

FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

N • E • W • S • L • E • T • T • E • R April, 2011

Jeff Adkins to Speak April 11th

Our own most wonderful, member speaker, Jeff Adkins, will tell us about orchid habitats at our meeting. Few of us are probably growing our plants in a perfect place so there is much to learn. Jeff will be selling plants and will provide the plant raffle table.

As promised at the last meeting our May speaker will be Greg Allikas and the only confirmed thing about his night is that there will be a workshop on photography. Great. He is the expert! We are in for two good nights.

Overnight Bus Ramble West June 4th and 5th

Yes! There is such a thing as a free lunch, in fact there will be two on this ramble. Karen Harper and the Orchid Mania crew will treat us on Saturday and Selby Gardens will host us for another free luncheon on Sunday. What do you have to do to be a part of all this food and great orchids and people as well?

Make out a check for \$75 to FLOS which will cover your bus seat. Along with the check tell Bob Henley whether you need a dual or single room and whether you want a smoking or non-smoking room. We've stayed at the same motel about 15 or more years, the rooms are clean, small, and inexpensive. There are three restaurants within easy walking distance, and you can choose between modest and medium for dinner and breakfast if you don't want the free motel breakfast. You will need to bring your own 'end of the day' wine, since transporting it and keeping it cool for all for two days will take up space needed for all the great orchids we won't be able to resist. Selby's plant shop usually has some unique non-orchids that will also be space using and tempting.

As usual the bus will leave the Cardinal Gibbons student parking lot at 8:00 AM on Saturday and return about 5:00 PM on Sunday. We've parked safely here for decades. If you have never rambled, take Commercial to Bayview, turn right, south, and go a long block to the school sign, turn by the sign (west) and go another block to the student lot at the back of the school.

Officers for 2011-2012 Year

The nominating committee has selected these members to lead us next year:

President- Allen Cogar
1st Vice-President- Michael Schaberl
2nd Vice-President- Rich Ackerman
Recording Secretary- Zoe Bejar
Corresponding Secretary- Gigi Granger
Treasurer- Brian Boyle

Trustees

One year: Joan Connors, Janett McMillan, Dave Levine
Two year: Chris Crepage, Nora Dyke
Three year: Ginny Salus, John Wrench

Members may nominate others to serve at the April meeting. The nominator must have permission from the nominee and be able to speak to support the nomination with a list of services to the society.

New Editor Needed

The May issue will be my last newsletter and will complete my 9th year as editor. I've spent between 30-40 hours on each issue and even at 30 hours that adds up to 3,420 hours. I've typed more than 700 pages and **enjoyed about 98% of the job. Why?** I like reading and doing research, I enjoy writing, and I think everybody needs to do something to keep their brain cells active. The best part has been getting to know many really wonderful FLOS members who have been supportive in many ways, and who have even furnished me copy. Some have become my very favorite and closest friends.

Most orchid society newsletters are not so long and if you take the job, you certainly don't have to copy my format. Please let somebody on the FLOS Board know that you are interested. I will help you get started.

What am I going to do with all the gained time? I plan to travel, quilt, play more bridge, take better care of our orchids and maybe organize my hints and trivia into a short book. Bob will also be free of any FLOS job and since we have both taken various active rolls in the society for decades we are looking forward to a change. Dot Henley

Review: *Bulbophyllum* Program by Bill Thoms

As promised we were well entertained and informed beginning with how to pronounce Bulb-OH-fill-um, not Bulb-OH-file-um. Bill and Doris have gotten 84 cultural awards on 29 genera, and when we asked who in the audience had gotten even one cultural award, only Sue and Bruce Muntz raised their hands.

Bill Thoms said that most hobbyists are "inch worm growers". As the front of the orchid produces new leads the back of the plant dies because the front 'steals' the food from the older back of the plant. The lesson here is to feed 'weakly weekly'. We can save half our fertilizer by only fertilizing orchids that are wet from having been watered, and we can save 3/4ths of our fertilizer by fertilizing wet plants at half strength. Of course both water and fertilizer solution needs to be applied all around the plant and we need to water long enough for the roots to take in all the water they will hold. Bill and Doris grow these plants in plastic pots to hold more moisture and although they seldom mount one of these plants, Bill suggested that the mount should be placed on its side rather than upright which is again more water conserving.

Bill and Doris grow *Bulbophyllums* on 1/4" trays of water to increase the amount of water available to the plants. Water in 1/2" deep trays would be too deep and deadly.. Bill said that it was important to water plants in bud, since flowers are mostly water, they will emerge bigger IF buds have been given adequate water. Another important variable to growing well is to allow the plants to have fresh air at all times.

In the 12 million square miles of Asian habitat in which most *Bulbophyllums* grow in nature, seeds land in deeply shaded areas and grow into adult plants. These plants do not bloom until a tree falls and they are exposed to bright shade.

Bill showed us a number of pictures of *Bulbophyllums*, some had grapefruit sized heads of flowers and long and big leaves. Often the flowers smelled like "a dead rat stuffed with a dead fish on a hot day".

Bulbophyllums have few enemies, but their wet growth encourages snails, slugs, and roaches. Bill sprays for pests only when he knows they are there and in the late afternoon with 1 ounce of Neem and one squirt of Palmolive detergent to a gallon of water. D.H.



Pictured above is some of the display put in by Eddie Griffith with a little 'help from his friends' at a show which was held at Fairchild Gardens on March 11-13. The show was sponsored by the Orchid Society of Coral Gables. Eddie put the display in under The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society's name. Thank you Eddie for the hard work, the lifting, the beautiful display, and making us look good!

The First Scientific Conference On Orchid Conservation

This February Conference was held at 6800 meters above sea level in the Peruvian Andes and one of its purposes was to highlight the biodiversity of Machu Picchu and the 100 years of its discovery by Hiram Bingham.

An interesting sidelight was that South Florida's botanical artist Anglea Mirro taught watercolor to more than 20 children who presented their work at the closing ceremony.

Another South Floridian, Dr. Robert Pemberton, was one of the speakers who said that we are far from understanding the basic needs required to maintain a healthy system for orchid pollination. While orchids desperately need their pollinators, the pollinators can live without the orchids.

In a session on taxonomy the 'nightmare-groups' of Neotropical orchids were approached with numerous insights and opinions and the one conclusion that held was that *Epidendrums* couldn't be split into smaller units.

Pupulin F. and J. Purisata (press release) 'Conserving orchids in a mystical sanctuary.' *Orchids* Editor, Jim Watson, forwarded this.

March Refreshment Thanks Go To:

Connie Ackerman, Regina Banks, Bonnie Bonneau,
Lisa Davis, Nora Dyke, Norma Jeanne Flack, Paul Gartner,
Gigi Granger, Tony Millet, Sue and Bruce Muntz, Leah
Ostrander, Ginny Salus, Joan Stulginskas, Vicki Trank

A Few Bus Seats Are Still Empty
For the April 9th Ramble South. Call 954-772-4836

Repotting Time is NOW

Potting mixes:

You can buy premixed media from a number of places and if you grow outside avoid those with bark since our humidity promotes the growth of snow mold. Good things in a mix would include a scoop of charcoal, a scoop of sponge rock, a scoop of medium tree fern, and 3 scoops of popped clay or rock. You can go with all popped clay or rock, but the mix works best here. For phals, phrags, and paphs add some coco or moss to hold more moisture.

Pro-mix is better for terrestrials than a bag of heavy bargain top soil, because all orchid roots need some air for respiration. One last time, plants carry on respiration, they use oxygen and release carbon dioxide, just as do animals, except the plants' rate is slower.

Wobble stoppers:

If your newly potted orchid flip-flops about in the wind new roots will be injured and the plant will not thrive. Use metal pot clips on clay or solid plastic, and bamboo inserted between slots on baskets or spaces in net pots. (Chop sticks, or stakes cut to the width of the basket or slotted plastic pot work fine.) You will not need holders for phals, phrags or paphs because you will leave their old roots on and "snuggle" them deeper in the potting medium.

Potting tools:

You will need sterilized clippers or one-time-use, single edged razor blades for each plant from which you need to remove anything. A sterilized screw driver is a great tool to pop off old pot clips and to lever the plant out of its dirty pot. Insert the screw driver on the old side of the pot and the plant should pop right out.

Name tags:

Make a new tag for each plant that you repot. Put the old tag at the bottom of the pot so if a jay carries the new one away, you have a back-up name. Use a different color each year for tags and you can tell how long an orchid has been in the same pot.



Try these:

For the 3rd year I'm using slotted plastic pots for most orchids. The roots come out to the air and the plants have never been so hearty.

Avoid Getting 'Ticked On'



Gulf Coast tick



Lone Star tick



Rocky Mountain wood tick

You know about getting 'ticked off', but the new news is that tickborne diseases are on the rise in the United States. You know about spotted fever and lyme diseases, but there are several new bacterial ones that can be more than serious. Step one is to avoid ticks which, of course, can be resistant to pesticides so their populations are on the rise. **When you are outdoors, especially under trees, take these precautions:**

- * Wear light clothes so you can spot ticks that fall on you and duct tape your pants into your socks.
- * Wear a pesticide that is at least 20% deet.
- * Check yourself and your pets every day. Pulling the ticks off before they settle in reduces the chances of microbe transfer into you. If you remove a tick, keep it in a little bottle of rubbing alcohol so it can be identified if you get sick. There are at least 3 species of ticks that live in South Florida and they carry different pathogens.
- * If you get a rash or fever within 3-12 days, see a doctor and take the tick with you. **Early treatment can be critical.**

You can make your lawn a bit less tick friendly by:

- * Knowing that 89% of ticks lurk in trees and bushes so keep them away from the house. Closer to the house keep the grass cut short and free of piles of leaves or debris. Ticks like shade.
- * Keeping bird feeders out of the grass zone around your house. Birds can carry ticks and the food draws in rodents, and night foraging raccoons and possums which carry ticks.

McKenna, M. 'Your Backyard Bites Back'. March, 2011. Self Magazine. Pp. 127-129

March Ribbon Judging Results

Rich Ackerman /red/ Pachara Delight 'Pachara Blue

Michael Bryant /blue/ Lc. Tropical Fashion 'Aloha',
Lc. Fire Dancer

Paul Gartner /blue/ Pot Love Passion Peach

Chuck McCartney /blue/ *Guarianthe (Cattleya) skinneri*
v. alba, /red/ *Enc. cordigera*

Tony Millet /blue/ Bc. Burdekin Wonder

Allen and Jan Mink /red/ *Guarianthe (Cattleya) aurantiaca*.
C. mossiae x Sc. Brandywine

Wayne Musgrave /blue/ *Den. spectabile*

Collins and Peplin /CULTURE/ *Guarianthe Guatemalensis*

Scott and Donna Peplin /red/ *Den. Second Love 'Tokimeh'*

Gary Pierce /blue/ *Phal. Mannii*

Nanette Rudolf /blue/ Onc. Irene Manau

Ginny Salus /red/ *Masdevilla wendlandiana*

Notes on Orchid Names:

Laelia rubescens

Laelia rubescens is the little brother to its bigger, showier Mexican siblings like *Laelia anceps*, *Laelia autumnalis* and *Laelia speciosa*. However, those species generally come from higher altitudes. *Laelia rubescens*, on the other hand, occurs naturally over a wide geographic area from Mexico to Panama, where it often grows near sea level, although one source says plants may be found at elevations as high as 5,400 feet. The plentiful plants from the lower elevations, therefore, are adaptable to warm lowland areas like South Florida, making this species easy to grow in such places.

The genus *Laelia* has been the source of much confusion over the years, even more so in recent times in light of DNA-based genetic studies. Traditionally, two groups of widely separated, rather anatomically different species have been lumped together in the genus, primarily because they shared the characteristic of having eight pollinia (pollen masses) under the anther cap at the tip of the reproductive column in the center of the flower. But to determine generic limits based solely on that single feature is what the great contemporary orchid scientist Dr. Robert L. Dressler derides as “one-character taxonomy.”

The two groups in the traditional genus *Laelia* are the Mexican species and the South American species centered in Brazil. But DNA studies have shown that the latter group is actually closer to *Cattleya*, so, after briefly being placed in the genus *Sophranitis*, the so-called “Brazilian laelias” have now been lumped into an expanded genus *Cattleya* (along with the traditional small-flowered red *Sophranitis* species). Thus, species such as the large *Laelia purpurata* in section *Cattleyodes*, smaller *Laelia pumila* in section *Hadrolaelia* and rupicolous (rock-dwelling) species like *Laelia cinnabarina* are now considered cattleyas.

Because of the taxonomic rule of priority, where the earliest validly published name is the correct name for a species or genus, the name *Laelia* belongs to the Mexican-centered group of species, including *Laelia rubescens*. But to confuse things just a bit, the DNA research shows that the so-called “true schomburgkias” (that is, those with solid, narrow-based stipitate pseudobulbs) also belong

to the genus *Laelia*, thus extending the range of the genus into northwestern South America – and basically voiding the genus *Schomburgkia*. (The species with hollow pseudobulbs, like the popular *Schomburgkia tibicinis*, had earlier been segregated into the genus *Myrmecophila*.)

The genus *Laelia* was created by the great English orchid taxonomist Dr. John Lindley in 1831 in his *Genera and Species of Orchidaceous Plants*, based on *Laelia grandiflora*, which is now considered a synonym of *Laelia speciosa*. Lindley’s genus name most probably derives from the name of one of the six Vestal Virgins of ancient Roman religion.

Laelia rubescens was described by Lindley in the *Botanical Register* in 1840. He called it the “Blushing *Laelia*.” (Lindley was conscientious in thus translating the meaning of the Latinized epithets for species he described.) The species name comes from the Latin word meaning “reddish,” and, by extension, “blushing,” probably referring to the pinkish color of the first flowers of this orchid Lindley saw. That is the typical color for *Laelia rubescens* flowers, but there are also white color forms. Almost all color forms, however, have a maroon blotch in the throat of the lip. A rare yellow color form now has been segregated as a separate species, *Laelia aurea*. Because of variability in the color and shape of the flower parts, Lindley also described the species *Laelia acuminata* and *Laelia peduncularis*, but these are now considered synonyms of *Laelia rubescens*. This variability is easy to understand, considering the wide geographic distribution of the species.

Lindley’s original publication of *Laelia rubescens* states:

“This pretty species of *Laelia* has the smallest flowers of any yet discovered, and they are wholly scentless. It was bought at the nursery of Mr. Joseph Knight, in the King’s Road, by Mr. [George] Barker of Birmingham [England], to whom I am indebted for a specimen. No wild specimen has yet been seen, and I am unacquainted with the source from which Mr. Knight obtained it.”

Lindley later determined that the plant was from Mexico. George Barker is the same Victorian gentleman orchidist honored by the genus *Barkeria* and the species *Notylia barkeri*.

Laelia rubescens generally flowers from autumn into winter, and even into June according to one source. Because plants in Guatemala bloom near Christmas, the plant is known there as *Flor de Jesus*, or Flower of Jesus.

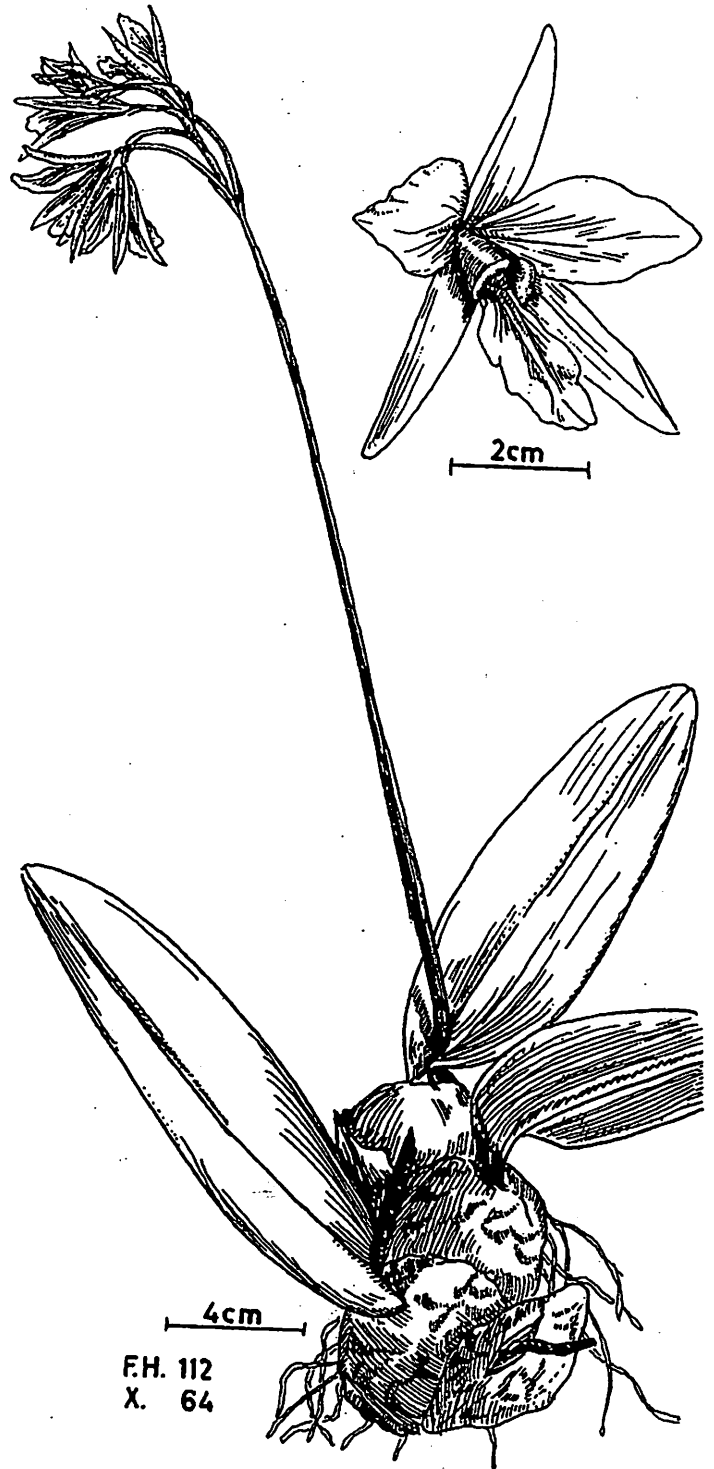
Typical of Mexican laelias, the flowers of *Laelia rubescens* are clustered at the end of a thin stem up to three feet long. The flowers, with as many as 12 or more per inflorescence, can be up to two and a half inches across. However, despite their beauty, the flowers are not long-lasting.

Although Lindley called *Laelia rubescens* flowers "wholly scentless," another, more contemporary, source calls them "very fragrant," and still another describes them as "slightly fragrant to odorless." Again, the wide distribution of the species could account for this variability – as could the olfactory sensibilities of the describers.

The plants also vary, with the flattened pseudobulbs ranging from oval to slightly pear-shaped. Each is topped by a single leathery green leaf.

Although native to Mexico and Central America, *Laelia rubescens* appears as though it might be naturalizing in Florida. A specimen was seen in bloom high in an oak tree in the vicinity of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden south of Miami. Also, photographs of what appear to be sun-shriveled plants of this species growing in the wild in the Florida Keys have circulated in e-mails among some South Florida botanists and orchidists.

-- CHUCK McCARTNEY



Laelia rubescens

Art work by Fritz Hamer in
VII The Orchids of
El Salvador. 1974.

The Real Reason to Own Orchids

AOS had a booth and winning display at the Philadelphia Flower Show. A woman asked AOS Pres. Chris Rehmann if her sister could touch an orchid. Chris realized that the sister was blind and he guided her hand over two kinds of orchid flowers and described their colors. He noted that when he finished the blind sister was in tears.

The lesson here, of course, is that we forget the blessings we have. We are fortunate to be able to see the beauty of orchid flowers.

Remembering

Dorothy Swenson



What Did 'They' Do To My *Cattleyas*?

Editor's note: I put this together several years ago, but most of it can still be useful if you remember that the 'terribly tedious taxonomists' have made some bifoliate *Cattleyas* *Guarianthe*. Some *Schomburgkias* are now *Myrmecophila* and of course *Epicatts* are really *Encydicatts*. I have no idea whether the crosses with the changed named plants also got changed names!

Genus/class	Abbrev.	Formula
Allenara	Alna	C x Diacm x Epi x L
Arizara	Ariz	C x Dga x Epi
Bishopara	Bish	Bro x C x Soph
Brassocattleya	Bc *	B x C
Brassolaelia	Bl	B x L
Brassolaeliocattleya	Blc	B x C x L
Brownara	Bwna	Bro x C x Diacm
Buiara	Bui	Bro x C x Epi x L x Soph
Cattkeria	Cka	Bark x C
Cattleytonia	Ctna	Bro x C
Catttotes	Ctts	C x Lpt
Clarkeara	Clka	B x C x Diacm x L x Soph
Cookara	Cook	Bro x C x Diacm x L
Dekensara	Dek	B x C x Schom
Diacattleya	Diaca	C x Diacm
Dialaeliocattleya	Dialc	C x Diacm x L
Epicattleya	Epc	C x Epi
Epilaeliocattleya	Eplc	C x Epi x L
Fergusonara	Ferg	B x C x L x Schom x Soph
Fialaara	Fia	Bro x C x L x Lps
Fordyceara	Fdca	Bro x C x L x Lps x Tettma
Gladysyeeara	Glya	6 genera + Cattleya = 7 (nuts!)
Hasegawaara	Hasgw	B x Bro x C x L x Soph
Hattoriara	Hatt	B x Bro x C x C x Epi x L
Hawkesara	Hwknsa	C x Ctps x Epi
Hawkinsara	Hknsa	Bro x C x L x Soph
Hookerara	Hook	B x C x Diacm
Iwanagara	Iwan	N x C x Diacm x L
Izumiarara	Izma	C x Epi x L x Schom x Soph
Jewellara	Jwa	Bro x C x Epi x L
Johnyeera	Jya	B x C x Epi x L x Schom x Soph
Kawamatotoara	Kwmta	B x C x Dgna x Epi x L
Kirchara	Kir	C x Epi x L x Soph
Laeliocatonia	Lctna	Bro x C x L
Laeliocattleya	Lc	C x L
Laeliopleya	Lpya	C x Lps
Lyonara	Lyon	C x L x Soph
Potinara	Pot	B x C x L x Soph
Rofeara	Rolf	B x C x Soph
Rothara	Roth	B x C x Epi x L x Soph
Sallyyeeara	Sya	C + 7 other genera !
Stacyara	Stac	C x Epi x Soph
Symmonsara	Syma	B x C x Epi x Schom
Tetracattleya	Ttct	C x Ttms
Trisuloara	Tsla	Bark x B x C x Epi x L x Soph
Tuckerara	Tuck	C x Diacm x Epi
Vaughnara	Vnra	B x C x Epi
Westara	Wsta	B x Bro x C x L x Schom
Yamadara	Yam	B x C x Epi x L

Names for Native Florida Plants

I've been at war with taxonomists for decades since they change names faster than I can learn them, but I found these common names for some of our natives that I found 'interesting'.

Spider Orchid- *B. caudata**

Pale Grass Pink- *Calopogon pallidus**

Thickroot orchid- *Campylocentrum pachyrrhizum**

Shell orchid- *Encyclia cochleata**

Dingy Epidendrum- *Epi. anceps**

Rigid Epidendrum- *Epi. rigidum**

Long-horned Orchid- *Habernaria quinqueseta**

Water-spider Orchid- *Habenaria repens**

Delicate Ionopsis- *Ionopsis utricularioides**

Snowy Orchid- *Platanthera nivea**

Scarlet Ladies Tresses- *Spiranthes lanceolata**

Fragrant Ladies Tresses- *Spiranthes odorata**

* These are all orchids which have been found in south Florida. The next list will only contain common names of some of our area's non-orchids:

Pink Spiderwort	Hat Pins	Bog Buttons
Love Vine	Lizard's Tail	Prickly Poppy
Leather Flower	Cow Lily	Possum Haw
Ink Berry	Tarflower	False-teeth
Sea Rocket	Caesar Weed	Tread Softly
Crane's Bill	Poisonwood	Bloodleaf
Alligator Weed	Saltwort	Turkey Oak
Gopher Apple	Crab's Eye	Rattle Box
Rabbit Bells	Milk Pea	Cat Claw
Nakedwood	Button Bush	Velvet Seed
Yellow Butterwort	Lion's Ear	Pennyroyal
Greeneyes	Blue Curls	Deer Tongue
Dog Fennel	Yellowtop	Thoroughwort
Creeping Oxeye	Blackroot	Sow Thistle

Bell, C.R. & B.J. Taylor. 1982. *Florida Wild Flowers and Roadside Plants*. Chapel Hill, NC. Laurel Hill Press. Pp. 1-267

Another Show Note

We got 2,577 responses to the question 'How did you hear about the show?' These are the responses in rounded percentiles:

Family/friends	33%
Newspaper	20%
Orchid society	17%
2010 show program	9%
Other	8%
I-95 billboard	4%
Magazines	3%
Poster/flyer	2%
Internet	2%
TV	1%
Email	1%



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. fasiata* 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. manni 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

Answer 'Yes' to Spring Questions

+ Have you placed newly repotted orchids in a dry place until you see new roots emerge? The theory is the roots shoot out looking for water and you will have plants with a better root system. Don't panic if you can't do this, orchids want to live!

+ Are you keeping a sharp eye out for mealy bugs, scales, spider mites, and other orchid pests? Spring fever, let's make baby orchid eaters, is here! (You don't even need the Bio. 101 lecture on how fast *Arthropods* can reproduce.)

+ Are you removing old blooms, leaves, and other spent-plant trash from your growing area? If not you are inviting snails, fungi, bacteria, and other pests that want to leap up and infect your plants.

April Tid-bits

***Pine Ridge Orchids** and Terry's and Barbara's work with conversation will be featured on Chanel 2 TV on April 24 at 6 PM and again on April 29 at 7:30 PM. If you are a long-time newsletter reader you know a bit about their conservation efforts and if you are a spring rambler you know what thousands of perfectly blooming orchids looks like. If you've missed either, do tune in.

* **On April 9-10** there will be an orchid and tropical plant sale at the AOS Gardens in Delray. It is also a wonderful time to walk through the gardens.

A Quick Cake for a Busy Person to Bake

Follow the box directions for a chocolate cake. Pour the batter into 2 pans lined with dried cranberries. While the baked cake is warm frost it with a light coating of peanut butter. Let the cake mellow for a day before serving and accept the raves.

Vanilla Trivia, Big Time!

Montezuma was reported to only drink a beverage made from chocolate and vanilla. He ordered 50 pitchers a day! (*Montezuma's revenge gets a name?*)

Female workers in vanilla factories show symptoms of masculinity and problems with hormone controlled cycles.

Now, really unusual uses of vanilla:

The Aztecs used the plants to make glue.

In the Philippines, roots were used to make baskets.

In Mexico, the flowers are thought to be a charm to protect travelers.

In West Malaysia the stems and leaves are mashed to make a substance that will thicken and straighten hair.

In Gabon the roots are used for making fishing nets.

In Ghana roots are used for guitar stings

In Bougainville vanilla is used to treat pigs with worms!

From: Lawler, L. 'Ethnobiology of the Orchidaceae' in Ardetti, J. 1984. *Orchid Biology Reviews and Perspectives III*, Ithaca, Cornell Univ. Press. pp. 52-61.

Equity Park Memorial Garden Club

The Pride Center
2040 North Dixie Highway
(6 blocks south of Five Points, plenty of lighted parking)

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Chuck: 954 561-3635

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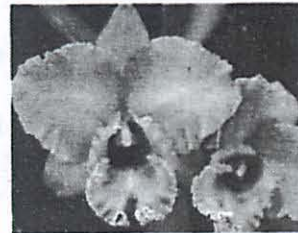
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Newsletter Editor..... Dot Henley

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
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33338

