

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

N • E • W • S • L • E • T • T • E • R

January 2011

Fred Clarke To Speak Jan. 10th

Our January meeting always kicks off show week and for that reason alone it is both busy and exciting. This year we have a very exciting night planned. Fred Clarke is famous for his *Catasetum* intergeneric hybrids which produced, after 10 years of work, the blackest flowers every witnessed. That plant was of course Fredclarkeara After Dark which has been awarded eight FCCs. Fred has recently added New Guiana *Dendrobiums* to his 'normal' interest range of *Catasetums*, *Cynoches*, *Mormodes* and hybridizing *Cattleyas*, *Bulbophylums* and *Paphiopedilums*.

Fred's business is Sunset Orchids in Vista, California. He has been growing orchids for 33 years and hybridizing for 28 and his plants have received hundreds of AOS quality awards.

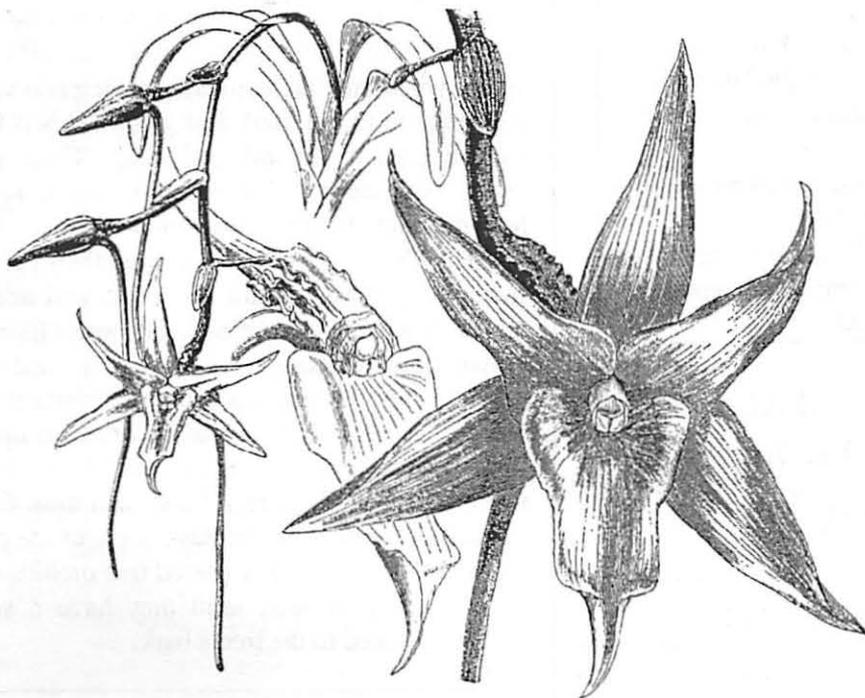
Fred will provide the plant table and will also be selling orchids. His website* lists plants you can pre-select, and he will deliver them to you at 10% under the list price. Since Fred will be speaking to other South Florida groups be sure to tell him to deliver to you at our society's meeting. * www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com

Our Best Time, Show Time

This artwork is to set the tone for beautiful and special which describes our show and one of the world's most famous orchids to be described here later.

Now some show thoughts. Our show is probably the second largest display show in the United States. It costs about \$50,000 to put on. One of the many happy things about the show is the fun of working together, and we do work. It takes 163 four hour shifts to make the show what it is while it is open. It takes mega other hours for pre-show activities. This newsletter is going out early to remind you to volunteer for one or more show shifts. The greatest needs are for the 1:20-4:40, and the 4:40-8:00 PM shifts. You can sign up at the January meeting, but I have the master sign-up boards and if you call me 954-772-4836 you could get the shift(s) you want.

Peggy Smith has sold \$300 worth of pre-sale tickets and we also need to get our tickets out to the public. Last year people brought in few individual plants and those tables looked skimpy. We do not want anything about our show to look skimpy. Pitch in, as always, work and bring in extra plants. Dot H.



Angraecum sesquipedale Thou. [VEITCH]

Thanks To Our Busy Members

The Holiday Party:

* Allen Cogar and Ginny Salas teamed up to bring us a beautiful party with amazing and huge blooming gift plants.

Show Responsibilities:

* Co-chairs Chris Crepage and John Wrench have worked on plans for the show since July. There are not enough pages here to list the things they've done, and Chris has taken on presale tickets as well.

* Barbara Ansley selected and purchased the show trophies. She drove many miles to pick some of them up rather than have them shipped.

* Barbara Gatterman created our show poster and John Wrench designed the bill board which you can see on I-95 near Sunrise.

* Janett McMillan was in charge of newspaper advertising and I sent posters to *Florida Gardening*, *Southern Living*, and hopefully others who listed our show. Michael Schaberl sent show invitation emails to the hundreds and hundreds of people who gave us their emails at last year's show.

* Ken Slump took on the judging duties. He invited the judges, updated the show schedule, and will handle the reams of paper-work after the show. Ken and Jane DePadro will register individual plants Wednesday from 4-8:00 PM.

* Zoe Bejar will be responsible for the judges' breakfast and with Gigi Granger arranged with schools for our childrens' orchid art display at the show.

* Rubben and Diane Howe will produce the judges luncheon.

* Leah Ostrander will serve as head clerk for judging.

* Michael Schaberl will be in charge of the box office.

* Joan Connors will be in charge of security (host/hostess)

* Ginny Salus will be in charge of the FLOS booth.

* I will be in charge of the booth for AOS.

***** These good people are all thanked for their work, but YOU and your help are the most important part of our show. THANK YOU, D.H.

Show Shift Times:

1st shift- 10:00 AM -1:20 PM

2nd shift- 1:20 PM- 4:40 PM

3rd shift- 4:40 PM -8:00 PM

Times right for Jan. 14-16

Last shift Sunday to stay after 6:00 when show closes to help with tear down or man doors, etc.

Please get a parking pass at the box office at least 15 minutes before your shift. Return the pass after you park so the next shift can also park free.

Check your name off the volunteer list when you return the pass. Thanks

Home Ramble, February 13th

We will be having a home ramble on a happy Sunday afternoon. You should bring pot-luck food for lunch at the first stop or bring \$5 to help cover what has to be bought. We will meet at the Cardinal Gibbons student parking lot at 12:30 and regroup in cars-full for parking. The first 60 members to sign up get to share in a perfect afternoon. Call or see me to get on the list. Please also let me know what you will bring for lunch D.H. bobdot@bellsouth.net

About Orchids on Trees

Living things generate heat as a product of their life processes. Of course trees are 'big and slow green animals' and tree-attached orchids seem to get through cold spells just fine. You will want to attach orchids to trees in the spring when they are actively growing and when their roots will grab on to the trunk and grow. This is the time to buy some tree plants for spring planting. These are good bets to try on your trees and you might need to read more about how to attach them than written here:

Phals: You'll remove them from their pots, trim off dead roots, keep moss around live roots and attach to the tree upside down. This position keeps water from settling in the crown. Secure plants with wire or tape and do not let them wiggle. Phals on trees can take more light than if in a pot.

Vanaceous orchids: Need to be attached upright in bright light. Pencil leafed forms can take almost full sun on palm trees. Many kinds of Dendrobies and most Catts do well on trees, and the rules are to leave some of the potting medium on the roots. All newly placed tree orchids will need to be watered daily at least until they have a substantial root system attached to the tree's bark.

Get Your Tickets Out and About. Your Ticket Money Is Due for The Show's Preview Party By Jan. 10th

If you need more tickets, call Chris Crepage /954-563-3548/ for more and send in your ticket money to get your free ticket for selling 10 or more tickets for a single member or two tickets for dual members who sell 20 or more tickets.

The Rambler

Our fall ramble south has never been so late in the season, and the lateness made a difference. To begin with there was a nip in the air and we were dressed in our sometimes outdated 'winter clothes'. A group of our regular rambles had other holiday commitments and while we missed them, we had more room for plants on the bus. We filled their spaces of course.

Quest Orchids was stop one, and Yolanda had the usual wonderful breakfast pastry spread. There was also the usual wide choice of tempting blooming plants. Robert greeted us at the entrance of **Carib Plants** and we were also greeted by an amazing spread of blooming orchids. Most of the rambles were Catt lovers and this was the place with the most Catts in bloom so we made a major dent in the empty spaces on the bus.

r.f. Orchids is always our lunch stop and a stop we look forward to. Bob and Mike had the place supplemented with a large choice of Christmas items, so rambles bought decorations, wrapping paper, non orchid other Christmas presents, pink poinsettias, and of course we also bought orchids.

Ruben in Orchids was a stop that most of the rambles had not made before. Ruben is world famous for his flasking operation, but the greenhouse is an impressive side-line. I liked that plants were grouped by genera which made finding what you 'needed' easy.

Our last stop was **Stelmar Gardens** which was a new stop and one to make again. We were greeted by fresh coffee which was warm and welcoming and by two home baked cakes. Stelmar has a huge selection of tropical and rare plants, and the prices were more than fair. I bought a magnificent *Schomburkia*, (I'll use the new name next year maybe.) and others bought both orchids and boxes of unique other plants.

Several of us brought wine for the trip home, but Wayne Musgrave got his 2 bottles opened first and we didn't open the other bottles. The coffee and cake had fit the cool day's end for many of us. You missed a wonderful December Saturday. D.H.

Don't Ground Your Orchids

It may be tempting to put your epiphytic orchids down on the ground ahead of a cold spell. Don't do that, you are asking for disease from ground dwelling fungi and bacteria. The ground does hold some heat and if your only option is this, put the plants down on a sheet of plastic. Remember that plastic as a plant cover will cook your plants when the sun comes up.

More on non-orchids:

Our Native Florida Cycad

The native Florida cycad, *Zamia floridana*, aka *Zamia pumila** grew in the high pine and palmetto forests that covered the coastal ride between the Atlantic Ocean and the Everglades extending from Fort Lauderdale to South Dade County. (*also known as *Zamia integrifolia*)

However the greatest concentration of this plant, a fine source of starch, that the Seminole Indians called "coontie" was found in the area of the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood Airport. The Seminoles prepared starch from the root of the coontie plant, and this area was so famous for coontie that they called the New River "Coontie Hatachee". This was chosen as the name for a new park dedicated a year ago in Riverside.

Pre Seminole War settlers of Fort Lauderdale such as William Cooley (1830s) and post war settlers such as my own Great Grandfather who arrived in 1888 in Lemon City, made coontie flour as their first stable means of income in this frontier before the railroad came to Miami. In those early days, coontie flour prepared by settlers and by Seminole women was put in burlap sacks and taken by sailing sloops to the bustling port of Key West, where it was shipped to northern markets for food and laundry use. Later a commercial mill was established by Hurst in the Miami area.

Any remaining coontie were decimated in the building of South Florida. The last native plants in my neighborhood between the forks of the New River were killed in 1984 when neighbors constructed a fence through the hedgerow between properties.

Yet in the last 4 decades strains of *Zamia* have been commercially cultivated as ornamental, drought tolerant, landscape plants which are popular for zeroscaping. It appears that this cycad is back to stay.

Patsy West

Thank you Patsy, I'm excited that your 'old Florida' property is on the home ramble route.

Things Learned in 2010

* 'They' removed the phosphates from dishwashing detergent to help the environment. To still get clean dishes soak things in a sink-full of soapy water for 30 minutes. I thought my dishwasher was failing until I learned this and if you've had that thought, know that a new dishwasher won't help.

* Our attic's air/heat ducts were replaced and insulation added last summer. Our bill went down by \$100 a month and the house is more comfortable. Maybe you should see what's above your ceilings?

Notes on Orchid Names: *Angraecum sesquipedale*

Sometimes called the Star of Bethlehem Orchid, *Angraecum sesquipedale* is one of the best-known members of this genus of about 222 species that stretches across tropical and southern Africa to Madagascar and adjacent Indian Ocean islands. It is also one of the most impressive. The stout plant resembles a big strap-leaf *Vanda*, a group to which the genus *Angraecum* may be distantly related. In fact, the Latinized genus name *Angraecum*, which was created by French naturalist Jean Baptiste Bory de Saint-Vincent in 1804 based on *Angraecum eburneum* of eastern Africa, Madagascar and nearby islands, is derived from the variously spelled Malay word *angurek*, which was used for epiphytic orchids resembling plants of *Vanda*, *Aerides*, etc. A robust plant of *Angraecum sesquipedale* can be two feet wide and grow to more than three feet tall.

The night-scented flowers, too, are impressive, easily among the largest in the genus, growing to a width of seven inches. The fleshy, narrowly triangular sepals, petals and lip are white in the best clones and look as though they have been carved out of Ivory soap. On first opening, the floral segments present a star-like appearance. As the flower matures, the lateral petals often fold back, as happens with Florida's native Ghost Orchid (*Dendrophylax lindenii*), which is a distant relative.

Perhaps the most impressive part of the flower is the tubular greenish nectar spur arching outward then downward behind the big flower. It can be approximately a foot long, with nectar visible at the bottom of the tube. The species name for this impressive orchid refers to that prodigious nectar spur. It literally means "foot and a half" in Latin. Interestingly, there's also an English word heard occasionally that's derived from that same Latin source: sesquipedalian, referring to a person who likes to use big words that seem to be a foot and a half long.

Another common name for *Angraecum sesquipedale* is the Comet Orchid. Those heavenly bodies we call comets have long tails, at least when we on Earth see them as they approach the sun in their orbit. So, too, this orchid has a long "tail," its nectar spur.

A third common name is Darwin's Orchid, and therein lies an oft-told tale. Charles Darwin, of evolution fame, was fascinated by orchid pollination and wrote one of the first careful studies of the subject in his 1862 volume with the appropriately lengthy Victorian title of *On the Various Contrivances by Which British and Foreign Orchids are Fertilised by Insects*, which is, thankfully, most often abbreviated to *Fertilisation of Orchids by Insects*. But let Darwin start the story himself:

"... I must say a few words on the *Angraecum sesquipedale*, of which the large six-rayed flowers, like stars formed of snow-white wax, have excited the admiration of travellers in Madagascar. A whip-like green nectary of astonishing length hangs down beneath the labellum. In several flowers sent me by Mr. [James] Bateman I found the nectaries eleven and a half inches long, with only the lower inch and a half filled with very sweet nectar. What can be the use, it may be asked, of a nectary of such disproportional length? We shall, I think, see that the fertilisation of the plant depends on this length and on nectar being contained only within the lower and attenuated extremity. It is, however, surprising that any insect should be able to reach the nectar but in Madagascar there must be moths with probosces capable of extension to a length of between ten and eleven inches!"

No such moth was known to exist at that time, and Darwin's contemporaries in the scientific community made light of his assertion. However, in 1903, 21 years after Darwin's death, a moth with such a long tongue was discovered in Madagascar, and Darwin, the master of observation of the natural world, was vindicated. The moth was named *Xanthopan morgani praedicta*, indicating that it fulfilled Darwin's

Notes on Orchid Names, continued from page 4

prediction. Still, it was about another one hundred years after that, into the early 21st Century, before the actual visit of a long-tongued moth to a flower of *Angraecum sesquipedale* was observed in the wild in Madagascar and recorded on film by researcher Phil DeVries. This visual record can be seen in an installment of the PBS *Nature* series titled *Deep Jungle: New Frontiers*. The footage is available for viewing online.

Angraecum sesquipedale is endemic (that is, only found) in tropical forests in the eastern part of the island of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean off Africa's east coast, where it grows as an epiphyte (on trees) or occasionally as a lithophyte (on rocks) from sea level to an altitude of slightly more than 300 feet. It was discovered there in 1798 by French botanist Louis-Marie Aubert du Petit-Thouars, but he didn't get around to describing the species for science until 1822.

-- CHUCK McCARTNEY

Orthene Thrip Control

This is Thrip season. *Vanda* buds turn brown and shrivel, *Cattleya* flowers have tiny white lines going from the outside of the petals inward. To stop the thrips, mix ¼ teaspoon of powdered Orthene in 2 cups of water and put the mixture in a spray bottle. Spray buds and flowers every 3 days and mix a new batch of spray each time.

Ode to Our Weather

*It's winter in Broward
And the gentle breezes blow
Seventy miles an hour
At thirty-five below*

*Yes, the weather here is wonderful
So I guess I'll hang around
I could never leave....
Cause I'm frozen to the ground*

Note: While caring for orchids in the cold is not fun, remember last winter. You may have lost a few weak plants, but most things bloomed better than ever after the chill. As you shiver think of the blooms to come.

Writing a Perfect Label

A Quiz You Need To Pass!

Pick the correct form:

1. ___ (a) Lc. Secret Love "Peanut Pup"
___ (b) Lc. Secret Love 'Peanut Pup'

(Hint for 2 below, the plant is a pure species.)

2. ___ (a) Paph. Parishii var. dianthum
___ (b) Paph parishii Var. Dianthum
___ (c) *Paph. Parishii Var. Dianthum*
___ (d) *Paph. parishii var. dianthum*

Answers:

1. Double quotation marks around the grex name (Peanut Pup) marks you as a novice. (b) is right.

In the 2nd part of the quiz, pick (d). Species names are in lower case and both genus and species are shown in italics. Of course Paph. is the genus abbreviation, and parishii is the species name.. Variety (var) and name (dianthus) should also be expressed lower case. If there is a grex name, the label might look like this:
Paph. Parishii var. dianthus 'Giant'

When Will My New Orchid Bloom?

Of course there are variables, and they include: the genus and species of the plant and your own ability to provide it with the growing conditions it once had in the wild or in the vendor's greenhouse where everything was perfect. With these variables in mind these sales terms may be translated as follows:

Small seedlings- These little babies just left the flask or community pot and you may get a bloom in four or more years.

Seedlings- These adolescents are at least two years from blooming.

NBS (Near Blooming Size) - These lucky survivors might bloom in two years. Why lucky survivors? Baby plants are the first to die when all is not well.

BS (Blooming Size)- These orchids SHOULD bloom in season during the purchase year. Of course first

bloomed plants will get more wonderful with age, and to repeat an old advice. 'Nip it in the bud'. The first bloom should be nipped after you see it so the plant can mature and bloom the following year. Remember, most truths have exceptions!

The terribly tedious teacher on:

Orchids With Dangling Flowers

When I fall in love with a plant from a genus that I know nothing about, I try to find out how to care for it from the sources which are listed at the end. On the last ramble, my purchases tended to be 'dangling flowered' and I may not be able to duplicate all their natural habitats!

Gongora (GON-goe-ra)

There are 52 species of Gongora. They are distributed from Mexico to Bolivia. I learned that the plants grow as epiphytes in **ant nests** and they need to be constantly moist, and benefit from copious fertilizer. My plant is already in moss in a wire basket so the flower spikes can dangle down, and I hope it won't miss an ant nest! (FYI, from an old student science project, the dirt from an ant nest produced fabulous growth when added to radish seedlings. If you want to harvest ant hill dirt, put a piece of cardboard by the nest, quickly sweep the dirt onto the cardboard, run away fast, and come back later, after the ants go back in their nest, to collect your loot.)

Coelogyne (see-lo-GUY-nee or see-LODGE-eh-nee)

There are more than 100 species of sympodial epiphytes from India, China, Indonesia, and the Fiji Islands. They need to grow in hanging baskets and should be kept moist during the growing season. Reduced watering during winter to encourage good flower growth.

Stanhopea (stan-HOPE-ee-ah)

The 55 species of Stanhopea range from Mexico to Brazil. These plants need to grow in baskets, so the inflorescences can emerge through the bottom. The flowers only last a day or two. The plants should be watered though out the year, and **intermediate growing conditions** are best. The books recommend bright light, but the two people I know who bloom these, grow them with phals, maybe the deeper shade helps to make the cooler habitat 'intermediate'?

Aeranthus (ah-er-AN-theez)

Fifty five species come from Madagascar and Africa and they are closely related to *Angracums*. These plants have long wiry flower spikes and the flowers on the one we saw open in succession. They need to grow in a suspended, free draining, basket and require less water after the active growing season.

References:

www.orchid-species.com (Always the first place to look.)

Botanica's Orchids, publisher Laurel Glen.
(1,200 species listed, cost about \$22.)

The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Orchids. (Editor, Alec Pridgeon, over 1,100 species described. This is in our library, you could check out your new plant at a meeting.)

2011



New Year's Resolutions To Keep

- * I will participate in more FLOS activities.
- * I will check my repotting supplies NOW and buy the items I need before the suppliers run out.
- * I won't re-buy any species orchid that has succumbed to our changing too hot/too cold climate.
- * I will read or go on line to find out how to grow any new species orchid that I buy.
- * I will never, never, leave orchids in moss out in summer rain. I will remove the moss from new plants.
- * I will remove weeds from my orchid collection weekly, and also check for bugs or mites.
- * I will fertilize my orchids on a regular schedule.
- * I will start to repot in February before the heat makes me leave needy plants for another year.

Be a Cleaner, Greener, Orchidist!

- * Check your orchid collection at least weekly for scale, mealy bugs, and spider mites. As a general rule treat only the infected plants and their neighbors with insecticides or matricides. By using chemicals sparingly, you are helping the environment, saving money, and making the chemical you used less likely to become ineffective in the future. As you know, insects build up an immunity to chemicals way too fast. Consider using light summer oil, soap and water, or even jets of water to control insects. They have not evolve a defense against these YET?

Inside in your living space:

- * Be hesitant to use 'new fangled' chemicals. 75,000 new chemicals have been developed since World War II, while about 80% of these have been approved by the EPA, 20% (or 15,000) have not been approved. Vinegar, baking soda, soap, and water have a proven track record for cleaning and deodorizing. **80% of all cancers are thought to be due to environmental radiation or chemicals.** Almost all types of cancer have risen in proportion to the rate of new chemicals.

- * Seemingly trivial but think about it: two million tons of non-biodegradable cat litter goes into U.S. landfills each year. Fill your cat boxes with biodegradable pine, wheat, corn, or recycled newspaper products. The silica dust found in strip-mined clay cat litter is a human carcinogen.

The information on new fangled chemicals and cat box fillers came from *National Wildlife Magazine*. Oct. Nov. 2004. Pp.14 and 18

Plant Hormones 101

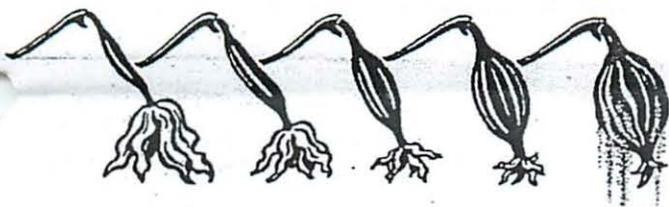
Phytochromes are probably the hormone you didn't study in school. There are two kinds (red and far-red), and they measure the amounts of these spectrum lights in the environment. In so doing they sense seasons for plants, telling them when to bloom, initiate growth and when to rest.

Auxin while the effects were noted by Darwin, later scientists figured it out. It is located, in seedlings at the tip of the stem, and causes stem elongation, and suppresses leaf and seed-pod (fruit) drop.

Cytokinins are found in root tips, they stimulate cell division and inhibit leaf drop. Synthetic cytokinins are used in tissue culture or making meristems

Gibberellins are produced in developing shoots in orchids and stimulate stem elongation and flowering.

Ethylene is produced in most plant cells, it is a gas which in orchids promotes leaf, flower, and seed pod dropping. We remove ripe fruit, loaded with ethylene, from orchid flowers or they will fade at the speed of light... almost.



Seed Pod Trivia

Why Are Pods SO Slow to Mature?

About one seed pod in a million gets fertilized. Following pollination, the petals and sepals fade, with exceptions, the stigma closes up and the ovary, which is the seed pod, begins to swell. Pollen tubes move very slowly and fertilization may take between 3-4 months to over a year after pollination, and then the seeds have to develop. Of course the plant puts a great deal of energy into producing the seed pod. (*Which is why you should remove 'unplanned' seed pods from your plants, so they won't waste energy producing undocumentable progeny.*)

Some Phal species plants are the exceptions and have evolved a way to gain more energy after pollination. The flower petals and sepals turn thick and green and carry on photosynthesis to produce food to nourish the developing pod.

Seed pod information from: Soon, Tooh Eng. 1980. *Asian Orchids*. Times Books Int. Singapore. p. 28

Don't Buy These Orchids

Baby plants: Unless you are an experienced grower avoid these. They do cost less but just as baby humans require much more care than adults so do baby orchids.

Beautiful blooms and puny foliage: You know this sermon: "I'm have to bloom, I'm going to die." Healthy leaves and roots, if you can take a peek, are the keys for selecting a plant that will be alive next year.

Cool and even intermediate growing plants: If you are growing outside don't even think cool growing and unless you know that a particular intermediate will thrive here avoid it.

Bare root plants in fall or early winter: You can save money by selecting bare roots in the spring when it is the season for roots to grow. If you buy these now they may die waiting for spring roots.

Plants from a mega depot/store: Ok, you can have two a year, but the new garden guy may only have experience as a tattoo artist, and how he has cared for the orchids may cause them to die.

Avoid species about which you know zero: Until you've done some reading you may not be able to keep some picky plants alive.

Don't try to be the first to own an exotic new orchid: Wait a year or three, this hot new baby will become common and sell for much less. *Phrag. besseae* sold for \$2,500. when it first came out, and the first *Phrag. kovachii* plants sold for \$1,000.

Buy most of your plants from reputable local growers who grow as you do: Plants from another climate will have to adapt to our climate and that will take time.

Unless you plan to attach orchids to a tree buy plants with clear name tags. A no-name will bloom and live forever, almost, but it is only valuable as a landscape enhancement.

Avoid plants with any evidence of disease or insect infestation: You knew that, but look carefully at all the leaves and don't skip the undersides.



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 1-95.
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.

- President..... **Joan Connors**
- 1st Vice President..... **Allen Cogar**
- 2nd Vice President..... **Michael Schaberl**
- Recording Secretary..... **Gigi Granger**
- Corresponding Secretary.. **Zoe Bejar**
- Treasurer..... **Bob Henley**
- Newsletter Editor..... **Dot Henley**

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Web Site: www.flos.org

January, The Best Time, Show Time!

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