



October, 2003

# OrchidView

Sarasota Orchid Society

Sarasota Orchid  
Society Meeting  
Monday  
October 6, 2003  
Speaker Marty Cooper  
"Orchids  
A Macro View"  
Marie Selby Gardens  
7:30 p.m.

## Fakahatchee Ghosts

**O**n a warm Florida afternoon, Mike Owen steps off a forest trail into dark, knee deep water. "You're within 250 feet of 12 species of orchid," he calls over his shoulder to four hikers. "but you won't see them if you don't get into the water." But the hikers stay on the trail and Owen shrugs. A resident biologist at the preserve, he is used to people who don't want to get their feet wet. After all, the place is full of snakes..... 22 species of them, including pygmy rattlesnakes and cottonmouth moccasins. Then there are the alligators, manatees, Everglades mink, panthers and black bears. Not even Owen will come into the swamp at night or alone

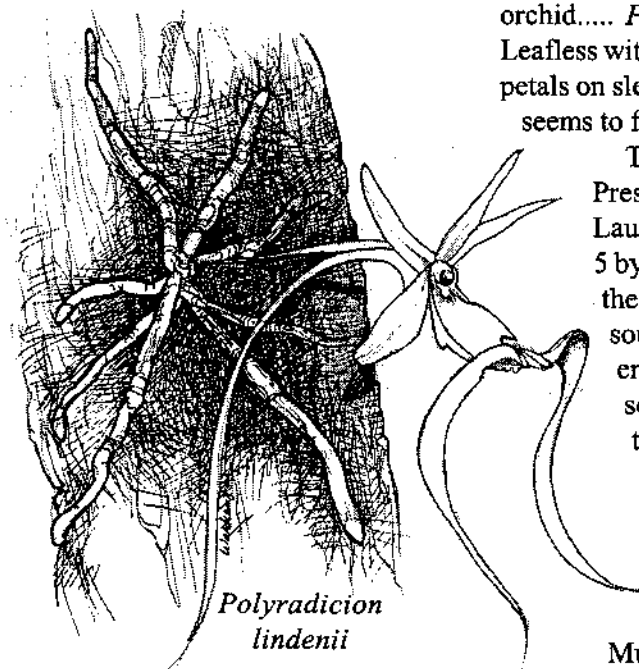
want. "I'll probably never leave", he says. He came to the Fakahatchee in 1993 after stints as a park ranger and a fisheries department field technician. He explains the swamp's history, topography, plant and animal life to a steady stream of visitors up to 350 a day. Recently thieves have made off with four more endangered orchids and now Owen takes visitors on "indirect routes" during the swamp walk, as there may be an orchid poacher in the crowd. There are about 25,000 wild native orchids in the world and perhaps 100,000 hybrids and the Fakahatchee is the orchid capital of the U.S. It has the most species, half tropical and half temperate. Among them is the legendary ghost orchid..... *Polyradicion lindenii*. Leafless with bright white spindly petals on slender spikes, the flower seems to float in the air.

The Fakahatchee Strand Preserve, 80 miles west of Ft. Lauderdale, is a two foot deep, 5 by 20 mile channel through the limestone prairie of southwest Florida that enriches the estuaries southeast of Naples. Over the centuries, organic material collected in this shallow trough forming a rich layer of peat. Today, the Fakahatchee - "river with muddy banks" in Muskogee, a Seminole language - is home to the country's grandest stand of royal palms and its richest concentration of wild orchids and bromeliads. The water is the color of weak tea and a cool 72 degrees

even in summer. He sights a ribbon orchid on a pop ash tree, nine feet up. "No blooms yet, October is the best time for blooms". Entering a water filled clearing, we navigate cypress knees poking up from the water....." "and here's a canoe orchid, see the rigid keel on the leaf?" The topography determines the wetness, the strand fills with water during the rainy season, the peat holds the water, keeps it humid so the trees can grow and protects it from desiccation and fire. The canopy shades the understory and moderates the temperature and cuts the wind. "Now, here is a night scented orchid. It blew in on a hurricane three hundred years ago and even though there is no pollinator here, it turns out to be self-pollinating".

Ghost orchids were rather common before a 1977 frost decimated them and before too many people learned to brave the dark, wet swamp. Poachers reduced the ghost's numbers steeply. Owen points at a ghost orchid....." this one has no spikes, so it hasn't bloomed yet." At this stage, the plant is an unprepossessing little network of gray-green roots, like a mass of rubber bands stuck to the tree. It blooms in June, July and August. They are pollinated at night by the sphinx moth, with a six inch wingspan and a six-and-a-quarter-inch tongue. It is almost dusk when we emerge from the Fatahatchee. The hikers are gone. Owen excitedly counts the orchids we have seen. Eleven? Twelve? As we start back to the truck, he starts telling me about ferns.

Written by Jack McClintock, for  
Smithsonian Magazine.



*Polyradicion  
lindenii*

in the daytime. "Too risky, too easy to get hurt" he says. Despite the dangers, Owen is one of the happy few working precisely the job they

**T**he Sarasota Orchid Society (SOS) meets on the first Monday of each month at Selby Gardens, 800 South Palm Ave. Sarasota, FL. The SOS, an affiliate of the American Orchid Society, is a nonprofit association with the aims of promoting the development, improvement and preservation of orchids through the dissemination of information concerning the culture, hybridization or development of orchids; and generally to extend the knowledge of orchids. Annual dues are \$15. Deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of the previous month. *Contributors to this newsletter give reprint rights of their work to newsletters of other affiliates of the American Orchid Society.*

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## Minutes...Labor Day Picnic Meeting

**P**resident Sam Boyd welcomed everyone to the annual picnic, which started at 6:40 p.m. He asked Dan Beswick to introduce new members and guests. He then thanked Jo Davis for organizing the picnic, and thanked everyone for bringing food. He then announced it was time to eat! The meeting started at 8 p.m. President Boyd asked Dan Beswick to talk about our new website [Sarasotaorchidsociety.org](http://Sarasotaorchidsociety.org). He said a computer with the website on it was set up at the back of the room for everyone to see. All members were encouraged to look at the website and are welcome to call Dan at 366-5875 if you have any questions or comments or if you have an article or some

pictures to put up on the website. Show Chairman Monroe Kokin talked about our upcoming show. He has 15 growers and 4 societies including us. He asked that everyone please sign up to help out with some aspect of the show. **THE SHOW IS ONLY AS GOOD AS IT'S MEMBERS!** Jim Fahrney suggested we have a show dinner. Monroe asked for a volunteer to chair that committee. Phyllis Herrmann and Jo Davis volunteered to co-chair. Tom Tanner volunteered to help set up tables. There will be a sign up sheet for the dinner at the October meeting. Jim Cope went over the show and tell table. Manuel sold raffle tickets and Seth Nadel announced the plant winners. Meeting concluded just before 9 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
JoDavis, Recording Secretary.*

## On Digital Cameras

**Q:** I want a digital camera specifically for close up work - orchids, fungii, garden flowers, etc. Are some better than others for this type of work or does it depend upon price for quality?

**A:** Your requirements fit the Nikon coolpix 4500 perfectly. It has some special features, swivel body, 20mm close up, also a cool light that fits around the lens. It is not a flash unit. It also has several screw-on lenses that can be purchased seperately. It comes with a rechargeable battery and battery charger. As they say, quality is not cheap. They can be bought on the www but by doing that there is little or no back up at all. Regardless of what you buy, only buy from a very reliable specialty camera store instead of a general department store. Also, the Fuji Finepix S602Z (6 megapixels) is highly recommended. See <http://www.fujifilm.com.au/digital/cameras/camera.asp?id=2> for all technical information. The close up photos of plants with their detail is fantastic. (Try a black background, either a painted wall or a piece of dull black cloth behind the plant for contrast.)

Cameras come with either permanently attached lenses or interchangeable lenses. Point and shoot cameras and most digital cameras priced at less than \$1000 have fixed lenses. Most single lens reflex 35mm and single lens reflex modeled digital cameras have an interchangeable lens mount and with this sort of mount you can remove the lens from the camera and replace it with a lens for another purpose. One type of

lens is the "macro" or close focusing lens. This lens comes with a special mount that moves the glass elements away from the film, effectively magnifying the image on the film. A typical macro lens will focus to 1:1 which means that the size of the image on the film is the same size as the object. Shoot a flower with a macro lens at 1:1 and when you get the slide back the real flower will just cover the film image of the flower.

In digital photography, most camera lenses have smaller focal length numbers because their light sensitive CCDs (charge coupled devices) are smaller than a 24 x 36mm film frame. For small digital cameras without lens interchangeability, a wide angle lens is 5mm, a normal 10 mm, and a telephoto 2 mm. On top of the line, \$2000-plus, digital single lens reflex cameras - ones that take 35mm interchangeable lenses - you multiply the 35mm focal length by 1.5 to get the effective focal length on the digital camera. This makes every lens less wide and more telephoto. A normal 50mm lens becomes effectively a moderate 75mm lens. A very wide 21mm 35mm film lens becomes a 33mm lens on a digital camera.

Digital cameras often come with two "zoom" features; true optical zoom involving the lenses, and then what is called the "digital Zoom". The latter in fact is not a zoom in any real sense but the magnification of a section of the digital image. Most often it produces mushy, fuzzy images.

### Treasurer's Report

Balance 08/14/03 .....	\$9,800
Receipts .....	2,009
Expenditures .....	637
Balance 09/12/03 .....	\$11,172

# It's Showtime!

## The Sarasota Orchid Society's 47th Annual Orchid Show



Saturday, October 18th

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

& Sunday, October 19th

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Admission is \$1.00

### Vendors

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### Others

Images in Glass (Art)  
Selby Book Store  
Nature on the Rocks  
K-Pro Greenhouses  
Verona Simmons Warkentin (Art)

### Society Exhibits

Sarasota Orchid Society  
Venice Orchid Society  
Englewood Orchid Society  
Charlotte County Orchid Society

This event is sponsored by **Wayne Hibbs Farm and Garden**

We hope that all members will  
participate and volunteer for  
this yearly event.

**LOTS OF HELPING  
HANDS  
ARE NEEDED!**

**SHOW DINNER.....** We will be having a dinner catered by The Elks on Saturday evening, October 18th, after the show is closed. The tables will be set up in the main center aisle, with the beautiful orchid displays on either side. Come for wine and cheese at 6:00 p.m. then dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Menu...chicken cordon bleu or salisbury steak (with green peppers and onions), mashed potatoes, gravy, veggies, rolls and butter with cake for dessert. Coffee, tea and soft drinks will also be served. Members are encouraged to come and bring your spouse, significant other or friends. The cost will be only \$12 per person. You may sign up and pay at the October meeting, or send your check in to the Sarasota Orchid Society, P. O. Box 19895, Sarasota, Fl. 34276-2895. **COME AND ENJOY!** The deadline for your names and money to be in is Tuesday, October 14th. We need to have a minimum of 30 people sign up to make this a successful dinner. **If you have any questions, please call Phyllis Herrmann at 923-1777 or Jo Davis at 923-9337.**

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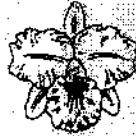
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## Bits & Pieces

- ◆ **Stig Dalstrom** will be one of the impressive line of speakers featured at the Latin Congresses of the Latin American Orchid States and the Quito Orchid Society. The American Orchid Show, in association with the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, will be held in Quito, Ecuador on February 5-8, 2004, at the Cultural Center of the Catholic University of Ecuador. For more information, log onto [www.aoq.info](http://www.aoq.info).
- ◆ The pot luck picnic meeting was a great success, with too many great cooks to mention individually. It was purely a social evening and with the raffle and the plant table, it was a fun evening. Next meeting, the munchies will be supplied by **Sam Boyd, Lucia Almquist, Marie Duffy, Marie Donaldson** and the boss of it all, **Geri Reed**..... We have a lot of help in setting up the tables, and putting them back into storage and we thank the strong guys who helped. If you can come a little early to the meetings to help, it would be greatly appreciated. (*Also, staying a little later to put the tables back into storage would help*).
- ◆ **TROPIFLORA & FENDER'S FLORA ANNUAL FESTIVAL AND OPEN HOUSE.** Open house and sale will be held October 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Friday & Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. *Do not miss this one*..... Thousands of orchids, bromeliads, succulents and tropical palms. Special guest vendors, seminars, food, raffle drawings. Lots of fun & bargains.
- ◆ **Geri Reed**, just back from a holiday in Alaska, reports there were no orchids up there.
- ◆ Our important auction meeting will be held at our February meeting, as the holidays conflict with the timing of the auction. This is our major fund raiser and the board felt that the month of February would be more appropriate than January.
- ◆ We need "runners" or members to help pick up the plants from our suppliers for the auction. A couple of days before the auction (February 2nd), we will be making a trip to the Miami area and on the second day, we will make the trip to the Orlando area. A truck will be available....we just need willing hands to load and unload the truck...any takers?
- ◆ **Marty Cooper** will be our guest speaker at the October meeting. His topic is..... "orchids, a macro view". This will be a broad talk about many aspects of orchids. It will provide an insight that is generally not covered by speakers who are specialists in one specific aspect of orchids. He will also discuss preparing your orchids for the show with a question and answer session.
- ◆ The winning orchids for September show table were:  
Speaker's Choice, *C. Bactia*, grown by **Connie Waymer**.  
Best Species: *Trgl.brachiata*, grown by **Jim Cope**.  
People Choice: *C. Bactia*, grown by **Connie Waymer**.
- ◆ Five guests attended the meeting. **Marvin Copelin, Jerry Stoner, Phil Atkinson, Tom Tanner, and Diane Jensen**. We hope to see them again!
- ◆ Families are like fudge..... mostly sweet with a few nuts.
- ◆ The outline arrangements for the 18th World Orchid Conference to be held in Dijon, in the province of Burgundy, France from March 11-20, 2005 have been announced. The Conference will be held in Le Palais des congres et Expositions de Dijon in association with one of Europe's largest flower shows - Florissimo.
- ◆ *The Orchid Review* is published by the Royal Horticulture Society, 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE. For further information, email your name and address to [Orchidreview@rhs.org.uk](mailto:Orchidreview@rhs.org.uk)
- ◆ The American Orchid Society has scheduled the Conservation booth (on the Sarasota area) for the members meeting on March, 2004. This should be a very interesting presentation, and in the interests of conservation of orchids in our area, we urge the members to attend this important presentation.

*Monroe Kokin  
in his growing area.*



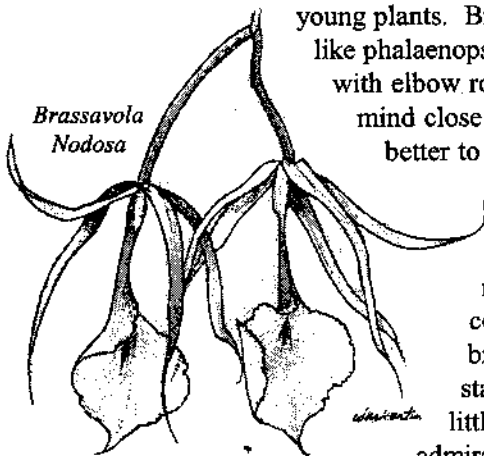
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## Brassavola Nodosa

**B**rassavola nodosa is without question the prima ballerina of all brassavola species. In its native Panama, it is referred to as the lady-of-the-night because of its intoxicating and abundant nighttime fragrance, broadcast to attract winged insects from afar. Brassavola hybrids are happy in the hot, humid summers of the south. Keep them above 55F in winter and below 95F in summer. Brassavolas need quite high light in both winter and summer to bloom well. They want generous watering when they are actively growing. Watch the roots and adjust your watering accordingly. During the dark cool days of winter, cut back on the water. During the summer months of rapid growth, you can water greenhouse plants twice a week and if you hang them outside under the trees, you can water them every day. Use a balanced fertilizer all year round but do not overfertilize in the winter. Avoid over potting

young plants. Brassavolas are not like phalaenopsis which grow best with elbow room. They do not mind close quarters. It is better to report every year instead of over potting. Mature plants can be nurtured on slabs of cork bark or wood branches. At this stage, they require little more than admiration.



Courtesy of Marianne Matthews, AOS



I have a confession to make.....  
unfortunately, you are number two.... my  
Lc. Alarcon(Lc. Canhamiana coerulea x C. Dupreana)  
is number one!