



Florida West Coast Orchid Society

Orchid News & Views

March 2008 Volume 6, No. 3

Meeting Information

March 13, 2008

7:00 pm—Educational Class

‘Phal Culture’ with Donna Sitton

7:30 pm Featured Speaker

Ed Bugbee—Orchids of Mexico

- Read about April 19 Auction
- Remember to bring snacks for the break.
- Don't forget Leslie Belew's Open House Mar 30.
- Read about the May 3 Field Trip.
- See news from the AOS.

Ed Bugbee, our guest speaker for the March Meeting is owner of Featherstone Orchids. He has traveled to Mexico extensively in his study of Mexican orchids in addition to many years of experience growing orchids.

Donna Sitton, who will be teaching the Educational Class, has grown many award winning Phals and this will be a special class. Don't miss this one!

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 Ad-
dress 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 (See page __ for directions).

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

President: Pam Heath 727-518-
2436Pheath2@tampabay.rr.com

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

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Parnold3@tampabay.rr.com

Trustees: Donna Sitton 727-784-1985
ecoowen2005@yahoo.com

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

Trustees are elected for 3 year terms.

From Our President's Desk

Dear Members, Visitors and friends,

We anxiously await springtime and all the beautiful blooms, which will soon be on our orchids.



Please take time to enjoy the many opening shows and auctions in the greater Tampa Bay area. Check out our website (www.fwcoss.org) for all the local orchid happenings.

Also as a reminder, FWCOS needs all of us to support our partnership with the Pinellas County Extension by volunteering in the gardens. There are several opportunities to help create a better, 'greener' environment. The success of our club's effort to meet our volunteering commitment to the Pinellas Extension Service is dependent on everyone's dedication, participation and support. See how you can volunteer on this page.

Many thanks to Gail Meyer, Cheryl Finke and Corrine Arnold for their work in the gardens in January - great job!

Keep sharing your 'orchid fever' and tell others about FWCOS. Invite your friends and neighbors to our monthly meetings. We welcome your ideas, suggestions and feedback on what you would like to see our club do or topics you want to hear about at upcoming meetings.

As always, thanks for your support!.

Pam

News from Bob Barrett:

Please be aware that the Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show scheduled for October 3 - 5, 2008, at the Minnreg Building has been approved by AOS.

FWCOS Members -

Some current Volunteer Opportunities

Mondays—Working with horticulturist Andy Wilson and Master Gardener volunteers around the Retention Pond Demonstration Area. Most volunteers work 8 am to 12 noon. Call Andy first at 582-2135.

Thursdays—Working with horticulturist Bob Albanese and Master Gardener volunteers in various maintenance activities in the Gardens. Meet in the lobby between 8 and 8:15 am. Most volunteers work from 8 to 12 [noon]. Call Bob first 582-2081.

Fridays—work with James Stevenson in the Tropical Walk area of the gardens. Call James first (this is a must) at 582-2581.

Mon—Fri—Air Potato Patrol, picking up the aerial tubers of air potato that have dropped to the ground as part of our control efforts on the campus. Call Andy first at 582-2135.



Dendrochilum wenzelii [WOC 2008]

Pam Heath's telephone number was shown incorrectly in the 2007-2008 membership book. Please make a note of the correct number which is 727-518-2436.

Meetings and Events

Florida West

Mar 7-9 Tampa Bay Orchid Society Annual Ave to north on Racetrack Road (2.9 miles) to left on Nine Eagles to Bahanihan Arts **Orchid Show and Sale** Bahanihan Arts & Events Center 14301 Nine Eagles Drive Tampa, FL near Eagles Golf and Country Club). Directions: Hillsborough Center. (North of Tampa Bay Downs Racetrack) Hours: Fri 10-5, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4. Admission: \$4.00. Free Parking. Beautiful orchids for show and sale, orchid supplies, raffles, free orchid doctor booth & workshops, repotting area, books and refreshments. Is AOS judged event and the largest indoor flower show in Tampa. Call 813 310-7676 or 727-772-8535.

Mar 8—AOS Judging Orlando, 1:30 pm, Palm Room at the Harry P Leu Gardens, 1920 N Forest Ave., Orlando, FL

Mar 8—Dawn to Dusk Annual Orchid Sale Palmer Orchids 22700 Taylor Drive Bradenton, FL Contact Robert Palmer at 941-322-1644

Mar 8—Tampa Orchid Club's Annual Auction at USF Botanical Gardens (corner of Pine St and Alumni Dr). 9 am: Workshop on 'Orchid Basics' taught by Jim Clarkson, TOC member & USF Botanical Gardens Orchid Curator [Cost \$5.00]. TOC member Bill Thoms will be our always entertaining auctioneer. 250 orchids and related items on which to bid. Previewing starts 10 am; Auction 10:30 am till 4 pm or when sold out. Refreshments, orchid supplies & books available for purchase. USF Botanical Gardens members \$5; Non-members \$7. Auction is free. Benefits TOC and USF Botanical Gardens.

Mar 13—FWCOS Monthly meeting. Pinellas County Cooperative Extension Service Office. 12175 125th Street North, Largo, FL Educational Class at 7:00 pm

Mar 20—Tampa Bay Orchid Society Monthly Meeting 7:30 pm at the Seminole Garden Center, 5800 Central Avenue, Tampa

Mar 25—Tampa Orchid Club Monthly Meeting 10:00am at the Seminole Garden Center, 5800 Central Avenue, Tampa. Christmas Party

Mar 26—AOS Judging Tampa, 7:30 pm at the Tampa Garden Center, 2629 Bayshore Blvd, Tampa.

Mar 29-30—Orchid Lover's Club of Spring Hill Show at SNPL Lodge, 13383 County Line Rd, Spring Hill, FL Jim Duerstock 352-686-2830 orchidman124@yahoo.com .

Mar 30 Open House—Leslie Belew, 6230 3rd St S, St Petersburg 867-7849 See Pg 11.



WOC 2008

March 30 Orchid Festival 10—4:30

Sunken Gardens, 1825 4th St N, St Pete.

Orchid Culture Class throught the day; Commercial Growers selling thousands of Orchids through the day. Learn about Repotting and Mounting Orchids, Vanda culture, cattleya culture, Oncidium culture, phalaenopsis culture and more. Adults \$8, Seniors \$6, Children \$4, Free to Members.

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 19—FWCOS Orchid Auction, 8-9 Plant Review; 804 Auction event at Historic Largo Feed Store, 105 Central Park, Dr, Largo, FL 33779 See Pg 12.

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

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

**Photo from World Orchid Show
January 2008**

We would like to welcome our newest member, Stacey Siebenthal to Florida West Coast Orchid Society and we look forward to meeting you.

Stacey's address is:

5296 34th Ave N.

St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Telephone: 727-612-0623



February Bloom Table



Paph Cecilia Devine X Paph Satchel Paige
Displayed by Jim and Emily Clarkson



Ascda Norma Majewski 'My Love' AM x
Ascda Fuchs Gold
Displayed by Jack
and Norma Majewski



SLC Crystelle 'Emily' HCC-AOS
Displayed by Jim and Emily Clarkson

Cattleya

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can weaken owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

Cymbidium

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

Dendrobium (Australian)

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group -- bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum*

AOS March/April Monthly Checklist

By Ned Nash and James Rose

and *Dendrobium speciosum* -- is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

Lycaste

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

Miltoniopsis

This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold.

Paphiopedilum

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your *Paphiopedilums* before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted *Paphiopedilums* look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will

not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for *phalaenopsis*. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of *phalaenopsis* spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

Pleurothallids

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting Florida West Coast Orchid Society

January 15, 2008

In Attendance: Pam Heath, Bob Barrett, Cheryl Finke, Leslie Belew, Chad Whetstone, Corinne Arnold, Jack Majewski, Bill Nunez, Donna Sitton, and Tina Kendall

Absent: Chris Smith, Michael Palandro and Roy Finley

Guests: Michael Polen

The meeting was held at the offices of Harper, Van Scoik, 2111 Drew St., Clearwater. Having declared a quorum, Pam called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Old Business:

The minutes of the September 18, 2007 meeting of the Board of Trustees were reviewed. Cheryl moved the minutes be accepted and Donna seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Chad presented the Board with a proposed Budget for FY 2008. After much discussion, it was decided that he would provide a revised budget at the next Board meeting. The issue of rent for the meeting facilities was discussed. We are presently in arrears for 2007. The Gardens have asked for 200 hours completed prior to March 31, 2008 to compensate for 2007. Pam agreed to find out what the rent would be and this number will be included in the proposed budget. Cheryl got a quote from the facility where the auction is booked to have monthly meetings there.

It was also decided to include a line item on the budget for the field trip. Corinne reported that a 55-passenger bus costs \$980 plus an approx. 20% tip for the driver. Chapman's Nursery will provide lunch and be reimbursed by FWCOS. With the food costs and additional water and snacks the estimated total cost is \$1600. She expects 45-50 people at a cost of \$25 for FWCOS member and \$30 for non-members. The society will subsidize the approx. \$400 balance.

Chad presented the Board with a Balance Statement for FY 2007. Several categories need to be changed but the end result will not be affected. Chad agreed, on Jack's recommendation, to include a comparison of this year to last year on future statements. Again, there was discussion on charging a surcharge to those members who receive their News & Views by US Mail. It was decided to try to encourage members at the next few regular meetings to take their newsletter by email, before revisiting this subject.

Jack and Bob agreed to be on the Reconciliation Committee with Chad. Leslie moved that they be accepted and Cheryl seconded. The motion passed.

Fall Show:

Bob reported that Minnreg is sending the contract for this years show, and the cost is expected to be the same as last year. In addition, it is available Thursday night for early set-up. The hours will be changed to close at 4:00 instead of 5:00 pm. Brent Finke has agreed to co-chair with Bob.

Bill invited Michael Polen of Art Stone Orchids to the meeting to provide the vendor viewpoint of last fall's show. Michael spoke with many of the vendors over the show weekend and shared this valuable insight with the Board to help improve future shows. Vendors were positive about the new location, parking and the potting booth. They also liked the exhibits, but preferred more quality and consistency. They were surprised by the increased number of vendors and felt like a couple of them were not of top quality. While the amount spent on advertising was three times that spent in 2006, the timing of some of the ads was a problem. Michael also suggested offering lectures or demos. Michael and Paula Polen have agreed to act as liaisons between the show committee and the vendors. There was further discussion on how to improve this fall's show, but it is ultimately a show committee decision. Everyone agreed that Michael provided great feedback!

Auction:

Cheryl has reserved the Largo Cultural Center's Historic Feed Store for our annual Auction on April 19. The Gardens were unavailable and this place is more centrally located than the church used last year, yet it costs more to rent (\$550 vs. \$200 for the church). It has a large room available and plenty of parking and there is a kitchen in the back. There is a big marquee to advertise the auction. Bill moved that we accept the location and Tina seconded. The motion passed. The date is later this year due to various show schedules in March and April and also because of the limited time for the new VP to prepare.

Trophies:

Donna reported that all the trophies she has collected are polished and in the vault (with no rental charge) at Smith Jewelers. She and Ken Roberts believe they should be preserved for historical reasons. She still is looking for the Flynn Trophy. She and Ken agreed to reimburse the society for the cost in silver if that is the decision of the Board. Chad has had no response from the AOS regarding reimbursement of the \$1000 we gave them years ago to build a case to house these trophies. Donna and/or Cheryl agreed to ask about these monies during the WOC functions.

Speakers:

In February, Francisco Miranda will speak on Orchids of Brazil. For March, Ed Bugbee will speak on orchids of Mexico. In April, Pat Murphy will talk on cynoches, and Jim Roberts is planned for June, and Martin Motes in September.

Other Business:

Donna reported that she sold all the day passes that FWCOS received as a society sponsor of the 19th WOC, plus two additional ones that the Clarkson's gave the society. With the sale of the conference packages FWCOS recouped \$900 of the \$1000 sent to the WOC for our sponsorship.

There was discussion on the standing committees under Article XV of our Bylaws. The chairs are as follows: 1. Membership – Diane Jones; 2. Show – Bob and Brent Finke; 3. By-Laws – Leslie; 4. Plant Table – Mark Jones and Jim Clarkson; 5. Library – Cheryl, Leslie, Tina; 6. Programs – Bob; 7. Publications: Newsletter – Brenda Miller, Directory – Diane Jones; 8. Publicity - ?; 9. Members visitation - ?; 10. Refreshments – Corinne.

Bob motioned that we adjourn at 9:06 and Donna seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Belew
Secretary, FWCOS



From Our Members

Donna Sitton graciously responded to my request to share with us in the newsletter about growing orchids. Thank you, Donna.

Phalaenopsis (Phals) or as our friends in New Zealand say “Phalies” have become Americas favorite orchid.’

When deciding what to purchase you must consider in what space will my Phal be growing? Do I have a small space then consider a multi floral which produces a Head of smaller flowers and the leaf span is much smaller. (pic.# 1 on right)

The large standard phals so enjoyable to us, require more space. Phals come in a wide range of solid colors, spots, stripes, and blushes. (pic.# 2 below) Phals like to be repotted yearly into a clean pot and medium. The pot size is determined by the root size and not the leaf span. Phals like to be comfortable like me.

Phals need 5 things in moderation: light, water, fertilizer, humidity, and air movement.

Watch for the bloom spike to appear and stake. If you don’t stake, the spike will go toward the light and will lay down from the blossom weight. Feel the leaves of your plant. If they are strong, let your plant blossom if your leaves are limp, cut off the bloom spike and repot.



Sterilize any instrument used to cut your plant.

I use single edge razor blades (may be purchased in boxes of 100 at Home Depot).

If I use cutters, I flame the surface with a torch. I use a cooking torch used for Crème Brulee which is available at Bed, Bath and Beyond. I use cinnamon on any cut. Cinnamon closes the open cells which could introduce infections.

When the plant is nearing the end of it’s blooming, a brown hard

shell insect seems to appear on the plant and moves up the spike to the flower. (Jim Clarkson calls it Hermitage.) Remove the spike and dispose in the garbage. Don’t leave in your growing area. Fill a dish with cotton balls and pour on rubbing alcohol. Rub the bottom of each leaf. When you have removed as much scale as possible, spray all Phals with Cygon 2E and repeat spraying in 8 days. As blooms fold, keep them picked up. A clean environment keeps disease from your plants. When repotting I use a hand sanitizer between each plant. Large pump hand sanitizer is available at Sam’s Club.

OPEN GREENHOUSE, MARCH 30 1-4 PM

Leslie Belew

6230 3rd St. S., St. Petersburg

867-7849

(2-story terracotta colored home

NE corner of 3rd St and 63rd Ave S

HUGE ficus in the front yard)

Leslie joined FWCOS in 1995 and was the treasurer from 1998-2000, and since then has been secretary except for 2003. She grows primarily vandas, but also Phals, equitant oncidiums, Cattleytonias and some minicatts. In the yard are 5 varieties of bamboo, fruit trees and many palms (some quite unusual). She will have thinned her bromeliads and these will be available free for anyone to cart away.

Orchid aficionados, whether beginner or expert, crave four things: 1) orchid plants, 2) orchid people, 3) orchid education, 4) more orchid plants.

ORCHID FRIENDS' SALE

9 a.m.-noon—March 22

343 39th Ave North, St. Petersburg

A variety of orchids will on sale at 'budget prices',

Many in bloom.

Tropical plants also available for purchase;

Advice on orchid care and culture.

THIS IS A REALLY GREAT SALE. DON'T MISS IT.

If you need more info, call 727-536-7717

FLORIDA WEST COAST ORCHID SOCIETY
ANNUAL ORCHID
AUCTION

SAT, APRIL 19, 2008

Largo Cultural Center's
'Historic' Largo Feed Store
105 Central Park Dr
Largo Florida 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

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 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**

Florida West Coast Orchid Society

Donation Form

The Orchid Auction

April 19, 2008

DONOR INFORMATION

Member Number: _____

Business Name: (if applicable) _____

Contact Name: Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ FAX: _____

Check one: Corporate Donation: Personal Donation:

Name of who to acknowledge (if different from above): _____

YOUR DONATION

Name of Items: List below **Estimated Value of items (REQUIRED): \$** _____

Cash Donation: \$ _____

DELIVERY METHOD:

Please pick up (we will contact you)

We will bring to auction (please arrive by 8am.)

Included with this form

Will bring to March or April meeting

Featherstone Orchids of Crystal River

Florida Nursery Registration 47224848



Ed and Lyn Bugbee

Greenhouse Visits by Appointment

7014 N. Goldleaf Point
Citrus County
Dunnellon, FL 34433

(352) 795-4614

featherstone@xtalwind.net

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