



Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society

NEWSLETTER

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Robert Fuchs of RF Orchids & Alan Cogar, President of FLOS

A RAMBLER ?

It is not an old car, it is a new breed of orchid shopper who knows how to take advantage of an easy way to shop for orchids.....direct from the source. On Saturday, April 14, 50 ramblers hopped on a bus in the middle of a rainstorm with visions of orchid deals dancing in their heads. The bus/boat departed Fort Lauderdale with a leak in the roof that resembled the proverbial screen door on a submarine, and made a beeline with her anxious ramblers for the unexplored corners of Homestead and the vast offering of exotic plant life that will not be found in the northern climes of the lower 48 (huh?). That's right, we found some new places as well as visiting some of the old haunts, but when you are a special guest at some of these places, you sometimes get the VIP tourand Bob Fuchs of RF Orchids led us on an exquisite tour of his private estate, (First Class). Barbara Wilkins at 'On the Rocks', literally opened the doors of her fabulous home nestled in the midst of a bromeliad oasis, flush with rare palms and Koi ponds (Highly Commendable). Terry Glancy of Pine Ridge Orchids provided an explosion of colors and an inside view of a commercial growing operation (Award of Merit), and last but not least, Carlos Cahiz of O.F.E. International hosted our 'boat' and provided orchid supplies, as well as fine orchid plants, AND a dose of generosity that would make mankind proud (Honorable). These folks combined to make a 'ramble' to the Homestead area a splendid opportunity for shopping for unusual orchids at a group rate, as well as a chance to see another side of South Florida that made one feel as though they were in another land. New friends made, new roads traveled, old paths revisited, breaking bread with one another, our collections growing, literally and figuratively, made for a memorable day. A success. Thanks to all! Capt. Allen

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Ramble photos by John Wrench

AOS CORNER – *An Update from Headquarters – AOS on the move.*

The sale of the property to the Slomin Foundation, a foundation supporting those with Autism Spectrum Disorder, was completed on November 20, 2011. The AOS orchid collection was moved to temporary growing space in mid-December managed by a major donor to the Fairchild Tropical Gardens. Fairchild is now in the process of cataloging these plants and will in the next month or so begin their move and permanent installation within the Gardens. On Monday March 26, the furniture was moved from the old location to our new offices at the Fairchild and we will then begin the process of settling in. Due to the commuting distance, a number of AOS employees will not be going with us which will require us to manage the day-to-day business to the best of our abilities. During this interim transition, members may experience a delay with regard to requests of the staff and it is recommended that contact be through the general email address TheAOS@aos.org or through the appropriate committee email addresses. We will do our best to keep these to a minimum. More information about the move and transition will be forthcoming in future issues of *Orchids* or from time to time on the AOS website. The new AOS mailing address is: The American Orchid Society at Fairchild Tropical Gardens, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, FL 33156. Lynn Fuller, Chair, AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

APRIL SPEAKER—ROBERT FUCHS

Mr. Fuchs has been breeding, hybridizing and growing orchids for 3 generations. He popularized Vandas in the U.S. by compacting the plant size and isolating the large flower genes. In 1984, he was awarded first place at the Hawaiian WOC, a first in the US for the Vanda species. The attraction for these beauties is undeniable for good reason. Vanda's have the widest range in colors compared to other orchid species and they grow exceptionally well in south Florida. It's hard not to love those vibrant, freckled flowers.

Mr. Fuchs began his program with a culture lecture on caring for vandas. Vandas require air movement, so he recommends growing vandas in a basket with no medium and using a fan on low for circulation. Vandas can be mounted on trees and do well on oaks, mahogany and lysiloma trees. They love lots of H₂O and food. Daily, morning watering and weekly fertilizing keeps them healthy, free from pests and fungus. Robert recommends feeding wet: mist first to stimulate and open pore in roots and then apply the Jacks Classic 20-20-20 with micronutrients. He feeds the Jack's 3 times a month and once a month feeds with Jacks' Blossom Booster. During the summer months he ups the booster to twice a month. Surprisingly, Mr. Fuchs only uses over the counter food that can be bought at most garden centers, and not a specialized formula, with a high price tag. The only commercial supplement he recommended was Super Thrive (cost about \$14 for 4oz). In spring as the days get hotter and longer the plants are like bears coming out of den. The vitamin and mineral supplements give them the stamina that takes them into summer as healthy thriving plants. Mix ½ tsp. per gallon of water along with the blossom booster. For pests and unwanted fungi, Robert prefers to use Organocide (smells like fish and okay for honey bees) a nature-safe, organic spray oil that is effective on a wide variety of insects including mites, thrips, aphids, hard and soft scales and certain fungal diseases and cost about \$20 a quart. Only use it in the morning or in cooler weather. For hardier pest he uses, Diathane M45 and Orthene (for thrips) the more toxic and smelly alternatives for pesticide/fungicides. Always use 3-4 drops of Dawn liquid soap with both. The soap acts as a "spreader sticker" and what the chemical doesn't kill the soap smothers. Orthene should be applied once a week for two weeks.

When it is time to repot, refrain from allowing the plant to bloom. Vandas will bloom, in a primal act of survival, when their roots are stressed. Roots are the most essential part of a healthy plant, no matter what type of orchid. Allow the roots to establish before allowing it bloom. With Vandas, essential plant energy is lost when water and nutrients have a greater distance to travel to reach the plant. So keep the roots short and they absorb twice as much food and water. Trim them at about 18 inches from base. Use kiki paste if the leave drops. Scrape with you finger nail at the leaf node and apply kiki paste. A kiki will grow and fill up that area of the plant. Finally, never water if the air temperature and water temperature varies more than 20 degrees, so water for 30 minutes in the morning.

As an extra special treat, Robert showed us slides from the 20th WOC in Singapore. Unfortunately, RF chose to not enter a floor exhibit because constructing a small Florida shack with a pool in the front, would cost nearly 20 grand in Singapore! However, he did enter an excellent selection of well cared for, rehydrated Vandas, which took home 11 awards: five gold and silver and one bronze medal. Many of the Asian growers are big cloners. Mirror image flowers draped from wires in long chains, flowed like waterfalls and covered the floor spaces, which must have been breathtaking to see. We especially enjoyed the infinity pool that adorns Marina Bay Sands Conference Center and the tigers at Tiger Temple in Bangkok. Good thing there weren't any **Baby Jaguars**, or he might have brought one home. (contributed by Gigi Granger)

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

We'd like to welcome our three newest members to the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society. Joining us at our April meeting were Debbi Sokol, Richard Burke, and Marlene Markey. They are all hobby growers and I'm sure they all learned something from our April speaker, Bob Fuchs. Please make them feel welcome!

We are updating information for our 2012-2013 Membership Roster which we'll print this summer. If you have moved, or have a new phone number, or changed your email address, or have some other change to report, please let us know! Send your updated information to richackerman@gmail.com or see Rich at the membership table. **Also, if you are not sure whether you paid to renew your membership this year or not, just ask!** We have it all on the computer now and it is much easier to keep track of.

<i>Ascocentrum curvifolium</i>	John Wrench	Blue
<i>Dendrobium aggregatum</i>	John Wrench	Blue
<i>Encyclia Gay Rabbit</i> × <i>cordigera</i>	Tony Millet	Blue
<i>Encyclia bractescens</i>	Vicki Hallock	Blue
<i>Oncidium ampliatum</i>	Mercer Stower	Blue
<i>Phalaenopsis bellina</i> 'TH'	Long Traun (non-member)	Blue
Potinara Princess Takamado 'Taicla'	Laurajeane Niesel	Blue
Vanda Thailand Beauty	Diane & Ruben Howe	Blue
<i>Dendrobium Nestor</i> 'Hawaiian Orchid Source'	John Stulginskas	Red
<i>Lockhartia acuta</i>	Carol Jones	Red
<i>Phalaenopsis Spring Prince</i> 'Orchis #2'	Mercer Stowers	Red
Tolumnia	Mercer Stowers	Red
<i>Laeliacattleya Irene Finney</i> 'Spring's Best'	Jeff Tucker	Culture
<i>Maxillaria tenuifolia</i>	International Orchid Services	Culture
<i>Oncidium sphacelatum</i>	Carol Jones	Culture
Vanda TMA	International Orchid Services	Culture
<i>Doritaenopsis I-Hsin Sesame</i>	Ellen Kirby	Honorable Mention



Blue Ribbon—Laurajeane Niesel
Pot. Princess Taicla



Blue Ribbon—Diane & Ruben
Howe - Vanda Thailand Beauty



Museum of Discovery photo by
Chris Crepage

Community Outreach: Museum of Discovery and Science

FLOS was well represented at the museum's special event, "Babies, Blooms and Butterflies", April 7-8 by display boards, a tabletop orchid exhibit, and dedicated volunteers to answer questions and pull up You Tube videos for visitors. Many thanks to Ruben Howe, Michael Bryant, Glen Kauffmann, Susan Gutman, and Bill Crepage for help with setup and/or teardown. David Levine, Michael Bryant, Gigi Granger and Connie Campbell each spent a day in one of the museum's classrooms representing the society. Orchids for the exhibit came from Carrie and Rich Ackerman, John Wrench, Ruben, Michael, Glen, Dave and Chris. Many thanks to Chris Crepage for her hard work in planning, development and execution of this project!

The aim of our efforts was to educate the public, especially youngsters, about orchids. Past issues of "Orchids" magazine, pamphlets for FLOS and the Fakahatchee strand were free for the taking. In keeping with the muse-



Museum of Discovery photo by
Chris Crepage

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SINGER ARCHITECTS

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 Thank you.

Thank you kitchen staff: Geri Vatovec and Nina Anton. Our March refreshments were provided by: Carrie Ackerman, Maeva Malloy, Paul Gartner, Bonnie Bonneau, Joan Connors, Nina Anton, Barbara M Brown, Grace Vicino, Danielle Bejar, Norma Jeanne Flack

Regular Meetings: Second Monday of each month

Time: 7:30 pm
 Place: Christ Lutheran Church Social Hall
 1955 East Oakland Park Blvd.

Directions: East on Oakland Park Blvd. from I-95
 Go East for 2.4 miles, left on NE 20th Ave. Park in the rear of the church which is on the NW
 corner of Oakland Park Blvd. and NE 20th Ave. Or to take
 US -1 (Federal Hwy.) Go to Oakland Park Blvd. go west for two blocks turn north on NE 20th Ave.
 park in rear.

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