



sarasota orchid society **view**

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

**November 7—
Roy Krueger
Orchids We Can All
Grow**

**December 5—
Annual Orchid Auc-
tion**

**January 7-8—
55th Annual Orchid
Show**

2012 Annual Show Dinner
See page 12 for details

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE NOVEMBER MEMBER CONTRIBUTORS:

Diane McKissick . . . Lt rfrshmt
Sally Melchert 2 gals tea
Donald Morris Lt rfrshmt
Juana Munoz Lt rfrshmt
Judith Olsen Lt rfrshmt
Leroy Mouton 3L soft drinks
Bridgette Ortiz Ice
Denny Pavlock Lt rfrshmt
Rosa & Gene Payson . . Lt rfmt
Patti Rich. Quinnelly . . Lt rfmt

See contribution list page 5!

Meetings are on the first Mon-
day of each month. Doors open
at 6:15 pm. Cultural Study
Group—"Prepping Your Plants
For Winter"—starts promptly
at 6:30 pm. Regular meeting
starts at 7:30 pm.

Marie Selby Botanical Gar-
dens, 801 South Palm Avenue,
Sarasota, Florida
www.sarasotaorchidsociety.org

November in your orchid collection

by Dr. Martin Motes

November looms as the only truly dismal month in South Florida. Even without the prospect of the unspeakable 'H' word, November 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 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 the end of the rainy season when disease pressure has been

building, November 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, November 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 November 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 November than in any other month. November is a month to stay home and be there for your orchids. Look at every plant, every day.

November, 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

See "November" 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.

2011 November

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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The Orchid Specialist, Steve Hawkins
407-889-3138 or 321-279-3003

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 \$65.00; for a 2 year membership \$125.00. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Fl. 33446 TheAOS@aos.org; 561.404.2000

Monroe



Encyclia alata

Photo by Bob Scully

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SHELTON A. THORNE

UPCOMING SHOWS

NOVEMBER, 2011

2 - *Orchid Society of West Pasco Show, Buena Vista Manor Clubhouse, 5112 Rosada Ave., Holiday, FL. Contact: Greg Sytch, (727) 841-9618; gsyтч@cs.com.

13-20 - *20th World Orchid Conference, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore. Contact: For Information secretariat@20woc.com.sg.

JANUARY, 2012

7-8 - Sarasota Orchid Society Show, Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Tr., Sarasota, FL. Contact: Monroe Kokin, (941) 586-7795; orchidpix@comcast.net; www.sarasotaorchidsociety.org.

20-22 - Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show, War Memorial Auditorium, 800 NE 8th St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Contact: Christine Crepage, 1401 NE 27th Dr., Wilton Manors, FL 33334; (954) 563-3548; crisbnbil@att.net.



Paph. Dollgoldi 'Palmeadows'
Photo by Bob Scully

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
lwrlangdon@gmail.com



Coelogyne barbata

21-22 - Manatee River Orchid Society Show,

Manatee Civic Center, 1 Haben Blvd., Palmetto, FL. Contact: Barbara Fulbruck, 3522 51st Ave., W., Bradenton, FL. 34210; (941) 751-1599; bavwfulbruck@tampabay.rr.com.

28-29 - Tamiami International Orchid Festival,

Miami-Dade County Fair & Expo Center Miami, FL. Contact: Martin Motes, martin.motes@gmail.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 34243-3805

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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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 from all trees that support orchids or are near to orchid growing areas. By increasing the light and airflow one will also garner the benefit of reducing the possibility that such trees will be knocked down in a severe storm. 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 November, 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 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 tps. 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 November 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 November 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 and drying out. 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 bloom all the stronger for this extra attention in the coming months.

November 7, 2011 Hospitality Committee:

We are asking those listed below to please take their turn for this month to help.

It involves bringing light refreshments and or beverages, help setting up the buffet table, and sharing in the clean-up process after the meeting. Doors open at 6:15 and all food and beverage set-ups must be finished by 7:15, before the meeting starts at 7:30.

Your help will be greatly appreciated:

Diane McKissick	Light refreshment*
Sally Melchert	2 gallons Iced Tea
Donald Morris	Light refreshment*
Juana Munoz	Light refreshment*
Judith Olsen	Light refreshment*
Leroy Mouton	3 one liter soft drinks (Pepsi, Sprite, Diet Coke, Coke—your choice)
Brigitte Ortiz	Bag of ice
Denny Pavlock	Light refreshment*
Rosa & Gene Payson	Light refreshment*
Patti/Rich Quinnelly	Light refreshment*

* Light refreshments: Desserts, Cookies, Cheese & Crackers, Fruits, and or Nuts.

• If you cannot make this meeting, please call or email me as soon as possible, or switch with another member. Thanks so much!

Judy Robertson, Hospitality
jerob1@verizon.net
941-926-1819



AOS judge Gladys Roudel

AOS Judging

The American Orchid Society's judging system is one of the most highly respected horticultural award systems in the world. At nationwide monthly judging and worldwide sanctioned shows, highly trained AOS judges evaluate and recognize new and superior forms of orchid species, improved forms of orchid hybrids and plants exhibiting superior culture. Judging Centers

The AOS's judging system is comprised of 35 Centers throughout the United States and Canada. These Centers provide opportunities to have plants judged on specified monthly dates. The Centers also provide judging service to AOS-sanctioned shows here and abroad.

AOS Research

The AOS established a Research Committee in 1951 to assist and stimulate research on orchids. Since then nearly 200 grants and fellowships totaling more than \$1.1 million have been provided to worthy students. The Society has supported research to study a wide range of subjects. Topics range from practical to highly fundamental. AOS funding of orchid research has been provided

Center activities are open to visitors who wish to see the judging process in operation or bring their plants to be evaluated. Meeting dates, times, places and contact information are published each month in Orchids magazine as well as on our Events listing. Orchid plants may be submitted for judging using the following guidelines.

All orchid plants or cut flowers submitted at a monthly judging session are candidates for an award. Plants must be entered in the most presentable condition possible.

Judging Center Plant Entry

Plants may be entered by the owner in person or by someone else on his/her behalf. The exhibitor completes a single sheet entry form for each plant entered for judging. After an entry number is assigned and annotated on the form by the Judging Center Clerk, the exhibitor places the entry form with

to scientists throughout the world.

In 1990, the Society expanded its grant-giving initiatives by beginning a new program to sponsor the education of doctoral students. In this program, students compete for a Fellowship that provides funds that the student may use for research support, salary or tuition. The Fellowship is provided for three years, pending satisfactory progress toward the PhD degree. Recognizing that many worthwhile research projects do not fit the scope of PhD

the plant on the display table.

Mailed-in Plant Entry

Plants or cut flowers may be submitted by mail to each of the judging centers prior to the day of judging and should be accompanied by an entry form. When plants are mailed, it is the responsibility of the owner/shipper to arrange for their return; cut flowers are not returned. As a courtesy, the owner is advised by mail of judging results.

Judges

American Orchid Society judges are dedicated volunteers who serve the membership and the orchid-growing public through participation in the Society's judging system. Each judge has made a sincere, long-term commitment, and gives much of their personal time and resources. AOS Judges are not compensated for their services or travel to various

programs, the Society added a Masters Degree scholarship to its research funding mix. The scholarship, much like that of the PhD Fellowship, is for two years pending satisfactory progress.

The Society's commitment to orchid research has been international in scope. Funding has been provided to scientists working and studying in 31 states in the USA, and to institutions in 11 other countries—Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Israel, Malaya, New Guinea, Nigeria, Puerto Rico, Russia and the United

judging events.

Becoming an AOS certified Judge

If an individual has a desire to be an orchid judge and is willing to make this commitment, he/she makes application to the nearest AOS judging center and, if accepted, begins rigorous training for three to five years as a student judge. Upon successfully completing student instruction, the candidate becomes a certified judge, and is granted the authority to judge at any AOS-sanctioned event. However, the status is probationary, and training continues for another three-to-five years before full accreditation is attained. A judge's education must continue through seminars and workshops in order to keep up with continuing taxonomic developments and orchid trends.



Researcher studying orchid flowers—Mauro Fermariello, Science Photo Library

"AOS" from page 6

Kingdom.

How does research help one to grow orchids? Isn't basic research esoteric? While specific research topics may indeed sound obtuse, the information obtained usually has practical implications. Before a practical research project can be initiated, a strong foundation of basic information is required. An example of the interrelationship between fundamental and practical research involves the study of flower senescence.

The American Orchid Society in 1973 provided support to Michael Strauss in Dr. Joseph Arditti's laboratory at the University of California at Irvine to document the events that lead to the natural wilting of *Cymbidium* flowers. He determined that, after pollination, a hormone (auxin) found within the pollen, triggered a second hormone (ethylene) that caused the flower to wilt.

This information was used by Dr. Sharman O'Neill from the University of California at Davis to propose a more detailed study with *Phalaenopsis* that was funded by the American Orchid Society in 1990. Her grant was entitled Molecular Genetic Regulation of Orchid Flower Senescence. The results of this research were the identification of two major genes that were responsible for inducing senescence or flower wilting (S.D. O'Neill, J.A. Nadeau, X.S. Zhang, A.Q. Bui and A.H. Halevy, 1993. Interorgan regulation of ethylene

biosynthesis genes by pollination. *Plant Cell* 5:419-432).

Dr. O'Neill used this preliminary data to obtain a major grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to continue this line of research. In a recent report, she states, "AOS funding provided the initial support that was necessary to initiate several lines of research that are now sufficiently advanced to attract funding from federal research agencies. This new funding provided the basis to substantially multiply AOS support and provides a strong base to more fully develop the molecular biology of orchids."

In 1991, the American Orchid Society funded Ms. Janette Nadeau, a doctoral student in Dr. O'Neill's laboratory, to Determine the Temporal and Spatially Regulation of Ethylene Forming Enzyme. This research carried Dr. O'Neill's work one step further by following the action of one of the two major genes involved in senescence (Nadeau, Zhang, Nair and O'Neill, 1993. *Plant Physiology* 103:31-39).

In 1993, Mr. Ronald Porat, a doctoral student in Dr. Abraham Halevy's laboratory at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, was funded to determine the Signal Transduction of Processes Involved in Pollination-induced Senescence Syndrome of *Phalaenopsis* Flowers. This research will use Ms. Nadeau's data to determine the exact molecule that signals the start of wilting. He determined that the onset of wilting is the result of an increase in the sensitiv-



Rebecca Repasky [of TCU] '04 (MS) uncovered a new species of orchid called *Stellilabium cuscoense*. Her research was published in "Orchid Digest".

ity of the flower to ethylene instead of an increase in its synthesis (Porat, 1994. *Lindleyana* 9:85-92).

In 1997, Drs. Halevy and O'Neill received \$240,000 in funding from the Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund (BARD) to continue their collaboration for another three years.

Because of all of these AOS-funded projects, orchids became an important research subject in plant senescence studies. Many scientists throughout the world are now studying senescence in orchids. For example, Drs. Yi-Yin Do, Yi-Chiann Chen

and Pung-Ling Huang at the National Taiwan University in Taipei have now isolated the gene response for recognizing ethylene (Do, Chen & Huang, 1999. *Plant Physiology* 119:1567).

Without a fundamental knowledge of the genetic and biochemical mechanisms involved in senescence, it is impossible to determine how to regulate the process and control flower wilting. The direct practical outcome will be the ability to produce orchid flowers that last significantly longer. Another important benefit of this

"AOS" from page 7



Daniela Dutra, researcher at the Univ. of Florida studies *Cytopodium punctatum*, the cigar orchid. This orchid is a critically endangered plant in the state of Florida. It is a very large and showy orchid that bears beautiful flowers. Due to its great appeal the species was over collected during the past century and today only a few plants still exist in protected areas. Environmental Horticulture Department—University of Florida

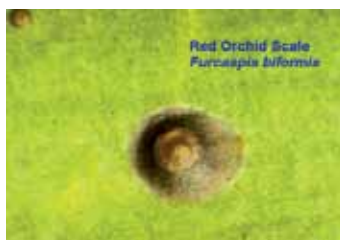
research is that orchids are now recognized as being an important model system for studying flower senescence..

It should now be clear that before a practical research project can be initiated, a strong foundation of basic knowledge is required. The American Orchid Society and the research community need your support to continue to fund beneficial orchid research. Approximately half of the monies that the AOS uses to support research come from member contributions; the other half are funded by the income generated on the Society's permanent endowment funds. Additional resources are needed to expand the reach and impact of this important research. The AOS will continue to seek new support from the corporate and foundation community, but the nonprofit organization needs challenge support from orchid enthusiasts to leverage in securing this new support. Any financial assistance the AOS receives will aid in finding matching support from other sources.

Scale insects and their control

Scales are small insects which attach themselves firmly to plants and suck juices out causing considerable damage and even death. The mature females of different species are either round balls or flattened oyster like shapes. All exude protective layers of waxy material to protect themselves and are hence more difficult than most insects to kill. The immature forms and males are quite different, These appear as fluffy white masses that resemble mealy bugs (in fact a close relative of the scales). Scale will often initially invade the under side of leaves where the growers first indication is a yellow spot emerging on the top of the leaf from which the juices are being sucked from below. Leaf axils, nodes on flower spikes and protected areas below sheathing bracts are favorite locales for scale to colonize. Left to their own devices the colony will spread to cover much of the entire plant.

Scouting for scale is essential as the scale insects that attack our orchids are omnipresent in the tropical landscape plants in our dooryards. As with all else in good orchid culture, keen observation is the key. Any white fluffy masses appearing or discoloration of patches on otherwise green leaves should evoke close attention. Ants are also



Red orchid scale--*Furcaspis biformis*



Coccus hesperidum on *Phalaenopsis*



Female scale

indicators. They carry young scale insects to new choice locations in order to milk them of the excess sugars that scale exude.

These excess sugars can some times create a flowering of black sooty mold which should also alert the grower. Often times sooty mold is growing on the excess sugars exuded by the plant or its rapidly developing flower spike but a second look for scale is always worth while. Sooty mold can also drip down from trees that are infested with scale or white fly. Look up and see.

Scale are difficult to control, particularly when they have reached their mature hardened forms. The least toxic, most user

friendly materials available to the amateur are dishwashing soap and vegetable oil. A good grade of dishwashing detergent at 2 oz. per gal will do a satisfactory job on controlling scale in the crawler and immature stages. Care should be taken to cover all surfaces of the plants and a generous application to run off or beyond is required. Mature scale will need to be scrubbed away with a toothbrush and the soapy solution. Oil is only recommended in Florida in cooler weather from late October through mid March. Oil is effective because it smothers the scale insects. In hot weather it can also suffocate our plants. Be careful when the temperature is likely to stay in the upper 80s or top 90°F (above 32°C). Three tablespoons of cooking oil per gallon of water with good agitation intermittently to keep the oil in solution does a nice job. Combined with one of the recommended organophosphate insecticides such as Malathion, oil is incredibly effective.

Never combine oil and soap (as bizarrely sometimes recommended) as the effectiveness of both will be neutralized.

Chemicals recommended by Florida State experts include:

- Horticultural Oil Sprays
- Malathion 50% EC
- Orthene

October 2011 Minutes of SOS:

President Kokin called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Carolyn Langdon introduced new members and guests. There were no minutes of the September meeting because we held the Annual Labor Day Picnic. I want to thank Jo Davis and everyone that helped to make the picnic a great success! The treasurer's reports were posted on a cover letter for members receiving their newsletter by email and an insert for those members receiving it by mail. A motion to approve and seconded. A vote was taken to approve the report.

The 55th Annual Show will be held on January 7-8, 2012. Set-up will be on the 6th. This will be a two-day show with AOS judging on Saturday morning, Jan. 7th from 8 to 11 am. The show opens to the public from 11 am to 5 pm on Saturday and from 9 am to 5 pm on Sunday. The theme of the show will be "Orchids by the Sea". It's that time of the year that Jo and Monroe start begging for help. It might seem to be early but it never is. Jo and Monroe go a little crazy looking for volunteers during the next few months. Jo has a sign up book for volunteers. Please sign up to help, there is no job too small.

Connie Waymer and David Belle have volunteered to do the show dinner the Saturday of the show. This has always been a great time

to meet your fellow workers and enjoy a great evening. There will be more information to follow in the coming months.

The guest speaker was Leigh Anne Novak, from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. She spoke to us about a program she has started—a program that provides beautiful orchids to not-for-profit human service agencies throughout the area. Donors can select a local agency to receive an orchid once, 4 times a year, or in perpetuity by way of a donation. Volunteers select and personally deliver the orchids and take a photo of the agency staff with their orchid. The photo is then included on a greeting card mailed to the donor. If anyone is interested in participating in this program, please see Leigh Anne Novak at the Community Foundation.

The library is open during the meeting for members to take sign out books for the month. See Patti Quinnelly for help if needed.

Leroy and Mecky are selling raffle tickets in the back. This is a great way to start your orchid collection if you are new to the orchid world and, for those of us that have some, this is an inexpensive way to increase your collection.

President Kokin announced the deaths of Manuel Chepote's Father and Bob Scully's mother during the month. A sympathy card was sent to each of them from the Society.

President Kokin announced that the Annual Elections for the new Board

Winners from Monday October 3rd Meeting



Bulb. Krairit Vejarut—Owner: Laurie Stoner—Speakers & Members Choice



C. jenmonnii—Owner: Laurie Stoner—species of the month

of Directors would be held at our March 5th, 2012, meeting. President Kokin announced he will step down as President, a position he has held for 4 terms of 2-years each. His life has changed and he is now a "snow bird". We are in need of new people to take the lead. Laurie Stoner and

Jo Davis have already taken their turn at it.

The Nominating Committee, to be selected in November, will be looking for candidates after the January Orchid Show. Please consider becoming more involved with our organization.

"Minutes" from page 10

After a 15-minute break, Linda Wilhelm from "Woodland Orchids" (WO) was our speaker for the evening. She gave an interesting talk on "Living Gems—Little Plants for small spaces" and she had some great plants for sale.

Linda Wilhelm and her husband Rolf own WO in Charlotte, North Carolina. They specialize in breeding warm-tolerant *Oncidiinae* (several of their new hybrids have received awards from the AOS), compact *Cattleyas* and also line breed a number of different species. *Stanhopeas* are their newest passion.

Linda started growing orchids in 1980 after a vacation in Florida. Already intrigued by orchids, she bought a small *Cattleya* seedling, not realizing that it would take seven or eight years to bloom. It was the beginning of an addiction. She met Rolf in 1985 and he, too, got involved with orchids. When their hobby developed into a serious passion they turned it into a business.

An accredited Judge, Linda is very active with the *American Orchid Society* and is currently an AOS Trustee.

Meckey, Leroy, & Michael handled the plant raffle, and Roy Krueger went over our beautiful "Show & Tell" table. Roy also did the Culture Class at 6:30 this evening, and everyone was pleased.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Davis, Recording Secretary

Orchids We Should All Grow

Brsdm Shooting Star x Brs Rex

By Roy Krueger

Here is an interesting little intergeneric *Oncidium* cross that presents itself really well and is spectacularly striking.

Brassidiums are crosses of *Brassia* and *Oncidium*. So this specimen is actually three parts of *Brassia* and one part *Oncidium*. The result is the showy spider visual effect of its *Brassia* parents combined with the long lasting and full floweredness of its one *Oncidium* great grandparent.

The *Brassia* parents include *verrucosa*, *gireoudiana* and *longissima* which in the past has been considered a variety of *gireoudiana*. All are flowing vertical blossoms which can attain a size of 5" wide x 12" vertical. The only *Oncidium* in the family tree is *Onc. wentworthianum* which had 37 flowers and 1 bud when it was awarded AM/AOS in 1975.

The flowers in this cross are smaller in size than the *Brassia* parents, but more intensely yellow in color and much longer lasting. The plant pictured has nine blooms about 6" vertical x 3-1/2" wide. They are carried atypically on the inflorescences (one facing front, one facing rear) in pairs. They last between a month and six weeks. Bloom time is usually mid summer, when

little else competes for eye effect in your collection.

This is an intermediate growing specimen. Grow it with ample humidity in the coolest part of the greenhouse or the shadiest corner outdoors. The pictured plant is growing in an 8" basket where it has resided undisturbed for six or seven years—so much for repotting every other year! I don't know if there is any medium left in the basket or it has all turned to mush and washed out.

Originally, it was potted in medium bark. The fine roots took a year or two to fully develop and adhere to the bark and basket. To repot it today would require a sharp knife to cut it out and much patience.

Fertilize the plant when in active growth and keep the roots moist. Any general fertilizer will do



Brsdm Shooting Star 'Maui Meteor' x Brs Rex

well. Let dry only modestly (not crunchy dry) before rewetting. I soak mine thoroughly twice a week in summer and once a week in winter.

There are many fine *Brassidium* crosses with the spiderly *Brassia* characteristics. Some are intense yellow. Others range from cream to almost green. Most are spotted. If you don't have one in your collection you are missing some spectacular eye appeal.

Brsdm





2012 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$25.00 _____

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$20.00 _____

Please mail your check, made payable to the **Sarasota Orchid Society, Inc.**, with completed form, by **JANUARY 31, 2012** to our Treasurer, **Laurie Stoner, 5648 Country Lakes Dr, Sarasota, FL 34243-3805.** Our 2012 Membership Directory will be printed in February.

Date _____ Resident: Full-time _____ Seasonal _____

Name/s _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Your preference to receive your *Sarasota Orchid Society Monthly Newsletter, "OrchidView"*?
by email _____ (in color) or by USPS Mail _____ (in black & white)

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SOS Members

You are cordially invited to the 2011 annual show dinner. The dinner will take place at the Municipal Auditorium on Saturday night of the

show. This year's dinner will be created by executive chef Roberta of Milan Catering. The meal will be choice of Grilled Beef Tenderloin, with Kansas City Steak seasoning, served with a Port Syrah Drizzle, a Chicken Cordon Blu, served

with a Classic Lemon Beurre Blanc or a vegetarian dish for additional cost. The dinner and will be served in the hall starting at 7:00. Please confirm your attendance for the dinner by the 15th of December.

time will be \$30.00 per person or \$60.00 per couple.

Regrettably, replies received after December 15th cannot be accepted.

I look forward to your attendance.

The estimated cost at this

David Belle

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

Cheese, Crackers, Fruit, Hot Coffee, and fixings Iced tea (sweet and unsweetened), Water

Any additions to the table will be greatly appreciated.

Contributions can be made at the table.

**Hospitality:
Judy Robertson
941-926-1819**

PLEASE BRING FOOD

Recent Board Decisions

1. David Belle spoke about the Show Dinner, January 7, which he is handling.
2. The Selby Gardens Plant and Garden Festival will be held February 25-26, and we will be asking for volunteers to work at our Society Table. See the sign-up sheet at November and December meetings.
3. The Board of Directors has approved \$150.00 per year for the purchase of new books for our library. The first two to be added will be: **Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month** by *Martin Motes* and **Orchids: A Practical Handbook: A beautiful guide to growing orchids** by *Brian Rittershausen*.

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