



sarasota orchid view society

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

September—Annual Picnic

October—Michael Sinn – “Orchid Hunting in Venezuela”

November—Fred Clarke will speak on “Growing and Breeding Catasetums”.

Fred offers clubs a 10% discount and no shipping costs. Members can call and mention SOS membership when they preorder or e-mail fred.clarke@att.net. See sunsetvalleyorchids.com for his catalog.

December—Annual Auction

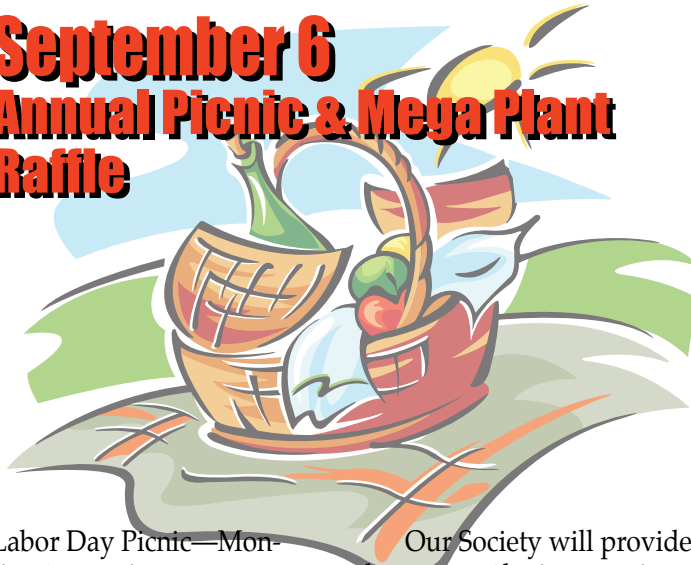
January—Annual Show

February 7th—Bob Scully – tentatively titled “What’s New in Asia”

Meetings are on the 1st Monday of each month. Doors open at 6:15 pm. Cultural Study Group starts promptly at 6:30 pm. Regular meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 811 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota, Florida
www.sarasotaorchidsociety.org

September 6 Annual Picnic & Mega Plant Raffle



Labor Day Picnic—Monday September 6 at 6 pm at the Selby Gardens Activity Center—our usual meeting place. Watch for possible construction on Orange Ave.

We will not have a formal meeting or a speaker this evening—just a good chance to get together and get to know one another better! We do plan to have a special plant raffle and are asking our members to bring a plant that you would like to contribute to the raffle. Should be fun.

Our Society will provide the meat—Chicken & Ribs, also coffee, paper plates, flatware, cups, & Ice. All Society members and a guest are invited to attend—please call Susan Gerhardt @ 284-7463 or Jo Davis @ 228-5501 by Wednesday, September 1st. to sign up.

Please bring a dish to serve approximately 12. Members whose last name starts with:

A to H—Salad
I to Q—Side dish
R to Z—Desserts

September in Your Orchid Collection

By Dr. Martin Motes

September Climate Data
Average high: 89.0
Average low: 75.7
Average mean: 82.4
Average rainfall: 8.38"

September looms as the only truly dismal month in South Florida. Even without the prospect of the unspeakable 'H' word, September disheartens since it is easily the dampest, dullest month in the year. Although more inches of rain fall in June, more hours of rain occur in the often slow, seemingly endless drizzles of September. Frequently a day

Please see "September" on page 5

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ORCHID VIEW is published monthly by the Sarasota Orchid Society and is available to members in either printed or digital format.

September

The Sarasota Orchid Society Inc.

(SOS) meets on the first Monday of each month at Selby Botanical 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 \$20; \$25 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 and other affiliates of the American Orchid Society.

www.sarasotaorchidsociety.org

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JOIN THE AOS

If you are not a member of the American Orchid Society, let me briefly tell you about the premier organization devoted to our hobby. The AOS is the world's largest specialty horticulture group and offers information not available elsewhere. The monthly magazine, *Orchids*, is the most highly-regarded orchid periodical in the world. The photography and articles are outstanding. Membership entitles you to a 10% discount on publications and your dues support conservation and educational programs. As a new member you will receive a copy of *Your First Orchid*, a book chock full of advice and an *Almanac* listing all affiliate organizations (Florida has the most with 58), growers, special interest groups, descriptions of awards, and many more resources. Membership forms are available at the sign-in table for anyone who needs one.

The AOS also publishes the *Awards Quarterly (Now on CD AQ Plus)*, with detailed descriptions of 200-300 awarded orchids with color photographs. I eagerly await mine every three months.

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

Monroe

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UPCOMING SHOWS

September, 2010

18-19—Ridge Orchid Society Show, Lake Mirror Center, 121 S. Lake Ave., Lakeland, FL.

October, 2010

1-3—Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show, Minnreg Hall, 6340 126th Ave, Largo, FL 33773

2-3—Gainesville Orchid Society Show, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, 4700 SW 58th Dr., Gainesville, FL

16-17—Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show, Fort Pierce Community Center, Veterans Memorial Park, Fort Pierce, FL

29-31—Delray Beach Orchid Society Show, Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach, FL.

January, 2011
8-9—54th Annual Sarasota Orchid Society Show and Sale, Sarasota Auditorium on US 41



Bc. Spotted Clown [C. Lulu x B. nodosa]

For members who are receiving the newsletter by mail, you are missing out on some wonderful color pictures taken during the year in our newsletter.

If you have computer access and are getting the newsletter by snail mail, you can switch and save the Society \$7.00 per year per person.

Please contact me and I'll be glad to add you to our e-mail list.

Monroe
orchidpix@comcast.net

Member Advertising

Newsletter advertisements are \$120.00 per year. Checks payable to Sarasota Orchid Society may be sent to:

Roberta Arcand
8727 53rd Terrace East
Bradenton, FL 34211

LET'S TALK ABOUT SALES
The vendors who lecture at our meetings take their valuable time and effort to educate us on orchid culture. In turn, they ask us to buy their plants which they bring to sell at our meetings.

We know that there are lots of places to buy orchids in our area but as members of SOS, we should really make a point of patronizing the speakers and advertisers when we buy new plants.

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HELPING HAND HOME SERVICES

September from page 1

or two can pass without so much as a solid hour of truly bright sunshine to lift our spirits and dry out our plants. Days are growing much shorter also, with long nights when our plants are wet from the frequent rains. Coming at



Rth. Abbeville [Bouton D'Or x *Rlc. Campobello*]

the end of the rainy season when disease pressure has been building, September presents the maximum opportunity for fungal and bacterial diseases to take hold of our orchids. Hopefully careful watering practices and the judicious use of fungicides (as recommended last month) will have diminished the potential for disease in our collections. But even in the best managed collection, September calls for extra vigilance. Keep a close eye out for problems and remove immediately any plant that shows the first sign of fungus to a dry location to prevent the disease being spread by splashing rain drops. Good hygiene is particularly important this month. Clean up growing areas and remove any dead leaves, twigs or other organic debris from the plants and the ground. In

September numerous diseases that linger in decaying plant material find the ideal conditions that allow them to jump to the living tissue of our prize orchids. Such problems can develop more quickly in September than in any other month. September is a month to stay home and be there for your orchids. Look at every plant, every day.

September, above all, is the month that the old Florida growers' adage that "One needs a cat to grow good orchids," holds true. By leaving enough space between plants on a shade house bench for a cat to walk around without knocking them down, one provides the good air circulation which is absolutely essential in periods of protracted wet weather. Well spaced plants are much less likely to encounter disease problems this month. Remember that your plants will have grown considerably over the summer and that the space they occupied comfortably in the Spring has now been filled by their own growth as well as their neighbors. Space them out. Now is perhaps the time to decide to hang some of the larger ones where they will dry much more quickly. The small cute ones left behind on the bench will be very appreciative of the extra air and light.

Another excellent way to increase air circulation and enhance rapid drying is by trimming excess (particularly vertical) branches



Rhyncattleanthe (*Rth.*) Laurie Tsuda x *C. walkeriana*

from all trees which support orchids or are near to orchid growing areas. By increasing the light and air flow one will also garner the benefit of reducing the possibility that such trees will be knocked down in a severe storm. Trees trimmed to permit proper air circulation and light for orchids were frequently the only ones which survived upright after Andrew. As there is rarely time to do such pruning when storm warnings are actually posted and creating extra debris is not then wise, now is the time to protect both your orchids and your trees. Days are shortening quickly now and more hours of rain and overcast skies mean that your orchids will benefit from all the additional light that they can get. Beginning the process of "hardening off" our plants

by allowing more light to reach them will give them a leg up on the coming cool weather as well.

As orchids grown outside are so frequently wet in September, it is often difficult to apply fertilizer or fungicides to the plants because they are already damp. Catch 22!- the plants need extra protection because they are wet and because they are wet one can't apply chemicals to protect them. In these circumstances, many growers find Quaternary ammonium compounds useful. Sold as Physan, Consan, Greenshield or Triathalon these disinfectants dissolve totally in water and can be applied to wet plants. Strengths vary so follow the label. Although Federal regulations say they should not, many growers substitute the cheap



Brassada Orange Delight 'Starbek Orange' HCC/AOS

and readily available pool algicide which contain the same active ingredient. Home Depot sells a brand called "Pool Time" which could be purchased legally to disinfect walks and pathways at the rate of 1 to 2 tsps. per gallon and would certainly do no harm at that rate, if it came into contact with the orchids no more frequently than every 7-10 days.

This month when those brief periods of dry weather permit growers to think of applying other pesticides, they are tempted to think of giving their starving charges fertilizer as well. This is generally not a good idea with any fertilizer containing phosphorous (the second in the numerical series of three numbers). Phosphorus changes the PH of water and tends to interact with many other chemicals reducing their effectiveness. In September we need as much fire power from our chemical arsenal as we can get. A much better strategy in general to add some nutrients employs potassium nitrate (KNO₃) 13-0-43 at a rate of 1 tbs per gallon of water. One should ask for the type usually referred to as "spray grade". In general sympodial orchids are

reaching the end of their growth cycle as September progresses so a reduction in nitrogen from the potassium nitrate substitution or a missed fertilizer application usually does little harm to orchids grown outside in South Florida. Soft cane dendrobiums of the "Nobile" types will actually benefit from the reduction in feeding. It's time to wean these deciduous types before cutting them off entirely from the grub next month. Vandas and Phalaenopsis on the other hand can be fertilized as often as weather permits and will



Bulb. blumei

bloom all the stronger for this extra attention in the coming months.

Snails can also be a problem again in September. Even if you earlier used the "lightly, frequently" baiting suggested in July, snails can travel long distances on wet ground in the dull, dark weather of September. Chances are your neighbors have not been as good as you on snail control. So, once more with



Bulbophyllum [(sulawesii x nymphopolitanum) x echinolabium]

feeling: snail bait "lightly, frequently" to give a warm welcome to any recently arrived mollusks. With an eye to the heavens (or at least to the TV screen), removing any old boards, empty pots or other debris that might fly about in a storm will also render the humble snails homeless. An opportunity to re-double your virtue and save some precious moments in the face of the storm that we hope never comes!

Tasks for September

1. Space plants to permit more air circulation
2. Trim trees to permit more light and lessen the wind load on them
3. Clean up growing area removing any dead leaves or other organic matter
4. Tidy up old pots or other objects on the ground
5. Apply snail bait; lightly, frequently
6. Spray quaternary ammonium chloride.

August minutes of SOS:

President Kokin called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Carolyn Langdon introduced the new members and guests.

Minutes of the July meeting were approved as printed in the August newsletter on a motion and second.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report.

President Kokin announced that we are in the process of starting the 2011 Show. The dates for the 2011 Show will be January 8 & 9 with set-up on the 7th. Jo Davis has a sign-up book for volunteers to fill various jobs. No job is too small.

After the break, Vice-Pres Laurie Stoner introduced Gerardo de Torre. Gerry joined the Panama Canal Museum in 2004 and became a Trustee the same year. In addition to accessioning, building exhibits, and general museum operations, Gerry is Chairman of the Collections Committee. He is also very active in the museum's outreach program, giving lectures and presentations to civic, private, travel, church and retirement groups. His presentation was enjoyed by all.

Roy Krueger went over the plant table, & the raffle was done by Al Langdon.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

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Bob's Notes

Plant Grooming

Participating in several orchid shows recently, both here and abroad, I noticed that exhibitors are giving less and less attention to proper grooming of their orchid treasures. In fact, at our own monthly plant tables, one can regularly see beautifully flowered specimen which, unfortunately, are not as impressive as they might otherwise be if they were carefully groomed. How many of us could proudly bring a child to graduation with scuffed shoes,



Odontocidium Tiger Crow

hair amuss and shirt tail trailing? So with our passionate pursuit of the orchid growing hobby, why would we want to present a plant grown all year, or maybe longer, prior to its flowering... sporting pesticide or water-stained leaves, dried-cataphyll enshrouded pseudobulbs, and a drooping inflorescence with the expectation



Miltonia Honolulu Spectacular

that others will admire the accomplishment. In showing our plants, we not only hope for recognition, but most of us are genuinely interested in sharing the results of our growing techniques. So, in the future, let's begin spending more time preparing our plants for a presentation of which we can really be proud.

If the inflorescence or flower(s) does not hold itself fully erect, stake it... usually well before the flowers actually open... in order to encourage their opening with the best orientation to the admirer.

If the plant has pseudobulbs, carefully re-

move the cataphyll which has dried after serving as a protective or supporting sheath during "bulb" development. Be cautious not to nick the "bulb" with a fingernail while doing this clean-up.

Clean the foliage and pseudobulbs with a soft tissue or towel, using soapy water at first; then, after a clear water rinse, wipe on a weak solution of water and evaporated milk to bring out the nice leaf color. Similar results may also be obtained using a weak solution of Safer's Insecticidal Soap.

Remove all old inflorescences and perhaps any severely damaged or yellowed foliage, de-

pending on the overall condition of the plant and the prospect that it will survive surgery. Remove weeds growing in the pot.

If the plant will be placed on a table as an



Wilsonara Linda Isler [Oda. Margaret Holm x Onc. Debutante]

individual unit, consider wash-ing off any algae or moss growing on the exterior of its container.

Try to have a legible label with the plant as a reference for those responsible for recognizing it during the proceedings. And there are also books or references available among the membership for those attempting to find names on hybrids which list only parents; call a fellow member for help on this. Proper and complete identification is important.

Not a complicated process, grooming requires some advance planning and a little last-minute effort. You'll find the results especially satisfying... and the judges, even fellow society members, will notice.

54th Annual Orchid Show

The Sarasota Orchid Society will present their 54th Annual Orchid Show & Sale on January 8th & 9th, 2011. This American Orchid Society sanctioned show will be held at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail, US #41, Sarasota, Florida 34236. Show hours are Saturday and Sunday 9 am to 5 pm. Admission charge is \$5.00 children under 8 are free.

"Wild About Orchids" the theme for Sarasota Orchid Society's 2011 Celebration, will showcase thousands of award-winning orchids in the displays created by orchid vendors and local orchid societies. A variety of orchids and orchid related accessories will also be available for purchase from expert orchid growers and artists from



the state of Florida, including American Group Travel, Byrd Orchids, Canaima Orchids, Chapman's Orchids, Featherstone Orchids, Florida SunCoast Orchids, Hicks Orchids Supplies, Jone' Ritchie Artist, Judy Robertson Orchid Ceramics, Krull-Smith Orchids, Marie Selby Botanical Book Store, Marie Selby Botani-

cal Garden, Nature on the Rocks, Odom's Orchids, Orchids Etcetera, Plantio La Orquidea, Stig Dalstrom Botanical Art, The Orchid Specialist, and much more. Breathtaking displays of orchids will be showcased by Sarasota Orchid Society, and many other local orchid societies and Marie Selby Botanical Gar-

dens. Throughout the two show days, visitors will have the opportunity to interact with the growers, purchase orchids and related items, and to immerse themselves in the beauty of orchids. There will also be educational classes given by our local growers.

Hibbs Farm & Garden Supply & Marie Selby Botanical Gardens are proud sponsors of the Sarasota Orchid Society 54th Annual Orchid Show.

For more information, please contact 2011 Orchid Show Co-chairs, Jo Davis at 941-228-5501, email srqjd@verizon.net or Monroe Kokin at 941-586-7795, email orchidpix@comcast.net

We welcome your visit at www.sarasotaorchidsociety.org.

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Orchids: The Ultimate Plant Hobby

In the world of flowers, orchids are the undisputed champions. Once the expensive interest of the wealthy, orchids today are within reach of all. One of the oldest and best organized of plant hobbies, orchid culture now enjoys worldwide popularity. Their incredible beauty and diversity captivate men and women of every walk of life.

If you haven't grown orchids, you are missing one of nature's finest offerings.

You Can Grow Orchids

If you can grow houseplants, you can grow orchids. With some attention to light and temperature, there are many popular and satisfying species and hybrids that will do well in the home or out-of-doors. Like any other plant, an orchid must have the growing conditions it needs to survive. But they are amazingly sturdy and resilient.

Orchids Are Challenging

Because there are so many of them, there is always more to learn about orchids. New discoveries are made every day, giving the world of orchids

an ever-widening horizon. It is an interest that provides as much of a challenge as you like.

Are Orchids Hard To Grow?

No. They are no harder to grow than many flowering popular plants. Like any plant, an orchid needs water, food, light, and air. If you can grow other garden and house plants, you can grow orchids. All it takes is a little understanding and care.

Aren't Orchids Parasites?

Absolutely not! Of the 20,000 species of orchids that grow around the world, not one is parasitic. In nature, many orchids cling to trees and bushes as a growth habit; but they take nothing from the host plant and do not injure it in any way. Orchids that grow on trees are called epiphytes or, more commonly, air plants.

Do You Need A Greenhouse?

Not necessarily. Many popular orchids can be grown in your home in a window or under lights. Some are able to withstand a light frost. When selecting plants, choose those that will survive in the environment you have to offer.

Aren't All Orchids The Same?

To the contrary. No plant family is more diverse. After all, the orchid family is the largest plant

family in nature. From the thimble-sized *Mystacidium caffrum* to the 20-foot-tall *Renanthera storiei*, orchids take amazingly different shapes, forms, and growth habits. Some orchids produce blossoms no larger than a mosquito; some orchid flowers are as large as a dinner plate. Your familiar corsage orchid is just one of thousands of attractive types that can be grown in this area, given the proper environment.

Do Orchids Come From The Jungles?

Some do. But every country in the world, and every province in Canada, has its orchid species, including the Arctic. Ontario, for example, has more than 60 species of native orchids.

Are Orchids Fragrant?

Some are powerfully scented, others less so. A few orchid fragrances defy description, while others resemble familiar fragrances - raspberry, coconut, lilacs and citrus. Others have no scent, but rely on shape and color to attract insects or birds for pollination.

How Long Do Blooms Last?

It depends on the type, plus factors of culture and care. Blooms of hybrids of the *Cattleya* family may last from one to four weeks on the plant. Those of the *Phalaenopsis* family commonly last from one to four months.

WHAT SORT OF SOIL DO THEY NEED?

Most require none. In nature, orchids can be divided into four types according to growing conditions. Most are classified as epiphytes, or air plants, which grow on trees. The rock growers, or lithophytes, cling to the surfaces of rocks. Saprophytes are those that grow in mulch, often on the forest floor. Finally, there are the terrestrials which anchor themselves in soil or sand. As most orchids are epiphytes, they can be grown in tree bark, crumbled charcoal, pebbles, or on wooden or cork plaques.

Aren't Orchids Terribly Expensive?

Not any more. Once a rich man's hobby, orchids are now within the reach of any income. Modern reproductive methods make it possible for growers to enjoy the finest plants for a few dollars. You can spend as much or as little as you like on your hobby. But you should know that trying to own just one orchid is like trying to eat just one peanut.

Should They Be Protected From Drafts?

By no means. As a matter of fact, orchids require moving air. They do best where there is a steady breeze. After all, in nature, orchids are subject to all kinds of weather. **MUST ORCHIDS BE KEPT HOT?**
Like most plants, orchids

prefer a middle range of temperatures, neither too hot nor too cold. Some warm-growing species can take hot weather; some cool-growers are not harmed by subfreezing temperatures. It depends on the plant. Generally, however, the climate in the home favors the intermediate species. Orchids from more severe climates that are accustomed to cool or warm temperatures year-round do not do as well.

Are Orchids Short Lived?

Most are very long-lived. In fact, some species are virtually immortal, given the proper attention. Divisions or propagations of orchids discovered in the 19th century are still growing and blooming today... a botanical heritage from an earlier century.

How Often Do Orchids Bloom?

Again, it depends on the plant. Some bloom once a year; others bloom several times a year; some bloom continuously.

When Do Orchids Bloom?

The most popular types bloom in winter and spring, but orchids may be found that bloom in any month of the year.

Can You Transport Orchids?

Yes. That's one of their greatest assets. Orchids are portable. Because they grow in pots or baskets, they can be carried anywhere. Many growers

use blooming plants as living centerpieces in their homes. Orchids are routinely mailed and shipped across country and around the world.

Where Can I Learn More About Orchids?

There are many excellent books available to help a novice grower learn more. Most bookstores and public libraries have them. Also, some commercial orchid growers offer a selection of books for sale.

The Internet has many web sites devoted to the enjoyment of this hobby. You will find vendors, growing information and other hobbyists. There are also chat groups and mailing lists available for making personal contact with orchid experts.

Come One...come All

Sale

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**Ridge Orchid Society
hosts 48th Annual
Show**

The Ridge Orchid Society will present its 48th annual show, The Colorful World of Orchids, on Saturday, September 18th, from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, September 19th, from 12 noon to 5 pm at the Lake Mirror Center, 121 South Lake Avenue, Lakeland, Florida.

There will be a wide variety of beautiful orchids arranged in lovely displays designed by orchid societies and nurserymen from all around Central Florida. Experienced orchid growers will give lectures on orchid culture, and members will be available to repot your overgrown orchids at the repotting table. There will be vendors selling orchids, orchid-growing supplies and other orchid gifts.

This event is sponsored by The Ridge Orchid Society. Admission is \$2.00.



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

www.sarasotaorchidsociety.org

The Hospitality Committee will provide the following at our monthly meetings:

**Cheese, Crackers, Fruit
Hot Coffee and fixings
Iced tea—sweet and un-
sweetened, Water**

**Any additions to the table
will be greatly appreciated.**

**Contributions can be made
at the table.**

**Hospitality Committee
Members:
Susanne Gerhardt ... 922-8359
Linda Peel 323-2075
Rena Gerhardt 966-7071**

PLEASE BRING FOOD



Phal. pulchra



*Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Rlc.) Toshie
Aoki 'Pizazz' AM/AOS*



*Myrmecophila (formerly Schom-
burgkia) thomsoniana*

**Winners from August 2nd
meeting**

Species of the Month
Phal. pulchra
Owner: Laurie Stoner

Members Choice
Rhyncholaeliocattleya
Owner: Jo Davis

Speakers Choice
Myrmecophila
Owner: Barry Reese

**ALL photos in this issue of the
Orchid View are courtesy of
Monroe Kokin**