



The Orchid Sentinel



ORCHID PESTS & DISEASES

SPEAKER: Broward Orchid Supply

Tom Wells & Sandi Jones

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Tom Wells & Sandi Jones, owners of Broward Orchid Supply and Bonnet House Curators will offer a program where you can learn about pests and diseases that harm orchids. From bacterial and fungal rots to insects, such as mealy bugs, thrips and scale, you will learn how to identify the culprits, what products to use to get rid of them, as well as what to do to avoid them in the future. Examples of ailing orchids will be diagnosed. Orchids or leaf samples may be brought in for diagnosis, **BUT MUST BE PLACED IN PLASTIC BAGS TO PREVENT CONTAMINATING OTHER PLANTS.**

They will have supplies to sell and can bring special orders if you wish to pre-order by calling them and having them bring your order to the meeting. They can be reached at (954)925-2010 or email browardorchid-supply@comcast.net. You can also visit their website at www.browardorchidsupply.com

See you at the meeting,

Jackie Wood, Vice Pres. - Programs

We are still looking for a couple more homes to add to our October 3rd. House Tour. This is a perfect opportunity to share your growing methods and environments with BROS Members and fellow Orchid Growers. Zero Lot Lines, etc. make for interesting challenges to growing Orchids. Please call Lorraine or Karen to participate (see page 4 for details).



Calendar of Events

2010 Board of Directors

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- Thur Aug. 12 7:30pm BROS Monthly Meeting - Speaker: Broward Orchid Supply
- Wed Aug. 18 7:30pm BROS Board Meeting - Denise Libby's Home
- Thur Sept. 9 7:30pm BROS Monthly Meeting - Alex Maximiano and Orchid Wiz
- Wed Sept. 15 7:30pm BROS Board Meeting - Karen Kahn's Home

President's Message:

Let's talk about Snails.....

Snails are a constant problem for outdoor and greenhouse growers of orchids. We usually start to see the problem in August. They love the open medium of bark used for orchids and can cause great damage to new growths of both roots and plant tops. Most of the time the first sign that there is trouble will be an almost ruined plant, they will invade that fast. It is important to get rid of these pests, because if snails are left to multiply they will be in full force when the September rains start.

The dreaded snail, typically the brown garden snail (*Helix aspersa*) and the field slug (*Deroceras reticulatum*), are a nightmare every orchid grower wishes would go away. These slimy creatures come out at night and totally destroy new growth like that new tender flower spike on your favorite orchid. I am just devastated when I see a slimy film all over a plant and the new flower spike I have been waiting a full year for chewed right in half. Or when I see a *Cattleya* bloom all slimy and shredded like it had been through a rough storm. There is no mistaking the signs of a snail attack.

Snails are mollusks belonging to the class of Gastropoda. After insects, they are largest class in the animal kingdom. The name means "stomach foot." These critters prowl by night eating everything in their site and then hide by day digesting their ill gotten gain! Tiny snails crawl inside the pot moving through the loose medium making their daytime hideout at the bottom of the pot where you will never see them. They hide so well in the potting medium that you can look and look but never find them until you re-pot.

The first suggestion, as always, is that prevention is the best solution to the problem. Snails can be controlled by using baits in pellet or liquid form. It is important to remember you are putting out bait. Pests are drawn to them. It is best to apply lightly and apply often. Because baits can be washed away in the rain it is best to reapply every two weeks. One pellet every two to three feet will do the job, but one application will be of minimal help. Be sure to reapply. The smaller the bait pellet is the better. The small pellets are the best. They help us from over applying and they pose much less of a threat to any neighborhood pets that may come in to your yard. We are looking to eliminate the snails not the neighborhood pets.

Please note, never put snail bait in your orchid pots, always put it around them on the ground.

Controlling the seemingly endless hoard of snails is a continuing battle, so keep up your regimen.

Our very Best Wishes go out to George Barbuty for a speedy recovery.

Get Well Soon!



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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.

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



Fall Ramble—October 3rd. 2010

Mark your calendars, get your cameras ready...Sunday October 3 is our Annual House Ramble.

Cost \$5 pp. Send your name(s) and money to BROS PO Box 276367, Boca Raton, FL 33427-6367 or sign up at the August & September meetings.

Never been on a Ramble? You are in for a treat and lots of fun visiting different homes.

For more information:

Contact Lorraine Conover 561-395-2145 or Karen Khan 561-394-0385



ORCHID EXHIBIT WORKSHOP

Jackie Wood will be giving a class at her home on **Sunday, November 7, 2010 from 1-3 pm** to anyone who is interested in learning how to put in a tabletop exhibit for our orchid show coming up in February 2011. To keep things simple, the demonstration will be for a card table size exhibit, but the same principles can be applied to any size exhibit.

You will learn the basic principles of design and some little tricks on how to put in a beautiful display and win that trophy. This is a wonderful way to show your artistic talents and display your beautiful orchids. Plus it's a fun way of getting more involved with your society and its activities.

If you are interested in this 2 hour workshop, sign up at the upcoming meetings or email Jackie at bocaorchidlady@aol.com. Please make sure to provide your email address and/or phone number.



ORCHID TIDBITS

Black Rot

By Susan Jones

A danger to orchids any time the weather is rainy or damp for extended periods, black rot can quickly destroy an entire plant if left unchecked. Caused by one or both of the fungi *Pythium ultimum* and *Phytophthora cactorum*, black rot affects a wide variety of orchids. Cattleyas seem to be particularly susceptible.

Black rot moves quickly through a plant and can decimate an orchid collection if not treated

Life Cycle



The fungi that cause black rot in orchids can live only in environments where water is available to them. They consist of spores capable of independent movement, called zoospores, which swim through the water. If that water happens to be sitting on an orchid leaf, the zoospores can penetrate the plant tissue and begin the next stage in their life cycle. At this point, the fungus develops a vegetative part or mycelium consisting of hyphae (thin, thread-like tubes), which spread quickly through the affected plant tissues. Once this occurs, the visible signs of infection - small, watery, translucent spots - expand quickly and change to brown and then black. Left untreated, the affected plant or plants may infect others and will probably die themselves.

Symptoms

When the fungus attacks seedlings, it is usually at the soil line. This can cause the little plants to topple and die, and is referred to as damping off.

In mature plants, the disease can strike at any point on the plant (leaves, pseudobulbs or roots), but often starts in new leaves or growing leads, and progresses downward through the plant until reaching the roots..

As its name implies, black rot shows up as dark blackish spots or lesions on the affected plant part. The black spot or spots enlarge rapidly and can spread throughout the plant. If allowed to reach the crown of a monopodial (single-stemmed) orchid, the rot will kill the plant. Affected leaves may turn yellow around the infected area, and the lesions themselves will be soft and exude water when pressure is applied.

Black rot is easily spread by splashing water.

Prevention Unsterilized pots, media or water sources, as well as water splashed from affected plants nearby, are all excellent means of spreading the fungus. In addition, plants that spend time outdoors should be elevated 3 to 4 feet (90 to 120 cm) above the ground to avoid splash contamination. Do not allow your orchids' leaves to remain wet for any extended periods. Good air circulation in the growing area is key, and can help plants dry quickly after watering or rains. The addition of a fan or fans to the growing area can improve the airflow and help prevent rots. At first signs of infection, segregate all affected plants to avoid contaminating healthy plants. Finally, some growers recommend the use of a high-calcium fertilizer in the spring to help avoid black rot in new growth.



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Mechanical Treatment To stop the spread of black rot in your orchid, begin with a sterile knife and cut out the diseased portion of the plant. Remove all infected plant material, taking out a small amount of healthy tissue bordering the infected area as a safety precaution. Examine the cut portion carefully. It is sometimes possible, especially in pseudobulbs, to see a brownish discoloration extending into the interior of tissue that appears healthy on the surface. In sympodial (many-stemmed) plants such as a cattleya, it may be necessary to cut below the leaves and into the pseudobulb to stop the spread of the disease. If the plant is badly infected, cut into the rhizome, growth by growth, until you reach healthy tissue. For a monopodial orchid such as a vanda or phalaenopsis, remove the infected portion of the leaf, or the entire leaf if necessary, to halt the spread of the fungus before it reaches the crown. Place the plant in an area that receives good air circulation to allow the cut to dry.

Chemical Treatment Once the infected plant parts have been removed, a fungicide should be applied to protect the remaining healthy tissue. Cinnamon is an excellent fungicide, and ground cinnamon may be applied straight from the spice jar directly to the exposed area where infected portions of the plant have been excised. First Rays Orchids also recommends mixing cinnamon with either casein-based glue (such as Elmer's) or cooking oil to form a thick paste. This paste is fairly waterproof and can be used to cover the wound.

Another poultice that was developed specifically for use on orchids is StopRot. The product contains a Bordeaux mixture in lanolin. The Bordeaux, a mixture of copper sulfate and lime, has fungicidal properties. The lanolin seals the wound to keep moisture out.

Whatever method is chosen, be sure to cover all of the exposed (cut) area with the fungicide or sealant, so that no new infection can be introduced to the open wound.

Drenching the affected plant with fungicide is also an option. Drenches of a protectant fungicide such as Truban or Terrazole are recommended if the disease is diagnosed early. For more advanced cases, a systemic fungicide such as Aliette or Subdue is more effective. Captan, Dithane M-45 and Physan 20 have also been recommended by some growers for control of black rot.

To protect seedlings against damping off, water with the fungicide of choice (at the dilution rate for seedlings specified in the product's instructions) as soon as they are deflasked and potted in compots. Afterward, treat with a preventive fungicide at two-week intervals.

Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446
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Congratulations to Carol Ott on her beautiful award winning Orchid and we thank her for sharing her story with us:



I've had this plant less than 2 years and this is the second time it's bloomed for me. I keep it on a rolling cart outdoors on my deck, which faces east, and gets full sun in the morning. As a controlled experiment, I kept it outdoors for most of the cold winter we experienced this year. Many of the leaves turned red, I added some epsom salts to my Peter's fertilizer when the weather warmed up, and the red leaves went away. When it started to spike, I turned the plant regularly so the spikes would be well distributed, sprayed for pests occasionally, even if I didn't see any. When it started to bud and bloom, I brought it to a new location outside my kitchen window where I could keep a close eye on it, and in the house if it was really cold. I see all of the outstanding blue ribbon plants our members bring to our meetings each month, and I've been up to AOS judging once before.



Comparing mine to others made me realize it was having a stellar year and also helped me decide to take it in for judging. Lucky for me it was at its peak bloom on the 4th Saturday in June!

Encyclia tampensis 'sea otter's baby' CCM/AM

More than 500 tiny blossoms on 45 inflorescences, grown in a 6" clay pot

Photo courtesy of Greg Allikas

Refreshments are needed for our August 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, Susan Barbuty, Barbara Benefield and Pat Salas for bringing those delicious goodies to share at our July meeting.



Volunteers Needed

Please consider volunteering at one of the monthly meetings or help organize one of the many events the BROS hosts - we need volunteers. Contact a board member for more information.

Boca Raton Orchid Society Plant Table

Judge: Jose Exposito - July 2010

Category	Ribbon	Orchid Name	Owner
Misc. Genera	Blue	lycaste cochleata	Denise Libby
Paphiopedilum	Blue	Paph. poulsbo	Jackie Wood
Cattleya Bifoliata	Blue	CTNA Brandi 'OC'	Lorraine Conover

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

EDITOR'S POSITION AVAILABLE:

BROS is looking for someone to take over the Newsletter Editor position.

Please contact Marian McElligott @ marianmce@comcast.net Tel: 561.367.9731. OR any BROS Board Member.

Training and transitional help will be provided.



Boca Raton Orchid Society Membership

FIRST YEAR

SINGLE \$25.00 COUPLE \$35.00 - Newsletter

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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

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

Safe Schools Institute
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