



May  
2007

ORCHID SOCIETY, INC.

## OrchidView

### May in your Orchid Collection

Far from the cruelest, May is the kindest month to South Florida orchid growers. The weather in May is definitely settled into warm, even deliciously hot, with passing cold fronts only adding the delight of a pleasant change in temperature. The clean, bright days brimming with abundant sunlight and the low relative humidity create the high drying potential that orchids love. Now we can get our orchids off to a great start on the growing season by practicing our very best watering skills under ideal conditions. Water heavily when you water and allow the plants to dry thoroughly before watering heavily again. Drying 'hard' in the Spring will produce benefits all season. We want to get our plants well launched while leaving all the fungi high and dry.

The new shoots of *Oncidinae*, *grammatophyllums* and *dendrobiums* are quite cup-like; care must be taken that water does not stand too long in these immature growths. Water these types very thoroughly with two or three applications of water spaced 10-15 minutes apart. Water should run freely through the pot on each application. Saturated thoroughly in this fashion the plants will need only weekly watering. Even more care should be taken with the soft plicate leafed genera like *Catasetum*, *Mormodes*, *Cycnoches*, *Gongora*, *Calanthe* and *Thunia*. The new growths of this type are rolled together (the fancy word is convolute) like a collapsible drinking cup. These should be grown in water retentive media that should be saturated at each watering to permit the developing roots to have abundant water but allow the vulnerable new growth extra time to dry. Feel the weight of a pot when you have finished watering. Be sure it is heavy with water. If it's not water one more time. With plants properly spaced, good drying should not be difficult in the hot dry air of May. But do be careful to water early enough in the day to allow the tender new growth to thoroughly dry by twilight. With vandaceous orchids grown in slatted baskets, most growers find that they dry altogether too well in May. Vandas can be watered almost every morning in May. Indeed, a second light watering or misting in mid-afternoon in May and early June is often beneficial provided the crowns and leaf axils of the plants have time to dry completely by nightfall. Another strategy under high drying conditions is to bend the rules, at least occasionally, and water heavily in mid to late morning .

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### May Meeting

Monday May 7 , 2007

Cultural Study Class

6:30 Pm

Instructor Jeff Higel

7:30 PM

Guest Speaker

Rafael Romaro

Plantío La Orquídea

The Topic will be  
**Venezuelan Cattleyas and their color varieties**

There will be Plants for Sale  
Help support our growers by buying plants

Raffle Table & Show Table

Marie Selby  
Botanical Gardens  
Activities Center  
801 South Palm Avenue  
Sarasota, Florida

**An Urgent Request to Our Members; We would like to publish an up to date 2007 Directory of Members and Suppliers.**

**Unfortunately, some of our records are incomplete and obsolete. We would like the members to drop us a line, stating their correct address, telephone number and E Mail address. Please drop a card in the mail to**

**Linda Kokin  
594 Oak River Ct. Osprey, Fl  
34229**

The Sarasota Orchid Society Inc. (SOS) meets on the first Monday of each month at Selby Gardens, 800 South Palm Ave., Sarasota, FL. The SOS Inc., 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—\$20 for family. 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.

#### **SOCIETY OFFICERS**

##### **President**

Laurie Stoner (941) 358-8537  
laurissas@msn.com

##### **Vice President & Past President**

Monroe Kokin (941) 918-4414  
orchidpix@comcast.net

##### **Recording Secretary**

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carolynlangdon@tampabay.rr.com

##### **AOS Representative**

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orchidjosi@comcast.net

##### **Treasurer**

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mkorchid@comcast.net

##### **Members at Large**

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Brisa Cabrera 925-4349  
Mary Franklin 355-4915  
Roberta Arcand 756-8584  
Sally Werlinich 346-5465  
Manuel Chepote 388-2528  
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Sam Boyd 923-7610  
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##### **Newsletter**

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##### **Publicity/Advertising**

Carolyn Langdon - carolynlangdon@tampabay.rr.com  
Linda Kokin—orchidpix@comcast.net

## **Support Our Vendors and Suppliers**

Jone Ritchie  
Orchid Art  
941-922-3434

Tom Ritter Orchids  
Orlando  
407-855-8809

Palmer Orchids  
Robert Palmer  
941-322-1644

Nature on the Rocks  
Palm Coast, Fl  
888-490-9631

Fenders Flora Orchids  
Bill & Susan Fender  
941-412-1355

Canaima Orchids  
Michael Sinn  
941-751-0536

Stig Dalstrom  
Research Assistant  
Selby Gardens  
941-955-7553

Ellenton Growers  
Lisa & Bob Smith  
941-722-9308

Featherstone Orchids  
Ed Bugbee  
352-795-4614

Florida Suncoast Orchids  
Jim Roberts  
941-544-6831

Hicks Orchid Supplies  
John & Lois Hicks  
407-256-8518

Chapman Orchids  
Charles Chapman  
407-619-1907

Krull-Smith Orchids  
Jim Krull  
407-866-4134

Pelican Coast Farms  
Jerry Meola  
239-693-8967

Odom Orchids  
John Odom  
772-467-1386

RF Orchids  
Robert Fuchs  
305-245-4570

Orchid Mania  
Karen Harper  
941-322-1678

Wayne Hibbs  
Farm & Garden Center  
Jeff Hibbs  
941-366-4954

Orchid Etcetera  
Jeff and Walter  
941-921-9138

Plantio La Orquidea  
Rafael Romaro  
941-504-7737

### **JOIN THE AOS**

**Our new members should consider joining the American Orchid Society. They put out a marvelous monthly magazine with lots of information. Dues are U.S. single membership \$60.00 for a 2 year membership \$108.00. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Fl. 33446.**

**Sarasota Orchid Society, Inc.**  
**Minutes of the April 2007 Monthly Meeting**

April 4, 2007

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens' Activity Center - Great Room by the Bay

The Business meeting, presided by our President, Monroe Kokin, began promptly at 7:30 pm.

Roberta Arcand, Membership Chair, introduced our new members, Shirley Gongaware, Sherrie Balaity, Cherrie Randall, Nancy Malvers, Barbara Schott plus several guests for the evening, Rande Ridenour, 3June Long, Diane McKissick, Gerald Boyce and Richard Frary.

Jim Smith, Treasurer, reported the following:

Balance as of 01/17/07	\$13,997.00
Receipts	\$ 135.00
Expenditures	\$ 935.00
Balance as of 02/05/07	\$13,235.00
Receipts	\$ 7,370.00
Expenditures	\$ 3,982.00
Balance as of 03/20/07	\$16,623.00

The treasurer's report was approved and seconded.

Monroe suggested we spend \$500 to \$1000 on purchasing some new books for our library. A motion was made to have Jim Farney re-search some new books and come back to the Board next month with recommendations.

Monroe announced that there were 3 vacancies on the Board, Jim Smith, Marie Duffy and Sally Werlinich.

Our 2007 nominating committee, Billy Franklin, Roberta Arcand and Juanita Goolsby, has selected 3 nominees to fill these vacancies. Roberta Arcand announced Linda Kokin as Treasurer, Juanita Goolsby as Member-at-Large, and Sally Werlinich as Monthly Newsletter Chairperson. Carolyn Langdon, as Secretary, cast a vote to accept the nominations as read and the motion was carried.

Monroe stated he was stepping down as President since he has held the position of President from 2001-2003 and again from 2005-2007. He believes it is time to see another orchid enthusiast take the helm. Since Linda Kokin was willing to be Treasurer, Monroe did not want to incur a conflict of interest.

Laurie Stoner has graciously agreed to assume the position of the Presidency of the Sarasota Orchid Society. Monroe will then be Vice President and Past President and will focus on being Co-Chairman with Jo Davis of the Annual Orchid Show in January of 2008 and Chairperson of the Annual Orchid Auction in March of 2008, two tremendous responsibilities.

Jo Davis and Judy Robinson have generously volunteered to handle the Show Table each month.

During the break, Monroe held a reorganization meeting in which the 2007 officers were elected. The Secretary position was divided into Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. Sally Werlinich agreed to assume the responsibilities of the Recording Secretary and Carolyn Langdon will continue on as Corresponding Secretary along with her responsibilities of Public Relations.

**Our 2008 Annual Orchid Show will be a three-day event on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Set-Up will be Thursday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8 am to 12 noon. Vendors and Societies can start setting up on Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12 noon to 6 pm. All entries must be completed by 5 pm.**

**Judging will be Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am to 12 noon.**

**The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Sarasota Orchid Show will open to the public on Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon to 8 pm Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to 5 pm.**

**Tear down will begin at 5 pm and completed on the evening of Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Jo Davis is researching the judging rules of Vendors' Exhibits as well as Societies' Exhibits.

After a vote, the theme for this year's show was selected as A WORLD OF ORCHIDS (celebrate the countries where orchids grow)

The 2007 Orchid Show's Journal was a huge success and will a greater success for the 2008 Show, with your help. Sam and Al will need everyone's help to bring in Sponsors and Patrons. For the 2007 Show, we had 1500 Show Journals printed and all were depleted by the end of the first day. As a result of the Show's success, we plan to increase the printing for 2008 to 3,500 copies of the journal, along with including an ad for the March Auction as one of the pages.

New Business:

Venice Area Orchid Society is sponsoring a Bus Trip to the Redlands Orchid Show in Miami on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The cost for this trip is \$27 per person, which includes the bus, gratuity, and entrance fee into the show. A trip to Hawaii in September is also being offered.

Al Langdon and Karen Knuese are selling raffle tickets for some beautiful plants. We have Jeff Higel, Jim Roberts and Quest Orchids & Selby Gardens to thank for this great selection.

Orchid Shirts from Hawaii, in Rayon or in Cotton, in both Ladies and Gentlemen's sizes, were for sale at \$45 and \$37 respectively.

Our speaker this month is Jeff Higel of Orchids Etcetera gave a hands-on demonstration on repotting orchids. Jeff and Walter Perrin own and operate Orchids Etcetera on Honore Avenue in Sarasota. Jeff has been a constant supporter of our society and whenever called on, is more than happy to help. Jeff also conducts our monthly culture classes at 6:30 pm prior to our Monthly Monday Meetings.

Remember to vote for your favorite Members Choice and Species selection. Jeff Higel will select the Speaker's Choice and also discuss our member's plants on the Show Table.

The Plant Raffle was held, the Show Table discussed and the April Monthly Meeting adjourned around 10:30 pm. Thank you all for joining us this evening.

Respectfully submitted by  
Carolyn Langdon  
Secretary

**We need your input: Do you have any ideas on how to increase our membership? Do you know of any deserving student in the Sarasota/Bradenton area that would be interested in our \$1000 scholarship?**

**Treasurer's Report**

<b>Balance 3/20/07</b>	<b>\$ 16,623</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 422</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 2,367</b>

**Balance 4/14/07 \$ 14,678**

**Jim Smith is now accepting 2007 Dues. Please make your checks payable to the Sarasota Orchid Society P.O Box 19895 Sarasota Fl 34276-2895**

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Late watering on weekend mornings (you didn't want to get up early, any way) provide relief for plants that are more stressed on week days with their owners absent. Very occasionally, one needs to break the rules absolutely and water thoroughly (not just mist) in the mid to late afternoon so the plants can slowly absorb the water across the cool hours of the night. This is the season that one must be sure that Vanda roots have turned overall dark green when we have finished watering. Two applications of water to the point of runoff spaced several minutes apart should accomplish the required color change from white to totally green. Saturated roots are absolutely necessary to provide the plants the moisture the plants need to withstand the heat and dry air typical of April. Sometimes, particularly at this season, the roots will not change color even after the second or third application of water. This lack of response to water is because the roots have become so dry that they are repelling rather than absorbing water. They are behaving like a cork in a wine bottle. The grower must exert special effort to re-saturate the roots. Often this will require 4 or 5 watering to the point of run off spaced 15 minutes apart. Once the roots have been changed to the healthy overall green, normal applications of water should bring them around in future.

With increased heat and light and the onset of growth, fertilizer becomes more crucially important to the plants. Balanced time release pellets (13-13-13) can still be applied to potted plants provided the duration is 180 days or less. Most time release fertilizer breaks down faster under South Florida conditions and should be exhausted by October when we will want our plants to slow down. The brand marketed at retail as "Dynamite" is generally considered by professionals as superior in reliability to other types. In May, 15-5-15 can be applied to most genera at the rate of 2 tsp. per gal every two weeks. Vandas, ascocendas, *Aerides*, *et al* will benefit from a full tablespoon of 15-5-15 weekly during this high energy period. One can also apply high phosphorous 'Bloom Booster' fertilizer once or twice at this time to stimulate them to flower. High phosphorous (we use Millers' *Solugrow* 8-48-12) also stimulates root action and is important in getting all genera off to a good start on the growing season.

This is one of the few times that high phosphorus is perhaps beneficial. During the rest of the year it is to be avoided particularly with our alkaline water. Current science recommends fertilizers lower in nitrogen, much lower in phosphorus and higher in potassium, magnesium and calcium. Peter's Excel 15-5-15 is now the standard for year round use.

The warmth of May, alas, stimulates the growth of bugs as well as plants. Both thrips and mites thrive in the dry heat of April. Liquid dishwashing soap (at 2 oz per gal) will control both but be mindful that soap should not be applied to plants that are suffering from drought stress. Be sure that your plants are well hydrated before you apply soap. Water them extra hard the day before. To be effective soap must be used profusely. The plants should be washed in the solution to the point of wetting every nook and cranny of both the plant and its container. Only such thorough treatment can reach the reclusive thrips and be sure to touch all of the ever prolific mites. A second treatment at 7-10 days is necessary to control mites and a miticide such as *Kelthane* might be advised. *Orthene* which is the insecticide of choice for thrips (because of its residual action) is compatible with many miticides. Check with your county agent if in doubt.

May is the classic month to catch up with all the re-potting which you meant to do across the winter. New roots form fast in May; don't rot them off by over-potting or break them off by allowing the plant to wiggle in the pot. Tie them up: tie them down! April is a month for great moral decisions. When turning on the air conditioner for the first time, consider how much better an orchid grower you would be if you set the thermostat 2 or 3 degrees higher. You will find that you spend more time with your plants when you are accustomed to slightly higher temperatures and it is the master's shadow that makes the plants grow. Besides spending more time enjoying your orchids, when the FPL bill arrives, you can celebrate with some splendid additions to your collection.

May is a great month for naturalizing orchids in the garden. Perhaps its time to think of new homes for some of our burgeoning collection. It's also a great time to establish terete and semi terete vandas and other sun lovers such as reed stem epidendrums.



**Speakers Choice**  
***Sederia japonica***  
**Owner—Jo Davis**

## Up Coming Events

### April

28-29 Vero Beach Orchid Society Show,  
 McKee Botanical Garden, 350 U Hwy 1, Vero Beach, FL

### May

5-6 \*Brevard County Orchid Society Spring Show, Azan  
 Shrine Center, 1591 W. Eau Gallie Blvd., Melbourne, FL

12-13 Volusia County Orchid Society Show, Hester  
 Exhibit Hall, Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3100 East New  
 York Ave., DeLand, FL.

18-20 Redland International Orchid Festival, Redland Fruit  
 and Spice Park, Homestead, FL.

### August

12th Coalition for Orchid Species Symposium, Florida In-  
 ternational University, Miami, FL.

### September

15-16 Ridge Orchid Society Show, Tiger Town Hanger 2,  
 2301 Lakeland Hills Blvd., Lakeland, FL

### October

5-7 Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show. Contact: Pam  
 Heath, 3874 McKay Creek Dr., Largo, FL

### October

6-7 Ocala Orchid Society Show. Contact: Louis H. Martin,  
 9213 SW 197th Cir., Dunnellon, FL 34432; (352) 4894479

12-14 East Everglades Orchid Society Show, R.F. Orchids,  
 28100 SW 182nd Ave., Homestead, FL

20-21 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show, St. Lucie County  
 Fairgrounds, 15601 W. Midway Rd., Ft. Pierce, FL.

### November

24 Tampa Orchid Club. Contact: Doris Cook, 3205 Laurel  
 Dale Dr., Tampa, FL 336181032; (813) 9637454.

**Lets talk about sales.....**The vendors who lecture at our meetings take up their valuable time and effort to educate us on orchid culture in turn, they ask us to buy their plants especially if they are for sale at our meetings.

We know that there are lots of places to buy orchids in our area but as members of SOS, we should

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Vandas, Strap leaf, Terete and Semi-terete: What in a Name?

Although changes in botanical nomenclature can seem a nuisance at times, they mostly give us clues to the true nature of our plants. Two very different genera were "lumped" in *Vanda* in early literature. The group that we now call *Papilionanthe* was referred to as "terete vandas" although their culture is quite distinct from "strap leaf" IE (true *Vanda*). Hybrids between the two genera are also registered as "*Vanda*" and are referred to as semi-teretes and quarter teretes. *Papilionanthe* and the semi-terete and quarter terete vandas require very bright light and can (indeed should) be grown in full sun with abundant water and fertilizer (see below). True vandas and *Euanthe sanderiana* will not survive long under these conditions. In tropical mountains at sufficient altitude "strap leaf" vandas can also take full sun because of the cooler air temperatures and greater cloud cover. Don't try this in "Sunny Florida"

Papilionanthes are scrambling epiphytes that will grow on and in most anything but are happiest with a compost that is water retentive but light and airy. Various mixtures of bark, charcoal, soil, brick and light weight rocks are effective. The easiest, to my mind, because the simplest, is pure cypress mulch straight out of the bag. To any of these mixes should be added a slow release fertilizer. Dry sheep manure is excellent but the new resin coated fertilizers which last for 6-8 months even under sub-tropical conditions are the simplest long term solution. The best currently is the 13-13-13 formula being marketed under the brand name "Dynamite" One application of these in the spring will usually last the growing season and start the break down of the organic material in the media thus continuing the steady fertilizer regime through an entire year. The wiry roots of the plant can be directed toward the medium where they will eventually form a thick mat, and become self sustaining for several more years with only an annual application of low release fertilizer. Papilionanthes will also enjoy a little of whatever liquid fertilizer is being applied to your other orchids, whenever it is applied. They are hungry bears!

When treated properly papilionanthes will grow three feet (one meter) or more per year. They can be top cut annually in late spring or early summer and the cuttings added to the original pot. The stumps will produce one or more off-shoots, thus effectively doubling the stock every year. A good measure of the success of the culture of these plants is the length of the internode of bare stem which appears just above the leaf.

Under the best conditions this internode should be 1/2 inch or more in length (1-1.5 cm.). If it is not, more fertilizer and water can be given. It is frequently stated that these plants require drought stress to bloom but my experience is otherwise: that blooming is determined by day length and strong, well-watered, well-grown plants bloom best.

Few fungus diseases affect these hardy, semi-terrestrials; however, Southern Blight (*Sclerotium*) can prove disastrous. Should the characteristic web-like mycelium appear, immediate action is required. Drenches of Natriphene and Terrachlor are effective. In severe cases top cuttings can be taken and the old stumps destroyed. Insects, also are seldom a problem; scales and mealy bugs seem only to affect weak plants grown in too much shade. Mites can be a problem in periods of dry weather. The bronze russetting of the stems are the tell-tale sign. Applications of soap (2oz per gal/50cc per 4 liters) or recommended miticides, twice, at a 7-10 day interval, usually is effective.

Although these plants may be a challenge to bloom in the most temperate zones, mastering their culture is amply rewarded with profuse, long-lasting blooms in most tropical and sub-tropical areas. And when cut, their flowers, so reminiscent of gigantic sweet peas, are wonderful in bouquets and centerpieces.

## Tasks for May

Full speed ahead with re-potting

Water heavily and well

Don't forget to fertilize

Spray for mites and thrips



P.O. Box 19895  
 Sarasota., FL 34276-2895



**SPECIES OF THE MONTH**  
**Epi. stanfordianum**  
**Owner - Al Langdon**



**MEMBERS CHOICE**  
**Jel. Frances Fox X Schom. tibicinis**  
**Owner—Jo Davis**