



September, 2010 - Volume 6 - Number 31

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear South Florida Members,

I was so happy to see so many of our members at the August meeting. Mac Rivenback gave an interesting talk on Phalaenopsis, and I was so pleased he included the history of the species. This month Craig Morell of Pinecrest Gardens will be speaking on the use of orchids in our landscapes. We are so fortunate to live in a climate where we can grow our orchids outdoors all year long; how exciting it will be to hear how we can beautify our gardens. Not only do we make our trees and gardens look great, we can also make more room in our growing areas! Yes, folks this hobby only gets bigger, and we always need more space.

Are you tired of this heat? I know I sure am. I am waiting and wishing for a nice cool breeze. However, I will be careful about what I wish; I still remember that 32 degrees on my patio last January.

We are planning very exciting programs for the fall and holiday season, and I hope you will all take part in the club's activities. On Sunday, October 3, we will have our annual Speaker's Day program. Carol De Biase has planned a day full of interesting speakers; there will be plants to purchase, as well as a raffle and great lunch, planned by Marlene Clark. Please plan to attend. You can purchase tickets from the SFOS office, or see Ellen at the general meeting. We will also be having a fall pre-holiday raffle, as well as our holiday party at RF Orchids. So plan to join us and have a great time!

Good growing,  
Judy



## Refreshment Reminder

**Remember SFOS has changed the refreshment policy. We are now having members volunteer to bring snacks. If you volunteered to bring snacks for the September meeting, thank you so much and please remember to pick up your special raffle ticket at the September meeting. Anyone that brings snacks will receive a special raffle ticket for a drawing that evening. Please talk to Marlene Clark at the September meeting to volunteer to bring snacks for the September meeting or you can call her at 305-253-7627.**

## PROGRAM

**Wednesday, September 15, 2010**

Fire Fighters Memorial Building, 8000 NW 21 St., Miami, FL 33122

8:00 PM Program begins

This month our program will be presented by Craig Morell the Horticulturist at Pinecrest Gardens. Craig's program titled "Using Orchids in the Permanent Landscape", will talk about using orchids in the landscape, with an emphasis on permanent installations. Both epiphytic and terrestrial orchids will be covered, and live plants will be brought in for demonstration. Members are encouraged to bring in sample plants for advice on how to grow them in the landscape. Over 800 epiphytes are on display in the trees at Pinecrest Gardens, with over 1000 more planned for installation soon. Craig has been renovating the Gardens since 2004; a year after the Village of Pinecrest bought the property from Parrot Jungle. A lifelong plant collector, he has a B.S. degree in Horticulture from University of Florida - Gainesville, is a career horticulturist, travels widely, and spends his free time orchid gardening at home in S. Miami. We have a fantastic plant raffle this month provided by Carter and Holmes.

### **SFOS DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **Wednesday, October 20, 2010** - Catharine Mannion will talk on "What the heck is eating my orchids in 2010".

Speakers Day will be on October 3, 2010 at Signature Gardens

### **SFOS DATES TO REMEMBER**

On December 19, 2010 SFOS will have its annual Holiday Party in the gardens of RF Orchids. We will have a wonderful raffle and all members attending will receive a free plant. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend our wonderful party.

**March 4, 5, 6, 2011** – South Florida Orchid Society will be hosting the 65<sup>th</sup> Miami International Orchid Show. The show will be located at the Mayfair complex in Coconut Grove. More information on this exciting event will be in this newsletter next month.

## IN MEMORIAM

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Marianne Montoro and Family on the recent passing of Dr. Rafael Montoro, a wonderful person and true gentlemen. Marianne and Rafael were married for over 58 years and have been long time members and supporters of SFOS. Please keep the family your thoughts and prayers.

## JUDGING

Thank you for everyone's participation and I know you will all continue to bring in your gorgeous plants for all of us to see and enjoy. Thank you also to Georgia Tasker for taking all the pictures. I'm proud to announce that Julie Rosenberg was elevated to Accredited Judge at the August Judge's Meeting. If anyone would like to participate in judging as a clerk or student judge, please let me know. Julie is also compiling a data base of all past SFOS Medal Awards. If you have any award records or photos please send them to her. The following are all the first place winners. Remember, judging starts at 7:30 pm.

Bonnie

Blue Ribbon Winners

Dor. Pulcherrima v. alba—Angelica Ruggeri  
Paph. Delophyllum— Odalis and Lazaro Navarro  
Lctna. Quest's Sexy Eyes "Paradise"— Odalis and Lazaro Navarro

## SFOS SPEAKER'S DAY 2010



SFOS will host its annual Speakers Day on Sunday, October 3, 2010 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. The following is the list of speakers and their topics:

**George Carr:** George will present a lecture titled "*Catasetum* subgenus *Pseudocatasetum* and its natural hybrids". A review of the species of the subgenus and a discussion of natural hybrids in the *Catasetinae* concentrating on the published natural hybrids involving the subgenus and an examination of species which may possibly be natural hybrids involving the subgenus. He has published numerous articles in the United States in Orchids and the Orchid Digest, Brazil, France, England and Colombia. George will have Brazilian Orchid Books for sale.

**Eric Christensen:** The title of Dr. Christenson's lecture is "The Chaos of *Maxillaria*". Dr. Christenson will discuss this large neotropical genus of +/- 570 species. He will discuss the frustrations and elations of resolving older names and confusing species complexes. Dr. Christenson recently completed a research trip to the National University of Colombia funded, in part, by a grant from SFOS. A prolific author of more than 400 publications, Dr. Christenson is currently completing the first ever monograph of the genus *Maxillaria* (+/- 570 species).

**Gene Crocker:** Gene will present a lecture titled “Cattleyas for the new Millennium”. As an amateur orchidist, Gene developed an interest in hybridizing, producing his first cattleya hybrids in 1961. One of his early hybrids is Blc. Kitty Crocker (Blc. Fortune x C. luteola), named for his wife. Perhaps Gene's greatest claim to orchid fame is the fact that he coined the term, "mericlone", in 1964. Gene will have plants from Carter & Holmes for sale.

**Dr. Wagner Vendrame:** The title of Wagner's lecture is “Sex, Crime, Hollywood and Orchids – A Brief History of Orchids”. What makes people go crazy about orchids? Why are people so passionate about those beautiful plants? Dr. Vendrame is an Associate Professor at the Environmental Horticulture Department, working at the Tropical Research and Education Center in ornamental horticulture and biotechnology.

**Peter Lin:** Peter will present a program titled “Hybridizing with Novelty Phalaenopsis”. The presentation will include culture tips for growing and flowering phalaenopsis as well as a discussion on what makes a novelty phalaenopsis hybrid awardable per AOS judging standards. Peter makes an annual trip to Taiwan to see in person the latest phalaenopsis development, and to learn from Taiwanese nurseries and phalaenopsis hybridizers. Peter will have plants from Big Leaf Orchids for sale.

### **Speakers Day Schedule:**

8:00 - 9:00	Breakfast, plant registration (for judging), plant sales open
9:00 - 10:00	Gene Crocker
10:00 - 11:00	Dr. Wagner Vendrame
11:00 - 12:00	AOS Judging and panel discussion, plant sales open
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00	Eric Christensen
2:00 - 3:00	George Carr
3:00 - 4:00	Peter Lin
4:00 - 5:00	Plant sales open

\* Plant sales area will also be open during breaks and between speakers

Tickets for Speakers Day are \$45.00 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 this order form to the SFOS office: 10801 S.W. 124 St., Miami, FL 33176. For more information call (305) 255-3656.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

AOS Judging Center & Status \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats @ \$45.00 Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa & MasterCard accepted: # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Address to mail tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to: SFOS, 10801 S.W. 124 St., Miami, FL 33176.

We also accept Visa & MasterCard. Please call the SFOS office (305-255-3656) to process your charge.

## ORCHID INFORMATION

### Fall Orchid Growing Tips *by Bella Online*

**Water and fertilizer requirements change** - As cooler weather slows growth on your plants both water and fertilizer requirements change. Watch temperatures carefully and tailor your watering to the needs of the plants, rather than to a rigid schedule which worked during the hotter summer months.

**Watch the changing light conditions** - Spring and fall are times when you need to pay particular attention to changing light conditions. As the sun moves, the light conditions on both your indoor and outdoor orchids are also changing. Make sure that low light plants are not suddenly in a hot spot of sun. High light plants should be watched for too much shade. Mid-fall is the time to remove shade cloth from greenhouses and extra shading from windows.

**Prepare to bring plants inside** - If you've been lucky enough to be able to summer your plants outside, start preparing them for the move back inside. Check for insects in the media by dunking in a pail of water to force the insects out and kill any that you find. Roaches love to live in orchid mix and will eat roots while they are there. Clean and cut back old growth so that when a sudden weather change comes you can easily move your plants inside.

**Clean up your indoor growing area** - Prepare your greenhouse or indoor area for your plants. Clean any areas and straighten up supplies. This is easier to do when you have fewer plants in the space. Are you planning to add humidity trays or fans for this growing season? Go ahead and order the items and install them so that your plants will have the best conditions you can supply.

**Check your orchid labels** - As you are checking your plants, make sure that the labels are clear and readable. It normally only takes about three years for the labels to deteriorate -- less time if they are of poor quality. Use heavy labels and an indelible marker to clearly identify your plants. Even if you have only a few plants it is important to know what they are so that you can give them the proper conditions to grow and bloom.

**Phals need a cooling period** - Fall is the time to move your Phals to a cool spot, around 50-60 degrees Fahrenheit or 10-15 degrees centigrade at night, until you see inflorescences starting at the base of the plant. When the growths are about 2 inch or 5 centimetres long, the plants can be moved back to their normal growing conditions and the spike will continue to grow.

## ESSENCE OF STANHOPEA

*Posted by essenceoftime*

If you've tried growing everything from Aspidistras to Zinnias and you haven't tried Stanhopea Orchids, you don't know what you're missing. They are easier to grow than African Violets and far more majestic than any other plant. The variety available boggles the mind ... Be warn, though, ever since their discovery by English explorers to Europe in the 18th Century they have caused a " Stanhopea mania" that continues to this day.

My own first Stanhopea orchid was Stanhopea Tigrina though I didn't know it. Friend gave it to me as a birthday present – a trip to the library for some orchid's books was quickly followed by the purchase of some more of these exotic, majestic, beautiful orchids and as they say – the fever had struck.

My fascination with orchids led to great friendships, lots and lots of reading, trips to exotic places (sometimes only through books) and the joy and frustration of growing the world's most fabulous plants.



Stanhopea tigrina



Flower spike through the bottom and sides of the planter

### ***What Works For Me...***

All of the known species of Stanhopea's found in rainforests of South and Central America –some in the mountains and others in the valleys. They require humid, warm conditions to grow and to reproduce their beautiful flowers. Here in Australia we are fortunate to be able replicate their growing environment outdoor – our winters are mild and we don't need (if we don't want ) create special orchid houses or

conservatories as our orchid friends do in Europe, Canada, US with controlled temperatures, humidifiers, mystifies, etc.. Still, the closer you can replicate their natural growing environment, the more they will reward you with their beautiful, unusual flowers.

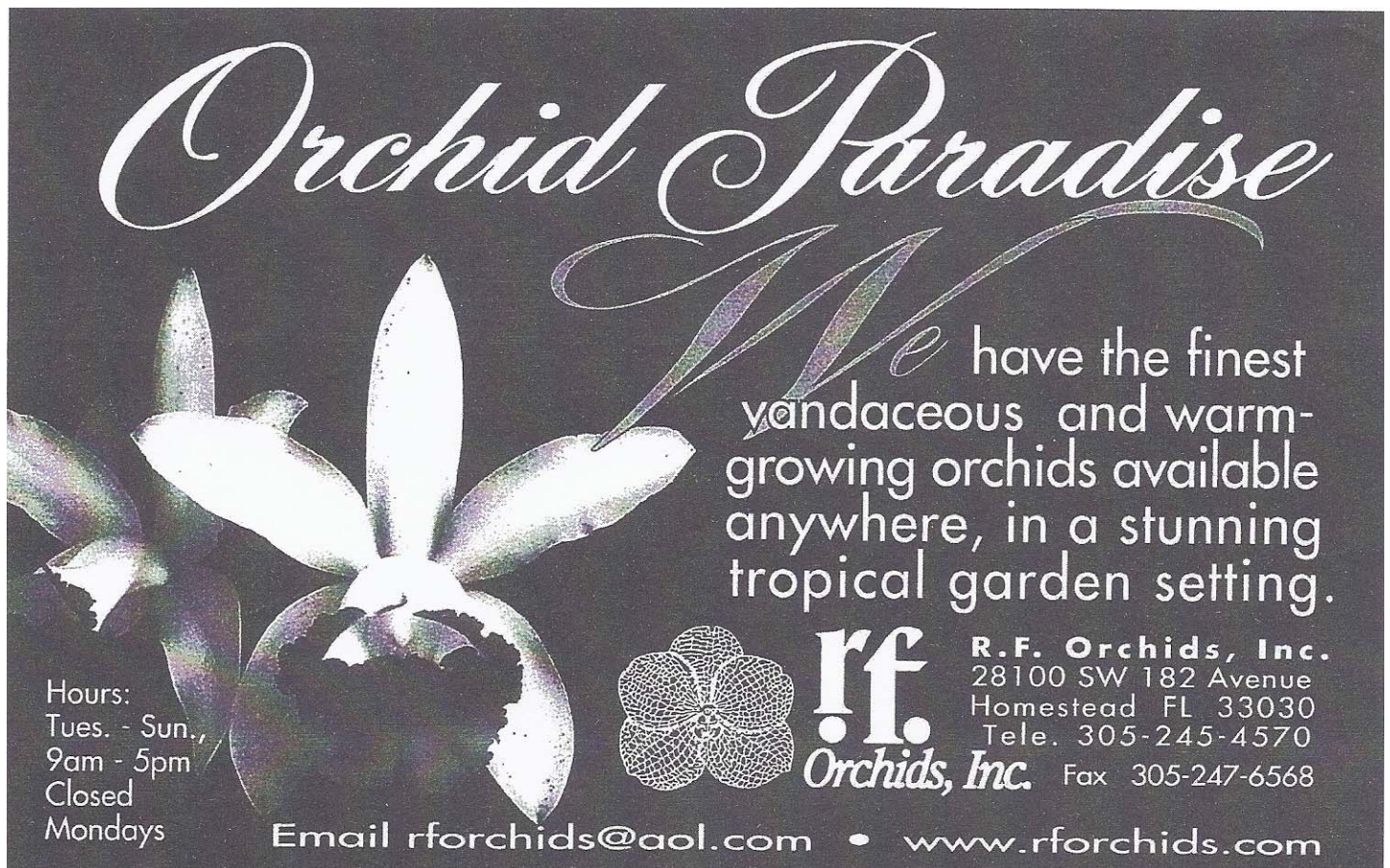
Stanhopea orchids take approx. 7 years to mature and to start producing flowers and if your first Stanhopea was a seedling, it would take about that much time to start flowering. Stanhopea orchids have to grow in open hanging baskets so that when they start flowering they can send their flower spikes through the sides and bottom of the planter. They usually start sending flower spikes in our Australian climate from about mid-November. The flower spike will be maturing for about 5-6 weeks,

getting longer and thicker until you can actually start seeing flower pods and then one day the flowers will emerge with the most heavenly perfume.

The earlier flowering Stanhopea's will flower here in Sydney at about Christmas time and different varieties will flower later - anytime between January and mid-April. Flowers usually open for about 7 days and penetrate the whole house with their perfume. The scents of different varieties are - chocolate, vanilla, orange, nutmeg, cinnamon, mint, apricot, citrus, fruit, jasmine, lemon, cherry, medicine, etc...

At times, certain variety only available as a small un-flowered seedling and in that case, if you have to have it ( as we all do), go ahead and purchase it, providing you prepared to spend a lot of care and attention on that seedling. Mature flowered stanhopea plants will always cost more than seedlings, but reward of seeing your plant with beautiful scented flowers in spring or summer and discovering its essence and its place in Nature will bring you joy and happiness beyond belief.

**Thank you to the following vendors for advertising in our newsletter.**



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