



# The Orchid Sentinel

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



## May 13, 2010 Program

### *Orchids of Madagascar* *May Speaker: Ron McHatton, PhD.*

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Ron McHatton, a PhD Chemist by training, is currently the Chief Operating Officer of the American Orchid Society and is also the Director of Education. Having grown orchids for over 46 years, he has been exposed to just about every facet of the hobby.

Prior to working for the AOS, Ron was production manager for one of the largest wholesale orchid nurseries in the United States. His passion for orchids has spanned virtually every growing regime from windowsills to under lights to greenhouses, running from a 200 square foot hobby house to several acres of commercial growing space. Over the years, Ron's private collections has numbered in excess of 2500 plants.

In addition to his professional position, Ron is an accredited American Orchid Society Judge and has been volunteering for the AOS for over 25 years. During that time, he has chaired several national committees, has twice held a seat on the organization's Board of Trustees and briefly served as vice-president. In addition to Ron's volunteer support of the AOS, he has also been a long-time supporter of the Orchid Digest. In this role, he has served on its Board of Directors and Executive Committee for many years and as its President for three consecutive terms.

Ron's talk will be on the orchids of Madagascar, and will be one you will not want to miss.

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



Angraecum and Urania  
Moth of Madagascar

\*\*\* [Read more about Madagascar and Orchids on page 5](#)



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## Calendar of Events

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 - Corrine Juliano's Home
Thur June 10	7:30pm BROS Monthly Meeting - Speaker: Tom Kuligowski
Wed June 16	7:30pm BROS Board Meeting

## President's Message:

Yes, it's me again filling in for the President. However, this time it is for a new President. Because of his recent health issues and after 4 ½ years as our President, Dave has stepped down as President so he can spend some time recuperating, relaxing and playing with his orchids. The man deserves it.

At our April Board meeting, Corinne Juliano, agreed to fill in as President for the balance of the year. It took a little arm twisting, so let's make sure we show her how much we appreciate her stepping up and taking on these new responsibilities. Of course, your Board of Directors will be there with their support as well.

May is one of my favorite months of the year. It has the last few days of our beautiful Florida weather before it turns hot and steamy. It also is time for the Redlands International Orchid Festival at Fruit and Spice Park on May 15, 2010. There will be over 80 vendors and that is where you are going to find that special plant you have been searching for. There are always several food vendors at the Festival serving a wide selection of lunches ranging from Thai food, French crepes (my favorite), sausage & peppers, and the other usual Fair-type food. Or if you prefer, you can pack a lunch. There are still some seats available on our bus and if you are interested in going you need to contact Sharon Wesolowski @ 954-605-9932 or Karen Khan @561-394-0385 as soon as possible. Don't wait until our May meeting---that will be too late. Cost for the trip is \$25.00 per person and includes admission, snacks, water and a fun time. It also includes a \$5.00 coupon that can be used towards the purchase of an orchid valued at \$25.00 or more. So how can you beat that? If you sign up for the trip, I highly recommend you bring a box or two to store your purchases in under the bus and also bring some return address labels that you can stick to your plants, bags, boxes, etc. , so there is no confusion when we get home and unload the bus.

Don't forget, if you haven't renewed your membership, time is running out if you want to continue getting the newsletter and having your name in the Directory.

And finally, how about bringing in some of those beautiful orchids you are growing at home to share with the members and even win a blue ribbon. Remember, you get a free raffle ticket for every plant you bring in for the Members Plant Table.

See you at the meeting,  
Jackie Wood, Vice President



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.

## Spend Mother's Day in Our Serene Garden

# Join us this Mother's Day

May 9th, 10 am – 4 pm

**FREE Admission and Complimentary Orchid Tea Service for all Moms!**

Enjoy a few hours of pure enchantment. Take pleasure in the magic of blooming orchids, rare tropicals, cascading waterfalls and serene ponds. Our captivating Greenhouse is sure to enlighten your day with rare and exotic flora and fauna.

Beautiful orchid plants available in our gift shop!  
Regular Admission \$10 \* Children Under 12 Free




American Orchid Society  
Education, Conservation, Research

**Don't Miss Upcoming Events:**

- \* **Redland Orchid Festival Bus Trip**, May 15<sup>th</sup>, Leave AOS at 8:30 am return 4:30 pm. \$35 (\$30 Members) includes transportation, snacks/beverages, admission and \$5 coupon.
- \* **Workshop Anita Lovitt** is an award-winning illustrator, designer and painter. She works in a wide variety of media and especially loves watercolor. 10 am – 1 pm, Saturday, May 8th and 15th. \$35 per workshop. Bring supplies.
- \* **Orchid Lecture Series** Tom Wells and Sandi Jones, Owners of Broward Orchid Supply & Bonnet House Orchid Curators are hosting a series of educational classes on Saturdays or Sundays beginning May 29th – June 20th from 1 pm – 3 pm.

For more information visit [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) or call Enid at 561-404-2063 to make a reservation  
16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33446

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

Or contact Valerie Smith at the AOS: 561.404.2052 or email: [vsmith@aos.org](mailto:vsmith@aos.org) for further de-

## FLORIDA ORCHID SHOWS:

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:whimsy@bellsouth.net).

**14-15 - \*Greater Orlando Orchid Society Show**, Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens, 633 Osceola Ave., Winter Park, FL. Contact: Joy Prince; (407) 299-8003 [dp691955@aol.com](mailto:dp691955@aol.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](mailto:jadamson1@cfl.rr.com).



## May in your Orchid Collection

### May Climate Data

Average high: 87.2

Average low: 72.0

Average mean: 79.6

Average rainfall: 5.52"

### Tasks for May:

- Space plants properly for good air circulation.
- Trim excessive foliage on trees and shrubs.
- Repot Phalaenopsis out of sphagnum.
- Finish repotting of various genera.
- Reset vandaceous plants, remove keikies.
- Water heavily early in month, more guardedly later.
- Initiate preventative spray maintenance program.

May is a month of transition in South Florida. Early in the month we can expect the driest weather of the year. Because of the clarity of the air and lack of cloud cover, temperatures rise rapidly in the late morning and can reach the upper eighties or nineties by mid afternoon before cooling substantially in the late afternoon. Fortunately, over night, radiant cooling rapidly dissipates the previous days' heat. May mornings are a delight, the wise orchidist rises early to enjoy them and to finish his chores before the heat sets in. Chief of those should be extensive dragging of hoses.

With the increased heat and light of May we do not want to put our orchids on too lean of a diet. Fertilize with up to 2 tsp of 15-5-15 per gallon of water every week or so. Alternating this standard fertilizer with Epsom salts and potassium nitrate (at 1 tbs each per gal) is still a best practice during May. Always substitute fertilizer for a watering and apply like the water in two doses to the point of saturation. Potassium nitrate, 13-0-46, is the perfect companion to minor elements because it not only lacks phosphorus which would hinder the absorption of the trace elements but the nitrogen seems to enhance their uptake.

May is still prime time for re-potting. With cattleyas, dendrobiums and other sympodials, the virtuous among us have long since finished the labor of love, but the majority of us are faced with the moral dilemma of doing the potting or waiting until next year with the pseudo bulbs of our plant overhanging their pots and proclaiming to the world our sloth. The one instance, in which this dilemma must be resolved absolutely in favor of the plant, is when the medium has broken down in the pot. Decayed medium will encourage root rot to become stem rot which will pursue the rhizome even into those over arching bulbs. In doubt, give the medium the "nose test". A pinch of medium taken from below the surface of the pot should smell "sweet". A sour smell or the odor of a pond bottom indicates medium that is broken down and must be replaced as soon as possible.

May is a great month for re-setting vandaceous orchids whose baskets have deteriorated or that have grown too tall to be easily managed. Keikies (off-shoots) can be most safely removed now. In both cases choose the most durable containers for the plants so they need not be disturbed for years. Teak or other hard wood baskets and clay pots last longest.

Leaving the taxonomic niceties to the experts, fungi which attack orchids in Florida fall into two broad classes; the leaf spotting types (*Cercospora* and *Phyllosticta*) and the soft rots (*Phthium* and *Phytophthora*). Fortunately, for modern orchidists, excellent systemic fungicides exist for both types.

All chemicals should only be applied at the rates and according to the label instructions. If in doubt about whether to or how to apply a pesticide, always call your local Agricultural Department.

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

## Madagascar Orchid growers strike deal with perfume industry

A slender delicately-perfumed white orchid unique to Madagascar is the pick of the French cosmetics industry to symbolize its new commitment to biodiversity and sustainable development.

*Angraecum eburneum longicalcar* had all but disappeared from its natural habitat when much of its forest home was destroyed, but for this project will be grown commercially in partnership with Madagascar farmers, and then exported to France.

"These orchids can be grown for use as either cut flowers or for their cosmetic value," said Alban Muller, president of both Alban Muller, a producer of fragrances and flavors, and the Cosmetic Valley grouping of France's top perfumers and fragrance specialists. "Orchids have hydrating and softening properties. They also have a very powerful image, which is important for our industry," Muller said. Companies like Guerlain, Yves Rocher and Clarins have been using orchid extracts for a long time, he said.



The island of Madagascar was separated from the African and Indian landmasses 160 million years ago, becoming a sanctuary for rare plant species. It is now home to the world's greatest number of orchids species, with 1,200 different types. Starting in the 1930s, celebrated collector Marcel Lecoufle roamed the island in search of orchids, building up a collection that today includes 105 species native to Madagascar.

Françoise Lenoble-Predine, vice-president of the conservatory of specialized plant collections, says she has found three laboratories in Madagascar that are sufficiently well equipped to handle the delicate operation of reproducing the orchid. "This will enable us to begin reproducing other plants with high added value," she said, kicking off a process of sustainable development in a country ranked as one of the poorest in the world.

Madagascar is already a major producer of plants for the perfume industry, including ylang ylang, vetiver and vanilla, another member of the orchid family. "It is a country rich in natural resources, but very much under the control of middlemen who buy the crops while they are still growing," said Lenoble-Predine. Crops are bartered against rice, with merchants pushing up prices of the food staple, leaving farmers with debts of up to one and a half harvests and families short of food.

*Angraecum eburneum* could be cultivated in the very heart of the Madagascar capital, Antananarivo, where there are 3 200 hectares of polluted and deteriorating rice paddies.

Source: [www.africanagricultureblog](http://www.africanagricultureblog)



### ***Refreshments are needed for our May 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 Shirley Wilde; Hella Weiss; Lorraine Conover; Veronica Risko; Pat & Don Salas; Carolyn Huckshorn; Barbara Blais & Jane Walters for bringing those delicious goodies to share at our April meeting.



### **Boca Raton Orchid Society Plant Table**

**Judge: Carol DeBiase- April 2010**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ribbon</b>	<b>Orchid Name</b>	<b>Owner</b>
Dendrobium Alliance	Blue & Culture	Den. Golden Aya	Robert & Barbara Blais
Cattleya Bifoliata	Blue & Culture	C. Skinneri alba 'Cherokee'	Shirley Wilde
Cattleya Bifoliata	Blue & Culture	Potinara Hoku Gem Ctna. 'Why Not'	Colleen Taylor
Brassavola	Blue	B. Aristocrat	Susan Barbuty
Phalaenopsis	Blue	Phalaenopsis	Pat Salas
Carrleya Unifoliata	Blue	Lc Fire Dancer 'Patricia'	Lorraine Conover
Other Cattleya Allian.	Blue	Slc Rockette 'Tonky's First'	Juan Bofill
Cattleya Unifoliata	Blue	C Fire Dora 'Patricia'	Susan Barbury

#### **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.

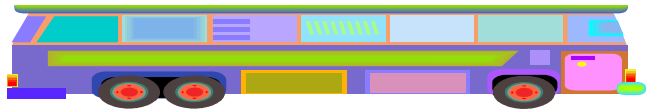
Help all members enjoy your beautiful orchids by displaying them correctly.

**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](http://www.BocaRatonOrchidSociety.org)

## 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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

**Sharon Wesolowski**

MEMBERSHIP@BROSONLINE.ORG

MAIL CHECKS TO:

BOCA RATON ORCHID SOCIETY

P O BOX 276367

BOCA RATON, FL  
33427



*Welcome New Members April 2010: Gerry and Louise Cassella*

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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

