

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

# FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

N • E • W • S • L • E • T • T • E • R February, 2009

## Repotting and Mounting Program February 9<sup>th</sup>

### Basics with Tom and Sandi

Ground Hog's Day was sunny, bad news up north, and a warning day for us. We only have a few weeks to repot before it gets so hot that we will want to wait a year. Tom and Sandi know much about orchid basics and they will inspire you to act before it gets so hot.

They are the curators of orchids at the Bonnet House and they own Broward Orchid Supply. The supply business has made them experts on what one needs to know about fertilizers, potting media for here, and the chemicals we have to use to combat our orchid insect, spider, fungi, bacteria, and other pests except iguanas. They will be selling basic supplies at our meeting.

Carmela Orchids donated 85% of a tempting plant raffle table. Plan to buy tickets at two for a dollar. Long time members are reminded to bring refreshments for our 30+ new members and after-show guests. D.H.

### Nagging Reminders

#### One more time:

Please get your money and unsold tickets to Chris Crepage (1401 NE 27<sup>th</sup> Drive, Wilton Manors, FL 33334.)

Please get your dues into the PO box address. This will be **sadly** your last news letter if '08 is on your address label. If you have paid your dues and '08 is a mistake, please call the number on the newsletter front.

### Future Rambles

1. **Home Ramble: March 28** Join us to see how other members grow. If you would let us see your orchids call 954-772-4836
2. **Bus Ramble south: April**, day to be announced.
3. **Over-night ramble:** Our best of the year will be in late May or the first week end in June.

### It Was Truly Our Show of Shows

This was the best one yet, and it evidenced the success possible when so many work together. First thanks go to **Wayne Musgrave** and **Chris Crepage** who began to work months ago to gather up the pieces that would go together to make this perfect show. Wayne even climbed on his ladder to put out signs along Federal/Sunrise and Chris kept her job of several years by also handling the pre-sale tickets.

**Jane DePadro** began the judging work, and **Ken Slump** took her job when she had Achilles surgery. He also registered the individual plants.

**John Wrench** produced our show poster. **Joan Connors** and **Janett McMillian** were responsible for the show program and advertising, and **Bob Henley** celebrated his retirement as Show Chair by running show errands and getting our show mentioned in *Southern Living Magazine*.

**Nora Dyke** worked with the caterer to plan the preview party food and drink, and she and **Marian Huber** again produced their signature judges' lunch. **Allen Cogar** was responsible for the judges' breakfast. Other major jobs went to **Barbara Ansley** who got the trophies, **Sylvia Hill** who was in charge of clerking, **Chris Carney** who was in charge of the many host people in those friendly green vests, and **Michael Schaberl** who was in charge of our orchid society's booth. **Sue Blackmore** kept her box office crew cheerful and organized.

**Chris Carney** should also be acknowledged for initiating the elementary schools art contest and getting the works depicting orchids by the sea displayed at War Memorial. Several of the winning artists and parents came to the show and they added to this special show.

**Appreciation is due the 150 +/- members whose work was essential.** There has never been so many people at set-up or take-down and many hands made lighter work. At least 15 or more members were doing what they were supposed to do in a booth, at the box office, or as a host for every shift of the show. There were 9 show shifts. Again the reason that this show was so happy and wonderful was that it was truly our show since so many people made it happen. D.H.

## Carlos Fighetti on Phals

*How often have you read that Phalaenopsis (phals) are the easiest orchid for the beginner to grow? Since I have killed many, I was glad to know that this is not an easy genus. It was a good beginning to an informative evening.*

First we got a 2007 review on phals as a pot-plant. World wide 120 million phals are produced each year. Holland and Taiwan produced the most. North America, Germany, Japan and China are major growers of what has become a pot plant industry where a plant may be sold at a mega store for \$15. There is still a high dollar market for unique or special phals.

In the United States mum growers bring in the most floral dollars, followed by phals. White phals comprise 50% of all phals grown as pot plants. The producers of these plants can trick the plants into producing longer spikes with more flowers by adjusting light and temperature as the flower spike matures. Usually the producers of mega quantities of phals do not take the time to make crosses, they pay a smaller grower from \$20,000-\$30,000 for a single plant. This expensive plant will be meristemed to produce great numbers of plants that we might buy for \$15+/- at Home Depot. One reason phals are so popular with mega growers is the fact that it takes only 18 months for the plants to go from flask to flower as compared to 7 years for a *Cattleya*.

Carlos showed examples of phals of many colors and variations of spots or stripes and approached the exciting trends in today's phals. The yellows hold their color for weeks or months and the deep red-reds, not purplish-red, now produce long floral stems. Another new emphasis is the production of mini-phals. These small plants may be only 6" wide with 6" tall.

Until the 1990s universities assumed that orchids needed the same care as other commercially profitable flowering plants and the research was based on a general plan for care. New orchid research is producing much better guides for orchid care. We, as hobby growers, are cautioned to ignore some of the older information and some of the tips on Google. Carlos commented on our great library, and he suggested that we read and learn more about orchid care.

Carlos has about 3,000 plants at home and has gotten about 75 AOS awards on his plants, so we were lucky to get his tips on growing:

1. **Light** is the single most important variable in growing any orchid. If you get a species that you haven't grown before read about its light requirements.

## January Program Review continued

2. **Temperature** was the second critical variable.
3. **Air movement** came next.
4. **Water and moisture** came in 4<sup>th</sup>.

The four go together, in summer there is more light, higher temperatures, greater air movement, and more rain. In winter there is less of all four. We were cautioned not to try to change this. For instance too much water in winter without the other increased variables would probably rot the roots and kill the plant.

Carlos stated that the potting medium was not that critical and should match our patterns of frequent or less frequent watering. As for fertilizers, new research has shown that orchids do not respond to bloom booster fertilizers with higher phosphates. They need bacteria, which are not abundant in orchid pots, to break down and use the nitrogen in urea based fertilizers. We need to read labels and look for non-urea compounds such as ammonia as a source for nitrogen. We were advised to fertilize with every watering and to adjust the fertilizer to the water used. Well water with minerals would require less fertilizer per gallon of water than rain water. Since phals grow all year we should not skip fertilizing for weeks in winter as some do for other orchids. Carlos described infrequent fertilizing as feeding your child a 10 pound steak every two weeks with no food in between. His example spoke well for frequent lighter feedings!

Finally we were reminded not to over-pot phals. The pot should fit snugly around the root ball and should not be based on leaf span. Phals need to be repotted every year or at least every two years.

This was a great program, we were very lucky. D.H.

## Genes and Rhythmic Plant Growth

Biologists from four institutions have identified the genes that enable plants to undergo bursts of rhythmic growth at night which allows them to compete when their leaves are shaded by other plants during the day.

In 1880 Charles Darwin published 'The Power of Movement in Plants', and he and others have noted that some plant stems elongate just before dawn.

Eventually this kind of information may help feed an overpopulated earth and one that needs to produce bio-fuels at a greater rate.

Why plants have evolved mechanisms to grow rhythmically at night is a mystery. Probably rhythmic growth is related to light sensing, plant hormones and circadian rhythms. The variables are not as important to the plants involved as is the fact that this kind of growth has a survival advantage.

*Sciencenews.com/articles/2008/09/16/biikigusts\_identify\_genes...*

## Show Awards

### Exhibits:

**300 square feet:** 1<sup>st</sup> place- Quest Orchids, 2<sup>nd</sup> place- Adkins Orchids.

**200 square feet:** 1<sup>st</sup> place- Carib Plants, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Mac's Orchids, 3<sup>rd</sup> place-Indian River Orchids

**150 square feet:** 1<sup>st</sup> place- Odom's Orchids, 2<sup>nd</sup> place- Orchid Acres, 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Miller's Tropicals

**100 square feet:** 1<sup>st</sup> place- Gold Country Orchids, 2<sup>nd</sup> place- Hawaiian Orchid Source, 3<sup>rd</sup> place- Cal Orchids

### Trophies:

1. AOS Show Trophy- Carib Plants
2. Most outstanding exhibit (artistic)- Carib Plants
3. Best semi-alba Catt. Blc. Chian-Tzy Lass, Carmela
4. Best white Catt.C.Sierra Blanca 'Mt Whitney, Mac's
5. Best lavender Catt. Blc. Mahima Yahio' Mishima', Sedona Orchids
6. Best yellow/green Catt. Blc. Sedona's Desert Snow 'Lemon Chiffon', Sedona
7. Best orange/red Catt. Lc. Spring Imp, Indian River
8. Best Vanda, blue-purple V. Trevon Rathbone 'Ada' FCC/AOS- Mac's Orchids
9. Best Vanda, pink-red V. Tang See Hang 'Kristina' Hawaiian Orchid Source
10. Best Vanda- other colors *Vanda sanderiana* alba Carib Plants
11. Best Asco./Ascda. Ascda. Blue Sky x *V. lamellata* var. Boxaii. Orchid Acres
12. Best flower in Vandaceous alliance *Rhy. gigantia* Alba. Carib Plants
13. Best Phal. Phal Long Pride First Love. Carib Plants
14. Best Doritis or Dtps. Dtps. Mount Lip- Carib Plants
15. Best Oncidinae. Wils Russiker Tigev 'Woodlands' AM/AOS- Woodlands Orchids /name could be Rustic Tiger/
16. Best Epidendrum Bepi Phoenix 'Kona' Soroa
17. Best Broughtonia Ctna Maui Maid x *B. nodosa* Carib Plants
18. Best Dendrobium *Den. goldschmidtianum* Mac's Orchids
19. Best Paph. Paph. Petula 'Orlando' CCM/AOS Krull-Smith
20. Best specimen plant *Eria javanica* Amazonia
21. \$50 cash award to FLOS member for outstanding individual plant- Mary Burtoff for her Blc. Pamela Heatherton 'Coronation' FCC/AOS

## Other Show Notes

\* Andy Cheah won the WOC tote donated by Jane DePadro for a 2 year AOS membership raffle..

\* Normans Orchids and Carmela Orchids donated 50 or more orchids each for new members or for our raffle table. Thank you so much.

## Welcome New FLOS Members

Judy Akins, Arnold Aengenheyster\*,  
Patty Bates, Craig Barry, Ernest and Mary Lou Bock,  
Dr. Blaine and Marian Browne, Karen Brown,  
Marilyn Capozzi, Cecelia Chang,  
Mathew and Deborah Canavan,  
Anna Coratello, Allan and Mary Epstein,  
Beverly Fischer, Norma Jeanne Flack,  
Peter and Debbie Fowler, Rochelle Greenberg,  
Lewis Hooten\*, Denise Jonnet,  
Glen Kauffman and Michael Bryant\*,  
Martyna Kilsheimer, Robert Lace,  
Gloria LeBredo and Gloria Teusillo, Robert Pike\*,  
Luz Maria Paelante, Lam Pimentel,  
Annette Roennelock, Erika Stilwell, Sara Singer,  
Robert Snook, Jay and Beverly Steinberg,  
Bernard Wisser and Kevin Friel\*

\* These members joined on Friday at the show before the new member plants arrived. Please attend the February meeting and get your free orchid which will be held for you at the raffle table.

We are very happy to have you as members and hope you will come to our meeting February 9<sup>th</sup>. At that time there will be the drawing for my WOC tote.

## AOS Awards Given at Our Show

### Krull Smith owner:

Blc. Carlos Figetti 'Crystelle' AM/AOS  
Phal. Krull's Butterfly 'Pink Perfection' AM/AOS  
*Cattleya trianaei* var. concolor 'Colombianita' AM/AOS  
*Phaph. affine* 'Krull Smith AM/AOS

### Adkins Orchids owner:

*Rhynchostilis gigantea* 'Adkins Butterfly' AM/AOS  
*Rhynchostilis gigantea* 'Adkins Bold' AM/AOS  
*Vanda coerulea* 'Adkins Galaxy' AM/AOS

### R.F. Orchids owner:

Vanda Martina Rivera 'Crownfox; AM/AOS  
Vanda Tang See Hang 'Kristina' HCC/AOS

### Jimmie Adamson owner:

Renanstylis Alsagoff 'Chief Adamson' AM/AOS

### Carib Plants owner:

Dtps. I Tsin Sesame 'Carib' AM/AOS

### Carmela Orchids owner:

*Epicattleya* Volacano Trick 'Fireball' AM/AOS

### Mark Edlund owner:

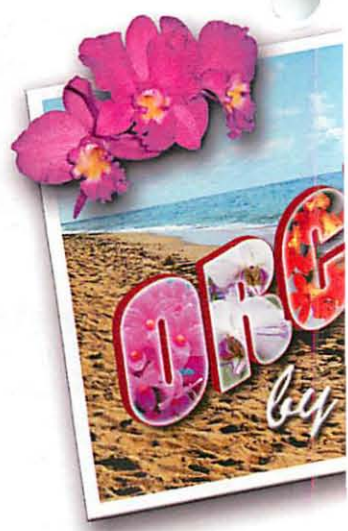
Lc. Purple Cascade 'Fragrance Princess' CCM/AOS

### Palmer Orchids owner:

*Oncidium* (*haematochilum* x Maureen) HCC/AOS  
This last award is Provisional.

# Fort Lauderdale Orchid Show

January 16

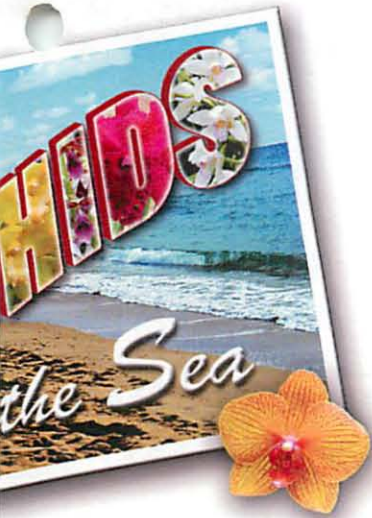


AOS President Carlos Fighetti with member Mickey Carmichael at the F... Judge confers with the Show Co-Ch...

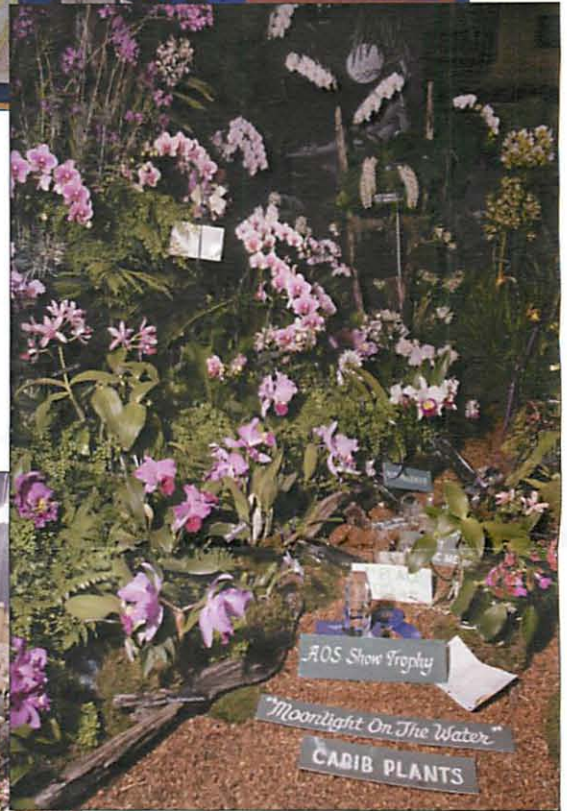


# Orchid Society Show

to 18, 2009



The newly awarded cattleya delighted to see long-time review Party; and the Chief airs during ribbon judging.



## Be A Pest Detective

**Thrips:** Vanda buds turn black, shrivel and don't open or the flowers have pale tracks from the margins of the flower inward. Cattleyas and other orchids with thrips have the same pale trails from the petal and sepal margins inward toward the lip. These are pests from hell but you can spray new buds with Orthene and control the bloom eaters,

**Scale:** Look for little light spots on top of your leaves, look underneath and see a white cotton-like mass of male scale. Another look will show some relatively huge armored females which may be draining the juices from leaf tops. Try light summer oils or whatever you read about in the AOS publication **Orchid Pests and Diseases** which is on sale at our meetings.

**Mealy bugs:** If white masses are not male scale, they are mealy bugs. They tend to get into tiny niches at the base of leaves. Treat as you would scale insects.

**Aphids:** Look for ants and little bumps on bloom spikes of Oncidinae or other orchids. The ants treat them like we treat milk cows. They take them to the bud in the day and bring them home at night to milk out the juices the aphids sucked from the plant in the day. The ants even care for the aphid babies. Aphids respond to most insecticides.

**Spider mites, two spotted mites:** Look for weak leaves, silver colored undersides of leaves, shriveled leaves and curse! "They" say to rub the underside of the leaves with a white towel/tissue. If it is red, you have mites. Go for light summer oils, smother the beasts, Neem Oils are good or go to **Orchids Pests and Diseases**. D.H.

**Plan B.** Sandi Jones and Tom Wells are becoming pest experts. Order the pest control from them that they say you need.

## Thank Our Refreshment Providers

Zoe Bejar	Joan Connors	Nora Dyke
Diane Howe	Petra Thomas	Bonnie Wood
Steve Herman	Connie Walker	Joan Stulginskas
Zellie Wemyss	John Wrench	Linda Orsetti
	Leah Ostrander	

*Other FLOS members, We will have many after-show guests and need extra food next month.*



### Pet of the month

## Einstein, A Congo African Grey

Bonnie Bellavance's bird is well named. He is 13 years old and has a vocabulary of 1,000 words. He can sing 3 songs, and identify various food items when asked what they are. He calls Bonnie's cat, and scolds her dog and asks for fresh drinks of water.

Bonnie credits him with saving her life twice. She took her insulin, didn't eat, and she fell into a deep sleep. Einstein called her name until he woke her, and she tested her blood sugar at 32. The same thing happened two weeks later, and Bonnie calls him an amazing companion and friend.

If you have Brazil nuts left from a mixed nut collection, please give them to Bonnie. This favorite food for Bonnie's birds is hard to find.

## More Good Olive Oil News

*Even if you are not a weight-loss wishing orchidist, you might as well eat less and save money for orchids?*

Eat a small (two teaspoons) amount of healthy unsaturated fat such as olive oil before a meal. The oil will set off a chain reaction to our digestive system that slows the rate at which your stomach will empty after a meal. *You won't need that bag of chips later.*

Olive oil contains oleic acid which triggers OEA, which is a fatty substance with a l-o-n-g name. OEA goes to nerve endings that carry a hunger-curbing message to the brain which is "stop eating, you are full". ***Bottom lines, you stop eating quicker, and your stomach feels full longer.*** Now a contest what can you do to make that 2 teaspoons of olive oil more inviting? Baby carrots dipped in oil? Celery? A chunk of dark chocolate? (You do know that italics are my way of filling space? D.H.)

Real Age email. January 6, 2009.

## Don't Let Tree Roots Strangle the Trunk of the Tree

Urban trees are not living as long as they should. According to a University of Minnesota study trees are often sold with roots that have become pot bound and are growing in a circular motion. Sometimes trees are sold with the root ball covered too deeply and obscured by the burlap cover. The next problem comes when the tree is planted in a small hole that has been amended with better soil, and then mulched too deeply.

The roots tend to stay in the amended area and circle the trunk and girdle the trunk. Even if girdling is not total or yet fatal, such trees tend to blow over in strong winds.

If you think you have a tree that is being girdled, dig down and see what you find or call in an arborist who can take a supersonic air tool and remove the excess soil and girdling roots.

Thirty years ago the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station showed that amending a planting hole with likely to harm rather than help tree growth. This had been confirmed by many other studies. Improving soil over the entire area where roots will grow is has been shown to be the better way to promote growth.

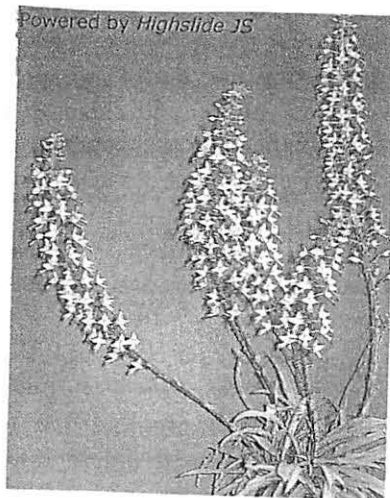
The Avant Gardner. January, 2009. P.19-20,22

## Find and Grow this African Ploom Orchid.

Look for three months of blooms.

Grow it inside!

*Stenoglottis longifloia* is a terrestrial orchid that thrives on a bright window sill. It stays in bloom for 3 months beginning in October but will drop its leaves for a summer rest. No surprise since it came from Africa and shows Southern Hemisphere seasons. It has been described as a spike of little faces with stuck out tongues. The flowers are pink with fringed lips. Go to Google and type in the scientific name if you grow inside. From what I could find out, it would not thrive outside here in summer. D.H.



## Before selecting orchids:

### Think Night Temperatures

If you grow outside in South Florida you need to buy **warm growing orchids** which came from an area where night temperatures ranged from 65-70 degrees F. If you are growing your orchids in a cool apartment or special cool room you can grow **intermediate** orchids which thrive in a night temperature range of 55-65 degrees F. Don't even think of buying **cool growing orchids** unless you can provide them with night temperatures in the 45-55 degree F. range.

## Earth's Most Dangerous Animals

1. People are the MOST dangerous animal.
  2. Mosquitoes carry diseases that kill 2 million people per year.
  3. Venomous snakes account for 125,000 deaths per year mostly in Africa, Asia, and Australia,
  4. Scorpions take about 1,500 human lives each year.
  5. Lions kill several hundred people each year
  6. Crocodiles are killers especially the Nile species and one that lives in Australia.
  7. Elephants trample about 500 people to death each year.
  8. Hippos kill about 150 people each year.
  9. Box Jellyfish give fatal stings to nearly 100 swimmers a year in eastern Pacific waters.
  10. Cape Buffalo cause about 40 human fatalities a year.
  11. Leopards attack and kill about 30 people a year.
- (Except for people in cars, we are pretty safe here!)

The Book of Incredible Information. 2008. West Side Publishing. Ill. USA. Pp.476-478

## Belated January Member News

### Welcome new members:

Richard Allen, John Adornato & David Bogardus  
Ellen Peel, and David Levine

### Thanks to those who manned the FLOS table at the Bonnet House Orchid event:

Wayne Musgrave, Gigi Granger, Marc Burchette,  
Nora Dyke, Bob and Dot Henley

### A member honored:

The Symphony of the Americas Society has honored FLOS member KayLynne Northcutt by naming her as one of seven 'Women of Style and Substance'.

## Re: Deane Hall and George Lysiak

Deane captured our show beautifully as you will agree when you study the center pages of this newsletter. I was glad he photographed our Mickey Carmichael and I wish he had photographed one of our other most long time members, George Lysiak. George is 86 years old and walks a mile and a half a day.

*One of many nice things about our show is that it gives us a chance to visit with members that we don't see at every meeting. Ken Kone came down from Gainesville and reported that he had had such a good time at our beautiful show.*

## A Daily Baby Aspirin Review

*American Indians knew that chewing on a twig from a willow tree growing along a stream would stop many aches and pains. Willow trees were an original source of aspirin.*

You've known for a while that a daily low-dose aspirin would significantly reduce fatal heart attacks and fatal cerebrovascular events. Other good things may include:

1. Staving off diabetes in obese folks by helping insulin production
2. Possible reduction of the most common type of breast cancer
3. Possible reduction of Alzheimer's risk
4. May benefit those being treated for osteoporosis.
5. **May lower blood pressure, and should be taken at bed time!**

## Sable Palms Are Dying

The Sable, or Cabbage Palm, is the state tree for both Florida and South Carolina. It became our state tree in the 1950s and is on the Florida state seal.

Monica Elliott, a University of Florida plant pathologist, said that it's not likely that disease can be eradicated. It is caused by a microscopic killer and is probably spread by an unknown insect. At this time the disease has killed trees mostly in the Tampa Bay area.

Bill Arney sent this Associated Press release, dated July 23, 2008.

### A Palm Disease Post Script

*I don't know his name, nor the name of his nursery, but a man who owns a palm nursery in Palm Beach County told me that he had had a UF professor come to his nursery to take samples from dying palms of several genera. He feels that this mystery disease can be spread by using unclean frond cutting tools from one palm to the next.. We already know to clean our orchid tools, now it's time to move up to palms. D.H.*

## Shop Smart To Stay Healthy

\* Green tea: You knew about his one. Did you know that Japanese green tea is best and that you need to seep your tea for 5-8 minutes, and it should be drunk within an hour. Two or three cups a day will provide the antioxidants to kill cancer cells and eliminate toxins.

\* Turmeric and curry: Turmeric is a component of curry and is the most powerful anti-inflammatory identified today. It makes up 20% of curry, and is best used if you mix ¼ teaspoon of the powder with a spoon of olive oil and black pepper. Add this to soups or salad dressings.

\* Ginger: Grated ginger root makes a healthy addition to vegetables or it can be seeped in boiling water for an antioxidant or anti-inflammatory tea.

\* Cruciform vegetables: These promote the suicide of cancer cells and stop pre-cancerous cells from developing into cancers. Don't boil cabbage, broccoli, and their kin, steam very quickly to save their protective agents.

\* Garlic, onions, leeks, etc.: Garlic was recognized as a medical food from 3,000 B.C. The list of what these alliaceous vegetables help is long. During WW II the Russians used garlic when they ran out of penicillin to cure infections.

\* Yellow and red fruits and vegetables: You know the drill here, but as wonderful as tomatoes are they need to be cooked to release their power.

\* Soy: Try tofu, silk milk, or eat the beans raw to replace meat. (*Only for the young and brave. D.H.*)

\* Mushrooms and herbs and spices: The Japanese use mushrooms along with chemotherapy to reduce the return of cancer. Rosemary, thyme, oregano, basil and mint are rich in terpenes which may inhibit the spread of cancer from one tissue to another.

\* Seaweed and Omega-3s: They probably don't sell seaweed at your grocery store, but think fatty fish. Canned sardines in olive oil are the best to keep you going.. Flax. seeds are also in this protective group.

\* Etc, this is getting too long: 1. Probiotics, and prebiotics which promote the growth of the good bacteria. 2. Berries are great, citrus is on the list, and pomegranate fruit or juice is high on the good and expensive list. 3. A glass of red wine with dinner is also mentioned as well as dark chocolate. (*Finally something better than tofu!*)

*Servan-Schreiber, David 2007. Anti Cancer A New Way of Life. N.Y. Viking Press. Pp. 120--128*

## Tidbit

\* There used to be about 300 U.S. growers of cut roses, today the number is down to about 30, and cut roses are coming from South America, India, China, and Africa. Avant Gardner. November 2008. P.2



## Florida Facts Filler

*(I try not to print bad news, but the preface to this fact is that we will bounce back by 2011 or 20012.)*

\* The 25 worst cities in America for foreclosures were listed and 10 were in Florida. The worst was Las Vegas with 1 in 62 houses in foreclosure. Miami was 3<sup>rd</sup> with 1 in 93 houses in foreclosure. Fort Lauderdale came in 8<sup>th</sup> with 1 per 114. P. 66

\* Better news, farmers are again planting their fields with local vegetables to jump on to the green trend to buy local. P. 81

Florida Trend Magazine. January, 2009

## Mekong Discoveries

In the last decade scientists have found 1,068 new species in Southeast Asia's Greater Mekong region. The most dramatic finds were a 11.8" Huntsman Spider and a Dragon Millipede which produces deadly cyanide. Not all of the new species were found in remote jungles. A pit viper was found in a restaurant and a rock rat in a food market.

The new species include 519 plants, 279 fish, 88 frogs, 88 spiders, 46 lizards, 22 snakes, 15 mammals, 4 birds, 4 turtles, 2 salamanders and 1 toad.

news.yahoo-com/s/afp/20081215/sc\_afp/sciencethailandseasiawildlife

## Two Kitchen Made Pesticides

You need to try these on one or two leaves especially if you are treating orchids with thin leaves. You need to coat the whole leaf and the adult **spider mites, white flies, aphids, or thrips** that are infesting your orchids. The mixes should dissolve adult pests' exoskeletons or make pests move. *(Plus the garlic in 2 below will protect your plants from vampires? Are not sucking Arthropods vampire-like?)* You should make new mixes and spray again in 5-6 days to kill pests that have emerged from eggs since the first spraying.

1. Add one teaspoon of liquid dish soap to a quart of water and spray this solution which won't hurt you. *(I would put 11 tablespoons or 33 teaspoons of soap in a Gilmore hose-end sprayer and add water to the 8+ gallon mark (Check my math, 4 quarts = 1 gallon, 8 x 4 = 32 teaspoons. 3 teaspoons = 1 table spoon therefore a scant 11 tablespoons would fit. 3/4ths of a cup is 12 tablespoons, so fill a cup with soap to the 3/4ths mark and subtract 1 tablespoon of the soap and add water to the sprayer to an 8 gallon level)*

2. Put a garlic clove in 2 cups of water and blend until smooth. After 24 hours strain out the bits of garlic and add 3 quarts of water plus 1-2 drops of dish soap. Make a new mixture in about a week and spray again.

*Note: Some of this came from other sites when I Googled 'spider mite control', but the formulas above came from:*

**The Green Page, The Montreal Botanical Garden .**

## Tidbit

\* Cereal rye, when planted as a winter cover crop, produced allelopathic compounds that inhibit the germination of weed seeds. *(Up north they green-up lawns with winter rye, maybe we would be smart to try that?)* Organic Gardening, Emmaus, PA 18098

## Variables That Determine When Your Orchid Will Bloom...or not!

1. **Heredity.** Orchids may remain in a juvenile period from 1-13 years. *(Maybe your baby is still a juvenile?)*
2. **Chemical factors.** Both chemicals and hormones are variables.
3. **Growth rate.** Very fast or very slow growth may influence blooming.
4. **Nutritional state.** High nitrogen is not conducive to flowering. Increased phosphorus does promote flowering.
5. **Themoperiodism.** Cymbidiums and Phalaenopsis require some cool nights with warm days to flower.
6. **Photoperiodism.** Short days or long days are needed by most orchids to initiate flowering. Most orchids require short days.

*There are other variables, but these are the big ones.*

Ardeti, J. 1992. **Fundamentals of Orchid Biology.** N.Y. John Wiley. P. 26

## Time To Reduce Roundup Use

The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) has found that widespread, repeated, and sole use of weed killers containing glyphosate is causing weeds to become resistant to weed killers. This substance is found in Roundup and Touchdown brands of weed killer.

To slow the prevalence of resistant weeds the WSSA advises rotating between herbicides with different active ingredients. This is not perfect since the alternatives are often more damaging to the environment. Non chemical weed removal should also reduce the use of chemical agents. For more information visit [www.wssa.net](http://www.wssa.net).

The American Gardener. September/October 2008 p.47



## January Ribbon Judging Results

- Bonnie Bellavance** /red/ C. Leona Bloom x C. aurantiaca  
**Nora Dyke** /red/ Den. spectabilis x self  
**Eddie Griffith** /blue/ Epc. Rene Marques 'Tyler' and Ascda.  
 Queen Florist  
**Vicki Hallock** /red/ Ionopsis utricularoides  
**Rueben Howe** /blue/ Catasetum Rebecca Northern 'Grapefruit  
 Pink'  
**Tin Ly** /red/ V. Janet DeCruz x V. Doctor Anek 'Crownfox'  
**Chuck Nicholls** /red/ Burr. Pacific Command 'Hubra Road'  
**Ray Ratliff** /blue/ Rhy. gigantea  
**Pam Segal** /blue/ Rhctm. Lilac Blossom  
**Mercer Stowers** /blue/ Tri. Kuquat 'Lake View'  
**Joan Stulginskis** /blue/ Bc. Ports of Paradise 'Emerald Isle'  
**Bonnie Wood** /red/ Den. Banana Royale  
**Shari Weidenbaum** /blue/ C. percivaliana  
**Ken Workman** /blue/ Phal. Long Pride 'First Love'  
**John Wrench** /red/ Pot. William Farrell x Blc. Meditation

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 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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 Time: 7:30 P.M. Workshop, 8:20 P.M. Program  
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