



The Orchid Sentinel

P.O. Box 276367, Boca Raton, FL 33427



April 8, 2010 Program

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Miniature Orchids April Speaker: Carol DeBiase

With lots of people downsizing their orchid collections these days, an alternative to growing giant specimen plants is to switch to miniature orchids. Carol DeBiase, long-time AOS Accredited Judge with the West Palm Beach Judging Center and Orchid Curator at the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens in Miami, will be speaking on one of the latest trends in orchid growing: the miniatures.

We have all been captivated by the Taiwanese grown miniature phalaenopsis. Work is also being done on hybridizing miniature paphiopedilums. And miniature cattleyas and other miscellaneous genera have taken on a strong foot-hold in the mini-orchid world. Carol will share her knowledge and expertise in this area and show us that "bigger is not always better".

See you at the meeting,
Jackie Wood, V.P. Programs



Ornithocephalus bicornis



'Butterfly Wings'

Known in Japan as 'Butterfly Wings', their dainty blooms are just 3/4 inch in size and float on stems 8-10 inches tall.



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Calendar of Events

- Thur April 8 7:30pm BROS Monthly Meeting - Speaker: Carol DeBiase
- Wed April 14 7:30pm BROS Board Meeting - Lorraine Conover's Home
- Thur May 13 7:30pm BROS Monthly Meeting - Speaker: Ron McHatton
- Sat May 15 Redlands Bus Trip - Depart @ 08:00am K-Mart Parking Lot
- Wed May 19 7:30pm BROS Board Meeting

President's Message

While our President, Dave, is under the weather and recovering from a heart attack, he asked that I fill in for him until he gets back on his feet, which includes the monthly President's Message. Of course, we all wish him well and a speedy recovery, but in the meantime, I guess you all will have to put up with me.

Spring is Here! At least that's what the calendar says. We have had a couple of almost spring-like days followed by another "cold front" as I write this article. Whatever happened to the 80 degree days that we have all become accustomed to at this time of year? Normally, by the end of March, my yard is bursting with color with big fat buds on the vandas and cattleya buds emerging from their sheaths. This year my yard looks a little sad with brown leaves and the dire need for repotting. Oh well, I know the repotting will definitely perk things up.

Spring also means the Redlands International Orchid Festival coming up in mid-May. We will once again be having a bus on Saturday, May 15. Sign up sheets are available at the meeting or you can call Sharon Wesolowski @ 954-605-9932 or Karen Khan @561-394-0385. Cost is \$25.00 per person and includes admission, snacks, water and a fun time. Look for additional information in this newsletter and at the meeting. This event is the last regional show/sale until the fall, if you are looking to shop for orchids to replace the ones that didn't make it through our unseasonably cold winter. This is one of the premier events of the year - don't miss out, sign up early.

We must also say "au revoir" to many of our snow-bird members. Have a safe trip home and a wonderful summer and we'll see you back here in the fall. In the meantime, I hope to see everyone else at the meeting and if you think of it, drop a line or send a card to Dave. I know he would really like that.

Jackie Wood, Vice President



Capanemia uliginosa



American Orchid Society

American Orchid Society News:

Judging at the AOS Visitors Center and Botanical Garden

The West Palm Beach judging center holds its monthly meetings at the AOS Visitors Center and Botanical Garden. On the fourth Saturday of each month at 2 pm, the judges get together to evaluate the flowers brought in for their consideration. This is a wonderful opportunity for orchid lovers to observe the judging process.

The Orchid Doctor is In,

Wednesday, Saturday, and Sundays

Having problems growing your orchids? Blooms fall off? Are your plants sick? You can find the answers to your questions by bringing the invalid plant to the AOS Visitor's Center and talking with the "Orchid Doctor". Experts are on hand Wednesdays from 10:00 am – 11:30 am, Saturdays, 1 – 4 pm and Sundays 1 – 4 pm.



Join us for the Last Wine & Jazz Evening of the Season April 15, 2010
\$25/non-member, \$20/member

Come enjoy orchids in bloom, great music, wine tasting and appetizers and our beautiful botanical garden under the stars. Greenhouse tours available.

Check out more AOS events & news online at <http://www.aos.org>

Contact Valerie Smith at the AOS, 561-404-2052 or eMail vsmith@aos.org for further details.

FLORIDA ORCHID SHOWS:

APRIL 2010

17 - Florida West Orchid Society - Annual Orchid Auction, Southwest Recreation Complex, 13120 Vonn Road, Largo, FL. Contact: Ruth Cannon; (813) 299-9260; gramorchids@live.com.

17-18 - Tallahassee Orchid Society Show, Doyle Conner Bldg., 3125 Conner Blvd., Tallahassee, FL. Contact: Pam Stevens, 1923 Atapha Nene, Tallahassee, FL 32301; (850) 510-5528; pamstevens08@comcast.net.

20 - Pan American Orchid Society Judging Symposium, Christ the King Luthern Church, 11295 SW 57 Ave., Miami, FL. Contact: Carmen Segrera, 2310 SW 89 Ave., Miami, FL. 33165; (305) 282-5588; pjcartwright@earthlink.net.

24-25 - Vero Beach Orchid Society Show, Riverside Park, 3001 Riverside Park Dr., Vero Beach, FL. Contact: Douglas Mew, 5785 36th Ln., Vero Beach, FL 32966; (772) 778-6625; instedof@bellsouth.net.

24-25 - *The Orchid Society of Highlands County Show, Bert Harris Jr. Agricultural Center, 4509 George Blvd., Sebring, FL. Contact: Bill Hart, 5725 Matanzas, Sebring, FL 33872; (863) 471-2290; hwilliams@msn.com.

30 - May 2 - Platinum Coast Orchid Society Show, Cocoa Expo Sports Arena, 500 Friday Rd., Cocoa, FL. Contact: Jimmie Adamson, 1268 St. Andrews Rd., Rockledge, FL 32955; (321) 632-2847; jadamson1@cfl.rr.com.

May 2010

8-9 - Volusia County Orchid Society Show, Volusia County Fairgrounds Hester Building, 3150 E New York Ave., Deland, FL. Contact: Jennifer Reinoso, 58 Fernwood Tr., Deland, FL 32724; (386) 738-7543; jenorchid@bellsouth.net.

14-16 - Redland International Orchid Festival, Redland Fruit and Spice Park, Homestead, FL. Contact: Bill Peters, P O Box 924243, Homestead, FL 33092; (305) 242-1333 whimsy@bellsouth.net.



April in your Orchid Collection

April Climate Data

Average high: 83.8

Average low: 67.6

Average mean: 75.7

Average rainfall: 3.36"

Tasks for April:

- Full speed ahead with re-potting.
- Water heavily and well.
- Don't forget to fertilize.
- Watch out for Mites and spray for Thrips.

Coming out of a March that seemed like February, we might well be entering an April that will be March-like. Water exceptionally heavily when water is called for and take advantage of the high drying potential by maximizing air circulation. The rainy season may well arrive while our sympodial plants are in an unusually early stage of growth. Be sure that newly emerging growths have plenty of light and air. Amidst all these cautions, don't forget to enjoy the wonderful weather that surrounds us.

The new shoots of Oncidinae, grammatophyllums and dendrobiums are quite cup-like; care must be taken that water does not stand too long in these immature growths. Water these types very thoroughly with two or three applications of water spaced 10-15 minutes apart. Water should run freely through the pot on each application. Saturated thoroughly in this fashion the plants will need only weekly watering. Even more care should be taken with the soft plicate leaved genera like Catasetum, Mormodes, Cycnoches, Gongora, Calanthe and Thunia. The new growths of this type are rolled together (the fancy word is convolute) like a collapsible drinking cup. These should be grown in water retentive media that should be saturated at each watering to permit the developing roots to have abundant water but allow the vulnerable new growth extra time to dry. Feel the weight of a pot when you have finished watering. Be sure it is heavy with water. If it's not water one more time. With plants properly spaced, good drying should not be difficult in the hot dry air of April. But do be careful to water early enough in the day to allow the tender new growth to thoroughly dry by twilight.

With vandaceous orchids grown in slatted baskets, most growers find that they dry altogether too well in April. Vandas can be watered almost every morning in April. Indeed, a second light watering or misting in mid-afternoon in April and early May is often beneficial provided the crowns and leaf axils of the plants have time to dry completely by nightfall.

With increased heat and light and the onset of growth, fertilizer becomes more crucially important to the plants. Balanced time release pellets (13-13-13) can still be applied to potted plants provided the duration is 180 days or less. Most time release fertilizer breaks down faster under South Florida conditions and should be exhausted by October when we will want our plants to slow down. The brand marketed at retail as "Dynamite" is generally considered by professionals as superior in reliability to other types. In April, 15-5-15 can be applied to most genera at the rate of 2 tsp. per gal every two weeks. Vandas, ascocendas, Aerides, et al will benefit from a full tablespoon of 15-5-15 weekly during this high energy period. One can also apply high phosphorous 'Bloom Booster' fertilizer once or twice at this time to stimulate them to flower for Mothers' Day or failing that to win those trophies and A.O.S. awards at the Redland International Orchid Festival the next weekend. High phosphorous (we use Millers' Solugrow 8-48-12) also stimulates root action and is important in getting all genera off to a good start on the growing season. This is one of the few times that high phosphorus is perhaps beneficial. During the rest of the year it is to be avoided particularly with our alkaline water. Current science recommends fertilizers lower in nitrogen, much lower in phosphorus and higher in potassium, magnesium and calcium. Peter's Excel 15-5-15 is now the standard for year round use.

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

April is the classic month to catch up with all the re-potting which you meant to do across the winter. New roots form fast in April; don't rot them off by over-potting or break them off by allowing the plant to wiggle in the pot. Tie them up: tie them down!

Excerpted from Florida Orchid Growing: 'Month by Month' by Martin Motes

BOOK TIP OF THE MONTH

Florida Vanda Growing Month by Month

Florida *Vanda* Growing Month by Month

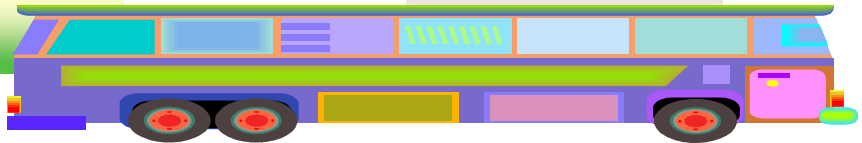


Martin Motes, PhD

Following the runaway success of Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month, Dr. Martin Motes has written a follow up volume that provides even more information about his favorite topics: Vandas! Florida Vanda Growing Month by Month will be released in May. Pre-order now by [emailing Dr. Motes at martinmotes@gmail.com](mailto:Dr. Motes at martinmotes@gmail.com).

Regular Price: \$22.50
Pre-sale Price: \$17.50
S & H: \$5.00

Mark your Calendars:



The Redlands International Orchid Festival

is one of the largest and most unique orchid events in our area, attracting many international orchid vendors.

We are planning on another great bus trip to the Redlands Festival, come join us on

Saturday May 15, 2010

Departs K-Mart Garden Center on Palmetto & I-95 @ 8:00 AM be there at 7:45 sharp.

Cost of trip: \$25.00/person which includes admission, snacks, water and great company.

For more information and to reserve your seat, please call **Sharon Wesolowski at (954) 605-9932 or Karen Khan at (561) 394-0385.**

Mail your check to the BROS address on the last page or pay at the next meeting.

Please bring name labels to put on your purchases and a box or bag to transport them in.

Cancellations will not be accepted after May 3rd. 2010.

Seats are limited, so reserve yours soon to avoid disappointment.

Membership—2009 Membership Began January 1, 2010

Boca Raton Orchid Society Membership

FIRST YEAR

SINGLE \$25.00 COUPLE \$35.00 - Newsletter

RENEWAL

SINGLE \$18.00 COUPLE \$25.00 - Newsletter e-mailed
 SINGLE \$23.00 COUPLE \$28.00 - Newsletter U.S. mailed

Business: \$40.00 - Newsletter e-mailed

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sharon Wesolowski

MEMBERSHIP@BROSONLINE.ORG

MAIL CHECKS TO:

BOCA RATON ORCHID SOCIETY
 P O BOX 276367
 BOCA RATON, FL



Welcome New Members March 2010:

*Barry Deutsch * Carol Kurtz * Kyle Mitchell * Ralph Papenfuse*

Refreshments are needed for our April 2010 Meeting

These refreshments can be: Cookies, cakes, punch, soft drinks, vegetables & dip, cut up fruit, fruit salad , nuts, chips or anything tasty to share with the other members during the break.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN IN SO WE CAN ACKNOWLEDGE YOU IN THE NEWSLETTER.

Thank You to Jane Walters, Marina Kruse, Don & Pat Salas, Kim Hitt, Carolyn Huckshorn & Sylvia Hill for bringing those delicious goodies to share at our March meeting.



Boca Raton Orchid Society Plant Table
Judge: Paul Alan Wetter - March 2010

Category	Ribbon	Orchid Name	Owner
Dendrobium Alliance	Blue	Dendrobium Thai Pixie	Belinda Krause
Cattleya Unifoliata	Blue	LC Drumbeat 'Triumph'	Tony Biviano
Paphiopedilum	Blue	Paph Honey	Rosemary Cheney
Other Cattleya Alliance	Blue	Bc Bill Worsley x L. cinnabarina	Belinda Krause
Species	Blue	Den teretifolium	Lorie S. Rowan
Oncidium Alliance	Blue	Frolingia	Fred Gilbert

B.R.O.S Plant Table Registration Instructions.

1. You must have owned your plant for at least 6 months.
2. Absolutely NO INSECTS.
3. Your orchid must have a name.
4. It must be in the correct category. (Ask if you don't know.)
5. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY the name of the Orchid and your name on the Registration Form.
6. Try to place your plant in an attractive container to enhance the orchids beauty.



IF THESE CRITERIA ARE NOT MET, YOUR PLANT MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.

Help all members enjoy your beautiful orchids by displaying them correctly.

BONUS: Each plant registered will receive a FREE raffle ticket for the plant draw.

If you would like to view the pictures of these winning Orchids, Please visit our web site at:

www.BocaRatonOrchidSociety.org

BROS Sponsor of Florida Short Course at University of Florida, Gainesville.

Received from Professor Vendrame

I wanted to thank everyone for your participation and help during the Orchid Short Course.

The course ran smoothly from beginning to end and all presentations were superb. We had no glitches and no major delays. We can tell that students really enjoyed the course and your talks. Most of all, it was fun!

We also found that by adding the hands-on sessions we created a more dynamic environment and developed more interest and enthusiasm among students, as well as allowing interaction with the speakers. So we thank you again for assisting students and interacting with them.

I believe Lisa will eventually be sending each one of you the student evaluations, but please feel free to also send us your comments. Your likes, dislikes, and how we could improve the course further for next time.

A special thanks to "Colonel" Lisa for keeping us in track and working the logistics for the course's smooth run, and Jessica for her essential support and assistance. Jessica, congratulations and good luck on your new job!

Dr. Zettler, thanks for providing the virus testing kits from Agdia. Martin, thanks for providing us with the textbooks for students and the seedling donations. Catharine and Aaron, thanks for the samples that we used in the hands-on for diseases and pests. Philip, thanks for transporting the microscopes and assisting us with the various hands-on activities. Kerry and Mark, thanks for your assistance and for delivering excellent presentations. Lisa, thanks for providing all the material for the hands-on on floral design; that was a great way to end the course! We do appreciate everyone's help and support in maintaining the quality and excellence of this course. Without you, we would not be able to deliver such a great program!

And last, but not least, thanks to Jackie Wood and the Boca Raton Orchid Society who provided us with funding to support this program. Even during tight budget times like this, the BROS has been steady and fundamental in supporting the orchid short course and we owe them our appreciation.

I hope you all enjoyed the course and hope to count on your participation again in 2012.

Wagner A. Vendrame, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Department of Environmental Horticulture/ Tropical Research and Education Center - IFAS - University of Florida

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www.BocaRatonOrchidSociety.com

We're on the Web!

P.O. Box 276367
Boca Raton, FL 33427

Boca Raton Orchid Society

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BROS Meetings are Held the
2nd Thursday of each Month at
7:30 p.m. at:

Safe Schools Institute
Southeast Corner of
Military Trail and Spanish River Blvd.

1790 N.W. Spanish River Boulevard
Boca Raton, FL 33431
561-982-0900

