

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

American Orchid Society
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FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

N • E • W • S • L • E • T • T • E • R November, 2008

November 10th Program from Canaima Orchids

Venezuelan *Cattleya* Species in The Habitat by Michael Sinn

Our speaker was born in Venezuela to German parents. At the age of 12 he took over the care and culture of his Mother's extensive collection of *Cattleyas* and *Oncidiums*. Michael also grew up hiking in South American jungles in search of *Cattleyas* in their natural habitats.

Using his degree in civil engineering, Michael worked as a contractor for four years in the Venezuelan Amazon State. The work allowed him to observe even more orchids in their habitat. He spent his personal spare time teaching people to pollinate orchids and impressing upon them the need to let the plants remain in their natural habitats.

Michael's interest drew him toward breeding *Cattleyas* and *Laelias* and in starting his own nursery. In 2003 Michael and his growing family moved to Palmetto, Florida. Having seen the habitats in Brazil, Columbia and Venezuela, Michael's vision remains constant: to **conserve native species by producing the finest species cultivars possible**. Orchid connoisseurs turn to him for superior seedlings and divisions.

Michael Sinn is a widely recognized breeder who has been honored by numerous international awards. He serves as Judging Chairman for the Venezuelan Orchid Association and is currently an AOS Student Judge.

There will be Canaima orchids on the raffle table and Michael will be selling plants. Come early to buy great plants and many raffle tickets for great plants.

Thanks, Joan Connors for bringing us another new and famous breeder, speaker and writer.

Nothing Short of Death

should keep you from making accounting easier!

Your envelope for 2009 dues is included in this newsletter. Repeat after me:

1. I will put my dues in **that** envelope so I can be identified. Bubba's Bakery may be a great business, but a check written on that account does not perfectly identify you. "Smith" written on a \$20 bill also is not good enough.
2. I will mail my dues in or hand the envelope to Dot at a meeting. Almost every year dues are given to somebody who is not me, and I get them 6 months later.

3. PLEASE WRITE THREE CHECKS. ONE FOR DUES, ONE FOR PRE-SALE TICKETS, AND ONE FOR THE HOLIDAY PARTY.

Thanks for making life simple for me, (Dot), Chris, Marian and ultimately Bob.

Crazy Raspberry Ants

The name is not my spelling of a tasty berry. The ants were named after the person who identified them. They are in Texas and the bad guys always move to Florida. These bad ants occur by the billions. They eat plants and beneficial insects and they short-out electrical systems. None of the current ant controls work against them.

-- The Avant Gardner. October, 2008. P. 96

Save These Dates

November 21-23. Orchid show and sale at AOS in DelRay. AOS members enter free. Join that day and get in free and get a free orchid from Norman.

December 6-7. Orchid Fair at the Bonnet House. Several FLOS members will be involved and Wayne Musgrave will man a FLOS membership space.

Remembering:

Beth Allison- gentle hostess at many picnics and more

Kenneth Andersen- younger brother of Erick

Julian Haywood- FLOS life member/ early show force



The Rambler

It was raining buckets when we took the dogs out shortly after 6AM and I thought that only the brain-dead would ramble even though we were to have a new 53 passenger bus. Forty-four of the 51 expected rambler did show up and most of the those who didn't ramble had reasons that were not about rain.. The rain came in bands all day but usually not while we were shopping. We spent \$6,332+ so the plants were tempting. The child in each of us probably enjoyed splashing in the rain. This was maybe **the best ramble ever**, especially so, since the rambler were such positive and considerate people.

It was raining especially hard when we got to **Quest** and a handful of us stayed on the bus but promised Yolanda that we would be shopping for Quest plants at the fall orchid shows. Our next stop was **Carib Plants** and while the Randalls were away, the staff helped us buy big boxes of colorful and varied orchids.

Our usual lunch stop was **R.F. Orchids** and we enjoyed eating in a covered area in back of the house. Our sandwiches were greatly enhanced by the drinks, fruit, and cookie offerings. It was a good day for coffee.

Living Color was another favorite stop and big boxes of orchids and other plants filled the bus to overflowing. Mitch and the staff were well prepared to handle the crowd, and our thoughts were with Patty who was camping out with the cub scouts.

Our last stop was at **Barbara Wilkins'** amazing place. Lolita Shirk remembered coming here with her parents when she was a little girl. The bonsai and koi have become even more magnificent in the interim. The full bus and the rain did inhibit our buying but most people vowed to return.

Now about wine, Jane DePadro donated the last 6 or so bottles of her charity auction win of, 'wines of the world' and Michael Schaberl, John Wrench, probably others, and I brought wine to share on the trip home. We still had not opened some of Jane's wine and the bottles were raffled. The winners donated the bottles back and we had a wine tasting adventure.

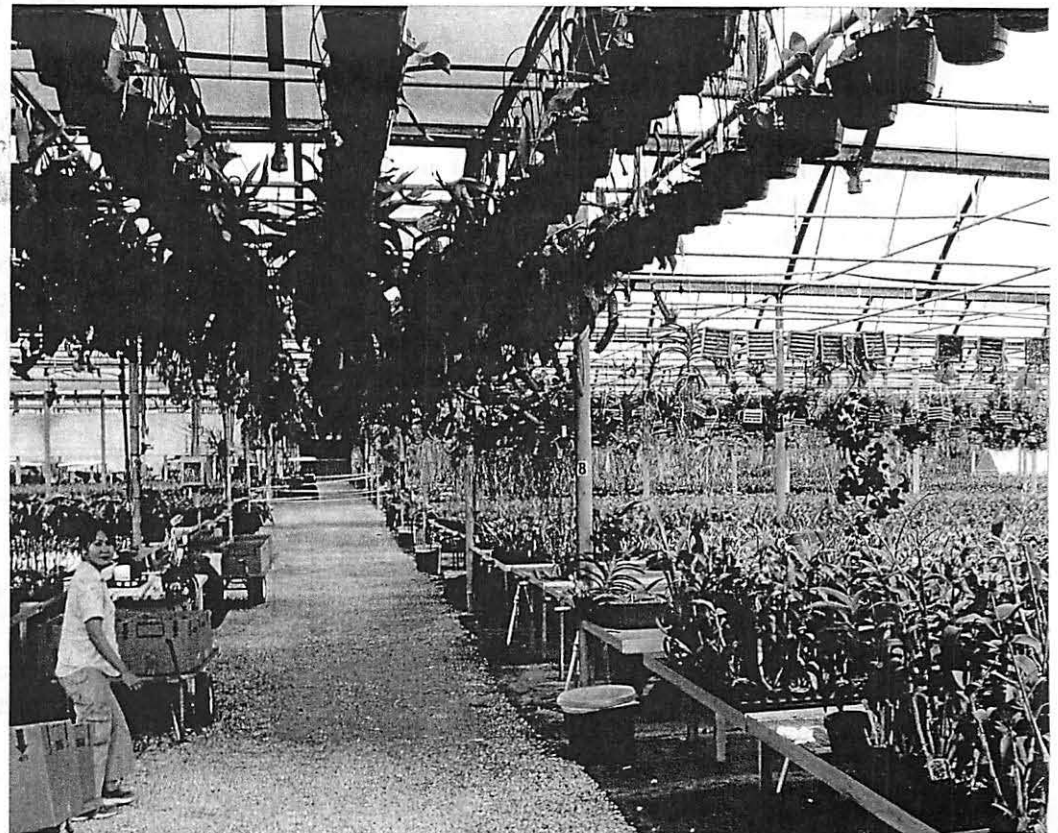
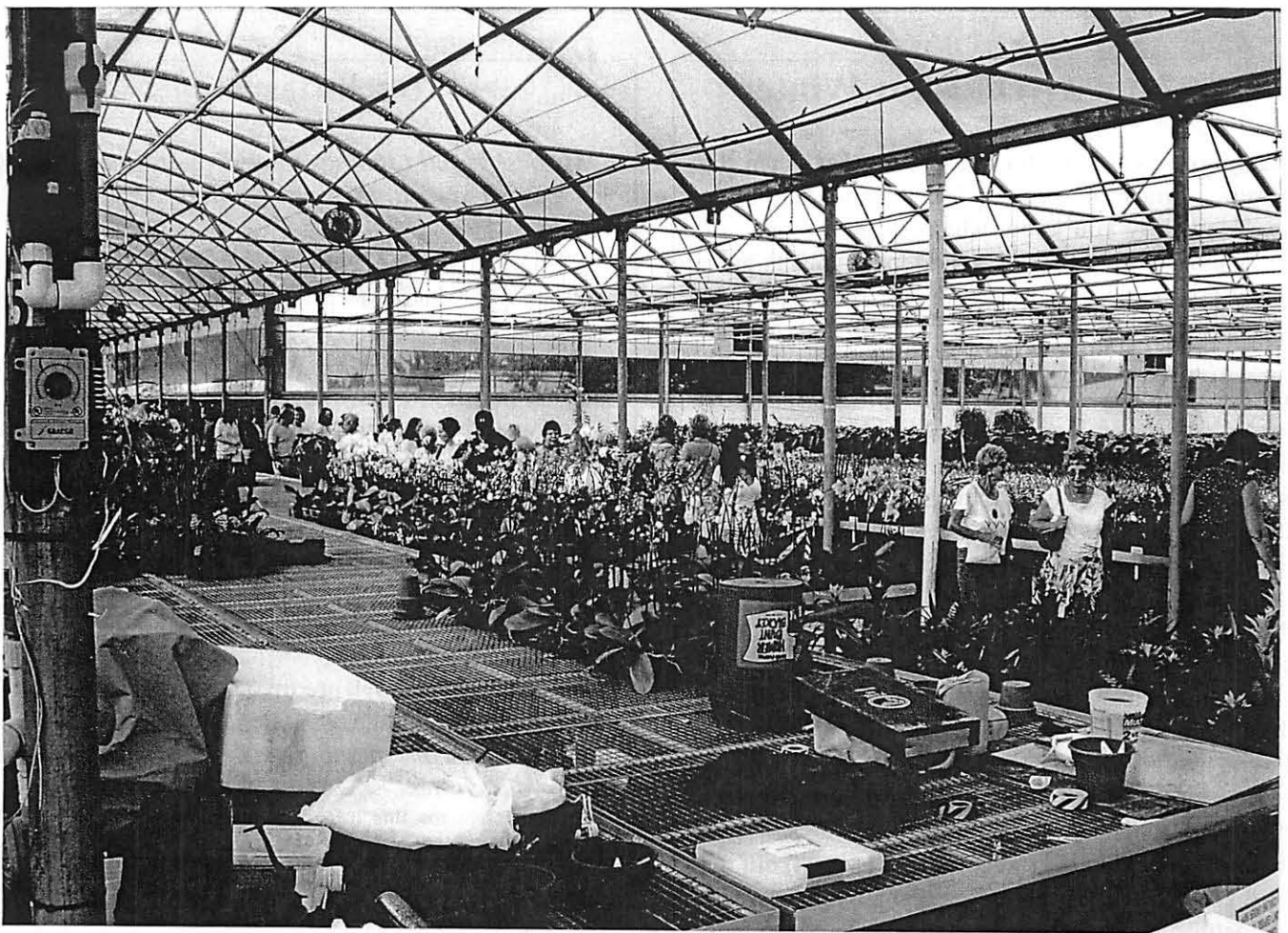
Rambler who signed up early to work a shift or shifts at the show were: Jackie Lyles, Peggy Smith, Leah Ostrander, Peggy Steptoe, John Wrench, Bruce and Sue Muntz, Michael Schaberl, Barbara and Richard Knapp, Connie Walker, Sheri Macchia, Peggy Knight, Thuy Pham, Barbara Gatterman, Marian Huber, Steve Herman, Rich and Connie Ackerman, Pricilla Oughton, Bonnie Bonneau, Janet Teschner, and Chip Jones.

Plan to ramble next time, and plan to sign up to work at our show. It is the **3rd largest display show in the nation**. All of us who work help KEEP it the best! I know that no society can match our rambles. Dot H.

Member News/Thanks

- * Marian Huber and Robert Shirk will exhibit their art work at the Moran Enterprises Gallery in the Fort Lauderdale Library on Sunrise from November 1-7.
- * Mary Burtoff donated about 20-30 healthy orchid divisions to the auction. Glad she was making space for new plants.
- * Tom Kuligowski exhibited his orchid art at AOS in October. Congratulations Tom, you are GOOD.
- * Wayne Musgrave contributed the ramble pictures shown in this newsletter. Look for Tim Coy's work in December.





Sorry to nag....

Repeat, please pay your dues in the dues envelope and fill in your name, address and phone so old mistakes can be fixed, or new changes recorded.

Group Your Orchids for Winter

Group your cold tender plants, so that when the temperature drops they are quick to find and bring inside. Hopefully you know which of your plants are tender and it never hurts to group baby plants with these. If your more hearty plants are scattered all over you might condense them so they can **all be reached by a soaker hose, or hoses, which you will stretch under the benches and leave for cold snaps until spring.** You know by now that Florida tap water is relatively warm (67-70 degrees) and heat rises. If you put soaker hoses under your benches and cloth, **NOT PLASTIC** on top of your orchids to trap the heat you can let them stay outside when the temperatures drop into the forties.

I turn on the soaker hoses at night when the temperature is below 50 and turn off the water when the sun comes out the next morning. If I had kept on overhead sprinklers I would have wet plants that would need to be treated with fungicide.

Have some cloth and rope ready to tie around trees where tender orchids might be harmed.

Group the orchids that need to rest away from the plants that need to be watered once or twice a week. These include yellow blooming, spring *Dendrobiums*, *Calanthes*, *Catasetums* and others.

More Winter Orchid Preparations

Think spider mites which multiply in great numbers during our dry winter months. Last winter I moved our *Phaiocalanthes* about 10 feet from each other. Then I followed Joyce Skelly's idea. I bought Eucalyptus oil at Whole Foods. Next I twisted cotton on wires to make something that looked like a long Q-Tip. I put 2-3 drops of oil on the cotton, topped the cotton with an inverted empty yogurt container to protect the cotton from water and IT WORKED. I pressed one of these spider mite repellants into each pot which had been ruined by mites in the past. I had no spider mites. I did replace the oil once after about 6 weeks. If I could find Eucalyptus plants I would space them among our orchids for an easier, probably cheaper way to repel those hated mites.

Get your spring potting supplies before February. If you wait and shop late you will join all the others to find that the suppliers had sold out of 3" pot clips, tree fern, or whatever. As a matter of fact we can start to repot in February in South Florida. Look for new roots and beat the heat of spring and summer. D.H.

Declutter Time

My desk is full of things to pass on to you. This may get me an award for 'disorganized person of the month'.

* Millionaires shop with coupons and shop at Wal-Mart. (Smart Money. Sept. 2008. P.96)

* Honey trivia. Honeybees visit 2 million flowers to make a pound of honey. A bee visits between 50-100 flowers in just one nectar collecting trip.

The average worker bee makes about 1 ½ teaspoons of honey in its life time.

Bees have been producing honey for 20 million years.

Honey granulates, place it in a pan of warm water and it will return to the original state.

Florida is one of the top five honey producing states. -- Sun Sentinel. 9/18/08 5B

* Carbon dioxide levels are up 3%. and the top emitters are China, USA, India, Russia, and Indonesia. (To do your part to help: *plant more trees, buy more orchids, drive your car less.*)

Bill Arney sent me this info from another source. Locally: Sun Sentinel. 9/26. P 13a.

Oca, Future Veggie?

Potatoes came from the Andes and certainly they are a staple of life for many people. Oca (*Oxalis tuberosa*) is also an Andes crop that is being tested as a future food. The leaves and flowers are edible in salads and the tubers are nutritious and different strains have a variety of flavors. Some taste like potatoes, others like sweet potatoes, celery, chestnuts, and some are fruit flavored. Some can be eaten raw and others are boiled as a potato. They are harvested in December, and some specialty food shops may have them.

--The Avant Gardener. September, 2008. P. 6

This and that?

The Green Corner

* Use these products as seldom as possible, and avoid brands with phosphates. The following are listed from worst to less bad: 1/drain cleaners, 2/dish washing detergents, 3/ tub and tile cleaners, 4/ toilet bowl cleaners.

www.simplesafeproducts.com

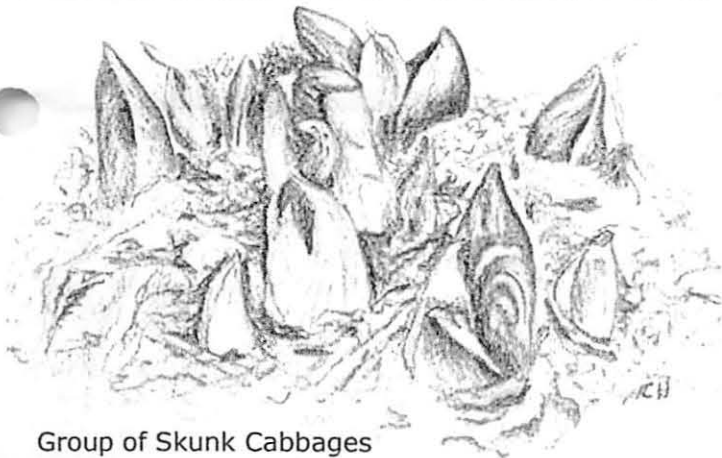
*Using your electrical appliances will cost less at bed-time. Big-time night things to try include your mega-night dishwasher and then your clothes dryer.

More on Heat Producing Plants

You've known about warm blooded mammals and birds since 3rd grade, and maybe you know that some flying insects can produce body heat? In any case meet Skunk Cabbage(*Symplocarpus foetidus*). When it is in bloom and seeking a pollinator, its body heat can maintain temperatures of up to 86 degrees F. higher than the surrounding snow or frozen ground and the air above it. The heat is produced by the breakdown of 'substances' and requires as much oxygen as would a warm blooded animal of the same size.

Pollen is released for about two weeks during the heating cycle. Beetles which seek the heat pollinate the plant which has a foul smelling bloom. Since the plant is one of the first to emerge in early spring, its leaves also smell like a skunk until other plants produce edible leaves. Skunk cabbage plants can be found in Canada and in swampy areas of the northern United States. *While they are not orchids you can repeat after me "All plants are just slow green animals"*.

www.natureinstitute.org/public/1c4skunkcabbage.html



Group of Skunk Cabbages

Vanillin Offers Hope

Vanillin gives the vanilla bean its flavor and it can protect blood cells from assuming a sickle shape. In the U.S. 80,000 people have the sickle cell gene which causes normal red cells to form the vessel clogging and damaging sickle shape.

While this was first reported in 2004, there is no word on whether scientists have found a way to get the vanillin into the blood system without going through digestive system where it is destroyed.

Science Daily 9/21/2004 (www.sciencedaily.com/releases)

Orchid Conservation News

Kalimantan make up 2/3rds of the island of Borneo (Indonesia) which is the 3rd largest island in the world. Before 1938 the Kalimantan area was called Dutch Borneo. It is estimated that 2,500-3,000 orchid species live here and in Borneo forests. Loss of habitat from fire, logging, gold mining and illegal burning at the current rate may cause a loss of all Borneo forests by 2010.

Chairani Siregar from the College of Agriculture at the University of Indonesia is leading an effort to identify and cultivate all these endangered orchid species.

www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/08/

Can't-Kill House Plants

Right after graduation, daughter Emily had a half underground apartment and it was gloomy. She wanted a plant and I got her a cast-iron plant. When she moved into more light she brought it back to me and when Chip Jones saw it he said, more or less, that I was the first person he had ever known who couldn't grow one of those well. He said it with a twinkle and I was shamed into repotting what is now a fairly robust cast iron plant.

Now that I have dulled your senses with that, you probably know that sometimes you need tough house plants. These are listed as the most tough: *Spathiphyllum*, pathos, rubber tree, pony tail palm, and zz plant. All are reported to thrive on medium to low light, sometimes, or often, lack of water and neglect.

www.sunset.com/toughplants

More On Neem Oil

1. Don't mix up more than you can use at one spraying. It breaks down. Store Neem in a cool place.
2. Add a small amount of detergent to the spray since you need to cover the plant completely and the detergent will help spread the spray. Neem works by suffocating the insect.
3. Do not use Neem if the temperature is above 85 degrees.
4. There is some evidence that Neem should not be used on thin leaved orchids, tender new growths, or on seedlings.

-- Southwest Florida Orchid Society Newsletter. July, 2008

Support Those Who Donated Such Awesome Auction Plants /Supplies

Adamson's Orchids	Amazonia Orchids
Banjong Orchids	Carib Plants
Carmela Orchids	EFG Orchids
Hawaiian Island Orchids	Indian River Orchids
Kodama Orchids	Mac's Orchids
Mickey's Orchids	OFE
Orchid Acres	Orchid Mania
Plantio La Orquidea	R.F. Orchids
Soroa Orchids	Quest Orchids

Allen Cogar and Tom Blanc spent a day collecting plants from Dade County. The Henleys received the plants that had been shipped in from out of the area. Michael Schaberl helped label and group the plants John Wrench used his truck to transport plants to the church and helped with loading, unloading and set up.

Jeff Adkins, Mac Rivenbark and Allen Cogar were the auctioneers and countless members worked the varied auction jobs such as recording, pick up and deliver, pay-up, set-up and take-down, donut shopping and more. Members also donated plants and bought plants to make this a great success. **Thanks to all!**



Sandi Jones
Tom Wells

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Corresponding Secretary.....Allen Cogar
Treasurer.....Bob Henley
Newsletter Editor.....Dot Henley

Directions: Use Oakland Park Blvd. from I-95.
Go East for 2.4 miles, go to rear of the church
which is on the North side of Oakland Park Blvd.
Or take US-1 (Federal Hwy.) to Oakland Park
Blvd. and go West for 2 blocks.

1955 East Oakland Park Blvd.
Place: Christ Lutheran Church Social Hall
Time: 7:30 P.M. Workshop, 8:20 P.N. Program
Regular meetings: Second Monday of each month
1. Lauderdale, FL 33338

**FORT LAUDERDALE
ORCHID SOCIETY**

