



Florida West Coast Orchid Society

Orchid News & Views

August 2008 Volume 6, No. 8

Meeting Information

August 14, 2008

7:00 pm— Educational Class

Chad Whetstone on Vanda Culture

7:30 pm— Featured Speakers

*Jim and Emily Clarkson—Preparing
Orchids for Show*

- Introduce yourself to our new members. They want to meet you.
- There will be a Member's Plant Sale. Bring your plants to sell!!
- Remember snacks.
- www.fwcoss.org

See Page 3 to learn about our 'Featured Speakers. Educational Speaker, Chad Whetstone is FWCOS Past President, present Treasurer and loves his orchids.

September brings with it Martin Motes who will be our guest speaker. Don't miss this!

*FWCOS
Orchid News & Views*

Brenda Miller—Editor, Content and Advertising:
brenfm@tampabay.rr.com

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 (at print size) Picture format: .TIF, .GIF, .JPG or .PDF . Submitted via email or CD.

Dodie Bonds—Printing and Mailing, 40 Lake Shore Drive, Palm Harbor, FL 34684

Diane Jones—Membership, Email or mailing address changes:

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 renewal. 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 membership is \$180.00.

*FWCOS
Board of Directors 2008*

President: Pam Heath 727-518-2436
pheath2@tampabay.rr.com

1st VP: Bob Barrett 727-726-1697
rob2781@yahoo.com

2nd VP: Cheryl Finke 727-581-3987
cfinke@tampabay.rr.com

3rd VP: Chris Smith 727-787-5080
Chris_charmaine@msn.com

Secretary: Leslie Belew 727-867-7849
lesliebelew@verizon.net

Treasurer: Chad Whetstone 727-535-6980
whetstonec@aol.com

Director: Michael Palandro 727-787-0036
dondroconnection@aol.com

Trustees: Tina Kendall 727-729-3704
tkendal1@tampabay.rr.com

Trustees: Bill Nunez 727-392-6864
Biddison22@aol.com

Trustees: Jack Majewski 727-725-1719
normajackski@verizon.net

Trustees: Corinne Arnold 727-447-2898
parnold3@tampabay.rr.com

Trustees: Donna Sitton 727-784-1985
SittonPhals@gmail.com

Trustees: Roy Finley 727-866-2436
us029817@mindspring.com

Trustees are elected for 3 year terms.

From Our 1st Vice President's Desk

The job description for the 1st Vice President is 1. to secure speakers for our monthly meetings and have them address our membership and their guests regarding different orchid related subjects. 2. The planning of our annual show and sale. This year as last we will be using the Minnreg Hall in Largo, FL and 3. To plan and secure food and light entertainment for our Christmas Party. None of these portions of the 1ST Vice President can be done without lots of help from the membership and the Board's help.



During the lead up to and during the show I need to ask for lots of volunteers. This year will be able to set up on Thursday afternoon which will let our vendors a lot more time to setup and make their displays on Thursday afternoon instead of Friday AM. We will ask our vendors to be ready to set up from 6-10 on Thursday. They have been so informed that set up is Thursday instead of Friday. I will need about 8 volunteers from 4 pm to about 6pm on Thursday, October 2, 2008 The job will be to move the tables to make up the sales area and the judging room, These tables are relativity light and can be put on a dolly to make them very easy to move. There are 3 tables to a booth, I table for each display . These have to be ready by 6 PM Thursday.

If you would care to help us set up please let me know at our next regular meeting

I am very happy to have Brent Finke as co-chair for all aspects of the show.

The following are in charge of various areas. Donna Sitton will be in charge of the clerks to assist in the judging, Betty Dick will handle the admission tables for the entire show so see her if you would like to do that. Judges and volunteer dinner on Friday night will be handled by Tina Kendall. Corrine Arnold and Leslie Belew will set up the very popular repotting booth Saturday and Sunday. Last year hundreds of plants were repotted. If any of these areas are of interest to you please either contact the person listed as the persons who have agreed to head these departments or me and I will find a spot for you. We will sell various books and old magazines and need people to man these tables through out the show so there are

plenty of spots for our members. Jim and Emily Clarkson are in charge of securing the AOS judges for the show and checking in and identifying the plants presented for show judging. We are lucky to have such members who will give of their time for the FWCOS, Thanks

We will have an "Ask the Expert table" so that questions including culture sheets for everyone's use. There are NO bad questions to ask about your orchids. If you want to know, then ask_

We have commitments from 14 orchid vendors for our show and 3 orchid related vendors plus *I hope a return of Kathleen O'Leary to show us and our guests how to make orchid corsages and displays using orchids, Kathleen will set up Saturday and Sunday . This was a very popular booth last year.*

An orchid show requires a lot of VOLUNTEERS to make it work so I am asking our membership to see what days you can be available to make your show and sale a success.

Bob Barrett,

First Vice President, Show and Sale Chairman



Our featured speakers, Jim and Emily Clarkson are FWCOS members. Jim has been an AOS Judge sixteen years and Emily has for seven years. They have been growing orchids for over twenty years.

From Our Members

Protecting Our Orchids

By Bill Nunez

About three and a half years ago I got a call from a friend who informed me that his mother-in-law's property in Manatee county was going to be developed. The developers were going to bulldoze all of the live oaks and start from scratch with a new development.



I thought it was a shame for the native orchids to be destroyed so Mark Jones and I traveled to the property and collected about 100 plants. We put a team together and started reintroducing them to trees in the Florida Botanical gardens. We used a 28 ft. ladder to place the orchids high in the trees to insure their safety from pilfering. We chose the end of June to start the project because that is close to the beginning of the rain season and the plants would get plenty of water while becoming established in their new home.

We made about 6 replanting excursions in the gardens. Some of the smaller plants struggled the first year and we lost a few but the survival rate was pretty good. The plants did well the second year and bloomed in the summer.



After inspecting the plants this summer we found that some of the plants that were doing well are now being attacked by squirrels and many of them were killed by these critters. I think this is a well warranted base for squirrel stew but I'm sure I would get some opposition there. There are still lots of plants that are doing very well. These plants are on their own out there in a natural environment. We don't water or fertilize them and they are just fine with that. Cheryl Finke took some nice pictures of a few of the blooming tampensis, I hope you enjoy them. For those of you who might be interested, maybe next June we can do a group walk to see the plants in bloom.



We also planted a few plants in the USF Clam Bayou project and will be donating some plants to Sunken Gardens. I have four mother flasks of *tampensis* growing now for future use. We are all learning as we go and I think we can improve our success rate with a little better placement of some of these new plants to make them less enticing to critters.

“Rhizome Cowboy”

July Bloom Table



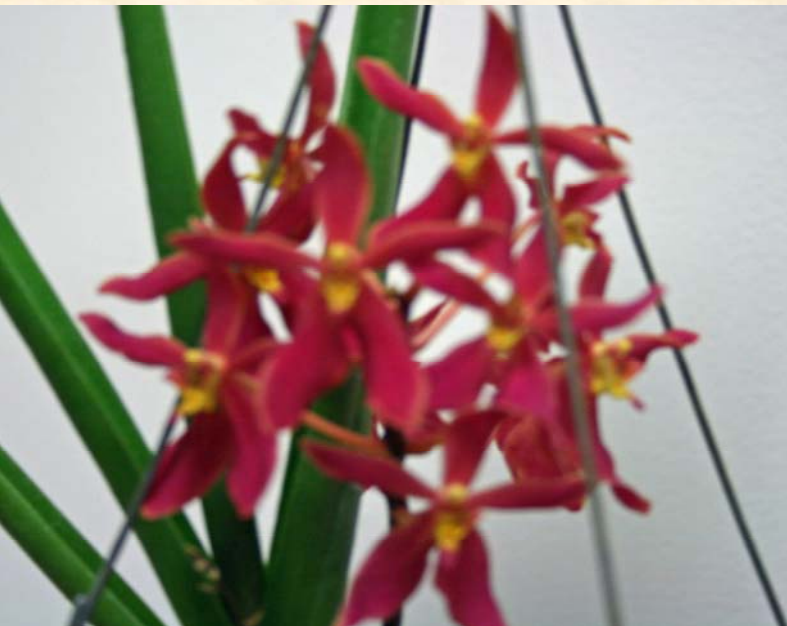
Left is RSC Akiko Miyata RSC Ronalds Canyon.

Displayed by Bill Nunez.



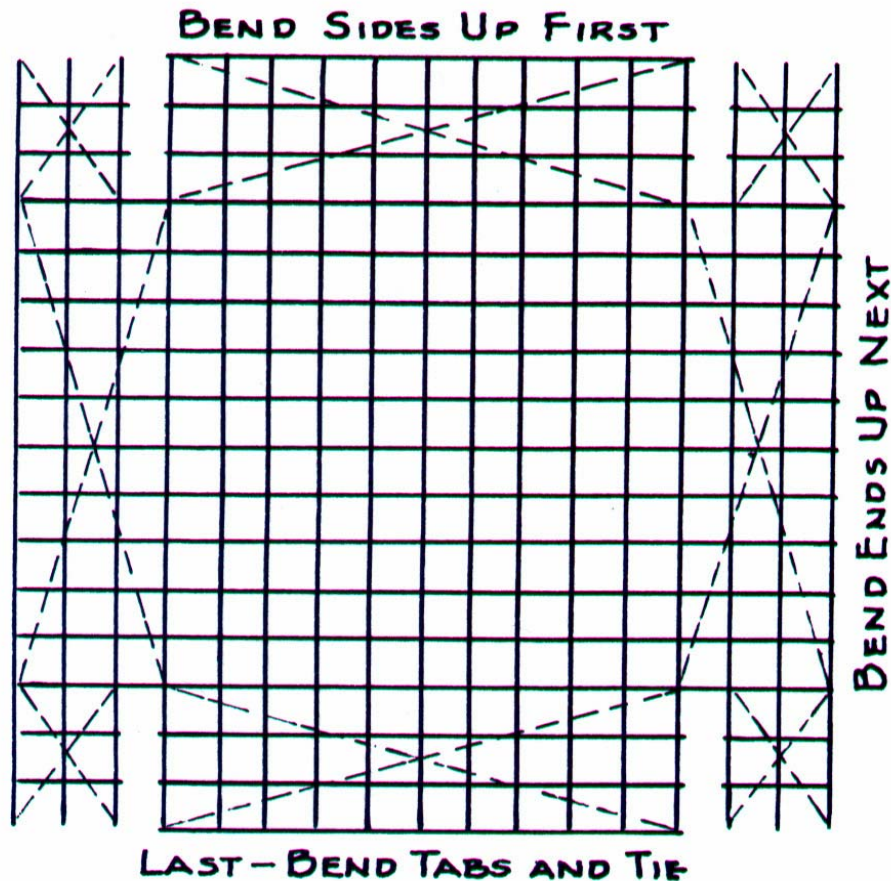
Right is Stanhopea Saccata Jungle

Displayed by Tina Kendall.



Leftt is Pararenanthera Berton Pressman. Displayed by Roy Finley.

Do It Yourself Baskets



NEW CONTAINER FOR LARGE ORCHID PLANTS

By T R C King

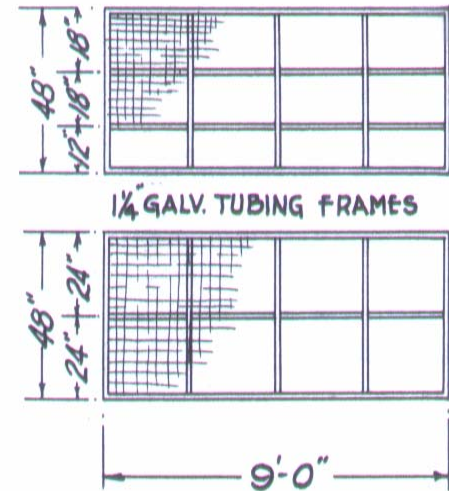
For some time I have been bothered finding proper containers for the large orchid plants.. Pots, 8 inches and over get increasingly heavy with the size. Apparently the weight increases in geometric proportion to the size. Since many of our orchids are suspended , the weight of large pots becomes impossible to handle. Likewise the redwood baskets are heavy and unwieldy. I have found that many of them warp and tend to twist so as to not hang straight. In addition the fastening of the orchid plant in a basket becomes difficult. Pot clips are not too satisfactory.

Recently a friend introduced me to a new type of basket that solves the problems listed above. These baskets are made of one inch mesh galvanized hardware cloth (wire). We bought ours in three foot wide strips. Since the mesh is one inch wide, it is very easy to measure the size one wants. Nearly all of ours are ten inches square but we have some only eight inches square. We have found that three inches deep is satisfactory.

In making the baskets, I cut a square 16 inches wide. Side cutting pliers are heavy enough to do the job. The small 4 and 5 inch nippers are light for the work. Since I made a large number of baskets at one time, which involved quite a bit of cutting, I cut pieces of garden hose and forced them on to the plier handles thus eliminating the chance of blisters.

All of the extended ends of the wires making the mesh were cut off flush with the cross wire. On each end I moved in three squares (inches) and cut the two out-side wires. By using a piece of two-by-eight board as a dolly I then bent the section of wire between the cuts to make the sides of the basket. I then bent the sides up leaving the cut ends extending beyond the ends. By cutting the end cross wire on each of these ends I left the wires running the length of the sides free.

I then bent these extended tabs around the ends and bent the extended wires around the cross wires of the ends thus locking the sides together forming the basket. In lieu of forming the basket by bending the ends could be soldered to make a neater looking basket. The baskets can be painted with an asphaltic paint so they are scarcely noticeable. My friend paints his black.



I do not use crock or pot chards. The large chunk tree fern works fine without the necessity of having any thing finer in the bottom.

[From FWCOS News & Views August 1964 [with minor editing BFM]



If you ever have nightmares of how a hurricane could scatter your orchid collection all over the landscape, completely separating your pots, plants and labels, here is a good tip (given by a Montana rancher)...

Assuming that you have a file index record of your collection and that each plant has a label containing its name and number, simply take the extra step of writing each plant's number (or name) on the underside of a recent leaf with a "Sharpie" permanent waterproof pen. It does the plant no harm and is really permanent/

With this little trick, all plants that you have salvaged after a storm can easily be identified for new labels, and need not be put in that sad classification "Lost Label".

Techniques of Growing Specimen Plants

From FWCOS News & Views Vol X- No IX; Sept 1969

Anyone who has observed a large specimen plant either has the thought – “I would love to raise one like that,” and proceeds to do so, or – “I would love to raise one like that – but. . .” Those who say “but” are going to miss much enjoyment and especially the great feeling of accomplishment. Forty blooms on a hybrid Cattleya plant are not rare. There are plants with at least 60 to 70 blooms and possibly more. Some types of blooms such as Oncidiums, Epidendrums and species type Cattleya will total in the hundreds.

There are some important points to remember when selecting a plant to be raised as a specimen. First – and probably most important – do the blooms all open at the same time? In other words, a plant which has 10 blooms this week and 10 the next and 25 the next will never reach its full potential as a specimen. All new leads should bloom at the same time.



Second – does the plant’s growth habit allow it to be a specimen? A Brasso, with its helter-skelter growth, is difficult to grow into a specimen plant. A plant having a straight line rhizome with no multiple leads is not a good prospect. A plant should not be allowed to “stack”. That is to let the rhizomes cross. If they do the roots from one lead it will choke out the other. There is also a chance fungus will start where the rhizomes cross. Plants should be somewhat over-potted so that the growth will not turn in when the pot edge is reached.

Great care is to be taken when large plants are repotted, especially when they reach the 10” and 12” pot size, as the old roots in the center of the plant should be trimmed back considerably. Even then the center of the pot and plant will still hold plenty of moisture. Evaporation does not readily take place in the center. A 6” pot may be placed upside down in the center of a 12” pot to help the evaporation, or mound plenty of broken crock in the center. Care should be taken to water the edge of the plant more often than the center. This is difficult to do but very important. If the pot can be hung it is better to do so.

After growth in a 12” pot, transfer to a 14” or 16” basket – not deep – about 5” as over-watering can also take place here. Trimming of old dead roots before placing in basket is very important. Tree fern is a good material for all specimen potting, primarily because it will not break down as readily as osmunda or bark. Use big chunks of fern on edges (or bottom of pot) then smaller ones with shredded fern in the center. In potting large plants you must have perfect drainage, and this system will give you perfect drainage.

The greatest difficulty in repotting occurs when transfer is to be made from a basket to a larger basket. Remove the bottom and all side pieces possible without disturbing any roots, then place the old basket inside the new one, and fill the space with large chunks of fern. The largest basket I now have is a 20” one. If you were to look inside you would find parts of an old 16” one. Baskets this large should be watered about twice a week in summer and only once a week in the winter. Remember that plants you have growing on slabs of cork bark or tree fern can also be grown to specimen size, simply by adding additional pieces of cork or tree fern to the existing slabs around the extremities, never underneath where roots might have worked through.

Do not move large plants often lest the moving hinder the number of blooms which will open at one time. The plant should be placed so that the light reaches the entire plant evenly. When the plant does not get equal light all over it may not bloom all at one time. Tilt or lay plants on slabs so that the whole plant gets light.

Fertilize with 30-10-10 in the summer – twice a week – & with 18-18-18 twice a month in winter.

Some orchids which make good specimen plants are: Lc Vandalletta, any C. skinneri, C. Bow Philipo, Onc. Sphacelatum, Epi, stamfordianum, Lc George MacDonnell and some Phalaenopsis. Many plants can be made into Specimens with selection and care and, of course, most of all patience.

P.C.H.

Meetings and Events

AUGUST

Aug 3 Coalition for Orchid Species Symposium .
Contact: Lou Lodyga, 8100 Sw 88 Ct., Miami,
FL 33173; (305) 595-9675; lodyga@comcast.net.

Aug 9 1:30 pm FNC Center Orlando Monthly
Judging Center, Harry P Leu Gardens, Palm
Room, 1920 N Forest Ave, Orlando

Aug 14 7:00, 7:30 pm, FWCOS Meeting

Aug 16 FNC Training Seminar,
Imperial Inn & Convention Center, Melbourne
For Reservations; Ken Roberts, Email: ken-
neth.a.roberts@worldnet.att.net

Aug 21 7:30 pm Tampa Bay Orchid Society
Meeting

Aug 27 FNC Center Tampa Monthly Judging*

Looking ahead,. . .

October**3-5 - Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show** , Minnreg Hall, 6340 126th Ave., Largo, FL. Contact: Bob Barrett, 2781 Rockledge Lane, Clearwater, FL 33761; (727) 726-1697; rob2781@yahoo.com



Map to Pinellas County Extension Center



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 7:00 pm



FWCOS
c/o Diane Jones
14541 Iroquois Ave.
Largo, FL 33774