

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

N • E • W • S • L • E • T • T • E • R

June, 2009

Re: FLOS Birthdays Past (This June We Are a Great 58)

We were founded in June, 1951 which makes this our 58th birthday month. In the beginning the meetings were held in members' homes. As membership increased we moved to the Birch State Park Garden Center. Later moves included the recreation hall of the First Congregational Church, St. Anthony's School, and finally to our current location.

Old June newsletters were used to see what happened during the first 10 years of saved copy..

1981. Dottie Kone was President and Larry Hill spoke on protecting orchids during the summer rainy season. Dottie had a review of the year in which she mentioned that the \$5 Christmas Party at Williamson's featured Prime Rib.

1982. Bob Fuchs was the June speaker. That year dues were \$7.50 single and \$12.50 for a couple. Treasurer Barbara Ansley got the necessary paper work in to give us 501-C tax- exempt status. During the year there were at least 3 rambles and we put in two society exhibits at area shows. Connie Walker joined FLOS that June.

1983. Larry Hill was President and the June workshop was conducted by Mickey Carmichael, followed by a program by Charley Simonds on Guatemalan orchids.

1984. Ken Kone was President, the June speaker was Tom Fennell 111 of Orchid Jungle. Some of the other speakers during that year were Warren Kelly, Tom Philips, Jeff Adkins, Ruben Sauleda, Jill Sidron, Dr. Martin Motes, and Bob Scully, Jr.

1985. Dr. Martin Motes spoke on *Renanthera*. Nora Dyke sprained her ankle playing tennis which required a caste and then a brace. FLOS donated \$2,250 to AOS for orchid virus research. Jeff Adkins was our President.

1987. Ken Kone spoke on the 12th WOC, and an article described an FLOS member tour of the Bonnet House.

1988. President Sylvia Hill reviewed her year and one noted that Hurricane Floyd had caused the annual auction to be canceled. **Continued next paragraph.**

June 8th Program:

Our Speaker Will Be Alan Koch

We are very lucky to have an internationally known speaker, author, and expert on the *Cattleya* Alliance with us to celebrate our birthday meeting. Alan's program will, of course, reflect his expertise.

Alan's **Gold Country Orchids** in Lincoln, California is more than 30 years old. This nursery is known for its mini and compact *Cattleyas*. It is also known for quality species orchids with a selection of over 2,000 choices.

Alan is an accredited AOS judge, he is an AOS trustee, and has been a vendor at our show for many years. **This is another not-to-miss program.**

Future Programs

July 13th - **Marc Burchette's** topic will concern those aromatic and weird *Bulbophyllums*.

August 10th - **Carol DeBiase** will speak on miniature orchids. Grow these to gain space.

Continued: June Meeting History

1989. This June, Dr. Thomas Sheehan from UF was the speaker. Bob Henley assumed the FLOS Presidency and I wrote the article on our overnight ramble where Yvonne made a u-turn in the middle of the block on the street in front of Bush Gardens. We got stuck in the sand at what was Hanes Orchids, and 500 million love bugs hit the bus. We had a wonderful time!

1990. The only person to win a ribbon who still brings in plants was Chris Crepage. Jeff Adkins was the speaker.

1991. It was our 50th Birthday month. Lynn Bretsnyder was the speaker. The hall was decorated for the big event and special refreshments marked the occasion.

Since this has been ho-hum city for newer members, will save the next 17 years of June newsletters for later.

O'Day's Night Review

If you missed the May 11 meeting you missed a GOOD program. Patrick O'Day showed us the parent species of the strap-leaf *Vandas* from which most hybrids are derived. Ninety percent of all hybrids come have two species in their backgrounds: *V. sanderiana* (now DNA regrouped) and *V. coerulea*.

Patrick ran though the main species which have been used in almost all strap-leafed hybrids;

Vanda sanderiana

This beautiful plant has flat, huge, orchid flowers with dark window markings. It is the only orchid where selective breeding produced an alba form. Patrick commented that most albas are not as robust as their colored counterparts.

Vanda coerulea

Coerulea translates as 'blue', but there is an alba form and a pink form. A good point is that it is cold tolerant, but a bad point for us is that it suffers in hot weather. The petals are not flat but resemble airplane wings. It may reach 7' tall but tends not to pass on this height to its crosses.

Vanda dearei

This species is found in many yellow hybrids. Its weak points are few flowers and it can grow to 9' tall. A good point is that it is free flowering.

Vanda tricolor

Lets go for 'easy to grow' and fragrant. It is found in deep purple hybrids

Vanda denisoniana

This one is also a parent of yellow hybrids, The good points are that it blooms on smaller plants and has larger flowers than *V. dearei*.

Vanda merrillii

This one has waxy flowers and is fragrant. It is associated with red hybrids. Too bad the flowers last about two weeks.

Vanda tessellata

This species does not have genes for large flowers but is has waxy flowers, is fragrant, and gives its progeny (*V. Gordon Dillon* is one.) deep color. The petals are not huge and it has a low flower count.

Vanda luzonica

This one is used in pink breeding, it blooms all year and has many flower on multiple spikes.

Culture tips.

If your orchid collection has insect pest problems—spray in the morning with light summer oil or Neem oil. Spray weekly, in cool weather the pests breed slowly, when the weather is warmer they can produce new pests in 3-5 days. Thanks Joan Connors for bringing us this great program, thanks Patrick, we look forward to your being at our show in January. D. H..

Member News

* **Welcome new members:** Del Lipsky and Margarite and Angel Galabova.

* **Refresment appreciation:** Carrie Ackerman, Zoe Bejar, Brian Boyle, Lisa Davis, Nora Dyke, Paul Gartner, Gigi Granger, Marian Huber, Barbara and Richard Knapp, Ginny Salus, and Vicki Trank.

* **Appreciated donations:** Dorothy Swenson donated two big containers of lake-collected drift wood for members to take home for mounting orchids. Tom Blanc and Phil Scherer donated old copies of **Orchids Magazine** which members bought for 50 cents each. The money collected will go toward a new book for our library of over 400 volumes.

* John Wrench arranged Steve's ramble pictures in the center of this newsletter and Deane Hall produced the display of pictures from Jack Dodds. Thank you!

May Ribbon Winners

Bonnie Bellavance /blue/ Asc. Petite Bouquet 'Twinkle', *Paph. niveum*, Asc. Motes Burning Sands AM/AOS /red/ Asc. Tavivat.

Mary Burtoff /blue/ *V. tessellata*, *Sedirea japonica*

Marc Burchett /blue/ Lc. Canhamiana var Coerulea 'Azure Sky', *Den. crystalline*, *Bulb. levanea*

Chris Carney /blue/ *Bro. sanguinea*

Chris Crepage /blue/ *Enc. radiata*

Sue Duns Moor /red/ *Enc. xiphères*

Vicki Hallock /blue/ *Paph. Alice Bell* x (Enchanted Orient x Makmaster)

Ron Lennen /red/ Brs. Rex 'Sakata'

Dave Levine /blue/ P. Flight of Birds /red/ Onc. Mendenhall 'Lake' x Onc. Mem Bill Carter 'Mendenhall'

Tin Ly /blue/ *Epi. Atropine* x *atropurpureum* x *tempense* /red/ Pot Marlene Lunguist, V. Robert's Delight 'Crownfox Midnight Magic'

Tony Millet /blue/ Hwkra. Koolau Sunset /red/ *C. mossiae* var. Coerulea

Jan and Allan Mink /red/ *Onc. sphacelatum*, *Gram. elegans* x self.

Sue and Bruce Muntz / Culture and blue/ *Max. tenusfolia*

Gary Pierce /red/ *Epi. Nursery Rhyme* x *Epi. Rufum*

Margaret Villanueva /red/ *Chiloschista usenoldes*

Connie Walker /red/ Stellamizutaara Florida Sunset

John Wrench /blue/ Dtps. Chain Xen Pearl

Michael Schaberl /blue/ Onc. Mendenhall #11 x *Onc. papilio* 'Mendenhall' FCC/AOS

Shari Weidenbaum /special award/ new no name division.

**PLEASE GET YOUR NEW ROSTER
AT THE JUNE MEETING.**

***Dendrobium* Genus *Pedilonum* Section**

I am as Dendrobium dumb as they come! I bought a book to learn more, and for the next few issues will see what I can learn by describing species that grow here.

Many of the species in this genus grow at high altitudes but the species described here have lowland habitats. New Guinea has about 30 species, the Philippines about 10, and the 13 remaining species are scattered in Java (4), mainland Asia (5), Samoa (2) and Australia and Borneo have 1 species each.

Dendrobium goldschmidtianum

Try saying that on the way home from a bus ramble! In fact try saying it at home after a glass of water. The red-purple flowers can be almost an inch across and are found on canes as long as 35". The 5-9 flowers are found at the nodes and last about a week. This species blooms in late winter or early spring. It does best in a warm and humid environment but can tolerate cold. The plant needs semi-shade and a drier period in winter, but it can't be left dry for long periods. The pendulous habit makes it suitable for slab culture. P. 237.

Dendrobium secundum

This species has much in common with the species above. Usually the flowers are mauve-pink with an orange lip, but there is an alba form. Its canes are usually shorter than a maximum of 39". Inflorescences, which are about 4" long, are borne on upper parts of older leafless canes and emerge from nodes. The densely arranged small flowers are found on just one side of the stem or cane. This species requires a definite dry resting period prior to a spring blooming season. Again slab culture works well but the plants need copious amounts of water during the growing season. P. 240

Dendrobium smillieae

This one has a common name, bottlebrush orchid. It has pseudobulbs and canes up to a yard long. The little flowers are tightly packed on short inflorescences and birds are thought to be the pollinator. The little tubular flowers appear in two forms. One has a prominent pink flower at the base of the floral segment and the other has lower white flowers and upper green flowers. The flowers last form 2-6 weeks and appear in spring or summer.

It needs to grow dry in winter and early spring and requires filtered sunlight and does well with slab culture and dedicated watering during its growing period. P. 240

Lavarack, B. et al. 2006. *Dendrobium And It's Relatives*. Portland, Oregon. Timber Press.

Sr. Janet Rieden, Thank YOU!

Sr. Janet has been our librarian for the last twenty years. She's looking forward to sitting closer to the screen and actually seeing and hearing the program. Vicki Hallock will take over keeping track of our over 400 books on orchids. Thank you Vicki.

On Handling Sphagnum Moss

Unless you grow under cover, I hope you are removing this moss from your new plants. The moss will hold too much water during our rainy season and most likely rot the roots and kill the orchids potted in it. Whether you are unpotting or repotting in it, you should heed this warning.

No matter the country of origin sphagnum contains a fungus, *Sporothrix schenckii*. If it enters the human body through a small cut or abrasion it can cause a nasty infection that can reach the lungs. **Always wear gloves when handling this moss.**

Northen, Rebecca. 1990. *Home Orchid Growing*. N.Y. Simon & Schuster. P. 44.

In Praise of Mulch

English gardeners are learning not to disturb the soil except to make a small planting hole for a new plant. Soil layers of microbes and worms are best not disturbed. According to the reported study, sandy soils especially need at least 4" of organic mulch which will break down and constantly replenish nutrients. A top dressing of mulch should be added in spring and fall to maintain the optimum 4" layer. Leafmold and compost will work as well as bags of chopped wood from a super store. Leaving soil bare is not good.

The Avant Gardner. May, 2009. Page 49

More Natural Tid-bits

* Learn to love our 'legless lizards' which are really Skinks and not snakes. (*The locals are up to 2' long and a dull gray-brown.*) They eat huge numbers of insects. P. 50-51

* If animal manure is your fertilizer of choice, consider that many farm animals are given huge amounts of antibiotics which will either destroy soil bacteria or make more, hard to cure, pathogens which may cause you infections and disease. P. 54

* Older adults who garden have better general health and more hand strength than non-senior gardeners. P. 56

The Avant Gardner. May, 2009

On Cleaning Orchid Pots

Pots worth saving:

Of course you don't repot orchids in dirty used pots, so spring repotting often means pot cleaning time. You probably know to soak pots overnight in a solution of one part Clorox to five parts water, but did you know that adding about 1/3 cup of laundry detergent to a 6 gallons bucket of soak water will help dislodge old roots from the pots? It is also a good idea to cover the bucket of Clorox solution to keep the Chlorine from dissipating too fast and to protect lizards, tree frogs and birds.

Pots not to save:

How do you clean the white salts that may encrust a clay pot that has been used for many years? You can remember high school chemistry and add some pool acid to a bucket of water. (If you put the acid in the bucket first and add water the explosion can blind or hurt you big-time.) If you are compelled to save the pot, let the pot soak for weeks or even months in a covered bucket of diluted acid. When the white salts are gone you can rise the pot over and over and maybe the acid infused in the clay won't kill your plant. Acid does not dissipate as does Chlorine. Why not just put white encrusted pots in the trash? Since there is no heavenly reward for saving clay pots, also remember to destroy the pot along with an orchid with a viral infection.

Become Mini Catt Smart

Your growing space is running out and growing mini catts seems like a plan. They are under 10 inches tall and have relatively big flowers. Many of these little beauties have South American ancestors that can't take our summer heat. If they live they don't bloom.

Sophranitis coccinea is famous for its bright red flowers, but it needs to grow where day time temperatures never exceed the low seventies. A *Sophranilaeliacattleya* (Slc.) is not going to thrive here if *S. coccinea* is not a far distant parent.

Most of these species *Cattleyas* used in breeding mini catts can survive our heat. They are: *C. aelandiae*, *C. aurantiaca*, *C. luteola* and *C. walkerania*. Important *Laelia* species are: *L. pumila*, *L. briegeri*, *L. flava* and *L. milleri*. These can usually tolerate our heat.

Piece- of -cake to grow minis for us to grow have either *Brassavola nodosa* or *B. glauca* as parents. The *B. nodosa* crosses bloom in summer when little else blooms and the *B. glauca* hybrids usually bloom in winter and have good substance.

Some of this from Hananaima, M. 'Representative Types of Miniature Cattleyas' from *Proceedings of the Eleventh World Orchid Conference* 1984 Page 205

Better Than a Rain Dance?

A couple of you will remember that I printed this article a couple of years ago. What you don't know is that while that newsletter was at the printer's we had about 6" of rain. Maybe a reprint will help?

Drought Help

As we enter the rainy season and hope for 60" of rain this summer, we might also think about coping better with less water.

* I am NOT advising you to water when it's not your day, but if you have collected rain water, use it before sun up. At midday as much as 30% of water may evaporate before it hits the ground according to Tasker.

* Group potted plants together so they can share the humidity they produce from transpiration.

* Fertilize at a reduced rate. Don't push your plants into producing thirsty new growths.

* Plant landscape plants only after the rainy season kicks in.

* Mulch everything you can but don't suffocate the roots of orchids or rot the stems of non orchids by putting the mulch too close to the stems or trunks.

* Reduce the use of chemicals which might kill insects because they also stress plants. Never underestimate the value of jets of water or jets of soapy water to control these pests.

* Select drought-tolerant and native plants for future landscape plantings. Save your quota of water for orchids!

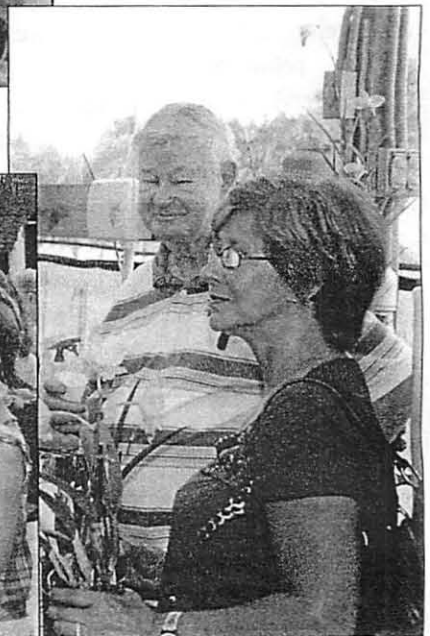
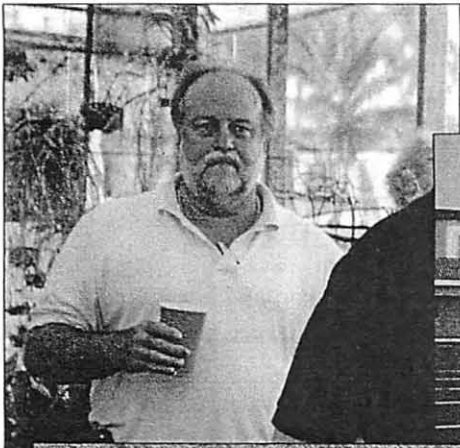
Most ideas from: Tasker, Georgia. 2001. *Enchanted Ground.: Gardening with Nature in the Subtropics*. Coral Gables. Fairchild Tropical Gardens. Page 44

Protecting Orchid Leaves From Summer Heat

Touch a *Cattleya* leaf at mid-day in the summer and you may think you could fry an egg on it! All that heat is not 'comfortable' for the plant and you can help with fans and if you have an overhead sprinkler system turn it on just for a minute. (*Hopefully the water-police will not ticket you for that even when it's neither your day nor anybody's watering time.*) The immediate coolness of the water will help as will the evaporative effects of water droplets on the leaves.

Home Depot sells a snake-looking device that adds mist to the air and lowers temperature. It uses 2 gallons of water per hour and connects to a garden hose. A third option is to add a layer of shade cloth or even window screening until the heat of summer is gone.

April Ramble '09!



Photos by Dr. Steven Herman

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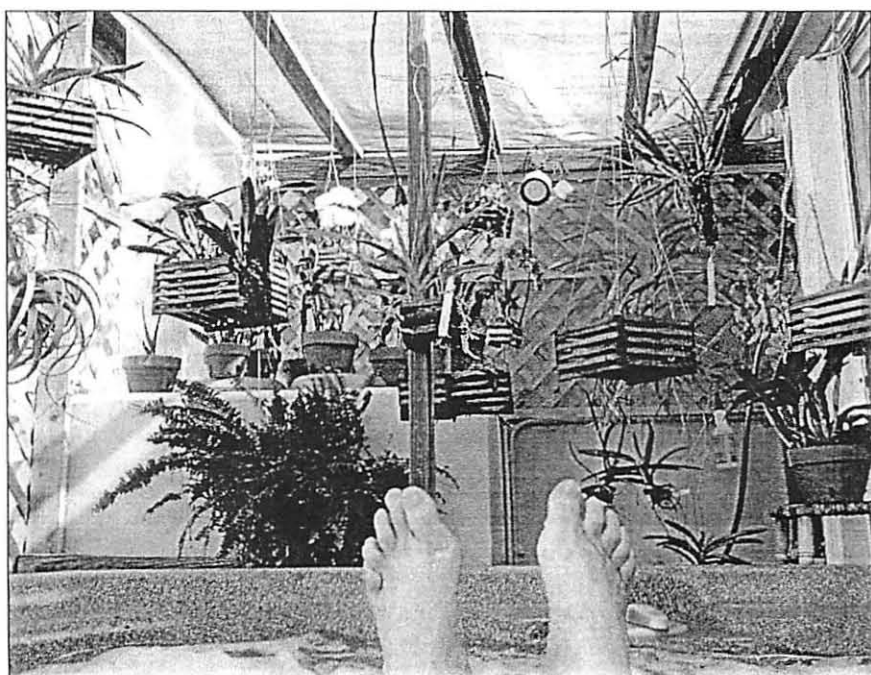
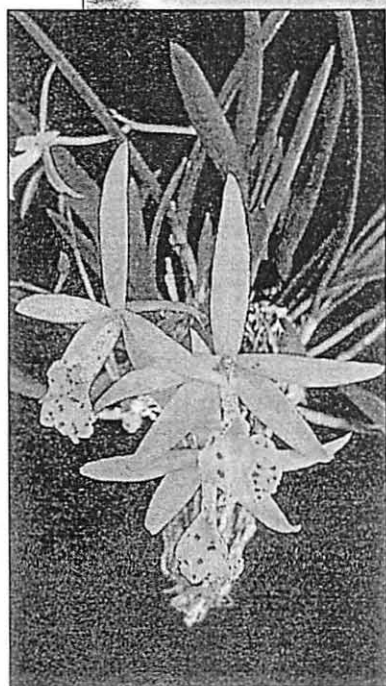
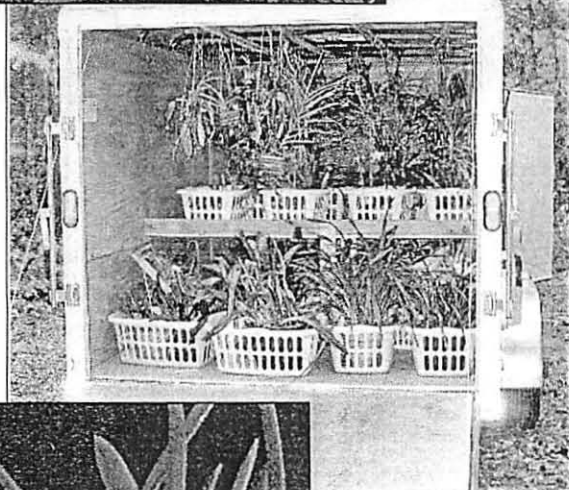
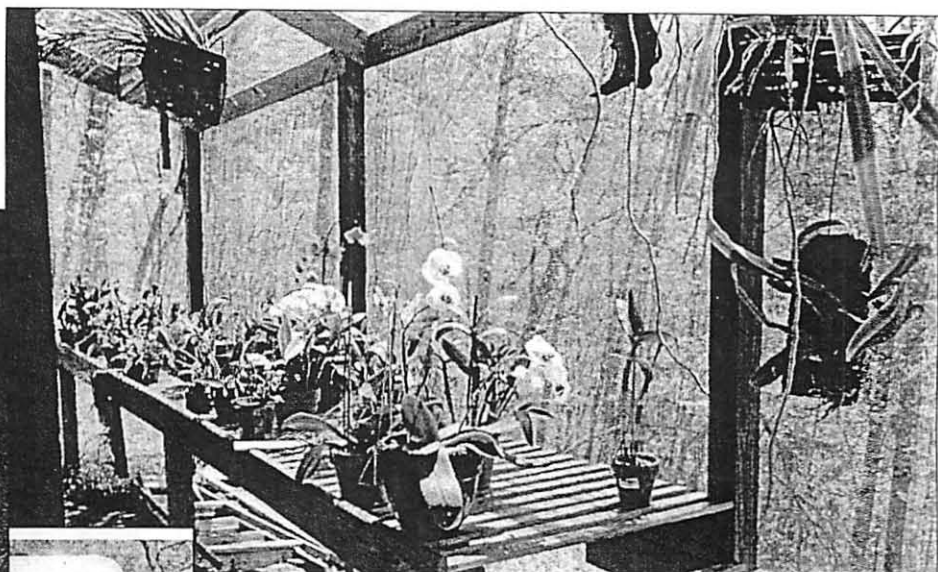
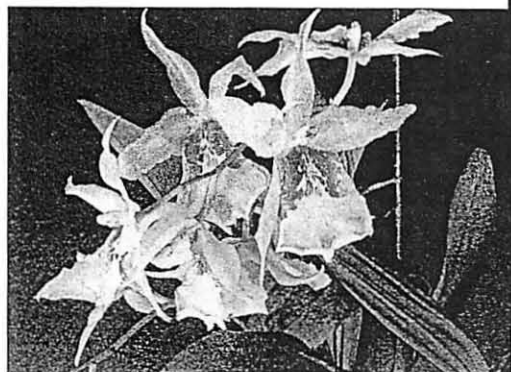
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More of Jack's World

*It moves between
North Carolina
and Florida.*



*Always dreaming
of more orchids!*

*And ways to haul them
back and forth.*



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 the 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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