



# sarasota orchid society **view**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

**February 7—Bob Scully**  
—tentatively titled:  
“Orchids in the  
Sand’s Shadow”

**March 7—Keith Emig,**  
**Winter Haven Orchid**  
**Nursery—tentatively**  
**titled: “Growing**  
**Paphiopedilums”**

**April 4—Annual Meeting**

**May 2—Paul Phelps—**  
**“What’s in Your**  
**Water?”**

**June 6—Phillip Hamil-**  
**ton, Broughtonias**

**July—No Meeting**

**August 1—Alan Koch,**  
**Gold Coast Orchids—**  
**Miniature Cattleyas**  
**for the Home**

**September 5—Annual**  
**Picnic**

**Meetings are on the 1st**  
**Monday of each month.**  
**Doors open at 6:15 pm.**  
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**starts promptly at 6:30 pm.**  
**Regular meeting starts at**  
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## February in Your Orchid Collection

### February Climate Data

Average high: 77.7  
Average low: 60.7  
Average mean: 69.1  
Average rainfall: 2.07”

Despite the bloom on the avocados and the burgeoning new leaves on the live oaks, February is not spring in South Florida. Danger of freeze continues past mid month and frost can occur still into March. Even if the weather is balmy it’s too early to let down our guard or take down any protection we have mounted against the cold. The trend however is toward the positive as each lengthening day brings extra hours of warming sunshine to begin waking

our plants from their long winter’s rest.

February characteristically brings a wide swing of day to night temperatures, ideal for spiking ascocendas and vandas but also wringing from the air heavy dews and dense fog. Whilst these add a romantic atmosphere to the South Florida landscape, Wuthering Heights is singularly devoid of snails and slugs (much less Botrytis). The silvery carpet of dew provides a silky path to our orchids for snails and slugs which can range far, under these favorable conditions. They are eager to make a nice meal of your Phalaenopsis leaves or the soft crowns of your vandas before they retire during the dry months of March and April only to dream of the fresh shoots of the sympodial orchids brought forth by the first rains of May. Now is the



*It is a shame to wait all year for flowers and then have them ruined by Botrytis. The fungus is prevalent during cool, damp spells of winter.*

*Photo from an article by Susan Jones from the NOVEMBER 2003 issue of Orchids—The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society. Copyright American Orchid Society - www.aos.org*

time to give them a rude awakening. Remember that snail bait is most effectively applied lightly (scatter the pellets every few feet) and frequently (every 7 to 10 days). Two or three applications should do the job.

The heavy fog which can cause condensation on leaves even under cover can also bring trou-

See “February” on page 5

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**2011**

# February

**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](http://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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SHELTON A. THORNE

## UPCOMING SHOWS

### February 2011

**5-6—Venice Area Orchid Society Show**, Venice Community Center, Venice, FL

**12-13—Boca Raton Orchid Society Show**, Safe Schools Institute, 1790 NW Spanish River Blvd., Boca Raton, FL

### March 2011

**4-6—Martin County Orchid Society Show**, Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616 SE Dixie Highway, Stuart, FL

**11-13—Orchid Society of Coral Gables Show**, Fairchild Botanical Gardens, Coral Gables, FL

**11-13—Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Orchid Show**, Fairchild Botanical Gardens, Coral Gables, FL

**12-14—Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show**, <<http://www.pslos.org/>> Port St. Lucie Community Center, 2195 Airso Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL

**19-20—Jacksonville Orchid Society Show**, Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville, FL

**25-27—Naples Orchid Society Show**, First Presbyterian Church, Naples, FL

**25-26—Englewood Area Orchid Society Show**, Englewood United Methodist Church, 700 East Dearborn St., Englewood, FL



*C. tigrina* (syn. *C. leopoldii*)

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.

Carolyn Langdon  
[carolynlangdon@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:carolynlangdon@tampabay.rr.com)

### Member Advertising

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

Laurie Stoner  
5648 Country Lakes Dr.  
Sarasota, FL 34243

**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.

**Monroe & I would like to give a huge heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who worked so hard to make the 2011 Orchid Show a great success.**

*Monroe & Jo  
Co-chairman*

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**HELPING HAND HOME SERVICES**

"February" from page 1



If conditions are proper, *Botrytis* spores can quickly spread from the lesions it makes.

Photo from an article by Susan Jones from the NOVEMBER 2003 issue of **Orchids—The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society**. Copyright American Orchid Society - [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

ble. *Botrytis* is a fungus disease that can disfigure flowers with small black spots. Particularly apparent and annoying on white *Phalaenopsis*, *Botrytis* can ruin other flowers as well. Control is typically achieved in commercial greenhouses with fungicide in aerosol forms and by running fans to prevent condensation on the flowers. The latter option is also available to collectors. A small fan turned on the spiking and opened flowers at night will greatly alleviate the pressure of *Botrytis*. So will, to a degree, the application of soap which we suggested in January to control mites. Bicarbonate of soda, ordinary baking soda, at 1Tbs. per gal will help as well. Quaternary ammonium compounds (Physan, RD40, Consan, pool algicide) also give some control. Maintaining long lasting flowers like *Phalaenopsis*, dendrobiums and bifoliate cattleyas in more perfect condition is well

worth the effort. Having waited so long for the flowers we want to enjoy them as long as possible and they do all last longer in cool weather.

The lower overall temperatures of February call for less frequent and lighter applications of fertilizer as was the practice in January. If any reddening of the foliage persists another application of Epsom salts (1 Tbs per gal), preferably in combination with Potassium nitrate, is called for; Nitrate nitrogen being more available to the plants under cooler conditions. If your resolve holds steady not to water (or above all) fertilize those Himalayan dendrobiums, your reward may shortly become evident in bursting flower spikes.

Like the avocados and the live oaks, many cattleyas and other sympodial orchids have bloomed and are just commencing new growth in February. Right after flowering is usually an excellent time for repotting from the plant's perspective and the cool day time temperatures in the greenhouse are hospitable to the orchid grower as well. It's still a bit early to re-bask vandas But an early start on the cattleyas will allow plenty of time and energy for those Spring chores which are right around the corner. With that thought setting out to secure a good supply of pots in anticipation of the potting season ahead is on February's agenda.

### Tasks for February

- Spread snail bait lightly.
- Spread again lightly in two weeks.
- Spray for *Botrytis* using Fla. recommended fungicides or bicarbonate of soda
- Begin Spring potting
- Watch for mites

## Attention Sarasota Orchid Society Members!

We will be needing your blooming orchids for the following local Orchid Shows in which we are participating.

**MANATEE RIVER ORCHID SHOW**—An American Orchid Society (AOS) Judged Show. Saturday, January 22, 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, January 23, 10 am to 4 pm. Friday, January 21st —SET-UP for our SOS exhibit at the Manatee Convention and Civic Center, 1 Haban Blvd, Bradenton, FL 34221.

Prior to Tuesday, January 18th, please notify Jo Davis 228-5501 or Laurie Stoner 358-8537, if you have any Blooming Orchids you wish to show in our SOS exhibit.

Please include the correct name of each plant you wish to exhibit in our SOS Display.

Please deliver your plants to Jo or Laurie on Thursday afternoon, January 20th, unless you would like to bring them yourself to the

set-up.

This is your opportunity to see what the exhibiting growers are selling and you may be able to purchase at this time.

Tear Down will be Sunday Afternoon, January 23 at 4 pm—at which time you may pick up your plant/s.

### VENICE ORCHID

**SHOW**—An American Orchid Society (AOS) Judged Show. Saturday and Sunday, February 5th and 6th. Friday, Feb. 4th—SET-UP for our SOS exhibit at the Venice Community Center, 326 S Nokomis Ave in Venice.

Prior to Tuesday, Feb. 1st, please notify Jo Davis 228-5501 or Laurie Stoner 358-8537, if you have any Blooming Orchids you wish to show in our SOS exhibit.

Please include the correct name of each plant you wish to exhibit in our SOS Display.

Please deliver your plants to Jo or Laurie on Thursday afternoon, February 3rd, unless you would like to bring them yourself to the set-up.

This gives you an opportunity to see what the exhibiting growers are selling and you may be able to purchase at this time.

Tear Down will be Sunday Afternoon, Feb. 6th at 4 pm—at which time you may pick up your plant/s.

Your participation would be much appreciated!

Thank you,

**Jo Davis**

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**Laurie Stoner**

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Orchid Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the membership application form above, sign and mail along with your membership check for \$20 (single) or \$25 (family), to:  
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All photos this page by  
Monroe Kokin

## BEGINNER'S SERIES

### Orchid Culture — Nomenclature, and Seedlings “Versus” Mericlones

By Stephen R. Batchelor

BEGINNING and in-veterate orchid growers alike are constantly being offered either seedlings or mericlones as possible additions to their collections. Both are available either in flasks, community pots, or individually in two- to three-inch, and larger, pots, but they are produced by fundamentally different propagation techniques. This difference has an important effect on the flowering outcome of each, something every potential buyer should be well aware of.

#### SEEDLINGS

Seedlings are a result of the sexual propagation of orchids. This process begins with the placement of pollinia on the stigmatic surface of a flower's column, an act called pollination. Assuming compatibility, pollen tubes will then grow down from the stigma, via the column, into the ovary. Here the fusing of genetic material from the male (pollen) and female (ovule) components will take place. Called fertilization, this event occurs some two to three months

after pollination. Each of the countless seeds resulting will have its own particular set of genes. With germination, growth and flowering, these genes manifest themselves in a seedling's unique vegetative and floral characteristics.

Orchidists recognize as genetically distinct every orchid which results from seed, whether in nature or in the laboratory. When in cultivation, such sexually produced orchids are called cultivars. Exceptional cultivars, or those to be propagated into two or more plants, must be given a cultivar name. This is done to carry on the separate



identity of each cultivar, a crucial distinction. By way of illustration, consider *Rhyncholaeliocattleya Green Dragon* 'Lenette', [above] AM/ AOS Originally, an unspecified number of seedlings were produced when one particular cultivar of *Rhyncholaeliocattleya Harriet Moseley* (*Rlc. Deesse* X *Cattleya bicolor*) was bred with

one particular cultivar of the species *Cattleya bicolor*. With the flowering of the first of these seedlings, the cross was registered with the hybrid registration authority, The Royal Horticultural Society of London, England, under the name *Rhyncholaeliocattleya Green Dragon*. This name was first published in The Orchid Review of June 1978, with the parentage (*Rlc. Harriet Moseley* X *C. bicolor*), and the registrant as Carter and Holmes Orchids. This was later reprinted under “New Orchid Hybrids” in the August 1978 BULLETIN, and appear[ed] in the 1976-1980 Addendum to the Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids, now available.

Following proper registration, all the seedlings resulting from the original cross of (*Rlc. Harriet Moseley* X *C. bicolor*) could then be tagged *Rhyncholaeliocattleya Green Dragon*. Of this population of *Rlc. Green Dragon* seedlings, certain cultivars distinguished themselves, most notably the cultivar which was exhibited by Lenette Greenhouses at the A.O.S. Regional Monthly Judging in Atlanta, Georgia on January 14, 1978, the description of which appears in the AWARDS QUARTERLY, Volume 10, Number 4. In order to officially receive its Award of Merit, this cultivar had to have a cultivar name. The name 'Lenette',

AM/ AOS distinguishes this particular cultivar from all other seedlings of *Rhyncholaeliocattleya Green Dragon*.

Several important rules of nomenclature can be noted from the preceding discussion. All identified orchids have at least two names. Whether for species or hybrids the first name is the genus and should always be capitalized and italicized in print (or underlined when handwritten) — e.g., *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* (*Rhyncholaeliocattleya*) **Harriet Moseley**. For the second name, the printed form differs as to whether a species or a hybrid is involved. In the case of species, the second name should likewise be italicized or underlined, but should not be capitalized — e.g., *Cattleya bicolor*. With hybrids, the second name is the registered hybrid name discussed earlier, and is never italicized, but always capitalized — e.g., *Rhyncholaeliocattleya Green Dragon*. If a cultivar name is warranted, it follows the hybrid or species name. It is always in single quotes, capitalized, and in Roman print (not italicized or underlined). If the cultivar has received an award, that award abbreviation should come last of all, separated from the cultivar name with a comma — e.g., **RLC** Green Dragon 'Lenette', AM/ AOS. Whereas spe-

cies, hybrid and cultivar names should not be abbreviated, standard abbreviations of the genera are acceptable — e.g., *Rlc. Green Dragoon 'Lenette'*, AM/AOS. These can be found, along with further rules of nomenclature, in the *Handbook on Orchid Nomenclature and Registration*, Second Edition, or in the *Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids* published by The Royal Horticultural Society (see BIBLIOGRAPHY).

### PROPAGATION BY SEED

Because of the complexity of their genetic makeup, propagation of orchids by seed is an exercise in uncertainty. Any time pollinia are put to stigma, some variation in the progeny's flowers usually results. This variation of progeny from any one cross can be seen repeatedly in the



[AOS] BULLETIN, particularly in articles on orchid hybridizing.

Increasing this variation among orchids produced from seed is the fact that cultivar names are not recorded in hybrid registrations, despite the understanding that each cultivar used in hybridizing is genetically distinct. This means, for example, that



any subsequent crosses of *Rlc. Harriet Moseley* and *Cattleya bicolor*, even though they might involve radically different cultivars such as those of *C. bicolor* pictured here [left and above], will still be called *Rhyncholaeliocattleya Green Dragoon*. No doubt, even if these two illustrated cultivars of *C. bicolor* were crossed with the same cultivar of *Rlc. Harriet Moseley* used in the original cross, the variation among the seedlings resulting would be far greater than the variation within the original cross.

The overriding point to be made regarding propagation by seed is that there are no guarantees, no certainties until the actual and consistent flowering of each individual seedling resulting from a seed pod. Successful crosses can be made and made again, whether with the original parents or with two other, possibly very different clones. They will be all called by the original, registered hybrid name. Again, because of the complexity of orchid genetics, variation with a seedling population is the rule, not the exception. No one, how-

ever knowledgeable, can know precisely the results of any cross until after the fact. This can be quite exciting for those who enjoy the unexpected, while frequently disappointing for those who do not.

If you intend to hybridize orchids, go about it methodically. No orchid hybridizer has ever been consistently successful without superior "genetic material" — plants which have proven their desirable, transmittable characteristics year after year. Superior plants do not in any way guarantee superior progeny; they just increase the probability of at least a few pleasing results. The first step, then, is to amass breeding stock. This is an ongoing process which can take many years and many dollars. The next step is to develop the facilities needed to "grow out" the seedlings to flowering size — in other words, can you afford the bench space? Flasking services are available if you do not have the facilities or expertise to sow seed on sterile nutrient agar. But if, once the flasks are returned hopefully bristling with seedlings, you do not have the necessary space, as well as the time, for the community pots and individual pots to follow, what is the point? You could sell or give away some of the seedlings, but in so doing, there could go one of the proportionally few improved progeny to result!

Included in the bibli-

ography accompanying this article are several excellent sources of further information on the propagation of orchids from seed. If you would like a step by step visual explanation of the pollinating procedure, see Charles Marden Fitch's article on pollinating *Cattleya-type* flowers. Rebecca Tyson Northen provides a comprehensive, yet detailed accounting of the entire process from seed to flowering seedling in her well-known *Home Orchid Growing*, Third Edition. More of the philosophy behind sensible hybridizing can be found in the article "*Catcycilia Sarah's Psyche — Playing in Your Own Gene Pool*", by H. Phillips Jesup, also listed in the BIBLIOGRAPHY.

### MERICLONES

In stark contrast to the variation and the "element of unknown" to be expected when seedlings are produced or purchased, mericlones offer the buyer the duplication of a known, flowering entity. Mericlones are a product of meristem tissue culture, a process whereby a portion of undifferentiated but explosive tissue is excised from a plant and "teased" by a fairly elaborate chemical and mechanical procedure into producing potentially thousands of plants, all identical to the original, if the process has been done carefully and correctly. Developed in the early sixties, meristemming has made avail-

able to all growers, however limited their means, many awarded or superior cultivars of orchids. (For sources of additional information on the mericloning process, see BIBLIOGRAPHY).

To carry through with the previous example, if you were to see offered and to purchase a mericlone of *Rlc. Green Dragoon 'Lenette'*, AM/AOS in a 2-3" pot, you could expect with some assurance that within three years or so that plant would produce a flower nearly identical to the one pictured on the front cover. The reason for some variation from the original, despite the same genetic makeup, is due to culture. Flower size and quality also varies with the condition of the plant. Naturally, healthy orchids are able to produce better, larger flowers! On the other hand, if you were to purchase a plant listed as "*Rlc. Green Dragoon (Bc. Harriet Moseley X C. bicolor)*" . . . Seedling, 3" pot" you would have to assume that it is an unflowered cultivar resulting from another two unidentified cultivars of the hybrid and species contained within the parentheses. When the seedling eventually flowers, it could possibly look very much like the cultivar pictured on this month's front cover, or it might look quite different. The only assurance you have is that it will look in some way similar — but not the same.

To emphasize the importance of cultivar names, imagine if a large number of mericlones of the cultivar *Rlc. Green Dragoon 'Lenette'*, AM/AOS were simply offered as "*Rlc. Green Dragoon*", and purchases were made from around the country. None of the buyers would realize that this, their purchase, was an awarded cultivar (much less a mericlone). They could, without knowing, go ahead and exhibit this same cultivar at an A.O.S. judging, receive an award, and give it yet another cultivar name — with serious ramifications for both the awards system and for all orchid growers. Next consider the actual instance of the commonly available mericlones of *Vuylstekeara Cambria 'Plush'*, FCC/AOS. This cultivar was first mericloned and offered without having received an A.O.S. award. Three of these mericlones, purchased by three separate individuals, went on to receive A.O.S. awards: one an H.C.C., one an A.M. and one an F.C.C. Yet because mericlones are genetically identical, every mericlone of *Vuylstekeara Cambria 'Plush'* now rightfully carries the coveted FCC/AOS. Without the cultivar name 'Plush', how would the original owners of these mericlones of *Vuylstekeara Cambria* have known that their plants had received an F.C.C.? Cultivar names on all propagated orchids are essential!

## CONCLUSIONS

Mericlones are propagated asexually from an established, flowering entity, while seedlings result from a sexual process characterized by an unpredictable mixing of traits. Whether the hobbyist chooses the known in the form of an already-awarded cultivar which has been mericloned, or the unknown in the form of an unflowered seedling, is perhaps a personal matter. Even so, a collection devoted exclusively to mericlones could be said to lack individuality and excitement. At the same time, a collection excluding all mericlones might be accused of lacking quality. Why not the best of both worlds — a diverse collection encompassing both mericlones and seedlings of species and hybrids? — 84 Sherman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140.

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Photos by Monroe Kokin



# 54th Orchid Show pictorial



Canaima Orchids exhibit



Featherstone Orchids exhibit



Chapman Orchids exhibit



Plantio La Orqidea exhibit



The Orchid Specialist exhibit



Byrd's Orchids exhibit



Florida Suncoast Orchids exhibit



Odom Orchids exhibit



Selby Gardens exhibit



Orchids etc. exhibit



Englewood Orchid Society exhibit



Manatee Orchid Society exhibit



**Paph.** Lawless Addsand 'Yvonne Lumsdan' AM/AOS



Manatee River Orchid Society exhibit



Krull-Smith Orchids exhibit



Sarasota Orchid Society exhibit



Venice Orchid Society exhibit



Bc. Yellow Bird 'Venice' CCM/AOS



C. Circle of Life 'Canaima's Pretty' AM/AOS



*Diplocaulobium Kirchianum*  
'Cassidi' CBR/AOS (provisional)

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# The Kingdom of Lilliput: Miniature Orchids Part 2

By Rebecca Tyson Northen—Originally published in *Volume 57, Number 2, February 1988 AOS BULLETIN*.

The genus *Pleurothallis* has more than a thousand species, and more are being found all the time. The plants are almost as varied as the blossoms, some having heart-shaped leaves, others with paddle-shaped leaves, even some with thick little leaves resembling those of a succulent. Many have tiny bell-shaped flowers and are difficult to tell from each other. Some are fantastically shaped and decorated. Some flower so profusely — often with more than a hundred blossoms on each stem — that although the individual flowers are not striking, a plant in full bloom is. Such a one is *Pleurothallis* (now properly *Acianthera*) *sonderiana*, a little Brazilian species that is 1" to 2" tall, with densely packed stems and leaves. Each flower stem bears at its tip a cluster of four or five bright golden ¼" flowers that last for many weeks from summer to fall.

One of the most fantastic former *Pleurothal-*

*lis* species is *Stelis villosa* (*Pleurothallis schiedei*) from Mexico, surely one of the most unusual of all flowers. The tiny blossoms are about the size of the ordinary housefly, and, in fact, they are likely pollinated by small flies. They are grayish, spotted with red or purple. The borders of the broad sepals bear a fringe of wax that jiggles with air movement as well as with changes in humidity. Undoubtedly, the motion attracts their pollinators. Flowering time is autumn.

The *Pleurothallidinae* (*Pleurothallis* sub-tribe) contains many other genera of strange beauty. It encompasses *Masdevallia*, a large genus of mostly cool-growing species, many of them miniatures of great charm. You would enjoy exploring among them yourself, but a few species might be mentioned: *Masdevallia caudata*, *caudivolvula*, *floribunda*, *nidifica*, *tovarensis*, and *uniflora*. Another genus, *Dryadella* ("little dryad"), was separated from *Masdevallia* some time ago by Dr. Carlyle A. Luer, as was *Dracula*. The latter has a few small species, but you must get acquainted with one of its giants, *Dracula vampira*, a true monster. *Dryadella edwallii* is a true example of the former, a 1-½"-tall plant from Brazil. The fleshy 1" blossoms peek out from between the leaves as buds (giving the

nickname "partridge in the grass") and open to reveal their wide sepaline tubes showing the tiny lip, column, and petals within. The sepals are rather long-tailed. Flowers are greenish, densely spotted with purple. This cool-growing species flowers in summer.



The flowers of *Platystele stenostachya* are so tiny that it takes a magnifying glass to reveal their true beauty.

Photo by AMO and their Mexican website

*Platystele stenostachya* is a little gem, one of several species from Mexico and Central America. A magnifying

glass reveals the charm of the incredibly numerous but tiny (less than 1 millimeter) flowers. They are clustered among the bases of the leaves on tiny stems. The same stems continue flowering for most of the summer. Flowers of plants from the northern part of the range are orange, whereas those from the southern area are purple.

*Porroglossum* has a distinctive sensitive, mobile lip. It was removed from *Masdevallia* possibly for this reason. It is theorized that when an insect (a small fly or gnat) walks across or lands on the crest of the lip, the labellum rises up to contact the column and trap the visitor against it. You can cause this to happen with a pencil tip. After a while, the lip relaxes, which would free the insect. Within a short time, the



All the Mexican and Central American species formerly called *odontoglossums* have been moved to different genera. Some are handsome miniatures. *Rhynchostele (Lemboglossum) cervantesii* is a Mexican and Guatemalan species with strikingly beautiful flowers.

Photo by Pieter C. Brewer

## January Minutes of SOS



**Rossioglossum (Ticoglossum) krameri** from Costa Rica bears flowers 1 – 1-½ inches across.

Photo by Guido Deburghgraeve

process can be repeated. It puts on almost as good a show as the pollinia-shooting catasetums. *Porroglossum echidna* is from Colombia, as are most species of this genus. The leaves have a bumpy upper surface which is distinctive. The plants are 2-½" tall, with a hairy flower stem 5" to 6" long. The blossoms, with their long tails, are just over 1" long. These cool-growing plants bloom in winter.

Orchids are so closely associated with their pollinators that many rely on particular species to do the job. Especially dependent on certain species are the insect imitators that attract pollinators by visual lures or fragrances that come close chemically to their natural sex pheromones. Always it is the female of a species that the orchid mimics, luring the male to attempt copulation with the

flower and so carry on pollination. The pollination mechanism is called "pseudo-copulation."

Using visual attractants are *Mormolyca ringens* and *Mormolyca gracilipes*. The lip has become modified to look like a specific female insect sipping nectar from the lip. *Mormolyca ringens* from Mexico and nearby areas of Central America has a small lip that looks like a little reddish bee or wingless wasp. *Mormolyca gracilipes* has an even more obvious "insect" for a lip. The column arches over the female decoy so that a male insect grasping "her" cannot fly away without scraping the viscid disc and flying away with the pollinia. The latter species is from Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru and flowers in summer.

To be continued...

President Kokin called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Carolyn Langdon introduced our newest members and guests.

No minutes for the December meeting as it was our auction. The Treasurer's report was approved as reported in the cover letter for members receiving their newsletter by email. President Kokin thanked everyone for a successful auction.

### New Business

President Kokin talked about our upcoming orchids show, and that many more people are still needed to work in the various committees. Each committee chairman was present to explain the various committees and to solicit members help.

Selby Gardens will be holding their Garden Festival on February 26 & 27, 2011 and will give SOS a table. This is a great opportunity to promote the society, hand out information about our Society, and answer questions. President Kokin asked for volunteers to sign up to work at the table

After the break, each committee group discussed their committee. Roy Krueger went over the plant table that members voted on.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Jo Davis,  
Recording Secretary

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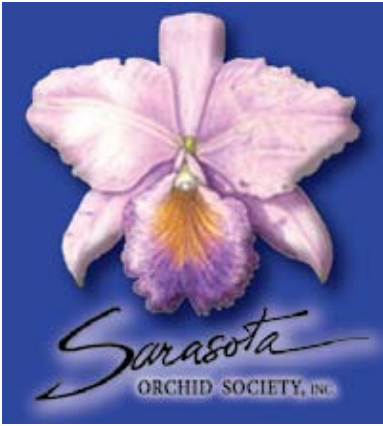
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**The Hospitality Committee  
will provide the following at  
our monthly meetings:**

**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  
Renae Gerhardt ..... 966-7071**

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