

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 64 Issue 4

April 2014

APRIL SPEAKER: MAC RIVENBARK



Our April speaker will be Mac Rivenbark, the owner of Macs Orchids in Fort Lauderdale. He joined the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society in 1999 after his neighbors suggested it would be a good match. Mac and his wife Helen opened their business in 2002.

Mac's passion for orchids grew after many fascinating trips to the Philippines. During these travels he was inspired to collect and grow different varieties of Asian orchid species. As of today Mac has over 300 varieties of different Asian species that thrive here in Florida. Mac's goal is to propagate these species and to help educate and inform others on the passion and ease of orchid growing.

Mac and his wife have belonged to many organizations and orchid society's including Mac's serving as a past president of the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society.

Mac's presentation will be on Mac's favorite and most frequently suggested orchids to grow - Den-drobiums. Mac's program will consist of a power point program including their recent travel log from the Philippines, and will also include many of Mac's culture tips.



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

SOCIETY EVENTS

- April 14 - Mac Rivenbark - Denbrobiums in South Florida
- May 12 - Jill Godfrey - "Thin-Leafed Orchids of South Florida: Stanhopeas, Sobralias, and Calanthes."
- June 9 - Movie Night
- July 14 - Dee and Jessie Vance from "Natures Relics" "THE HISTORY, BENEFITS, AND USES OF OLD GROWTH CYPRESS WOOD"
- August - TBA
- September 8 - Jim Watts - Leafless Orchids
- October - FLOS Auction
- November - TBA
- December 14 - Holiday Party

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- April 19/20 - Flamingo Gardens 33rd International Orchid & Bromeliad Show
- May 17/18/19 - Redland International Orchid Festival 2014 - Miami, Florida, U.S.A



C. luddemonniana—Maria Vittiglio



Ascda. Ben Delight—Garfield Gilchrist



Angcm. leonis—Tom Kuligowski

MARCH SPEAKER: GUILLERMO SALAZAR

Tiny Orchids ... and How to Care for Them.

Our March speaker, Guillermo Salazar, has always liked miniatures because they are very diverse in genus, colors, and textures. Many of the miniatures are within familiar genus like Cattleya, Epidendrum and Vanda. Guillermo searched for a unified, specific criterion that is used to classify miniature orchids. There is none, depending on who is judging it can be based on plant size relative to the genus or bloom size.

The plants are separated into three categories: miniatures, dwarfs, and compacts. Miniatures are up to 3 inches in height or width. Dwarfs up to 8 inches and compact up to 12. Although he picked 12 favorites, I counted well over 20. Here's few that I caught and were definitely worth a search on the net for a second look, or better yet collecting.

- In the Cattleya genus, the Sophronitis cernua has 1 to 1 ½ inch blooms that look like small orange stars. He mounts them and places them in bright light. They need good air circulation and don't over water them especially in the winter. Be on the look out for scale, cernua seems to attract it.
- Ascocentrum miniatum grows well in baskets with consistent fertilizing. The mini orange vandas like plenty of light and water.
- Pelatantheria insectifera has the cutest little pointed pink slipper like lip, topped by a crown of green petals with dark red stripes. To show these cuties off, it is best to put them in a basket or mount with something they can climb. They creep up trees in nature, a feature no so great for sharing.
- Schoenorchis fragrans flowers are only ¾ of an inch and grow in a cone like structure. Mount with partial shade and be very patient. This is an extremely slow growing orchid and you can wait over 30 years to see the vibrant magenta flowers.
- Epidendrum clowesii, is similar to our tampensis with more color variations.
- Broughtonia sanguinea, AKA the Blood-red Broughtonia is native to Jamaica and Cuba. The blooms are 1 to 2½ inches. The plants like full sun, good drainage and air circulation. Guillermo suggests mounting and not over watering because they can rot easily.
- In the same genus, negrilensis is pink with a ruffled lip decorated with dark veins that spread out to the edges.
- Encyclia fucata is native to the Bahamas and surrounding islands. They like full sun and to be mounted on rocks like they are in nature, but baskets will do.
- Tetramicra elegans has purple petals with a white and purple striped lip that has a touch of yellow at the base.
- Lastly, I will mention the Candy Corn Orchid, AKA mediocalcar decoratum. This New Guinea native has a flaming orange bulbous flower with tiny yellow petals that curl outward exposing its hollow insides.

Thank you Guillermo for showing us that good things come in small packages (if you know how to take care of them). Gigi Granger

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT A SUCCESS



This past weekend FLOS members participated in the Equality Park Garden Club's Tropical Plant Fair. They gave out cultural sheets, talked to people about our society and sold new memberships. There were several plants from our members for show and tell.

Plants were provided by Bob Stroozas, Brian Boyle and John Wrench. Michael Schaberl, Bob Stroozas, Ken Slump and John Wrench manned the booth for the three day affair. It was a very well attended event with over 60 vendors of all kinds. There was a free raffle for an orchid on Saturday and another one on Sunday. The response was great and the FLOS representatives were very well received! It was a great event and many people showed interest in FLOS and possibly attending the April meeting.



Paph. Susan Booth x Prince Edward of York
- Rubbrn Howe



Oeoniella pollystachys
-Tom Kuligowski

FLOS MEMBER'S CORNER

We are pleased to welcome our new members: James Bradford, Kevin Drucas, Kathy Corley, Joe Cooper, Cherie Fitzgibbon, and Yvonne Hanaish-Hunter.

RIBBON WINNERS FOR MARCH

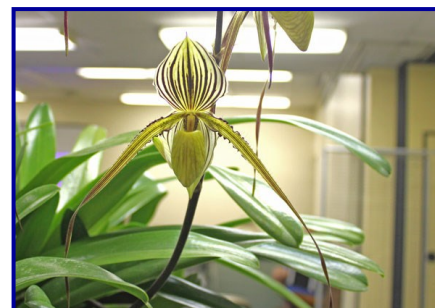
Ascda. Ben Delight	Garfield Gilchrist	Blue
Blc. Star of Bethlehem	John Wrench	Blue
<i>C. luddemanniana</i>	Maria Vittiglio	Blue
Den. Microchip	Norma Jeanne Flack	Blue
Den. <i>smilis</i>	Carol Jones	Blue
Den. Spring Dream 'Kumiko'	Laurajeane Niesel	Blue
Den. Wave King 'Akebono'	John Wrench	Blue
<i>Eria floribunda</i>	Helen Rivenbark	Blue
<i>Ludisia discolor</i>	Bill Janda	Blue
<i>Oeoniella polystachys</i>	Tom Kuligowski	Blue
Phal. Brother Sara Gold	Jeff Tucker	Blue
Rlc. Memoria Anna Balmores 'Convex'	Jeff Tucker	Blue
Paph. St Swithin	Mac Rivenbark	Blue & Cultural
Den. Yellow Song 'Canary'	Bob Stroozas	Cultural
Trgl. <i>rosea</i> var <i>brevamica</i>	Helen Riven bark	Cultural
Angcm. <i>leonis</i>	Tom Kuligowski	Red
Blc. Dan O'Neal Jubilee' HCC/AOS	Garfield Gilchrist	Red
<i>C. amethystoglossa</i>	Jeff Tucker	Red
Den. <i>goldschmidtianum</i>	Mac Rivenbark	Red
Den. Spring Dream 'Kumiko'	Tom Kuligowski	Red
Lc. Hsin Buc Lady 'Y.T.'	Jeff Tucker	Red
Phal. Jiano's Pink Girl	Gage Simmons	Red
Phal. Maw Evergreen	Roby Tannenbaum	Red



Den. Spring Dream 'Kumiko';
Laurajeane Niesel



Maria Vittiglio



Paph. St.Swithin—Mac Rivenbark

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

- * Joan Connors, our Program Chair would appreciate hearing from our members about topics for future programs that would be of interest or speakers you would like to have present at our monthly meetings. Talk to her at the next meeting or e-mail her today: marti25999@hotmail.com.
- * Stop by the kitchen and help get the refreshments ready.
- * Gigi Granger, our Membership Chair and the power behind the great educational efforts we make at the Museum of Discovery and Science has two more educational opportunities for us at the MODS:
 - * April 18-20 (12:00-4:00pm) - This is Easter weekend and we are hosting "Joey's Egg Hunt" all three days of the event. As this is a GREAT Spring event it would fit perfectly with orchids.
 - * May 3-4th (12:00-4:00) MODS is hosting its third annual "Asian-Pacific American Heritage Celebration" and we'd like you to join the festivities! This event highlights native cuisine, dance, language, and culture across a Pan-Asian/South Pacific theme

Volunteers are needed—See Gigi at our next meeting!!!

MONTHLY CHECK LIST FOR MARCH & APRIL

Cattleya

In March, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

Paphiopedilum

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairianum background.

Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging – even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

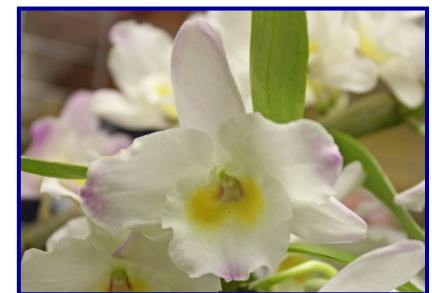
Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.



Pot. Hawaiian Charisma 'Hawaii'
Garfield Gilchrist



Den. Spring Dream 'Kumiko'
Tom Kuligowski

Shari Weidendaum

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FYI COLUMN by Tom Kuligowski

Oeoniella polystachys, the buds are a bloomin’

Oeoniella polystachys is one of the few Angraecoids that inhabit all three island chains that surround Madagascar; the Comoro Islands west of the northern tip of Madagascar, the Mascarene Islands to the east of Madagascar and the Seychelles Islands to the north and northeast of Madagascar as well as inhabiting the lowlands of eastern Madagascar itself. An epiphyte that grows primarily on trees not much higher than sea level.

The South Florida sub-tropical/tropical climate is a perfect climate to grow this species. *Oeoniella polystachys* is a very robust grower and will develop year round. The plant does well throughout the wet season (May through September), can handle the drier season unless temperatures fall below 45 degrees for several nights. Here in South Florida, I keep all of my Angraecoids in an open air arbor and will only move them in-doors if the temperatures do stay below 45 degrees for three or four nights (the extent of the winter season throughout the last four years).

March and April are the two months that will show the majority of the blooms; although the plant does have a tendency to bloom through the summer months and into the fall. It is not uncommon to see seedlings with a solid stem of just 3 inches bloom for the first time.

Oeoniella polystachys grows best mounted to a long narrow piece of cork, a tree fern totem or just about any other form that the aerial roots can grab ahold of as the plant gains height. In culture I have not seen any above 20 inches (in-situ up to 24 inches); but the plant will put out new basal growth as well as branch. The inflorescence all develop above the aerial root growth opposite the leaf axil. You will never see new root growth above the spikes until after the blooms have faded. New roots usually develop no higher than 4 – 6 inches below the crown.

The root system at the base of the plant will grow very little once an abundant number of aerial roots has been established. This is one reason to mount the plant – giving the root system an opportunity to secure itself as if in the wild. These roots systems need to be watered every day when temperatures are 75 degrees or above. My *Oeoniella polystachys* plants are watered twice a day when temperatures hover in the upper 80s to mid-nineties and are also misted about an hour prior to sunset.

The plants receive a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20) every week from February into early November and then backed off to once every two weeks. I do use a systemic fungicide every month (every 4 weeks) unless we get a large amount of rain; I then treat the plants every three weeks. I keep an eye on my plants and will use an insecticide every 6 – 8 weeks.

Oeoniella polystachys will bloom in a variety of lighting conditions. Ranging from a high level of Phal. light to a medium level of Vanda type light (1200fc – 4500fc). I have several in different types of light and have had no problem with any of them not blooming to their fullest capability.

Give them what they require and they will reward you year after year with the best they can give.



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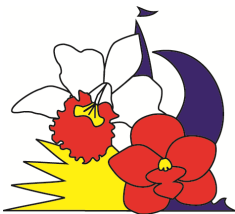
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Thank you kitchen volunteers Kathy Homann, Deb Johnson & Fran Renguso. Our refreshments were provided by:

Gigi Granger, Deb Johnson, Fran Renguso, Kathy Homann, Zoe Bejar, Norma Jeanne Fladck, Bill Janda, Joan Connors



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

Regular Meetings: *Second Monday of each month*

Time: *7:30 pm*

Place: *Christ Lutheran Church Social Hall*

1955 East Oakland Park Blvd.

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306

Directions: From I 95 take East Oakland Park Blvd. for 2.4 miles, turn left on NE 20th Ave.

Or take US -1 (Federal Hwy.) to Oakland Park Blvd. west for two blocks, turn north 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.

President: *Michael Schaberl*

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