

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

N • E • W • S • L • E • T • T • E • R

January, 2009

January 12th speaker:

**Carlos
Fighetti,**

**AOS
President,**

**30 Year
Orchidist**

**Chemical
Engineer,**

**IPA
Founder
and more**



Speaker-wise, we have won the lottery! Carlos is the current President of the American Orchid Society, and he has been active in AOS for many years. He was the first President of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance and will be speaking to us on current breeding trends of this orchid genus. Carlos will be judging and attending our show. He will also spend some time in the AOS booth at the show.

Carlos is a chemical engineer and has been with Columbia University's Heat Transfer Research Facility since 1968. He is acting Director of the lab which is being phased out but which has dealt with safety testing of our country's one hundred or more nuclear reactors. The reasons for closing the lab are said to be that testing is very expensive and the large lab sits on prime New York city property.

Carlos has written many orchid related articles. He has traveled extensively to judge orchid shows in Taiwan and the American Southern Hemisphere and has been a key-note speaker at major orchid events. We are VERY lucky to have him speak to us.

Eric Fang's picture of Carlos appeared in Orchids, October, '08

Consider AOS Tropical Orchid Garden Membership

If a friend will lend you **Orchids Magazine**, which is not included in a Garden Membership, you could save money during these hard times. You would get the other benefits offered to full AOS members. These benefits would include:

- * Free admission to the 3 ½ acre gardens and beautiful glass conservatory in Delray
- * Reciprocal privileges to more than 200 gardens nationwide.
- * Discount on classes taught on Saturday mornings.
- * Discount on special garden events such as the monthly 'Wine and Jazz' evenings this winter.
- * Gift shop discounts of 10%.
- * Quarterly electronic newsletter.
- * 50% admission discount for guests accompanying a member.

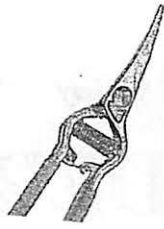
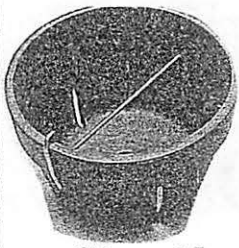
What does it cost? \$10 student membership, \$25 individual membership, and \$40 dual memberships.

Of course you can sign up at the AOS booth at the show. You can also get a full membership with a bonus plant from Norman, or you can renew your AOS membership with a chance to win a special raffle. D.H.

FLOS Contributes Kitchen Money

Since we are a society that likes to eat, the Board voted to donate \$2,000. to help up-grade the kitchen at Christ Lutheran Church. *It is the least we could do, our rent is reasonable and we can leave our library and refreshment items there.*

Please get your pre-sale ticket money into Chris Crepage now to attend the preview party. Please pay your '09 dues of \$15 (single) or \$20 (dual) now as well.



Shop Now for Repotting Needs

You can begin your spring potting in late January here in South Florida, and now is a good time to buy what you will need.

Containers: Shallow clay slotted orchid pots are great for most orchids, as are baskets filled with medium. Vandasceous orchids thrive in bare baskets, but should be watered daily. Plastic pots work well for phals, paphs, phrags, and orchids that should not completely dry out.

Potting media: Bark is for folks who don't live here. In our humidity it becomes snow mold heaven. For most orchids I use about 3 parts aliflor, 1 part tree fern, 1/2 part charcoal and 1/2 part sponge rock. I add some coconut to phals, paphs, and phrags which need a mix that holds more water. Since we grow outside, I consider water holding sphagnum moss a kiss of death. White Styrofoam peanuts for the bottom of the pot let me use less medium for orchids that need to dry out between watering.

Anti-wobble agents: If your repotted plant is allowed to wobble, its roots will be damaged. 3 or 4 inch metal pot clips work well with pots. Some people wire their plants to baskets, but running bamboo stakes through basket slots will hold the plant well.

Clean cutting and lifting tools: For a small collection use a new single edge razor blade for each plant. You will need to remove dead roots and maybe back bulbs. Discard the blade after each plant. If you have many plants to repot, consider needle nosed clippers, but plan to soak them at least 3 minutes in a saturated solution of original formula Tri Sodium Phosphate (TSP).

A sterile flat bladed screw driver is great for removing pot clips and prying an orchid out of its old pot. Go to a Dollar Store and buy several so they can soak in TSP between plants

New name or number tags: You'll want to bury your old tag at the bottom of the pot, but you do need new tags. I use a different color tag each year so I can look at the color and know how long ago it was repotted. Use a number two pencil to write on your tag. A government study which cost mega money found that the most long lasting, dependable writing item was this *simple pencil!* D.H.

Florida News

* We live in a great state to see birds, and Audubon has 40,000 members living here. (p. 22)

* Turf Ecosystems in Naples has patented its salt tolerant turf grass that can be irrigated with salt water. (P.30)

* **Florida Trend Magazine** publishes a list of 'Golden Spoon' restaurants. Locally **Brooks Restaurant**, our **holiday party place**, made the list. Others include: Casa D'Angelo- Italian, Darrel & Oliver's Maxx- new American, Christine's- new American, The Four Rivers- Thai, and 30-30 Ocean-seafood made the list. Across the state Ritz-Carlton restaurants made up a large part of the list. Pp. 68-73
Florida Trend. December, 2008

Finding Out About Wild Orchids

There are about 35,000 wild orchid species. They don't grow in deep water or on polar caps, but some grow in Alaska and the Himalayas. *Pleione* orchids break through the snow in Japan. In African jungles huge *Grammatophyllums* grow to amazing heights. South America supports thousands of species ranging in habitat from the high Andes to lowlands by rivers.

While orchids grow on the ground or on rocks, most live in trees which grow at an amazing range of altitudes. One thing all these orchids have in common is a need for good air circulation and when brought into cultivation, they respond positively to the rest periods and temperatures of their original habitat. Orchids are loosely grouped into cool, intermediate and warm growing. (*Knowing just that much is a step in purchasing an orchid that will thrive here.*)

Kramer, Jack. 1994, *Orchids for the South*. Dallas, Texas. Taylor Publishing Co. p.1

A Jewel Orchid- *Ludisia discolor*

If you don't own one yet, you will be an owner as your collection grows. The velvety dark green leaves with red markings are impressive. The spikes of small white flowers do not say 'buy me', but why not own an orchid that is grown for its leaves? If you lived in certain areas in Asia, you would cook this pretty thing as a pot vegetable.

Grow yours in low light and pot as a terrestrial in a soil mix. You *Ludisia* will need to remain moist. If a growth breaks off, as one often does, stick the broken part into your soil-like potting mix. It will root.

About Removing Flowers or Leaves

Orchid flowers:

Don't say "not me" sometimes it's a good idea. Flowers or even buds should go from young plants which have bloomed prematurely, or even first bloomed young plants so they can spend their energy on getting stronger and bigger. The next year's blooms will show you that you did a good thing. Other blooms that need to go are from mother-plants that are obviously weak. Plants often bloom on the "I've got to bloom, I'm going to die" rule. You might save a life.

You might also help your long blooming mother-plant by removing her bloom and putting it in a vase after she has flowered for a month or so. The mother-plant may well carry her spray or sprays of blooms for 2-3 months, but her vigor will be decreased. .

Orchid leaves:

If you have a desiccated plant you might want to remove a few of its leaves if it has several. The desiccation may be the result of dead roots or from being bare rooted and shipped from far way. In either case the plant might need your leaf-removal help since plants lose water through their leaves from transpiration. Of course you need to leave most of the leaves since leaves are the major photosynthetic organ of an orchid.

You might think about removing a leaf that is obviously infected with spider mites if the plant has other good leaves. You will then need to treat the whole plant, but to have removed the 30 gazillion mites on a single leaf may make your work easier. D.H.

For the plant addict:

A Twelve Step Plan

1. If you see a pretty flower in the distance, **turn and walk the other way.**
2. If you see an unusual flower in the distance, turn etc.
3. If you see a plant with odd or beautiful leaves, turn..
4. If you see a plant that you do not already own, turn..
5. If you sense a wonderful floral fragrance, turn...
6. If a friend wants to split a large plant with you, turn..
7. If you see a "buy 2 get 1 free" sign, turn....
8. Avoid bus rambles, the temptations will be mega.
9. Don't read the tempting ads in **Orchids** magazine.
10. Avoid orchid shows and auctions.
11. Avoid other addicts who might lead you astray.
12. Replace your need for more and more plants by **heavy drinking, gambling and sky-diving.** D.H.

Pesticides and People

Many types of cancer are environmental. Pesticides are the major source of environmental toxins, and the USA is the largest consumer of pesticides. Japan is second, and France is third. These substances were virtually unknown before 1930.

One third of the world's farm land is used to grow corn or soy for animal food. These crops are sprayed with pesticides, so we are further exposed to pesticides by consuming meat and dairy. In India the average consumption of meat is 11 pounds a year, where the average American's consumption is 270 pounds. An apple is sprayed with pesticides 17 times before it reaches our grocery stores.

The author suggests trying to buy organic fruits from this most contaminated list: *apples, pears, peaches and nectarines, strawberries, cherries, raspberries and grapes.* Less contaminated fruits are: *bananas, citrus, pineapple, melons, plums, kiwis, blueberries, mangoes and papayas.*

The most contaminated vegetables include: *peppers, celery, green beans, potatoes, spinach, lettuce, cucumbers, squash and pumpkin.* The least contaminated list includes: *broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, mushrooms, tomatoes, onions, eggplant, peas, radishes, and avocados.*

Servan-Schreiber David, 2008. *Anti cancer A New Way of Life.* New York, Viking Press. Pp. 80, 85, 87. (Editor's note: I bought this book at Costco for \$14. (I feel that is worth every penny and unless another 'he who shall not be named' complains I will be bringing you more of this in months to come.)



Sandi Jones
Tom Wells

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On Growing Orchids Inside

At this time of year most of the people in the United States are growing orchids inside, and we can do that here in an apartment or condo. The game is to make the orchids 'feel' as though they are growing on a tree or under its canopy.

Light: You need to think about window direction, and you need to remember that where the sun comes up and goes down is a seasonable variable. In other words a south facing window could be perfect for orchid A in winter and a slow cooker in summer. Most orchids will bloom well with 4 hours of direct or almost direct morning or afternoon light. Mid day light will burn most orchid leaves even behind glasses. As a very general starting point consider these window habitats:

South windows are probably the best for Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, most Oncidinae, Brassavolas and Brassias. A mid-day sun screen may be needed especially in summer.

East windows will offer the second greatest amount of light and also may need a mid-day screen. Laelias, would grow near the window and multifloral Paphiopediliums, and Phragmipediums would do better further from the light or in a west window.

West windows would probably be better for most Paphiopediliums and Phragmipediums and would be the spot for Gongoras and Coelogynes.

North windows may be just the place for Phalaenopsis which are probably the easiest to grow indoors.

If your adult plants have not bloomed in a year, you might try moving them to a window where there is *more light*, or you might want to add artificial light. Gro-lux fluorescent lights are almost a necessity in the north, and may be just be what you need even here in the sub-tropics. Adding lights might also let you bloom Vandaceous orchids, most of which require more than even south window light.

Temperature: Your orchids will probably be comfortable if you are. For orchids that need a winter cooling, you can provide that by putting them nearer the glass which will cool more than the rest of the room. You can also try adding an ice cube or two near an orchid that needs a drop in night-time temperatures.

Air movement: Good air movement is as important to indoor orchids as to outdoor orchids. A ceiling fan which runs for a few hours a day in your growing room is a good idea. It is a bad idea to cram your plants together and have no moving air.

Humidity: The easiest rooms for keeping the humidity at 50% minimum are kitchens and bathrooms. Cooking grease even in small amounts will, in time, clog leaf stomata which are openings for the exchange of gases and the release of water through transpiration. Kitchen grown plants need sturdy leaves and pseudobulbs that can be washed off with soap and water and then rinsed from time to time.

Humidity can be added to other rooms with a humidifier, with a small decorative fountain, a fish tank with back of tank filter or by using a pebble tray. To make one of these get a pyrex tray and fill it with about an inch of easier to clean marbles for pebbles. Put water in the tray but leave the tops of the marbles dry. Set your plants on the tops of the dry marbles. The marbles will allow this water to evaporate and add humidity faster than in a purchased humidity tray, which is a tray with water and a plastic grid top on which to set the plants. Remember that thin leafed orchids are more appreciative of humidity than thick leafed orchids.

Watering: The frequency of watering depends on your potting media and the water needs for each genera you grow. Air movement and room humidity are also variables in watering frequency.

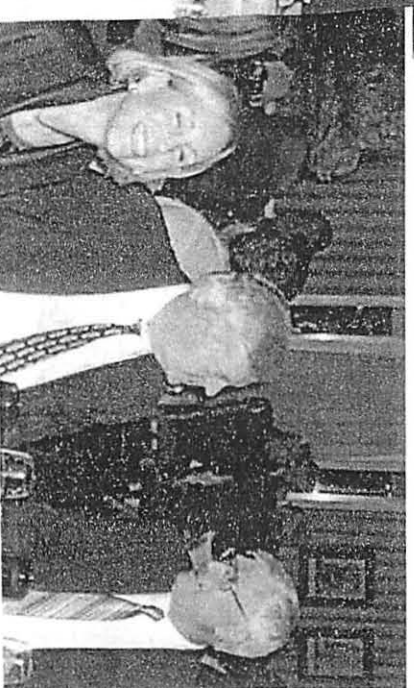
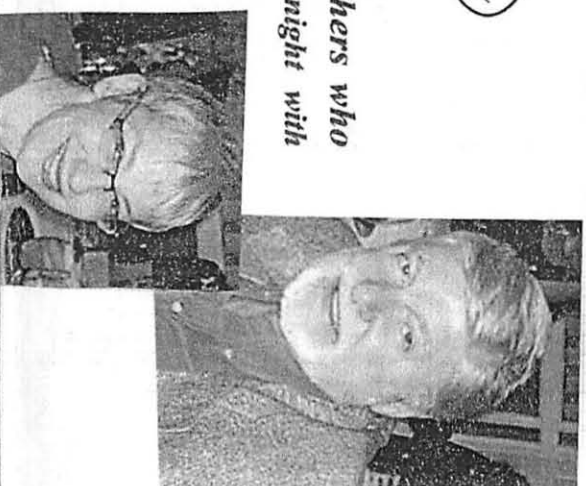
Fertilizing: You may want to use half strength fertilizer inside, and you will need to flush the pots with plain water once or twice a month. This is necessary since fertilizer salts will build up and you will not have natural rains which flush out salts in plants grown outside under a tree.

Orchids want to live, and long-time growers know that some orchids will go on to that great rain forest in the sky! You might save a few from doing this by reading more in these two books found in our library.
Fennel, T.A. Jr. **Orchids for Home and Garden**. New York. Rinehart & Co.
Kramer, Jack. **Growing Orchids at Your Windows**. New York. Hawthorne Brook



Brooks

Holiday Party Faces... Thank you Marian, Nora, and others who made this happen... Thank you Ken Workman for capturing the night with pictures.



Volunteers	where/when
Ackerman, Rich and Carrie	FLOS/Fri/6-9
Allen, Richard	host/Sun/2-6
Ansley, Barbara	trophies
Banks, Regina	host/Sun/10-2
Bejar, Zoe	set up, Tue.
Bejar, Zoe	host/Fri/10-2
Bellevance, Bonnie	host/Fri/2-6
Bogords, David	host/Sun/2-6
Bonneau, Bonnie	clerk
Bonneau, Bonnie	AOS/Sat/10-2
Boyle, Brian	FLOS/Fri/2-6
Boyle, Brian	AOS/Sat.2-6
Burtoff, Bruce	set up. Tue.
Burtoff, Bruce	take down
Burtoff, Mary	clerk
Burtoff, Mary	AOS/Sun /2-6
Bush, Claudette	host/Sat/6-8
Bush, Claudette	host/Sat/2-6
Cenko, Mary	box office/Fri/10-2
Cogar, Allen	judges' breakfast
Connors, Joan	clerk
Coy, Steve	box office/Sat/10-2
DePadro, Jane	judging chair
Dodds, Jack & Pricilla	FLOS/Fri/ 10-2
Dyke, Nora	judges' lunch
Gartner, Paul	host/Sun/2-6
Gatterman, Barbara	FLOS/Sat/10-2
Granger, Gigi	host/Fri/6-9
Granger, Gigi	FLOS/Sat/6-8
Granger, Gigi	take down
Hall, Deane	AOS/Sun/10-2
Henley, Bob	AOS/Fri, Sat 6-9,6-8
Henley, Dot	clerk
Herman, Steve	FLOS/Sat/2-6
Herman, Steve	FLOS/Sun/2-6
Howe, Rubben	set up. Tue.
Huber, Marian	FLOS/Sat/10-2
Huber, Marian	judges' lunch
Jones, Chip	clerk
Klink, Laurie	box office/Sat/6-8
Knapp, Richard & Barbara	take down
Knight, Peggy	box office/Sat/10-2
Knight, Peggy	take down
Levine, Dave	set up, Tue.
Levine, Dave	clerk
Ly, Tin & Gary Sullivan	take down
Ly, Tin and Gary Sullivan	host/Sun/2-6
Lyles, Jackie	set up, Tue.
Lyles, Jackie	AOS/Fri/10-2
Macchia, Sheri	host/Fri/6-9
Macchia, Sheri	clerk
Muntz, Bruce and Sue	host/Sun/2-6
Muntz, Bruce and Sue	take down
Nicholls, Chuck	host/Sat/10-2
Orsetti, Linda	box office/Sat/2-6
Ostrander, Leah	set up, Tue.
Ostrander, Leah	clerk
Oughton, Pricilla	AOS/Fri/10-2
Pearson, Doris	host/Sun/10-2
Pham, Thuy	box office/Sat/10-2
Pham, Thuy	take down
Pierce, Gary	take down
Pierce, Gary	set up, Tue.

More Show Workers Needed

The list here shows the people who have volunteered as of December 20th. That list was typed in a hurry and if your name's spelling is wrong, I am sorry!

Certainly more of you will fill in the blanks at the January meeting or you may call these chairs to volunteer now:

Wayne Musgrave /954/566-0557

People are needed for set-up and take-down, and for party preparation Thursday at 2:00 PM

Chris Carney /954/771-7437

Chris needs 6 hosts for each show shift. People are needed for all shifts except the last shift on Sunday.

Sue Blackmore /954/588-3821

Box office people are needed especially for Friday and Sunday.

Sylvia Hill /561/901-6607

Show clerks are needed Thursday morning to follow judging teams and record their choices.

Michael Schaberl and Dot Henley thank volunteers.

We had fewer spots to fill at the FLOS and AOS booths and there are only 2 spots left for Sunday 10-2 at the FLOS booth.

The Volunteer Parking Game

When you come to War Memorial to volunteer pull up in the circular drive in front of War Memorial and go to the FLOS Box Office and pick up a parking pass. Put this in your windshield, and an attendant will lower the rope and let you park free beside War Memorial.

After you park, go again to our Box Office and return the parking pass so the next volunteer can use it. Those who have volunteered as Hosts will be given a special vest to wear while on duty. Of course the vest should be returned when your duty time is over.

Volunteers	where/when
Rivenbark, Mac	set up, Tue.
Rivenbark, Mac	take down
Salus, Ginny	clerk
Schaberl, Michael	take down
Slump, Ken	AOS/Sat/2-6
Smith, Peggy	set up, Tue.
Steptoe, Peggy	set up, Tue.
Steuerwald, Mercedes	box office/Sat/2-6
Stulgiskas, Joan	clerk
Teschner, Janet	AOS/Fri/2-6
Trank, Vicki	host/Fri/10-2
Tringali, Luana	box office/Fri/2-6
Vill'Neuve, Margaret	host/Sat/10/2
Walker, Connie	host/Sat/ 2-6
Weidenbaum, Shari	clerk
Williams, Suzie	box office/Sat/2-6
Wrench, John	FLOS/Sun 2-6
Wrench, John	take down/Sun
Wrench, John,	FLOS/Sat/2-6
Zachariah, Chacko	host/Sat/6-8

Cold Damage Has Happened. Now What?

- * Expect buds to drop. Don't panic, there is next year.
- * Cattleyas may show you they have been cold damaged by producing new growths that are smaller than the others, and flower color may be distorted.
- * Cold damaged plants may take from 3-5 years to flower.
- + Nurse your cold damaged plants by watering sparingly and giving them more shade than normal.

* Hamilton, R. 1988. *The Orchid Doctor*. Canada. Hamilton Publishing. P.25

+ 1982 *The Bulletin*. AOS. P. 353

Nagging: Cold Damage Prevention

- * If possible, bring most orchids inside if the temperatures are predicted to fall much below 50. If you have limited inside space and energy, bring in cold sensitive genera, baby plants and plants in bud.
- * If your orchids are growing near a swimming pool, turn on the re-circulating pump and the evaporation will raise the temperature.
- * Buy a soaker hose, put it under your orchid benches, and cover the plants on top of the bench with a cotton sheet, or any fabric that is not cook-em-plastic when the sun comes up. When you turn on the water, our 70 degree ground water will rise and protect your plants.

Let some Orchids Hibernate

Ok, they don't need to crawl into a cave and sleep all winter but some need a winter rest with little water and no fertilizer. Hibernation is for animals, but some plants **estivate**. You might research your orchids from Thailand, India, and Burma for those that need to estivate to avoid a winter dry season.

If you are not already letting the following rest, begin now and begin to water in late January or early February: *Dendrobiums*; *aggregatum*, *farmeri*, *chrysotoxum* and *nobile*. Others are *Paphiopedilms philippinense*, *reobellinii*, *randsii*, *bellatum*, *niveum* and *concolor*. *Epidendrum ariae*, *End. citrina*, *Onc. tigrinum*, *Rhyncholaelia digbiana*, and *Cattleyas: aclandiae*, *schilleriana*, *bicolor*, and *guttata* also need a rest.

A final word on letting these orchids rest. As a very general rule, most can take and even appreciate our occasional rains, but if any one on the list is losing color and has very dehydrated pseudobulbs or wilted thin leaves, give it some water.

Biochar aka Charcoal

Charcoal is organic matter burned with limited oxygen as opposed to burned with abundant air into ashes. Recent research has shown that adding this material to soil increases productivity up to 10 fold. A further benefit is the ability of the charcoal to trap greenhouse gasses blamed for global warming. Research in Colorado has shown that by adding biochar to soils nitrous oxide emissions were cut by 80%, and methane emissions were totally eliminated.. A British scientist says that adding biochar to all the world's arable soils could, in theory, hold all the carbon dioxide in earth's atmosphere.

Biochar can be made by simply piling up any organic material, setting it on fire, and covering it with soil to exclude air. Twenty pounds of biochar would enhance 100 square feet of fertile soil. To learn more go to www.biochar-international.org

'Burnt Gold' *The Avant Gardener*. December, 2008. P.1

Editor's note: Putting some charcoal in your soil-like potting medium, for terrestrial orchids has to be an idea worth trying! Maybe we can grow gigantic nun's orchids, jewel orchids, Cymbidiums, and others. If you are a new grower, do not pot orchids in soil unless you buy them that way!

Stop Leaves from Blushing

This is the third time I've passed along the fact that cold weather often makes *Cattleya* leaves turn reddish. If it has already happened, mix a teaspoon or two of Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) to a gallon of your fertilizer water. Your leaves will turn green again since the red color is caused by a magnesium deficiency. Adding Epsom salts ahead of time should also prevent leaves from turning red.

Connie Walker's Peach Cobbler

1 32 oz. of canned sliced peaches with juice

Make batter from:

1 cup self-rising flour, 1 cup sugar, 1 cup milk and ½ cup of melted butter or margarine. (Mix until smooth.)

Preheat oven to 350 and grease a 9 x 13" pan. Pour thin batter into the pan, spoon fruit and juice onto the batter. Sprinkle the top with cinnamon sugar or nutmeg. Bake 45-50 minutes until golden brown. (Connie reports that she can cook sliced fresh peaches to make this as well, but this is a great year-round treat.)

Wood Mulch Warning

Buy wood mulches only from reputable sources such as garden centers and nurseries. Some unscrupulous operators may still be processing wood from demolition sites where wood was treated with now-banned arsenic-containing chromated copper arsenate preservative.

Avant Gardner, December 2008. P.4

A Florida Filler

Tourism, agriculture and home building are the main revenue generators in our economy but these are not the greatest in number of people employed.

Trade/transportation/utilities employ 1,564,200 people.

Professional/business have 1,275,200 employed.

Government employs 1,150,400 people.

Florida Trend, December 2008, p. 84

Quiz Show Prep?

Altruism in ants

A species of Brazilian ants covers the entry to its nest with sand each evening. Eight or so ants stay outside to finish the seal and make it look like the surrounding ground. About 6 ants die before morning. This is the first known example of animal suicide except in the face of immediate danger. P. 42

Global warming diseases in man

Twelve diseases thought to spread and get worse in a warmer world are: bird flu, influenza, babesiosis (malaria-like), cholera, Ebola, infections by worm parasites, red-tide and like algae bloom toxins, Rift Valley fever, sleeping sickness, TB, and yellow fever. P.44.

Vanishing mammals

There are 5,487 species of mammals. *It surprised me to know that there were more kinds of bats than any other mammal.* One in 4 mammals is threatened. 52% of all mammal species is declining. South and Southeast Asia are homes to the most threatened mammals. P. 44

An Einstein

"If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, then what is an empty desk the sign of?" P 50

Extreme bats

The smallest species of bat, the bumblebee bat weighs less than a penny. One of the vampire bats, the flying fox bat, has a wing span of almost 2 meters (6 feet), the Mexican free-tail is very gregarious. Up to 20 million bats may live in one cave, and finally the tube lipped bat which feeds on nectar has a tongue which is 150% longer than its body. P.99

-Scientific American. December, 2008

On pollinators and sex

It's Time for THE Talk!

The usual pollination by insect

Bees, moths, flies, moths and sometimes gnats or termites can act as pollinators. Often orchids which need insect pollinators have large labellums (lips) and the usual thing that happens is that a bee lands on the labellum and enters the flower for nectar and the sperm bearing pollinia stick to its thorax (chest back). When the insect enters the next flower the pollinia are dislodged and the process of fertilization and the growth of the seed pod is initiated.

Catasetums and 'spring sex' (None of you are minors..)

There are some normal- for plants- hermaphroditic- flowers and some are *Orthocatasetums* which have male or female flowers or each kind on the same plant. Here a bee lands on the labellum of a male flower which tastes good. The bee gnaws on the tissue and when the bee's antennae touch the right place on the flower it ejects pollinia which attach to the thorax of the bee. The bee will lose the pollinia when it visit's a female flower.

Bucket or pouch sex

Slipper orchids and bucket orchids lure male bees into their pouches or buckets. In order to escape the bee picks up pollinia and will leave the makings for future baby orchids with the next orchid visited.

Some Dendrobies can self-fertilize

If no pollinator comes around a fading flower of *Dendrobium nobile* will fold on itself and self fertilize.

Editor's note. This topic could fill many pages, there are so many variations on this theme, but some of the material here came from:

Black, Peter M. 1988. *The Complete Book of Orchid Growing.* North Pomfret, Vermont. Trafalgar Square Pub. Pp 24-27

Angraecum Tid Bits

Speakers and writers love to tell you about Darwin's predicting the existence of the Hawk Moth with the 12 inch tongue that could reach down the 12 inch long nectary of *Angraecum sesquipedale* and thus pollinate it. Finding the moth was exciting. One day they will find a moth with a 16 inch tongue which will reach down the 16 inch nectary of *Angraecum superbum* var. longicalcor.

This is your lucky newsletter issue, and there is no lecture on the co-evolution of orchids and pollinators, but there is a culture tip. Try to avoid root system injury when you ABSOLUTELY must repot one of these star-shaped-flowered African orchids, especially *Angraecum sesquipedale*. If possible slip the basket into a bigger basket or crack the old clay pot and lower it into a bigger pot. Plan B is to save room in your garbage for the dead plant if you disturb the roots.

Spotting and Stopping Cultural Problems

Over watering:

Is probably the most common problem for new growers. If your plant is shriveled or growing too slowly, examine the roots. Chances are they have drowned in too much water. Repot if the medium is not brand new, keep in a shady spot and water very little until new roots appear. **If your other plants are not showing these symptoms, maybe you are not over watering,** maybe the plant was potted in a pot which was too big and all the extra potting medium was holding too much water. Maybe the medium had broken down in the right sized pot. A mushy medium holds too much water and keeps air from the roots.

Under watering:

May be the second most common problem for new growers. If pseudobulbs look shriveled, and if they plump up in a day or two after you water, try watering more often. This is especially important during low humidity days, windy days, and in spring and summer when plants are growing actively. Under watering also shows up in thin leaved orchids as horizontally pleated leaves.

Over fertilizing and or not flushing out fertilizer salts with clear water:

Symptoms include leaf edges and tips that are burned and roots that are withered. Pour several gallons of plain water, deionized, or rain water if possible, through the potting medium.

Wrong light:

Sunburn is shown by scorched blotches that turn black or tan, but do not look water-laden and nasty as would a bacterial problem. Orchids with very, very, pale green may be in more than desirable light for the species. **Plants with rich forest green leaves that never bloom, need more light.** Move plants into a different light, but make the move gradually.

Potting too high:

Palaenopsis, floritis, and floritaenopsis need to be snuggled down in the potting medium. When too much of the plant is exposed, the leaves will wilt. Repot the plant at once in fresh medium. A yearly repotting is a good idea with these plants since by the end of one year they tend to grow up and out of 'snuggle'.

Weeds:

Weeds of any type steal fertilizer and may keep orchid roots from getting enough air. Many types of ferns are toxic and in time will kill the orchid. The best way to control weeds is to go through your collection EVERY WEEK and pull small weeds. If the weeds are already well established, your best bet is to repot unless it is late fall or early winter. At least remove weed flowers or fern leaves with spores so they don't contaminate other orchids.

Some of this information came from **Ortho's All About Orchids**, pp. 46-47. Buy this book at one of our meetings for \$10 and see pictures of some of these problems.

Some orchids show..

Pseudoantagonism!

Some *Oncidium* species challenge the territorial instincts (fixed action patterns) of bees by dangling their flowers on long slender stalks. When the flowers move in the breeze the insects feel threatened and 'attack' them. As the bees bump the flowers they collect pollenia on their heads which they transfer to other flowers resulting in pollination.

From page 50 of **Ortho's All about Orchids**.

Another reason to affiliate with AOS

Horticultural Exchange Program

More than 200 botanical gardens may let you visit at a free or reduced rate. You probably won't get in free, but you probably can enter at a reduced rate when special events are being held. Another 'catch' is that a garden can refuse to let you in free if you live within 90 miles of that garden. If you show your **American Orchid Society membership card or your AOS Tropical Garden pass**, you can probably visit these Florida Gardens (Some of which ignore the 90 mile rule, and of course you can enter the AOS gardens free with either unless there is an expensive event such as 'wine and jazz') Here are the Florida gardens on the list:

Albert Polaske- Winter Park, Bonnet House- Ft. Lauderdale, Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens- Lake Monroe, Edison and Ford Winter Estates- Fort Myers, Fairchild- Miami, Flamingo-Davie, Florida Botanical Gardens- Largo, Harry P. Leu- Orlando, Hearthcote- Fort Pierce, Selby-Sarasota, McKee- Vero Beach, Mounts- West Palm Beach, Naples Botanical-Naples, Sunken Gardens- St. Petersburg, and University of South Florida- Tampa.

So many places to visit right here in Florida! D.H.



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.M. 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.

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If you have already volunteered to work at the show, remove and post on your fridge the odd page in this issue and show up as scheduled. Our show will be the best, be proud to be a part of the 3rd largest display show in America. Thank you!

If you volunteer you can be part of the magic that is shown when War Memorial goes from this to breath-taking! Reminder: If you have already volunteered, please see the center page for when and where.

