American Orchid Society
DASSA
Distinguished Affiliated Societies Service Award

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

N·E·W·S·L·E·T·T·E·R October, 2009

October 12th Orchid Auction

This night will be FUN and you will want to join in the fun and support the society. Remember:

1. The auction **starts at 7:00,** not 7:30. Come earlier to look over the plants and help set up the room.

2. There will be **no ribbon judging.** Any plant you bring will be auctioned and hopefully you can contribute healthy, named, duplicate plants. **Repeat, it will help if you attach blooming color and season to the plant.**

3. The society will provide donuts and drinks. **Do not bring refreshments** and plan to slip to the back of the room anytime you feel hungry. There will be no break for group refreshments.

4. Please keep spilled aliflor off the carpet by **bringing a container to hold your plants** and to prevent their tipping over. If you have left-over empty boxes please take them home.

5. If this is your **first auction** you should pick up a numbered plate as you enter. When you bid you hold your plate in the air and when your bid is high a runner will deliver your plant. Before you leave go to the front of the room where tabulators will give you a bill for your plants. Take the bill to the back of the room pay-up with cash, check, Visa or Master Card.

6. Please make **set-up and/or take-down** part of your evening.

7. Next month see the list of growers who donated plants. These growers always donate **quality plants.**

November Dates To Keep

Bus Ramble- November 7. Questions, call 954-772-4836
Orchid Show at AOS- November 20-22

Plan Now for Our Show

Presale tickets:

Each member of the society has been assigned 10 numbered pre-sale tickets. If you did not pick up your tickets at the September meeting, please do so in October. **Dave Levine** would appreciate your handing him a $40 (single) or $80 (dual) check when you pick up your tickets. He can than give you your preview party ticket(s). Of course the preview party is one of the many 'best reasons' to be a FLOS member.

Hopefully you will sell or give away more than your quota of tickets, but you won't get extra party tickets for selling more. Since tickets will cost $7 at the door, saving $3 by spending $4 on a preview party ticket may just help you get more tickets out to the public.

It's not too early to volunteer:

Help the people in charge of segments of the show know early that they have enough help. Before the show opens to the public, the times to work will be shown. When the show opens the first shift goes from 10 AM to 1:30 PM, the second shift from 1:30 to 5:00 and the last shift from 5:00 to 8:00 PM.

Before the doors open:

Chris Crepage, show chair, will need help beginning at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, January 12th for set up this involves chalking the floor and bringing in trees and bushes from the trucks. Not everybody needs to lift. On Thursday, Chis needs 4-6 people to help set up for the preview party at about 1:30 PM, and on Sunday tear down begins when the carpet comes up at 6:00 PM and lasts until about 8:00 PM.

Sylvia Hill will need 20 judging clerks Thursday morning at 8:00 AM. This is fun, you just follow the teams around and jot down their choices for awards.

Nora Dyke and **Marian Huber** could use some devilled egg makers for the judge's noon luncheon.

After the doors open January 15-17, 2010:

Michael Schaberl- box office

Chris Carney- security, wear a cute green vest and stand or sit by a door.

Joan Connors- FLOS booth, new memberships and item sales.

Dot Henley- AOS booth, membership and book sales

Brassavola Program Review

The subjects of Ken Slump's program are grown easily by most of us, and it was fun to learn more about them. Some of their good points include heat tolerance and a summer blooming season. The hybrid flowers are usually smaller and less flashy than those of the Cattleya parent in those hybrids but cute is good too.

The slides dealt with four *Brassavola* species.

Brassavola cucullata was brought to England in 1793, but has not been used that often to make hybrids. Bc. Cuckoo, Bl. Sunset Surprise, and Cariad's Cuckoo are examples of the hybrids shown.

Brassavola perrinii was shipped to England in 1840. The recipient named it after her orchid grower-gardener, Mr, Perrrin. This species resembles *B. nodosa* but its hybrids have somewhat smaller flowers which probably accounts for its not being used so often as a parent. The hybrids shown include: Blc. Everything Nice, Blc. Lahaina Novelty, Bc. Lilliputian Princess, and Bc. Periwalker.

Brassavola cordata is the smallest of the *Brassavola* species described in the program and its hybrids are relatively few and hard to find. B. Little Stars, a hybrid with *B. nodosa,* is available.

Brassavola nodosa had been used as a parent over 200 times and its hybrids had won many awards. It is not unusual for these crosses to bloom 2-3 times a year. The following will show first the other parent with *nodosa* and the named hybrid:

C. bicolor - Bc. Binosa
B. or Rhyncholaelia digbyana - B. Jimminey Cricket
L. now C. purpurata - Bl. Morning Glory
C. aclandiae - Bc. Hippodamia
C. guttata - Bc. Nodata
Laelia milleri - Bl. Richard Mueller
Lc. Lorraine Shirai - Blc. Keowee
Blc. Ruben's Verde - Blc. Green Node
C. Batalinii - Bc. Star Ruby
C. Chocolate Drop - Bc. Roman Holiday

Ken showed us some slides of more complex parentage with *B. nodosa* in the pedigree. It should be noted that pink flowers tend to fade. Even in the complex hybrids which follow, the "spade" or "heart-shaped " lip was an easy reminder that *B. nodosa* was in the background. We saw these slides: Blc. Mem Vida Lee, Blc. Empress Worsley, Blc. Humdinger, Bc. Binosa's Baby, Blc. Texas Topaz, Pot Texas Razzberry, and Pot. Richard Young.

Ken based his program on an AOS slide program 'Brassavola Hybrids - The New Look in Cattleyas.' The slides were selected by Marianne Matthews. Since Ken grows *B. nodosa* and it's hybrids on trees, stumps, and in pots, and has been a collector for many years his personal touches and information made this program especially interesting. D.H.

Meeting Postscripts

Mickey's Raffle Table:

Mickey provided a very generous and wonderful plant table. You need to go Mickey's Orchid to find an amazing assortment of frequently blooming *B. nodosa* hybrids as well as other kinds of orchids that bloom long, well, and/or often. See the ad on the inside back cover of the Membership Roster for more information.

Ken Slump, not Sump:

Since I saw the script ahead of time, I wrote the review early. It didn't cover some of Ken's pre-slide comments. Two to emphasize were: 1/ *Brassavolas* and their hybrids are forgiving and hard to kill. They thrive in high light and can take lower temperatures than many orchids. 2/ Ken's did advise mounting these orchids or providing great drainage, since there may be a tendency to rot if the medium holds water too long.

Bus Ramble, November 7th:

Twenty five people have paid their $25 for seats on the bus. The remaining seats may fill soon. Mail a check to our P.O. Box to insure your seat.

Other:

* Shari Weidenbaum reports that a quick soak in cranberry juice will remove rust from potting tools.
* I no longer use Dawn or Ivory with fertilizer/aspirin solutions. Baby shampoo seems kind to orchids too.

September Ribbon Winners

Shari Weidenbaum /red/ *Trichaglottis brachiata x* Vanda Fuchs Delight
Margaret Villanueva /blue/ *Dendrobium oligopjyllum*
Mac Rivenbark /blue/ *Dendrochilulm magnum*
Helen Rivenbark /blue/ *Vanda merilli var. ratorri, Aerides quinquevulnera (Couple competitions are fun to watch.)*
Gary Pierce /HM/ Mtssa. C. M. Fitchizium
Allen and Jan Mink /blue/ Blc. Edisto 'Glo' AM/AOS x Blc. Cherry Suisse 'Emily' FCC/AOS, Colm. Speculate 'Evelyn' AM/AOS /red/ Mtssa. Cairnes 'New River' HCC/AOS
Sue and Bruce Muntz /red/ V. Kultana Fragrance
Ron Lennen /red/ *Onc. papillio* x Onc. Sandarge Butterfly
Tom Kuligowski /blue/ Angraecum Longicott
Nora Dyke /blue/ Blc. Campobello 'Mendenhall'
Chris Crepage /red/ *Philodota imbricata*
Mary Burtoff /red/ *D. laevivolum* x *D. bracteosumm*

Remembering

Life Member- ***Jim Skelly***
Very long-time member- ***George Csabon***

Recycled Tidbits

+ **Even in a flask many terrestrial orchid protocorms** exhibit positive geotropism. The shoots grow down! This is a good response in nature, where the orchid seeds probably landed in sand or light soil, and if the baby orchid sent its shoot up, it would dehydrate and die. Of course as the plant grows it ends its subterranean life and turns and sends its shoot above ground and photosynthesis begins. The common Lady Slipper Orchid , in up-north forests, is an example of a plant that does this. If the terrestrial orchid is native to a marsh or bog, it will begin life with photosynthesis and its shoot will grow up.
Withner, Carl Ed. 1974. **The Orchids Scientific Studies.** John Wiley and Sons, New York. p. 110

+ **In nature, orchid protocorms grow so very slowly** because it takes time to establish the enzyme feeding system with the mychorrhizal fungi.
Ibid Withner above. P. 108

Orchid Doctor G, H, I

Green pod culture: If you have a pod you want to send out for flasking, the harvesting time in days is found here: *Aerides*-90; *Brassavola* – 90-100; *Cattleya,* unifoliate –120-135; *Cattleya,* bifoliate-90; *Dendrobium* nobile hybrids- 90-100; other *Dendrobiums* 60-75; *Doritaenopsis* hybrids 90-100; *Epidendrums* –150-165; *Oncidiums* 60-75; *Phalaenopsis*- 90-100; and *Vandas* 90-120 days. (*Hamilton cites Fitch. **All About Orchids.** 1981 p. 203 as the source of this information. FLOS takes no responsibility for your ruined seed pod, there may be revised time periods with more modern information out there.)*

Green house or slat house location: Since many insect, arachnid, and fungal pests lurk in the bushes and other vegetation near your growing space, it is well to clear them from the vicinity of the growing space.

Home made humidifier: If you are growing plants in an air conditioned room which is dry, and pebble trays are not enough fill a large attractive vase with water, submerge an aquarium pump attached to tubing to produce air bubbles and plug it into an outlet. The bubbles will increase room humidity. (*Visit a pet store if you have never had a fish tank, and need more guidance, or place a fish tank near your plants!)*

Insurance: Place a kiki or division of a favorite plant with a friend who is a good grower. If you lose your plant, you know where to go for a division.

Hamilton, R. 1988. *The New Orchid Doctor.* Canada. Pp.31-46.

Symbiotic Relationships

Being mated to a fungus!

According to Attenbourough, 1995, three quarters of the plants on earth have fungal partners. Every orchidist knows how important mycorrhizae are to orchids. They have been described as fungal 'nursemaid' to tiny orchid seeds that contain no food for the embryo orchid. Adult orchids are, perhaps not as dependent on a fungal partner as many other flowering plants.

This is pitiful, but orchids do grow on trees, and older trees often have shelf or bracket fungi growing on their trunks. Did you think they were consuming the tree? They are consuming the dead center of the tree. About 95% +/- of a mature tree's trunk is dead, the living part being the outer ring under the bark in all but palms. This dead wood is often rotting and a burden to the older trees roots, the bracket fungi, consume the dead wood and reduce the burden on the aging roots. Your tree may live longer and support your orchids longer! *(You probably knew that a tree didn't need it's middle. You picked that up by driving your car through a red wood tree, or believing that elves baked cookies in tree centers! Sorry...)*

Living with ants!

Acacia trees, passion vines, and a number of plants have ant partners. Most of those tropical plants with bulging stems have the bulge to provide a home for ants. The ants sting invading insects, and in return the ants have a secluded home and often a source of nectar or food. Some of the plants provide a small hole for ants to enter, and others are invaded by a pregnant queen ant which chews her way in, and sets up house keeping. *Schomburgkia* orchids have large pseudobulbs and they have a known relationship with ants.

Even when ants that have no protective mandate move into an orchid pot, they leave valuable fertilizer! *With luck, they are not carrying their own symbiotic aphids which could transmit disease.*

Attenborough, 1995. **The Private Life of Plants.** Bath: Press. Glascow. (Bio. 101 as well.)

Thanking These Food Friends

Lisa Davis, Marian Huber, Nora Dyke, Craig Barry, Bonnie Bonneau, Rich Ackerman, Ginny Salus, Mary Burtoff, Chris and Tom Binder, Doris Pearson, Ray Ratliff, Laurie Klink, Vicki Trank, Betty Runde

The treats were soooo tasty. Again, thank you.

October Tid Bits

Bat Bad News:

White nose syndrome (WNS) is caused by a fungus and results in starvation, which is devastating bat populations in the north and central eastern United States. If this spreads to bats in the our southern and western states we are in trouble. Bats eat their weight in mosquitoes and other insect pests at night, and they are major pollinators of avocadoes, bananas, peaches, figs, dates, agave and many other plants. Over 300 species of tropical plants depend on bats for spreading their seeds.

Scientific American. August, 2009. P.18
Bat Pollinated Plants. **Goggle**

More Good Than Bad Fungi News:

When plant matter falls to the ground it is immediate food for a sugar fungus which starts the process of returning the plant material to compost. Other fungi send out their filaments (hyphae) to entrap and consume nematodes. Further, some fungi make phosphorus available to plants. Antibiotics are made from fungi, and of course our orchids and many other plants depend on companion fungi, mycorrhiza. Yeast is used as a leavening agent for breads and to turn juice into wine. Some fungi are edible. Those are the good news uses in brief.

The largest living thing ever to exist is a fungus in an Oregon forest. *Armillaria ostoyae* covers 2,384 acres and is estimated to be 2,000 years old.

Of course there is a bad news side, fungi decompose things we wish to keep and they cause infections.

Molds often have a 'dark side' even though they are important in making humus. *Fusarium* can destroy an orchid collection, and mildews have no known (*to me)* good point. Those nasty *botrytis* spots on orchid flowers are caused by a mildew.

The good news is that both powdery and downy mildews can be controlled with baking soda or neem oil sprayed on both sides of plant leaves.

Garnham, P. 'organic approach' **Horticulture.** August-September., 2009 P. 19
Orchid comments, D.H.

Baking Soda Fungus Control:

I have used this formula on lawn plant fungi for decades and it works with just one treatment. I have never tried it on orchids. **Mix one tablespoon of each of these 3 things in a gallon of water: baking soda, cooking oil, and dish detergent.** Use as a spray for powdery mildew on roses, grass, etc. D.H.

Bat Postscripts

1. Our bats don't attack humans unless they are rabid, and rabid bats cause only 1.3 cases of rabies a year in this country.
2. There are no vampire bats in the United States. If you decide to sleep outside in Mexico, keep a hoofed mammal near you. Vampire bats prefer hoofed mammals to humans.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

We use 102 million pounds of pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides in our homes and gardens each year, and no one denies that many of these chemicals contaminate water supplies, and according to Hamilton 72 million birds die each year in America from exposure to pesticides.

Many of us are trying to reduce the toxic chemicals that semi-control orchid pests. Light summer oils, and soaps offer some control and even a hearty blast of hose water can wash away pests. It is still sometimes necessary to use stronger chemicals but the point of IPM is to combine stronger and weaker control methods to match the infestation at the time.

Hamilton stresses the use of a large variety of native plants in the landscape to promote beneficial insects and spiders, and points out that leaving boards on the ground for garter snakes to hide under is great slug and perhaps snail control. *Since cockroaches eat orchid blossoms and since lizards eat roaches, it is a good idea to leave short pieces of pvc pipe, or cut up garden hose, so lizards have a place to hide.* ***If any of you have an IPM way to keep iguanas from eating orchid flowers please share that with the rest of us.***

Non-italic information from: Hamilton, Gary. 'The new gardeners'. Audubon Magazine. January-Feburary 2005. pp. 38-40.

Orchid Leaf Shape Offers Growing Clue

Some orchids evolved these thin rounded, pencil – like leaves to conserve moisture. These babies can usually tolerate more dry times and more light.

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Holiday Party

Sunday, December 13, 2009

The Party will be held at Brooks Restaurant which is located at
500 South Federal Highway, Deerfield Beach

Every member attending the party will get a free blooming sized orchid, there will be great raffle prizes and music for those who wish to dance.

Cash Bar, Cocktails 6:30 PM
Dinner 7:30 PM to include

Order from your table one of five choices of each of these: Appetizer, Salad, Entrée, Desert

Please see the November newsletter for menu choices.

Coffee, teas, and wines are part of the dinner menu

member cost $45 Guest cost $75

Detach----------

Please mail your reservations and check made out to FLOS by December 1st to
Marian Huber, 3050 N.E. 9th Terrace, Pompano Beach, FL 33064

Member name(s)_____
Reservations for ___members @$45 each = amount $_____
Reservations for ___ guests @ $75 each = amount $_____
Total $_____

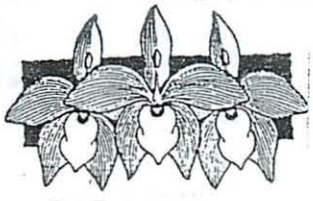
Use the space below to list names of those you would like to have at your table.

About Two Phytes Plus One More

The Greek word for plant is phyte and our orchids grow 3 way. Most of what we grow are **epiphytes.** Since 'epi' means on, epiphytes are plants that grow on other plants but are not parasitic. In nature epiphytes grow on trees or bushes with their roots fully exposed to the air. We grow our Cattleya, Phalaenopsis, or Vandas mounted on something, in baskets, or in pots with lose medium so that the roots can still be exposed to vital air.

Lithophytes are found growing in rocky crevices or on rocky ground and in Greek litho means stone. Lithophytes are not that common in beginning collections but if you buy a plant that was a lithophyte in nature, you can grow it as you would an epiphyte.

Cymbidiums and most slipper orchids are said to be **terrestrial** and they do more or less grow in the ground, but in nature you find them in porous leaf litter and not in heavy clay or muck. Most grow best in pots and the medium should be a light potting soil or aliflor and coco fiber or something that has the ability to let air into the roots. Roots are major respiratory organs in most plants that are not water lilies!



Plant Ribbon Judging

1. We absolutely appreciate seeing your beautiful plants at our monthly meetings. It is not important that your plant(s) did or did not win ribbons. It is important that you went to the trouble to share with us.

2. Please have your disease and pest free plants on the table by 7:30.

3. Please remember that ribbon judging is for members only.

4. You need to own a plant for 6 months or longer before bringing it in for judging. If you want us to see a newer plant, mark 'not for judging' on the entry form.

5. If you lack *Sander's* or Wildcatt at home, see Jane DePadro or someone in the library area to ensure that the spelling is right before you fill in the registration. About 50% of the names are spelled wrong or can't be read. Please print clearly. Your help in making us look smarter is appreciated!

These Tips May Help

1. A screw driver which has been cleaned in TSP is a good thing to use when repotting. You can pop the pot clip off the pot. Then insert the blade down under the old side of the orchid and pry up. The plant should pop right out of the pot! After you finish repotting, you can tap the pot clip back in place by using the handle of the screw driver as a hammer.

2. Avoid transmitting disease from plant to plant.
A. Soak used clay or plastic pots for 12 hours or more in a solution of $1/4^{th}$ Chlorine bleach and $3/4^{th}$ water.
B. Soak your potting tools and used pot clips in a saturated solution of old formula Tri Sodium Phosphate (TSP) . The new 'environmentally better' formula will NOT kill virus. You buy old TSP at some paint stores or Broward Orchid Supply has it. (See their ad in the FLOS newsletter.)
C. Put a clean sheet of newspaper on your potting bench between each plant, so you are further isolating diseases or pests.

3.Do not let weeds grow in your orchid pots and many ferns are toxic to orchids.

4. Don't let orchids wobble! If they wobble the roots are bruised and may die. Put pot clip on cattleyas and dendrobiums in pots or secure plants in baskets with wire or bamboo threaded between the upper 2 wooden slats. If you attach an orchid to a tree, tie it, glue it with super-glue, or in some manner keep the plant from moving!

5. Don't let weeds grow under your benches, or under your trees. Pure cheap household vinegar will kill most broad leafed weeds as well as expensive weed killer. DO NOT TRY TO KILL WEEDS IN YOUR ORCHID POTS WITH VINEGAR. Pull those out by hand.

6. A Gilmore Hose-end sprayer is a simple thing to use for fertilizing your outdoor orchids, weekly weakly. If you have a small collection, fill the water line up to 2 gallons and add 2 teaspoons of Norman's Nutrient, or 4 teaspoons for 2 gallons of most other fertilizers, and lastly add a squirt (¼ tsp) of Joy or Ivory dish detergent. (DO NOT use antibacterial soaps or 'new fangled' detergents. Some say that real soap/detergent is available at Whole Foods only.) Attach the sprayer to a garden hose and turn the water on. If you have left over solution in your sprayer, put it on grass or bushes. If you leave it in the sprayer until next week it will be chemically different. The squirt of soap washes off bugs and spreads the fertilizer better.

More Show Notes

Ray Ratliff's wonderful little poster is at War Memorial to remind people to attend the best show there.

As you consider where to work at the show consider where more people are needed:
Set-up or take-down- 20+ needed
Judging clerks- 14+
Box office- 2 or 3
Host/security- 6 or more depending on time and day
Society booth- 2
AOS booth- 1

Please also remember that workers are sometimes spread thin on Friday because so many of our members have to go to work that day. Please make Friday a show work day if you can.

Why Grow Phals in Clear Pots?

Transparent pots encourage the orchid to make pot roots rather than aerial roots. The pot roots are in contact with the moist growing medium and nourishment. You can also observe the progress of the roots. The pot roots turn green and may also be carrying on photosynthesis.

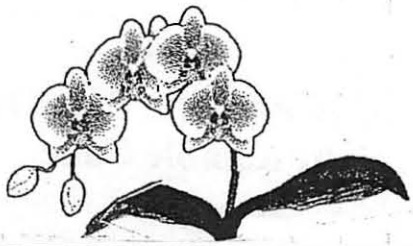
Epiphyte Orchids and Host Trees

Epiphytes evolved to live upon trees. One advantage was an abundance of insect pollinators. Tree orchids obtain water and nutrients from air moisture, and debris comprised of leaf litter and animal wastes which collect in axils of branches.

Small orchids live on small branches and twigs and a two-ton *Grammatophyllum speciosum* must cling to the trunk of a mighty tree or topple it to the ground and to its own death. Some orchids have evolved a life on the windy or less windy side of a tree.

Orchids have also evolved their cycles to match those of the host tree. When the tree sheds its leaves at the beginning of dry season, the aerial roots of the orchid stop growing and a thick coating of velamen then protects the orchid from dehydration. The orchid will remain dormant until the rainy season when the tree becomes active again. The orchid survives the dry season by using pseudobulb-stored water. When the rainy season begins both tree and orchid go into active growth.

Rittershbausen B. and W. 2003. **Growing Orchids.** Hermes Publishing. London. pp.16-17



Got Phals? Got Snails?

If you answered 'yes' to those two questions, here are some suggestions that might keep these slimy Mollusks from turning your plants into a tossed salad .

Caffeine in major quantities, so major the warning was not to inhale it, kills snails. Since you plan to continue inhaling, some help might come from putting coffee soaked cabbage leaves in your growth area. This may repel if not kill the beasts. (*Wonder how many days it would take to turn this into stinky compost?)*

Copper mesh or tape placed under or around bench legs 'shocks' Mollusks when they come in contact with it, and they won't cross it. (*This has some practical promise?)*

Chemical snail baits were not praised by Lester Poole due to their toxicity to beneficial wild life, pets and children. (*If pelleted products are used in the orchid pots and away from the animals and children these agents may help.*

Poole, Lester. Winter-2004, 'Culture and Snails' from t. IPA (International Phalaenopsis Alliance) Publication, pp 16-17

Postscript, Been There Doing That!

Our battle with snails has lasted for a quarter of a century, and these have been the best short term 'fixes' for us.

+ Using Kocide, a copper compound meant to control fungi, under the benches.

+ Sprinkling D.E. (diatom skeleton pool filter product) under the benches.

+ Not crocking our pots with chards of broken clay pots or stone. These crocks hold more water than Styrofoam and invite snails to dig down and relax.

+ The best plan is still to go out after watering or after a rain with two plastic grocery bags for picking the hydrated monsters off. One hand is enclosed in a grocery bag, the other grocery bag will hold the snails.

And now your biology lesson. Some snails will switch sexes if the needed sex is absent in the habitat. Snails can cross the sharp edge of a razor blade due to that disgusting slime they exude and not get cu. Snails move slowly because they will only move after they extrude slime ahead of themselves. Do you need to know that their eyes are on the ends of their antennae? Sorry! D.H.

Tid-bits

Day length extended by artificial light may keep some *Cattleyas* from blooming. *Your new shade house might be better placed away from a streetlight.*

Dendrobiums that shed their leaves in winter, *without a cold weather shock*, are showing that they want to rest and need less water or fertilizer.

Eggshells crushed and placed on top of the potting medium may protect the plant from slug and snail damage. *The egg shells will also leach out a bit of calcium and keep leaf tips on Cattleyas from turning black.*

Epidermal growth factor found in mammalian and bird saliva, blood, urine and milk promotes cell division and protein formation. *Yuck! In bio. 101 you would learn that only the saliva might not produce side effects such as broken down media, or foul smell. For a science project one of my students caught dog saliva by letting the dog retrieve a Frisbee and yes, the diluted saliva produced better growth in some crop seedling.*

Furnace filters could help clean the air if placed behind fans blowing into your orchid growing area.

Flower spike removal may just save the life of a weak plant. (*I've got to bloom, I'm going to die!*.) or to let a plant you hope to have awarded bloom only every other year may result in better flowers when it is allowed to flower. Removing flower spikes of long blooming plants such as Phals after a month or so will also promote better health and better blooms the following year.

Non-italic information from: Hamilton, R. editor and publisher. 1988.***The New Orchid Doctor.*** Canada pp. 23-31

How Some Orchid Genera Got Their Names

After People:

Brassavola- after Antonio Brassavola, an Italian nobleman and scientist.

Brassia- after William Brass, a collector for Sir Joseph Banks.

Cattleya - after William Cattleya, who flowered *C. labiata* in England.

Wish our orchids had this gene!

Some Trees Can Communicate!

African acacia trees and American beach trees are two trees that do not waste energy making toxic leaves unless being eaten by giraffes or insects. When an attack occurs they not only produce the needed toxic chemicals but release a chemical* to warn other trees of their species to make toxins since attackers are in the area.

**If we could implant a scale –alert gene in our orchids, the scale insects would probably evolve a way around the toxin. For instance the juice of Milkweed is so toxic to small animals that it can cause them to have heart attacks, but as you probably know, the Monarch butterfly larvae separate the toxins from the juice and thrive on it. The result of this toxic diet is that birds avoid eating the adult butterflies. Except, the* Mexican Black-beaked Orioles have learned *that the toxins are in the wings and skin. The birds discard these two parts before they eat the butterfly.*

This again is a finger saving recycle from a 2004 newsletter. Since that time you have learned that the communication chemical is aspirin- like. D.H.

Atteborough, David. 1995. **The Private Life of Plants.** Princeton University Press. pp 70-72
----**The Battle of the Leaves.** A Nature Company film

Noses Know More Than Brains

Autumn brings out the teacher in my past and this one begins with Biology 101. Did you know that your mate 'smelled right' and the person that had all your desired attributes did not smell right, making that person still a best friend. The human sense of smell is more important than many of our other senses. Be glad not to be a dog. A German Shepherd's sense of smell is 60,000 times better than human, and those produce, explosive, and drug smelling pups at the airport are doing a job no human could do. Can you imagine smelling a garbage can or a dead frog from a great distance? Our lesser sense of conscious smell is a gift.

At least it is a gift until we fall for the new-car smell the sellers have put into an old lemon car, or the leather smell sprayed on cheap imitations.

Orchids have odors down better than conscious - humans. You know that white and pale colored flowers evolved to smell great at night to attract moth pollinators. Brightly colored flowers begin to smell in the morning to attract bees, and of course stinky Bulbophyllums are saying 'come to me you excrement seeking fly'. Another step in orchid perfection is that each orchid sibling has a slightly different odor from its other siblings so that the pollinator will pass on to a non relative plant. End, Biology 101. D.H.

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society

P.O. Box 4677
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33338

Regular meetings: Second Monday of each month
Time: 7:30 P.M. Workshop, 8:20 P.M. Program
Place: Christ Lutheran Church Social Hall
1955 East Oakland Park Blvd.

Directions: Use Oakland Park Blvd. from **1-95.** Go East for 2.4 miles, go to the 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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