

FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

June 10 Speaker is Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids since 1977 and has been hybridizing for 39 of those years. With over 37 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery, Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Catasetinae, Paphiopedilum and Australian Dendrobium hybrids.



Fdk. After Dark 'Black Diamond' FCC

His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric breeding has led to the development of many notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced “the **blackest** flower ever witnessed.” The hybrid genus Fredclarkeara has received an amazing number of awards with a total of 17 FCCs and 42 AMs worldwide.

Fred is an internationally acclaimed speaker and travels extensively within USA, Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand and South America. He is an accredited American Orchid Society Judge in the Pacific South region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society. **More on page 4**

President’s Message

By Rich Ackerman



Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President for 2019-2020. I am honored to be elected, along with our very dedicated Board of Trustees.

Our Society’s mission is “to stimulate interest, provide education, and enable exchange of information among those interested in the culture of orchids.” We share plants and techniques, experiences, successes, and failures. Our common interest lets us actively enjoy each other’s company, and we are all better growers as a result.

Our community benefits as well. Thousands of local residents enjoy our show every year. We touch children’s lives every time we do an outreach event at the Museum of Discovery and Science or display their artwork at a show.

Continued on page 2

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

June 10 Speaker	Page 1
Mark Your Calendar	Page 1
President’s Message	Pages 1 & 2
Keiki Club News	Page 2
Redlands Orchid Ramble	Page 3
Scott Peplin’s Presentation	Page 3
May’s Ribbons	Page 4
Ordering from Sunset Valley	Page 4
Orchid Watering	Page 5
Orchid/Euglossa Bee	Page 6
July Movie Night	Page 7
Webinars at AOS	Page 7
New Members	Page 7
Directions/FLOS Board	Page 8

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Movie Night

July 16

Wild Man in the Devil’s Realm

Jim Roberts

August 12

Florida SunCoast Orchids

Monthly Meeting

September 9

TBD



On a warm, sunny and humid Sunday morning during the last weekend of April, roughly 25 members of the Keiki Club ventured over to Gustavo Valverde's home to visit his shade house and to see how he grows his orchids. In addition to some gorgeous vandas of huge size and some Paph. rothchildianum in full bloom, there were plenty of Cattleyas, oncidiums and sundry other orchids. It is amazing how many orchids he has growing lushly beneath the shade cloth.

Gustavo had prepared for us a demonstration on how to unpot, divide, and repot a bifoliate cattleya. The plant he worked on was growing over the edge of the clay pot in several places, and therefore it was time to create some new plants from the single large plant. In fact, after he skillfully dislodged the plant from the pot, it became obvious where to make the cuts for the division. Gustavo used a wax like product (he said Chapstick would do the trick) to treat and seal any wounds while cutting. He placed the newly divided plant so that the wound was against the side of the pot, and the new lead near the center so that several years could go by before repotting. His mix included bark, sponge rock and charcoal. He stressed securing the plant in its new home to prevent movement of the plant in the medium. Those new roots crave stability.

Gustavo also discussed how to mount a plant. He uses a bit of sphagnum between the plant and its mount, and uses rubber screen spline to tie the plant onto the mount. I am always amazed that I pick up neat tricks when I visit another grower, and using screening spline was a new and very usable idea. Some keikis bought some plants to take home with them, and we all left with new ideas and new things to try. One thing I have also learned is that orchid growers are always willing to share their ideas with others. We just keep on learning, and isn't that a wonderful thing?
Thank you, Gustavo Valverde

President's Message Continued from page 1
Our conservation initiatives are bringing native orchids back into our landscapes. Our philanthropy helps local horticultural institutions. Our scholarships help educate the next generation of American Orchid Society judges.

All these accomplishments are made possible through the hard work of many volunteers and your membership in our Society. On behalf of your new Board, many thanks and enjoy the coming year!

We were at the UF/IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center on May 11. Luanne Betz and Rich Ackerman had a "Million Orchid Project" table and they introduced MOP to the Florida Master Gardeners who attended the open house.



Photo: Rich Ackerman

We were also at Museum of Discovery and Science on May 12.



A beautiful display, and the educational boards were terrific!

Photo: Claire Garrett

We went on one of the best rambles FLOS offers every year. Over 60 vendors from around the world made the Redland Festival one-of-a-kind. We shopped for those rare orchids we had only dreamed of finding.

We brought a crate with wheels to hold our orchids. We bought lunch there and it was great. It was very comfortable there to eat under the breezy tent.

FLOS provided water & juice on the bus and a little sip on the way home, which we really enjoyed.

Tickets were \$30 for this event, which included free entry to the festival plus a \$5.00 coupon to use at any vendor.

We left precisely at 9 AM and we returned around 4:00 PM; leaving the festival at 3:00 PM. We had a great carefree time with no worries about driving or parking. All we did was admire orchids, shop, eat, and shop some more. Allen and Sabra Cogar made it even more fun! Thank you both!

Photo from Redland International Orchid Festival



Redland Orchid Festival Ramble Photos Zoe Bejar

Creating an Orchid Environment

Our own Scott Peplin presented a great talk with slides on creating an orchid environment. He spoke on making your growing space prettier and healthier for you and your plants.

We appreciate him stepping up to cover for the virus speaker who cancelled on very short notice.

Thanks so much Scott!



Photos Scott Peplin



MAY'S RIBBONS

Bulb. <i>bicolor</i>	Sara Singer	Blue
C. Leopoldii var caerulea x C. aclandaie	Angie Bondarenko	Blue
Ctsm. Portagee Star 'Brian Lawson's Sunrise' HCC/AOS x Ctsm. fimbriatum 'Golden Horizon'	Oliver Turina	Blue
Den. amabile	Marlene Isaacs	Blue
Den. anternatum	Angie Bondarenko	Blue
<i>Ionopsis utricularioides</i>	Craig Barry	Blue
Lc. Marcia Foster	Les Corbin	Blue
Lctna. Renate	Chris Crepage	Blue
Paph. <i>philippinense</i>	Allen Cogar	Blue
Phal. <i>cornu-cervi f. flava</i>	Matthew Wells	Blue
Phal. Hawaiian Darling	Kelvin Stansberry	Blue
Phrag. Mount Ford	Jill Smith	Blue
Sch. <i>tibicinis</i>	Angie Bondarenko	Blue
V. Pachara Delight	Kelvin Stansberry	Blue
C. Schroderae	Jill Smith	Cultural
<i>E. stellata x E. bractescens</i>	Susan Muho	Cultural
E. Tom's Finale	Jill Smith	Cultural
<i>L. purpurata</i>	Eric Schianvi	Cultural
Phalaenopsis Hybrid	Timothy Russo	Cultural
<i>Pholidota imbricata</i>	Ann Bernard	Cultural
Psh. Green Hornet	Claire Garrett	Cultural
V. Somsri Paragon *	Deborah Rauch	Cultural
Bpl. Golden Spice	Tena Swiller	Red
Ctna. Cosmo-Sanguine	Chris Crepage	Red
Den. Hybrid	Timothy Russo	Red
Den. Tien Soeharto	Angie Bondarenko	Red
Epc. Siam Jade	Chris Crepage	Red
Lc. Houserman's Firewings	Kate Donohue	Red
<i>Paph. godefroyae</i>	Chris Crepage	Red
Perreiraara Bangkok Sunset	Zoe Bejar	Red
<i>Phal. amboinesis</i>	Norma Jean Flack	Red
V. Mimi Palmer	Kate Donohue	Red

(*) Denotes Registered Hybrid



ORDERING ORCHIDS

Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids will be speaking to our Society on Monday, June 10. He is taking orders for delivery at the meeting. His website is:

<https://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/>

Plant orders delivered to our meeting can pay COD; please select this option on your cart order. You may use the discount code SOCIETYORDERS, so the cart does not add standard shipping. Be sure to specify that the plants are for delivery at Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society meeting.

Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
1255 Navel Place
Vista, CA 92081

Quantity discounts are available too!

Photos from Sunset Valley Orchids

Clo. Rebecca Northen 'Grapefruit Pink'



Stages of Catasetum growth

Cyc. Warscewiczii



Ctsm Frilly Doris



The majority of orchid deaths can probably be attributed to excessive watering. Guilty! I have been a serial over-waterer from day one, and it took me 3 years to refrain (somewhat) from my bad natural impulses.

Rich Ackerman told me one day that orchid lovers are “nurturers,” and I agree with that. Being a nurturer possibly also means being an overprotective worrywart, hence may be the tendency among many growers to overwater? Enough of this psychoanalysis. The bottom line is that I am not alone in this field of over-waterers and so I figured I would share a few basic things I learned about watering.

1) When I saw an orchid doing nothing (not growing), my instinct was to increase watering: I always thought the plant was thirsty and needed water to stimulate growth. In many instances, that is the absolute wrong decision. Most orchids that do not grow are likely just resting a bit or have entered a dormant period. I have learned to reduce watering or stay away altogether from an orchid that is sitting idle. Keep a watchful eye and when you see new growth, in many cases you can increase or start watering again (avoiding to water the new shoots which are often rot prone). What I just said is obviously not an absolute rule. As you know by now, that is not true for *Catasetums* for which you have to withdraw watering until the new bulb reaches at least 3” in height. So, factor in other aspects of your plants needs, but the bottom line is that extra water does not trigger growth for an orchid that is taking a breather.



A catasetum bulb is gorged with water

2) A new growth/bud is always tender and usually extra susceptible to rot; so when you water, keep any new growth dry or make sure it dries fast. If your growing environment does not have good ventilation, be extra careful.

3) Keep in mind the constant relationship between watering / temperatures / light. The hotter and the higher the light, the more water your plant needs. When the weather is cold in the Winter, abstain from watering entirely. In Winter, the exposure to light is reduced which also means reduced needs for water, regardless of the temperatures.

4) When I started educating myself about different types of orchids and their respective needs, I read many times that orchids like *Phalaenopsis* and *Vandas* grow without any type of water reservoir (like a fat bulb from a *Cattleya*, *Oncidium* or *Catasetum*), and therefore needed constant watering. While *Vandas* are tough to overwater, *Phalaenopsis* will rot easily if you keep them constantly wet in a water-retentive medium like sphagnum moss. I noticed that letting Phals dry just a bit gives excellent results. So, when you research less common types of orchids and you read they need to be kept moist at all times, keep in mind that it is usually better to let them approach dryness or get dry rather than keep them soggy at all times! The majority of orchids are epiphytes, and their roots are exposed to air, not a water retentive medium.

5) Orchids that are mounted need a lot more water than potted orchids. It is much easier to monitor the health of their roots and really hard to overwater a mounted orchid, but you need to be available to water them more often. Also, an orchid that you just mounted will probably need some moss at its feet to stay hydrated.

(More basic water needs next month)

Saw my first Orchid Bee last winter at the Orchid Bar and Grill. My favorite color, metallic green! Several months later, Scott Peplin sent me a photo of one in his shade house and suggested Googling "Orchid Bee" for a possible newsletter article. Finally got around to it last week, and now I'm fascinated by this little critter. I want one too!

The proper scientific name is *Euglossa dilemma*, one of about 200 species of Euglossini in the subtribe Apinae. Their natural habitat is rainforests in Mexico and Central and South America, but Orchid Bees have become well established in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties and are spreading to other areas of the state. The first one was collected in Broward County in 2003 by entomologists participating in a USDA program. They are



Photo Wikipedia

The males eventually release their accumulated "fragrances" at their display sites in the forest understory, where they are believed to be used to attract mates. These little guys can fly many miles in their search for the proper scents.

The only Orchid Bee I've seen is at Scott's, but Joan Connors mentioned seeing a lot of them during her recent visit to Fairchild Gardens. I keep

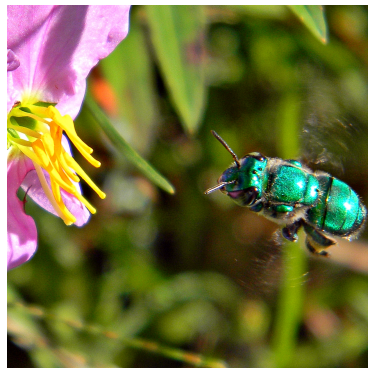


Photo Wikipedia

hoping I'll find one in my shade house. Guess I need to buy more catasetums from Fred Clarke at next month's meeting.



Photo Scott Peplin

about the same size as smaller honeybees, but are distinguished by their bright green metallic color.

Male Orchid Bees have a

unique and mutually-beneficial relationship with the orchids they visit. Although they are important pollinators of certain orchids, most notably *Catasetum*, *Gongora*, *Stanhopea*, and *Vanilla* that do not produce nectar, it is the scents of their blossoms that attract the males. When Orchid Bees crawl into the orchid to collect the perfumes, they also pick up pollen packets that are deposited into the next orchid they visit. To avoid cross pollination, each bee visits only one type of orchid.

Male bees have an enlarged hind tibia with a hole providing access to the spongy compartment which acts as storage for fragrant compounds. Females have corbiculae (pollen baskets) for collecting pollen.

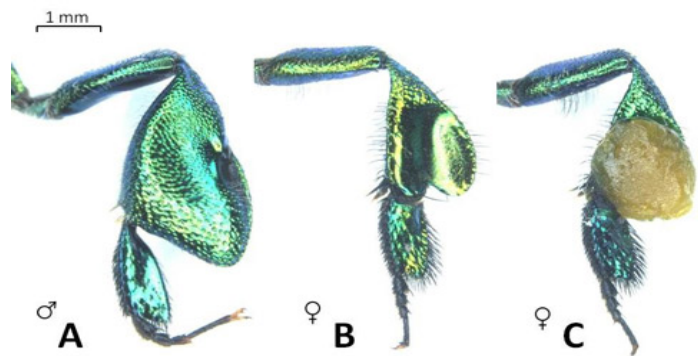


Photo University of Florida

**Wild Man
in the
Devil's
Realm**

Stig Dalstrom is locally known as the Wild Orchid Man, a name given more than 10 years ago because of his love for orchids.



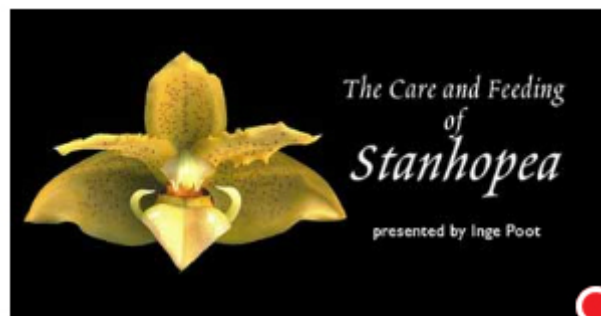
Dalstrom has dedicated a decade to traveling around the world in search of some of the world's most beautiful orchids. "The wild orchid man the actual name is about wild orchids – man. It's not a wild man with orchids on the contrary. In his most recent film -- The Wild Orchid Man in the Devil's Realm Dalstrom travels to Tasmania and Western Australia. "We hire a guide and we tour around the island and then we see what we can find," says Dalstrom. Dalstrom teams up with award-winning filmmaker and composer Darryl Saffer to create the Wild Orchid Man series.

"The more you learn about something the more fascinating it gets and orchids are the biggest plant family in the world and we know very little about it really," Dalstrom says. He says this film has something new for everyone to learn.



Here's what's coming up in June on the American Orchid Society webinars.

From Joan Connors



The Care and Feeding of Stanhopea

Inge Poot

Wednesday, June 5th, 2019
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT



Greenhouse Chat June 2019

Ron McHatton

Thursday, June 13th, 2019
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT

FLOS New Members

New April members

Mark Salvador, Jaisiri Jaiwatana, Phil Fusca, Kit Rivers, Vincent Carignan, Sean Devaney, Lisa Mueller, Chris Morales, Alex Rodriguez, Mario Rios, Carl Shearer, Barbara Walker, Cristina Gore, Stephen Schueler, Sharon Nitzberg, Deborah and Michael Alley, Lydia Proenza, Cheryl Weaks

New May Members

Katelyn Schmidberger, Jane Unger, Lisa Braverman, Debbie Markel, Gerrit Stryker, Shelley Stunson, Rosa Brouillet, Gloria Easton

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TurinaRussell Network

Thank you to our kitchen volunteers: Kathy Homann, Deb Johnson & Fran Renguso. Also, Thank you for the refreshments: Joan Connors, Deb Johnson, Fran Renguso, Kathy Homann, Zoe Bejar, Haydee Valor, Linda Hembree, Shelly Jones, Lupita Wiggins, Norma Jeanne Flack.



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

Regular Meetings: Second Monday of each month
Time: 7:30 pm. Place: Christ Lutheran Church Social Hall,
1955 East Oakland Park Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306

[Recipient]

Directions: From I95 take East Oakland Park Blvd. go 2.4 miles, turn left on NE 20th Ave. Or take US-1 (Federal Hwy.) to Oakland Park Blvd. west for two blocks, turn north 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.

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