

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 64 Issue 5

May 2014

MAY SPEAKER: JILL GODFREY

Jill Godfrey will be speaking on "Thin-Leafed Orchids of South Florida: Stanhopeas, Sobralias, and Calanthes." Jill is a Miami Native who started growing orchids at the age of 12 and joined the North Miami Amateur Orchid Club. She worked for the firm of Jones and Scully when they were located on the Miami River in the late '70's.



Jill currently is a member of Orchid Society of Coral Gables and Coalition for Orchid Species. She continues her orchid education at Florida-Caribbean Judging Center where she has been an AOS judge for 20 years. She is the judging center's Chairman. Her favorite orchid genera is Cattleyas, but she also grows Nobile Dendrobiums, Callista Dendrobiums, and a wide variety of species which include Calanthe, Sobralia and Stanhopea.

If you have ever had an interest in the orchids that bloom from the bottom of the pot (Stanhopeas) or the other plants that have thin-leaves, this will be a great lecture. Jill is very knowledgeable and even if you are not familiar with these orchids, you will be by the end of the evening!



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

SOCIETY EVENTS

May 12 - Jill Godfrey - "Thin-Leafed Orchids of South Florida: Stanhopeas, Sobralias, and Calanthes."

June 9 - Movie Night: *"Wild Orchid Man In The Mountains Of Amazonas"*

June 21—Overnight Ramble with Captain Allen (see page 3 for more details)

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

May 17/18/19 - Redland International Orchid Festival 2014 - Miami, Florida, U.S.A



Brs. Rex Waiomo 'Spotless' - Randall Clyde Photo by Saira Kaizad



C. Tropical Pointer—Chris -Photo - by Saira Kaizad

APRIL SPEAKER: MAC RIVENBARK

Mac's Addiction: A Decade and a Half of Orchids

Like most hobbyist, Mac Rivenbark started with one orchid. His first orchid was for Helen 15 years ago. To her dismay, he killed it. He bought another for her and repeated the cycle. Finally, he consulted his next-door neighbor, a visually apparent hobbyist on growing orchids. His neighbor suggested joining FLOS. His collection evolved into "temporary structures" pieced together from recycled materials.

Twelve years ago, he began selling his work to the public. Over the years, he has collected, cultivated and learned how to hybridize orchids, many from the Philippine Islands and throughout Asia. He is known for work with Dendrobiums, so it no wonder that his favorite orchid is the Den. *anosmum*. The Rivenbark 's even took their annual Philippines trip in March two years ago, just to see them flowering naturally. To Mac's delight it was everywhere. He also likes growing den. *bracteosum* because their blooms last 4 to 6 months. Mac collects Den. species like *spectabile*, *purpurum*, and *anosmum*. Another favorite to many and grown by few, the Dendrobium *aggregatum*, aka, den. *aggravation*, requires lots of water and fertilizer. In nature they are exposed to the extreme temperature changes that occur daily in Thailand. The cool nights keep the roots from drying out as opposed to here in S. Fla. the constant heat dries them out, so water daily.

Some non-Dendrobium varieties he grows are *Aerides odorata*, flashy and very fragrant, but require vandaceous care. *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis*, the elephant of the bulbophyllum world, has cleared the room with the rotting stench of dead rats on many occasions. Another temper-"mental" variety we all seem to struggle with is *Paphiopedilums*. According to Mac, paph's are location, location, location orchids. Once you kill a Paph in one location, be sure to **not use that location** to attempt to grow another. *Flickingeria scopa* is an excellent name, for the visual contrast of this flower. The lip resembles a spider with too many legs, while the petals are defined, clean lines. The combination leaves the viewer thinking "what?". The flowers last 12 hours or less, so have your camera ready.

In a decade and a half, Mac and Helen have become one of South Florida's best growers, and highly regarded members of our society. They are a valuable resource for buying exotic orchids, hybridizing, and techniques for growing and caring for orchids in our climate. Some of Mac and Helen's favorite non-toxic tactics for treating pests are rubbing alcohol, and dollar store dish soap. A light coating of soapsuds will smother most tiny pests. The rubbing alcohol is great for rubbing away nesting areas, scale, and treating damaged areas. He rarely trims away dead material, as to mimic growing in nature and to limit the spread of disease and virus. Cutting = Sterilizing + Time. He rationalizes this additionally by stating, "There is nothing I know of in nature that eats orchid pseudobulbs". Simple logic simply makes sense. Looking forward to another decade and half of therapy as you recover from your addiction. Big hugs, Gigi Granger

Cattleya Monthly Checklist from AOS

The last of the spring-flowering types - those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb - will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.



Den. Nobile—Collins/Peplin—Photo by Saira Kaizad



Ascocenda Burning Motes Sands—Zoe Bejar -Photo by Saira Kaizad



Zygo. Advance Australia—Claire Garrett -Photo by Saira Kaizad

FLOS MEMBER'S CORNER

3 new members from the Home Ramble: Lori Parish, Bruce Berger, Woody Coust and Robert Saladini

Abandoned Pet Rescue's 18th Annual Hugs and Kisses fundraiser was a great success bringing in \$40,000. FLOS donated an orchid basket designed by Gale O'Connor of Mickey's Orchids and won by FLOS member and show volunteer Diana Centorino.



Ascocentrum ampullaceum—Norma Jeanne Flack -Photos by Saira Kaizad



Encyclia bractescens—Sandy Caradonna -Photo by Saira Kaizad

Mark your calendar for June 21, the first day of summer for an OVERNIGHT RAMBLE!!!

A luxury coach will take our group to the west coast of Florida to visit

- Rob Palmer at Sun Bull
- Marie Selby Gardens
- Deroose in Apopka
- other stops to be announced

Contact Captain Allen— tacogar@gmail.com—for more details or attend our May meeting.

The upcoming program at the Museum of Science and Discovery had to be cancelled due to lack of volunteers.

RIBBON WINNERS FOR APRIL

Ascocentrum ampullaceum	Norma Jeanne Flack	Blue
Brassiacattleya Binosa x B. Little Stars 4N	Garfield Gilchrist	Blue
Brs. Rex 'Sakata' var. Lea	Garfield Gilchrist	Blue
Brs. Rex Waiomo 'Spotless'	Randy Clyde	Blue
Bulb. basisetum	Rich Ackerman	Blue
Cattleytonia Why Not	Rubben Howe	Blue
Iwanagara Appleblossom	Tin Ly	Blue
LC. Tropical Pointer Tropical	Chris Binder	Blue
Paph. callosum superbiens Dark	Rubben Howe	Blue
Phal. Gigantea	Saira Kaizad	Blue
Phal. I-Hin Sunrise	Gage Simmons	Blue
Schomburgkia Louis Fuchs	Tin Ly	Blue
Zygo. Advance Australia	Claire Garrett	Blue
C. Seagull Tangerine	Collins/Peplin IOS	Cultural
Den. nobile	Collins/Peplin IOS	Cultural
Encyclia bractescens	Sandy Caradonna	Cultural
Den. spacelatum	Carol Jones	Culture
Ascocenda Burning Motes Sands	Zoe Bejar	Red
Blc. Tangerine Horses x Blc. Carolina Golden D'or	Sue Zimmer	Red
Brs. New Start 'Galaxy'	Chris Binder	Red
Den. Bobby Mesina x Den Jiad Gold	Rubben Howe	Red
Vandainopsis	Gage Simmons	Red



Paph. Callosum superbiens Dark—Rubben HowePhoto by Saira Kaizad

FYI COLUMN by Tom Kuligowski

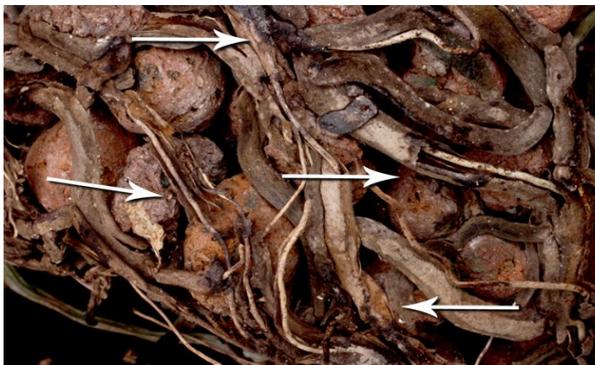
Death by Dehydration

One of the common ways of killing your orchids is not watering them properly; watering properly takes some time to learn when you're a beginning hobbyist (as well as some of us that have the experience to know better). But what may have happened if you are sure that you knew what you were doing? Whether you had your hand in it or there was another circumstance, we all know orchids die without the proper amount of water.

Two issues that have come to my attention via the Angraecums blog may shine some light on the subject. An *Angcm. sesquipedale* and an *Angcm. Crestwood* both started dropping their leaves from the bottom of the stem until the leaf drop eventually reached the crown. Both plants were mature specimens producing beautiful flowers on a yearly basis.

Orchids and other types of plants will start to show signs of stress when being dehydrated. Leaves usually show the biggest sign; they begin to wrinkle or shrivel, pseudo bulbs will thin out and not look as plump and stems/canes can begin to bend over and not hold up as they should. These signs point towards lack of moisture. Either not enough water is making it to the root system or there are no longer enough roots to supply the plant with that moisture.

Seeing these signs, many of us will automatically start giving the plant more water. However, what if we see no sign of improvement in a short period of time and the plant continues to deteriorate; let's assume the root system has failed.



Signs of severe root rot



Shriveled aerial root

I looked closely at this problem with an *Angcm. sesquipedale* recently and found that the root system was nearly totally dead. The vellum material that covers the actual root had completely disappeared, what material did exist was barely a shell and much of it was black. This black on the vellum material indicated severe root rot. Somehow, the plant was getting too much water and was constantly wet even though the potting material allowed for fast drainage and the pot itself had plenty of openings for good air movement (which in itself would cause issues if the air around the plant was still). The bottom line is that the roots were always very wet and eventually rotted. Aerial roots were present but not enough of them to salvage the plant. Those roots shriveled and did not supply the plant with the necessary moisture (sort of a catch-22).

The second plant I looked at was an *Angcm. Crestwood*. Leaves were turning yellow and then dropping off starting at the bottom of the stem. The plant had been staked holding it upright; and with the stem as thick as it was, the stake shouldn't have been needed. The initial problem was that wind had toppled the plant breaking the stem completely through just under the medium in which it was potted. The severed stem prevented the roots from passing moisture up into the plant causing a fast and steady dehydration.



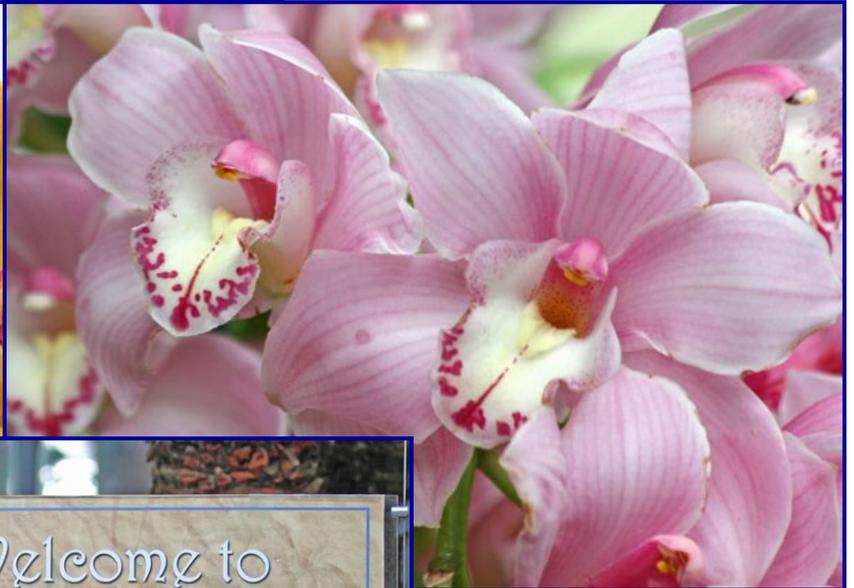
Last fallen leaves from *Angcm. Crestwood*



Break at lower end of stem

Both of the above issues were caused by damage to the root system. By carefully monitoring the watering cycle of the first plant may have prevented the plant from dehydration. Protecting large showy plants such as the *Angcm. Crestwood* from strong winds would have prevented the plant from being blown over which caused the break in the stem. Understanding how plants eventually die will make us better growers. Growing orchids successfully means learning how to control all of the variables; and issues with watering them is just one small piece of a complex puzzle.

RECENT ORCHID SHOW AT US BOTANIC GARDEN

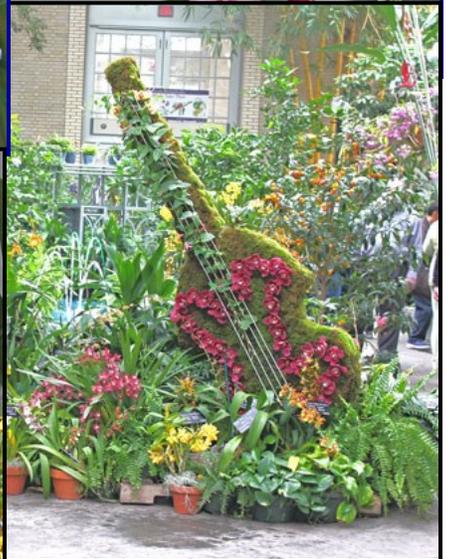


Paphiopedilum
Cochaste "Chilton"

Welcome to Orchid Symphony

With over 20,000 species, orchids are one of the largest and most diverse plant families. They are prized for their beautiful variety of flower color, fragrance and shape. The great diversity of these captivating plants allows them to thrive in many environments. While most of us associate orchids with the tropics, they are actually found on every continent except Antarctica, in widely diverse habitats from temperate and tropical forests to deserts and prairies.

In Orchid Symphony, the U.S. Botanic Garden presents these sought after plants in all of their glory and diversity. Enter and revel in the symphony of color, form and smell that are orchids.



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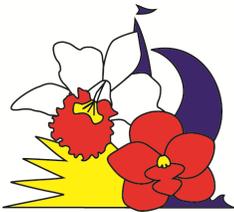
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Connie Walker, Lisa Davis, Sue Zimmer, Andrea Dow, Norma Jeanne Flack, Vicki Trank, Gigi Granger, Joan Connors



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.

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