

CORAL SPRINGS ORCHID SOCIETY



July 2023

Volume 27

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Our July 17th Speaker will be Cielo Ojano from Sierra Madre Orchids & Bromeliads.

Cielo will be speaking on the 2 types of growth habits of Sympodial Orchids and Monopodial Orchids while identifying orchids of each groups. He will cover the differences in their growth, light, watering, temperature and requirements for their proper care. This is a very informative presentation and slide show. He will also be furnishing plants for our raffle table



My name is Cielo Ojano. I was born and raised in Cagayan Valley, Philippines where the famous Sierra Madre Mountainhome to over a thousand orchid species can be found. My birthplace remains to be the top producer of corn in the whole country and second in rice production. My family has an agriculture business back home where we operate an agri-supply, exotic plants, and orchid nursery.

At an early age, I was taught by my parents to plant crops, till the soil, plant the seeds, then water the plots. That's how my passion for plants started, because it is not only our source of food but also our source of livelihood.

I am currently the community garden cultivator of Baptist Health of South Florida in South Miami Hospital, Doctor's Hospital and West Kendall Baptist for their Grow to Heal Program.

In addition to farming, I studied Marine Transportation Major in Nautical Science and earned my Bachelor degree in 1992. I am a Merchant Marine by profession. I travelled the world for almost 3 decades. I served in the US Coast Guard since 2005 but decided to retire two years ago and put up this company, Sierra Madre Orchids and Bromeliads, to pursue my first love of growing exotic plants and orchids. My wife is a registered nurse and we immigrated here in 2004. I met a Filipino horticulturist in Redland, the late Mr. Robert Baterna. He was the head grower of Mr. Kendall. Mr. Baterna was my mentor and my inspiration. He taught me everything he knew about plants.

The Sawgrass Nature Center & Wildlife Rehabilitation Orchid Show February 25th & 26th, 2023

Again this year the Coral Springs Orchid Society was asked to join the weekend with our Society Information tent. We offered our "free" raffle - a beautiful vanda donated by our great member Bernie Dusch. There were over 25 vendors. It was such a nice turnout & we signed up several new members!



Our winner of the beautiful vanda courtesy of member Bernie Deusch is Martha Persten Congratulations!

SPECIAL SHOUT OUT TO OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO CAME OUT TO WORK OUR CSOS BOOTH ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY! THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS;

Pat Kerulis, Betty Moore, Gloria Armstrong, Vanessa Marciano, Sarah Smith, Bernie Dusch, Debbie Malloy, Bob Malloy, Edith & Jerry Kaplan, Carol Johnson, Arleene Mahadeo, Sue and Ken Wuest

It was great seeing many of our members who stopped by our booth. We are even more excited to have signed several new members!



MOTES ORCHIDS

Florida Orchid Growing This February brought to you by Motes Orchids

- Average high: 90.9
- Average low: 76.5
- Average mean: 83.7
- Average rainfall: 5.79"
-

Excerpted from Florida Orchid Growing: Month by Month by Martin Motes. All rights reserved.

Although it mostly passes unnoticed to millions locked in their air-conditioned bubbles, July in South Florida is quite different from June. While the pattern of afternoon showers built from the moisture of the morning's sea breeze persists in July, the thunder-storms are sharper and shorter. The clouds linger less and the foliage dries more quickly. Less quantity of rain falls in July than in June and periods of several days typically pass without a drop. This is good news for orchid growers. July (and August) allow orchidists to focus on the first essential of orchid growing, drying the plant out.

Frequently, neophyte growers ask "What if I go away for several weeks in the summer and there is no one to water the plants?" The response is "That's wonderful". Experienced growers use the break in the rainfall during July and August to dry their plants "hard". Depriving orchids of water for several days until they and the media or baskets they grow in are bone dry is essential to good orchid culture. By drying the plants hard, one deals a severe blow to orchids natural enemy, fungus. Orchids have evolved to withstand drought because fungus can not. During severe drought fungus' only defense is to cease all growth and retreat into a spore stage. Hopefully (and with good cultural management) these pathogens will not be aroused from this slumber until the first drizzle of September sets in, allowing our plants two months to mature and harden their growth making them less vulnerable to the September conditions which give some advantage again to the fungi.

Careful watering and judicious drying will do more than any other practice to ensure healthy plants. Drought is the orchid plants armor against disease. Be sure that your plants dry as completely as the weather of July permits. Nonetheless, as our plants are in full growth they need adequate water in July therefor after a hard drying, orchid plants need a thorough re-hydration. If the next rain fall is insufficient to saturate pot, roots and media, the grower should add to the natural moisture until he is sure both roots and media are saturated, using two or three applications of water spaced a few minutes apart. When the plants stop dripping is the time to apply the next dose of water. Don't stop watering until the "heft" of the pot tells you that it is holding as much water as it can. More typically in July, orchidists should use these opportunities when more moisture is required to substitute fertilizer for water and saturate the roots and the media in the same thorough manner. In July typically think of fertilizing rather than watering. Weekly application of a commonly available balanced fertilizer (20-20-20 or 18-18-18) at two teaspoons per gal. will supply the nutrients that our plants require in this period of lush growth.

(continued next page)



MOTES ORCHIDS

Florida Orchid Growing This February brought to you by Motes Orchids

This balanced formula should be alternated every other week with potassium nitrate and Epsom salts (one tablespoon each) to supply the extra magnesium and potassium we now know are plants need on a regular basis. Even better (although not so readily available) lower phosphorus fertilizers containing extra magnesium and calcium with a formula like Peter's Excel (15-5-15) have been shown to be the precise fertilizer our plants need. This formula is recommended year round. Hopefully such orchid specific fertilizers will become more widely available. Lowering the phosphorus intake of our plants is particularly important in South Florida because of our alkaline water. Always apply fertilizer in the same way as water, in two to three doses spaced a few minutes apart. Apply the fertilizer to the point of "run off" IE. when the solution starts to fall off the plants; stop and move on to the next plant. Repeat the application a few minutes later when the plants stop dripping. In July more than ever, never, never follow the frequently heard and disastrously bad advice of watering before fertilizing. Always substitute fertilizer for water: now and at every season. Roots saturated with water cannot absorb fertilizer but the prolonged wetness can rot your plants. Don't give fungus the upper hand by wetting the plant's foliage and roots more often or longer than necessary. Careful watering is especially important throughout the rainy season.

The wise orchidist will have long since finished all of his potting of sympodials and the top working of his vandas but for the rest of us this is the eleventh hour. Autumn is closer than we think and vandas will need at least three months to settle in to their new baskets or pots before the first chill of October tickles their root tips. Unless you can protect them thoroughly from cold, Vanda top cuttings and keikies should not be made after the end of July. If you do take cuttings remember the "3 root rule". Count down from the crown and make the cutting beneath the third or fourth root. Keep as many leaves as possible on the stump and you will be rewarded with a greater abundance of offshoots. Always slip the sterile knife or shears down between the stem and the leaves and then cut transversely to save as many leaves as possible. Be sure to anchor the cutting firmly in its new lodging. Tie them up and tie them down! There is no time for mistakes in July.

Thrips are much less of a problem in July as the rain tends to wash them away and doubtless there is an abundance of other lush fodder for them elsewhere in our yards. They can reappear in a prolonged patch of dryness, so if you need to think of watering in July it may be dry enough to worry about thrips. A prophylactic spraying for thrips in July will also put a damper on scale crawlers. If a second spraying with soap follows the first by seven to 10 days, the population of mites will be scotched as well.

<https://www.motesorchids.com>



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THE LARGEST ORCHID IN THE UNITED STATES

**Nick Snakenberg, Curator of Tropical Collections and Associate
Director of Horticulture**

If you've ever wanted to see the world's largest orchid plant in bloom, now is your chance. While there are taller orchid plants and larger orchid flowers, the overall mass of *Grammatophyllum speciosum* has earned it recognition as the world's largest orchid and it is now in bloom in our Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory.

Also known as the sugarcane orchid because of its foliage, *G. speciosum* is a native of Malaysia, Sumatra and New Guinea. Years ago on a trip to Malaysia, I saw specimens growing as epiphytes on tree trunks over 100 feet in the air. Many more specimens were in public and private gardens as they are popular plants for rescue when large trees are cut down.

Our plant and its blossoms are most easily viewed by entering the upper level conservatory doors off the main lobby. Walk along the north wall and about 15 feet or so in, look to the south over the ledge and you will see the sugarcane-like leaves and the maroon and white blooms.

The real plant nerds among may notice that the lowest flowers are botanically imperfect. Further up the inflorescence, the flowers become perfect. Weird and wonderful! <https://www.botanicgardens.org>



Five Interesting Facts About Orchids

Why do we love orchids so much? Tom Mirenda, Smithsonian Gardens orchid collection specialist, believes it is partly because orchids seem to look back at us with symmetrical faces. Mirenda is curator of “Orchids: Interlocking Science and Beauty,” an exhibit at Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History that features living orchids from the collections of the Smithsonian and the U.S. Botanic Garden. Orchids are inextricably linked with the tropical, though what most people may not realize is that they grow nearly everywhere on Earth—in cold and warm climates, both high in the jungle canopy and hidden beneath leaf litter in a temperate forest or on a wet grassy area near your home. Many species are critically endangered, though new discoveries on how orchids live, love and die are giving fresh hope to conserving some of the rarest and most enchanting plants on earth. A new collaborative effort, the North American Orchid Conservation Center, aims to collect, catalog and propagate native orchid species from every region of the continent for research and restoration. Here are a few bizarre facts about orchids that may surprise you:

Orchids are the world’s largest plant family

Despite some species’ extreme rarity, orchids constitute around 10 percent of all plant species on the planet. Scientists know of over 25,000 species of wild orchids, and nearly 10 times that number of hybrid varieties. Hundreds of new wild species are discovered every year, Mirenda says, but sometimes only because their habitats are being plundered in the process.

Vanilla is an orchid

it’s a card-carrying member of the orchid family. Two orchid species, *Vanilla planifolia* and the Tahiti-grown hybrid *V. x tahitensis*, are used for the familiar flavoring. In fact, those little brown flecks in your vanilla bean ice cream are vanilla orchid seeds.

Some orchids have value as medicines

Traditional Chinese medicine uses dozens of native Chinese orchid species in preparations to treat a range of maladies. The orchid *Dendrobium catenatum*, for example, is used in teas and soups as a tonic to protect singers’ voices, and is also believed to help prevent cancer and boost the immune system. The popularity of orchids in traditional medicinal preparations has resulted in a drastic decline of many native Asian orchids.

Orchids eat fungus

Orchid seeds are tiny—so small that they can’t germinate or grow without the help of a special type of mycorrhizal fungus. Each type of orchid needs particular fungi to germinate; the microscopic seedlings allow the fungus to grow into some of their root cells, where they digest it. Orchids may rely solely on this fungal nutrition source for years before they grow large enough to photosynthesize; some orchids never produce green leaves and live off their fungi for their entire lives. Scientists still know very little about this relationship. North America’s largest collection of orchid mycorrhizal fungi—500 cultures—is housed at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Md. Researchers there plan to expand this fungus bank to include as many varieties as possible.

<https://www.si.edu/stories/five-things-know-about-orchids>

BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE !

Be sure to stop by our website & check it out! We think you will find it very informative. Be sure to check out the growing tip tab & be sure to click on each of the flowers. Love the butterflies??? click on them too! www.coralspringsorchidsociety.org

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