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# FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

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May, 2010

## May Day, May Day, May Day This May Day Will Be May 10<sup>th</sup> And If You Miss Jeff Adkins You'll Wish for Help!

Those headlines are not much overstated. Jeff could describe ice melting and you would laugh and also learn! On May 10<sup>th</sup> you will learn about *Phalaenopsis*. It's about time to cut the blooms off to let the mother-plant rest, and it is time to repot the mother-plant. Jeff's workshop will be about that. His main program will cover current breeding trends and why you should want to own better plants. You'll learn why the 5 unnamed plants for \$20 you see for sale on the streets are good only to tie on trees.

Jeff will provide the raffle table and be selling plants from his growing greenhouse which houses most of the popular genera, and the sale and raffle tables will consist of a variety of genera.

Jeff is a third generation orchid grower, an accredited AOS judge, a life member of our society, a designer and builder of orchid slat houses and 'swing set' habitats for both people and orchids. Jeff has grown many awarded orchids, and one of his achievements is surviving happily in a house with children in their teens. (Actually they are wonderful and helpful young people, but they are young people!)

## The May Meeting Will Also Be A Voting Meeting

It's a shame we don't have Co-presidents, because you will be choosing between two hard working people for FLOS President for the next year. Be sure to bring a pen or pencil so that voting can be done quickly. Your choices will be between our current President Joan Connors and Wayne Musgrave. Both have contributed to our society, so you will be not be voting against one or the other, but you will be voting for the person you believe to be right for this next year.

## Ramble Overnight, June 5 and 6

All rambles are fun, but the overnights are the most fun. This time we will be going north and our stops will probably include Odom's Orchids, Krull Smith Orchids, EFG Orchids, Indian River Orchids, and Adamson Orchids.

The cost will be \$75 each for the seat on the bus and the motel and food costs will be additional. There is always lots of room on the bus when we ramble overnight so you are welcome to invite non members to ramble with us. Bob always picks modestly priced motels and restaurants to leave us more money for orchids. Bob makes the room reservations for everyone on the bus, and the assumption is that non-smoking rooms are needed, but any Rambler with a special need should make that known. Ramblers who wish to share rooms should also make that known.

Much of the trip will be like a day-ramble. We will leave the Cardinal Gibbons High School student parking lot at 8:00 AM and you will need your own bagged lunch for Saturday. We will return by 5:00 PM on Sunday.

We are letting you know about the ramble as early as possible so you can bring your check to the May meeting. If you can't attend the May meeting, please mail it to the Post Office Box address **BEFORE** the May meeting. Bob will know that night to either confirm that we will be going, or to return checks if we don't have enough rambles to pay for the bus. Call 954-772-4836 for further information.

## Orchid History Steps

\* 1734. Captain Bligh (HMS Bounty) brought 15 epiphytic orchids to Kew Gardens.

\* 1830. *B. nodosa* was the first tropical orchid to reach Europe in good shape.

\* 1843. They found that they could germinate orchid seeds by placing them on the media of the mother-plant. *This may have been known as early as 1806 and is still something for a hobbyist to try.*

## April Program Review

Segundo Cuestra's program was fast moving and informative. At Quest Orchids they specialize in *Cattleyas* and especially in those that bloom more than once a year. Segundo showed us several plants that he had crossed and the one that caught my eye had a huge bronze- yellow flower with a red lip. It had taken 7 or 8 years to get it from seed to blooming but it was the offspring of two great orchids: bright yellow, Bc. Goldenzelle and blood red Bc. Chia Lin. Segundo mentioned that, as expected in hybrids, there was quite a bit of diversity in colors among the siblings. Besides being big and beautiful, it blooms more than once a year. Segundo mentioned that someone else had made the cross at the same time he did, but the other person registered it first.

As I remember some good whites seen were from *skinneri alba*, and Quest Super Spots was in my notes as a 'buy one'.

Much of Segundo's talk centered around pests. Insects are heading into their prime reproductive time and it is good to spray now if you see any signs of their being in your collection. Orthene, despite its smell is one of Segundo's favorites, but after 3 sprayings, it is time to try something else. Sevin and Malathion were mentioned as try-next options, and for a light infestation, rubbing alcohol works.

For Thrip control he liked Conserde and Lure. The latter is sweet and tempts these little bloom spoilers to a death by toxins.

Fungi start to grow in cool weather, Segundo suggested Physan-20 as a monthly fungicide spray. It also controls algae and bacteria. We were reminded to spray any chemical either in the early morning or late afternoon.

There are many reasons to like the enthusiastic and talented Cuestras, and giving us such a pleasant evening is just one of them. D.H.

## Volunteer To Do More

**Before you know it, it will be time for new people to take over meeting preparations. Get a friend to help and take on one of these responsibilities:**

- (1) Kitchen- Put the treats on plates and see the smiles.
- (2) House- Set up the room before the meeting, and lock up at the end. You'll be the first to look over the sales plants.

## New Web Master

Rich Ackerman is taking over this job, and you should see what he has begun to do. He also has tall plans for future additions. Go to [www.flos.org](http://www.flos.org) and see what has happened so far. Thank you Rich for joining the FLOS monthly working team.

## Ribbon Judging Results

*Oops! We had a new ribbon judge, who put the ribbons on the plants but didn't mark all the entry forms. I was in a hurry to get home and type and grabbed the forms where I saw a ribbon, but since I have no idea what color some of these ribbons were, no places will be shown here. The plant table was spectacular and the following are thanked for bringing in their plants.*

**Michael Bryant**- V. Roberts Delight x V. Brunea,  
Bc. Fritz Nicholas

**Alex Connell** *Guaranthe (Cattleya) skinneri* 'Nita'

**Eddie Griffith & Stan Tillotson**- *Brassia verrucosa* x  
Rex, *Coryanthes macgantha*

**William Knost** - *Ascda Kobfia* x *V. coerulea*

**Tom Kuligowski**- Lc. Firedance 'Patricia', *Aerangis  
citratam* Den. *chrysotoxum*

**Christine Marinella**- P. Sogo Pearl Pro 9

**Tony Millet**- *Epi psederpipsende* x Bc. Chit Chat,  
Bc. Burdagins's Wonder, C. Within Reach, Lc.  
C.G. Robnelin, Lc. Diamond Girl, Lc. Alex Leif,  
Slc. Pretty Pet. —

**Eugenia Nezvadovitz** - Onc. Sweet Sugar

**Ray Ratliff** - *Paph. delenatii*, *Max. minuta*

**Rob Rinn** - Opts. Suree 'See's Ace',  
*Epi. parkinsonianum*

**Helen Rivenbark** - *Paph. mustache*

**Shari Weidenbaum**- Bc. Orglade's Happy Face  
'Bright Future' x Bc. Carolina Orange Glow  
'Krull Smith'

## Refreshment Providers

These members provided varied and tasty treats which we appreciated:

Nora Dyke, Leah Ostrander, Lisa Davis,  
Vicki Hallock, Marian Huber, Chris Crepage,  
Grace Vicino, Doris Pearson, Ginny Salus,  
Danielle Bejar, Carrie Ackerman, Vicki Trank,  
Betty Runde, Jeannie Nezvadovitz and Gigi Granger.

*Knowing our members better:*

## Brian Boyle and Opera Auditions

Before retiring and moving to Florida Brian used his background in accounting to be Director of Finance and Administration for the Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center. After retiring Brian's passion for developing and following young talent led him into being a volunteer Chairman for the Washington D.C. and Philadelphia Districts and producing auditions for those two cities. There are 45 districts in the United States and Canada where annual auditions are held. After a round of auditions semi-finalists, finalists, and grand finalists are selected for cash awards and opportunities to perform. The higher winners get to perform with the Metropolitan Opera and the concert by the winning grand finalists is broadcast on the Metropolitan Radio Network.

Brian was pleased that his recent district winner, a 22 year old baritone, Elliot Madore, went all the way to grand finalist.

*Brian has one more talent that is not always evident because I don't have him read everything I write for the newsletter, but if the spelling and punctuation are right, Brian made the corrections and has done so for the last year or three.*

## Less Dumb Orchid Shopping

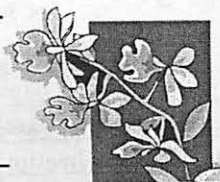
and after shopping orchid care

The Redlands Festival is coming and I've made most of the mistakes you can make at that event. Maybe you can learn from my mistakes and shop smarter?

1. Not asking the vendor if the plant is warm growing, people from all over come to this event, so the growers are not evil to bring in cool growing orchids.
2. Buying an intermediate growing orchid and thinking it might thrive in our coolest microclimate. (The death was slow.)
3. Buying the larger bare root with no visible live roots and leaving the small plant with green root tips behind.
4. Re-buying a species orchid that I had already killed. Sadly my care killed again.
5. Not giving any bare root a four hour soaking in a quart of tepid water with one teaspoon of each sugar, Superthrive, and any kind of alcohol. (Of course I should have then rinsed the plant and potted it up and given it more shade than usual.)
6. Not wearing sun-screen, insect repellent, and providing a way to shade the orchids that I've bought. D.H.

Remembering

Vicki Peal



## Vanda motesiana Choitco

Tim Choitco from Kew Gardens thought *Vanda stangeana* Reichb.f was badly identified, so with some help from our member, Dr. Martin Motes, a new species was identified and named for the helper! What an honor. FYI you can buy Martin's new book at the Redlands Festival which is **Florida Vanda Growing: Month by Month**. For further information go to Mary's blog: [NotJustOrchids@blogspot.com](mailto:NotJustOrchids@blogspot.com)

## Member News

\* On May 6 **Chuck Nicholls** will be inducted in the 2010 Broward County's Senior Hall of Fame. He was elected for his work with Tuesday's Angles which provides financial aid for men, women, and children who are infected with HIV/AIDS in Broward County.

\* Special thoughts go for three members on the 'not well' list: **Marge Adler, John Allison, and Joyce Kelly.**

## Equity Park Memorial Garden Club

This is a newly formed evening garden club that will be meeting in Wilton Manors. Besides providing an exchange of horticultural and landscaping information a component group of the club will be supporting the newly proposed memorial garden in Equity Park. For further information please contact FLOS members: Maeva Malloy (954-975-7304), Chip Jones (954-296-2019) or Chuck Nicholls (954-561-3535)

## Try An Orchid Terrarium

You've read how the Victorians smothered their orchids in closed Wardian cases, but **Horticulture Magazine** has an article suggesting that we might have fun making a terrarium out of almost any clear container, and Phals and Paphs are suggested as orchids to add to other small plants and creative hardscape in the terrarium.

Martin suggests that terrariums be placed near an east or west window and that a closed terrarium should never be in direct sunlight since the content plants will be cooked. He also places orchids in terrariums which he can open easily and 'air-out' for half a day every 2-3 weeks.

Martin, T. small World. **Horticulture**. Dec.-Jan. 2010. Pp.46-48

## The Rambler

April 3 was SUCH A GOOD DAY for the 33 of us who rambled south. The holiday kept some regular ramblers from being on the bus, but as much as we missed them, there was more room for plants.

Our first stop was **Quest** in Miami and we were treated to wonderful orchids to buy and really tasty breakfast pastries. Yolando delivered the first \$523 that bus ramblers had contributed to an orchid friend, who is a FLOS member. This member needs some help to pay for expensive chemo. More was collected later from two of the vendors bringing the total to \$823. and more has been promised. Ramblers are wonderful and caring people and the help was much appreciated. *(Any other contributions will be welcomed. Please bring your help to the raffle table. This member has dealt with chemo for eight years and the good news is that this current chemo series is working.)*

**Pine Ridge** was our second destination and to see 99 million +/- perfect phals in bloom is always a treat. Each rambler was given a blooming sized Cym. Maureen Carter 'Oriental Star' HCC/AOS. Word is that it will be warm blooming and Terry was growing them in almost full sun. The blooms were a bright lemon yellow.

**R.F. Orchids** was our usual lunch stop and we were greeted by huge numbers of identical phals blooming high up in huge old trees. Of course we were also greeted by tempting plants to buy of many genera and a friendly, helpful staff.

**Amazonia** had huge species *Cattleyas* in bloom and a nice selection of bare root divisions. We were also able to buy OFE supplies, or pick up supplies that we had pre-ordered. It was a good stop for orchids and supplies.

**Saint Germain** was a new stop for us and we marveled at the healthy, weed-free plants. Kathy walked us back to the bus through the garden that her Grandfather had begun. We were overwhelmed at the work it must take to keep the orchids, the palm fields, and that park-like garden in shape.

**Carib Plants** was our last stop and even though it was last and we had long run out of cash and were by them way over budget, we pulled out the plastic because the temptations were too much.

You don't even want to know how many bottles of wine ramblers donated for the trip home, but you do want to know that we came home with some for the next ramble and we were no louder, and laughed at the good natured banter no harder than we had all day. D.H. (Jack Dodds is thanked for the photos shown. Others photographers' work can be seen on our web and in a later newsletter.)

Thank you, known wine contributors: Marinella, Slump, Wrench, Henley, Schaberl, Knapp and Musgrave (3 bottles). Sorry if I left you out!



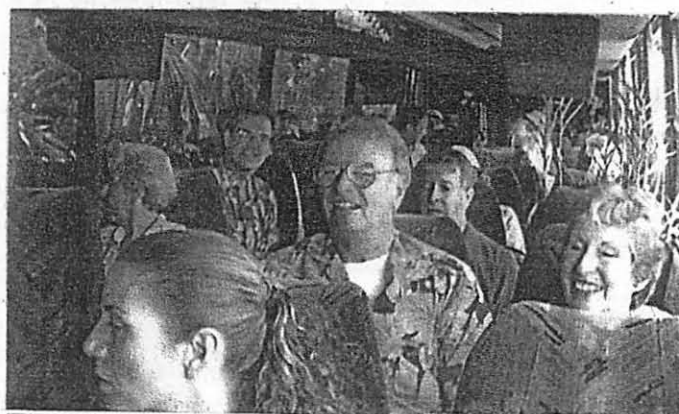
Christine and a few of the Pine Ridge phals



Chip selects a nice red Quest orchid



Robert greeting us at Carib



Bus people not yet heading home

## Keep Wasp Spray Near

Wasp spray is better protection than pepper spray. You can aim and press and the spray will hit your target 20 feet away. If you aim the spray into the eyes of the bad one who broke into your house or wanted something scary from you in a parking lot, he won't be able to see until he gets the antidote in a hospital. Pepper spray requires closer contact, may blow back on you, and costs more than wasp spray. (email advice)

## Pass the Butter

A tablespoon of butter has 7 grams of saturated fat and 5\* grams of saturated fat in found in older brand margarines. Butter tastes good and increases the absorption of other food nutrients. Margarine is just one molecule away from plastic. Margarine will not be consumed by bacteria, fungi, or flies. Eating margarine is not unlike having melted Tupperware on your toast.

\* After I got this email, I read some labels, some of the 'healthy margarines' only have 2 grams of saturated fats and include dairy fats in their mix. Reading labels is seldom a bad idea.

## Safety Tips

### ATM safety:

It's not that unusual for a bad guy to come up behind somebody at an ATM and demand money. You will be safer if that happens to you, if you type in your PIN number in reverse. If your number is 1-2-3-4 type in 4-3-2-1. The money will come out of the machine and the thief will be pleased. The backwards code will notify police to come fast and apprehend the crook.

### Avoid toxins:

If homemade oil and herb marinades make you a happy cook, be sure to refrigerate the mix and use it within 24 hours. Deadly *Clostridium botulinum* thrives in such an environment, and according to the March, 2010 Avant Gardner the mix should be marked with a skull and crossbones.

## Cold Tolerant Palms

If you have sworn to replant with cold tolerant landscaping consider these palms that can take the cold. (Coconut will not be on the list.)

*E. histris*- the needle palm, *S. minor*- dwarf palmetto, *S. repens*-saw palmetto, *C. humilis*-fan palm, *B. capitata*- jelly palm, and *B. fortunei*- Chinese windmill palm. (Avant Gardner, March, 2010, p. 36)

## On Making Green Changes

I know you are sick of this song, but the sky in Broward is looking a bit more blue after all the county's tree planting and maybe we can also help. This is a list from the April, 2010 *Avant Gardner*, p. 7:

1. At least replace some of your grass with ground covers, and expand your planted borders.
2. Replace power tools with hand tools.
3. Compost in heaps on the soil surface and with worms.
4. Minimize hardscape or use gravel, wood, or used bricks, or broken cement from old construction. New paver production requires a large amount of energy.
5. Emphasize woody plants, which capture more carbon than herbaceous plants.
6. Plant trees and shrubs to shade in summer.
7. Conserve water with rain barrels, drip irrigation, and drought-resistant plants.
8. Grow some of your own edible fruits and vegetables, and support local farms when possible.

## Coffee, An Orchid's Best Friend?

*I've been saving and begging coffee grounds for some time. I know that a top-dressing of used grounds has helped our Vanilla vines grow better, and I've top dressed several kinds of terrestrial plants and think they are growing better. This may have a clue about how they work and I have a plan for you to try too.*

Broome reported that cycad seeds germinated and grew well when top dressed with used grounds and they were insect free. *Coffea arabica* (coffee) concentrates its insect killing alkaloids in its seeds to keep predatory insects from eating the seeds. (*Camellia sinensis* (tea) does the same thing and tea leaves that fall to the ground act as an herbicide to inhibit competitive plants from taking nutrients.)

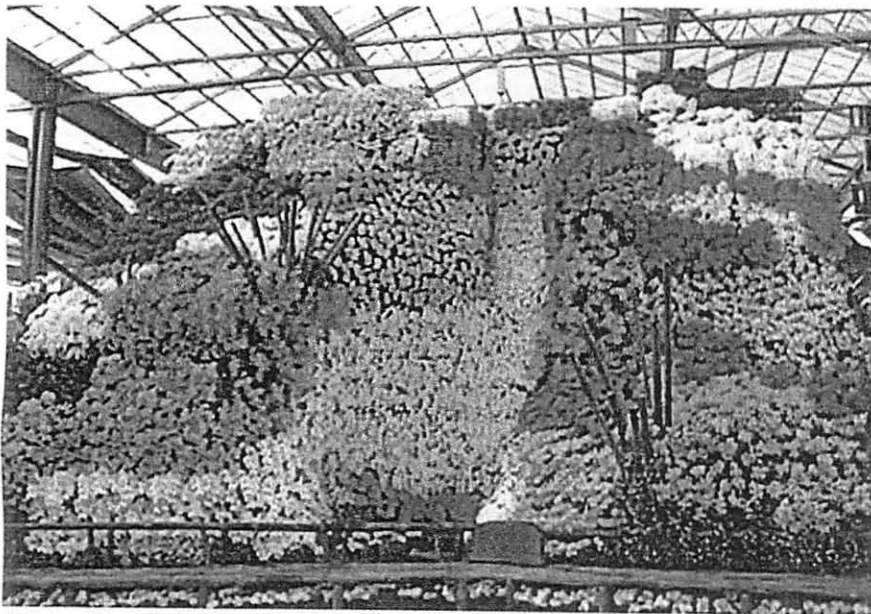
Broome further reported that he mixed 10% used grounds in his potting mix for cycads and the 50-100 alkaloid compounds in the grounds protected the plants from scale or mealy bug infestation. Bamboo plants were also protected from mealy bugs with a top dressing of grounds.

Broome didn't give exact proportions but made a sun-tea with a bag of used grounds and water. *My estimate is that he used about 5 pounds of used grounds to 55 gallons of water.* He let the brew age for 5 days, put it in a pump sprayer and it killed scale, mealy bugs, and aphids on a variety of plants, none of which were orchids. He used his barrel of coffee spray for 3-4 months and later found that using less coffee also worked.

*I don't plan to treat all my orchids with coffee spray but to try this on some of them sounds worthwhile?*

Broome, Tom. Coffee, Cycads' new best friend? **The Cycad Newsletter** 30(4) December, 2007 Pp. 44-46

## 2010 Taiwan International Orchid Show



At the entrance to the show, an avalanche of phalaenopsis and other orchids excited guests. Visit this spectacular show and your perspective of orchids and orchid shows will never be the same. Photo: John Wrench.



Sharing time at the TIOS banquet on Thursday, the night before the show opened (left to right): AOS Vice President Norman Fang, AOS President Carlos Fighetti and AOS President Elect Chris Rehmann. Photo: John Wrench.

### About Orchid Seeds

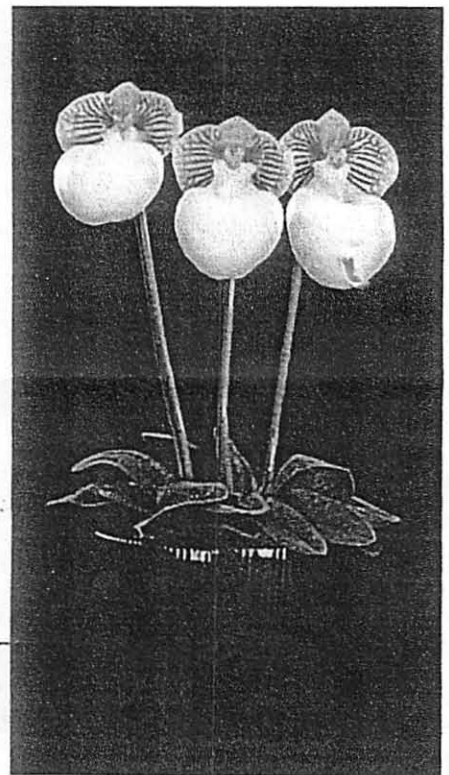
Yes, they are small, and there are many in a seed pod. Most won't survive in nature, but they have evolved a way to be spread by wind or water for hundreds or even thousands of miles. In most species the seeds completely lack endosperm or cotyledons so the very small embryo plants have to get food from fungi when they start to grow. A few orchids do have shrunken vestigial food sources which shows that the seeds have evolved from the common type.

Another unique factor in the orchid seed is a large air space which keeps the seeds afloat or in the air for far away dispersal. *In all of nature there is the built-in survival adaptation to 'move away from Mother and survive'.*

### On *Cattleya* Roots

It's 'normal' for a new repotter to cringe when a root is broken or destroyed. Time will come when that grower will cut off or break roots without a thought. An orchid root is NOT a permanent structure. New roots emerge from new growths, and when the new roots emerge, the old roots die. When you repot you can cut off old roots of *Cattleyas* to give room in the pot for new roots to grow since the old roots are going to die anyway.

Other kinds of orchids with different growth patterns will need their old roots for a longer time, so think removal of old live roots on *Cattleyas* ONLY.



*Paphiopedilum micranthum* subsp. *eburneum* 'Lai' received honors as the Grand Champion of the 2010 Taiwan International Orchid Show. Grown by: Chin-His Lai of Tien-Mao Orchids. Photo: Ching-Shui Sun.

### About John Wrench

John was very lucky to be chosen to be a member of the "press" to cover the Taiwan show which is beyond awesome! We are also lucky to get John's report straight from the AOS website.

John seems to be able to do everything well. He biked his way to the Keys in April for M.S., and no totals are in. Last year there were 3,300 riders for MS nation-wide, and John ranked 56<sup>th</sup> in the amount of money he raised from supportive friends and family.

## **2010 Taiwan International Orchid Show**

In a show season packed with worthy events, the 2010 Taiwan International Orchid Show ranked high. On Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, the show commenced with an opening ceremony. Several dignitaries spoke, including the mayor of Tainan, Hsu Tain-tsair, and the vice president of Taiwan, Vincent Siew. Then, the ribbon was pulled, officially opening the four exhibition halls for the throngs of enthusiasts with a passion for orchids who were eagerly waiting to see the show. Hall 1 consisted of the grand entrance display, major exhibit displays and business booths. In Hall 2, impressive individual specimens were staged on two-tiered white benches — one side of an aisle of Paphiopedilums, an aisle of phalaenopsis, another side for Vandaceous orchids and many more, including an aisle of Oriental Cymbidiums in decorative containers. Part of the fun of walking this show is not only seeing the first-rate displays and diversity of orchids, but also the presentation of the plants. Hall 3 was for vendor sales booths where more than 100 vendors eagerly awaited customers. Everything from rare species to the latest gardening gadgets were for sale. Exhibit Hall 4 was a sample growing-area display demonstrating to guests how orchids are cultivated and mass produced.

The champion of exhibits was put in by the Taiwan Paphiopedilum Society. In a presentation that elicited rave reviews, whimsical slides were packed with hundreds of flowering paphiopedilums. In addition to an abundance of slipper orchids, this exhibit also included Phalaenopsis that grabbed the eyes of passers by.

From a field of hundreds of plants, the best orchid judged to be Grand Champion was *Paphiopedilum micranthum* subsp. *eburneum* 'Lai'. In addition to ribbon judging at the show, American Orchid Society judges spent two days critiquing dozens of flowers and plants, eventually bestowing more than 160 AOS awards, including 14 First Class Certificates.

A world-class event, this year's Taiwan International Orchid Show delivered a remarkable selection of displays and flowering plants.

*John Wrench, Advertising Manager, American Orchid Society*

*March 2010 (Note: John's article is also found on the AOS website.)*



Sandi Jones  
Tom Wells

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Or take US-1 (Federal Hwy.) to Oakland Park  
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