



# The Orchid Sentinel

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



Thursday, January 14, 2010 Program

7:30 p.m.

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# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## Backyard Orchid Growing

**Guest Speaker: Ken Russ**

**Ken and Judy Russ have been growing orchids for about 13 years. They live on a waterway in Jupiter that they affectionately refer to as "The Puddle". Here they grow about 600 orchids in a shade house, lanai and in a shaded "pine forest". They have enjoyed entering many orchid shows, taking part in societal orchid displays, and have received many ribbons and awards along the way. Since 2004, their orchids have received 22 AOS awards. Ken has prepared a PowerPoint presentation showing how he and Judy grow their orchids, including tips they have found successful through the years. They hope you will find it informative, entertaining and helpful in growing your own plants.**

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





## *BROS Calendar of Events*

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## *President's Message:*

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

What a great December we enjoyed. It began with our wonderful Annual Meeting/Holiday Party. Thanks to all those who contributed gifts to the Boca Raton Police Department "Toys for Tots & Teens". If you missed this year's event, plan now for 2010 by marking your calendar for the first Thursday in December. Don't miss out.

AOS featured two events, a shopping weekend and a Saturday judging that was over the top. Last but not least, December has provided the most spectacular Cattleya display in recent (my) backyard history!

We can now turn our thoughts to BROS Annual Show. It is shaping up to be the biggest and best yet. You all have your tickets to give and or sell. If you need more tickets, call Lorraine Conover. Held at the Safe Schools, we have a new twist this year. Landscape vendors will be outside on the lawn, giving ample space for display of plants for your yards. Make a list of plants you would like to locate at the show.

Plan to "work" the show by volunteering. Many hands make for a fun and successful show.

See you at the meeting.

Dave

### *A Sample of what the B.R.O.S is all about.....*

#### *BROS After-School Program*

Ten years ago two elementary schools in Boca asked BROS to provide orchid information for their Junior Garden Club After-School Program. The presentation to these students inspired the formation of a formal after school program teaching children the basics of raising orchids.

Currently the program consists of one class period per month throughout the school year at J.C. Mitchell and Whispering Pines Elementary Schools in Boca Raton. The cooperating teachers Mrs. Chris Lyons and Mrs. B.J. Saul have been with the program since its inception. BROS furnishes orchids for between sixty and one hundred students per year.

Students are given a Phalaenopsis in October and are permitted to take it home for care. At the end of the school year a flower show is held. Students bring in their plants to show and be photographed. However the main portion of the program occurs during the school year. Following a course outline students are instructed in separate lessons: Fertilizer, Insecticides, Fungicides, Care of Plant and Staking, Spike treatment at the culmination of blooming & Pollination. The Phalaenopsis is the plant of choice because it will spike and bloom during the school year. It will also last almost until the show is held.

Gratifying results are revealed at the end of year show. Approximately 90% of the students manage to keep their plants alive and successfully bloom them. They exhibit great pride when showing their plants or pictures of the blooms.



## ORCHID TIDBITS

### January in your Orchid Collection

#### January Climate Data

Average high: 76.5

Average low: 59.6

Average mean: 68.1

Average rainfall: 1.88

#### Tasks for January:

- Water judiciously, only early in the day.
- Run plants on the dry side to preserve the possibility of using water for cold protection.
- Check irrigation system in anticipation of cold.
- Flush excess fertilizer salts from cattleyas and other sympodials
- Spray for mites, then, spray again in 7-10 days.

January is somewhat like December but in reverse, with each succeeding day bringing longer hours of sunlight until days are long enough that afternoons return at the end of the month with extra sunshine to warm us after the extra sharp cold snaps. January, like December, is cold and dry, in fact even colder and drier. Dry is good, cold can be very bad. We need to accentuate the positive by especially careful watering in January. By keeping our plants as dry as possible and spacing our waterings as far apart as possible, we conserve our potential to use water to protect our plants from the cold, keeping our powder dry, as it were. In January water early, water thoroughly when you do and do so sparingly. The cooler overall temperatures of January are much less dehydrating even to plants which have received less water. Remember, many of our orchids come from seasonally dry and cool climates not so different from South Florida. Many orchids are equipped already to handle the drier cooler conditions of our Florida January.

Water is the only feasible source of heat available to plants grown in the open, under trees, in shade houses or on patios in South Florida. Ground water here (and in most of the rest of the world is about 63 F. (16C). Water out of municipal systems is not far different. On truly cold nights turning on the water can be of great benefit to our plants, provided that they have not been over-watered in the days and weeks preceding, thus inviting the ever present fungi to do more damage than the cold. For this reason as well, in general, orchids are better off dry until temperatures approach frost or freezing. The logic for maintaining plants dry is not only to minimize fungal problems but also because cold air is typically very dry air. If plants are wet in very dry and rapidly moving air say 10 or more MPH, evaporative cooling can take place, chilling our orchids further and faster than they would if dry. When the water goes on it needs to be in heavy volume and it needs to stay on to keep the plants thoroughly bathed in its warmth. Very still air on the other hand, presents a different danger as frost is possible at temperatures higher than is commonly realized. In calm air frost can form at higher elevations and settle in on plants while the surface temperature is only in the upper 30's (4C). The best forecast for nights when the temperature will hover near 40 is a light wind of 2-5 miles per hour. This light wind mixes the warm air near the surface and draws warm from the earth. Clear, cloudless, still nights with bright shining stars elevate the spirit but harbinger frost.

Forecasts of temperatures below 40 F should stimulate us to action.

If it is not practical to bring all the *Phalaenopsis*, vandas and hard cane dendrobiums into the house or garage, think of using water to help protect them. Shade cloth or even patio screen like a lacy Mantilla holds in a surprising amount of heat. Under screen, a fine mist head(1/2 gal. per minute) attached to a hose and left running beneath the bench or plant rack will provide several degrees of additional warmth that will often sufficiently temper the chill and ward off any light frost settling in. Growers with swimming pools frequently turn on the re-circulating pump to keep a supply of warm water near the pool's surface where it can add heat to the ambient environment. A few degrees of warmth frequently make all the difference to our sensitive orchids. In more open areas not protected by a permanent irrigation system, an oscillating sprinkler at the end of a garden hose is very effective. These are readily available at Home Depot and garden shops for a few dollars. On frosty nights, start the water at bedtime and let it run until the sun is up. The extra water once or twice in a month will do no harm to orchids that have been properly and judiciously watered the remainder of the month. In fact, these occasions present the opportunity to be sure that excess fertilizer salts have been leached from the pots and medium. A good work can be born of necessity!

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

## American Orchid Society News:



### 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.

### 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.

### Orchid Society Hosts Auction for Pediatric AIDS

#### Wine & Jazz at the American Orchid Society 2010

#### Live and Silent Auction to Benefit Orchid Mania South Florida

What do orchids and Pediatric AIDS have in common? The answer is the dedicated volunteers who form Orchid Mania South Florida. Orchid Mania South Florida provides financial and moral support to grassroots AIDS prevention and relief organizations, including the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, and they use their hobby of orchid growing to raise funds.

The American Orchid Society is honored to help Orchid Mania South Florida by holding an auction during their Thursday, February 18, 2010 Wine & Jazz. The AOS holds four Wine & Jazz events each year, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Jan, Feb, March and April. It is a beautiful time to walk through the Botanical Garden with its orchids and greenhouse, located off Jog Road, next to Morikami Museum. Monies will be raised through live and silent auction from beautiful orchid arrangements, orchid art, handmade orchid jewelry and other items.

### Bus Tours - All Aboard the AOS Orchid Express

Come join the fun as the AOS Hosts a series of orchid rambles to premier orchid destinations during the show season! Bus raffles! Snacks! Orchid fun! All



buses depart from the AOS Headquarters at 8:30AM and return at 4:30PM. Please arrive by 8:15AM for check-in! Snacks are provided on the bus, lunch is on your own. Bring a box for your plants. We'll 'pass the hat' for driver gratuity. Tickets for each ramble are \$30 for AOS members, \$35 for non-members. Participants will receive a coupon for free admission to the AOS Garden. Prepaid ticket reservations can be made with Susan Wayman at 561-404-2031.

### Saturday January 30, 2010 - Tamiami Orchid Festival at the Sunshine Pavilion, Fair Expo Center, Miami, Florida. On board raffles and games! Lots of fun coming and going!

**Saturday February 27, 2010 - Miami International Orchid Show at the Doubletree Hotel & Convention Center, Miami, Florida.** Orchid Express participants will receive a \$5.00 discount off admission to the show as well as vendor coupons!

**Saturday May 15, 2010 - Redlands Orchid Festival at the Fruit and Spice Park, Homestead, Florida.** Orchid Express participants will receive free admission to the show and a \$5.00 coupon to use inside the show.

# Mark your Calendar:

**BOCA RATON ORCHID SOCIETY**

# Orchid Show & Sale

*Valentines Day  
Weekend*

**February 13 - 14, 2010**  
10 am - 5 pm

*...Featuring...*  
**ORCHID DISPLAYS & SALES**  
**FREE EDUCATIONAL LECTURES**  
**REPOTTING SERVICE**  
**AOS JUDGING**

*The joy of  
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**Admission  
\$5.00**

For Additional Information Contact Jackie Wood  
561-703-0278 • bocarorchidlady@aol.com

**Safe Schools Institute • 1790 Spanish River Blvd.** Corner of Military Trail and Spanish River Blvd.

# Orchid Fantasy

*Presented by the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society*



**Orchid Show**  
January 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> 2010

10am - 9pm Friday  
10am - 9pm Saturday  
10am - 6pm Sunday

Admission \$7.00

**War Memorial Auditorium**  
800 NE 8<sup>th</sup> St Fort Lauderdale

To learn more please visit [www.flos.org](http://www.flos.org)

*Relax ...*  
**Wine & Jazz**  
*under the stars*



American Orchid Society

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Tickets: \$20 for AOS members,  
\$25 for nonmembers

Call: 561-604-2031  
to reserve tickets or  
purchase them in the gift shop

*Jazz nights*  
January 21, February 18, March 18 and April 15  
at the AOS Visitors Center and Botanical Garden

*Sip wine by the fountains,  
enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and the sunset.  
Bring a friend along for these most enjoyable evenings.*

For more information visit [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

**Wine and Music in the Gardens**

**Mark your calendars for the third Thursday of each month:  
January – April 2010**

Plans are underway for our popular monthly Wine & Music in the garden series! These events will be held the third Thursday of each month---January through April 2010, 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Come and enjoy the orchids in bloom, great music, wine tasting and appetizers and our botanical garden under the stars.

**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.

**Sponsor a Trophy**



Denise Libby and Corinne Juliano are on the look-out for sponsors for our Show Trophies. If you cannot help as a show volunteer, or even if you can, and would like to donate a tax-deductible donation of \$100 to offset the cost of our show trophies and AOS Judging expenses, please contact Denise at 954-796-7559 or Corinne at 561-483-2411. If you employer or dentist or doctor would like to make a donation, they will be acknowledged at our show with their name on the Sponsor Board and on the award certificate in addition to getting the tax deduction.

*The Story of Our Show Presale Tickets:*

By now I am sure you have received your 5 pre-sale tickets for our 2010 Show and Sale.

Just to give you some background and appreciation as to the importance of your purchase or sale of those tickets, let me share with you what happens...The \$3.00 Ticket brings the customer, that buys from the Vendor, who rents the booth, that brings the dollars, that brings the monthly speakers, raffle table, and fills our library with books.

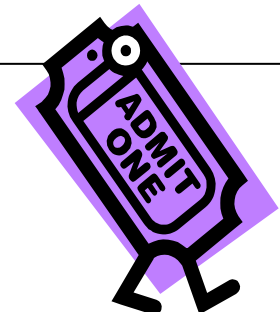
BUT most important of all the \$3.00 Ticket lets US GIVE BACK by sponsoring the U of F Orchid Short Course Program, the 'After-School Program' for young children, the FAU scholarship and other activities in our community toward the appreciation and education of Orchids.

Please help US GIVE BACK MORE to our community and sell these tickets.

**B.R.O.S. SHOW TICKETS**

Please mail your "Show Ticket" money by January 15<sup>th</sup> or bring to the January Meeting. Extra tickets are available, please contact Sharon Wesolowski @ 954-605-9932.

\$5.00 admission for Pre-Sale price of \$3.00---What a Bargain !!!



Here is your chance to get involved. At our January 14 meeting, you have the opportunity to sign-up to volunteer for the 2010 Bros Orchid Show and Sale.

We have positions in Security, Hospitality, Raffle Tables, Bros Booth, and Clerking for the AOS judging.

We will also need volunteers to help with the show set-up on Thursday, February 11, 2008.

Look for the Volunteer Board and sign-up. If you have never volunteered before, it is a lot of fun being part of the excitement of the event.

### Refreshments are needed for our January 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.**



## Boca Raton Orchid Society Advertisers

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**BROS Shirts are Here**

**Order Yours Today.**

See Denise Libby to special order your shirt



BROS members are welcome to sell their plants at the BROS monthly meetings with the understanding that 15% of the proceeds from the sale is to be paid, by the member, to the Society on the night of the meeting.

For more details please contact the BROS treasurer; Denise Libby or any BROS Board Member.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER: June Gelb

### 2010 BROS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE NOW

#### Boca Raton Orchid Society Membership

##### FIRST YEAR

SINGLE \$20.00 COUPLE \$30.00 - Newsletter e-mailed  
 SINGLE \$25.00 COUPLE \$35.00 - Newsletter U.S. mailed

##### RENEWAL

SINGLE \$18.00 COUPLE \$25.00 - Newsletter e-mailed  
 SINGLE \$23.00 COUPLE \$30.00 - 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 33427

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[www.BocaRatonOrchidSociety.com](http://www.BocaRatonOrchidSociety.com)

We're on the Web!

P.O. Box 276367  
Boca Raton, FL 33427

## Boca Raton Orchid Society

### Boca Raton Orchid Society

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

