



The Orchidist

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OCTOBER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear South Florida Members:

I thoroughly enjoyed last month's meeting, and I hope you did too. Lou Lodyga gave such an informative program and I hope many of you were able to attend. He is such an interesting speaker, and it is always a treat to have him speak at the club.

We are still **DESPERATELY SEEKING** individuals to help out with the raffle at the meetings. It really is a wonderful way to meet all the members and participate in the club. If anyone is interested, please call me (305-275-2318) and let me know. We all thank Leigh Elliot for his participation and wish him a very speedy recovery from his back surgery.

I hope many of you attended this year's Speaker's Day. We had a very nice turnout, and a great day. The speaker's were very entertaining, and gave us a tremendous amount of new information, and, of course, the lunch was delicious. Thank you, Carol De Biase for arranging such a delightful menu! For our members who were unable to attend, I hope you join us next year. This is one of the premier events our club provides to enhance our knowledge of our beloved orchids. Thank you Carol De Biase for putting together such an interesting group of speakers!

Next month is our holiday auction and I am so excited. We have orchids from some of our local vendors, as well as vendors out of state, and also from our membership. But the auction will also have gift items, such as restaurants, facials, art work, etc. to help you with your holiday shopping. I hope you will plan to attend and even bring a friend. The more, the merrier!

I know the calendar says we are now in the fall season, but to me, a native New Yorker, it is still so hot. We learn to recognize the more subtle signs of the seasonal change, like the nightly temperature dropping under 75 degrees! Continue to inspect your plants frequently so you pick up any problems quickly. Remember the old saying: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Until our next meeting:

Good growing,

Judy

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Brian Monk

More is Better: Multi-Floral Paphiopedilum

Brian Monk was born in Milton, Florida in 1969. Shortly after his birth, Brian's family moved to Charleston, West Virginia where he spent the next 18 years. As a young man, Brian's intense passion for nature led to his profession and his many hobbies including bird-watching, orchid growing and natural history.

In 1992, Brian received his B.S., cum laude, from Hampden Sydney College in Virginia followed by a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Virginia Tech in 1997. In 2005, while working as a Veterinarian in Orlando, Florida, Brian met the love of his life, Mary-Margaret, in Ft. Lauderdale. Because of Brian's passion for all things orchid, he and Mary-Margaret formed Blu Llama Orchids, Inc. Brian and Mary-Margaret were married on April Fool's Day in 2006 and reside in Ft. Lauderdale with their five cats and their ever expanding orchid collection.

Brian started growing and hybridizing orchids in his backyard, but this has recently expanded to 4000 square feet of greenhouse space. He will grow anything green, but focuses on his hybridizing projects, which include the development of multi-floral white and pink Paphiopedilums, warmth-tolerant red Oncidiinae, and a standard pink Cattleya with an all-white lip. Encouraged by his wife and inspired by his orchids, Brian continues to pursue and perfect his orchid culture and photographic skills. Brian's photography has won awards online, in the 2007 Miami International Orchid Show, and at the 2008 World Orchid Conference. He recently completed a solo exhibit of his fine art photography at the Leu Gardens in Orlando, and will be the featured artist at the AOS Gardens in August and September. Brian is currently a student judge with the American Orchid Society.

The raffle table will be provided by Coconut Orchids. We hope to see all of you at the meeting.

MEETING NOTICE

SFOS Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, October 21, 2009
Fire Fighters Memorial Building
8000 N.W. 21st Street
Miami, FL 33122

7:15 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

ORCHIDS FOR FIU!

Last month we visited the Wertheim Conservatory at FIU's main campus in west Miami-Dade, and reported on the SFOS-supported, educational "cling" project directed by Dr. Scott Zona. The Conservatory has a very interesting collection of tropical plants, but in our (admittedly biased) opinion, not anywhere near enough orchids!

Budgets and funding being what they are these days (very limited!), SFOS wants to help increase the orchid collection in this beautiful tropical showcase. So we're asking members to consider donating some species orchid plants -- extra divisions would be perfect! -- to this project.

Dr. Zona's wish-list for the collection is modest. Because it's a teaching and research project as well as a display collection, he's looking for species only at this time. Growing conditions are warm and moist during the year, so orchids that need a strong dry season rest won't do well there, but small to medium-sized species from moist habitats will grow beautifully in the Conservatory beside the exotic palms, aroids and other tropicals. If you have an extra plant or two to contribute to this effort, please read on!

The kinds we're looking for: Phalaenopsis, Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium species "Jewel" orchids: Ludisia, Macodes, Anoectochilus and related genera Dendrochilum and Bulbophyllum species Warm-growing Dendrobiums from moist habitats, such as species in the Latouria section Cadetia, Eria, Notylia, Oberonia, Ornithocephalus,

Psycopsis, Robiquetia, Rodriguezia and other small to medium species with similar requirements. Orchids with very high light requirements, and/or species that need a distinct dry season, won't do well in the Conservatory at this time. Plants must be viable, free of pests and disease, and labeled. Potted, mounted and bare-root are equally welcome. Be sure to include your name, so we know whom to thank!

If you have a plant or two to donate, you can bring it to me at an upcoming SFOS meeting or drop it off at R.F. Orchids next time you're in Homestead. We'll collect the plants and deliver them to Dr. Zona, and soon the Wertheim Conservatory can be an orchid showcase, too!

Julie Rosenberg



Bill & Carol Peters
[305] 242-1333
whimsy@bellsouth.net

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Homestead FL 33031

MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE # 3!

The South Florida Orchid Society member that brings the most "FIRST TIME VISITORS" to the October 21st Meeting, will receive a seedling. Each of that member's visitors will also receive a seedling. Watch our Newsletter for the next challenge.

Sally Taylor
1st V.P. and Membership Chairman

**BONNET HOUSE
MUSEUM & GARDENS**

Saturday and Sunday, December 5 & 6, 2009 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bonnet House Museum & Gardens will be hosting its third annual Orchid Fair! An exciting line up of local orchid and exotic plant vendors, orchid supplies, garden art, beautiful orchid displays, silent auction, lectures/demonstrations, food & wine vendors, walking tours and much will highlight this unique sale in the Bonnet House Grove. Bonnet House Museum & Gardens is located at 900 N. Birch Road just south of Sunrise Blvd. between A1A and the Intracoastal on Fort Lauderdale beach. \$5.00 fair and grounds pass, \$15.00 fair/grounds and house pass. For more information please visit us at www.BonnetHouse.org or call (954) 563-5393.

We greatly appreciate your support and hope to see you there.

Sandi Jones

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COULD TUMS HELP ORCHIDS TOO?

A couple of years ago, I asked Andy Easton why some of our Catts had black tipped leaves. He said might be a calcium deficiency. Since then I have added 5 Tums tablets to every 20 gallons of fertilize solution. I start softening the Tums several hours ahead of adding the fertilizer, 15 aspirin, and detergent to the mix. Our black tips are gone, and while the calcium is at best in suspension, the particles seem to some how get into the roots.

Dot Henley



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SPEAKER'S DAY 2009

I would like to thank the speaker's for giving us such wonderful and informative lectures, all those who attended and last but certainly not least all the executive board, directors of the South Florida Orchid Society and Ellen Hanson in our office for making this year's Speaker's Day such a grand success. My Hat's off to all of you.

Thank you
Carol

Award Quality Orchids



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BY allison

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2009 SFOS HOLIDAY PARTY

December is approaching which means we should take time to be thankful for our health, good friends and family, and of course, our beautiful orchids. Which bring up our next and favorite subjects – Christmas, Chanukah, and everything that goes with December, like our Holiday Party. There will not be a regular meeting/judging this month. Dress code will be semiformal.

The party will be on Sunday, December 13th at Signature Gardens, 12725 S.W. 122 Ave. from 6:30 P.M. until 10:30 P.M. If you've never been there, this will be a real treat for you. Plenty of parking and large banquet rooms decorated beautifully for the holidays. The food is wonderful and there will be an open bar!

The meal will be a buffet and will include: Caesar Salad, Cold Pasta Salad Primavera, Whole Honey Glazed Ham, Roast Vermont Turkey with Old Fashioned Stuffing, Giblet Gravy and Cranberry Sauce, Tender Pork Slices, Sweet Potato Soufflé with Crushed Pineapple and Marshmallows, Steamed Long Grain White Rice, Black Beans with Chopped Onions, Assorted Cakes and Pies, Rolls, and Coffee. Happy Hour will begin at 6:30 P.M. and dinner will be ready at 7:00 P.M.

We will have a D.J. for the evening and they will play music for all generations. We will also have our gift exchange. There is a \$5.00 limit on the gifts and please put tags stating male or female. You don't have to participate; this optional, but fun! There will be a raffle during the evening.

All members will, of course, receive a beautiful seedling upon presentation of their membership badge; if you have lost your badge, please notify the office (305-255-3656).

Remember the party is scheduled for Sunday, December 13th and admission is by reservation only. We must know by Wednesday, December 9th if you plan to attend.

The price for members and nonmembers is the same \$45.00. Tables of eight can be reserved. If you have any questions, please call the office (305-255-3656) or Marlene Clark (305-253-7627). We invite all of our members, especially our new members, to join us for a delightful evening.



2009 SFOS Holiday Party



Please make _____
reservations for the SFOS Holiday Party.

Name: _____

_____ Members @ \$45.00

_____ Guests @ \$45.00

Total Amount Due: _____

Please mail your reservation form along with your check before December 9th, 2009 to:

South Florida Orchid Society
10801 SW 124 Street
Miami, FL 33176

FALL ORCHID GROWING TIPS

Repot

Fall is a good time to repot those orchids which have already bloomed and are going into a rest period or growing pseudobulbs which will mature over the winter. With cooler weather the transplanting process will be easier to bear. Some of the varieties to repot are Doritis, Doritaneopsis and Encyclia as well as Phal seedlings.

Move Your Phals to a Cool Spot at Night

Fall is the time to move your Phals to a cool spot, around 60 degrees Fahrenheit or 15 Centigrade at night, until you see inflorescences starting at the base of the plant. When the growths are about 2 inch or 5 centimeters long, the plants can be moved back to their normal warmer conditions. Stake the inflorescence beginning at about 6 inches or 15 centimeters and make sure that you keep the plant positioned the same direction in relationship to the light for best presentation of flowers.

Move Plants Inside

Prepare all your plants for moving into warmer conditions before the first cold front arrives. Check them for insects in the pots, clean up dried out sheaths where bugs might hide and even start moving some of the tender plants inside as night time temperatures cool. Then you will be ready for that first really cold weather and only have a few plants to take care of at the last minute.

Water and Fertilizer Requirements Change

Fall is a time when you will need to adjust

your watering and fertilizing schedules to accommodate the variable weather conditions. As the temperatures cool your plants will use less water and start slowing on their growth, so will need less fertilizer. Generally I keep with my same fertilizing schedule of every other watering throughout the year. But in fall that watering goes from twice a week to every five days and then to once a week in winter.

Keep Your Air Circulation Going

It is especially important during the fall and winter months to keep air circulation going especially in a greenhouse or enclosed growing space. Mold, mildew and insects thrive in stagnant conditions and will cause many problems without proper air circulation.

Light Requirements are Changing

Fall brings changes in light conditions for inside and outside growers. Make sure your plants are getting enough light with the changing conditions or move them around if you are removing shading used during the hot summer months. Leaves on orchids can burn if they get too much direct sunlight.



Sandi Jones
Tom Wells

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FALLING LEAVES - CATTLEYAS

In general, leaf loss in Cattleya Alliance orchids is not considered to be a major growing problem. Unless you have very good growing conditions and have solved most of your cultural problems, you are going to lose the leaves on the older pseudobulbs of your Cattleyas. It is an exceptional grower who can keep these plants happy enough to produce a specimen plant. That is not to say that the hobby grower cannot do better to reduce leaf loss than the average grower. There are three main reasons for leaf loss: diseases/insects, culture and genetics.


In the diseases and insects category, scale is the main culprits. Scale is easy to spot once you have ever seen it – a grouping of white fuzzy spots. Left untreated scale will overtake a plant and ultimately will kill it. As soon as you see evidence of these pests, remove the plant to a location away from your other plants. Manually clean up any obvious insects or spray the whole plant with Bayer's Rose and Flower Insect Spray (dual action) which will kill any pests that it touches as well as be absorbed in the plant and will kill adults as well as any sucking insects. Continue to spray for about 3 months.



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Cultural practices which will cause leaf loss include overwatering, under-watering and excess cold and or heat. Overwatering will cause the roots on your plants to die off so they cannot support the plant. In an attempt to stay alive, the plant will shed extra leaves and try to keep the new growth alive. If possible, look at the roots of your plants – some growers actually take their plants out of the pots periodically to assess the growth. An old rule of thumb says that if the second oldest pseudobulb (generally from the previous year) is wrinkled and desiccated, you are either under or overwatering. Take your plant out of the pot to see which it is. If the roots are good and plump, then you're under-watering. If they are all dead and rotten, you have overwatered. Repot and change your culture.

Another cultural practice which will cause leaf drop is very cold temperatures in the winter and very hot temperatures in the summer. Most Cattleya Alliance plants will withstand a wide range of



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A NOTE FROM MARLENE

Thank you to everyone who brought food to the September meeting. The refreshments were great!

temperatures, but very high and low temperatures, even within their range, will cause them to be stressed and lose leaves.

Genetics will also determine whether the plant will grow large for you or lose leaves once they are a couple of years old. There is little that can be done for this aspect but to determine through trial-and-error which plants are best for your growing conditions and stick to them.

One point to keep in mind is that if you can keep from doing it, it is much better to allow the leaf to drop off naturally than to cut it off. If the leaf will not snap off with light pressure, leave it on until it is ready to come off. The plant will seal the wound through a natural drying process which will keep any pests or disease from using the area to invade the plant.



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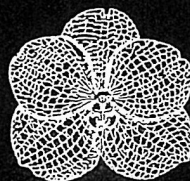


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FACTS & FANTASIES ABOUT ORCHIDS

Orchids have always appeared mysterious, and have therefore been the object of intrigue and curiosity of people for centuries. Ancient cultures believed magical cures for all sorts of ills could be from the roots.

In *Theatrum Botanicum* which was first published in 1640, a r. John Parkinson wrote: “If a man ate a large orchid tuber, he would begat many children”.

Culpepper writing in the *British Herbal* stated: “The roots are to be used with discretion... They are hot and moist in operation under the dominance of Venus, and provoke lust exceedingly which the dried and withered roots do restrain.

The ancient Chinese were one of the first people to use orchids as medicine, ad some of the earliest painting of orchids can be found on the oldest of Chinese vases.

In India in the 1800’s a nutritious drink made from the roots of several orchid species was produced and know by the name of Salep or Saloop.

Dated Material - Do Not Delay

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

