

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

N • E • W • S • L • E • T • T • E • R

March, 2011

Bill Thoms To Speak March 14th *We are in for a treat*

If you have read his book (**Bulbophyllums: The Incomplete Guide: from A to Why?**) or have heard him speak in the past you know that you are in for an entertaining and informative evening.

Bill began his orchid career in Fort Lauderdale in 1969 when he collected some *Enc. tampensis* from trees that had been cut down to build a condo complex. Bill built a business in Tampa called Hilltop House in the early '70s. In 1980 he married Doris Dukes and after 20 years they retired and moved several thousand of their favorite orchids home to new greenhouses. Here they make 200+/- crosses a year, speak to orchid groups across the country, and win awards. They have more than 150 awards including coveted FCCs on *Cirrhopetalums*, Phaphs, and Phrags and many cultural awards with several getting 90 points or more. Bill and Doris are associated with many genera but **they are the most famous for their *Bulbophyllums* and he will be speaking on them at our meeting.** They will provide the plant raffle table and sell plants.

If you want them to bring you a plant or plants from their sales offerings you can email them ahead and they will bring you what you have selected. Their email address is: dukesthoms@verizon.net

FLOS Nominating Committee

For the third time in four years President Joan Connors has appointed Nora Dyke chairperson of the nominating committee. Rich Ackerman and Ginny Salus will also serve on the committee. If they ask you to serve please say "YES". FLOS is a wonderful organization and worthy of your time and energy.

Chinese New Year



...that this 'the year of the rabbit' is indeed a

Spring Bus Ramble South Set for April 9th



For only \$25 and your brown bag of lunch you can spend one of the best days of spring with happy OTHER people who will be buying orchids. Of course YOU will be going along for the ride? You don't want to get the good deals the growers in Dade will give us, you certainly don't want to win raffle plants on the bus, and that glass of wine on the way home will never touch your lips!

The bus will leave the Cardinal Gibbons student parking lot off Bayview Drive at 8:00 AM and return by 5:00 PM. Pay Bob Henley at the March meeting to hold your seat, or mail your check made out to FLOS to the PO Box address on the front of the newsletter.

Over-night Ramble

This favorite ramble is only partially confirmed at this point, but you will want to put \$75 aside for the bus costs and mark your calendars in pencil for June 4-5. We will visit the usual growers toward the West Coast of Florida, and we will probably spend Sunday morning at Selby Gardens.

Dave Barry Quotes

* There is a very fine line between hobby and mental illness.

* Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic.

Repotting and Growing Orchids

Tom Wells gave us many clearly stated and good tips about orchid culture, and he demonstrated the repotting of several kinds of common orchids. He began his program with information on Phals. He reminded us that they lack pseudobulbs for holding water so they need a potting medium that holds water. He also suggested that clear pots work well for Phals since their roots carry on photosynthesis, and the clear pot lets you see what the roots are doing.

Tom removed a Phal from its pot and used TSP cleaned clippers to remove the old part of the central stem at the base of the plant and any dead roots. He sprayed rubbing alcohol on any cut since it would dry off the cut and kill microbes. Kitchen cinnamon can also be used on cut surfaces for the same purpose as the alcohol. Phals can be repotted at any time. As a general rule the pot should not be too large and the medium should be packed in firmly. Any Phal that is growing up out of the potting medium with roots above the medium is in need of repotting. Tom did suggest cutting off the bloom spike early on a plant that is less than robust so its energy can go into the plant rather than into supporting the bloom spike.

Catts need to be repotted every 2-3 years and Tom likes to spray them with brisk spray of water to clean off old sheathing and possible hiding insect pests. After a plant is cleaned it should be put in a clean pot with the old growth touching the back of the pot. After the potting medium is packed around the plant, it should be held in place with a rhizome clip so that emerging roots are not moved around and damaged by an air movement.

The instructions for repotting a Dendrobe were much like those for Catts, except they should be treated with a more gentle hand since they tend to pout for a while after they've been repotted. In fact this is a genus that can, for the most part, stay in a small pot for a long time especially if it is potted in an inorganic mix that won't break down or compress.

Tom pointed out that most of our orchids once grew on trees and there is much to be said for mounting orchids. If you decide to mount, put the newest growth close to the surface of the mount so new roots can grab on to the surface of the mount. Tree fern mounts hold more water if left flat as opposed to being positioned upright.

In the discussion of products to use on orchids, Tom related that Kiki Grow, while expensive, has several positive uses. He cautioned that Super Thrive needed to be used with caution in that overuse could result in abnormal tissues, and that plants that had become addicted to it would fail if you stopped using it.

Thank you Tom. D.H.

(2.)

February Ribbon Awards

Zoe Bejar /blue/ *Enc. cordigera alba*

Michael Bryant /blue/ Pot. Red Crab 'Uncle Wang'
/red/ V. Pure Wax

Chris Crepage /blue/ *Maxillaria acanthus*

Vicki Hallock / CULTURE/ *Dendrophylax funalis*, /blue/
Slc. Hsin Buu Lady 'Y.T.', *Onc. Splendid*

Diane & Rubben Howe /blue/ Epicat. Rene Marques

Bob Isaacs /blue/ Phaius Joan Hart, *Ludisia discolor* var alba

Chip Jones /blue/ Blc. Dr. Joe Walker 'Cotton Candy'

Renanstylis Alsafoff 'Chief Adamson' AM/AOS

Wayne Musgrave /blue/ *Den. speciosum compactum*

Tony Millet /blue/ *Epi. radicans* var alba, Sc. Fairland

'Yello', Lc. Fair Catherine x *C. lueddemaniana*

Chuck Nicholls //blue/ Cym Daddy's Girl 'Elizabeth

Hatfield' , /red/ Burr Jimbo 'Swarm'

Scott & Donna Peplin /CULTURE/ ? (This big art shade
Catt had grown over its tag.)

Gary Pierce /blue/ C. Bob Betts x *C. maxima*

Tom Wells & Sandy Jones /CULTURE/ Blc. Lemon

Yellow /blue/ Lc. Ira Renate /red/ Laelia (Schom.)

columbiana

Refreshment Appreciation Goes To:

Connie Walker, Petra Thomas, Gary Pierce,
Leah Ostrander, Shelly Jones, Vicki Hallock,
Nora Dyke, Carol Clarkson, Danielle Bejar,
and Carrie Ackerman

Show Notes

* Please turn in your unsold tickets and money to Chris Crepage so she can relax and think about the 2012 show. Her mailing address is: 1401 NE 27th Drive, Wilton Manors 33334.

* Nice show memory: Carol and Ray met on a blind date arranged by a friend at the show. That was about 5 years ago, they are married and attended the show to celebrate.

Personal Plea

A friend opened a Facebook account for Bob and put an ugly picture of him on it. He later got into our email address book and anybody in it got an email that Bob wanted to be friends. There is also out there a college student named Bob Henley and we got his friends to want to be friends. The account is CLOSED, and not that he didn't want to be friends with members on our address book. Yikes!

Again why orchids are superior!

On Pollen vs. Pollinia

You have to think math first. There are about 25 millimeters in an inch, there are 1,000 micrometers in a millimeter. Pollen grains found in ordinary seed plants range in size from 20 to 250 micrometers. Each plant requires quite a bit of energy to produce up to about 5.5 million grains which are unique in shape and surface structure for that plant's species. The species-uniqueness allows the stigma to accept the right type of pollen according to one theory. (If this theory is right, it is yet to be determined how the stigma senses different surface areas.)

Pollen may travel 19,000 feet in the air and be blown for three thousand miles from the parent plants. Since pollen is rich in protein and oil, and since most pollen does not find a stigma, pollen production represents quite a loss of resources. Plants that have evolved to attract an animal pollinator can produce and waste far less pollen although they will need energy to produce a color, nectar, or odor to attract an animal.

Of course most orchids are insect pollinated, and the pollen is packaged in bundles, or pollinia, so that the insect can carry many sets of male chromosomes to the female flower with just one visit to that flower. Some orchids are 'famous' for evolving flowers to match their pollinators.

Angraecum sesquipedale is the most famous for its long trailing spur which holds pollen for the moth with the foot and half long tongue.

Paphiopedilum rothschildiana has horizontal wing like petals and the bumps on the wings look like aphids to flies. Flies then crawl into the pouch to lay their eggs where the hatching maggots will have aphids for lunch, and in leaving the pouch they pollinate the flower.

There are about a hundred ground orchids in Europe that produce flowers that look like female bees and male bees try to mate the flowers and in so doing pollinate the flower. Each type of orchid has a corresponding and unique bee.

Attenborough, David. 1995. *The Private Life of Plants*. Bath Press, Glasgow. Pp. 95-129. (Also Biology 101)

More on Pollen and Pollinia

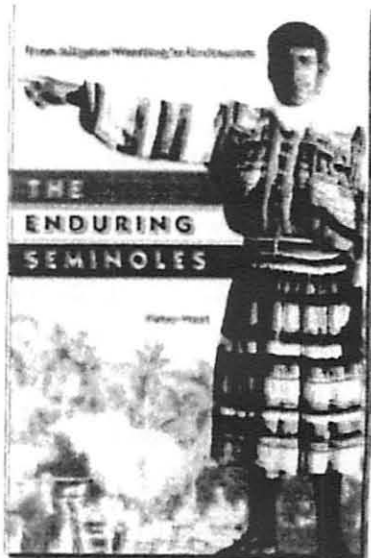
Scientists have learned about the rise and fall of a number of plant species by studying the pollen grains found in layers of peat. The uniqueness of pollen also helps in criminal investigations.

Some orchids have from one pollinium to 12 pollinia. This number helps in identifying orchids.

Member of the month:

Patsy West

4th Generation Native Floridian and Seminole Expert



Pictured is the cover of one of Patsy's books which was printed by the University of Florida. Besides being the writer of 3 books, and being our hostess and tour guide for a home ramble stop, she has an impressive resume as an historian and recorder of Seminole and Miccosukee history. She is the Director of a photo archive of these tribes. It began with 3 prints and now has about 10,000 samples which have over the past 40 years come from all over the country.

Patsy's great grandfather used to hunt with the Seminoles, and this gave her an in with the elders who gave her information on their ways of life.

Our society has members who are enormously talented and who have contributed greatly to various fields. Add to that they are nice people and we are lucky to be part of such a varied and awesome society of which Patsy is a prime example.

Helping Native Bees

Unless we are 'hankering' for a diet of all wind pollinated food, we need to try to help some of the 3,500 species of native bees, since European honey bees are on the decline or are being purposefully killed since the remainders are becoming Africanized.

Help would involve: avoiding pesticides, planting pollen or nectar rich flowering plants, providing shallow water containers, leaving dead limbs on trees for nesting holes, and leaving bare dirt for nest building species.

How to Avoid Orchid Virus

Manual transmission happens when we use unsterilized tools, pots, tabletops, hands, and re-used water. (NEVER dunk any two orchids in the same bucket of water!) Insects also transmit virus from plant to plant, which is just another reason not to crowd plants on a bench. *Some say that 30% of any collection is virused.*

The Home Rambler

Forty something of us enjoyed one of the nicest afternoon of our FLOS lives. One who always rambles said this was our all-time best ramble of any sort. It may have had something to do with having some of the best food we've ever eaten. I hope to run some of the recipes later and will now just mention the choices we had at our first stop which was at Patsy West's.

We had chicken salad, shrimp salad, a beef pasta dish, barbeque on buns, espanadas, a curry dish with meat, multiple salads, fruits, and the beyond good deserts included valentines cookies and chocolate. The only name I will mention in this is Luana Tringali. She asked what we were short on and I said 'something to drink with lunch'. Luana showed up with a beverage loaded rolling cooler the size of a small refrigerator.

Many rambblers also showed up with extra plants and bags of unique things for the raffle which was part of the lunch. Patsy had had an elegant benefit meal the evening before and there were rented tables both out under the huge orchid laden trees and in the house. After the lunch and raffle, Patsy told us about how her parents had established her water edged acre in the 1920s and about her efforts to get as many orchids as possible attached to trees as they had been before their ancestors had been collected from trees. We saw wonderful plants no matter where we looked.

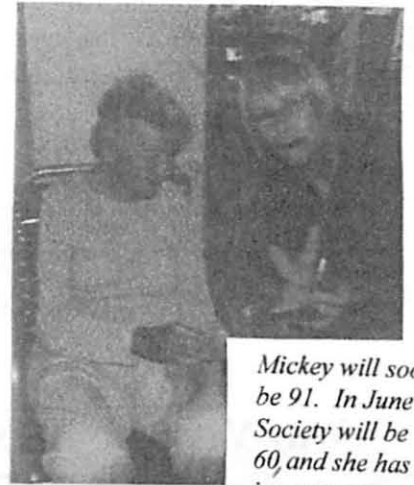
Our second stop was at Chip Jones'. Chip's place includes his house and beautifully landscaped yard, his large personal orchid collection, a robust vegetable garden, and of course a couple of acres of palms and other plants he is growing to install on jobs. Chip's major was landscaping, which with maintenance of his landscapes is what Chip does to afford more plants of his two major passions, orchids and cycads.

Our third stop at Mickey Carmichaels was a lucky replacement for a hostess who had canceled. Mickey and Gale do have a thriving orchid business and beautiful yards and I was happy that Gale had young plants from half a dozen of her newest crosses. Of course *B. nodosa* is often a chosen parent here for blooming frequency and floriferousness and some of the best bloomers for our area were also in the new mixes. The Gold Digger cross was more beautiful than that parent. If you missed the best FLOS meal in decades and a happy afternoon with good people, you made a mistake. 'Hope you'll ramble next time. D.H.



Chris Crepage is thanked for the smaller pictures of our ramble and Sandy Halle for the larger.

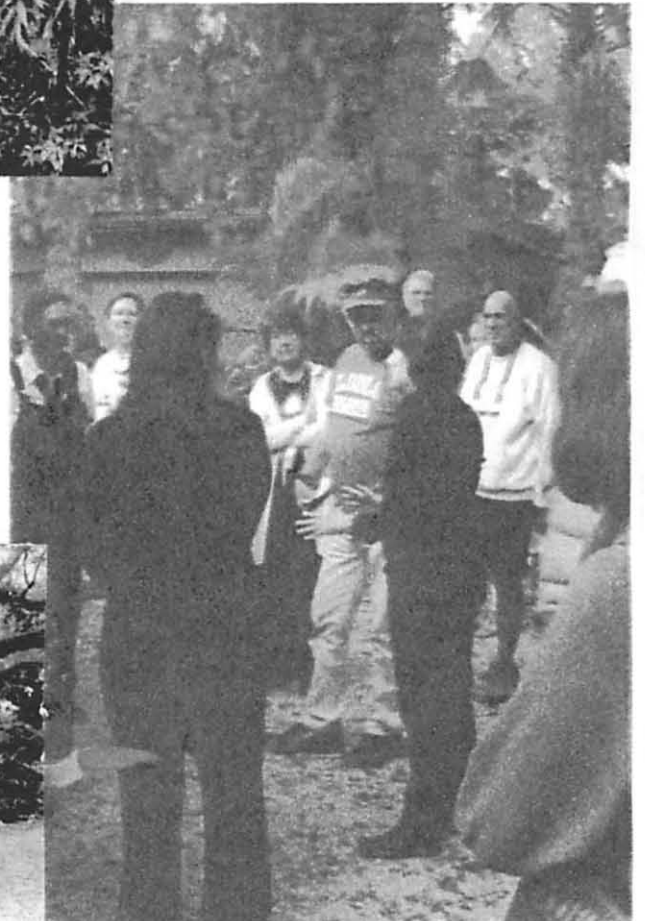




Mickey will soon be 91. In June our Society will be 60, and she has been important to us all this time.



Patsy is telling us that this paradise has been her family's space for about 90 years. →



Chip's giant tortoise live here and eat his garden veggies.

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.

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



Why Vanilla Costs So Much

The Aztecs discovered vanilla and used it to flavor chocolate drinks. It contains 250 compounds which give it its popular flavor, but usually that flavor has been somewhat captured in a cheap artificial flavoring which may contain coal tar and other products you don't want to know about.

In Mexico and other tropical places where it is grown, the vines are trained to grow around a tree where the plant will bloom just once a year. On the single day the bloom is open workers hand pollinate the flower. The flower will in time turn into a seed pod, which is called a vanilla bean.

Workers check the vanilla orchid vines each day and remove any ripe pods. The pods are sold to curing houses where they are dipped into boiling water or heated in ovens to stop the development of the seeds. Then for three to six months the pods are laid out in the sun by day and put in sweat boxes at night. After all of that treatment, pods are stored on racks to allow their flavors to mellow.

If the pod/bean/ has been cured properly you should be able to wrap it around your finger without breaking it and releasing essential oils and flavor. Is it any surprise that a single vanilla bean costs about \$2 and that pure vanilla extract is so expensive? The little dark specks in Bryers vanilla ice cream are seeds from real vanilla beans. Is it any surprise that it costs more than store brand?

Information on curing from *Chef*. Nov. 2001. P.22

Orchid Trivia

The word "orchid" came from the Greek word "orchis" meaning testicle. Orchid have been associated with lust, greed, and wealth. Orchids were collected extensively during the 1800s. Historians tell us that at one time 4,000 trees were cut down to collect the orchids growing on their branches. One collector alone was believed to have sent hundreds of thousands of orchids back to England. Unfortunately most of these and many of the other early collected orchids died.

There are about 25,000 different species of orchids and probably a million or more man-made hybrids. Greek women thought they could control the sex of their unborn children with orchid roots. They believed that if the father consumed large, new tubers, the child would be male, and if the mother ate small tubers the child would be female.

The orchids own reproductive behavior has been studied for years among botanists. An important find along the way was that a seed in nature needs to be penetrated by a fungus in order to grow.

Those who study orchid names can find interesting trivia. For instance Paphiopedilum orchids were named for Paphos, a temple in Cyprus where the love goddess Aphrodite was worshipped and where prostitutes were said to be readily available.

Orchids have delivered strong messages. They bring a universal message of love, beauty, wisdom, and thoughtfulness. In China they signify refinement and the innocence of children. Pink orchids have signified pure affection. Cattleyas have symbolized mature charm, thus they are a natural for Mother's Day.

Much of this came from

[http:// www.hudsonvalleyweddings.com/guide/flowers.htm](http://www.hudsonvalleyweddings.com/guide/flowers.htm)

About Orchid Seeds

Yes, they are small, and there are many in a seed pod. Most won't survive in nature, but they have evolved a way to be spread by wind or water for hundreds or even thousands of miles. In most species the seeds completely lack endosperm or cotyledons so the very small embryo plants have to get food from fungi when they start to grow. A few orchids do have shrunken vestigial food sources which shows that the seeds have evolved from the common type.

Another unique factor in the orchid seed is a large air space which keeps the seeds afloat or in the air for far away dispersal. *In all of nature there is the built-in survival adaptation to 'move away from Mother and survive'.*

How Orchids Talk To You!

When our pets purr or hiss, wag their tails or growl we get the message. Orchids also communicate!

Deep green leaves on a plant you just bought in flower tell you to put it with your Phals in lower than Catt or Vanda light. Deep green leaves on a mature plant that hasn't bloomed in two years, are telling you to move the plant into more light so it will bloom.

Light grass-green leaves tell you that the plant can thrive in about 50% light and even pool screen. When you buy a new plant with light green leaves, you do not keep it with Phals unless it is a Paph or Phrag.

New leaves coming up with horizontal pleats tell you that the plant was not getting enough water when the leaf emerged.

Wilted, limp, leaves probably are saying that the potting medium has broken down and that the roots are dead or dying. Repot it at once. You should also check that plant for scale, mealy bugs, or mites. If these monsters are sucking the fluids from the leaves, they will wilt.

Smaller leaves this year than last are telling you to think back. Are you not fertilizing on schedule? Are fertilizer salts not being flushed well with clear water? Has the potting medium broken down? Healthy plants do not decrease in size. (*Can you see a plump orchid on a tread mill?*)

Phal roots coming up out of the pot are telling you to repot that plant, it is seeking better medium.

Color break in flowers screams virus. You can isolate it and mark it. (*I use the plastic flags used to mark off water lines at construction sites.*) If there is color break in the next flowers, put the poor thing in the garbage pot and all. Sometimes color break can occur with severe changes in temperature, or light summer oil sometimes causes darker floral pigment to run.

Air Quality Test, Biology 101

Do you have lichens on trees in your neighborhood? If so, the general quality of the air in your area is relatively free of pollutants. If you live near busy areas of I-95 or other heavily traveled roads you may have lost your lichens, and you might expect more bud blast! Lichens, as you remember, are symbiotic combinations of fungi and algae, and usually gray-aqua crusty growths on tree

On Cleaning Orchid Pots

Pots worth saving:

Of course you don't repot orchids in dirty used pots, so spring repotting often means pot cleaning time. You probably know to soak pots overnight in a solution of one part Clorox to five parts water, but did you know that adding about 1/3 cup of laundry detergent to a 6 gallons bucket of soak water will help dislodge old roots from the pots? It is also a good idea to cover the bucket of Clorox solution to keep the Chlorine from dissipating too fast and to protect lizards, tree frogs and birds.

Pots not to save:

How do you clean the white salts that may encrust a clay pot that has been used for many years? You can remember high school chemistry and add some pool acid to a bucket of water. (If you put the acid in the bucket first and add water the explosion can blind or hurt you big-time.) If you are compelled to save the pot, let the pot soak for weeks or even months in a covered bucket of diluted acid. When the white salts are gone you can rise the pot over and over and maybe the acid infused in the clay won't kill your plant. Acid does not dissipate as does Chlorine. Why not just put white encrusted pots in the trash? Since there is no heavenly reward for saving clay pots, also remember to destroy the pot along with an orchid with a viral infection.

Don't you like phane-et-iks?

How To Pronounce It's Name

Aerangis	ay-er-RANG-giss
Aerides	AIR-I-deez
Angraecum	an-GRYE-kum
Ansellia	an-SELL-ee-a
Brassavola	bra-SAH-vo-la
Brassia	BRASS-ee-ah
Broughtonia	brow-TOH-nee-a
Bulbophyllum	bulb-oh-FILL-um
Cycnoches	SIK-no-keez
Cypripedium	sip-ree-PEE-dee-um
Dendrochilum	den-droh-KYE-lum
Doritis	doh-RYE-tis
Gramatophyllum	gram-mat-o-FILL-um
Neofinetia	nee-o-fin-AY-tee-a
Phaphiopedilum	paff-ee-oh-PEE-di-lum
Rhynchostylis	rink-oh-STYE-liss

These pronunciations were selected from a list on Norman's website. www.orchids.com

Equity Park Memorial Garden Club

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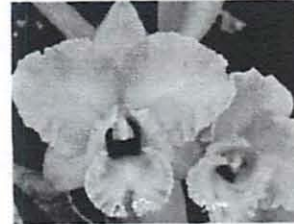
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Directions: Use Oakland Park Blvd. from I-95.
 Go East for 2.4 miles, go to the rear of the church
 which is on the North side of Oakland Park Blvd.
 Or take US-1 (Federal Hwy.) to Oakland Park
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 Regular meetings: Second Monday of each month

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