



An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

N • E • W • S • L • E • T • T • E • R

July 2010

You don't want to miss the program on July 12th. I still swear by things I learned from him 30 years ago.

Dr. Ruben Sauleda to Speak

Dr. Sauleda established **Ruben in Orchids** at age 16, long before getting his PhD in Orchid taxonomy from the University of South Florida. Ruben's is the oldest orchid business in Florida, and his orchid laboratory has been famous and respected for many years.

The first part of Ruben's talk will be about flasking and deflasking, and the second part will be about his favorite orchids for growing in South Florida. Ruben specializes in native orchids, *Cattleyas*, and *Encyclias*. He will provide the raffle table and will also be selling plants.

The nursery with 6,400 square feet of growing space and the modern laboratory are now relocated at 22585 S.W. 197th Avenue in Goulds which the website, www.rubeninorchids.com describes as the 'heart of orchid country'.

If all, or some, of the new taxonomy based on DNA interests you will find Ruben's opinions on his website. He is anything but a 'terribly tedious taxonomist'!

Ruben was a Director of the 19th WOC and he was appropriately Chairman of Education.



Member of the month:

Eddie Griffith

Eddie is ending his two year term as President of the American Hibiscus Society. The Society has about 1,500 members and when asked what had been his biggest challenge it was keeping order among the committees. Ironically this was also his greatest pleasure. Reluctantly he added that it was nice to be able to express his ideas and have them respected. Eddie did think that the best thing that had happened during his term was that the Society had included species of hibiscus other than the ornamental ones known by all of us.

Eddie has made hibiscus crosses and several of his cultivars have been registered. His hibiscus interest is just a part of life in the 'plant lane'. Eddie and Stan Tillotson have hundreds or perhaps thousands of orchids. The orchid collection probably contains the most and best grown vandaceous orchids in any hobby collection in South Florida.

The last thing to tell you about is that pile of bluestone shown in the picture. Eddie turned a ton of sand and more than 3 tons of stone into a charming walk on the canal side of their botanical garden-like yard. Word is that the project was really hard on his back, but a less fit garden lover would have been in traction. Hopefully we will be walking down that new path on a home ramble again this year.

President's Message

Boy, we certainly have come a long way!

With today's sociably conscience environment, we have a way of staying in touch with friends that have the same passion. Our society brings us together to share our accomplishments with the ribbons we earn, and we share our disappointments with the eagerness to learn from informed speakers.

We will continue to be great as we forge into the future with technology. We have a page on Facebook, post your pictures and get updated information, or tweet about us on Twitter. We now have added email addresses to our Roster for ease of communication between each other and the society. Watch our new website for even more changes.

Joan

June Program Review

Wendy and Jason Griffith are such nice people that we almost forgot that the heat index was 100 outside and almost that high inside the meeting hall. In fact the Indian River greenhouses were cooler last week when we rambled there than was the room. Now for the program which was full of basic growing hints.

Wendy began by telling how to make a reluctant but healthy Vandaceous plant bloom. You take pliers and squeeze hard near the base of the stem. Don't press so hard that it breaks through the plant's epidermis. If the plant isn't healthy do not stir up the 'I've got to bloom, I'm going to die' gene. All the sick plant will do is die!

Vandaceous plant roots should be equal in volume to the top of the plant. Sea weed extract is an excellent root stimulant, and Wendy likes it better than Superthrive which can be used 3-4 times a year.

Correct watering is the most important variable in *Vanda* culture. In Asia some water for 12 hours in every 24, but Wendy waters for an hour in the morning and if the days are hot again for 10 minutes about 1:00 pm. She explained that the reasons orchids wilted were two. They had gotten too little water or too much water which had rotted their roots. She noted that many growers put seedlings in plugs with moss and when you buy young plants in a moss plug, that plug will rot in time and should be removed when you repot.

Strap-leaf *Vandas* bloom well under 40% shade cloth, or under pool screen, or near the edge of a tree's canopy. Wendy does not remove a kiki from the mother plant until the kiki has bloomed.

While *Cattleyas* can survive when the temperatures dip down to about 33, *Vandas* need to be brought inside if the temperatures are below 55. Last year it got down into the 20s and they lost all the orchids in an unheated greenhouse containing about 20,000 orchids.

Wendy and Jason use Cleary's fungicide to control fungal infections, but she emphasized that the best thing to do with an inexpensive plant with crown rot was to dispose of it, and any plant with an infection should be isolated. She also mentioned that alcohol, peroxide and kitchen cinnamon were good inhibitors for many orchid infections.

We asked so many questions that time ran out before Wendy could share her ideas on *Cattleyas*, but we got as much information as we could absorb in the warm room. Thank you Wendy. D.H.

Refreshment Thanks

Connie Walker, Petra Thomas, Vicki Trank,
Joan Connors, Lisa Davis, Grace Vicino,
Jan & Allan Mink, Chris Crepage
Bruce Burtoff, Carrie Ackerman, Ginny Salus,
Maeva Malloy, Nora Dyke



June Ribbon Winners

Thank you all for bringing in those wonderfully grown plants. **Rob Rinn** gets to go first since two of his plants also got culture awards.

Rob Rinn / CULTURES and blues/ *Oncidium. hexyasum*, and *Brassavola cucullata*. /blue/ *Gongora scaphepharus* /red/ Paph. Bel Royal

Marc Burchette /blues/ *Trichopilia (tortilis 'Large' x turialbae 'Alpha'*, Sc. Mishima Luistel 'Jean' AM/AOS, *Den. bracteosum*

Mary Burtoff /blues/ *Myrmecophilia (Schomburgkia.) albopurpurea*, , *V. bensonii*

Allen Cogar /blues/ *C. loddigesii* 'Volcano Queen' x Lc. Mem. Robert Strait, *Phal. connu-cervi* 'Red #1' /reds/ *Phal. cornu-cervi* 'Red', *Dendrobium amabalie*

Chip Jones /blue/ *Enc. tampensis* /reds/Lc. Eagle Island x C. Horace 'Maxima', *Enc. ambigua*

Tony Millet /blues/ Lc. Diamond Girl, *Enc. tampensis* Alba

Allan & Jan Mink/red/ *Enc. belizensis*

Jennie Nezvadovitz /red/ Onc. Sherry Baby

Ray Ratliff /blue/ *Soleansis aphylla*

Helen Rivenbark /blue/ *Aerides odorato*

Mac Rivenbark /red/ *Den. bensoniae*

Dr. Ginny Salus /blue/ *Neofineta falcata*

Joan & Tony Viggiani /blues/ *Trichoglottis fasciata*, Paph. Mo Chi Min, /red/ Doritaenopsis I-Hsin Ice Coke 'KH 7155

Connie Walker /blue/ *Stlma. Florida Sunset*

Shari Weidenbaum /red/ Ascda. Motes Burning Sand 'Mary Motes'



Shown is Eddie Griffith with the tall bloom spike on *Alcantarea odorata*. I couldn't resist showing you a bit of their botanic garden-like yard.

You Can Keep Fungus Free *Vandas*

The old word was to have *healthy Vandas* you had to spray them weekly with a fungicide. Dr. Martin Motes' June Newsletter which is on our web-site gives directions for the new word and it's much easier.

Phyllosticata capitatus aka *Guignardia*, aka **Thai Disease** is a leaf spotting fungus that emerges as rough diamond, or eye, shaped lesions on *Vanda* leaves. While it is pretty much universal, its control lies in knowing its life cycle. The lesions pop out on leaves after a winter cold. The lesions are fruiting bodies, such as a mushroom is a spore-producing fruiting body of an underground fungus. This fungus is in the vascular tissue of lower leaves, **it is not in the whole plant**, so step one is to remove any leaf with lesions. Step two is to isolate this plant. If you keep the leaves with lesions they will produce spores especially from August to early October. (*It's July, go snip off leaves and isolate infected plants.*) Of course if you have one or more infected plants, your entire *Vanda* collection needs to be immunized with a systemic fungicide. The regiment for Thai Disease will also control or kill *Fusarium* and *Cercospora* fungi.

Martin stated that Cleary's 336 or Thiomil are the best and easiest fungicides for the hobbyist to use. In a perfect world you would begin your *Vanda* collection by buying plants that had been in the United States for a year and that had gone through a winter without producing leaf lesions. In mid-May you would spray the collection, and then spray again in two weeks. After those two sprayings you should continue to spray every 4-6 weeks.

You can learn more by reading Martin's whole article on our website or you could look in your Roster and go on his website to order his new book, **Vanda Keeping Month by Month**.

I gave up on Vandas or Ascocendas with strap leaves years ago, and plan to start again next spring. The best places on earth to shop for them are right here in South Florida.

Blueberries THE Brain Food

You already knew that blueberries are called a super food because they are useful in cleaning arteries, improving vision, and curing urinary tract infections. Tufts University research suggests that they should be known as the 'brain berry' because they enhance memory, help prevent Alzheimer's, and generally protect the brain from the aging process.

-- The Avant Gardner, June 2010, P. 64

The Rambler

A happy surprise was that the overnight ramble did not have to be canceled after all. We went on a small, new trial-basis bus. The seats and leg space were equal to business class air travel, and riding a 'normal' bus in the future will make us yearn for that perfect bus.

Our first stop was **Odom's Orchids** in Fort Pierce, and the big variety of orchids was as good as we've ever encountered anywhere. The bus looked full of orchids when we left, and we appreciated the tasty breakfast snacks, and the dozen or so raffle plants for the bus. (Before the trip was over, everybody on the bus won at least one plant and half won two plants.)

Krull Smith in Apopka was our next stop, and like our first stop we admitted to spending more than \$1,000 on wonderful plants. Almost all of Frank's generous box of bus raffle plants were in bloom.

The last vendor stop on Saturday was at **Chapman Orchids**. This was a new stop for us, and we found the Chapmans to be very friendly, nice people. We admired their large stock of handsome stud plants, and the prices were modest on the sales plants, but as a mostly wholesale nursery the selection was more limited and slanted toward the wholesale market.

Before we knew it we were at a Comfort Inn and then to the Cracker Barrel or Outback Steak House. Most of us confessed to falling asleep about 9:00 PM.

A road-side stand that sold Georgia peaches, tomatoes, and huge melons was our first buying stop on Sunday morning. The peach-eaters on the bus declared them to be perfect and most of us took fruit home.

Ritter's Orchids in the Orlando area was our first orchid buying stop of the day, and we couldn't stop buying. There was a surprise lunch for us which included a beef and pasta baked dish, chicken, two salads, fruits, cheeses, two deserts and more. Earlier in the year, Tom Ritter had been in a three times, roll-over accident. The fact that a man in his nineties who had been through that could run a nursery and help customers find plants was an inspiration.

Indian River Orchids was our last stop of the day and Wendy and Jason also had huge selections of great plants and Vero Beach is near enough for you to check out their wide selections on your own if you didn't ramble. We spent more than \$1,000 at each of our Sunday orchid stops.

Deane Hall compiled the pictures seen on the next pages. They were taken by himself, Steve Herman, and Thuy Pham. The bus company sent the empty bus photo. Steve's and Thuy's shots were made during the ramble. Deane's shots show us when we left on the ramble, and when we returned. Deane stayed home from the actual ramble to keep an eye on the newest Norfolk puppy who is just learning to walk steadily and eat semi-solid food. D.H.



FLOS



With stops at:
 Odom's Orchids
 Krull Smith
 Chapman
 Orchids
 Ritter's Orchid
 Indian River
 Orchids



**June
5-6
2010**



**R
A
M
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Photos By:
Steve Herman
Thuy Pham
Deane Hall



Did You Get These Emails?

What not to order out

The following is a list of things not to eat. The sequence is: restaurant, dish, calories, grams of saturated fats or sodium.

Cheesecake factory, (1) pasta carbonara with chicken, 2,500 calories, 85 grams saturated fat. (2) chocolate tower truffle cake, 1,670 and 48 grams of saturated fat.

Five Guys, bacon cheeseburger, 920, 30 grams

California Pizza, (1) tostada pizza with steak, 1680, 32 grams, (2) pesto cream penne, 1,350 and 499 grams

Outback, rack of lamb, 1,300, 60 grams

Bob Evans , cinnamon cream stacked, stuffed hot cakes, 1,380, 34 grams

P.F. Chang, double pan fried noodles. 7,690 grams of sodium, which is a five days supply of sodium!
CBS News, 5/25/2010

Living safer

(1) If someone throws eggs on your windshield, he thinks you will turn on your windshield washers which will turn the eggs into an opaque mess that you can't see through. If you stop to clean it off, you'll get robbed or worse.

(2) What may look like an abandoned baby in a car seat beside a non-busy road, is a fake. If you stop to rescue it, you will be in trouble. (Call 911 on your cell phone to save a real baby or to maybe stop a crook from hurting someone more vulnerable.)

(3) Don't pick up a plastic bottle with a cap on it in your yard. It may be a bomb that will take off your fingers.

According to Legend

Shin dynasty Empress Yohki-hi was barren until she became intoxicated with the fragrance of a *Cymbidium*. She bore a son and then 12 more sons. Thus the translation of the Japanese name for the orchid at that time was Ju-san-tai-ho which meant "13 great treasures". Today that fragrant fertility orchid is known as *C. ensifolium*.

A more likely account of early orchids in Japan is the story of *Neofinetia falcata*. It was the orchid of wealth and nobility and was owned by Samurai warriors and feudal lords. Sometimes the lords traveled with their orchids because they were small living gems.

Ardetti, Joseph. *Fundamentals of Orchid Biology*. New York. John Wiley & Sons. 1992. Pp. 5-6

Species *Phalaenopsis* Culture

I prefer species phals because some are fragrant, some bloom in summer, and you don't see them at every Depot or Mart.. I found an article describing culture for the most often grown species, and thought that it might lead you to try growing them. D.H.

P. amboinensis needs a well drained medium and likes to dry out between waterings. Repot in the summer when in flower.

P. amabilis is less fussy than other species phals. (It is not fragrant nor a summer bloomer but it is a phal for the beginner to try.)

P. bellina and *P. violacea* are beautiful and fragrant but you should buy mature plants. Younger plants tend to die from crown rot if their leaf span is under 4".

P. cornu-cervi does best when mounted. Do not remove old bloom spikes.

P. equestris and *P. fasicata* are reported to be two of the easiest species phals to grow. Adult plants tend to produce keikis which may be removed after they have 3 roots.

P. gigantea can have leaves that are 6 feet long but will bloom when the leaves are only a foot long. This is not an easy species to grow since it responds badly to root damage which is likely to happen when the plant is repotted. It also likes to grow in a snug pot.

P. hieroglyphica is adaptable to most growing environments and can be covered with flowers in summer.

P. lueddemanniana is an easier to grow spring bloomer.

P. mannii does well mounted.

P. philippinensis need to be kept moist but in a well drained medium.

P. schilleriana may have 250 pink flowers in the spring. Care should be taken not to damage the roots when repotting or remounting.

Harper, T. 'Phalaenopsis Culture'. *Orchids*. Feb. 2004. Pp 118-121

Connie Walker's Bark

Look in your new Roster and call Connie if you need bark for mounting orchids. She has a supply of Callophyllum bark which is ridged and long-lasting. She will donate the money to our library, and she will sell the slabs, depending on size, for \$3 or \$5.



Sandi Jones
Tom Wells

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The Inside Grower

Got Enough Light ? Got The Right Light ?

If your orchids are not blooming, chances are that they are not getting enough light. These are the number of hours of light needed by orchids as a general rule according to the AOS:

May-June-July 14-16 hours

August 14-15

September 13

October 12

November - December 11.5

January 12

February 13

March 14

April 14-15

Of course these light hours match the seasons, but if your collection has outgrown good window space and you are growing in a dark hall or bathroom under lights, you may need to let the lights stay on longer.

Most inside growers should supplement window light with florescent tube light. The cool white/warm white lights are not the best to use. Plants need the more expensive full spectrum grow lights. There are several good brands but the most well known are probably Grow-Lux and Grow-Lux wide Spectrum, Agro-Lite, or Verilux TruBloom. You will probably need four 4' tubes which should be placed 12-18" above the orchids. Put catts which need more light in the center of this set-up and phals at the ends where there is less light.

If you have four 40 watts bulbs (4 x 40 = 160 watts of light), a 2 x 4' bench has 8 square feet of growing space, 160 divided by 8 = 20 watts per square foot. Low light orchids need about 15 watts per square foot, and medium light orchids about 35 watts per square foot.

All this math is really for South Floridians who are growing in very dark places, but many can get more blooms from some artificial light supplement. Don't forget to put your lights on a timer. Other bottom lines are the importance of air movement and added humidity.

Some of this information came from an AOS video, 'Growing Orchids Under Lights'.

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What to do?

Leaning, Loopy, Summer Spikes

Your longer flower spikes are a mess, the blooms are twisted and going 'every-which-a-way', the floral stems are crooked and falling over, what to do?

1. Remember that flowers open toward light, so if you keep moving the plant around as the buds are developing they keep turning to seek the light. The resulting blooms will be a mess. If you take the plant off the bench or hanging rod, put it back exactly in the orientation it was in before you moved it.

2. If possible begin to stake the new spike when it is about 4 inches long. Don't tie the spike to the stake so tight that you cut off the water and nutrients going up to the buds.

Phragmipediums, Dendrobiums, and Epidendrum/ Encyclias are good candidates for summer staking. They should be staked early to encourage upright growth before the blooms begin to form. *Oncidium, Brassias* and other spray-type orchid bloom spikes that are naturally pendant or angled may benefit from support staking, but should not be staked to grow in an unnatural manner. In their blooming seasons you will also want to watch light direction and not change light on Vandaceous orchid, and you may want to stake them as well as *Phalaenopsis* and *Paphiopedilums*.

Rust Removal

*Ferric oxide known as rust,
turns some metals in to dust.*

Didn't you learn that in high school? If you left your potting tools out in the rain and they rusted, soak them overnight in vinegar to remove the rust.

Orchid Pseudobulb Glue

Orchid adhesives have been used in several parts of the world. In North America china and glass ware were repaired with an adhesive made from the sticky pseudobulb mucilage from *Aplectum hyemale*. Various other kinds of orchids produced an adhesive to repair cracks in pots in Africa, China, and in Central and South America.

In Brazil foot ware was made more durable with sap from pseudobulbs. The sap was even used to glue the soles to the upper parts of the shoes. In several countries orchid glue was preferred for repairing stringed musical instruments.

In Java, a *Cymbidium* glue was used to fasten knife blades to handles. (*Obviously some orchid glue was quite strong and long lasting.*)

Koopowitz, H. 2001. **Orchids and Their Conservation.**
Portland, Oregon. Timber Press. p. 74



Judging Day

At exactly four weeks of age, a team of American Orchid Society judges from the West Palm Beach Center visited and awarded Bigwig's Gunslinger at Biscuit Hill (Ch. Bigwig's Annie Get Your Gun x Ch. Maxwell's Viper) a JC (Judge's Commendation) for overwhelming cuteness and a quality award of HCC (Highly Commended Certificate) with the request to bring the specimen back for judging when more mature since he shows some excellent future promise.

Bigwig's Gunslinger
at Biscuit Hill, JC, HCC

Web Site: www.flos.org

Call these numbers: Sunshine (954) 491-1267
Newsletter (954) 772-4836

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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

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ORCHID SOCIETY**

