Dear South Florida members,

It’s hard to believe that two years have gone by so quickly! I remember vividly sitting down to write my first president’s letter and now I am sitting down to write my last letter as your president.

It has been an honor and a privilege being your President, and truly a pleasure getting to know you better as individuals. I want to congratulate Sally Taylor on her election as your next President. I know I have left the club in good hands. Sally was our President a few years ago, so she comes on board with tons of experience. Also, welcome to our new board members, elected last month: Erna Maxwell, Kathy Whalen, and Angelica Ruggeri. I know you will all be an asset to our hard working board!

Leaving our Board of Directors, after multiple years of service are Tony and Joan Viggiani, and Sandy Schultz. You will be truly missed! I would also like to thank our corresponding secretary Ellen Hanson, for all her help during the last two years. I could not have done it without you!

 wasn’t that a great meeting last month! It is really one of my favorites. We have a treasure of knowledge in our membership and how fortunate we are that they share their knowledge and growing tips with us. Thank you Sandy Schultz, Joan Viggiani, and Betty Eber for sharing your growing methods and answering our many questions. I know the membership enjoyed the presentation from all the positive comments shared with me during our refreshment break.

Next month is our installation of out new officers and our award ceremony, followed by Ruben Sauleda. He is also, like Sally, a former President of the South Florida Orchid Society and full of knowledge. Be sure to attend this meeting.

Good growing,
Judy

Announcing the upcoming 2011 South Florida Orchid Society Show and Speakers Day

Pencil in October 1 - 2, 2011 at the BankUnited Center at the University of Miami. For this great event full of lectures, vendors and information.

Contact Dan Christensen if you have any questions at 954-252-8116 or email at: damorchid@aol.com.
This Month's Meeting - Installation, Awards and Ruben Sauleda

This month's meeting will feature the installation of the new officers and board members. We will also be giving out the awards for the show and tell during the entire year.

Following the awards presentation and the installation of the new officers, we will be hearing a presentation from Ruben Sauleda, a former president of SFOS and owner of Ruben's Orchids. He will be speaking on Unifoliate Cattleyas and talking about the culture of this genus.

Don't miss your chance to learn more about this genus which is responsible for many of our lovely “corsage” orchids. Hope to see you there.

Get Growing with Lou Lodyga… Phalenopsis bellina

Anyone who has been growing orchids for years will know this species by its former name, Phalanopsis violacea v. Borneo. It was given full species status by Eric Christensen in 1995 and renamed bellina. Whatever name it goes by, this is a definite must for the Phalenopsis grower.

Since it comes from Borneo and Malaysia, it requires shady, humid conditions, like one would find in a tropical forest. The flowers are produced in the summer and fall on short inflorescences and can have 2 to 3 highly fragrant flowers open at a time. One nice item about this plant is that the inflorescence on older plants can re-bloom year after year so don’t cut off any green viable inflorescences.

There are many excellent line bred forms available at nurseries. This species does well mounted, but since Phalanopsis are subject to crown rot if water stands in the crown for any length of time, mount them upside down. If you decide to grow them in a pot, you’ll need to repot them yearly if they are in sphagnum moss.

Upcoming Events

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Think About it

“Here is the secret of inspiration: tell yourself that thousands and tens of thousands of people, not very intelligent and certainly no more intelligent than the rest of us, have mastered problems as difficult as those that now baffle you.”

William Feather
We had a great plant table again last month. There were seven first place winners and Lore Wigley also received a CCA award. There will be no judging in April because of the auction so be sure to bring your plants in May. That will be the last month to earn points toward’s this year’s annual awards.

I want to thank Ron and Julie for bringing lights for judging. They were a big help. We still need a rack for hanging plants. If you have any ideas, please let me know. I want to apologize to last month’s winners for the lack of pictures in the newsletter. There was a computer/communication problem. Hopefully the problem is solved, and all your pictures will be in future newsletters. See you at the auction, Bonnie.

March first place winners:
Rlc. Hawaiian Prominence ‘Carmela’ - Gene Stevens
Den. Golden Aya - Dave Foster
Den. aphrodite - Dave Foster
Bro. Leona - Joan and Tony Viggiani
Dtps. Cherry Lips - Pedro Bonetti
Trt. splendidum - Ann Thayer

March culture and medal winner:
May Show and Tell

We had another interesting plant table last month. There were six blue ribbons and one culture ribbon awarded. Next month will be our annual awards ceremony. We will be presenting this year’s SFOS medals, perpetual and annual awards. In addition to great trophies, we also have new “State of the Art” award certificates thanks to Julie Rosenberg.

I want to thank everyone for bringing in their plants for judging this past year. We have had some beautiful plant tables. I also want to thank all the judges for making these awards possible and Ron Hunt for taking our award pictures. There will be no judging in June. We will start our new Award year in July. Be sure to bring your plants. Those points add up fast! Thank you all for a great year, Bonnie

1 - Class 3A Minatures - Chiloschista lunifera - Betty Eber
1 - Class 3 Vandaceous - Asctm. ampulaceum v alba - Betty Eber
1 - Class 8 Dendrobriums - Den. wassellii - Dave Foster
1 - Class 10 Oncidinae - Wilsonara Tropic Breeze 'Everglades' - Sandy Schultz and Georgia Tasker
1 - Class 11 Paphiopedilums - Paph. phillipense - Sandy Schultz and Georgia Tasker
1 - Class 14 Botanicals - Stan. wardii x Stan. Tricornis - Javier Morejon
ORCHID BRAINTEASER - Orchid Oddities

Below are some examples of orchids which could be considered just plain weird. See if you can figure out which orchids I am talking about.

1. I am a miniature orchid in the bulbophyllum family that looks like I have a bunch of silly string hanging from my buds. Who am I?
2. I like to bloom from the bottom of the orchid plant and am known to have some of the most fragrant blooms in the orchid family. Which genus am I thinking of?
3. My lip is deeply fringed and imbricate, but I’m not the Rhy. digbyana. I come from Asia and am a member of the largest genus of orchids. Who am I?

Remember to send your answers to the monthly brainteasers to me. You guys can win some lovely prizes, but not if you don’t participate...

Other Special Events

COS Symposium

The annual Coalition of Orchid Species Symposium will be held on Sunday, July 24 at Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden.

Speakers will be: Peter Lim on Phalanopsis species, Fred Clarke on Cycnoches, Catasetum and Mormodes, Roy Tokunawa on growing specimen plants of Dendrobriums, and Prem Subrahmanyan on Florida’s Wild Orchids.

Lunch and AOS judging is included and plants will be for sale.

For more information contact Mirta Russis-Heinem.
Recipe: Vegetable Frittata

3 large eggs plus 3 egg whites, 3/4 cup 2% reduced fat cottage cheese, 4 oz. smoked gouda cheese (shredded), 1 teaspoon minced fresh rosemary, 3 cloves garlic (thinly sliced), 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, 1 medium onion (chopped), kosher salt, 1 16oz. Pkg of frozed mixed vegetables, 2 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese, 1 scant teaspoon paprika, 4 slices multi-grain bread

1. Position a rack in the upper third of the oven and preheat to 450 degrees. Whisk the whole eggs and the egg whites in a bowl, add the cottage cheese and whisk until almost smooth. Whisk in the gouda and rosemary.

2. Cook the garlic in the olive oil in a 10-inch nonstick oven-proof skillet over medium-high heat until it starts to brown, 1 to 2 min. Add the onion, season with salt and cook 2 minutes. Add the vegetables, increase the heat to high and cook until just tender about 5 minutes.

3. Reduce the heat to medium. Spread the egg mixture evenly in the pan. Cook, undisturbed, until a thin crust forms on the bottom, about 2 minutes. Run a rubber spatula around the edge to release the egg from the pan. Continue cooking until the bottom is golden 2 to 3 more minutes. Sprinkle with the parmesan and paprika, transfer to the oven and bake until just set, 5 to 7 minutes. Remove from the oven, cover and let sit, 5 to 7 minutes. Cut into wedges and serve with the bread.

Species of the month: Stanhopea nigroviolacea

Stanhopea nigroviolacea is a spectacular member of this family and with S. wardii, it is one of the ones most often found in cultivation.

This species has among the largest flowers in the genus. It is native to Mexico where it grows at elevations of 1200-2000 meters and blooms during the summer and fall. The fragrant flowers smell of vanilla.

I find these plants, like all members of the genus, enjoy growing over a water feature, which gives them the humidity they crave. Plants are in bloom now and are easy to grow, making this plant worthwhile addition to the collections of South Florida growers.

June Trivia

June was named after the Roman goddess Juno, who ruled over love and marriage. This was also one of the reasons that the month of June is known for weddings.

It is the sixth month of the year and was named by Julius Caesar back in 46 BC.

June is national Children’s Awareness Month, National Rivers Month, National Safety Month, National Rose Month, National Dairy Month and Gay Pride Month.

It is also the time when we celebrate Father’s Day. The first father’s day was celebrated in West Virginia in 1908 following a mining disaster the previous year in which over 200 fathers had been killed.

It was next celebrated in 1910 in Spokane, Washington at the request of Sonora Dodd who wanted to honor the achievements of her father, a Civil War veteran who had raised several children.

In 1924, President Coolidge give his support to the holiday and President Johnson proclaimed it a National holiday in 1966. By law, it was fixed as the third Sunday in June in 1972.

We’re on the web: www.sfos.com
In next month’s issue:

1. Pictures from the Installation
2. June awards presentation
3. New President’s Message
4. Orchid Trivia
5. Newsletter survey - What do you want to see in the Orchidist.

And Much, Much, More.

See you next month.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLACE AN AD AND ARE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT INFO ON AD RATES, PLEASE CONTACT ME AT THE E-MAIL LISTED BELOW.

- jvrmoreon214@gmail.com