



Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 63 Issue 3

March 2013

APRIL SPEAKER: LARRY COX

Larry is a local hobbyist with a green thumb when it comes to Lycastes and other hard to grow in Florida orchids. His Lycaste Larry Cox 'Electra' AM/AOS recently won Grand Champion at the Fairchild International Orchid Fair in February. He will be speaking to us on warm growing Lycastes.

After college, in the late 1960's, Larry Cox moved to Miami-Dade County from his native North Carolina to begin a teaching career. A few years later he discovered orchids. His first orchid was a Cattleya, his second a Paphiopedilum, Paph. Maudiae 'Magnificum.' The Cattleya is long gone and forgotten; he still has a piece of the Paph. Like so many orchid growers, Larry was drawn to every new orchid genus he encountered. For a while Dendrobiums were orchids of choice, then more Cattleyas, then Ascocendas and Vandas.

In 1989 he moved from his South Miami residence to a more spacious property in the Redland where he built his dream greenhouse of 3,000 square feet. Like any orchid grower, he has experienced his share of failures, as well as Hurricane Andrew that destroyed his greenhouse and left him to grow his collection under salvaged ragged shade cloth stretched between the trunks of broken pine trees.

Three years ago, Larry retired from thirty-seven rewarding years as a teacher, the last fifteen teaching Advanced Placement English at Miami Palmetto Senior High School. Retirement is the best time of his life because it allows him to concentrate on those things that he once knew only as pastimes, but now realizes were the peace and fulfillment he needed to carry out his career duties successfully. Today, he reads all the books he never got around to, travels as much as he wants to, spends relaxing time every few months in the North Carolina Mountains, maintains his tropical garden in the Redlands, and, of course, grows paphs. He has experimented with other orchid genera and is now finding success with Lycastes and Phragmipediums. He has even rediscovered the wonder of Cattleya species.

He is one of the foremost hobby growers in the area, and is a world of orchid knowledge! In addition, Larry will be providing the plants for our raffle table. (material from the East Everglades Orchid Society).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

April 8—Larry Cox on warm growing Lycaste

April 13—Ramble!

- Meet at Christ Lutheran Church Parking Lot at 8:00 AM (bus will return no later than 5:00 PM). Nursery stops are planned for Stel Mar Gardens, Caribe Plants, Henington Farms and one more nursery not yet chosen.
- What to bring: Bag lunch, refreshments, cash, checks, credit cards (some vendors are whole sale and will not be able to accept credit cards. Also bring boxes for storing your plants on the bus

April 20-21 & 27-28—Orchid education at The Museum of Discovery & Science



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Larry Cox

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society

MARCH SPEAKER

Craig Pittman was our March 11th speaker. Craig is an environmental issues reporter for the Tampa Bay Times and is the author of three books: "Paving Paradise", "Manatee Insanity," and "Scent of a Scandal: Greed, Betrayal and the World's Most Beautiful Orchid". During his years of researching and writing about environmental issues, Craig has uncovered "weird" smuggler stories. Not surprisingly, he describes the *Phragmipedium kovachii* smuggling story as "the weirdest of all". As evidence to the strangeness, his latest book is classified as a TRUE CRIME/GARDENING book. Try shelving that by topic.

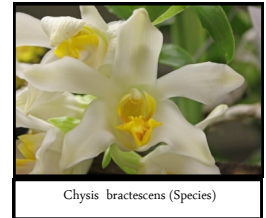
The true crime appeal is the illegal transport, and all the drama it caused, of an orchid out of Peru and into the US. The gardening appeal is the lure of swash buckling orchid hunters finding, naming, and selling orchids. From the past to the present, orchid hunters have been naming new species and James Michael Kovach's desire to name "The Holy Grail of Orchids" had legal and environmental consequences. Craig retold the Kovach's scandal like an expert reporter and like an expert salesman he saved the surprise ending for us to read. He provided an excellent program and his books will be highly recommended among members. (Gigi Granger)



Phal. Stuartiana—JEFF TUCKER

MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY &

April 20th and 21st (MODS Earth Day Celebration) and the following weekend April 27th and 28th (MODS Arbor Day Celebration). **We still need volunteers for all shifts.** Contact Gigi Granger (GigiGator@aol.com). If you can't help out his time, MODS has already requested we come back in May.



Chysis bractescens (Species)

GROWING TIPS FOR APRIL

"This month is one of the busiest for every orchid grower. After a period of relative dormancy, orchids of every kind are beginning to grow. New orchid growers must learn to recognize when the growth cycle begins. Proper repotting and fertilizing of orchids depends on that recognition. The purpose of repotting should not be to multiply a plant, but to replace decaying medium. A well grown plant, however, will often need a larger pot and yield extra pieces (divisions) for friends.

In nature, growth begins with some signal from nature, usually a change in day length or the beginning of the rainy season. Orchid hobbyists who become skilled growers of species also become competent naturalists because they must learn the key elements of the environment from which their difficult to grow orchids come. Most of us do not undertake growing the difficult species, but enjoy the more generic hybrids that are much easier to grow and for which, signs of growth are clear. Standard phalaenopsis, those with large flowers, begin their growth cycle when days begin to get longer and the temperature within the pot remains above 60 F. They will begin growth even with flowers on spikes. However, growth will begin earlier and proceed faster if spikes are removed. New leaves emerging from the center of the old leaves and new roots breaking from the stem just above the last living roots are a sure sign that growth has begun. When this happens, your phalaenopsis can be repotted with the least damage. If your phalaenopsis was a gift, it likely needs repotting. If the medium in the pot seems to stay wet longer or your orchid's leaves are wilting, it likely needs repotting. Repotting can be as simple as removing the plant from the medium, shaking the old medium from the roots and replacing the orchid in a new pot with new medium.

New hobbyists can find lots of information, including videos, on the process of repotting or attend a local orchid society potting demonstration and learn how to repot a phalaenopsis. It is easy. Cattleya hybrids can generally be repotted in spring too. The trick is to begin the process before the orchid initiates root growth. Once new roots begin, there is the risk of damage to these new roots, which may set the plant back. It is OK to repot before roots are seen unless the hybrid is a 'bifoliate-type' (very tall pseudobulbs and two or more leaves on each bulb). If you have one of this group, wait until you see new roots, which may be later in the spring or early summer. Members of this group can be killed by repotting at the wrong time. Paphs and Phrags (slippers) are best repotted right after they flower. While they decrease their growth rate when light levels are lower, they will grow all year long. Usually, there is a new growth beginning to mature as the older growth finishes flowering on a plant. Vandas are particularly sensitive to low temperatures. This group of orchids grows best in high light, accompanied by night temperatures above 65°F and days above 80°F. Most mature vandas are grown mounted or in baskets. Hobbyists that grow indoors are often enticed into purchasing vandas in hanging baskets and then left wondering what to do with them. They can be repotted into large clay pots as long as the medium has a diameter of an inch or more. However, it is best to avoid repotting this type of orchid. Once it gets warm, find a place outside under a lightly shading tree and water frequently."

Dr. Courtney T. Hackney
Dept. Biology, University of North Florida

FLOS MEMBER'S CORNER

Welcome to Judy Gregory, Ken Moore, Frank Cavanaugh, and Bob Bekoff, who all joined FLOS at our March meeting. We are glad to have you as members and hope you will join us on our April 13 ramble. It's a fun way to meet other members and add interesting plants to your orchid collection.

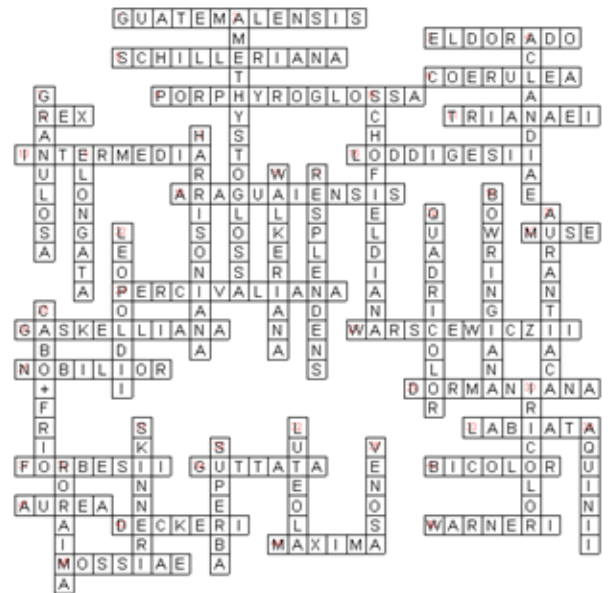
We are starting to prepare our 2013-2014 membership roster. SO:

- If you haven't renewed please do so!
- New mailing address, phone number, or email address? Let us know!
- **Edna Rosen** and **Charles Bloch** - your memberships were handled at the show but we have no contact information. Help us fill in the blanks!
- Please send all address, phone, and email updates to richacker-man@gmail.com

RIBBON WINNERS FOR FEBRUARY

PLANT	RIBBON	GROWER
Cochlezeella Amazing (Cochleanthes flabelliformis X amazonica)	BLUE	CHRIS CREPAGE
Phalaenopsis gigantea X self (Species)	BLUE	JOHN WRENCH
Phal. Sogo Rose	BLUE	JEFF TUCKER
Den. farmerii (Species)	BLUE	RICH ACKERMAN
Chysis bractescens (Species)	BLUE	TOM CORRAL
Ren. Tom Thumb	BLUE	TIN LY
Ascda. Macarena Ilglesias	BLUE	JEFF TUCKER
Onc. spatchelatum (Species)	BLUE	GARFIELD GILCHREST
Asctm. garayii (Species)	BLUE	CLAIRE GARRETT
Den. Yellow Magic	BLUE	SCOTT PEPLIN
Paphiopedilum niveum (Species)	RED	BONNIE BELLAVANCE
Phal. Stuartiana (Species)	RED	JEFF TUCKER
Dendrobium primulinum (Species)	RED	RUBBEN HOWE
Oncidium sphacelatum (Species)	GREEN	SCOTT PEPLIN
Guarianthe aurantiaca (Species) x Cattleya aurantiaca	GREEN	MICHAEL BRYANT
Guaricattonia Lawless Gloriana x Laeliocatonia Lawless Gloriana	GREEN	NANETTE RUDOLF

Here are the answers for Catchy Catts Crossword



The Proposed Board Members Slate for 2013-2014 is as follows:

President: Michael Schaberl

1st Vice President: Joan Connors

2nd Vice President: Gigi Granger

Treasurer: Brian Boyle

Recording Secretary: Ginny Salus

Corresponding Secretary: Saira Kaizad

1-Year Trustees: John Wrench, Scott Peplin and Allen Cogar

2-Year Trustees: John Budree and Nanette Rudolph

3-Year Trustees: Zoe Bejar and Rich Ackerman

By-laws Article XI Section 3. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at our April 8th meeting. A brief biographical resume should accompany nominations made from the floor, in order to provide those members who may not know the nominee an opportunity to evaluate his/her suitability to hold office.

MARKETPLACE



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SINGER ARCHITECTS

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Thank you.

Thank you kitchen volunteers Kathy Homann, Deb Johnson & Fran Renguso. Our September refreshments were provided by:

Carrie Ackerman, Zoe Bejar, Joan Connors, Chris Crepage, Helen Dallman, Norma Jean Flack, Kathy Homann,
Leah Ostrander, Fran Renguso, Nanette Rudolf, Ginny Salus, Petra Thomas, Vicki Trank

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society
PO Box 4677
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338

Regular Meetings: Second Monday of each month
7:30 pm
Place: Christ Lutheran Church Social Hall
1955 East Oakland Park Blvd.

Directions: East on Oakland Park Blvd. from I-95
Go East for 2.4 miles, left on NE 20th Ave. Park in the rear of the church which is on the NW
corner of Oakland Park Blvd. and NE 20th Ave. Or to take
US - 1 (Federal Hwy.) Go to Oakland Park Blvd. go west for two blocks turn north on NE 20th Ave.
park in rear.

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1st Vice President: Joan Connors
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