

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

N • E • W • S • L • E • T • T • E • R

April, 2010

Hear Segundo Cuesta From Quest Orchids on April 12th

We always appreciate Quest's big and beautiful displays at our show, and Quest is one of our favorite ramble stops. Segundo has not spoken to us since 2003 so we owe him perfect attendance since he and Yolanda provide so well for us.

Segundo's topic will be '**Growing Cattleyas and keeping them healthy**', and the plant raffle table will be furnished by Quest. The Cuestras will also be selling plants. They are famous for frequently blooming, long lasting, red orchids which will bloom here. Often an Slc. has *Sophranitis coccinia* as a close relative. This little red beauty is cool growing and near relatives don't bloom often here. Segundo has produced red orchids that will bloom here by putting several generations between *coccinia* and what they sell at Quest.

Segundo graduated from FIU in 1980 with a degree in a phase of plant science. After graduation he became infatuated with orchids and opened their commercial business in 1994.

We are lucky that Program Chair, Wayne Musgrave is finishing his term with speakers we know to be knowledgeable and entertaining. Mark your calendars for Jeff Adkins in May, Jose Exposito in June, and Wendy Griffin in July. **These days many growers find that speaking to orchid societies is far less profitable and more time consuming than providing plants for restaurants or resorts.** Getting speakers for the society is not a job that anyone would want to keep for more than a year, and as society members we can help the program chairman by attending meetings and letting the speakers know we appreciate their speaking to us.

Let Dave Levine End Ticket Accounting

Dave has been dealing with show presale tickets since October or earlier. There are still a number of members who have unsold tickets and money for sold tickets out. Please send money and tickets to 4600 N.W. 23rd Court, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309 /Thanks/

Officer Nominations

President- Joan Connors
First Vice President- Allen Cogar
Second Vice President- Michael Schaberl
Recording Secretary- Gigi Granger
Corresponding Secretary- Zoe Bejar
Treasurer- Bob Henley
1 year Trustees- Brian Boyle, Ginny Salus, Marc Bruchette
2 year Trustees- John Wrench, Janett McMillan
3 year Trustees- Nora Dyke, Chris Crepage

Janet McMillan was chairperson of the nominating committee which was comprised of Chris Crepage and Michael Schaberl. Nominations may be made from the floor at the April meeting, but the person being nominated must have given permission to be nominated and the nominator should be prepared to explain why the person would be an asset to the Board.

Dendrobium anosmum aka *D. superbum*

'Tis the season for this fragrant beauty to be in bloom. If you want to increase your number of these special plants wait for new canes to be at least two inches tall. At that point, which should be April or May, cut off a few old canes that have just bloomed. Keep these canes shaded and water them daily. Maybe kiki's will grow on the old canes, and when they have one inch long roots pot the kiki's up. It's fun to watch free baby orchids develop and then grow, try this.

A word of caution, since *D. anosmum* has been propagated by novices so often, many are infested with virus. Be sure to clean your cutting tools before and after removing the old canes.

The growing season for *D. anosmum* runs from June to November which is when you should fertilize and watch for pests. When September comes you should stop fertilizing and then cut way back on watering for the dormant months from December to February.

March program review:

Tariq Sheikeh's Evening

This was a good basic culture program on the Vandae tribe of orchids. Tariq's six page handout for each of us helped us later remember what he said.

First we got a brief review of some of the most common, found in the wild, genera under Vandae. He then gave examples of Level One crosses which involved crossing two of the 'wild' genera. An example would be *Ascocentrum x Vanda = Ascocenda*. Level Two, Three, and above crosses occur when the above levels are crossed with each other. The higher level crosses resulted in new colors, flowers, and more.

A review of these plants' anatomy emphasized the importance of not letting the crowns rot. If a crown is removed for whatever reason you can expect flowering, kikis, or death.

Vandaceous orchids do not belong in the house where the humidity is too low unless it is 40 degrees outside. Strap leaf plants need more shade and pencil leafed plants can live in full sun if they are somewhat shielded by other plants. Tariq likes to grow more sun-tolerant varieties attached to a stake over a mulch of wood chips. When Vandaceous orchids are attached to trees they need to be placed so the tree trunk shades them from strong afternoon sun.

Tariq had an unusual way to remind us to water this group daily in the morning when the temperatures are over 75, and to water for longer than 5 minutes. He suggested misting heads to dampen the velamen (root covering) for the 5 minutes it needs to prepare to soak up water and then you need to continue to water for 7-10 minutes longer. Now for the unusual way to convince us to water long enough: "*Watering 5 Vandas is equal to one flush of a toilet.*"

When winter temperatures are between 70-75 degrees the plants can be watered at midday. Tariq fertilizes weekly after he waters with 2 teaspoons of a balanced fertilizer per gallon for 3 weeks in a row, followed by a fourth week of bloom booster fertilizer.

Not unusual for any speaker were the reminders to have good air movement, to keep a close eye out for pests and diseases and to remove pathogen infected tissues with a clean blade. Products mentioned were Dithane M.45, Ban-Rot, Phyton, and Orthene.

To protecting plants from hurricanes if they can't be brought inside, wrap the plants and host tree trunk in plastic and secure. Blowing sand will otherwise cut and damage orchid tissue. In cold weather Tariq suggested wrapping the tree trunk in layers of newspaper and attaching the paper to the trunk. One night's cold is not a BIG deal, repeated cold nights are a big deal.

On the light side, Tariq will replace the first plant he sells you that dies, and his Great Danes will be called in if you bring in a second dead plant. D.H.

Quick Notes

Charity biker oops:

Tuesday's Angels' bikers Chip Jones and Raoul Pinho are biking to Melbourne not the Keys. John Wrench 's ride for M.S. is to the Keys.

Census scam alert:

Bobbie Sayre sent the email warning that the bad guys are out there. Know that the real U.S. Census will NOT use email, will not ask for all of your social security number or information about credit cards, pin numbers, pass words, etc. Asking for donations is a scam clue. Asking to come inside by a door to door census person later is also a clue. Close and lock your door!

Interesting jobs:

Have had a request to highlight members with unusual jobs or hobbies. Highlighting will furnish copy and help members know other members. Beginning next month you'll read about a member who schedules auditions for opera divas. In June the subject is a Broward Circuit Judge. **Now YOU need to help. Do you do something that members would like to know about? If not you, do you know of a member whose hobby or work- part-time or full would be something others would like to know about?**

Peggy Knight's home ramble hit:

Veggie Bites

- 2 (8 oz.) packaged refrigerated crescent rolls
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 (8 oz.) packages of cream cheese
- 1 cup mayonnaise or salad dressing
- 1 (1 oz.) envelope ranch-style salad dressing mix
- ¾ cup (3 oz.) shredded Cheddar cheese
- ½ cup finely chopped broccoli
- ½ cup finely chopped cauliflower
- ½ cup finely chopped mushrooms
- ½ cup finely chopped green pepper
- ½ cup finely chopped tomato

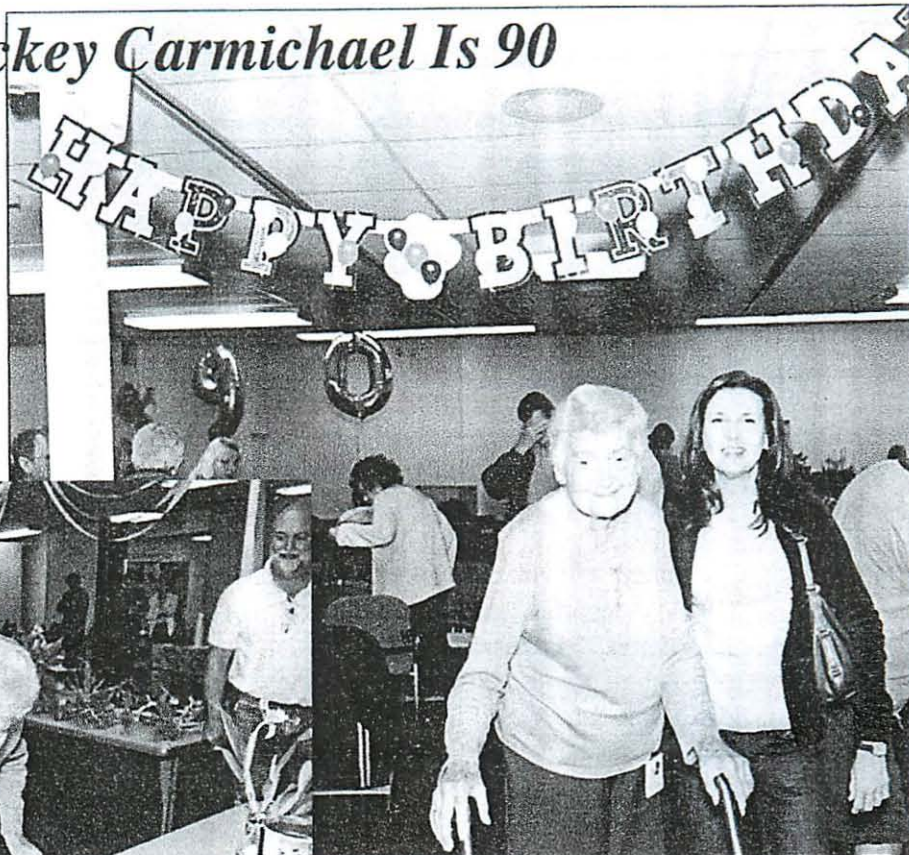
Unroll the crescent rolls and place in bottom of an un-greased 15 x 10 x 1 inch jellyroll pan. Pinch edges together to seal. Brush dough with beaten egg. Bake at 375 degrees for 11 to 13 minutes and cool completely.

Combine cream cheese, mayonnaise, ranch dressing mix, and beat until well blended. Spread this mixture over the crust and sprinkle the cheese and vegetables on top. Chill 2 hours; cut into 1 x 1 ½ inch bites. Yield: 8 dozen. (Rita Frye, Marietta, Georgia)

FLOS Member Mickey Carmichael Is 90

Her Birthday Was Celebrated at the March Meeting

It isn't that often that a local orchid society has an "orchid icon" celebrating a 90th birthday at one of its meetings, but that's what happened at the March FLOS meeting. Everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to her, and she blew out the candles on her cake to the cheers



of many who have known her and her orchid breeding for many years. She attended with her daughter Gale O'Connor who helps run their orchid business in Fort Lauderdale.

Credits for photos and birthday script. Deane Hall

Member of the month

Peggy Knight

Peggy is a contributing member of our society. She has worked several shifts at each of our shows or World Orchid since she joined the society about 5 years ago. She and friend Jackie Lyles first joined our society and soon brought in 3 new members from their work/neighborhood groups. These five members work at every show and attend almost every ramble. Peggy is a 'people magnet' and she is an asset to our society.

March Refreshment Thanks

Carrie Ackerman, Danielle Bejar, Barbara Blauschild, Joan Connors, Chris Crepage, Lisa Davis, Nora Dyke, Vicki Hallock, Sylvia Hill, Laurie Klink, and Vicki Trank

The treats were especially 'home made' and heavenly as a tribute to Mickey no doubt! He who shall not be named took birthday cake, a brownie, and a cupcake but who noticed?

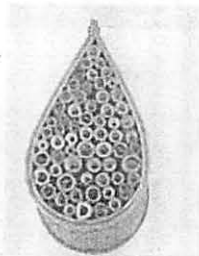
March Ribbon Judging Results

Michael Bryant /blue/ Bc. Lemmon Yellow
Paul Gartner /red/ Vasco. Pine Rivers 'Hawaii'
Vicki Hallock /blue/ *C. aurantiaca*
Rubben & Diane Howe /culture/ Den. Hinezakura 'Sanokkis'
Dave Levine /red/ *Dinewia polybulbon* 'Golden Caste'
Johnny Ma /blue/ V. Dr. Abnek, C. Chocolate Drop x Blc.
Waikiki Sunset 'Ruby' /red/ *Ludisia discolor*
Tony Millet /culture/ *Masdevalia infracta* 'Amarela' /red/
Brassia Rex 'Keiliana'
Sue & Bruce Muntz /blue/ Den. Aussie Chip
Chuck Nicholls /blue/ Mtdm. Pacific Paragon 'Pacific Cameo'
Eugenia Nezvadovitz /blue/ *Cymbidium* Yellow Cascade
Rob Rinn /culture and blue/ *Schomburgkia superbiens*
Joan Stulginskas /blue/ Yamaara Clarissa Cagauan 'Kiilani'

On *Dendrobium speciosum*

The show schedule of the Australian Native Orchid Society was changed in order to match the show with the blooming season of *D. speciosum*. That is appreciation for a native orchid. *Perhaps it's matched by our love of ghost orchids?*

The Queensland Orchid Society Bulletin, October, 2009. P. 8



The Home Rambler

We had **THE best afternoon**. Ron MacDonald was the host at our first and lunch stop. Ron had orchids all over, and many were housed in a huge white pergola. His potting bench was sturdy, tall and clear of clutter. The pot-luck lunch was wonderful, and some of the recipes are in this newsletter. Experiencing the first warm day in a week combined with soft breezes from the Intra Coastal added to pleasure we all felt.

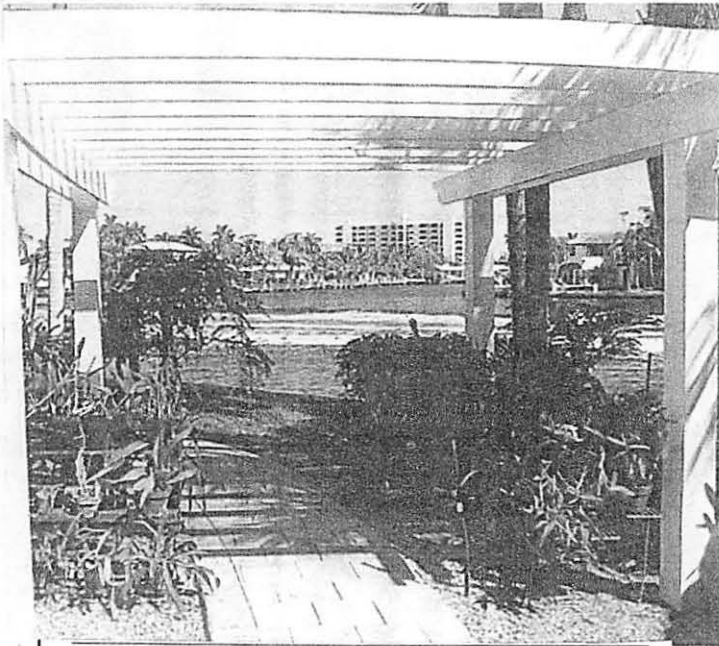
Tin Ly and Gary Sullivan hosted the second stop. They claimed that they had only collected orchids for 6 years, and they had certainly acquired what could have easily been an orchid a day or perhaps a week. They had also learned how to grow very healthy plants. Tin's art work and at-home studio were an added touch to the stop. Many of us had seen his downtown studio, and it was no surprise that his home gallery was equally creative and unique. Three people won their raffle prizes.

Wayne and Judy Musgrave keep both birds and bees which served as fodder for comments. The real humor there was that one of their house guests decided to help some of Wayne's plants look 'better' by covering the ugly orchid potting mix with pretty gravel. She did this as a 'surprise'. Hopefully he can remove the beauty, and at least she didn't use root killing potting soil. Soil might have meant repotting. When Wayne repots he will have hundreds or thousands of plants to repot.

Our house was next and I wanted people to see our growing space which had held up through Andrew and Wilma. I also wanted to share some of my lazy lady orchid keeping secrets, but mainly I wanted people to see Chip Jones landscaping. Ramblers are plant lovers period, so they were glad to hear me ramble on about baobabs from seed, special palm trees, and gift bromeliads from many orchid society members.

Our wine and desert stop was with Chuck Nicholls. Chuck's whole habitat is as close to perfect as a lover of lush landscaping with orchids in every niche could want. The landscape includes a secret garden and several winding paths leading to cozy seating areas. It was great to end the pleasant afternoon in a beautiful place, with wonderful friendly people.

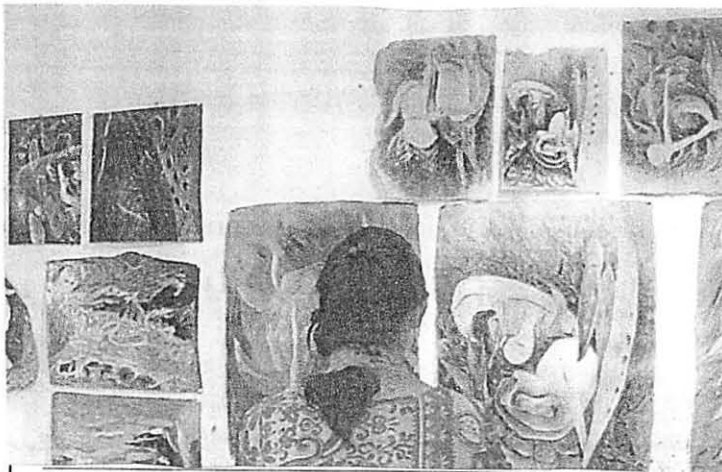
If you are not a rambler, you are missing one of the best reasons to be a FLOS member. Jack Dodds captured the afternoon with the photos shown here. Thank you Jack. Dot Henley



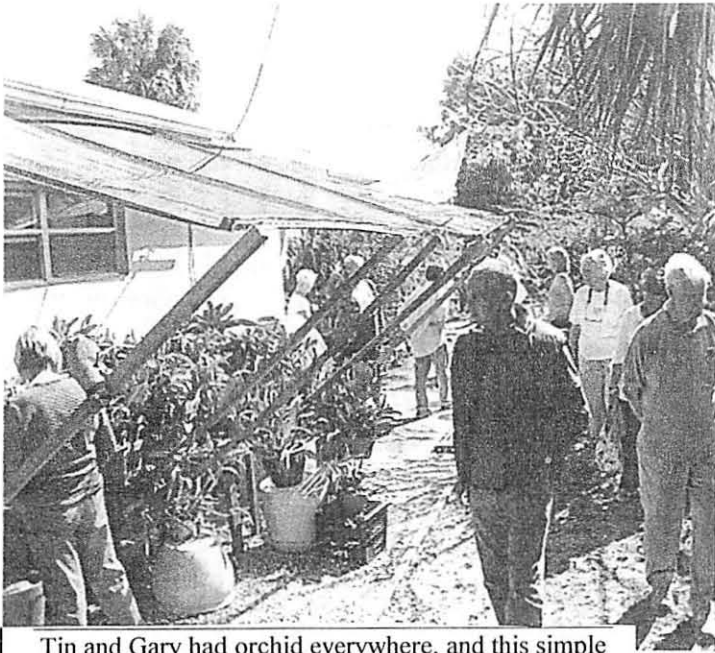
Ron grows orchids here on low benches



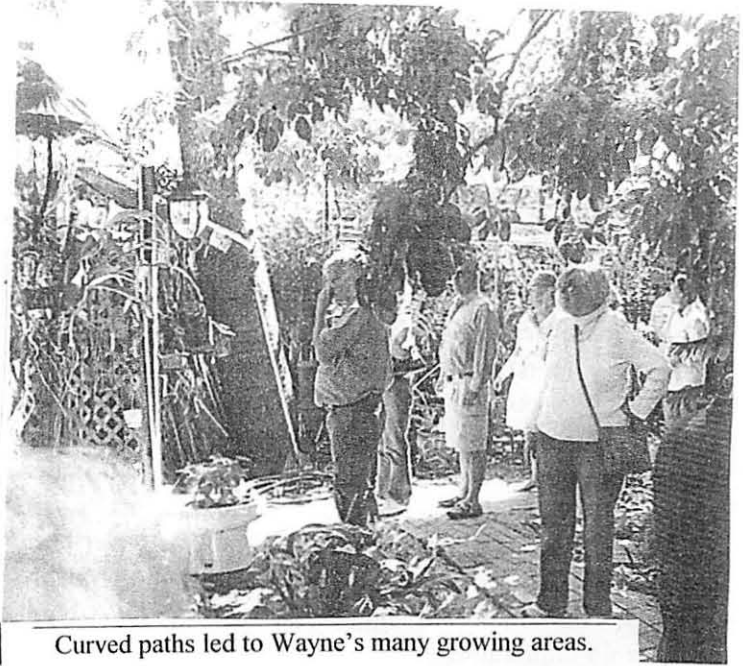
Tin explains that the yard is for tropical fruits



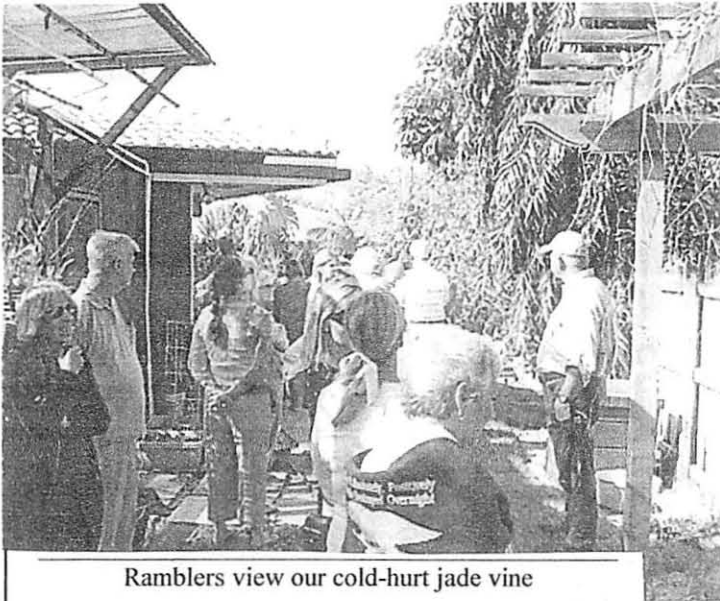
Suzie views the house tour of Tin's art



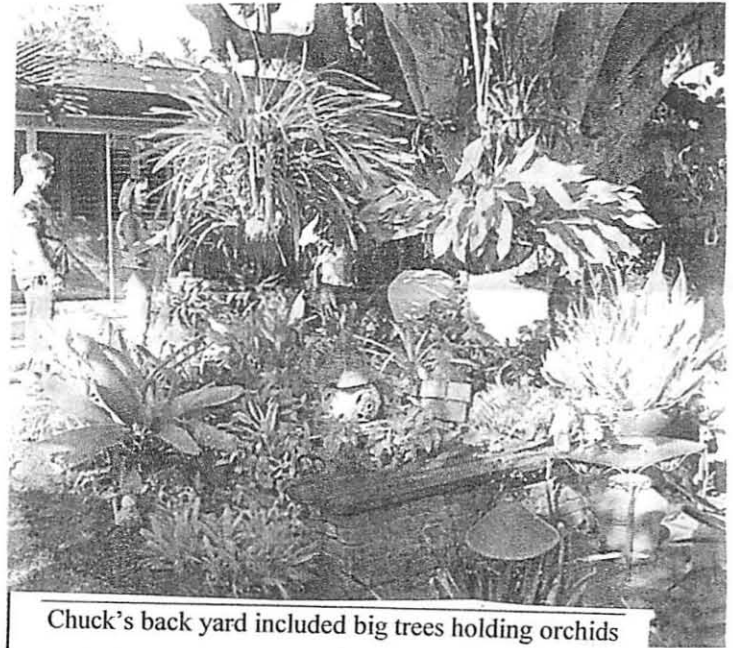
Tin and Gary had orchid everywhere, and this simple lean-to area provided great shade.



Curved paths led to Wayne's many growing areas.



Ramblers view our cold-hurt jade vine



Chuck's back yard included big trees holding orchids



More of Chuck's yard, wish you could see the colors.



Chuck's backyard also included stations for wine and also for desert

The Earth's Most Successful Animals Are _____.

Did you fill in the blank with insects? If not you should have. Entomologists believe that there may be up to three million species of insects. Fortunately only about 1,000 are harmful to man, his crops, and his domestic animals. That means that up to 2,999,000 are harmless and even necessary for life as we know it. The good insect lecture will come at another time, but know that our foods would be only wind pollinated grains without insects. Do you know of any wind pollinated orchids? The case for good insects rests!

The number of human illnesses and deaths attributed to mosquito vectored diseases far surpasses heart disease and cancer on a world wide basis. Man has never been able to eradicate even one species of insect and probably never will. Some are immune to radiation, most build up rapid immunities to insecticides, and most reproduce more offspring, more often, when stressed with a non-lethal dose of pesticide.

So what is an orchidist to do? Fight a smart fight but don't expect to win the war. Step one is to look under leaves, look for round yellow spots on top of leaves which usually means that there are mealy bugs or scale under the leaves, and look into the crowns of your plants. Look often, and when you find orchid insect pests, isolate the plant or plants if possible, spray them once a week for 3 weeks and also treat any plant that was below or touching the infested plants. It is important to fight back before the numbers of insects becomes huge and before your whole collection is infested.

Of course you remember that all aphids are female and if all of any one female's offspring lived, the United States would be four feet deep in aphids.

In a circular graph representing a huge meat pie made from all of earth's animals, insects would take up about 300 degrees of the pie, about 20 degrees of the pie would be Crustaceans, (Think krill that feed the whales.) and the remaining 40 degrees would be made of other invertebrates, and all the vertebrate fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals which includes man! (Note, I made up the numbers in the pie graph, but the biology book didn't have real numbers and showed the graph to make the point. Yes, if you are shaking your head or rolling your eyes at this insect oration, know that my former students did the same thing. D.H.)

Small Talk Fodder

When you see a statue of a man on a horse with its two front legs in the air, know that the man died in battle. If one leg is off the ground, the man died later of wounds. If the horse has all four feet on the ground, the rider died of natural causes.

Pea-Peanut Salad

Shari Weidenhaum brought this to the home ramble luncheon. This recipe has been traced back to the many peanut plantations that flourished during the War Between the States.

10 oz. small peas, frozen	½ c. salad oil
9 green onions, chopped	¼ c. red wine vinegar
1 ½ cukes, seeded and chopped	¼ t. pepper
3 celery stalks, chopped	¼ t. oregano
4 ½ - 6 oz. salted Spanish peanuts	1/8 t. garlic salt

(Keep brown skins on peanuts.)

Combine all ingredients except peanuts. Let drain in a colander for about 30 minutes. Add the peanuts to the mixture and stir until the peanuts are coated.

Repotting Triage

You realize you won't get every orchid repotted that deserves to be repotted. What to do? Repot the most needy which would be these:

1. Any new orchid that you bought and that you have not repotted should be repotted. Many growers save labor costs by selling off the plants that need to be repotted. Furthermore the potting media used by growers probably won't match what you use and will need to be watered differently.
2. Orchids with dying middles or leads probably have a rot beginning. Repot fast before you lose the whole plant. Cut off the sick/dying area and keep cutting with clean clippers for every cut until you reach clean tissue.
3. Orchids with established weeds need to be repotted to rid them of the weeds that will spread to your whole collection if you don't stop them. IF you pull baby weeds EVERY week you won't have established weeds.
4. Orchids that have an infestation of scale or mealy bugs should be repotted. Remove ALL the old medium, give the plant a hose bath unless it has very tender leaves, spray the nude plant with an insecticide, and repot the plant in a clean pot with clean medium.
5. Orchids that are giving off a foul odor and are not *Bulbophyllums* in bloom probably have rotten roots and need to have fresh medium.

Triage may let you delay repotting the less needy and YOU just became an "Orchid Doctor".

Don't you want them all ?

There are over 100 named clones of *C. intermedia* and more than 200 named clones of *L. purpurata*.

Should I Mount My Orchids, Rather Than Putting Them in Pots?

First do your homework! Many orchids grow well if mounted, and mounted orchids are easy to care for, **IF FREQUENT WATERING IS YOUR VERSION OF 'EASY'**. Orchids look more natural mounted and certainly they did not evolve in a pot.

There are several types of mounts. Cork and tree fern slabs are the most common, but drift-wood, grape vine segments, a portion of a coconut hull, and many other wooden sources, may also work well. Of course your Blue Jay -stolen tag- no- name - plants are good for mounting on the trees in your yard. The best time to mount an orchid is when new roots are popping out which is most often spring/early summer. When you mount an orchid, you want it's enthusiastic new roots to dig in to your mount.

To mount a plant, center it on the mount, and tie it firmly to the mount. You might use fish line, phone wire, or strips of nylon stocking to attach it to the mount, Super Glue or staples may work too. You may need to add a wad of sphagnum between your plant and the mount. Mounting may be a thing to try, but now your own energy level, watering schedule and growing area. D.H.

How The English Built Their First Orchid Collections

The importation of orchids into England reached its peak in the 1850s. Sadly four fifths of the plants died in transit. The orchid hunter had to first get the plants out of a jungle setting, then they were crated and pack animals carried them to riverbanks to await shipment. The wait often took weeks. Once inside a ship the crated orchids were stored in damp, warm holds for a three to four month's journey to England.

The orchid hunters often magnified their tales about the orchids that they brought back to enhance their value. Tales about orchids and native peoples often involved sex or religion.

Even though most imported orchids arrived dead, and early cultural practices killed others, the survivors formed the basis for important collections. England lost most of these fine old orchid collections during World War 1 due to the destruction of war, or lack of fuel to heat the greenhouses. *Today English collectors hunt for orchids just as we do. They catalog shop and visit nurseries.*

Kramer, J. 1989. *The Conservation International Book of Orchids*. New York. Abbeville Press. Pp. 24-25

Most 'Truths' Have Exceptions

When Will My New Plant Bloom?

Of course there are variables, and they include: the genus and species of the plant and your own ability to provide it with the growing conditions it once had in the wild, or in a grower's greenhouse that made every thing perfect. With that in mind, and in a perfect,-orchid- world, these orchid catalog terms may be translated as follows:

Small seedlings- These little babies just left the flask and you may get a bloom in four or more years.

Seedlings- These adolescents are at least two years from blooming.

NBS (Near Blooming Size) - These lucky survivors might bloom in two years. Why lucky survivors, baby plants are the first to die, if all is not well.

BS (Booming Size) - These orchids SHOULD bloom in season during the purchase year. Of course the plants will get more wonderful with age, and to repeat an old newsletter's advice: 'Nip it in the bud'. The first bloom should often be nipped after you see it, so the plant can mature and bloom better the following year.

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* 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*, *leopoldiii*, *lueddemanniana*, *rex*, *schilleriana*, *schofieldiana*, *tenuis*, *velutina*, and *warscewiczii*.

In a perfect world you would repot Group two when the new roots are ¼ to ½ inch long.

About Salep!

Orchid Extinction Due To Ice Cream

In Turkey, ice cream with the powers of Viagra, is in big demand. So much so that the wild orchids used to make salep are almost extinct. It takes 1,000 orchids to make about 2 pounds of dried salep which is used in their ice cream. (BBC tid bit)



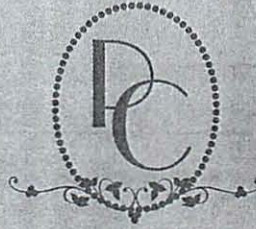
Sandi Jones
Tom Wells

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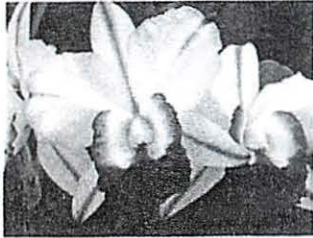
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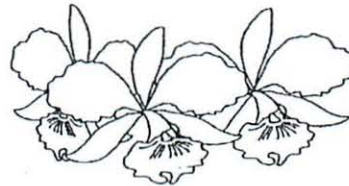
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Clay Pot Sale

A health issue is telling Marge Adler to grow fewer orchids. She has good, old slotted pots for sale and some black pot stands. 954-384-8425



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Directions: Use Oakland Park Blvd. from I-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.

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