

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

# FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

August, 2008

N • E • W • S • L • E • T • T • E • R

August 11<sup>th</sup> program:

## Laurel Nanney To Speak

Baldan Orchids is a family business which Barbara began in 1973. These days daughter, Laurel, is mostly carrying the torch, at least when being the mother of 9 month old son, Cole, a third generation orchidist, will let her! Laurel has her own flasking business and in this business she tends to flask species orchids of many genera.

Backing up, Livio and Barbara Baldan started hybridizing and growing Phalaenopsis some 30 years ago. The emphasis at Baldan Orchids has been the creation of yellows, stripes, peaches, art shade and red phals. Many of their crosses have gotten AOS awards. Their most famous cross is Phal. Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure' AM/AOS which was voted best Phalaenopsis in the world for six years in a row.

Laurel's program, **The Evolution and Revolution of Phalaenopsis**, will cover some phal history as well as a current look at trends for the future. Laurel also promised to go into the effects of our globally warmed temperatures on our collections. Laurel will provide the plant raffle table and will hopefully have plants for sale. **Don't miss another super new program.**

## Order Plants for September

Our September 8 speaker will be Linda Wilhelm from Woodland Orchids. The Woodland sales booth is always a popular stop at our show, but you have a chance to shop the for exactly what you 'need' by going to the website ([www.woodlandorchids.com](http://www.woodlandorchids.com)) and planning ahead. You can pre-order on your own, but if you see me at the August meeting we can put in a group order we could probably get a discount for a group order. Linda and Rolf will deliver our order at the September meeting and save the cost of shipping as well as the pressure put on plants being shipped in a box in late summer.

## Think *Vanda*

The uppermost halves of *Vanda* leaves can TALK. Not really but they can tell you that the plant is not getting enough water. The leaves fold together to reduce the exposed leaf surface. By doing this the loss of water though transpiration is reduced. Leaf fold will be followed by the plant's shedding its bottom leaves during prolonged periods of heat and dryness. (If you have a collection of 'palm tree vandas', you can see that more water was needed.)

Sometimes *Vanda* roots grow to the ground and David Grove agrees with Mike Coronado from R.F. Orchids that the roots can be trimmed. This should be done in spring or summer, never winter or fall. They also agree that coiling long roots around the basket is a poor idea.

Grove, David. Today's Strap Leaf *Vanda* Hybrids. AOS Slide Program 308.

Coronado, Mike. Workshop program given at FLOS meeting.

## On Super-parents

If you love catts you know that *B. nodosa* and *C. Horace* are important parents in the Blc, Bc, etc. combinations.. If you love paphs, you probably know that *Paphiopedilum bellatulum* has over 2,000 hybrids registered with it as a super-parent. (*Lucky that parent orchids don't send their offspring to college or the orthodontist.*)

*The more aware orchidist*

## Mail Box Smarts

Hopefully you have secure mail boxes for incoming mail. What could happen if you leave mail for your mail carrier to pick up outside the box? Identity thieves cruise neighborhoods and will grab those envelopes and learn account numbers from the checks you wrote to pay your monthly bills or they will destroy the birthday card you sent to Auntie.

(This good email came from John Wrench.)

## Review of July Vizcaya Program

Many of us know how talented our 2<sup>nd</sup>-V.P. Wayne Musgrave is, and we were not surprised that he could kill the 20 minutes or so needed to get the Power Point projector on site. He described every item in our new member pack and then his orchid collection. He claimed that he grouped by color rather than by new DNA grouping which had many of laughing. Then the projector got here and Ian Simpkins began his tour which included history and house.

Bachelor, James Dearing, (International Harvester) bought 150 acres and began to build the awesome 'house' which was placed on the salt marsh portion of the property. Dearing died in 1926 and he left the property to his nieces who sold off acres to pay taxes and to maintain the property.

When Dade county got the property in 1955, there were only 50 acres left of the property and only 10 acres were devoted to gardens. Part of the property had wonderful old red mangroves with giant girths and which towered up to 60 feet tall.

Back-tracking a bit, to reduce the sun's glare, a tall earth ridge was made in front of some of the most sunny windows. Huge oaks were dug by hand, taken to the site by barge, and replanted on the earth ridge. Today they look as though they were planted there as young trees, and the "living green" shade is in place.

Carol De Biase's part of the program included some history of the David Klein Orchidarium. Klein invented the stretch limo, and in retirement came to Viscaya every day to sit and enjoy the gardens. He left money in his estate for orchids. The Orchidarium consists of a beautiful and big arched display area for blooming orchids in the garden and two 40' long shade houses for growing orchids. There are about 3,000-4,000 plants now in these shade houses.

Currently there is an effort to replace orchids on the trees which had been blown away or flooded in hurricanes. The after-Wilma pictures of destruction were unlike most that we have seen since there were great piles of seaweed left when the water receded.

Carol showed us slides of some of the amazing specimen plants at Vizcaya including: a *Stanhopea wardii* which had 25-30 forty inch spikes all smelling like chocolate-mint; and an *Oncidium spicatum* from Milton Carpenter with 27 spikes.

Both Carol and Ian invited us to become volunteers at Viscaya. To do so call Carol at (786) 385-2616. They also invited us to visit the gardens free on the forth Sunday in August.

When asked if they had an iguana problem the response was.--"We have salt water crocodiles and resident cats...." We were lucky to have these enthusiastic and interesting speakers. D.H.

## July Ribbon Judging Results

John Wrench /blue/ Miltassia Rader maker 'Haiku Leopard'  
Bonnie Wood /blue/ Dendrobium Thongchai 'Lai' /red/  
Dgmr. Mem. Jay Yamada 'Kauai'  
Mercer Stowers /red/ Blc. Toshi Aoki 'Blumen Insel'  
Bettie Oldack /red/ Pot. Shirley Moore 'Newberry'  
Wayne Musgrave /blue/ *V. lamellate* v. *boxalii* x *Rhyn. coelistis*  
Allan & Jan Mink /blue/ Blc. Cherry Suisse /red/ Paph. Konkoloco  
Tin Ly /blue/ *Schomburgkia bryaiana*  
Bill Knost /red/ *Brassavola nodosa*  
Eddie Griffith /blue/ Vasci, Viboon Velvet, /red/  
*Cyc chlorochilonation* x *Cyc. herrenhusanam*,  
Vanda/ Arjuna 'Wink'  
Chris Crepage /blue/ Lc. Marie's Song x Blc. Taena Beauty  
'Taiyoung Three Brothers' /red/ Epc. El Hatillo 'Pinta'  
Tom Corral /blue/ *Galeandra (batemanii x greenwoodiana)*  
Mary Burt off /blue/ V. Mimi Palmer x V. Dr. Anek,  
*Ascocentrum ampullacium* 'Thai Snow', *Encyclia alata*  
v. *majus* /red/ Den. Perla Kouchi 'Kaphulu Beauty'  
Chris Binder /blue/ *Paph. kolopakingii* x *praestans*  
Bill Arney /blue/ C. Bactia 'Grape Wax'

## Members' Corner

### Refreshment appreciation for:

Vicki Trank, Betty Runde, Laurie Klink, Lisa Davis, Connie Walker, Ray Ratliff, Bonnie Wood, Paul Gartner, Carrie Ackerman, Barbara Blanschield, Doris Pearson, Jane DePadro, and Nora Dyke.

### Emailed newsletters:

John Wrench kindly offered to scan and email newsletter to those who wanted them. Only one member emailed a request for an emailed newsletter and many were strongly in favor of regular mail. Some offered to pay more if necessary for hard copies. All FLOS newsletters will be slow mailed at this point.

### Green Barn's benches:

When I saw Hyla Levin's sturdy, rust proof, non - new -growth -trapping benches for holding orchids, I wanted to throw out all our old model ones. At first the benches were ordered, but built using Hyla's plan. Now a welder makes the benches at the Green Barn's site, which lowers cost and increases your chances of finding the perfect bench when you need more space.

## Florida Crime!

Crime is, sadly, big business in Florida. It generates more money than manufacturing. Medicare fraud alone adds an estimated \$12 billion to the state's economy.  
-- July 2008. Florida Trend Magazine. p. 65

## Bud Blast, Oh No!

**Water:** Too much sitting in the bud sheath may rot the bud, or the too much may rot the roots and keep water from reaching the top of the plant. Even watering with cold water may shock the plant and cause the buds to drop.

**Temperature:** Sudden changes in temperature may cause buds to blast.

**Atmosphere:** Fumes from paint, natural gas leaks and other chemicals may cause bud drop. Once a flower is pollinated it produces methane gas and wilts in order to save energy for the developing seed pod. Artificial sources of methane or ethylene gas can trigger bud or flower collapse. Ethylene is produced from ripening fruit, gas leaks, open fires, air pollution, smog, engine exhaust, and even cigarette smoke.

**Light:** Flowers won't open properly in inadequate light, and too much light may dehydrate the buds to cause them to fail.

**Chemical damage:** Applications of fertilizer, pesticide, or fungicide that are not according to the manufacturer's directions may cause bud drop.

**Humidity:** Developing buds need high humidity, without it, they blast.

**Insects:** Aphids and thrips suck the juices out of buds and they do not develop properly if at all. Thrips can be controlled with Diazinon or Malathion. Aphids control is more complex. Neem oil, Sunspray, chiton inhibitors, and Orthene are good things to try. Always repeat treatments of insecticides in 7 days.

**Genetics:** Some orchids have mutations that cause bud drop year after year. Discard the plant when the buds fail year after year.

Jones, S. Orchid Magazine. July 2003

## Air Quality Test, Biology 101

Do you have lichens on trees in your neighborhood? If so, the general quality of the air in your area is relatively free of pollutants. If you live near busy areas of I-95 or other heavily traveled roads you may have lost your lichens, and you might expect more bud blast! Lichens, as you remember, are symbiotic combinations of fungi and algae, and are the usually gray-aqua crusty growths on tree bark.

Visit AOS Free  
During Broward Week,  
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ALL YEAR

## Helping *Cymbidiums* Bloom

Member, Marge Adler, does know how to get all her orchids to bloom. She gets multiple bloom spikes on her *Cymbidiums* by pouring iced water on them at bed-time. I told Milton Carpenter that I was trying to see how that would work for me, and Milton told me that some people place ice cubes on the pot surface. I like to compare plant-ways so will put cold water on half and ice cubes on half. This is not my idea of a good study since half of 4 plants is two!

Over the years when I did get a *Cymbidium* spike it usually blasted. Milton told me to move spiked plants into lower, cooler phal light to prevent this. D.H.

## *Cymbidiums*, California Growing

Our most western living FLOS member, Irma Hughes grows mostly *Cymbidiums*. She used to pot in bark, but since bark quality has gone down, she is switching to coconut and other inert materials. (*Coconut and aliflor might work well for us?*)

Some people in her California society use moss and charcoal, but a recent speaker had condemned charcoal as a holder of salts which could be a potential killer. (*I wonder if any FLOS member has had a bad charcoal experience?*)

Irma reported that some people put their ready-to-use fertilizer solution in ice cube trays and put cubes of iced fertilizer on plants to initiate blooms in some kinds of orchids. D.H.

## Goodbye Orthene, Think Acethate

Orthene for fire ants has been the orchidists best way to control those nasty flower eating thrips. Most used a tablespoon of the 50% per gallon of water, or two teaspoons of the 75% for a gallon of water. Sandi Jones has reported that there is a 95% and if I had that on my shelf I would use a bit more than one teaspoon per gallon. Now to the point!

The makers of Orthene have sold out. When you are shopping for bug killers look for a product where the main ingredient is **acethate**. When you buy it note the percentage and adjust your spoons per gallon accordingly.



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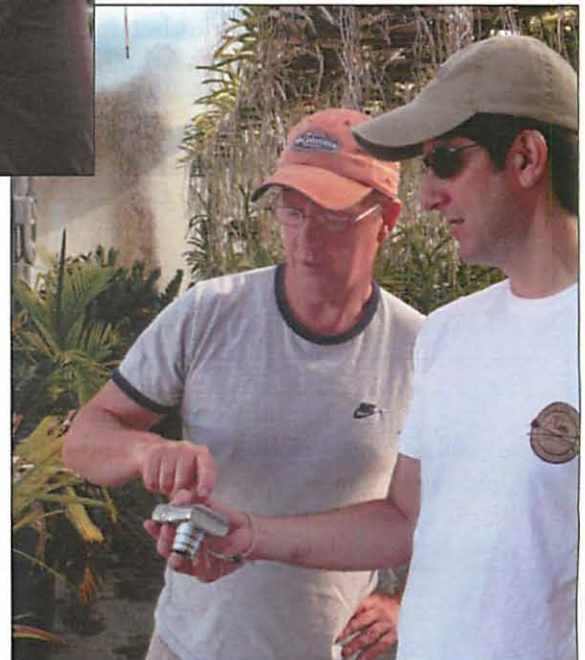


to Nurseries on  
Florida's West Coast





# FLOS June Ramble



## Biological Controls for Thrips

(Besides the plants themselves, orchids have enhanced my life with comfortable friends who have become part of my life through orchids. Terry and Barbara Glancy are such friends. We were together at a Taiwan orchid show a few years back and there are many things I like about them and what they do. They grow great orchids, and Pine Ridge is now both retail and wholesale so our bus will be going there. They also maintain, by removing non-native plants, 14 acres of Dade County's 20 acre Rock Ridge Pine Land. I like to sit in their kitchen and look out over this area where eagles and other magnificent birds are at home. I could babble on about their bat houses, and other contributions to a 'natural' habitat, but it is time to get to the end for now. Terry is great at emailing information for the newsletter and he has done it again!)

Stuart Gill, an entomologist from the University of Maryland, reported that this is the season in Maryland for thrips to begin to attack commercially valuable mums. He suggests applications of predatory mites (*Amblyseius cucumeris*) which feed on thrip larvae, or pirate bugs (*Orius*) which search out and devour larvae and adults. Pirate bug adults are winged and may fly away unless you provide a pollen source for their larvae. Black Pearl Pepper plant blooms were suggested as a pollen source and these peppers should be placed in several places around your orchid collection if it large.

Terry orders biological control Arthropods from Florikan in Sarasota (1-800-322-8666). Our thrip season, which started in January, disfigured our *Cattleya* flowers and they also attack Vandaceous, *Dendrobium*, and Catasetinae. Biological controls work best if we use them at the beginning of a pests' season. They are not cheap but for those of us who dislike strong chemicals, they may become Plan A. (*Thrips thrive on Ficus, which are being attacked by a predatory white fly\**. Without *Ficus* to eat, our orchids may be in more trouble than usual. Maybe others who dislike chemicals will join me in putting in an order for mites next winter.)

[www.ipnet.umd.edu/08\\_Jun27G.pdf](http://www.ipnet.umd.edu/08_Jun27G.pdf)

### Useful Conversions

Two tablespoons = 1 fluid oz. = 30 milliliters \*approx.  
8 fluid oz = 1 cup = approx.. 120 ml  
1 liter is approximately equal to 1 quart  
1 pound is approximately ½ kilogram

## Grow *Ludisia discolor* and *Goodyeras* for Beautiful Leaves

*Ludisia*, the Jewel Orchid, is commonly grown here but not for its spikes of small white, spring blooming, flowers. The only species in the genus *Ludisia* is *discolor*. It is grown for an amazing number of variations in its dark reddish-green leaves which are decorated with red or gold veins on the leaf surface.

It is a native of India and Southeast Asia where it is sometimes consumed as a pot vegetable. The fleshy stems break easily but the broken pieces root easily if stuck back into potting mix. Jewel orchids are terrestrial and grow well in loam with leaf litter on the surface. The roots are shallow and the best container is a shallow container which will allow the roots to creep across the surface. Shaded, humid conditions are best and the plants should never be allowed to dry out. (*The moist medium must drain well, so for us an artificial mix, such as ProMix should work well.*)

*Goodyera* orchids come from the same area of the world as *Ludisia* and several have beautiful leaves. The background leaf color is a dark green and the veins are silver-white. They are propagated by rooting broken rhizomes and should be grown and potted as *Ludesias*.

Botanica's Orchids. 2002. San Diego, CA. Laurel Glen Publisher. Pp. 292,322.

## \* *Ficus* and White Flies

Since August, 2007, ficus plants in South Florida have been attacked by a new species of whitefly. First the leaves turn yellow and drop off. Plants that can be denuded include: *Ficus bejamina*, (Our common hedge plant and the most susceptible host), banyan trees, stranger fig, Cuban laurel, banana-leaf fig, and fiddle-leaf fig.

Homeowners should monitor these plants and manage the pests before the infestation is severe. You can try Organicide, Sun Spray, Neem oil, and perhaps combinations of pesticides on smaller plants. You need to completely cover the leaves and repeat in 7-10 Days.

On a large hedge or tree the best product is Bayer Advanced Tree and Shrub Insect Control. This is applied to the soil, but can not be used near water.

(*While you might be happy to see your ficus go, they also act as a sink for thrips, and IF the thrips have nothing to eat, they may move on to your orchid blooms long before the dry season. D.H.*)

Visit this website for updates. <http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu>

More \$ for orchids, fertilizer, or your water bill:

## Saving Money on People Food

Food has gone up 5% from a year ago and now consumes 14% of the average household budget. Consider these ideas:

1. Go to your grocery store with a list. Don't pick up impulse items as you go the back of the store for milk. You might save up to \$1,200 year. By observing this and the hint in # 2 below.
2. Cheaper brands/items are on the bottom or top shelves, not at eye level. Look up and down.
3. Buy in bulk when non-perishable sale items are advertised. You could save \$1,000 a year.
4. Avoid eating out, cook at home from 5-7 times a week. Potential savings will equal \$50 a month.

— Money Magazine. July, 2008. Pp 88-89

## Getting More Miles Per Gas Gallon

1. Keep your engine tuned up. The US DOE reports that replacing a dirty oil filter can boost mileage by 10% or save about 40 cents per gallon.
2. Test your tire pressure when the tires are cold. Proper inflation can boost mileage by 3% which is a 12 cents per gallon savings.
3. If you have to sit at idle for more than a minute, turn the engine off.
4. Don't top of your gas tank. The top will just evaporate in the car's vapor collection system.
5. Drive smoothly, neither start nor stop too rapidly.
6. Drop your highway speed. Observing highway posted speeds can increase your mileage from 7-23%, a 28-92 cents per gallon savings.
7. Park in the shade to reduce fuel evaporation.
8. Travel light, every 100 pounds extra in your car reduces fuel economy by 1-2%. Don't put luggage on the overhead rack which increases drag.
9. Weather permitting, drive without air with the windows up on expressways.
10. Use your cruise control when possible.
11. Use engine oil bearing the American Petroleum Institute's "Energy Conserving" performance label. These oils contain friction- reducing additives that also increase mileage.

—Newsletter Federation of American Consumers. Terry Glancy is thanked for forwarding this.

## Knees and Other Joints

A 'Real Age' email on July 4 promoted these six foods for joint health: berries, ginger, avocados, flax seeds and omega-3-rich fish such as wild salmon or tilapia. Other joint/knee helps included consuming Vitamin C from citrus, and drinking green tea..

The Traveling Orchidist

## Improve Your Flight

Gone are the elegant old days of flying, at least unless you pay for first class. These things might make your flight more pleasant:

- \* On the day of your departure check on line to make sure the flight has not changed.
- \* Dress better than baggy sweats and dirty sneakers. Wearing shoes that come off easily for screening, and that can take you on a long dash at an airport don't have to look like you've gardened in them for a decade. You will be treated better if you dress well and if there is room in first class, the better dressed passengers are bumped up to that. A large shawl is a great wrap for women, it can double as a blanket and is easier to take on or off than a jacket or sweater.
- \* If you don't want to talk to your seat-mate, put on ear phones, or a sleep mask before you take off.
- \* To avoid a meal of pretzels, buy a non-smelly, non-messy sandwich and water once you pass security.
- \* Be sure your carry-on fits under the seat and contains a toothbrush and fresh underwear so when your luggage is lost, you are not THAT desperate.

## Plant More Trees

In 50 years a single tree will generate \$31, 250 worth of oxygen, provide \$62,000 worth of air pollution control and recycle \$37, 500 worth of water. (Added to that trees increase your property value and their shade lowers your air conditioning bill.)

National Arbor Day Foundation, Country Gardens. Spring, 2003 p, 15

## More Bufo Toad Information

We collect run-off rain water in buckets by our garage. Suddenly we had a bucket of water which included tadpoles. They were tiny and I would never, never, murder 1,000 tree frogs-to-be but would certainly dump the bucket and let *Bufo marinus* (cane toads) go to save our dogs. My friend Goggle offered this information and trivia to pass along.

These big bug-eaters/dog killers can weigh up to two pounds and are listed as one of the 100 world's worst invader species. In Australia there is a TOAD BUSTERS group which wants your contributions to help eradicate these beasts.

Another suggestion from my search was to roast and grind a toad and apply it to the tips of arrows. Maybe you would like to take our bucket of tadpoles home with YOU? D. H.

## GREEN BARN ORCHID SUPPLIES

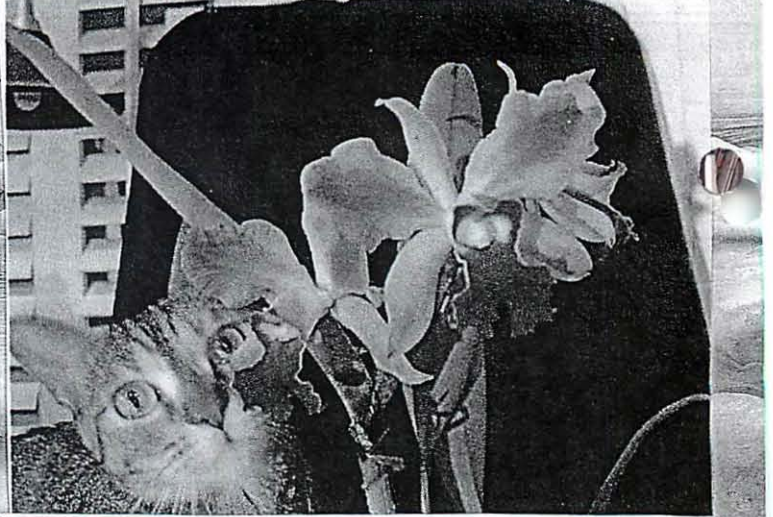
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### A three for one:

## Members and Pet of the Month

I have appreciated Dr. Bruce and Mary Burtoff since they showed up to move tables after the judges luncheon and before the preview party at our 2006 show. Nobody else had agreed to show up. They both took on un-glamorous shifts at WOC. Mary was about to take this shot of C. Tomonori x Blc. Mem. Annie Biltmore when the pet of the month, Pinkie, jumped into the photo. Pinkie loves to smell orchid flowers and seldom nibbles them.

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**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.

P.O. Box 4677  
Lauderdale, FL 33338  
**Regular meetings:** Second Monday of each month  
**Time:** 7:30 P.M. Workshop, 8:20 P.M. Program  
**Place:** Christ Lutheran Church Social Hall  
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