

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society

NEWSLETTER

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July 2015

July Speaker: Mark Margolis

Mark Margolis is a retired Dade County Public school teacher and non-commercial grower of orchids for over 35 years. While he grows many different types of orchids his specialty and his favorite is in the Catasetum group. With more than 600 Catasetum in his collection, he has received over 50 AOS awards for his plants. Mark refers to Catasetum as the Rodney Dangerfield of orchids because, for several reasons, “they get no respect”. Catasetum orchids aren’t very popular because, when the Catasetum loses it’s leaves and goes into dormancy during the winter, it is a downright ugly plant. Most people feel the need to water them in dormancy and that’s what usually kills them. The flower doesn’t last very long, and sometimes fades within a few days. Even experienced growers think they are hard to grow. Mark believes that in many ways Catasetum are the best orchids. Join us in July to hear about the wonder of Catasetum. (Some of this material came from The Plantation Orchid Society)



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

FLOS

- July - Mark Margolis on Catasetum
- August - Glen Decker on Paphiopedilums
- September - Carol DeBiase will speak on Oncidiums
- October - Auction
- November - Guillermo Salizar
- December - FLOS Holiday Party
- January 2016 -FLOS Annual Show & Sale

Van. Azure 'BlueEyes AM/AOS
Photo by Greg Allikis



Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society

In Memory of

Barbara Jean Ansley

December 6, 1949 - June 8, 2015

Barbara Jean Ansley was born in Fort Myers, Florida on December 6, 1949. She graduated from Fort Myers Senior High School and earned a B. A. in business from Stetson University in Deland, Florida. She was a Certified Public Accountant and spent most of her career at Macmillan, Unruh and Davis. She retired about 15 years ago.

Barbara lived and enjoyed life to its fullest. She had many interests and talents. She traveled extensively, visiting every continent except Antarctica and almost every state.

She was a long time member of the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society, was president from 1986-1987 and served as Treasure for many years. Barbara also bought the show trophies for the FLOS Annual Show and Sale in her travels.

During her life Barbara touched many hearts. She will be remembered for her intellect, charm, graciousness, generosity, adventurous spirit, and reserved but sly sense of humor.

The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society will miss her.

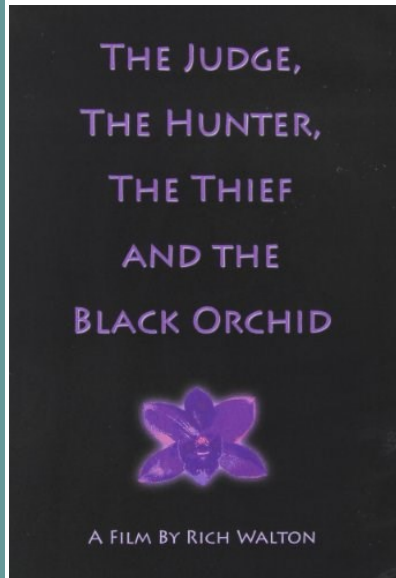


A memorial gathering will be held at a later date.

(some of this material was from: Kramer-cremated-center.tributes.com)

June's Program: Movie Night

We watched the film: *The Judge, The Hunter, The Thief, and the Black Orchid* at our June meeting. This film included interesting discussions



by several well-known orchid growers and hybridizers. The Orchid world is full of interesting characters, petty rivalries, competitive judging, hunters, smugglers and thieves.

Once only accessible to the very rich, orchids are now being mass produced due to cloning. This means fewer people are focusing on the art of hybridizing.

The Hunter: in the early history of orchid collecting, the only way to obtain a new orchid was to go to the habitat where they grew. Often the hunter became so obsessed with collecting that new rare orchid, he became oblivious to the danger he put himself in while trying to collect it. **The Thief:** smuggled a very rare Paph. Kavachii orchid from Peru, and became so embroiled in a legal battle that it nearly destroyed Selby gardens, a well-known and well-respected Botanical Garden. **The Judge:** The thief was found guilty of violating the Endangered Species Act. (Edna Rosen)

Crt. Stamese 'DollKasey Kaylee' AM/AOS-
Photo by Greg Allikas



FLOS MEMBERS' CORNER

Welcome to our new members: Burke Laurendine & William Baird

Ribbon Winners For June

<i>Cattleya luteola</i>	Gage Simmons	Blue
<i>Cyrtopodium flavum</i>	Sue Dohn	Blue
Encyclia Cindy	Rich Ackerman	Blue
<i>Euchile mariae</i>	Gage Simons	Blue
Lc. Canhamiana var. coerulea	Les Corbin	Blue
<i>Lycaste bradeorum</i>	Kevin Drucas	Blue
<i>Taeniophyllum obtusum</i>	Vicki Hallock	Blue
Vanda Janice Allison	Les Corbin	Blue
Vanda Keeree's Sapphire	Roby Tannenbaum	Blue
Ascda. Adisak Blue	Roby Tannenbaum	Cultural
<i>Cymbidium ensifolium</i>	Carol Jones	Cultural
Brassia Rex	Craig Barry	Red
<i>Encyclia tampensis</i>	Gage Simmons	Red
Vanda Bao-Yu Yang	Roby Tannenbaum	Red



Den. Alex Gallis 'Quest Space Program' AM/AOS—Greg Allikas

Opportunities To Get Involved

-Would you like to help Rich Ackerman and Loren Colburn with our website? It would be a great way to contribute to the society and use your skills and talents. Contact Rich Ackerman: richackerman@gmail.com

-FLOS has been asked by the Woman's Club of Ft Lauderdale to help populate Stranahan Park with orchids. The Woman's Club is overseeing the transition of making the park into a botanical garden and for those of us who have toured the park know, they need help. We are asking anyone of our members who would like to donate an orchid or would like to donate their time for the installation of the orchids to contact Scott Peplin at scott@tvestudios.com.

PETAL ON by Marie Coy



Hello again. My research into the world of orchids is proving very, very, interesting. The more I read, the more I learn. Starting from ancient Greece to Victorian England these "exotics" were grown for their beauty and collected for their magical and medical properties. Western literature has written records describing how orchids could be used for controlling dysentery, to increase or decrease fertility, and for heading off mental and physical fatigue. So if you have tummy troubles, stinky feet or forgot where you left your keys, there is an orchid for you. Upon further investigation, I discovered that a complex prescription for preventing nausea in chemotherapy patients is being developed from certain kinds of orchids.

The first orchid appeared about eighty million years ago (few years before my time) but really started to flourish once the dinosaurs stopped stomping their big feet on them. Toward the end of the 18th century interest in orchids as ornamentals had started to make headlines.

Captain William Bligh, the famous pirate, who was thought to have buried a fortune in jewels and gold off the coast of Florida on the island of Captiva, also brought cargos of tropical orchids from Australia, West Indies and Jamaica, back to England after the mutiny on the HMS Bounty.

Successful propagation and hybridizing made orchids very available in pricing by the end of 1800's. A few highly successful cities across the United States were offering these blooms at 50 cents each or 12 for \$5.00. What a difference a few years make!

Take a little time to walk through your orchid garden. Admire what you have created. Confucius has stated "Pride in your work puts joy in your day". Who am I to disagree with Confucius, he is a lot bigger than me.



Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society

Black Rot By Susan Jones

A danger to orchids any time the weather is rainy or damp for extended periods, black rot can quickly destroy an entire plant if left unchecked. Caused by one or both of the fungi *Pythium ultimum* and *Phytophthora cactorum*, black rot affects a wide variety of orchids. Cattleyas seem to be particularly susceptible. Black rot moves quickly through a plant and can decimate an orchid collection if not treated

Life Cycle

The fungi that cause black rot in orchids can live only in environments where water is available to them. They consist of spores capable of independent movement, called zoospores, which swim through the water. If that water happens to be sitting on an orchid leaf, the zoospores can penetrate the plant tissue and begin the next stage in their life cycle. At this point, the fungus develops a vegetative part or mycelium consisting of hyphae (thin, thread-like tubes), which spread quickly through the affected plant tissues. Once this occurs, the visible signs of infection - small, watery, translucent spots - expand quickly and change to brown and then black. Left untreated, the affected plant or plants may infect others and will probably die themselves.

Symptoms

When the fungus attacks seedlings, it is usually at the soil line. This can cause the little plants to topple and die, and is referred to as damping off.

In mature plants, the disease can strike at any point on the plant (leaves, pseudobulbs or roots), but often starts in new leaves or growing leads, and progresses downward through the plant until reaching the roots..

As its name implies, black rot shows up as dark blackish spots or lesions on the affected plant part. The black spot or spots enlarge rapidly and can spread throughout the plant. If allowed to reach the crown of a monopodial (single-stemmed) orchid, the rot will kill the plant. Affected leaves may turn yellow around the infected area, and the lesions themselves will be soft and exude water when pressure is applied. Black rot is easily spread by splashing water

Prevention Unsterilized pots, media or water sources, as well as water splashed from affected plants nearby, are all excellent means of spreading the fungus. In addition, plants that spend time outdoors should be elevated 3 to 4 feet (90 to 120 cm) above the ground to avoid splash contamination. Do not allow your orchids' leaves to remain wet for any extended periods. Good air circulation in the growing area is key, and can help plants dry quickly after watering or rains. The addition of a fan or fans to the growing area can improve the airflow and help prevent rots. At first signs of infection, segregate all affected plants to avoid contaminating healthy plants. Finally, some growers recommend the use of a high-calcium fertilizer in the spring to help avoid black rot in new growth.

Mechanical Treatment To stop the spread of black rot in your orchid, begin with a sterile knife and cut out the diseased portion of the plant. Remove all infected plant material, taking out a small amount of healthy tissue bordering the infected area as a safety precaution. Examine the cut portion carefully. It is sometimes possible, especially in pseudobulbs, to see a brownish discoloration extending into the interior of tissue that appears healthy on the surface. In sympodial (many-stemmed) plants such as a cattleya, it may be necessary to cut below the leaves and into the pseudobulb to stop the spread of the disease. If the plant is badly infected, cut into the rhizome, growth by growth, until you reach healthy tissue. For a monopodial orchid such as a vanda or phalaenopsis, remove the infected portion of the leaf, or the entire leaf if necessary, to halt the spread of the fungus before it reaches the crown. Place the plant in an area that receives good air circulation to allow the cut to dry.

Chemical Treatment Once the infected plant parts have been removed, a fungicide should be applied to protect the remaining healthy tissue. Cinnamon is an excellent fungicide, and ground cinnamon may be applied straight from the spice jar directly to the exposed area where infected portions of the plant have been excised. First Rays Orchids also recommends mixing cinnamon with either casein-based glue (such as Elmer's) or cooking oil to form a thick paste. This paste is fairly waterproof and can be used to cover the wound. Another poultice that was developed specifically for use on orchids is StopRot. The product contains a Bordeaux mixture in lanolin. The Bordeaux, a mixture of copper sulfate and lime, has fungicidal properties. The lanolin seals the wound to keep moisture out.

Whatever method is chosen, be sure to cover all of the exposed (cut) area with the fungicide or sealant, so that no new infection can be introduced to the open wound. Drenching the affected plant with fungicide is also an option. Drenches of a protectant fungicide such as Truban or Terrazole are recommended if the disease is diagnosed early. For more advanced cases, a systemic fungicide such as Aliette or Subdue is more effective. Captan, Dithane M-45 and Physan 20 have also been recommended by some growers for control of black rot.

To protect seedlings against damping off, water with the fungicide of choice (at the dilution rate for seedlings specified in the product's instructions) as soon as they are deflasked and potted in compots. Afterward, treat with a preventive fungicide at two-week intervals.



FYI COLUMN by Tom Kuligowski

Patience, Mother Nature and Her Variables

Patience, an attribute you must endure while waiting on Mother Nature. With patience, we as orchid hobbyists eventually learn to grow and bloom magnificent specimens. Flowers that we show off at our monthly society meetings, hoping for a ribbon and occasionally taking a plant to one of the American Orchid Society (AOS) judging centers for a higher accolade being an AOS award.



It is only a matter of time before a hobbyist sees a plant they can't live without. Adding said plant to their collection and hoping for a season of phenomenal blooms. When putting oneself in that position, be sure to do the research on the plant's specific requirements. All too often, so many hobbyists will attempt to grow/bloom something that may not do well in their climate. Or they may not have enough knowledge and understanding of the plant's needs (do your research).

Regarding patience, we all want our newly acquired plants to grow and bloom into beautiful specimens. Some may turn into that specimen in two or three years while others may take two or three longer. *Understanding this* will most likely keep us from pulling our hair out of our heads.

Every aspect of growing orchids has a variable; parameters in the requirements of the plant's culture. Meet those requirements and we are graced with the results we seek. How is the planted potted and with what medium or is the plant mounted and to what type of material.

Water plays an extremely important part in the plant's culture. It is the moisture the plant requires and the delivery system of nutrients as well as systemic fungicides and pesticides protecting the plant; but is that water from a well, from a city water line or reverse-osmosis water. Using water from a city line contains various chemicals that can build up in the plant and the medium the plant is growing in. It is a good practice to flush the plant's root system with RO water or rain water whenever possible. This process washes away amounts of the salts and residues left behind by city water. You must also think about the amount of water required and when the water should be administered.

Light should be monitored with the plant being placed in an area that is conducive to that individual plant's culture. Reading culture sheets for example will give you a parameter or a range of light that the plant will require. Last but not least, a constant air movement is vital to help dry the plant after watering and helps prevent the onset of various diseases.



As we gain experience, the quality of the orchids we grow should improve. Taking the time and doing research will save time, money and the mortality rate of our plants. Please keep in mind, what works for one person may not for another. Use suggestions and other's ideas as starting points. Happy growing!

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OLIVIER TURINA
Realtor

C 954-591-1487
F 888-636-4417
OlivierFL@gmail.com

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Thank you kitchen volunteers Kathy Homann, Deb Johnson & Fran Renguso.

Our refreshments were provided by: The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society



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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