

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

N • E • W • S • L • E • T • E • R

May, 2008

May 12 program

Steven Frowine on Fragrant Orchids

How wonderful, a new speaker, a new topic. Don't miss Joan Connors' 'find'. Steve is the author of the book **Fragrant Orchids**, which is new to our library and to **Miniature Orchids**. (*These little beauties are great for people with small spaces. They range in size from under an inch to 12 inches and this book will be in our library soon. Now back to the May program*)

Our speaker is an active garden writer and speaker. He has tended orchids at the National Tropical Botanical Garden in Hawaii and at the Missouri Botanical Garden where he managed one of the largest orchid collections in our country. That big collection had over 10,000 plants. Don't miss this program!

Save the date, June 9th.

Housier Orchids' Leon Glicenstein To Be Our Speaker

The details will follow, but the probable topic will be 'Orchids of Costa Rica'. How great to be an FLOS member and have access to such good programs.

Two-spotted Spider Mites

Tetranychid spider mites are tiny, warm-season monsters that insert their scissor-like mouth parts into leaves and petals to cause tiny yellow spots to form. These spider-monsters reproduce best when the weather is hot and dry, and they tend to attack under-watered plants. What to do? Apply a miticide suggested by *Orchids Pests and Diseases*. These little pests may require treatment for three 5-6 day interval treatments. True spider mites are not nice, but they will appear as rust- as on an iron object- on the underside of leaves.

When to Repot Species *Cattleyas*

For most of us species *Cattleyas* are harder to grow than hybrids and 'hybrid vigor' could be a short answer. An article in *Orchid Digest* suggested that knowing when new roots would appear would be a help in growing species Catts. There are two groups. (1) Species that grow roots with the new pseudobulbs, BEFORE blooming. Repot these when the new growths are coming up. These *Cattleyas*, some now renamed, are: *amethystoglossa*, *aurantiaca*, *jenmanii*, *labiata*, *mossiae*, *percivaliana*, *schroderae*, *skinneri*, and *trianaei*.

Group (2) put out a new pseudobulb, bloom and then put out roots. These Catts should be repotted shortly after they bloom. These *Cattleyas* are: *aclandia*, *aurea*, *bicolor*, *dowiana*, *granulose*, *guttata*, *harrisoniana*, *leopoldii*, *lueddemanniana*, *rex*, *schilleriana*, *schofieldiana*, *tenuis*, *velutina*, and *warszewiczii*.

In a perfect world you would repot Group two when the new roots are 1/4 to 1/2 inch long.

Helping Dehydrated Orchids Live

This is a topic that fills space every May before the Redlands Orchid Festival arrives. This year the event at Fruit and Spice Park is May 16-18. This is the time when vendors from the lower Americas ship in bare root plants and this soaking may mean the difference in saving or losing your plants. Make this soaking solution:

- 7 parts cool water
- 1 part drinking alcohol of any kind
- 2 parts sugar (*Brown sugar might be superior for this.*)
- 1 drop of liquid dish soap per quart of liquids above
- 1 drop Superthrive per quart of liquids above

Soak the dehydrated plants for 4 to 8 hours in the solution, then rinse thoroughly in clear water. If a plant has no apparent live roots be extra sure to soak the entire plant.

Review of Patrick O'Day's Night

If you missed our April 14 meeting, you missed the facts that most, or all, *Bulbophyllum* flowers have a motile lip and smell like rotten meat. Even so, they are popular orchids for some collectors and IF you are growing them well they will double or triple in size every year.

Patrick showed us slides of his favorites but these might be names to buy when you have a chance: *Bulb. robustum*, *Bulb. phalaenopsis* with four foot long leaves, and *Cirr. lipidium* which is an easy bloomer and smells less awful than most.

Since most *Bulbophylums* tend to 'roam', they should be planted in: wooden baskets with just a bit of moss. Patrick said that wooden baskets are better than plastic since the wood holds moisture and nutrients, however plastic can be used. In time the plant will 'grow on itself' Cork and tree fern slabs are also good places for these plants to use for a growing area sprawl. Pots will work if you run a wire through the bottom and curve it, and make a hook for the top of the wire. The plant will roam over the edge of the pot and grow down, and most of the plants in this genus thrive when hanging down. In time a healthy plant forms a ball to cover the pot. Patrick waters such bare root balls every other day, and he grows in high, *Cattleya* light.

Patrick reminded us to apply nutricote now and he likes Cal-Mag fertilizer by Peters since the rainy season leaches out too much calcium. *Bulbophylums* are heavy feeders and he fertilizes once a week in summer.

Because eggs from summer orchid pests hatch twice as fast as in winter he sprays light summer oil weekly for several weeks and then every 10 weeks. He suggested a paste of kitchen cinnamon to control bacterial black rot on leaves and he makes a solution of 1 part bleach and 50 parts water and sprays that on plants and every part of his growing area to discourage fungi. If weeds get out of control in pots, Karmex can be sprayed to kill the weeds on Catts and Dendrobs but not other kinds of orchids.

We were lucky to be included in Patrick's 'spring orchid society tour'. D.H.

April Ribbon Awards

Bonnie Wood /blue/ Wils. Hurna Road 'Downtown Honolulu'
Marianne Walker /blue/ *Chysis bractesens*, /red/ Asda. Fat Tuesday, Phal. Mini Mark 'Holm'
Mercer Stowers /blue/ *Zygo. ___* 'Mercerful', /red/ Onc. Papillio 'Mercerful';
Mac Rivenbark /blue/ *Schom. rosea*
Gary Pierce /blue/ Paph. (Name left off form)
KayLynne Northcutt /blue/ Paph. I-Hsin 'Spotted Deer', Dtps. Leopard Prince
Vicki Hallock /blue / *Ionocidium Haruria* (raffle plant '07) /red/ *Brassia maculata*
Eddie Griffith /blue/ Epc. Renee Marques, Ascda. Soaksamaria Sunlight 'Banana Field', Ascda. Princess Mikasa.
Chris Crepage /blue/ Lctna. Renate 'S&W'
Tom Corral /blue/ *Europheia andamandensis*
Marc Burchette /blue/ *Den. bractesosum*
Brian Boyle /red/ *Enc. atropurpurea* var. roseum
Regina Banks /red/ *Den. aggregatum*

Member News

Please:

* Welcome our newest members: Carol Brudenell and Diane Jones.

* Thank our April refreshment providers: Bonnie Wood, Joan Connors, Tom and Chris Binder, Doris Pearson, Vicki Trank, Vicki Hallock, Ray Ratliff and Rusty Coleman.

* There are still missing names, but these members belong on the WOC workers' list: Jim and Joyce Skelly, Ginny Salus, Sabra Cogar and Denise Thomas.

* Consider giving Sandi Jones and Tom Wells help with their cat rescue.

Go to www.browardorchidsupply.com/ and see the 12' x 25' foot cat house which houses 26 feral or 'non-adoptable' cats - except for two. The cats have bird watching tv and a window to view outside bird activities. Recent vet bills for the colony have reached \$4,000+ and hopefully we can help by contributing to their rescue efforts. Your contribution would be tax deductible since they have 501(c) certification..

Orchid Collection For Sale

Over 100 Exquisite Species Plants

Please contact Bob Mentecky- (954) 931-1599

Sad times:

Jeff Adkins lost his Mother, Betty, in April.

Dr. Jeanne Trubey lost an adult son one week and then an adult daughter the next. (Jeanne lives in Key West and joins us every year for overnight rambles.)

Orchid Things To Finish Now

We are about to enter the 'heat of summer' and hopefully an abundant, but gentle, rainy season. Hopefully you are finishing up on:

- *1. **Attaching orchids to trees.** Remember not to let them wobble, and the time when roots are growing and rain is coming is right for mounting orchids on trees..
- *2. **Repotting of orchids** that are putting out new growths should be well underway if not finished.
- *3. About a teaspoon of Nutricoat should be placed on top of the potting medium of a plant in a 4-5" pot. Adjust up or down for other sized pots. Even though you are fertilizing weakly weekly, every watering gives a little fertilizer 'snack' from the Nutricoat. It is also a good thing to provide a little **calcium** snack from crushed egg shells placed on top of cattleya medium. The crushed shell from one egg should be enough for about 2 plants.
- * 4. The **water shortage** might be better met by installing rain barrels under our down-spouts. At the time of this writing SFWMD is allowing us to hose water in the LATE afternoon. Of course this a plan that may rot our orchids. Some saved rain water and using a watering can could help both our plants and water bills.

Saving Money for Orchid Buying

Don't fall for these supermarket tricks:

- * The highest priced items are placed at eye level.
- *End- of -isle displays are often products that are about to expire and that are not on sale.
- * Precut fruit and salads cost much more than uncut.
- * The international display of cheeses costs more per pound than the same cheese at the deli.

Besides being trick smart:

- * Use coupons to save \$300 per year. (Cash in 10 per week.)
- * Buy store brands and save \$2,000 a year if you spend \$135-\$140 a week on groceries.
- * Stock up when things are on sale.

—Bottom Line /Personal Bonus Report #1. page 13

Ouch, Consider These

* Poor or wrong nutrition contributes to 4 of 6 deaths in the United States. We need to read, buy organic local foods and antibiotic -free meats. P. 26.

* It costs a dime a day to keep a 100 watt bulb burning, which is \$3 a month and \$36 a year. P. 28.

— Sierra. Jan./Feb. 2007.

Overnight Ramble

The May 31-June 1 ramble will go to the West Coast of Florida. Unless more people sign-up/pay-up the ramble will have to be canceled. Gas is expensive, the bus costs are up, and the "times are tough" are reasons to think 'stay home'. Mistake!

. Reasons for you to go:

- 1/ The overnight has always been such fun.
- 2/ We have a reputation of having such a good orchid society that we can support such a ramble.
- 3/ The orchids from all the growers and the tropical plants we can buy from Tropiflora will make you smile. They all give us great prices.

Call 954-772-4836 after dark for more information.

May Things

* Fifty thousand caribou give birth to calves on a single day. (*Lame for orchids yes, watch Animal Planet with your pet and join me in the nature club.*)

*Marianne Walker is moving to Texas and our Marian Huber will take her place as yet another year as secretary , even though she wanted a break.

* Lee Sharpe, a FLOS member from Kansas is a retired school principal. His phals are awesome and abundant. The sixty table teacher appreciation meal will have his phals on every table. (*I love our out-of-area -members, they are Broward members who moved away, or are friends who like the newsletter.*.)

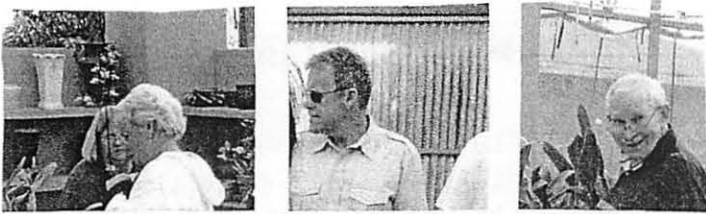
Animal Lovers Tid-bits

* Did you know that 95% of the fish in home aquaria in the U.S. came from Florida. Want to know more? Check out www.flaquarium.org.

* Crocks and gators have a ground speed of 8 miles per hour. If you are in the path of these reptiles don't panic, too much, land speeds are usually saved for retreat. These reptiles are much more likely to be a danger if you are in the water together. The two largest gater are a 14 ½ foot male in Lake Monroe, and another in Orange Lake which weighed 1, 043 pounds.

On a bright side, these *Crocidilians* have a strong antibiotic factor in their blood that could have future medicinal benefits to man.. *Their habitats are often 'unclean' and they have evolved this, since injury is often a part of their 'life-style'.*

-- 'Florida Living'. Southern Living Magazine. April, 2008. P. 32



The Rambler

It was a **perfect** spring day, the 35 rambles were genial and thoughtful. I smiled and laughed so much that my face and sides hurt. We averaged \$194. per person and my cheaper friends and spouse spent zero.

Our first stop was Palm Hammock (Daisy Farm) where the Andersons' million blooming begonias spoke the "buy-me" language as did many other kinds of plants. Several rambles plan to go back so they would really have time to "poke around".

Richard Fulford and some workers kept Carib Plants open since the Randalls were away. Carib has a nice range of genera, but this was the time when spring blooming catts were at their best which made this the spot where vows of financial prudence were rapidly broken.

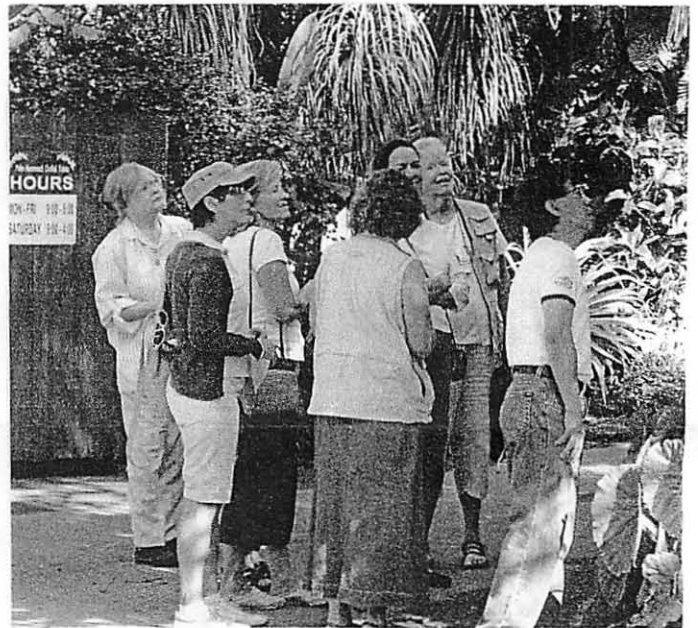
Amazonia Orchids was our next stop. Here the catts were tempting and we were glad to have a chance to buy some OFE supplies. Amazonia is a relatively new orchid nursery and Axel Cahiz is moving a smaller nursery into a larger nursery rapidly and well.

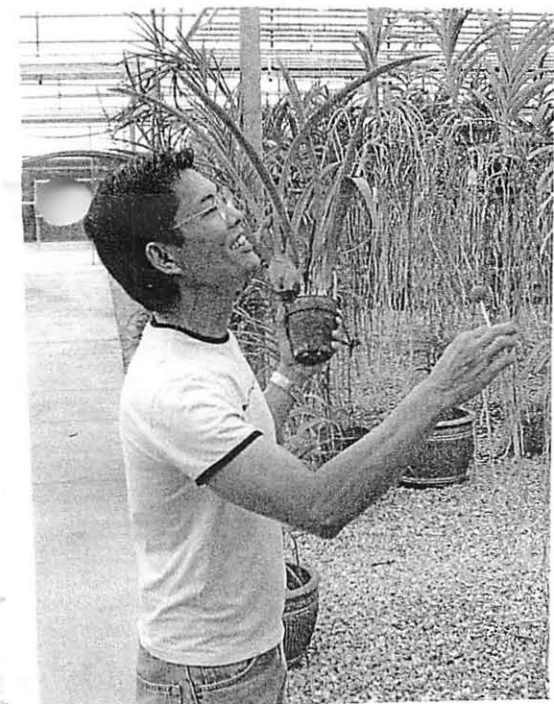
R.F. Orchids was having a special sale weekend and with all else that was going on, there was a special big platter of home made cookies set aside just for us. We always admire the landscaping while we eat our bagged lunches but we always eat quickly to have time to buy plants.

Our "Secret Garden" vendor had such wonderful plants that newer rambles were quick to say that they should have been told ahead that we were heading to such a place so they could have held back more money. Even so, the spending was brisk and the smiles BIG.

Our last stop was Soroa Orchids. Jose was out of the country at a show, but Ann was there to make us feel welcome. Since most of us had about spent-out, the popular place was the 'buy two, get one free' table. Soroa's 'new place' on Krome Avenue is now a garden paradise. Just shows what good planning and sub-tropical weather can do for a bare field.

Only 4 people didn't win anything when the vendor's bus ramble contributions were raffled off. Bob and I were two of the losers. I also won the award for buying the ugliest plant on the bus. At least 6 of us brought wine to share on the trip home and that was much appreciated by the happy, but tired, rambles. I had a wonderful time, even without the beauty of the day, it would have been a special day since so many of my favorite people were on that bus. Jim Watson, the Editor of **Orchids Magazine** was one of the guests on the bus and having him along was a special treat. D.H.





*Except for this shot,
Wayne Musgave was
the photographer.*



Orchid Societies' Foundation Times

The **Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society** was formed in June, 1951 and we will celebrate our 57th year of foundation next month. We are still young compared to our 'mother' organization. Even so we produce one of the top orchid shows in the country and we have a relatively large, active and enthusiastic membership.

The **American Orchid Society** was founded at Harvard on April 7, 1921. On April 7th Founders Day was held in Delray to celebrate the 87th year for the largest horticultural organization on earth. About 700-750 people attended the celebration, heard the speakers, ate the cake, and toured the beautiful gardens.

Today there are 600 AOS accredited judges who have committed about 7 years to become accredited. There are 35 regional judging centers in the USA and Canada and there are AOS sanctioned shows throughout the world. To date AOS has contributed \$1.1 million in grants and fellowships supporting students and scientists from all over the world who study orchid topics such as: tissue culture, pests and diseases, genetics, fragrance and much more.

Some milestone leading us to today include:

1932- the first AOS **Bulletin**, now **Orchids Magazine** was printed.

1949- The first AOS judged orchid show was held in New York.

1984- Headquarters moved from Harvard to West Palm Beach.

2001- The Visitors Center/Botanical Gardens opened in Delray. Today the garden features 1,000 species of native and exotic flora not including orchids. Also there are two 4,000 square-foot greenhouses. One is the beautiful conservatory and the other is a production green house.

Editor's note: For more than 3 decades, FLOS and AOS have given me and Bob great pleasure and I would urge you to become as active as possible in each. You'll meet the nicest people and learn so much.
D.H.

Specific AOS information from Founders' Day Handout

Horticultural Exchange Gardens May Limit to Beyond 90 Mile Range

Word is the program has changed. Your AOS or other garden membership card may not be honored if you live within 90 miles of the participating garden. Another word is most gardens will let you get in free.

NAG, Nag, nag,

Ways NOT to expose your plants to rot

The first time Norman Fang visited us he told me to get my watering hose head off the ground, I would be shooting mold spores and bacteria onto the plants when I began to water. **You can cut down on things that cause rot by removing spent leaves and flowers, but using absolutely clean potting tools, and not having clutter or compost near your growing area.** D.H.

Ants Again!

If you see a line of ants going onto an orchid, you should look for aphids, mealy bugs, or scale on the plant. Ants extract 'honeydew' plant nectar from these sucking insects and take it back to feed their queen and others in the colony. Some ants keep aphids as farmers keep cows. They take them out to graze nectar and juices from the plant and bring them back to the nest to 'milk' or squeeze the juices from the aphids. The aphids also win, the ants offer them shelter, protection, and look after their eggs and young.

Except for a few bad ants (Fire and Carpenter for two) most ants are considered beneficial. They kill harmful insects and their tunnels aerate the soil and their waste products are good fertilizer! (*If you scoop up the dirt on top of an anthill, you will find that it has almost magic properties for growing a terrestrial plant. Just make sure nobody sees you doing this.*) D.H.

A Tid Bit of Orchid Collecting History

The orchid collectors from Europe in the latter half of the nineteenth century were colorful characters who battled natives, wild animals, and other collectors to bring orchids back to Europe. In 1890 Wilhelm Micholitz brought a plant back to his employer which caused quite a stir when it was auctioned. *Dendrobium striaenopsis* was attached to a human skull! (*That was a period when hair from dead people was kept in a locket and worn! If you think we have progressed, visit a mall or flea market and see what people buy today! Of course the good news is that our orchids are not so expensive or hard to get.*) The orchid information came from *Botanica's Orchids*. Lauren Glen Publishers, San Diego, CA 2002, page 14.

Local +/- Trivia

* Florida's population is now at 18.8 million, our Broward population is 1,877, 491. In order the four most populated counties in Florida are Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Hillsborough.

* Florida's biggest crop is shrubbery, followed by oranges.

* Have a green wedding, or renewal of vows, in Bermuda. Nine resorts provide organic wine and wedding cake and your ceremony can be held in a xeriscaped garden. A tree will be planted in your name and the lighting is solar.

* Broward's per capita income is \$41, 091, which beats the state's \$38.454. Better incomes come from Palm Beach and Monroe counties.

* Broward's population by age: 0-19 years- 26.7%, 20-39- 25.2%, 40-64 -34.2%, and 65 plus- 13.9%. We and Dade have higher percentages of those under 20 and fewer of the over 64 group than surrounding counties.

-- Florida Trend . April, 2008. Pp. 18, 28, 34, 36

Charcoal Magic?

Maybe you should consider adding charcoal to your orchid growing mix, if you are not doing so. Charcoal has no food value in itself, but has important uses in a potting mix. It acts like a magnet to attract ammonia and like a sponge to hold the ammonia. Roots will cling to the charcoal to collect the ammonia. The ammonia is a gas that is released when organic fertilizer decomposes. The charcoal will hold 80 times its own bulk in ammonia for use by the plant roots. *(You may think that you don't have organic breakdown of materials in an orchid pot, but chances are you use tree fern, moss, wood chips, or something that will release ammonia. If you remember the nitrogen cycle from biology or chemistry classes, you will recall that ammonia is a breakdown product from protein, but is also a product that can be rebuilt by some bacteria or blue green algae back into protein.)*

Charcoal also absorbs injurious acids, and foul odors. It also checks the damping off of seedlings, and opens up the potting mix for better drainage. *(Some charcoal and some time release fertilizer might be a tremendous help to orchids growing on trees. These plants get natural organic fertilizer from birds, insects, and rodents and the charcoal may enhance its value.)*

The information, not in italics came from **Scurf**, January 2003, a publication of the Bromeliad Society of Broward County. The article was slanted to cactus and bromeliad potting materials, but it contains information we can use on orchids. Mickey Carmichael, thank you for sharing your copy of **Scurf**. *I continue to appreciate help finding copy for our newsletter.*

Make Your Own Rain Barrel

Ken Workman sent in this website that tells you how to make your own rain barrel for about \$25+ depending on your barrel choice. At a gardening supply they cost about \$100+. If you are handy go to www.broward.org/extension/hortres/rain_barrels.pdf Page 13 of the document tells you where to get a cheap barrel and there is a list of plumbing supplies needed on a nearby page.

Kitchen Help

* Some lower primates peel a banana from the bottom. This 'wrong-end peel' removes the "strings" that we go back and remove. Incidentally if you take some of the bananas off a new bunch they will ripen slower than the attached bananas, thus you won't have to make banana bread when they all ripen at once.

*Peppers with 3 bottom bumps are sweeter than those with 4 bumps. The 4 bump ones are firmer and better for cooking.

* A teaspoon of water added to the skillet in which you browning ground beef will pull some of the fat out of the beef.

* Decrease the garlic flavor by adding it to the beginning of cooking time, to increase add the garlic near the end.

* Reheat pizza in a non-stick skillet on top of the stove to have a crisp crust.

* Deviling eggs? Put the yolks and seasonings in a zip lock bag. Zip and kneed the ingredients together. Then snip a corner of the bag and squeeze decorative yolk into the white halves.

* Reclaim stale, dry, or refrigerated breads by putting the bread in the microwave with a cup of water and microwave for 30 seconds or so. (You can also reclaim hard bread by wrapping it in a very damp paper towel and nuking for about 30 seconds.)

HGTV's Top 5 Garden Mistakes

1. Selecting the wrong plant for the space
 2. Trying to grow plants from a different climate zone
 3. Over pruning
 4. Scattering color
 5. Trying to do a job with the wrong tools
- Do you join me by having made all 5 mistakes?*



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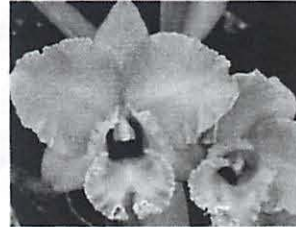


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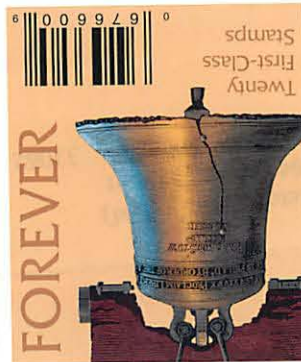


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Directions: Use Oakland Park Blvd. from I-95.
Go East for 2.4 miles, go to rear of the church
which is on the North side of Oakland Park Blvd.
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FORT LAUDERDALE
ORCHID SOCIETY

