



# The Orchidist

May 2009 - Volume 5 - Number 16

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## MAY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you missed our April auction, you missed a great time. We had loads of orchid plants at good prices! This event helps fund our annual Holiday Party, and we thank all the commercial growers as well as many of our members who donated plants. It takes a lot of work to run this auction and A HUGE THANKS to our program chair, Carol De Biase, who was responsible for getting many of the donated orchids and has cared for them since our show. Thanks also to Maria Woods for helping transport the plants (and we had a LOT of plants!) Joan Viggiani, Marlene Clark, and I spent a fun Saturday afternoon helping Carol number and list all the plants. Dorothy Bennett and Carol did a great job tracking who bought what plants and collecting the money. Of course, our always-entertaining professional auctioneer, Brian Kingsley, does an amazing job helping us make a profit. Marlene's daughter, Debbie Karge, helped prepare the refreshments, and much of the fabulous food was donated by Joan and Tony Viggiani and Sally Taylor- thank you, Debbie, Joan, Tony and Sally!!! Thank you also to our runners Javier Morejon and Ralph Hernandez!!!

We still have some room for the May 30 bus trip to Selby Botanical Gardens and orchid nurseries on the west coast! A good time will be had, so sign up at the May meeting or call Ellen Hanson to reserve your seat.

Enjoy this beautiful spring weather! My motto is "Repot now before it gets too hot!"

Sandy

## MAY PROGRAM

### Repotting and Care of Cattleyas

Axel Cahiz has been growing orchids for more than 25 years. Amazonia Orchids, Inc. opened its doors in 1996. Amazonia Orchids, Inc. has and operates its own lab where they raise seedlings and do cloning. Axel started in Venezuela with his father and after graduating college opened Amazonia Orchids, Inc. His field of study was in Bio-Tech engineering at Clemson University with a minor in horticulture. He also does research in the genetics of the Cattleyas. Amazonia Orchids, Inc. was Awarded the Reserve Grand Champion in the 19th WOC in Miami, Florida. Amazonia Orchids, Inc. also received 1 gold medal and 1 silver medal. Axel will be providing the raffle table and will have plants for sale as well.

## MEETING NOTICE

### SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, May 20, 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

## GLOSSARY OF ORCHID AWARDS

When you are looking at the tag that comes on your orchid you will note that many of them will have capitalized letters at the end of the name. It might look like AM/AOS, or FCC/AOS. It's important to understand what these initials mean and what they should be telling you about the plant you are looking at, especially if you are thinking of buying it. The letters after the / signify the authority that gave an award. So in the examples above, the **AOS** stands for the American Orchid Society. The most common awards you will see on mericlone plants for sale are AM, FCC and HCC.

**HCC - Highly Commended Certificate** - A flower from this plant has scored 75-79 points on a scale of 100. This means that the flower is good, but there is room for improvement.

**AM - Award of Merit** - This means that a flower from this plant has scored from 80-89 points on a scale of 100.

**FCC - First Class Certificate** - A flower awarded a FCC has scored over 90 points on a scale of 100 points. It indicates an extremely high quality.

**CCM - Certificate of Cultural Merit** - This is a prize for the grower rather than the flower. It recognizes excellence in horticulture.

**CCE - Certificate of Cultural Excellence** - This is a certificate which is given only to those plants whose grower has shown an outstanding degree of horticultural care. It is given to a plant that receives more than 90 points on a 100 point scale for Cultural Merit.

**JC - Judges' Commendation** - This is an award that can be given at the Judge's discretion for an exceptional plant which does not fit into any other award category. It requires a unanimous decision by all judges at the exhibit to be awarded.

## NATIVE ORCHID CONSERVATION



Native Orchid Conservation, Inc is a non-profit organization, founded in April of 1998, whose purpose is to protect unique mini-ecosystems and their plant communities. This primarily involves native orchids but can also extend to other rare and/or endangered plants. For more information on NOCI objectives:

<http://www.nativeorchid.org/aboutnoci.htm>

## 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, May, 20th.



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**BRING YOUR ORCHIDS  
IN FOR JUDGING!**

**You could be a winner!!!** Bring your beautiful Orchids to our monthly meeting for judging. At our meeting we award ribbons and metals. Our Judges at South Florida Orchid Society take great pride in showcasing the wonderful variety of blooming orchids that nature so graciously provides. Come and join the fun. You don't have to be one of our members to enter a plant or two (the more the merrier) for judging, come visit and checkout all that we have to offer. All plants presented for Judging must be checked in by 7:30 pm and a simple form needs to be filled out. Below you will find a sample with the required fields highlighted. The most important thing is to Print Your Name on the back of the form so that you may receive credit and have your plant listed in our Newsletter. You can now save some time and fill out your Judging forms at home, just Click (Judging Form) to print forms from your computer. We look forward to visiting with you at our meetings.



**DEBWENDON INC**



Debwendon Inc is a non-profit organization formed in 2007 to promote and preserve the Brokenhead Wetland Ecological Reserve, raise public awareness of the historic cultural connection between the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation and the Brokenhead Wetland, construct and maintain over the long term a boardwalk and interpretive trail adjacent to the Brokenhead Wetland Ecological Reserve, and raise funds toward those ends.

<http://www.debwendon.org>

**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.

*South Florida Orchid Society, Inc.*

General Office: 10801 S.W. 124th Street, Miami, FL 33176

Telephone (305) 255-3656

**JUDGING ENTRY FORM**

Entry #: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Plant: \_\_\_\_\_

Clonal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parentage: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Awards received by this plant: \_\_\_\_\_

Has plant been submitted previously for judging of the same inflorescence?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

All entries are subject to Rules and Regulations of SFOS Judging

## SFOS SPEAKERS' DAY 2009

SFOS will host its annual Speakers' Day on Sunday, October 4, 2009 at Signature Gardens, Miami. We have a wonderful panel of highly respected speakers presenting an enjoyable and educational program. Speakers' Day also includes AOS judging. Plants for judging must be registered by 10:00 A.M. and can be picked up starting 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. Sales will be open only to registered seminar participants. This year's speakers are: Bob Burkey, Tom Miranda, Norito Hasegawa, Jason Fischer, Marguerite Webb.

## ROSTER

We are in the process of preparing the SFOS 2009-2010 Membership Roster. If you have any changes in your contact information please let the SFOS office know by June 15th, 2009. You can send it by email (sforchid@bellsouth.net) or leave a message on the office phone (305-255-3656).

### Key (Orchid: True or False):

1. False (Ornithocephalus bicornis)
2. True
3. False (Nun's Orchid)
4. False (Moth Orchids)
5. True
6. False (Foxtail Orchid)
7. False (Coral Orchid)
8. False (Stanhopea wardii)
9. True
10. False Umbrella Star Orchid
11. True
12. True
13. False (Eulophia alta)
14. False (Polystachya concreta).

Award Quality Orchids



# ORCHIDS

## BY allison

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## An Introduction to Orchids

A Guide to Orchid Growing in the Subtropics

Third, revised edition, 2005,  
ISBN 0-9679831-1-8

New for 2005, this completely revised edition brings 15 of South Florida's foremost orchid experts together to share their expertise on orchid care. Lavishly illustrated with hundreds of color photographs by award-winning photographers, this new edition includes useful appendices as well as informative chapters on the care of our most popular genera. 128 pages, edited by Julie Rosenberg; contributing editors Chuck McCartney and Michael Tibbs.



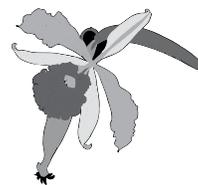
The contents include:

Foreword by Mary Noble McQuerry  
 General Orchid Culture, Ruben P. Sauleda, Ph.D., Ruben In Orchids  
 Growing Cattleyas, Bill Peters, Whimsy Orchids  
 Growing Phalaenopsis, Robert Randall, Carib Plants  
 Growing Vandas, Robert Fuchs, R.F. Orchids  
 Growing Dendrobiums, Lynn Bretsnyder, Impact Orchids & Exotics  
 Growing Oncidiums, Milton Carpenter, Everglades Orchids  
 Growing Tolumnias, Bill Peters, Whimsy Orchids  
 Growing Catasetums, Francisco Miranda, Miranda Orchids  
 Growing Slipper Orchids, Gene Monnier, JEM Orchids  
 Cymbidiums for Florida, Andy Easton, K-B Orchids  
 Orchids in the Landscape, Robert Fuchs, R.F. Orchids  
 Growing Terrestrial Orchids, Kerry Richards, A World of Orchids  
 Native Florida Orchids, Ruben P. Sauleda, Ph.D.  
 Orchid Pests, Catharine Mannion, Ph.D., University of Florida TREC  
 Orchid Diseases, Robert T. McMillan, Ph.D., University of Florida TREC  
 Potting and Mounting, Greg Allikas, The Potting Workshop  
 Caring for Seedlings, Ken Cameron, Redland Orchids  
 Judging and Exhibition, Dorothy Bennett, Judging Chair, 19th World Orchid Conference

## ORCHID TIDBITS

Orchids can handle temperatures from, freezing to 100 degrees.

There are approximately 34,000 species of orchids making this the largest family of all blooming plants.



Orchids inhabit almost every habitat on earth except oceans and ice caps. The flowers come in every color but black and the odors they produce to attract pollinators, ranges from wonderful to rotten liver.



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**NEW MEMBERS MADE WELCOME**

Remember you were a new member not to long ago. As our new members arrive and come to our meetings, please make them welcome with a friendly face and kind words.

**NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS**

The nominating committee under the direction of Sally Taylor as Chairman, Carol De Biase and Michael O’Dea as participating members propose the following slate of new Officers and Directors whose term will expire in 2012.

President	Judy Mezey
1st Vice President	Sally Taylor
2nd Vice President	Carol De Biase
Secretary	Maria Wood
Treasurer	Dorothy Bennett

Director’s Term Expiring 2012  
 Marlene Clark  
 Ralph Hernandez  
 Javier Morejon

Respectfully submitted,  
 Sally Taylor



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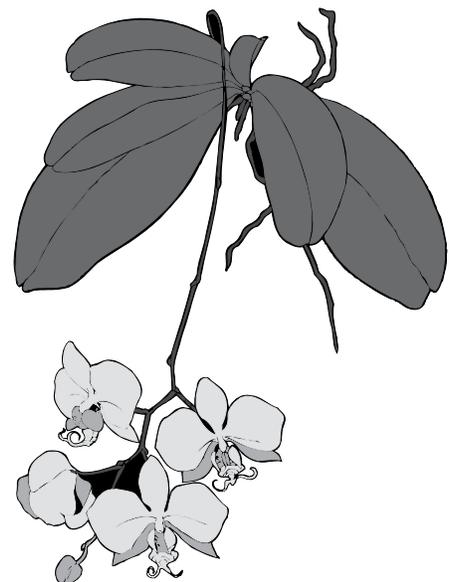
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**HOW LONG MUST YOU WAIT FOR THAT PLANT TO BLOOM?**

*Reprinted from The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society*

Joyce Skelly found this good information in a 1982 Jones & Scully catalog. Pot size in standard size plants can help you guess when the plants may bloom. This is part of that chart:

Pot Size .....	Years ‘till Flowering
2” .....	3-3 ½
2 ½” .....	2-2 ½
3” .....	1 ½ - 2
4” .....	1 – 1 ½
4 ½” .....	6 months – 1 year
5” .....	6 months – 1 year
6” .....	flowering size




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## SUMMER IS ALMOST UPON US

*By Andy Easton, VP Life Sciences, KB,  
Homestead, FL*

These are a few things, in no particular order, that you might wish to consider that could help your plants through what is often a very difficult growing season in South Florida.

It's hot and the plants are growing like crazy so we need to fertilize more, right? Wrong! The two periods of most rapid growth in our area are Spring and Fall. When the days and nights get uncomfortably hot for us, they are too hot for many of our orchids too. The respiration rate will exceed the photosynthate storage rate for much of the 24 hour period and consequently, just like when we go on a diet and exercise more to lose weight, our plants will actually struggle to hold their own or may even go backwards. In the months of July, August and September, it is prudent to actually feed at a lower concentration and also to make sure you are feeding a formulation that is at least even concentrations of Nitrogen and Potassium and preferably with a Potassium level around 25% higher than Nitrogen. Don't skip feeds however as the higher temperatures mean that fertilizer is quickly metabolized by media microflora. Now if you just grow Vandaceous types these comments are less applicable but anything in the Cattleya Alliance will benefit from the above regime.

Be sure too that you water and fertilize in the early or late hours, I personally prefer morning but the orchid leaf stomata are open at either time. It is not necessary to get into a debate about foliar feeding here but I am sure the elevated bacterial leaf presence in warmer months greatly assists in plant nutrition by converting fertilizer into gas-

eous ammonia which is then readily taken up through the leaf stomata. Research has shown that Phalaenopsis stomata are open at night but be careful watering them in the evening as crown rot will be a problem. People say to me that if Phalaenopsis can survive in their natural environment where it rains every day in Summer and often in the evening, why can't they behave the same in cultivation? There are two main reasons why we run into problems with cultivated plants. Firstly. The plant orientation is all wrong. Phalaenopsis in nature develop so that the leaves drain water away from the crown. We place them in pots and all the water essentially runs backwards and accumulates in the crown, just where we don't want it at nighttime. Secondly rainwater is a different "cat" to well or city water with added fertilizer and it is much less likely to support pathogen growth.

Plant disease researchers have found that elevated levels of certain nutritional elements like Magnesium will contribute to a plant's ability to resist fungal and bacterial infection. Epsom Salts (Magnesium Sulfate) is a cheap and effective source of this critical plant nutritional element. Once a month in Summer, instead of watering and feeding, water and feed Epsom Salts. It doesn't mix well with fertilizers so should be used on its own and even if you don't have the capacity to liquid feed it, you can even apply it as a topdressing without any risk of injury to your plants. Feed at the rate of a level teaspoon per gallon or top-dress at the rate of a level teaspoon per six inch pot.

There are oils and oils. Some people have done major damage to their plants by using the wrong oil at the wrong time of day or year! But, the paraffinic oils like Ultra-Fine which can be purchased for around \$11.00 a quart at Home Depot are wonderful for home growers. I spray all my plants in the

greenhouse at home with Ultra-Fine every month, year round. You have no toxicity issues to worry about so you can spray in your swimsuit if you wish and these paraffinic oils will really keep mites, scale, thrips and mealy bug on the back foot. If your water is high in Calcium, they will also help keep your plant leaves shiny. I tend to spray in the early hours because it is more pleasant for me but even if the sun is higher in the sky, only the thinnest leaves and most sensitive plants would be likely to be affected, if at all. Caution: with any spray it is always better in terms of efficacy and for systemic uptake, to spray when the stomata are open, i.e. in the cooler hours.

Although summer is not the most pleasant time to be in your greenhouse, make some time each week to do a slow walk-through. For people who hand water this is not a problem but if you have overhead watering capacity, don't just water and run!

Things can go bad very quickly in the summer months and a small spot of bacterial infection can become a sorry mess in hours rather than days. Spacing plants and a good fan for night air movement is critical to the prevention of most fungal and bacterial problems. Never let your plant roots come within 18 inches of the soil. The ubiquitous Fusarium wilt fungus is just waiting to attack your prize orchid and it is essentially, incurable. Just a splash of water which hits the soil under your bench and then bounces up onto a healthy Vanda root can spell disaster. Whenever I see people placing plants on the ground for easy watering, I just shudder. It is one of the most dangerous and unhygienic practices for your orchid plants.

Good growing! Make it through summer and be ready for the pleasures of the Florida Fall with a group of robust and healthy orchids.



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## ORCHID:TRUE OR FALSE

1. **Oncidium pusillum is known as the bird's head orchid.**
2. **The Lady Slipper orchid is Paphiopedilum bellatulum.**
3. **Phaius tankervilliae is better known as the moth orchid.**
4. **Phalaenopsis manni and parishii are known as the peppermint twins.**
5. **Phragipediums caudatum var. sanderae is also known as the mandarin orchid.**
6. **Rhynchostylis gigantea is the coral orchid**
7. **Rodriguezia secunda is called the foxtail orchid**
8. **Sophronitis coccinea is known as El Toro Orchid**
9. **The Three birds is Triphora trianthophoros**
10. **Epidendrum floridense is the ladiestresses orchid**
11. **The Blue orchid is known as Vanda coerulea.**
12. **Vanilla planifolia is call the vanilla orchid.**
13. **Polystachya concreta is better known as the Wild Coco Orchid.**
14. **The Yellow Helmut Orchid is the Eulophia alta.**

**Dated Material - Do Not Delay**

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

