, and after the rise in popularity of orchid collections in Victorian England, the meaning of orchids moved towards being symbolic of luxury. Orchids have also been believed to carry various healing and protective properties, allowing them to ward off disease. The Aztecs were said to drink a mixture of the vanilla orchid and chocolate to give them power and strength, and the Chinese believe orchids can help cure lung illnesses and coughs.

Today, the meanings of orchids are generally regarded as a symbolic of rare and delicate beauty. Orchids are the most popular houseplant, a top honor they share with the peace lily. Their charm and mystique delight those who receive them, for few other flowers have the ability to impress their recipient in the same way that the orchid can. Among the many different types of flowers available, the orchid holds a special place as one of the most alluring and captivating, making them a special choice for the treasured people in your life.

## GOODYERA DAIBUZANENSIS MINIATURE ORCHIDS SERIES

by Bella On Line

Goodyera daibuzanensis is one of the popularly called Jewel Orchids known for their lovely foliage rather than for their flowers which are generally not very interesting, picture of flower>. Terrarium enthusiasts use this and many other Jewel Orchid plants to add leaf color and variety to their generally plain green environments much as gardeners use outdoor plants for the same purpose.

Jewel orchids are distributed widely throughout Southeast Asia, North and South America, and Australia. They are generally terrestrial in nature, growing in leaf mold in forested areas. They are spreading plants so can be placed directly in medium in a terrarium and they will quickly spread to provide a great show. Many jewel orchids will grow when just one piece is broken off and placed in appropriate medium and these babies can be given to friends for them to enjoy.

The various sp species are found around the world, some even in the northern US where they are known to as "Rattlesnake Plantain." Most species are native to India, Sri Lanka, Japan, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

Goodyera daibuzanensis is found only on Taiwan, where it is quite common in mountainous forests between 800 and 2,000 meters where it will receive a good deal of rain. It is one of the smallest of the Jewel Orchids, with leaves only 2 inches, or 5 centimeters, long. The leaves grow in a really pretty rosette fashion which shows the silver and green striping and mottling to advantage. The flower inflorescences will grow to 10 inches, or 25 centimeters, high with small white flowers which are presented with a spiral around the stem.

Grow this little orchid in a terrarium with high humidity among other similar plants. Provide good



air circulation to combat the formation of mold or bacterial problems. They require low light conditions which make them very easy to maintain in a home environment. Too much light will bleach their leaves to dull colors and you will lose the lovely contrast and velvety texture for which these plants are so prized. Many terrarium growers will simply cut off any inflorescences since they are often too big for a small container and are not at all showy.

To learn more about growing in a terrarium, Growing Orchids in a Terrarium or Wardian Case. This is a form of growing that is becoming more and more popular today. An excellent source for Jewel Orchids is Hoosier Orchids

# IONOPSIS MINIATURE ORCHID SERIES

by Bella On Line

These cute little miniatures are found from Florida through Bolivia and most of the Caribbean Islands. There are currently about ten species listed and most of them are twig epiphytes or tree growing orchids which need higher light and very quick drying conditions. It is listed as endangered by the USDA so if you ever see one in the wild you are very lucky.

They are similar in growth habit to Tolumnia and need much the same conditions. In general they are warm to hot growing and need year round water and fertilizer to encourage blooming in late spring and during the summer months. As you could see from the pictures, this little plant will put on a spectacular show from a mature plant when well grown. Most people grow it mounted on tree fern or cork so that he flowers can be well displayed as the branched inflorescences fall with the weight of the flowers. As with others that grow in this manner, watch out for spider mites and scale insects as they can hide in the crevasse and can kill the plants quickly.



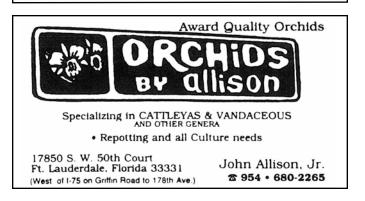
The three main species grown are Ionopsis utricularioides, Ionopsis satyrioide and Ionopsis paniculata. There is some disagreement as to whether the last is a synonym (or the same species) as utricularioides but the flowering habit is different enough that we'll address them separately here.

The most spectacular, without doubt, is Ionopsis utricularioides. It can be found from Mexico through Central America and occasionally on the Caribbean Islands and in South Florida. The flowers range from white to dark purple depending upon the cultivar. The branched inflorescence can reach three feet (or approximately 90 centimeters) with a hundred flowers. They are generally grown on small mounts and needs somewhat more shade than the Tolumnias. They need very good air circulation and high humidity year round. Intermediate temperature conditions of 80-85 degrees Fahrenheit, or 26-29 Centigrade, are recommended with a cooling at night of approximately 15 degrees Fahrenheit, or 9.5 Centigrade. The flowers are considered to be long blooming and will provide you with a great show. This is a plant that can be grown in Wardian cases since it remains in the 6 inch or 15 centimeter size

Ionopsis satyrioide has a smaller and less spectacular flowering habit, but you can easily see where the name "Violet Orchid" came from when you see it flowering. The flower is generally white with pink or purple striping. Culture is similar to utricularioides.



Hollywood, FL 33020



www.browardorchidsupply.com

## **HOW TO MAKE AN ORCHID TREE**

An orchid tree is a variation on mounting orchids, except you're putting many orchids on a branch or branches to give it a completely natural look. The concept can be used in those areas of the country where orchids can be grown outdoors most of the year, but must be protected from a few frosts during the winter months; or if you are lucky enough to have a large enough greenhouse, brought inside during the colder winter months. It would also work wonderfully under lights in an alcove or under stairs area that proves to be a difficult place to decorate.

To start out, you must select the base for your tree, or build a wire mesh and cover it with cork. Remember that if you're going to be moving the structure it cannot be too heavy. And you will need to make sure that it will not topple over when planted. Generally a tripod arrangement will ensure enough stability.

Attach the larger plants to the bottom for aesthetic reasons and the smallest on the upper portions. Think of the size of the branches on a tree, the largest are at the bottom and the smallest at the top. This will also provide extra weight at the bottom to balance the weight of the structure.

When choosing plants, be sure to try to pick out plants that will require similar light, temperature and humidity conditions. Depending on how you place your orchid tree, some will obviously get more light than others. Be aware of this when you start arranging the plants you wish to mount. Another factor to consider is flowering times. Do you want all your plants flowering at the same time, or several flowering at the same time throughout the year? And of course, the most fun of all, how are you going to arrange the different colors on the tree?

If possible soak the structure overnight before adding plants, otherwise wet it thoroughly with a hose. Take your plants from their pots, clip off any dead or brown roots and clean up the plants by removing dead sheaths, and back bulbs. Position the plants around the tree and if you want tie them on with a string until you're satisfied with the arrangement. Then mount as you would any orchid on a mount with sphagnum moss attached with fishing wire against the structure. Then tie on your plant being careful not to cut into the pseudobulbs or roots. I prefer putting a bit of sphagnum on top of the roots too to provide extra moisture to the plants during hot periods. Continue mounting until all your plants are situated as you want them.

Mist thoroughly and place in a humid shaded area for two weeks to a month in order to allow the

plants to accustom themselves to their new home. Mist every other day and water as you would any other mounted plant. Gradually move into a sunnier area over the course of about a week as you would for any other orchid.

#### A SPRING FEAST

By: Pam Anderson
For large gatherings like Passover and Easter,
leg of lamb is the roast of choice.

Arranged on a platter and garnished with fresh herbs, this spring classic makes a stunning centerpiece.

Despite its beauty, I have a few bones to pick with bone-in leg of lamb: It may look easy enough to carve, but hidden bones at odd angles are waiting to parry the knife of an unskilled carver. It's also difficult to season. You can massage it with a handful of herbs or a bold spice rub, but those flavorings are only surface deep. And as with most bone-in roasts, it's tricky to cook: Roasted to perfection on the surface often means underdone at the bone.

There is a solution, however. Buy a boned and butterflied leg of lamb, which is as easy to slice as a steak. And with its wide (and two-sided) surface area, seasoning is a breeze. Because a butterflied leg of lamb is more or less an even thickness, it's easier to cook. Sear it on both sides under the broiler, then slow-roast it during the social hour. Prepared this way, the lamb is crusty, flavorful and evenly cooked.

Make sure the butcher removes the "fell," a thin, rubbery membrane that covers the layer of fat on the lamb and acts like a girdle during cooking. If it's not removed, the butterflied leg tightens and bows during roasting. It's better also to remove most, but not all, of the surface fat. Lamb needs thin patches of fat for lubrication and flavor.

Pair your lamb roast with a delicious potato gratin and broiled asparagus. And end the meal with a simple meringue cake. The meringue layers literally bake as you sleep the night before. A few hours before serving, just smear on whipped cream (or non-dairy topping for Passover) and sprinkle with raspberries.



## **RECIPIES**

#### IRRESISTIBLE IRISH SODA BREAD

#### **INGREDIENTS**

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/3 cup white sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 1/4 cup butter, melted

#### **DIRECTIONS**

- 1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). Grease a 9x5 inch loaf pan.
- 2. Combine flour, baking powder, sugar, salt and baking soda. Blend egg and buttermilk together, and add all at once to the flour mixture. Mix just until moistened. Stir in butter. Pour into prepared pan.
- 3. Bake for 65 to 70 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the bread comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack. Wrap in foil for several hours, or overnight, for best flavor.

#### CHOCOLATE COVERED EASTER EGGS

#### **INGREDIENTS**

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 2 1/2 pounds confectioners' sugar
- 1 cup creamy peanut butter (optional)
- 1 cup flaked coconut (optional)
- 1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder (optional)
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate pieces
- 2 tablespoons shortening or vegetable oil (optional) DIRECTIONS
- 1. In a large bowl, mix together the butter, vanilla, and cream cheese. Stir in confectioners' sugar to make a workable dough. For best results, use your hands for mixing.
- 2. Divide the dough into four parts. Leave one of the parts plain. To the second part, mix in peanut butter. Mix coconut into the third part, and cocoa powder into the last part. Roll each type of dough into egg shapes, and place on a waxed paper lined cookie sheet. Refrigerate until hard, at least an hour.
- 3. Melt chocolate chips in a heat-proof bowl over a pan of simmering water. Stir occasionally until smooth. If the chocolate seems too thick for coating, stir in some of the shortening or oil until it thins. Dip the chilled candy eggs in chocolate, and return to the waxed paper lined sheet to set. Refrigerate for 1/2 hour to harden.



# **Upcoming Events at American Orchid Society**

March 2–29, 2009 – Free lectures and reception: Art Exhibit: "Four Fine Arts in the Garden" A unique opportunity to view art techniques revolving around the beauty of orchids. Silver and gold jewelry, Japanese woodblock prints, original silk paintings and Faience pottery will be displayed. March 7 at 1:00 pm, Carol Brown will demonstrate the art of Japanese woodblock printing. Free to the public.









Sumner Silver

Carol Brown

Ephraim Faience

SilkSynergy

On Thursday, March 5 at 3:30, meet Dr. Sumner Silver while he demonstrates his fine jewelry craftsmanship in amber, fossil ivory and silver. Following his talk, will be a free reception on Thursday, March 5 from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Admission to the art exhibit is free to the public. Visit: Elegant Orchid- www.orchid-jewelry.com; Carol Brown's wood blocking- www.carolbrownstudio.com; Silk Synergy - www.Silksynergy.com; Ephraim Faience Pottery – www.ephraimpottery.com.

Education Class: March's free education class is The Art of Mounting Orchids on Saturday, March 7 from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm. The instructor is Mac Riverbark, owner of Mac's Orchids. Here is a great opportunity to learn how to successfully mount your orchids on bark, cork, tree fern and other materials. To reserve a sit, contact S. Wayman, 561-404-2031. For the full schedule of classes, visit our web site, www.aos.org

March 19, April 1 and April 16 - Wine and Music in the Garden

Come enjoy the orchids in bloom, great live music, a wine tasting and appetizers on the third Thursday of each month. Stroll through the gardens and greenhouse and enjoy the varied orchids in bloom as the sun sets. Enjoy wine tasting from Southern Wine and Spirits, sample appetizers provided by top caterers such as Culinaire of Florida, Macy's Caterers and Hugo's as different music spices up the gardens with live music. Time: 5:30–7:30 pm. Cost: AOS members, \$20; Non Members, \$25. Call Susan Wayman at 561-404-2031 or swayman@aos.org for tickets. 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33446-4351, 561.404.2000 www.aos.org

Dated Material - Do Not Delay

South Florida Orchid Society 10801 S.W. 124 Street Miami, Florida 33176