

Gainesville Orchid Society
Newsletter
May, 2013

A Message from the President of the Gainesville Orchid Society

May is the month when you *may* ask yourself: why did or didn't I bid on that auction plant? And: *Maybe* I'll find the right way to ensure that I provide the right culture for it! *Maybe*, I don't have as many orchid plants as I could and therefore, *maybe*, it is time to build that greenhouse or add on to it? After all it is the merry month of May when all sorts of orchid plants *may* bloom on time, or early, or later, or not at all, all of which *maybes* are likely to happen given the kind of year and weather we have had so far in 2013. Whatever happens, *may* May be your month for orchid adventure and rewarding *mayhem* in finding new plants and watching them prosper.

On a personal note: I was in Holland in early May to supervise the packing and shipping of the orchid library of Ben Singer. Ben passed away last December, and his library, which he had given to the American Orchid Society in 2000, was now ready to join its fellows at the AOS library and archives, which are currently in storage. Ben's library was among the finest private collections of books about orchids in the world; together with the holdings already in the AOS and in conjunction with the library at Fairchild, we now have one of the great research collections for tropical and subtropical horticulture in the western hemisphere. I also took the occasion to meet and greet Ben's new grandson: Lucio Benjamin Singer!

As you will read elsewhere in our Newsletter, the fall AOS members meeting will take place in November at Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden in Coral Gables. Hopefully, many members of the GOS will be able to visit Fairchild at that or another time, and while the library and archives will not yet be ready for visits, the gardens with orchids from the AOS will be surely a welcoming sight and site. Cheers and good growing of orchids and see you all on May 27th!

John Ingram

Thanks to our Storage Rental Facility for their Sponsorship



I-75 Business Park & Self Storage, Inc.

<http://i75@gainesvilleselfstorage.com/Gainesville-Florida-32608-81.html>

Next Meeting

Monday, May 27th, 2013
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
Gainesville, FL 32608

4700 S.W . 58th Drive

7:00 Beginners Class
"Growing Vandas" by Joan MacLeod

7:30 Program
"Angraecums" By Tom Kuligowski

Most Angraecums tend to be known for their beautiful, showy flowers, many of which are fragrant at night. Some can even become fantastic specimen plants in just a couple of years and become even more impressive. With both species and several sought after crosses, the Angraecums offer some very unique shapes along with the most pristine white in any of the orchids. The amazing fact people aren't aware of, is that they can thrive in South Florida's sub-tropical weather or on a

windowsill in the not-so-warm north, if given the chance with proper care.



Tom's presentation will provide both hobbyists and serious growers with fundamental guidelines to grow these beautiful plants successfully and in turn, grace you with years of enjoyment. Specific culture requirements are also available through

www.angraecums.blogspot.com

with update notices made via

www.facebook.com/tkangraecums.

Most of the photographs within the presentation, the blog and the Angraecums facebook page are of plants from Tom's collection, many of them showing the various growth stages (from seedlings to first time bloomers to specimen plants).

"No matter the level of grower we are, we have an opportunity to grow plants that are close to extinction if they have not already vanished in the wild. We should take advantage of the various seed programs

made available to us and grow plants that once thrived in a natural habitat.”

Welcome New Member: Gary Sukow

Greenhouse Tour – Sue Weller
Saturday, May 25, 2013
11:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Address: 21775 NW 154 Place
High Springs
(386) 454-0599 or (352) 514-7058

Directions: North on I-75 to exit 399 (Alachua);
Turn right on 441 and follow for about 4 miles;
Turn left on NW 222 Street (by red feed store);
Follow NW 222 Street to stop sign;
Then continue straight onto dirt road and follow for about a mile;
Dirt road will turn left and become 154th Place;
Property is about half way down on right (.2 of a mile) – look for parking signs

Although the greenhouse is small there is extensive landscaping on property with a lovely rose garden, pond and wildflower garden. Suggest you wear sneakers, as there are ants on property.

Who Wants a GOS T-Shirt?

We need a minimum of 24 to place an order. There will be a sign-up sheet out at the next meeting. Prices are the same as last time (sizes Small to XL): Many colors available.

Ladies scoop is \$12.37

Men's and Ladies' regular T is \$10.37

XXL add \$1

If you have a question or will not be at the meeting and want a shirt, please contact Paula Turpening at pturpening@cox.net

LET'S TALK ORCHIDS

The darling orchid buds of May include those of *Encyclia tampensis*. These Florida natives known as butterfly orchids are a profusion of small, showy flowers. *Encyclia tampensis* has greenish-yellow sepals and petals with magenta in the lip. One given to me by GOS member Freida Sessions has darker bronze sepals and petals. The alba form of *Encyclia tampensis* has a white lip with green sepals and petals. I grow all of my *tampensis* on cypress "rafts" that hang outside in dappled light. Their flowers are fragrant and attract many pollinators. Numerous seed pods attest to the thorough job these pollinators do.

Another May favorite is *Prosthechea cochleata* (syn. *Encyclia cochleata*). This shell orchid looks like an octopus and has green sepals and petals with a purple shell shaped lip. Flowers bloom consecutively for several months.

After enduring 4-5 days of rain early this month, my outdoor orchids were waterlogged. They benefited from the windy, sunny days that followed. In any case, I watch carefully for signs of fungal problems. Also, a sprinkling of slug and snail bait is a good idea, especially if orchids are potted in a bark mix.

Since I've been in the process of repotting, I've been observing my orchids to decide which need new media the most. Some of the obvious clues are that they have 'walked' out of their pots, decomposing media, shriveled leaves, or other signs the plants aren't doing well. Young orchid plants can benefit from being 'up-potted' to one size larger at the beginning of their growing season. Mature orchids usually need repotting once every 2-3 years or before the media turns to mush. Cymbidiums can go for 3-4 years before being repotted, whereas calanthes and phaius benefit from yearly repotting.

Now that orchids are in active growth, it's time to boost fertilizer a bit. A weekly fertilization program of 1/2 tsp./gal. of water will give orchids the "groceries" they need. For plants grown in bark I use Better Gro Orchid Plus (20-14-13) for 3 weeks and then alternate with Better Gro Bloom Booster (11-35-15) the fourth week. (This helps replace the nitrogen that is lost as bark decomposes.) For those grown in inert media (lava rock, aliflor, stalite) I use Peters 20-20-20. To each gallon of fertilizer mix I add a couple of drops of Superthrive.

Species in bloom for me are *Ascocentrum ampullaceum* (shocking pink), *Cattleya mossiae coerulea* (light lavender sepals and petals, darker lavender in lip with yellow in throat), *Dendrobium lindleyi* 'Majus' (yellow), and *Tetramicra canaliculata* (pink). Hybrids in bloom include *Phalaenopsis* Sogo Grape (purple), *Phalaenopsis* Sabine Meyer (white with pink dots on petals/wide pink lip), *Phalaenopsis* Kathleen Battle (white with yellow lip), and *Phalaenopsis* Orchid World 'Carmela' AM/AOS (yellow with red dots and red lip).

Happy orchid growing. I'll see you at the meeting.

Nancy Mason

AOS Corner

Updates from AOS Headquarters

Save the date – **November 14-16, 2013** -- for the Fall Members and Trustees meetings to be held at the new AOS home at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens in Coral Gables, Florida. Plans are underway for speakers and a show and as information becomes available, I'll pass it along. Having the fall meeting there provides us all perfect opportunity to visit Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden - one of the top two tropical gardens in the world.

Changes to *Orchids* production.

Jim Watson, the long-time editor of *Orchids*, has left due to budgetary constraints of the AOS. Ron McHatton will be taking over Jim's editorial roles in conjunction with the Publications Committee.

The Veitch Memorial Medal Recipients.

Peter R. Furniss and Dr. Alec Pridgeon, Ph.D. were among six individuals honored with the The Veitch Memorial Medal by the Royal Horticulture Society. The Veitch Memorial Medal may be awarded annually to persons of any nationality who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the art, science or practice of horticulture. For more information on the recipients and the award, see the AOS website.

13th Supplemental Issue for 2013.

The 2013 supplemental issue will be distributed with a Fall issue of *Orchids* magazine and the topic is the genus *Cattleya*. Donations (however small - \$2.00 minimum) are now being accepted on the AOS website. The publication of these supplemental issues is underwritten entirely by membership donations.

Throughout the remainder of the spring and summer, I hope you all will support your local societies' events and shows.

Lynn Fuller, Chair

AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

GOS Meeting Minutes - April 22, 2013

The meeting began at: 7pm

Refreshments: Thanks to Patti Hollien, Lois McNamara, Sharon Curran

Visitors/new members: one visitor

Beginner's Class: Trey Yon, on Stanhopeas

Announcements:

Roy Cline: Greenhouse Tours

April tour at Mike Sielaff's 10am- 2pm, 4/27/ 2013, 8250 SW 138th Terrace, Dunnellon

May tour at Sue Weller's 11am-3pm, 5/25/2013, 21775 NW 154th Place, High Springs

Joan MacLeod: Fred Keefer (St. Augustine Orchid Society), Del Rei Orchids Open House on 5/5/2013, noon-4pm, 4270 Cedar Ford Blvd, Hastings FL.

Away Shows: Next one Volusia weekend of 5/11-12/13, set up on 5/10/13 Barbara Fennelly, Joan and Neil MacLeod, Becky Fickett, Breakdown on 5/12/13 Roy Cline, Trey Yon and Carol Turner

Board Business: All stored items from Warehouse now moved to the storage unit. Gainesville Storage off of Archer Rd, year to year contract for 10X10 unit.

Tallahassee Orchid Society Spring Show: GOS netted 16 Blue, 8 red and 4 white ribbons. 5 Best of Shows: 1 to Chaz Darling, 1 to Carolyn Robinson and 3 to Candy Hollinger.

Bloom Table Winners

Carolyn Robinson	Paph. Norito Hasegawa
Phyllis Craig	Oncidium Space Race 'Channel'
Chaz Darling	Den. thyrsoiflorum
Candy Hollinger	Cattleya mossiae semi-alba
Chaz Darling	Ren. Zachary Phoon Jun Ze
John Bouret	Bulb. taiwanense
Candy Hollinger	Chysis bractescens
Linda White	Dtps. Tian Nong Glory

Guest Speaker: Mike Sielaff, "How I Grow My Orchids" tips and tricks
Respectfully Submitted: Barbara Fennelly

Treasurer's Report

April 30th, 2013

INCOME

Silent auction	106.00
Wood cabinet	35.00
Lattice	25.00
Membership dues	65.00
Donations	45.00
Raffle	102.00
Total	378.00

EXPENSE

Silent auction	67.67
Trash can	44.40
Tallahassee show	360.00
Total	472.07
Total reserves	1850.00
Checkbook bal.	9619.77
Cashbox	75.50
Less reserves	1850.00
Available Funds	7845.27

New Silent Auction Limit of Three Plants Per Seller

At the last GOS Board meeting, the Board voted to limit the number of silent auction items that each member may sell to 3 per person per meeting.

The Board felt that this would help limit competition for plant sales when there is a guest speaker who also sells plants, and also might encourage higher bidding for the plants that are in the silent auction.