

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

American Orchid Society
DASSA
Distinguished Affiliated Societies Service Award

FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

N • E • W • S • L • E • T • T • E • R

February, 2008

February 11th Program

Sandi and Tom Will Show Basics of Repotting and Mounting Orchids

Sandi Jones and Tom Wells have given this program to several orchid societies and as a class at AOS. We are lucky they can fit us in for our annual, purely cultural, program.

They are curators of orchids at the Bonnet House and will soon start another series of Saturday orchid classes. Added to that is the pace of running their business, Broward Orchid Supply. Now is the time to line up your potting supplies for spring. They are planning to bring some commonly used supplies to sell at the meeting, but if your needs are major or unique, you should call ahead so they can bring your supplies to this meeting.

Join us for another great program.

What To Expect from Cold Damaged Orchids

Note: We had record cold (38 degrees) the night of January 3. Some quick thoughts:

* Isn't it amazing that most of your orchids look undamaged? Of course weak plants that were probably going to die anyway have passed on to leave bench space for new plants. Most *Dendrobiums* that weren't protected have probably lost their leaves. Don't put them your trash. They will grow again in the spring but may not bloom well or at all this year.

* You can expect bud-drop and some plants may take 3-5 years to bloom again. (p. 25.)

* New *Cattleya* growth may be stunted and flowers may discolor. (p.132.)

** To help your cold damaged plants recover water sparingly, don't fertilize for a 'while', and give damaged plants more shade than normal.

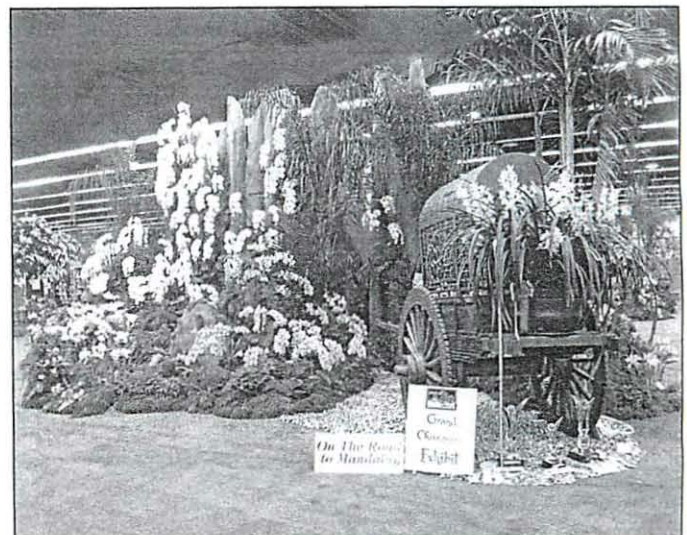
*Hamilton, R. (Compiler). 1988. *The Orchid Doctor*. Canada. Hamilton Publishing.

** from *The New Orchid Doctor*. (Other information as above.)

THE 19 WOC, WE DID IT! IT WAS THE BIGGEST BEST EVER.

Many people worked very hard to make this happen but the driving force and the creative force behind this event was **Bob Fuchs** who co-Directed this 19th WOC with our **Col. Ken Kone**. (Ken was a part of the 11th WOC and since he was no longer living in South Florida served as the voice of experience) From our Society **Janett McMillan** had the time consuming jobs of publicity and show program production, **Nora Dyke** registered hundreds if not thousands of people for the WOC as vendors, registrants and volunteers. **Bob Henley** served as co-show chair with **Dick Farwell** from the South Florida Society. From South Florida and FLOS **Joan Viggiani** served as Treasurer. The others from the SFOS were **Dorothy Bennett** who coordinated judging, and **Ruben Sauleda** who was involved with securing the 70 speakers.

These people are all to be commended for their dedication and years of attending planning meetings. Each committee member had workers heading sub-committees and many people put in great numbers of hours. In a future newsletter more information on the WOC will be printed as the news is confirmed. R.F. Orchids Grand Champion Display is shown below.



Review of the January 14 program:

X-rated Orchid Pollination with Ron McHatton

The boys on my old biology class back row would have loved this night, but guess what? Most orchid lovers have a streak of eternal teenage boy in them!

Nature wastes nothing, and since orchids can't send out wind blown pollen to make seeds, unique and varied ways have evolved to get animals to move the pollinia (heavy bags of pollen) down the column to the waiting eggs and future seeds.

Many small animals pollinate but not bats. Bats eat fragrant vanilla seed pods (beans) and the seeds pass through their digestive tracts and germinate in a fertile place. Vanilla seeds are the only orchid seeds which need animal digestive system products, and the pods are the only orchid seed pods that smell good to insure being eaten.

Bees and wasps pollinate 60% of our orchids and all other plants. Especially important to orchids are male Euglossine bees which look like Japanese beetles. During the day bees tend to pollinate flowers with a landing pad lip and a 'gullet-shaped' column. Often these flowers also smell good during the day, and bright red flowered orchids must have a great odor to attract bees since they can't see red.

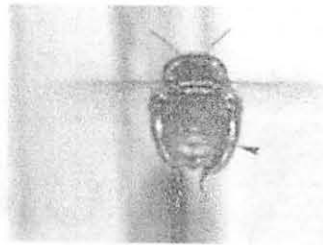
Oil collecting bees are attracted to a sweet fragrance found in cup shaped flowers which are green or white. There are also oil collecting flies associated with brown and purple flowers that may have a fetid/fecal smelling oil on their lips. Do not touch those lips, the stink does not wash away quickly.

Back to Euglossine bees, some hover and collect crystals of odor from an orchid flower and their purpose is to attract a female bee, but in so doing they move pollinia.

Orchids with butterfly pollinators don't waste energy and produce odor on a cold day since the cold blooded butterflies won't be out and about. Orchids from high altitudes can't depend on a cold blooded insects, which can't be active in the cold, depend on warm blooded hummingbirds in our hemisphere or sun catcher birds in Asia. (Both look for bright tubular orchids.)

Orchids with moveable parts often smell less than wonderful and these moving hairs often also attract fly pollinators. *Bulb. ornithorhynchum* which has no hairs and must depend on a beetle.

Other neat things, white or pale flowers are pollinated by moths at night and while the pale colors show at night they also produce odor at night. *B. nodosa* will turn off the odor when brought into light at night.



*Male Euglossine bee exposing
his gathered crystals.
Google./ Rubik & Whitten 2003*

Pollination continued:

Some orchids provide nectar for their pollinator. An example is *Angracum sesquipedale* where the moth with a Darwin predicted proboscis (tongue) can reach up to 24 inches into the spur for nectar and in so doing pollinates the flower.

Pseudo-copulation is common among European and Australian ground orchids. The flowers look like a female insect and the male bee mounts it and accidentally collects pollinia to take to the next plant.

Some orchids have evolved to trap an insect pollinator into a bucket or pouch. When the insect escapes through a special passage it collect pollinia to take to the next plant.

Brassias have spider-looking flowers and pollinators which leave eggs in spiders try to play the game and pollinate the orchids.

Some orchids attract their pollinator by floral mimicry. For example *Epi. radicans* looks like and blooms at the same time as lantana and *Phrag. besseae* resembles an orange gesneriad. Neither of these flowers provide anything for the pollinator, but they get pollinated by the insects which don't sense the difference.

The pollination that brought gasps from the audience was the story of the crane fly orchid. Its fuzzy pollinator has no place to hold pollen except on one of its sticky eyes. The pollinia which has stuck to the eye from the first flower pulls out the eye when the little Miller (moth) visit's the second flower.

Thank you Joan Connors for bringing us such an interesting program and thank you Ron for being able to explain what could have seemed complex, so clearly. D.H.

Welcome New Members

Bill Shompert, Barbara and Charles Fitzgerald,
Al Cicotte and Kevin Palombo, Rene Pandos,
Bill Caruso and Jose Gonzalez, William Stanton,
Bernard Langeluttig and Dennis Fitzkee

Thanks Refreshment Providers:

Bonnie Wood, Ken Slump, Nora Dyke, Chris Crepage,
Lisa Davis, Vickie Trank, Betty Runde, Gigi Granger

Some plants have hot flashes!

Think About Cycads

This is not the hot flashes you may know about, this is about getting warm to find a pollinator!. I'm trying to landscape with plants that need less water than grass and member Chip Jones lent me this book with information I had to share.

Plant inflorescences rarely produce heat. Some exceptions are found with some aroids, palms, water lilies, custard apples and all cycads (except the genus *Strangeria*).

Both male and female cones of cycads produce heat from 1-17 degrees* centigrade (celsius) above the air temperatures around the plant. The larger cones produce more heat than smaller ones. The heat comes from the break down of starches and lipids in the cone scales and occurs when the male cones are ready to shed pollen or when the female cones are ready to accept pollen. The heat is produced for about 5 hours in the late evening when a pollinator beetle may be attracted to it. (*Our orchids are not the only plants that play games to attract a pollinator.*)

Cycads have the same upturned roots that some of our orchids have. Our orchids have them to catch debris and water, but in the case of cycads which also have normal, growing down roots, the cycads roots contain Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) which fix nitrogen.

Cycads are a very primitive Gymnosperm and a link, perhaps, between spore bearing fern-like plants and seed plants. They are the only Gymnosperm to have a mutualistic relationship with a nitrogen-fixing organism. This is yet another reason to survive in harsh conditions.

Some animals (fish and snails) can change sex but sex changes are not common in unisexual plants, but cycads in mostly botanical gardens have been recorded to change sexes 17 times. (*Plants are just slow green animals and I want to own them all, maybe you want one of these in your landscape?*)

**The increase in cone temperature is up to about 29 degrees f.*

Jones, David L. 2002. *Cycads of the World*, 2nd Ed. USA, The Smithsonian Institution Press. Pp. 56, 60-61

Filler trivia:

About A Sneeze

Did you know, or do you care to know, that a sneeze can send 100,000 virus cells into the air? The speed of the air expelled in a sneeze is quite high and the cells can infect you from as far away as 30 feet! Don't touch your face and wash your hands often or you can be a target if you have been within range of a sneeze. Yikes!

—AAA Going Places. January/February 2008. P. 13

Avoiding Harmful Chemicals

The bottom line is you can't, but of the 75,000 man-made chemicals and some pure elements (Mercury and lead are examples.) or natural compounds are not that great for us as well. Toxic chemicals are stored in our fatty tissues and it is estimated that at least several hundred toxins are there waiting to attack in time. The pesticide **Dursban** was especially mentioned as a toxic agent that disrupted the cells' ability to accept glucose. (*Chances are that most South Florida orchidists have used Dursban.*)

To reduce the toxic chemicals in your life try these changes: 1/ Replace modern carpeting with wood or laminate. 2/ Replace non-stick cookware with stainless or iron. 3/ Replace plastic with glass for micro waving. 4/ Replace Styrofoam with paper. 5/ Reduce the pesticides in your food by buying organic products.

Bottom Line Natural Healing. 9/2007. Pp.. 6-7

Yeah, we can be lazy orchidists!

Things To Clean Every 5 Years

1/.Your box springs, 2/. Your refrigerator coils and the floor under the fridge. 3/. Your window screens (unless you live near the ocean), 4/. Your washing machine (use vinegar) and clean the floor under the washer and dryer. 5/. You need to dust the tops and side of books which will need dusting, and while they are off the shelves, polish and wax the shelves before you put the books back. 6/. Wash the shelves of your linen closet and donate those unused linens from the back of the closet. 7/. (*My favorite*) **WASH YOUR BROOMS!** (Harry and Quidish players you can thank me.)

Saving Water for Orchids

* If your hot water tank is not near your shower, take an empty bucket into the shower and catch the cold water that goes through the pipes before warm water reaches you. Each member of your household could save up to 1,000 gallons a month to use for other purposes.

* Rinse the shampoo from your hair in another bucket, that saved water can be used for a free flush.

Mad Cow or Terrorists

We know exactly where one cow with Mad Cow disease is located among the millions of cows in America, but we haven't got a clue where thousands of criminals and terrorists are located. Maybe we should put the Department of Agriculture in charge of people?

January Ribbon Judging Results

Bill Arney /blue/ *Rhyn. gigantea*

Bonnie Bellavance /blue/ V. Hot Chestnuts 'Isabella'
HCC/AOS /red/ *Galeandra viridis*, and V. Loke

Randy Brown /blue/ V. Pats Delight, Ascda.Kraileik x(Fuch
Fushia x *tessellata*), *Phal. Venosa* x *Phal Dottie Woodson*,
C. intermedia x *C. skinneri*

Marc Burchette /culture/ Clo. Rebecca Northern
'Grapefruit Pink', /Blue/ *Den. Ceriman*, Paph. Mem. Larry
Hewer /red/ *Mormodes ignea*

Eddie Griffith /blue/ Laelia Santa Barbara Sunset 'Peaches'

Tin Ly /blue/ Otaara Hidden Gold

Allan and Jan Mink /blue/ Phcal. Kryptonite

Mac Rivenbark /blue/ *Den. Heterocarpum*, /red/ *Den.*
purpurpum 'alba'

Mercer Stowers /blue/ Onc. Kalihi

Joan Stulginskas /blue/ Dtps. Edna Svets

2008 weather predictions from

The Farmer's Almanac

According to Perreault this publication has predicted weather really well since 1792. These are the predictions that may apply to us:

January-March, 2008. Florida temperatures will be a bit cooler than usual.

April -May, 2008. We will have below average rainfall and below average temperatures.

June-August, 2008. Florida will have less rain than usual and temperatures may be 5-6 degrees above average.

September-October, 2008. We will be cooler than normal and have more rain than usual.

For November -December, buy a 2009 almanac.

Perreault, S. 'Expect the warmest year in history'. January 15, 2008.

Bottom Line Personal. pp. 7-8

The Kitchen Orchid- Vanilla

As you know the Mexican vanilla crop was mostly 2007 hurricane destroyed, so what have you got to use in your kitchen?

* Pure vanilla extract is made from water, 35% alcohol, maybe sugar and of course real vanilla beans (seed pods). (*Hope you have this 'good stuff'.*)

* Natural vanilla flavoring is a mix of pure vanilla above and other 'natural substances'.

* Imitation vanilla is a mixture of synthetic substances which smell and taste like the real thing.

* Artificial vanilla is a product of the paper industry and ethyl vanilla is a coal tar derivative.

(If you are new to the newsletter, little brown specks in higher- end vanilla ice cream are seeds from the vanilla bean which is a seed pod.)

www.orchidsaustralia.com/vanilla.htm

It's Not Too Soon to Repot

Word is that 'fifty is the new forty', so February my version of the 'new spring' and time to repot. The days are getting longer and new growths will be popping soon, so why not get started before it gets too warm to work?

What to repot:

1. Anything you bought at World Orchid or will buy at any other show. Vendors tend to sell things that need repotting so they don't have to do that, and whatever they have used for potting medium is probably not right for us. **Moss is deadly** if you grow plants under shade cloth or a tree. It holds too much water and your plants will die. Moss is a great medium for growers with climatically controlled greenhouses because their young orchids will be ready for market sooner and it will work for you if you grow under cover.

Bark is a mistake here since the humidity is so high. It is the preferred medium for snow mold. Snow mold is caused by a fungus (*ptychogaster*) which spreads through the potting medium and covers the roots of the orchid. It is water repellent and keeps water from reaching the orchid's roots. When you repot, destroy the moldy medium, remove the fungus from roots and treat the roots with Physan or RD20. Then repot in clean pot with a bark-free or almost bark-free medium.

2. Repot orchids that have been in their pots for 2-3 years or that are growing over the sides of the pot. Exceptions are phals, phrags and paphs which should be repotted every year after they finish blooming.

3. Repot any orchid that is infested with scale or other pests. If the plant has 'tough' cattleya-like leaves blast it with water to remove pests, then spray it from roots to leaf tips and put it in a clean pot with new media. It is not always easy to remove pests from plants since they simple hide in the old medium and re-emerge after the spray washes away.

4. Repot any plant where the medium is decomposed. A healthy covering of moss is a hint to that You should also repot any orchid that has large fern or other weed roots entangled with the orchid's roots.

Next June you will be glad you started early!

Members, pets, and good news:

Awards for Cats and Sue and Bruce

Sue and Bruce Muntz and beautiful Maine Co cats, Diesel and Charlie Girl, have spent great time cheering up patients at the Miami Veterans Hospital and at local hospitals. The Delta Society has given the four of them a nice award, a 'Beyond Limits Therapy Animal Award' for their work and Sue and Bruce have been named spokespersons for our area of South Florida about therapy animals. Congratulations to all.

The New Grower, Be a gypsy, read leaves:

Orchids Can Speak to You If You Read Their Leaves

Yellowing leaves:

If the leaves are on the oldest backbulbs, the yellow just tells you that it is time to drop the old leaves. If newer leaves are yellow and soft, look for:

1/ too much light, 2/ low temperatures, 3/ lack of nitrogen if growing in bark, or 4/ loss of roots.

Blackened areas on leaves:

On bright summer days, a large, non-growing spot could be sunburn. If the black area increases expect fungus or bacteria. If you think the spot is not sunburn cut off the diseased leaf, isolate the plant and treat with a fungicide. (*Kitchen cinnamon may work too.*)

Blackened tips of leaves:

This happens fast in *Cattleyas*, fix with added calcium, but the black tips may signify too much fertilizer, minerals in water, or maybe a fungal infection. (*If just one plant has black tips, cut off the leaf and sprinkle with cinnamon, if seen in several plants, add a calcium supplement, lime, Tums, or egg shells.*)

Shriveled Pseudobulbs:

Look for inadequate watering or dead roots. Water more often and longer, *after you pluck the plant from the pot and check its roots. If roots have rotted, cut them off with a clean blade, move the plant to a dry place, use a fungicide and don't be surprised if you need to replace it with something new. There are new plant replacement rambles, there are our meetings, and orchid shows. Orchid death happens: poor culture and pathogens help. Long time orchid lovers have killed/let die a horrible number of plants.*

Brown or Black Streaking on Leaves:

You probably have an incurable viral infection. You can send part of the plant off for testing. (*Plan B is to isolate the plant, or just toss it pot and all into the garbage.*)

Small Red or Brown Spots on Leaves:

The small spots will turn black and say "I have a fungus." Try to move to a less watered place and apply a fungicide. (Some Brassias and Oncidinae seem to have genetic spots on their leaves. Don't expect to fix them.) *Relax, the longer you grow, the less you know that you know!*

From *Growing Orchids*. An AOS 1993 publication. Italic comments are editor added, based on current publications and growing experience.

The healthier orchidist:

What to Eat for a Food Fix

Protect the heart with: bananas, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cherries, chestnuts, figs, flax, garlic, grapefruit, green tea, citrus fruit, mushrooms, oats, olive oil, onions, peaches, peanuts, rice, tomatoes, walnuts, watermelon, and wheat bran.

Combats cancer or protects against it: apricots, beans, beets, blueberries, broccoli, all citrus fruit, carrots, cauliflower, cherries, chili peppers, garlic, grapes, green tea, mangoes, mushrooms, oats, olive oil, onions, peaches, peanuts, rice, strawberries, sweet potatoes, walnuts, water, and wheat bran and germ

Digestive system helpers: apples, artichokes, beans, beets, carrots, chestnuts, chili peppers, flax, honey, oats, peaches, prunes, and wheat bran and germ.

Anti-Alzheimer's or memory helpers: apricots, blueberries, mangoes, strawberries, sweet potatoes and walnuts.

Odds and ends (foods follow condition): wart dissolver -pineapple, kidney stones- water and rice, banish bruises- cauliflower, and to slow aging-cherries.

Source: Email from Sylvia Hill, Ben Wan probable author.

Quiz for Plant People

Word bank:

a/ adventitious, b/cucullate, c./cultivar,
d/durinal e/endemic, f/flavescent
g/indigenous h/latifoliate i/maculate
j/mesic k/monotypic

- 1. A genus with one species
- 2. A plant part occurring in an unusual place
- 3. Daytime growing, blooming, etc. (not nocturnal)
- 4. Opposite of xeric, a moist habitat
- 5. Spotted or blotched- think flowers
- 6. Hooded or hood shaped
- 7. A plant derived from cultivation
- 8. Yellowish or yellow
- 9. With broad leaves
- 10. Native to an area
- 11. Confined to a limited geographic area

Answers: you can miss one free. 11=e, 10=g, 9=h, 8=f, 7=c, 6=b, 5=i, 4=j, 3=d, 2=a, 1=k (Unless you aced Latin, I'll bet you flunked this one. I would have.)

Again, The Orchid Doctor

* **Added light** for indoor orchids can be a good idea. It's a waste of money to add lights in the early morning when the plant's metabolism is low. Add the lights at three in the afternoon when the daylight is decreasing and the plant is still active. (P. 51) (*One of my former students who now attends FLOS meetings did a science project testing metabolic rates on non-orchid seedlings and found that the metabolic rate was highest at 11:00 AM (sun time). The plants took in more fertilities or died quicker from weed-killer application at that time.*)

* **Magnesium Sulfate, Epsom salts**, does for plant systems what iron does for animal blood. (P. 54) (*Chlorophyll and hemoglobin molecules are the same except one has magnesium and one has iron. Certainly a teaspoon of Epsom salts in a gallon of water is a good thing several times a year.*)

* **Orchid Growers' Ten Commandments:** 1. Learn basic culture. 2. Provide proper facilities. 3. Watch for creeping obsolescence. 4. Learn about diseases and pests. 5. Buy good stock. 6. Learn the names and watch the labels. 7. Beware gift plants. 8. Specialize. 9. Build a good library. 10. Join an orchid society. (P. 62)

* **Outdoor tree orchids** should be attached to the east side of the tree. (P.63)

* **Respiratory rate** of plant tissues is related to temperature. At 60dF the rate is 28%, at 70dF it is 40%, at 80dF it is 50%, at 90dF is 65%, at 100dF it is 75% and at 118dF it is 100% and after that the plant begins to exhaust itself. (P. 86)

* **Talking to plants** has been shown to be a slight benefit to their well being. It is probably the added carbon dioxide from your breath. (P. 93)

* **Brown sheaths** still produce flowers in *C. skinneri* and some others, but usually when a sheath turns brown there will be no bloom. Causes of brown sheaths are poor light or ventilation, too much or too little water, or the plant is just too weak to flower. (P.95)

* **A Shell No-Pest strip** can be enclosed in a container with an orchid having scale and other insect pests or spider-mites and the pests will die. Depending on the size of the container used, remove the plant within 2-8 hours and put the No-Pest strip back in its container for use again in a week. (P. 95)

Orchid Doctor continued:

* **Staghorn ferns** that share a tree with orchids promote the growth and well being of the orchids. (P102)

* **One birth control pill** in a quart of water and used on seedlings weekly produced better growth. (P.103)

* **Sunburn treatment** for a badly burned plant is to cover it in a saturated sugar and water solution which will seal the tissue from microbes and stop dehydration. (P. 103)

* **When you repot a terrestrial orchid** keep about 1/3 of the old medium so the orchid will still have some of its mycorrhiza. Mycorrhiza are symbiotic fungi that orchids require. (P. 104)

* **Good Host trees for orchids** in Florida include native oak, mahogany, tabebuia and bottlebrush. Due to dense foliage these trees are not good: avocado, mango, and citrus. (P. 107)

Hamilton, Robert M. (Compiler and Publisher, Canada.) 1988.

The New Orchid Doctor.

Editor's note: There are two of Hamilton Orchid Doctor books in our library. In the 6 1/2 years since I've been looking for newsletter information, I have used them repeatedly. Both are full of information. Do check one out and read about what interests you.

Our Pests, Big and Small

We live in a sub-tropical paradise where critters don't die, migrate, or at least stop reproducing in cold weather. Our ever-growing population of **Iguanas** might not eat your best plants if they are sprayed with **Neem**. But members who tried it, didn't find it a long term help. **Neem** spray may also repel **snails** up to the size of silver dollars.

Since **Bedbugs** are back. How about avoiding hotel and motel sheets, bring your own seal them and your night wear in a plastic bag, and hit the washing machine with them when you get home

Termites don't eat orchids, but look out for them when other houses in your neighborhood are tented, double check your place for them. Termites are responsible for \$5. Billion dollars in property loss each year. When you see them swarming know that young **Queens** and **Kings** are heading out to new wood which probably can be found in neighborhood attics. (*If you have to tent for termites you may have less money to spend on new orchids. Think priorities watch for problems and maybe the pest control companies can use a less expensive alternatives?*)

The New Grower's Page With Potting Tips

Nag, Nag, Nag! Repot your new plants at once, and never leave an orchid potted in moss out from under a roof cover!

How often do you need to repot?

Paphs, Phrags, and Phals should be potted every year if they are in a mix of cocoa fiber and aliflor and Phals or anything else in sphagnum moss **MUST** be repotted yearly or even more often depending on the quality of the moss.

Catts and most orchids potted in a mix of tree fern, wood chips, aliflor or other rock like material, and charcoal should be repotted every other year or at most after two years.

Vandaceous orchids in empty baskets need to be placed in larger, new baskets when the basket in use is falling apart or is way too small. This may range from a couple to many years.

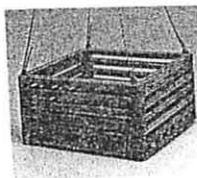
Oncidiinae and many other orchid types, in baskets with medium, may go for several years if the medium in the basket is not breaking down, and if the plant has not outgrown the basket. It is best to avoid wood chips as a part of a basket medium, since they are not long lasting.

Dendrobiums like to be in small pots and do not really seem to respond well to really frequent potting. They may be left in the same pot or basket for several years if the medium has no wood and is not breaking down.

Know that the advice above is for people growing orchids outside where heavy summer rains are flushing salts out of the potting media. If you are growing under cover, you need to flush your orchids every week or two with copious amounts of water to wash away fertilizer salts. Of course flushing for salts is important for all of us during the dry season.

What kind of pot or basket should be used?

Clear, plastic pots are the current rage for Phals since their roots may also carry on photosynthesis if exposed to light. Some people are also potting Phrags and Paphs in clear plastic. Plastic pots are fine for plants that like to always be a bit moist. Plastic pots are used by most who produce vast numbers of plants to be sold. They are cheaper than clay and lighter to ship. Furthermore the controlled environment in a modern greenhouse is such



that there is no worry about root rot for commercial growers.

Clay, slotted, orchid pots are usually best for Catts, Dendrobs and other commonly grown orchids that need to "dry out a bit" between waterings.

Wooden or plastic baskets are used for Vandaceous orchids and are usually left empty except for the orchid. *L. anceps* also thrives in a in bare baskets. Baskets with medium are really great for almost any orchid that needs to dry out a bit between waterings. Catts and Dendrobs do well in baskets and Brassias and Oncidiums absolutely thrive in baskets. Crosses of *B. nodosa* with Catts also especially flourish in baskets.

Tree fern, cork, driftwood or a living tree will also house almost any orchid. The orchid should be attached with wire, super glue, or a brad during its active growing season and will need copious amounts of water on a daily basis until it is well established.

How deep to place the plant in the medium

Before you remove the plant from its pot see how deep it is in the medium, if the plant is thriving, let that be your guide. The rhizome that attaches pseudobulbs or canes on most horizontally growing orchids should be on top of the medium, for example Catt or Dendrob. Phals, Paphs, and Phrags like to be "snuggled down" further into the medium, but certainly no part of the leaf should be covered.

Orchids that may grow better if they are sitting in a shallow tray of water

Shallow is no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ an inch of water. Phrags grow well if the pot is sitting in a shallow tray of water. The crocking in the bottom of the pot will keep the roots just out of standing water but the added humidity and the damp pot make a Phrag grow better. Most *Cirrhopetalums* or *Bulbophyllums* will flourish in or above a shallow tray of water.

The hints here are just the tip of the orchid growing iceberg. A Good web source for information on growing species orchids is orchidspecies.com and orchids.com is also great for all kinds of growing information. Please place www. in the blanks before the web addresses. If I do that, the print is blue and won't copy!



FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

P.O. Box 4677
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33338

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

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.

President..... **Mac Rivenbark**
First V.P..... **Joan Connors**
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Thanks to the FLOS members who contributed to the great success of the best ever 19th WOC!

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'07s Please Pay Your Dues Today

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