



August 2010

Orchid Society of Coral Gables

Tuesday, August 3, 2010 Meeting

7:30 pm: General Meeting

Ruben Sauleda, Ruben in Orchids

“Orchids in Columbia”



Last month we took a trip to Ecuador. This month we are going to travel to Columbia!

We are honored to have as our speaker one of the most recognized and distinguished growers in our area, and a great friend to OSCG, Ruben Sauleda. Ruben and his wife, Claudia,

recently went to Claudia's home country of Columbia to visit and, of course, check out the orchids!

Ruben said he took around 4,000 pictures of orchids while he was there! We won't be seeing all of them, but Ruben has put together a great presentation of what orchids grow in Columbia.

Ruben Sauleda is founder, owner and manager of Ruben In Orchids, an ornamental plant business established in Dade County in 1962. Dr. Sauleda and his wife Claudia moved around six years ago to the Redland after 45



Claudia Sauleda at their 2007 Fairchild display.

years in the Kendall area. Ruben In Orchids is a leading producer and supplier of orchid seedlings and tissue culture orchid plants to commercial growers.

Ruben has been growing orchids since the age of 12. His main interest is hybridizing the unusual, specializing in Encyclia and Schomburgkia hybrids. Besides orchids, Ruben also cultivates for sale from seed ferns, bromeliads, palms, other container plants (including mango and citrus trees) and

various ornamental plants in hanging baskets, and especially Florida natives.

Dr. Sauleda has a Masters Degree in Orchid Ecology and Taxonomy from Florida Atlantic University and a Ph.D. in Biology (Orchid Taxonomy and Physiology) from the University of South Florida, Tampa. His areas of professional expertise are Taxonomy, Ecology, and Biogeography of the Orchidaceae and Cactaceae of Tropical America; Seed Germination; Tissue Culture; and Nutrition and Physiology of Tropical Orchidaceae.

Ruben In Orchids has exhibited in the Miami Orchid Show, the largest yearly orchid show in the world, continuously since 1962 and hundreds of national and international orchid shows, winning countless awards from the American Orchid Society.



*Cattleya trianae,
the national flower of Columbia
(Photo by Mauro Rosim)*

In addition to all this, Dr. Sauleda has written several books and has published dozens of papers in scientific journals. He was also the Chairman of Education and a speaker for the 19th World Orchid Conference recently held in Miami as well.

Ruben will be supplying the raffle table with his great plants. He will also be selling plants if you don't want to take a chance! But don't lose this chance to hear a great speaker! And, as always, bring a friend and introduce them to the world of orchids!

Note from the Librarians

As usual, our library will be available for use this month. Don't miss the opportunity to check out educational orchid books you can't find anywhere else!



The library also includes the latest issues of Orchids Magazine and The Orchid Digest/

The Librarians

Elizabeth and Eleanor



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Other Meetings:

South Dade Society: Friday, August 6

COS Meeting: Mon, August 16

Pan AM Orchid Society: Tues, August 17

SFOS Meeting: Wed, August 18

AOS Judging at Fairchild: Saturday, August 21

East Everglades Meeting: Tues, August 27

Upcoming Events:

Coalition for Orchid Species Symposium:

Sunday, August 1

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- | | |
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Orchid related articles and notices for our newsletter are welcome. (Deadline third Monday of the month). The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the editors and writers and do not reflect OSCG policy or endorsement.

**The Orchid Society of
Coral Gables meets the first
Tuesday of each month in
the Garden Room of the
beautiful Fairchild Tropical
Botanic Garden.**



**Beginner's Culture Class starts at 6:45 pm
and the General Meeting begin at 7:30 pm
and include excellent speakers, superb silent
auctions, exciting raffles, sumptuous refresh-
ments, and great camaraderie!**

**Sounds good? Then come and join us for
an evening of education and fun! Call any of
the board members listed for more informa-
tion. We'd love for you to join us and learn
about the orchids we are all love!**

**Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is lo-
cated at 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral
Gables. See www.fairchildgarden.org for map
and directions.**



A Message from the President

Hello, Dear Members!

Ok, I just heard there is another Tropical Depression that may be coming our way. At least I'm not panicking like I did throughout my first summer here a couple of years ago. Jim and I are learning to pick our battles, or in this case, storms.

The heat continues, along with the humidity. We are, however, on the downward side of summer, and, as Dr. Motes reminds us, each day will be a little bit shorter. He reminds us that each day it becomes more and more important to water in morning when we need to water. With less time to dry the plants, he says "extra care should be taken in choosing when to water."

Speaking of Dr. Motes, I want to apologize for omitting his name from our list of auction donators. Motes Orchids supplied us with many wonderful Vandas and other genera which readily. Thanks, Martin, we appreciated it greatly.

If you missed the COS Symposium last weekend, you missed a very fine event. The speakers were great. Lots of food, raffles, silent auction, and AOS judging. This is something you should not miss next year. Mark your calendars now - the first Sunday in August, 2011.

The American Heart Association is sponsoring the 2010 Miami-Dade Start! Heart Walk on Saturday, October 30. Several of the local Orchid Societies have gone together to form a team called Blooming Hearts, lead by Javier Morejon. This is a pledge walk, with each walker raising money from friends, coworkers, family, business acquaintances, etc. You do not have to get pledges to walk with the group, however, the pledges that are received will be used to fund the research and education of the American Heart Association. Raising money through the walk is a great way to make a difference in the lives of others. The walk begins at 9 am, rain or shine, at Florida International University. If you are interested, see me or Javier at the meeting. We will have information and sign-up sheets for you.

Don't miss the meeting tomorrow - Ruben is a fantastic speaker and we are the first to see the wonderful photos he took in Columbia! He will be selling plants too, so this is a great time to get some more for your collection. The raffle table will also be from Ruben- another opportunity to get some of his great orchids.

See you all tomorrow night,

Melana Davison



Beginner's Culture Class, 6:45 pm ***Vandas: The Roots of Flowering Success***

We all have seen the fantastic roots on some Vandas. But did you know that the roots can tell you volumes about the health of the plant? The Beginner's Culture Class this month will focus on Vandas and Jim Davison will show you how you can "read" your Vanda roots.

The Beginner's Culture Class begins at 6:45 pm. Meeting in the back corner is working out well for the beginner class, so grab a chair and join us. And as usual, for those not in the class, please remember to keep your voices soft minimize distractions until the class is over. Thank you.

***July/August Checklist
from the American Orchid Society
...by Ned Nash and James Rose***



Cattleya

Cattleyas this month require careful attention to their watering and fertilizing needs owing to characteristically high temperatures. Evaporative cooling is a must in areas of the country where it is effective. Where it is not (the more humid regions), care needs to be paid to proper venting to keep temperatures within reason. Bottom vents in conjunction with top vents provide enough rising airflow to help keep plants cool. Increased air flow lessens humidity and dries plants out more quickly, necessitating more frequent damping down and watering, in areas where high humidity is not a problem. Higher light and heat indicate more fertilizer. The growths your plants are making now are the source of this autumn, winter and spring's blooms, so applying adequate fertilizer this month is the best way to ensure future blooms. Higher temperatures and humidity may also lead to fungal or bacterial rot problems, so it is important to closely observe your plants for any early indication of problems. Pests are also at a high point this month for the same reason.

Paphiopedilum

Cooling and air circulation are especially critical in these two months to prevent stress and avoid disease problems. Watering needs to be closely monitored to ensure that plants do not dry out. Warmer-growing hybrids will be at the peak of their blooming, with attention needing to be paid to staking of spikes. Look for water lodging in growths, which can rot emerging spikes and lead to the loss of the entire growth.

Phalaenopsis

Most, if not all, potting should be complete by now. This month and next are when these plants achieve their maximum growth. This growth will be that from which they set their spikes for the coming season. The more leaves the plants grow, the better potential for spiking will be realized. Growers in cooler areas such as the Pacific coast have the advantage this month, should they choose, of cooling for early season spikes. Lots of heat and light call for liberal applications of water and fertilizer.

Laelia purpura

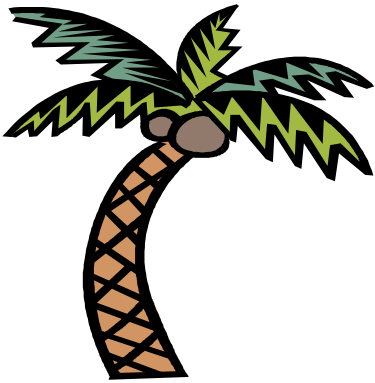
The flowering season of this majestic plant will be coming to an end, presenting a good time to report. As soon as the new roots start to appear, clean off old bark and repot into a clean medium- grade fir bark. Place the plant in a little less light and higher humidity to relieve stress until it is more established, which is about one month after potting.

Odontocidium

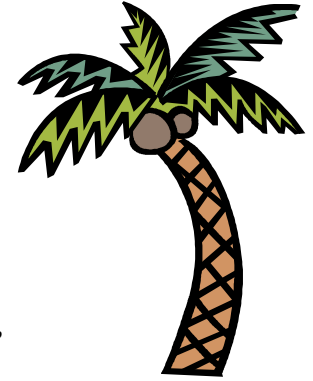
Many of the intergeneric crosses between odontoglossums and oncidiums, such as *Odontocidium*, *Wilsonara* and *Colmanara*, will be blooming now. Take special care to train the spikes for best floral display. Keep plants under fairly shady conditions. Watch for snails and slugs.

Vandaceous

Genera Plants will be growing quickly now and really enjoying the hot humid days so similar to their native habitat. Watch for pests though, as many of these also enjoy the same conditions as the plants. Check flower spikes so that they can extend unimpeded



Hospitality Corner



Our theme this month is Tropical! The society will be providing Caribbean Chicken and Hawaiian Meatballs, and you, the member, can provide all the sides! Any side is welcome - we had slim pickings last month and hopefully we can have a full table this month. Don't forget, every member needs to bring in at least

one dish during the year to receive a holiday plant.

No one stepped forward to lead the Hospitality Committee although we did have people who said they would help at times in the kitchen. There is no cooking involved, just setting up the tables, and setting out the food. And once again, the more people we have to help, the less we all need to do. Optimally, if we can get enough people to volunteer, we can make teams with each time only helping a few months a year. Please see Melana or Marie Brown is you can give us a hand!



Thanks in advance for stepping forward to help!

Thank you to those members who brought food last month:

Susan Lopez
Jose Gancedo
Michael O'Dea

Buns
Cherry Pie
Cabbage Crunch Salad
and Scandinavian Surimi Salad

Larry Cox
Lucy Ridgeway
Haylinne Mojila

Cupcakes
Brownies
Rum Cake
Confetti Corn

Suzanne Williamson
Ron Rosenthal
Rosa cuadrado
Sigrid McNeil

Burgers & Hot Dogs
Pumpkin Pie and Potato Salad
Sodas
Brownies

Linda Curle
Fran Greenwald
Norma Craig
Karen Steinberg-Lewis
Marie Brown

Pickles
Coleslaw
Blueberry Muffins
Sodas

Jill Sidran Turkey Hot Dogs



BANJONG Orchids

17720 S.W. 218 Street • Miami, FL 33170
Tel: 305-247-8854 • Fax: 786-243 1899
Email: banjong_orchids@hotmail.com



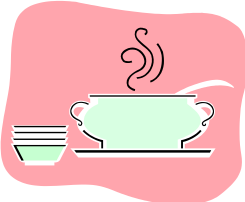
Asca. Ben's Delight V. Banjong Sky Blue V. Robert's Delight '2000'

We Need Your Help!

Due to her workload, we will be losing Suzanne Williamson as one of our Hospitality Co-Chairs after this month. Now is the time to step up and help OSCG!

No cooking required, just help with getting the food out on the table. Please see Marie Brown in the kitchen if you can help.

Once again, the more who volunteer, the less work for everyone. If we could get enough helpers to rotate months, we would be in great



Tips from the AOS

Give Me Some Air!



During the 19th century "Orchidmania" craze that swept Europe, thousands of orchids would die in dry, heated "stoves", as the orchid greenhouses were called. It is surprising that any survived and it was only the sheer numbers being ripped from the jungles that allowed a hobby to be born. These early orchid hobbyists had little first-hand knowledge of where or how orchids actually grew and the plants often arrived in Europe unaccompanied by the person who actually collected them. The notion was that epiphytic orchids grew in dank, steamy, tropical jungles. There certainly are orchids that come from sea level forests close to the equator, but even in those places there is open air movement.

Humidity and air movement are both qualities of the air that surround your orchids, and you! Although there are genera-specific requirements for more or less humidity, most tropical epiphytic orchids require between 50-70% humidity. Less than 40% humidity can cause plants to grow poorly or at best, less than optimum. Plants transpire moisture through stomata, tiny pores on the leaves. If the humidity of the growing environment is too low, orchid plants will transpire water faster than they can take it up through the roots and become desiccated. Roots and potting media will also dry out quicker keeping a plant in a dehydrated state. Watering more frequently is not a solution for dehydration and leads to root problems because of rapid media decay.

If you grow orchids in a greenhouse it is most likely properly equipped to provide an acceptable range of humidity. Evaporative coolers are an excellent means of adding humidity and keeping temperatures cooler in summer. If you grow orchids in the home, you have more of a challenge to maintain proper humidity. Winter heating and summer air conditioning both dry the air significantly.

For just a few plants there is a classic solution that may be somewhat limited in its effectiveness, but is easy and provides some humidity. Fill a shallow tray, such as an aluminum oven liner, with pebbles, then add water to just below the tops of the pebbles. Set your orchid pots on the pebbles. Refill the tray every few days as needed (if algae builds up, empty the pebbles into a colander in the sink and rinse with diluted bleach, then plenty of clean water). This works well if you are growing just a few orchids on a windowsill. Misting can also help, but the water evaporates so quickly the benefits do not last long.



If you have a larger collection that you perhaps grow on a plant stand or cart, an inexpensive humidifier can be bought for slightly more than the cost of a couple of orchid plants. Look for one with a large reservoir that does not need frequent refilling. Specific orchid growing setups such as orchidariums, terrariums, Wardian Cases and many under-lights setups in basements all will provide ample humidity.

If you were to visit the habitat of an epiphytic orchid, let's say *Cattleya mossiae* shown on next page, you would discover a setting totally contrary to the Victorian perception mentioned in the first paragraph. You would be in the Venezuelan mountains at about 3000-4500 feet above sea level and the cattleyas would be growing in the canopy of the trees above you. Air constantly flows up the mountains and the tops of the trees sway in the breeze. Many of our favorite orchids come from this kind of airy environment.



Optimum conditions for cultivating orchids are often described with the words, "buoyant atmosphere". What that describes is air that feels light and is constantly moving. Primarily, a buoyant atmosphere provides a constantly fresh supply of carbon dioxide to the trees and the orchids in them. Green plants convert carbon dioxide and water into food compounds, such as glucose, and oxygen through the process called photosynthesis.

Air that is constantly moving provides other benefits, such as eliminating pockets of extreme temperatures and moderating the temperature of both air and leaves. An adequately ventilated orchid growing space discourages fungal infections by hastening the evaporation of standing water. The surest way to discourage the flower damaging fungus, *Botrytis cinerea*, is to increase air movement.

Providing orchids with air movement is one of the simplest things to achieve. If you are growing a few orchids on a windowsill, merely open the window a few inches any time the outside temperature is above 50° F. If you have a grow cart of orchids, one or two six or eight inch muffin fans will do the trick. Turn them on low and aim them above or to the side of the orchids to draw air over the plants. Ceiling fans provide excellent air circulation for patios and sun rooms, while most commercial greenhouses offer fan options. If yours doesn't, buy one or two 24 inch box fans depending on the size of your structure.



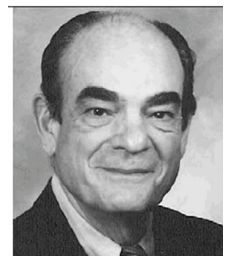
As you have probably gathered; if the setting feels comfortable to you, your orchids will like it too!



In Memoriam

We recently lost one of our longtime members. Fotis Karousatos passed away on July 16 after a courageous battle with Multiple Myeloma.

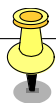
Fotis and his wife, Anne, attended most of the meetings for many years, until his health problems began. Even then, they tried to come to meetings as often as they could, and never missed a Holiday Party and the opportunity to enjoy the company of the other members.



Originally born, raised and educated in Washington, DC, Fotis graduated from George Washington University before honorably serving as a Lieutenant in the US Navy. He owned Graphic Arts Gallery in Coral Gables, FL for 29 years after a long career with the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects. Fotis was a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Fotis will be missed by the members of OSCG. Rest in peace.

Orchid Society of Coral Gables
PO Box 343573
Florida City, FL 33034



September 7 Meeting:
Jim Watts, AOS Judge

The Orchid Society of Coral Gables

6:45, Beginner's Culture Class
7:30 P.M. to 10:00 P.M., General Meeting

at

Fairchild Tropical botanical Garden
10901 Old Cutler Road
South Entrance