

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

November, 2010

November 8th Program

Orquideas del Valle's Andrea Niessen To Be Our Speaker

Andrea will be coming to us from Columbia. The translation of her nursery is 'orchids of the valley', and the valley she will be bringing seed grown species orchids from is in Ginebra, Columbia. Andrea has greenhouses at Ginebra, for warm and intermediate growing species, and another greenhouse at a higher elevation for cool growing species. Obviously she will bring warm growing plants here for us.

Andrea will be speaking about her native plants and will be bringing them for the raffle table, and she will be selling plants. This is our chance to buy species *Cattleyas*, *Encyclias*, *Pescatoreas*, *Cochleanthes*, *Stanhopeas*, *Gongoras*, *Catasetums*, *Cynoches*, and more.

Andrea can bring you plants on her website if you preorder from www.orquidivalle.com. Andrea will be speaking to four societies in South Florida so be sure to tell her to bring your plants to the Fort Lauderdale meeting.

This will be a not-to-miss meeting. Besides being able to hear a new speaker and buy and win species orchids, it will be a great time to sign up to work at the show, pay your 2011 dues, pay up for the December 4th ramble, and pay up for the holiday party. Think of the savings in postage!

The Awesome Auction

Due to the enclosures this is a shorter newsletter and an earlier newsletter to get the holiday party form to you. The December issue will have space to tell you about the members who did very special things to make this another great auction. Please support the orchid vendors who donated plants. They will be listed next month.

Your 2011 Dues are Due

Please, please, please, put your check in the enclosed envelope and fill in your current phone number, email address, and fill in the name and address lines as well.

It doesn't matter what month you joined the society, everybody's dues are due by January 1st. When you see the '10 by your name change to an '11 on the your newsletter label, you will know that your dues have been marked paid. You can't imagine how much trouble it is to keep up with dues that are not in the envelope, or that come in months late. If you do not plan to rejoin, knowing this would also be a help. We have wonderful things coming up this year and your absence as a member would be a shame! D.H.

Bus Ramble, December 4th

There are still a few seats left on the bus, pay Bob Henley \$25 to reserve your seat. Repeated details are on a later page in this newsletter.

Looking Ahead

November: Fall orchid show at the AOS, Nov. 19-21

December: Party at Galuppi's at the golf course in Pompano on the 12th, Bus ramble to Dade on the 4th

January: Our SHOW, Jan.14-16.

Show Volunteers

Volunteer to work at the show and find your name, work time(s) and duty or duties listed in the December newsletter.

Notes on Orchid Names: *Rhyncholaelia*

We knew them for years as brassavolas, but two orchids from southern Mexico and northern Central America were so distinctive that contemporary taxonomists have segregated them (or, rather, re-segregated them) into the genus *Rhyncholaelia*, which was created in 1918 by leading German orchid scientist Rudolf Schlechter from the smaller of the two species, *Rhyncholaelia glauca*, which has a fringeless white lip. The larger, showier and better-known species, *Rhyncholaelia digbyana*, has been crossed with cattleyas to pass on its huge, frilly lip and large flower size to such handsome hybrids as *Brassocattleya* Mount Hood and *Brassolaeliocattleya* Pamela Hetherington (both now placed in the hybrid genus *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* due to the recent realignment of genera within the subfamily Laeliinae).

The plants of the two *Rhyncholaelia* species look somewhat like thick-leaved unifoliate cattleyas, quite different from the pencil-like terete leaves of true brassavolas such as the familiar *Brassavola nodosa*.

Both rhyncholaelias are thought to be pollinated by large night-flying moths because the ivory-white to light greenish flowers make them more visible in the dark and they produce strong, sweet nocturnal fragrances that are a good long-distance attractant for a pollinator flying through the night.

The name *Rhyncholaelia* combines the Greek word for "snout" or "beak" with the genus name *Laelia*, a genus to which both species were once assigned. (Unbelievably, the great 19th Century German taxonomist H.G. Reichenbach the younger placed them in the genus *Bletia*!) The "*Rhyncho*" part of the name refers to the prominent beak-like structure separating the ovary from the rest of the flower, a characteristic very different from true laelias.

Rhyncholaelia is often misspelled as "*Rhyncolaelia*," leaving out the second "h"

— which also happens too frequently with the Asian vandaceous genus *Rhynchostylis*.

The great British orchid taxonomist John Lindley created the name *Brassavola glauca* (= *Rhyncholaelia glauca*) in 1839, referring to the whitish (glaucous) covering on the plant's leaves.

Rhyncholaelia digbyana takes its species name from British orchid grower Edward St. Vincent Digby, who first flowered the species in England in 1845. It was named by Lindley the following year (as a *Brassavola*). This stunning orchid species is the national flower of Honduras.

-- CHUCK McCARTNEY

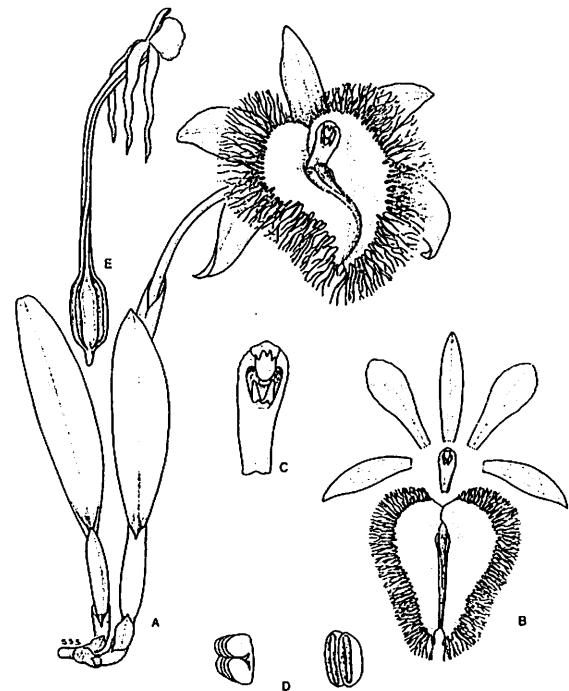


Figure 99. *Rhyncholaelia digbyana*. A. habit, x 1/2; B. floral arrangement, x 1/2; C. column, x 1; D. pollinia, x 2; E. fruit, x 1/2. Drawn by Susanna Stuart-Smith from Armstrong & Brown 1909 and from photographs and illustrations.

3-lobed, pale greenish or white, with a central ridge, up to 5 cm long and 4.8 cm wide across the lateral lobes when spread; lobes large, rounded, with undulate margins; callus triangular, mauve. Column stout, about 1 cm long. (Fig. 77M; Photo. 185).

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION. Mexico to Honduras. DISTRIBUTION IN BELIZE. Cayo District. Rare.

HABITAT. On trees and logs in moist forest at about 600 m.

FLOWERING SEASON. February and March. Flowers last about two weeks.

ETYMOLOGY. From the Latin *glauca* (with a fine whitish bloom, glaucous) in reference to the glaucous leaves.

Susanna Stuart-Smith's drawing is from the *Native Orchids of Belize*. (Thank you Chuck!)

The safer orchidist

Blue and Red Block UV Better

Finally we can work outside without melting. Blue and red fabric block UV better than white or yellow fabric. Wearing a hat is also a good skin cancer protection. *Prevention*, October, 2010, P. 38

Getting Orchids Ready for Winter

1. It's time to group and move orchids that need little water away from the rest of your collection. Maybe you can hang them under an eave or high on a shaded fence that the sprinkler system doesn't hit.
2. Move adult orchids that haven't bloomed in over a year into more, but probably not full, light. They won't burn now and will adapt to increasing spring light.
3. Group young plants and tender plants so you can bring them inside when the thermometer goes below 50. You won't like finding your scattered *Rhynchostylis* and Vandaceous in the dark with a cold wind chilling you. *Dendrobiums* won't die at 40- 50 degrees but they will drop leaves and will need a year to recover.
4. If you can't bring all your orchids inside if the temperatures are to be in the 30s or 40s assemble protection now for the plants you have to leave out. Fabric, but never plastic, covers over your plants will help and help even more if you have a soaker hose under the bench for vapor from our 70 degree tap water to rise and get trapped under the fabric.
5. You can begin to repot in February. Look over your supplies and buy what you need early this winter. If you wait you take a chance that your supply vendor will be out of something you need.
6. You can reduce the frequency of watering, and you can reduce the amount of fertilizer. Don't even think about not fertilizing at all. After this summer cool weather sounds wonderful. It will be more enjoyable if you prepare.

Thoughts and After-Thoughts

* **Oops!** My 999th typo found this time in Chuck McCartney's article last month had John Lindley describing the *Enc. tampensis* in 1876. Only Elvis could have done such a thing, John Lindley died in 1865, the correct date was 1846.

* **Charter Members of the 'unplanned parent club':** FLOS members who have reported finding unplanned orchids in their landscapes include: *Cryptopodium*- Joyce Skelly and the Muntz: *Elophia*- Gary Pierce, John Wrench, Margaret Vill'Neuve, the Crepages: and *Oeceoclades maculata*- Patsy West. Others have reported their findings to Dr. Pemberton and if you let me know who you are, you can also become charter members. Why not?

* **Home Ramble:** The February picnic has turned into another home ramble-covered dish event. If you would like to offer your place as a stop, please let me know. D.H.

Time To Kill Persistent Weeds

According to Morishita cooler nights signal weeds to send most of the carbohydrates they produced from photosynthesis down to their roots. If an herbicide is applied at this time, it is more likely to be carried to the roots where it can destroy the plant.

For best results, water the weeds so they are healthy and growing before you treat them. This is surprising advice, but research has shown that if a weed is water-stressed and not actively growing, it won't photosynthesize as much. Less carbohydrates and less herbicide would be translocated to the root system.

Spring is one of the worst times to apply herbicides. Weeds are actively growing and the carbohydrates are ready to go into flowers and seeds rather than moving down to the roots as a carrier for the herbicides

Of course hand pulling is the best way to remove weeds from an environmental point and from a spring point of view. Annual weeds sprout up from seeds every spring. They should be killed in spring before they set seeds. The herbicide advice above is for perennial weeds including obnoxious grasses that spring up year after year from underground rhizomes or roots.

Morishita, D.W. How to beat persistent perennial weeds. *Horticulture*. October-November, 2010. P. 20 (Dr. Morishita is a professor of weed science at the University of Idaho.)

Bus Ramble to Dade, December 4th

By now you know the script, we leave the Cardinal Gibbons student parking lot at 8:00 AM and get back at 5:00 PM. The parking lot is a block off Bayview Drive on 47th Street. The cost is \$25, you will need to bring a bagged lunch, an ability to lie about what you spent, and the conviction that you owe yourself this trip as a holiday present. Yes, you can sip on wine on the trip back. Is it your turn to donate a bottle to share?

A couple of the planned stops will be new to most of you, and you can pay Bob Henley at a meeting or mail the check into the post office box to reserve your seat. The correct zip code for our box is on this newsletter, not in the Membership Roster where I typed our zip while on auto-pilot.

Remembering Rita's husband:

Frank Morgan



The Effects of Flowers

A study by the Harvard Medical School found that most of the people tested appreciated a gift of flowers more than any other gift. Flowers fueled a feeling of compassion and kindness toward others, and reduced anxiety, depression, and worries. Flowers had the most positive effect when viewed in the morning and promoted energy, enthusiasm, and creativity.

The Avant Gardner, August, 2010. P.77

Now you know why giving yourself blooming orchids is a good thing. D.H.

Eat Curry

Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) is a tropical plant with rhizomes containing curcumin, which gives curries their golden color. Research at the University of Louisiana found that curcumin breaks down brain plaques of the amyloid beta protein which is known to be an important causative agent of Alzheimer's.

The Avant Gardner, August, 2010. P. 77

More August Avant Gardner

* Catnip repels cockroaches, mosquitoes, termites, Asian lady beetles and stable flies. P. 77 *Maybe a few pots of it on our orchid benches would be a good thing?*

* As people grow older they can protect their muscle and bone mass by eating more alkali-containing fruits and vegetables to counter acid-stimulating proteins. P.78

* Don't microwave foods in plastic wrap. The vinyl chloride in it can break down and enter the food. Workers in plastic factories who are exposed to vinyl chloride have a high rate of brain cancer. P. 79

* To locate and purchase desired plants go to www.doleaf.com. P. 79



Planning Ahead

November 19-21. Plan to attend the fall orchid show at AOS. It will be a great time to pick up a hostess gift if you are invited out for Thanksgiving dinner. Of course this is also a great time to pick up a plant or six for yourself. Be sure to enjoy the gardens before you leave.

Non-orchids of the month:

Think About Growing Cycads

If the word 'cycad' makes you think Sago Palm covered with scale, think again. Most are wonderful to own. Cycads have been around for 250 million years, and were the major source of dinosaur plant food. *I used to tell the back row, that they were a step between ferns and pines in plant evolution, but they are not really related to any living group of plants. They are classified as the lowest order of Gymnosperm which holds cone producing plants.* There are 11 genera and 185 remaining species of these 'living fossils', which have been located in often remote and isolated parts of the world. They have been used for a variety of purposes by man for at least 4,000 years. While some seeds have been used for food, they can produce dementia from their toxicity. All come from tropical or subtropical climates.

Cycads are either male or female and produce cones which produce seeds that are slow to reach maturity. Some species have very colorful female cones. Female cones produce heat when they are ready to be pollinated and male cones produce heat when they are ready to release pollen. Cones produce heat which can be as much as 28.8 degrees F. above the ambient temperature. Cycads can switch sexes.

Cycads are the only plant classified as a Gymnosperm to fix nitrogen through a partnership with a blue green algae.

Cycads have become popular as landscape plants, and some can be grown in containers indoors. *Zamia furfuracea* and some *Cycas* and *Bowenia* work well. Bright light and a deep pot would be a best bet, but they can grow as bonsai. They require good drainage whether grown in a pot or in the landscape. *(Chip Jones has turned me into a mini-collector of inexpensive plants. He tells me that a collector in California turned down \$50- \$75K from each of several other collector for one rare plant.)*

Jones, D.L. 1993. *Cycads of the World*. Smithsonian Institute Press.

Live Bedbug Smarter

Bet this topic is not a surprise. Bruce Muntz' email about bedbugs coming into the country on new clothes, and what to do makes sense. When you buy a new garment put it in the dryer for 20 minutes. The heat will kill any bugs and their eggs.

Of course you know to keep your luggage in the bathtub when you travel. The tub is not a cozy place for these pests. Before you ask, move the luggage to the bath counter while you shower.

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Holiday Party

Sunday, December 12, 2010

The Party will be held at Gallupi's Restaurant which is located just off Federal Highway at the Golf Course in Pompano Beach

Every member attending the party will get a free blooming sized orchid, there will be great raffle prizes and music for those who wish to dance.

Open Bar, Cocktails 6:30 PM

Dinner 7:30 PM

Please pre-select from these choices:

Ginger/soy Marinated Beef

Chicken Marsala

Grilled Mahi Mahi

Coffee, teas, and wines are part of the dinner menu

A cash bar will be available beginning at 8:30

member cost \$ 45.

guest cost \$ 58.

Detach and mail as early as possible so gift plants can be ordered early for a better selection:

Please mail your reservations and check made out to FLOS by December 1st to:

Ginny Salus- Hillsboro Ocean Club # 107

1155 Hillsboro Mile

Hillsboro Beach, FL 33062

Member name(s) _____

Reservations for ___ **members @ \$45 each = amount \$** _____

Reservations for ___ **guests @ \$ 58 each = amount \$** _____

Total \$ _____

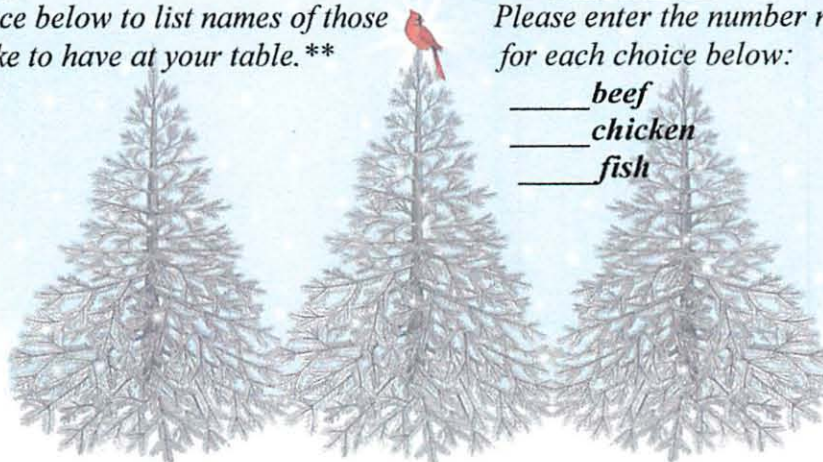
****Use the space below to list names of those you would like to have at your table.****

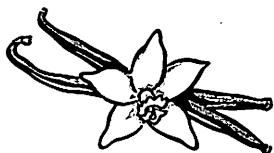
Please enter the number needed for each choice below:

___ **beef**

___ **chicken**

___ **fish**





Why Vanilla Costs So Much

The Aztecs discovered vanilla and used it to flavor chocolate drinks. It contains 250 compounds which give it its popular flavor, but usually that flavor has been somewhat captured in a cheap artificial flavoring which may contain coal tar and other products you don't want to know about.

In Mexico and other tropical places where it is grown, the vines are trained to grow around a tree where the plant will bloom just once a year. On the single day the bloom is open workers hand pollinate the flower. The flower will in time turn into a seed pod, which is called a vanilla bean.

Workers check the vanilla orchid vines each day and remove any ripe pods. The pods are sold to curing houses where they are dipped into boiling water or heated in ovens to stop the development of the seeds. Then for three to six months the pods are laid out in the sun by day and put in sweat boxes at night. After all of that treatment, pods are stored on racks to allow their flavors to mellow.

If the pod/bean/ has been cured properly you should be able to wrap it around your finger without breaking it and releasing essential oils and flavor. Is it any surprise that a single vanilla bean costs about \$2 and that pure vanilla extract is so expensive? The little dark specks in Bryers vanilla ice cream are seeds from real vanilla beans. Is it any surprise that it costs more than store brand?

Information on curing from Chef. Nov. 2001. P.22

Pollution Killing Floral Fragrances

Dr. Jose Fuentes and researchers at the University of Virginia have found that air pollution inhibits the distance fragrances can travel. Air pollution breaks apart scent molecules which destroys their smell. The researchers found that the delicate odor responsible for attracting pollinating insects are traveling as little as one third of their former distances.

Since bees may take more time to find flowers and thus food, this can have a negative effect on bee populations. The fact that bees may not find flowers may also result in reductions in flowering plant populations.

www.VirginiaAcademyofSciences.com. 'Pollution killing flowers fragrances'.

Orchid Origin Quiz

Hint: If the orchid is from the Northern Hemisphere it will probably bloom in the spring, summer, or fall. The Southern Hemisphere plants will skip blooming in summer since it is winter where they evolved.

Choices: (Multiple Choice Quiz)

- A. Mostly North and Central Americas
- B. Mostly Central and South Americas
- C. Africa
- D. India, Malaysia, Thailand areas
- E. Australia and just north, more or less.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. ___ <i>Aerides</i> | 2. ___ <i>Angraecum</i> |
| 3. ___ <i>Brassavola</i> | 4. ___ <i>Brassia</i> |
| 5. ___ <i>Cattleya</i> | 6. ___ <i>Dendrobium</i> |
| 7. ___ <i>Doritis</i> | 8. ___ <i>Epidendrum</i> |
| 9. ___ <i>Laelia</i> | 10. ___ <i>Miltonia</i> |

Early in my teaching time, I had a student who couldn't read. He failed the first quarter, and by giving him a few oral tests after school, he got a D the second quarter. Before the exam, I whispered in his ear: "When you don't know, put 'B'". The teacher who followed me said: "___ put his name on the paper and a big 'B'. Did he do that for you? (As you are about to see, I again overused 'B', but there is a point. Many of our favorite orchids come from our side of the earth.)

Answers: 10-b, 9-b, 8-b, 7-d, 6-e, 5-b, 4-b, 3-b, 2-c, 1-d

Eat More Resistant Starches

Research has supported that 'Resistant Starches' promote the burning of fat and the shrinking of fat cells. If you want to try this 1/4th of any meal should be comprised of beans, lentils, bananas, barley, potatoes, brown rice, peas, oatmeal, whole grain pasta, rye or pumpernickel bread or **potato chips**. The remaining 3/4th should come from other fruits and vegetables, lean meats, and low fat dairy products.

For more details go to www.Health.com/carb-lovers
Avant Gardner. September, 2010. P. 82

Before selecting orchids:

Think Night Temperatures

If you grow outside in South Florida you need to buy **warm growing orchids** which came from an area where night temperatures ranged from 65-70 degrees F. If you are growing your orchids in a cool apartment or special cool room you can grow **intermediate** orchids which thrive in a night temperature range of 55-65 degrees F. Don't even think of buying **cool growing orchids** unless you can provide them with night temperatures in the 45-55 degree F. range.

Nag, Nag, Nag

Nothing short of death should keep YOU from returning your dues in the enclosed envelope!

Please put your check in the enclosed envelope and fill in your current phone number, email address, and fill in the name and address lines as well.

It doesn't matter what month you joined the society, everybody's dues are due by January First, 2011

Another Bookkeeping Help

Please turn in your presale ticket money to Chris or Ginny, they need to account for your tickets. Sorry about the two checks.

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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.

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

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

**FORT LAUDERDALE
ORCHID SOCIETY**

