



Florida West Coast Orchid Society

Orchid News & Views

April 2008 Volume 6, No. 4

Meeting Information

April 10, 2008

7:00 pm—Educational Class

Jim Clarkson 'Catesetums'

7:30 pm Featured Speaker

Patrick O'Day

- Don't miss the Orchid Auction on April 19
- Remember to bring snacks for the next meeting.
- Read about the May 3 Field Trip.
- Visit FWCOS website at www.fwc.os.org

Patrick O'Day is from Hawaii. He will be sharing on *Cycnoches*. See Page 3 for more about Patrick. He will furnish orchids for our raffle and have orchids for sale.

Jim Clarkson who will be teaching the Educational Class, has grown orchids since 1985, is an accredited AOS judge and Curator of Orchids at USF Botanical Gardens.

FWCOS Orchid News & Views

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14444 Neptune Rd, Seminole, FL 33776
Content must be received by one week past the
monthly meeting for inclusion in the following
months newsletter. Ads must be in high resolution
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14541 Iroquois Ave., Largo, FL 33774

The Florida West Coast Orchid Society (FWCOS)
Meets every 2nd Thursday of the month at Pinellas
County Extension.

Operating Procedures for Membership

Membership—the term of membership shall
be for the calendar year. Annual dues for the
first annual member in a household shall be
\$18.00, each additional annual member in a
household and not receiving a newsletter
shall be \$12.00.

Members renewing before December 31st
may receive a 10% discount for the early re-
newal. For new members joining from July
to December these months will be prorated
at \$1.50/month in addition to the next year's
membership of \$18.00. In the case of a
household with life or honorary members,
they shall be considered the first annual
member of a household. Lifetime member-
ship is \$180.00.

FWCOS Board of Directors 2008

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Trustees are elected for 3 year terms.

From Our President's Desk

Dear Members, Visitors and friends,



As always, I would like to thank the volunteers who worked at the Pinellas County Extension Botanical Gardens over the last few weeks. Our partnership allows us to work together to create a better and protected environment for those who will follow in our footsteps. We still need more members to help so please contact the gardens and sign up for a few hours.

As we continue to grow, I want to make sure we hear from all of you on initiatives, programs, speakers, etc that you would like our Society to conduct or participate in. We welcome and encourage each of you to provide input and ideas to any of our Board members.

As we gear up for our upcoming auction, any of you that have time or plants to donate, please contact Cheryl Finke. We are expecting a great turnout and will have lots of advertising promoting this fun annual event.

Hope your Easter was awesome and that Spring-time brings you lots of 'bloomin' orchids!!

With service, Pam Heath



'Cycnoches warszewiczii 'Giant Swan'

You might be interested in the following information about the facility of our FWCOS Orchid Auction. The Historic Largo Feed Store was moved to Largo Central Park in 1992, restored and re-opened its doors to the public in 1998 with the original wood floor and ceiling. This 1902 restoration was once used to serve the needs of cattle ranchers and produce growers and will now be the location of our 2008 Annual Orchid Auction Fund Raiser April 19th. It is located a short walk from the Largo Cultural Center. Park in the West Parking lot. The Historic Largo Feed Store is the white stone building to the west with the wood porch. The Largo Cultural Center is located on 105 Central Park Drive, Largo, FL 33779-0296 (Don't mistake the Historic Largo Feed Store with the current Largo Feed Store that is on Main Street in downtown Largo.

FWCOS Orchid Auction – Saturday, April 19th, 8am – 4pm. Plant Preview 8am – 9am, Auction 9am – 4pm (could end sooner if the plants are gone) See Pg 6.

About our Guest Speaker

Patrick O'Day is a 33 year old, second generation orchid grower and owner of Hawaiian Orchid Source, a 3-acre nursery in Wailua, Kaua'i, Hawaii.

Patrick participates in orchid shows across the United States as a vendor & exhibitor. He also is a probationary judge in the American Orchid Society Judging Program and is involved in judging at many of the orchid shows where he sells plants. He also is a popular lecturer and has spoken to orchid societies throughout the country.

As a nursery owner, Patrick is something of an oddity. At 33 years old he is the youngest commercial orchid grower in Hawaii. However, he has worked with and learned from many of Hawaii's top growers to improve and maintain the quality of his own orchids. In addition to being a grower, Patrick makes many of his own hybrids, and his work has resulted in a growing list of quality and cultural awards from the American Orchid Society and Honolulu Orchid Society.



Meetings and Events

APRIL 2008

Apr 10—7:30 pm FWCOS Monthly meeting. Pinellas County Cooperative Extension Service Office. 12175 125th Street North, Largo, FL Educational at 7:00 pm **[Bring orchids to donate to the FWCOS Orchid Auction]**

Apr 12—AOS Judging Orlando, 1:30 pm, Palm Room at the Harry P Leu Gardens, 1920 N Forest Ave., Orlando, FL

Apr 17—Tampa Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting 7:30 pm at the Seminole Garden Center, 5800 Central Avenue, Tampa

Apr 19—FWCOS Orchid Auction, 8:30 to 9 Plant Review; 9 to 4 Auction event at Historic Largo Feed Store, 105 Central Park, Dr, Largo, FL 33779. See Pg 12. Contact is Cheryl Finke

Apr 22—Tampa Orchid Club Monthly Meeting 10:00am at the Seminole Garden Center, 5800 Central Avenue, Tampa. Christmas Party

Apr 23—AOS Judging Tampa, 7:30 pm at the Tampa Garden Center, 2629 Bayshore Blvd, Tampa.

Apr 29 - FWCOS Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm office of Harper, Van Scoik, 2111 Drew St,

We would like to welcome our newest members:

Jim Woods, Dunedin

Alva Jones, Clearwater

Bret Ullery , St Petersburg

Ruth Cannon, St Petersburg

MAY 2008

May 3, 2008—Field Trip to Chapman's & Krull Smith Orchids. Contact is Corinne Arnold. See page 13.

May 16 Redland International Orchid Festival, Homestead, FL. Place: Redland Fruit and Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Ave, Homestead, Florida.

9 am—5 pm www.redlandorchidfestival.org



'cynoches cooperifemale'

*Corrine Arnold sends a special
Thank You for everyone who
helped at the last meeting
with setup and cleanup.*

Sun., May 25 Spring Orchid Show & Sale -

Daybreak til 4 pm ; Florida Native Orchids, 6820 2nd St N, St. Petersburg—Huge One Day Sale!! Thousands of plants! Cash or Checks only

Website: www.floridanativeorchids.com

Email: bud.spence@knology.net

March Bloom Table



Top Left: *Paphiopedilum lowii*
Displayed by Jim and Emily Clarkson

To the right: *Cattleya skinneri* (blue x My Blue Heaven) displayed by Roy Finley



To the left: SLC Seagulls Mini Cattleya Heaven x Bic Orglade's Happy Face displayed by Owen Sitton



Bottom right: *Paph. rothschildianum*
Displayed by Jim and Emily Clarkson



Florida West Coast Orchid Society

Annual Orchid Auction

Saturday, April 19, 2008

Largo Cultural Center's
"Historic" Largo Feed Store
105 Central Park Drive
Largo, FL 33779

PREVIEW 8:30 AM

AUCTION 9 AM – 4 PM

Free Admission and Parking

Live auction of about 200+ blooming or near-blooming size orchids
from several well known growers [including from Hawaii].

Beautiful orchids and supplies for growing orchids from FWCOS members.

Orchid culture info and details about the American Orchid Society.

Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, Phalaenopsis, Paphiopedilum, Oncidium
and unusual species will be available.

Auctioneers are FWCOS orchid growers Bill Nunez, Roy Finley and Jack Majewski

Most bids will start at \$5.00

For More Information, call Cheryl Finke 727-420-7230

<http://www.fwcoss.org>

From Our Members

Orchid Culture

By Roy Finley

When I moved to St. Pete almost 20 years ago, I was using well water for the orchids. Sometime during the drought years, around 1994, I realized that the orchids were not growing well. It finally dawned on me that I had salt intrusion in my well. I even had a sample of the water tested by a water softener company, and their response was that they could not help me.

That was when I ran a hose from the house to the greenhouse. I also had a bypass valve installed in the water pipes as a source for the water. The valve is placed in the pipes before the water softener. Softened water will kill orchids due to its high salt content. It took a few years for the plants to recover. It was at that time that I also began researching orchid care, and I was fortunate to find the book *Orchid Seedling Care* by Bob Gordon. This book has become my bible for orchid growing. It was in this book that I learned about water quality, orchid nutrient needs, and fertilizing. Since that time, I water my orchids every day, year round. I learned that if you have bad water (and tap water is "bad" water), you have to use lots of it, and, never let the roots dry out. If the roots dry, that is when the salt build up from bad water will kill the roots, and ultimately kill the plants. And, I water the plants in baskets twice a day for the same reason. The roots do dry out, but frequent watering minimizes root damage. My sprinkler system is Rainmist. It is very easy to install, and actually water conserving. The full circle sprinkler only uses 25 gallons of water per hour. The fine mist the sprinklers produce provides a good soaking for both the hanging and potted orchids in just 20 minutes.

For fertilizer, I use Dynagro, usually a 7-7-7 or similar mix, preferably with micronutrients. I use one quart of the liquid fertilizer in 4 gallons of water, with my fertilizer injector set at 1:100. Also, I fertilize twice a week year round. I have found that orchids (especially vandas) are always growing, so I don't cut back on fertilizer. Pot plants get a top coating of slow release fertilizer 4 times a year. The slow release fertilizer doesn't last very long for me because I water so often. I've been using Osmocote, but I will be switching to Nutricoat or something similar. Osmocote releases all of its fertilizer content at once in hot weather, and I've damaged/almost killed many plants by using Osmocote in the summer.

My large greenhouse has 60% shade cloth, and the smaller one has 50%. I grow hard and bright. With the 50% shade cloth, temperatures are hotter in the smaller greenhouse, so I have a large fan that creates really good air movement; therefore, I get very little burning of the plants. The next time I replace the plastic roof of the larger greenhouse, I will be replacing the 60% shade cloth with 50%. More light creates better growth.

At first, I used a treefern/bark mixture for potting material. However, when I realized that treefern fiber required the cutting down of treeferns in South America, I started looking for other potting media. I ultimately chose Aliflor. Its easy to use, and even reusable. Just sterilize used Aliflor in 10% bleach for 10 minutes, and rinse thoroughly. And, I don't care if Aliflor ends up on the greenhouse floor; its just more rock! One caveat for using Aliflor: the larger the orchid root, the larger the Aliflor you should use as a potting medium. Large orchid roots cannot penetrate the fine Aliflor. My few terrestrial plants are in commercial potting mix, not potting soil. Potting soil stays much too wet in my conditions.

So, the basics for orchid growing are food, water, light. If your plants aren't growing well, there is probably a deficiency in one, two, or all three orchid requirements.

Thank you for sharing, Roy. It's interesting and very informative. Bren

Field Trip

May 3, 2008

Chapman's & Krull Smith Orchids

**7 a m at Lowe's parking at Clearwater Mall
(US 19/Gulf to Bay)**

7 pm Time of return to Lowe's

Chapmans have wide variety of orchids and pitcher plants.

**Mr Chapman will give us a lecture, a gift, lunch and
arranged a visit to an African Violet greenhouse nearby.**

**Krull Smith Orchids, world-renowned orchid growers
have phalaenopsis, cattleyas, bulbophyllum and
paphiopedilums and daylilies.**

Snacks and drinks will be provided during the bus ride.

\$25.00 for FWCOS members; \$30.00 for non-members.

For Reservations

contact Corinne Arnold at #447-2898

or parnold3@tampabay.rr.com

A Potpourri of Orchid Facts
from
"Growing Orchids is Fun" by Albert P. Hollingsworth

There is evidence that orchids were used as herbals in China and India some 7,000 years ago

Greeks first gave the name orchids (literally "testicle") to some orchids because the twin tubers resembled human testicles.

Physicians then believed that plants which resembled human organs could be used for drugs for treating the organs. The reputation of orchids was very popular as aphrodisiacs, and particularly for regulating fertility.

Orchid plants are still useful in many crafts and trades. Gum from *Amelia gigantea* is used to cement stones and wood together.

Dried stems of *Dendrobiums* are the materials used for weaving pocketbooks in Malaysia.

Tricoglottis Wenzelii are dried for G strings by the Tasaday of the Philippines.

Horns for communication are made from *Schomburgkia tibicinis* in Central America.

Schomburgkia thomsonia pseudobulbs are shaped for smoking pipes in the Cayman Islands.

Oncidium cebolleta are eaten by natives of Mexico because of their "miraculous" hallucinogenic effects.

Catasetums and *Cyrtopodiums* produce glue in South America.

Bletilla striata is used extensively in China and Japan as a drug to treat several ailments. *Dendrobium nobile* stems, when dried, have been extensively used there as a drug to treat a vast range of ailments.

Vanda tessellate roots and leaves from Ceylon are regarded specifically for rheumatism. Varieties of vanilla leaves and stems are mashed by Magaysious (a tribe in Sri Lanka) for hair tonic.

Cypripedium acaule is known as a love tonic.

Vanilla is the most productive orchid today that is still being used through the world commercially.

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Map to
Pinellas County
Extension



Heading West, (toward Indian Rocks Beach) Turn left from
Ulmerton Road onto 121st Ave., then go right across 125th Street.
Turn left and go through the double gates
Look for flagpole to enter at the main entrance

12520 Ulmerton Road
Largo, Florida 33774-3602
Ph. 727-582-2100

Educational Class starts at 7:00pm
Meeting starts at 7:30pm