

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

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March 2008

A New Program:

The Orchid Peddler, Vic Fowler, To Speak March 10th

Vic Fowler is from Lake Worth and he is a 25 year orchid-growing veteran. He grows mostly Vandas and will provide plants that many of you yearn for. However plants are not his topic. He is going to give us the scoop on how to design a battery-operated system for watering and fertilizing orchids that will "work wonders for your plants".

His system will work in pool cages, shade houses, and other areas including orchids growing in trees and the garden. Get to know Vic a bit better before he speaks by going to www.theorchidpeddler.com.

Do come early to get a good seat and to help set up the meeting room. This is a not-to-miss program.

Let's Ramble!

March 29th Ramble South:

A seat on the bus will cost you \$25, but your brown bag lunch will save you money and you will have one of your favorite Saturdays of the spring. As usual we will leave the Cardinal Gibbons student parking lot at 8:00 AM and return at 5:00 PM. The student parking lot is about 4 blocks south of Commercial Boulevard off Bayview Drive on 47th Street. You will be happy to have a couple of bottles of water, a rain poncho and an ability to lie about how little you spent on the already great deals on the plants which the growers will give us. Please reserve your seat at the March meeting or send your check to the address on the front of the newsletter.

Overnight ramble, May 31 and June 1:

Except for the longer time we start at 8:00 from Cardinal Gibbons and return on Sunday at 5:00. The only meal you need to bring is Saturday's lunch and the bus cost will be \$75. Bob has not worked out the details on this one, but save the dates and save some money for the best ramble of the year. The additional charge for the motel will be as modest as possible. More details on this ramble will be published in the next newsletter.

WOC Workers' Honor Roll

Word is that there were 350 volunteers who worked one to many shifts at the WOC. If you worked and are not listed, please know that these are the workers I know about. If I left you off let me know for a further list which will be printed in April. Besides making our society look good, your hard work and good humor were appreciated. D.H.

Appreciation is due these members:

Barbara Ansley, Bill Arney, Kathy Baker, Kristine Barkley, Bonnie Bonneau, Brian Boyle, Dr. Bruce and Mary Burtoff, Chris and Barbara Carney, Beverly Chatterson, Alan Cogar, Joan Connors, Steve Coy, Bill and Chris Crepage, Lisa Davis, Jane DePadro, Susan Dunsmore, Nora Dyke, Bob and Janet Fabricant, Gigi Granger, Eddie Griffith, Deane Hall, Bob and Dot Henley, Larry and Sylvia Hill, Rubben and Diane Howe, Bob Isaacs, Marjarita Jaramillo, Anna Johnson, Chip Jones, Peggy and Gerry Knight, Col. Kenneth Kone, Tin Ly, Jackie Lyles, Johnny Ma, Dr. Ron MacDonald, Arlene Maguire, Sheri Macchia, Joan Massingill, Janett McMillan, Frank and Mary Meynarez, Mary Ann Michalak, Allen and Jan Mink, Bruce and Sue Muntz, Wayne Musgrave, LauraJean Niesel, Leah Ostrander, Patricia Oughton, Thuy Pham, Raoul Pinho, Michael Schaberl, Janet Teschner, Ann Theaker, Stan Tillotson, Tony and Joan Viggiani, Connie Walker, Marianne Walker, Suzie Williams, Bonnie Wood, John Wrench, and Dr. Chacko Zachariah.

Amazing Monocots

Orchids are monocots, considered the BEST of all plants, along with these and other plants with parallel leaf veins; palms, corn, lilies, iris and the grasses. How about this fact? A single grass plant in the African Sahara desert may have 50 miles of horizontal roots that go out to seek water.

Review of February 11th Program:

Tom Well's Basic Orchid Culture

Tom Wells began his talk with 'watering right' or emulating what happens to orchids growing in the wild. Epiphytic orchid roots are covered with velamen which holds and absorbs water when it rains. It takes 10-15 minutes of watering for the velamen to absorb enough water therefore when we water we need to water long and well. After a rain, or your watering them, orchids need air to dry out, thus a loose potting medium is essential. Tom's potting mix drains well and is comprised of charcoal, coconut, sponge rock and aliflor or dyna-rok.

Tom demonstrated repotting by choosing a pot just one size above the old pot and reminded us that orchids don't respond well to over-potting. (They will just grow roots and not bloom until their roots reach the sides of the pot.) Tom used a blade cleaned with a saturated solution of TSP (Tri-sodium phosphate) and removed dead roots from the plant. He mentioned that rubbing alcohol on a toothbrush was a good way to remove old sheathing and any lurking insect pests. Any cut surfaces on the plant were coated with alcohol or cinnamon. After the plant was cleaned and ready to go into a pot, Tom placed the new growth near the center of the pot to leave it space to grow forward and placed the old growth against the back edge of the pot. Tom does not use plastic peanuts because they are messy and his medium provides enough drainage.

Next Tom showed us a Phal which was established on a cork slab. Phals respond well to slab culture since their crowns do not collect water and rot. Tree fern plaques are also excellent holders of orchids. Place sympodial, or forward/upward growing orchids, near the bottom of the plaque so they can grow upwards. Tom treats orchids with KLN to stimulate root growth if he is going to put them on a plaque and he waters them every day until new roots grow on to the plaque. After they are established he waters Catts twice a week and Phals every other day.

Tom produced a very show -and- tell sort of program and carried plaqued plants around the crowded room so that we could see just how they were attached to the plaques. When asked he responded that Orthene was his insecticide of choice.

While Tom produced this interesting program, Sandi Jones was arranging a good assortment of supplies to get us ready for repotting and insect repelling season which is NOW! Thank you Tom and Sandi, and thank you Joan Connors for bringing us new program faces. D.H.

Caring for Newer Orchids

Holiday party orchids: Most or all of the gift bags contained two plants. Our *Liperas viridiflora* plant is putting out new growths and should be treated as a Catt. It will grow like a weed and become a big specimen plant to enjoy. Many of us also got Slc. Jewel Box as our second plant. It can produce a half dozen nice red flowers on a small plant, but as an Slc. you will need to grow it in the coolest part of your 50% light growing area to get blooms.

WOC purchases: If the hundreds of *Phrag. besseae* growing along the stream in Krull Smith's display caught your eye and 'made' you buy one plan to pamper it. Avoid tap water, keep it wet, avoid high temperatures and give it lower light than the other phrags in your collection. If you bought *Cattleyas* from one of the Hawaiian growers, you should get them out of the bark in their plastic pots and into your medium. For a third time in two months let me nag you with this reminder to **repot all your new plants, and do it today if they are planted in moss and you don't grow undercover.** D.H.

Member News

* GOOD news: **Larry and Sylvia Hill** may enjoy their North Carolina hill in summer, but they are buying a house back in South Florida and will be with us for winter.

* AOS awards have come through for **Bonnie Belavance** (Bonnie's First 'Memoria Frank C. Zinnie HCC/AOS) and **Bruce and Sue Muntz** (Gongora Mark Whitten 'Buster' AM/AOS).

* Welcome new January member **Pierre Erikson**. (*I rushed home from our February meeting to watch the Westminster dog show and didn't get the new members names from Wayne.*) Nutmeg owned by **Deane Hall** and **Ken Slump** is the mother of Ch. Bigwig's Annie Get Your Gun, the youngest Norfolk terrier being shown at Westminster. Annie is our Bunny's cousin. **Isn't it time to talk about YOUR pet-of-the-month?**

Refreshment Thanks Go To:

Carol Clarkson, Rusty Coleman, Joan Connors,
Lisa Davis, Nora Dyke, Paul Gartner,
Vicki Hallock, Sheri Macchia, Doris Pearson,
and Vicki Trank. We continue to appreciate our
kitchen crew, Helen Rivenbark and Petra Thomas.

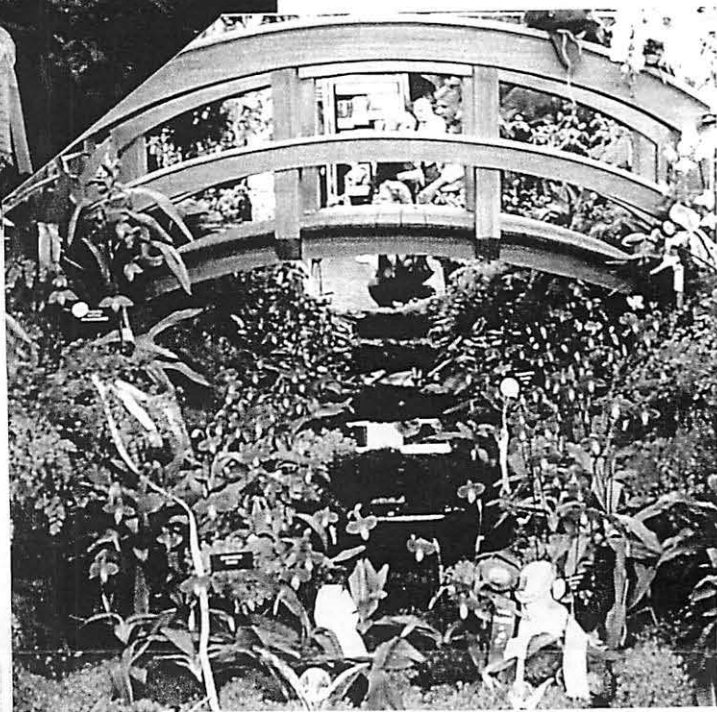
The People's Choice

The orchid:

Those who attended WOC had the chance to vote for their choice. The most people voted for our member, Gale Tillman's Blc. Hailstorm CCM/AOS. Gale bought the plant 15-20 years ago on a half coconut. By 2002 it was in a 22" basket and got the CCM at our show. This year it took up most of a 10' x 10' display. Congratulations Gale.

The display:

Krull Smith Orchids 1,000 square feet of orchid trees impressed the public the most. Pictured here is the 'back of the display' where probably dozens to hundreds of *Phrag, besseae* skirting a stream. Frank Smith is also to be congratulated on this and his 55 medals plus other awards.

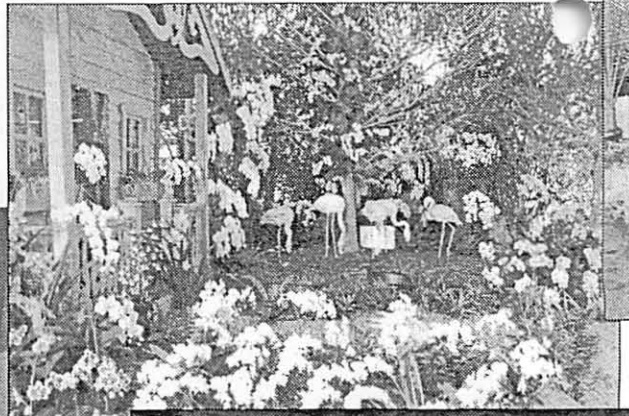


You see four of many FLOS volunteers at WOC. Pictured are Connie Walker, Vicki Trank, Lisa Davis, and Janet Teschner. *Photo credit, the guy who held Janet's camera.*

Pictured is our President Mac looking happy after the hectic getting ready for WOC. Photo credits Janet Teschner.



The Mayor of Miami-Dade was on hand (left) with WOC President Robert Fuchs to open the event with flags of the U.S. states and 64 foreign countries (below) which were represented in Miami. Outdoor show entry exhibit with live flamingos (right).



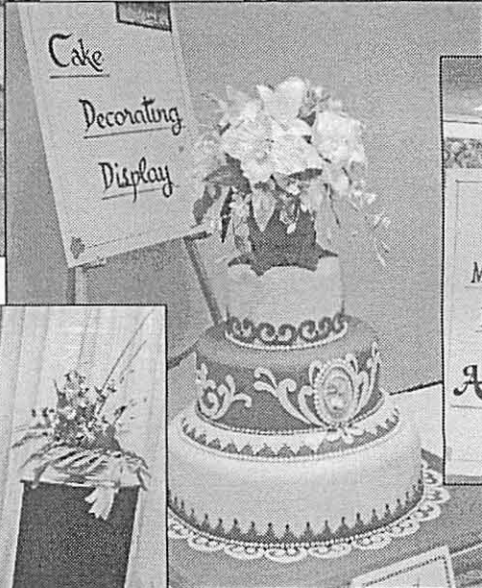
Show Grand Champion (below) exhibit winner from RF Orchids in Homestead.



Show Reserve Prize exhibit (right) with the Grand Champion Orchid from Krull-Smith of Apopka, Florida.



2008



More Orchid Doctor

* **Cork slabs** are superior to all other materials for mounting orchids. Suggested plants to mount include *Cattleya skinneri* and *forbessii*, *Dendrobium aggregatum*, and *Schomburkias*. (p. 18)

* **Crown rot** is a bacterial infection. Remove the crown and apply a paste of Neosporin (*or Polysporin*) to the cut surface. If young plants which tend to get crown rot get water in their crowns on a cool night, remove the water with a medicine dropper or drinking straw. (pp. 18-19)

* **Egg shells** crushed and added to orchid medium discourage slugs. (p. 26) (*Better yet the egg shells leach out a bit of calcium when orchids are watered and the calcium keeps Cattleya leaf tips from turning black.*)

* **Fertilizing** when too strong a solution is used the results are many green leaves and few if any flowers. (p. 30)

* **Flowers (cut)** last longer if placed in half water half lemonade. Several of Hamilton's sources suggest that it is a good idea to remove long lasting bloom spikes in *Phalalenopsis*, *Dendrobiums*, and Vandaceous plants before they fade on the mother-plant. Not carrying the blooms too long results in healthier mother-plants.(p.33)

* **Hair** from a barber shop can be added to seedling orchid mix and will contribute to better growth. The author stated that women's hair had been exposed to too many chemicals and should not be used. (p. 40) *Hair is basically just protein and pigment, and from old science projects it does help plant growth. Harvest all the hair your pets leave in a brush and on the floor.*

* **Kitty litter**, without deodorant chemicals, can be scattered over mounted plants. Some particles will fill in small niches and provide moisture. (P. 47)

* **Lath house** spacing of laths should be equal to the width of the wood. If you were using 2" wide laths you would leave a 2" space between each lath. (P. 48)

* **Light -added blue-** can enhance the growth of seedlings. It causes the stomata to open more which increases the carbon dioxide entering the leaf. If 50% more blue light is added to sunlight it will increase seedling growth by 50%. Once the orchid is mature, blue light does not enhance flowering. (P 51)

Hamilton, R. (compiler and publisher) 1988. *The New Orchid Doctor*.



'Picotee'
carterandholmes.

Using Arctic animals to explain orchid color change?

Orchids With a Color-Change Gene

Rabbits, foxes, mice and some birds have a gene which determines coat or feather color. When the Alaskan weather is cold the gene, which is really an enzyme, is sending out a color message 'be brown'. By the time winter is over, the new brown body cover pushed out the old white, snow-matching cover and the brown matches the earth which has been exposed after the snow melts.

Meanwhile the gene 'notes' the warmer weather and sends a 'be white' message and by the time snow falls the brown hair or feathers have been replaced by white.

At least two *Phalaenopsis* appear to have the color change gene. *Phal. Spanish Dance '231'* HCC/AOS (Lippeschonuck x Su's Red Lip) and *Dpts. Minho Princess 'Watercolor Artist'* (Dpts. Sun Prince x *Phal Ta Lin Freeds*) are basically white with a picotee edging in pink if the flowers develop in a moderately cool environment. If the flowers develop in a warmer environment they are basically solid pink.

I've lost the picture, but Norman shipped a Spanish Dancer here in January with a sports heater in the box. The lower flowers still kept some picotee edging, but the upper flowers were pink. A smaller spike which opened here later while it was still cool had picotee flowers. Please share any names of other orchids that have this gene for a later article.

A color shade gene appears to be universal in red, blue, and purple orchids that bloom more than once a year. Flowers that emerge in hot weather are less vibrant or faded in appearance compared to intensely bright flowers that open on the same plant in cooler weather. *Ascocenda* flower shades are especially good illustrators of this gene. D.H.

The healthier orchids:

Eat Fish With Less Mercury



By now the food police have gotten the word out that we need to eat fish, and these are in the order listed, the best and most mercury-free fish to eat: wild salmon, herring, sardines, fresh water trout and Pollock. In the middle of the all-fish list is canned chunk light tuna and fresh tuna. At the bottom of the list the most mercury filled fish are in this order: King Mackerel, shark, swordfish, and tilefish. *Bottom Line Personal*, fall '07 lost date.



Statistics
19th World Orchid Conference
January 22 – 27, 2008
Miami, Florida USA

**1,500 Total Registrants representing 46 countries and 48 states,
including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands**

25,000 guests attended the Show

128 Vendors Participated

107 Displays in the Show

29 Societies exhibited at the Show

74 speakers at the Lecture Program

31 Scientific Posters exhibited at the Conference

300 international orchid judges

Presented 72 trophies, 167 medals and over 1000 ribbons

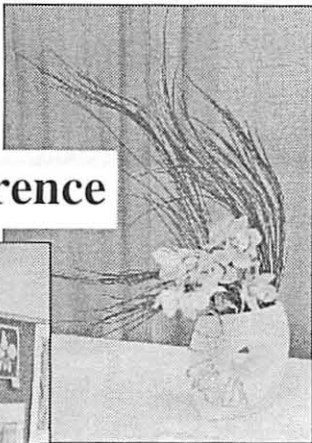
January 22
through
January 27,
2008

Miami, Florida



The top foreign exhibit, from Singapore (site of the next WOC), above. Immediately below, Orchid Society of Coral Springs exhibit, and below that (lower right) the prize-winning display from the Atlanta Orchid Society.

World Orchid Conference



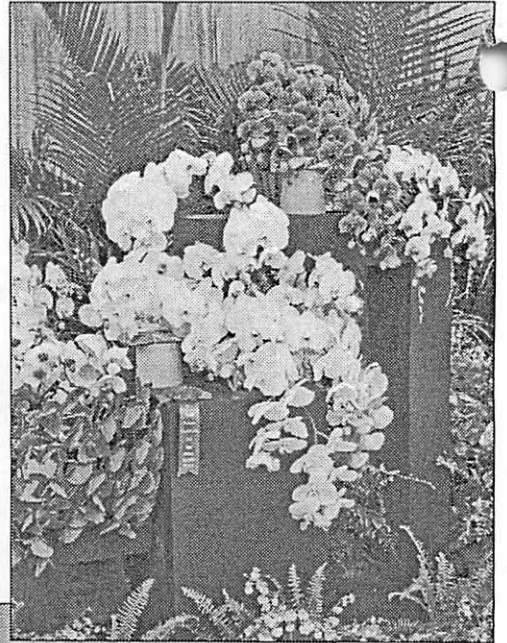
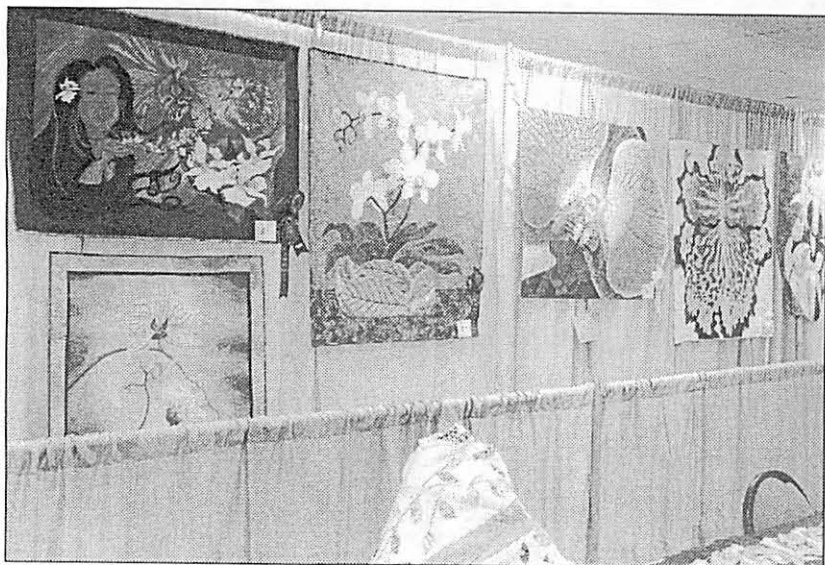


Photo credits: Deane Hall



Below display from the Upper Keys Orchid, Bromeliad, and Fern Society.

Above, some of the large number of photography entries, and, below, orchid themed quilts.



A new book in our library:

Growing Orchids In Your Garden

By Robert Friend

On trees:

Friend stated that your first job is to pick the right tree, the right orchid and then placing it either on the east or south side of the tree. Native Florida trees that work well have open crowns and rough bark if possible. Live oak, mahogany, button wood, satin leaf, and geiger make good host trees. Sable and cabbage palms work well as do queen, coconut, dwarf date and silver palms. Schefflera and other compacted canopy trees are not desirable hosts for most orchids.

Friend does not think that attaching an orchid over a wad of moss or fibrous fern is a good idea, rather he recommends draping some Spanish moss over the newly attached orchid.

What may be a problem for us in south Florida is Friend's schedule for watering newly attached orchids: At first water daily, then water four times a week until the roots are 10 inches tall. After that water in the evening in hot weather and water more often when it is windy.

In nature orchids grow on trees with other types of epiphytes and that is a bonus in your garden. Select cacti, mosses, ferns, philodendrons, bromeliades, lichens and especially Spanish moss. The companion plants will produce a matt of water and nutrient holding roots which will contribute to the well-being of the orchids.

Friend describes many specific orchids that do well on trees but to condense many pages, choose these genera for palm trees and trees that offer about 30% shade: *Schomburgkia*, *Grammatophyllum*, *Brassavola*, and *Ansellia*. Orchids requiring about 50% shade include: *Aerides*, *Ascocentrum*, *Brassia*, *Cattleya*, *Dendrobium*, *Oncidium*, *Laelia*, and *Vanda*. Genera requiring about 70% shade include *Bulbophyllum*, *Coelogyne*, and *Gongora*.

On rocks and walls:

Look to the south-east section of your property and look for shade from nearby trees to be at least 30%.. The bottom line, have a base of smaller stones at the base of the larger stones on which you will attach orchids. The smaller stones will insure good drainage and hold leaf-litter for wandering orchid roots to use for moisture and nutrients. Chose porous rock for host rock such as sandstone, limestone, or hasalt rock. (*You may well dig up huge coral rock in your yard, we live on land that was ocean.*) To attach orchids to a wall use masonry nails on either side of the orchid use nylon strips to hold the orchid to the nails and thus the wall. Before you attach an orchid to a rock or wall or into a pocket between the smaller stones, put the lead in a

Growing Garden Orchids continued:

position to grow up the wall or over the rock. Again use Spanish moss and companion plants along with the orchids. (*Friend lists a number of our commonly grown pot-orchids that grow well on rock or walls and the list is similar to the tree list.*)

In the ground:

First choose a south-east location that is protected from strong wind. Fifty percent shade needs to be provided by trees, potted trees, or a lattice covering. Remove 16 inches of dirt from your orchid bed and fill with rock, broken brick or other inert material. Edge the bed so that grass will not creep into it. Add 6" of potting medium which will be above ground level. The medium should be 40% leaf mold, 40% peat, and 20% course sand. *Ludisia*, *Sobralia*, *Phaiocalanthe*, *Spathoglottis*, *Calanthe*, *Cymbidium*, *Epidendrum*, *Phaius*, some *Dendrobiums*, and what we used to know as pencil leafed *Vandas*. (*now Papiilonanthese*)

(*Editor's note: I have only skimmed the first 108 pages of this book. The last half includes pests, balcony growing, blooming times of recommended orchids and more. Check this one out. The pictures are also great.*)

Friend, Robert G.M. 2004. *Growing Orchids in Your Garden*. Portland, Oregon. Timber Press.

19th WOC, Personal Thoughts

It was beautiful, I'm glad it's over! Bruce and Sue Muntz had our phone and email as contacts for pre-WOC questions on the WOC site, and for many months we got a dozen or more 'hits' per day. I spent 73 hours in the 'Hospitality/Information' booth, beginning on Saturday when the vendors were setting up. I actually enjoyed it once the show opened and **the dependable and wonderful FLOS volunteers joined me**. I was only out buying about an hour. See how dumb my purchases were: 1/ *Phrag kovachi x besseae* which looked awesome in a display, but when I snapped up a baby plant, I didn't read the label. Both parents are cool growers! 2/ The pictures of *Pectcilis susannae* were awesome. When I checked this baby out on Google, it needs burning-grass smoke to start growing in the spring, and again to bloom in the fall.

I was not the only 'dumb-bunny' during the show, the most dumb-bunny had a room on the 6th floor of the host hotel. FLOS member Betty Kline had a 5th floor room. In the middle of the night she heard water running and when she got up, she found wet, hot carpet. The man in the room above her on the 6th floor was cold, so he turned on the hot water in the tub and fell asleep. The hot water made it to the bar in the lobby. World Orchid was absolutely a 'world' experience. It was a unique and exciting adventure, but I'm already looking forward to our wonderful 2009 show at War Memorial D.H.

February Ribbon Judging Results

Joan Stulginskis /blue/ B. Jimminy Cricket 'Gee Whiz'
 Mercer Stowers /blue/ C. Victory
 Mac/Helen Rivenbark /blue/ Paph. Saint Swithin, *Dendrobium anomoen* /red/
Den schvetzei x Den. Sander's Festival
 Ray Ratliff /blue/ Ascocenda Yip Sum Wah
 Laurajean Niesel / blue/ Onc. Noel Schoenrock 'Sunset' /red/ Onc. Bitter Sweet
 Allen/Jan Mink /red/ Paph. *philippinense*
 Wayne Musgrave /red/ Blc. Fuchs Orange Nugget 'Lea'
 Vicki Hallock /red/ *Angraecum leonis*
 Diane/Rubben Howe /blue/ Den. Himezakura 'Sanokku'
 Eddie Griffith /blue/ Dtps Red Cat 'Red Cat'
 Paul Gartner /red/ Vascostylis Pine Rivers
 Nora Dyke /blue/ Pot. Hisako Akatsuko 'Volcano Queen'
 Rusty Coleman /blue/ Ren. *philippinesis*, Epicat. Rene Marques 'Flame Thrower'
 HCC/AOS, Hknsa. Koola Sunset 'Sheer Delight' HCC/AOS
 Mary Burtoff /blue/ *Lockhartia acura*, Bulb. Elizabeth Ann Buckleberry FCC/AOS
 Bonnie Bellavance /red/ Blc. Mickey's Freckles x *Schom. splendida* 'Cocca',
 Lc. Leora Hewlett 'Summit' x C. Horace 'Maxima' AM/AOS

Man's Two Best Tools?

You only need two tools in life, WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and should use WD-40. If it should move and doesn't, use duct tape. Thanks Betty Kline.



Sandi Jones
Tom Wells

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Directions: Use Oakland Park Blvd. from I-95.
 Go East for 2.4 miles, go to rear of the church
 which is on the North side of Oakland Park Blvd.
 Or take US-1 (Federal Hwy.) to Oakland Park
 Blvd. and go West for 2 blocks.

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 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33338
 Regular meetings: Second Monday of each month
 7:30 P.M. Workshop, 8:20 P.M. Program
 Place: Christ Lutheran Church Social Hall

**FORT LAUDERDALE
 ORCHID SOCIETY**



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