



Florida West Coast Orchid Society

Orchid News & Views *September 2008 Volume 6, No. 9*

Meeting Information

September 11, 2008

7:00 pm— Educational Class

Jim Clarkson on Orchid Pests and Diseases

7:30 pm— Featured Speaker

Martin Motes—on Vanda's

- **Guess what! A field trip!**
See Page 9.
- **Remember snacks.**
- **Read about Our October Show & Sale**
- **Introduce yourself to our new members.**
- **No Member's Plant Sale.**

www.fwcoss.org

Learn about Dr Martin Motes on Page 5. We are very privileged to have this world renown orchid expert. Don't miss meeting this interesting couple.

You all know Jim Clarkson. He has forgotten more about orchids than we will ever know; and he loves to help others succeed in growing and caring for orchids. Don't miss this class.

*FWCOS
Orchid News & Views*

Brenda Miller—Editor, Content and Advertising:
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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 (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 De-
cember 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 mem-
ber of a household. Lifetime membership is
\$180.00.

*FWCOS
Board of Directors 2008*

- President:** Pam Heath 727-518-2436
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Trustees are elected for 3 year terms.

From Our Vice President's Desk

Our 2008 Show and Sale will be called "THE ORCHID EFFECT."



It seems like yesterday that we began planning the Orchid Show and Sale and we are now down to the finale with October 3,4 and 5 easily within sight. It is very important for FWCOS members to volunteer for many needed positions during the 3 day show.

Emily and Jim Clarkson have given a most timely seminar on how to prepare our plants for the show table. It is very disconcerting to go to a show and see that a plant that receives an award and you have a plant in under your pool screen or in your greenhouse that you could have entered that and it appears to be at least equal to or better than ones that were recognized by the AOS judges. "If you got one, bring one, and let's see what happens, you may just wind up with a ribbon or an awarded plant."

If you wish to sponsor a category of orchid for the show please contact me. Each category is \$30. This will be the prize money available for the winning plant. Your name will be listed with your plant category as the sponsor and we will list it with all other members that will donate a prize for our show. I thank you in advance for your help in making sure that those that show their plants and win can thank our members for their prizes. We will need 25 such prizes. I collected 6 checks at the August meeting so bring yours at the September meeting.

The September meeting we will once again ask you to pass out notices with a \$1.00 off coupon attached. That will be an announcement that can let your neighbors and your condo association know of "THE ORCHID EFFECT" If you can get your beauty parlor, gym, barber or any other place where people congregate to display our flyers it will help greatly to announce "THE ORCHID EFFECT" and give some people an opportunity to enjoy our show at a reduced price.

We may just need someone for an hour or two to monitor the display tables so they are not inadvertently touched or damaged by a guest or we need someone to help sell books or memberships. I promise not take your whole weekend or even a major part of your day.

Do you have past issues of "Orchid" or any other orchid related books or magazines we would love you to bring them so we can sell them at our book table. We sell them at a reduced price and the proceeds will be used to offset some of our show costs.

Thanks and good growing

Bob Barrett

Meetings and Events

September, 2008

Sept 11 7:00, 7:30 pm, FWCOS Meeting

Sept 13 1:30 pm, FNC Center Orlando
Monthly Judging Center, Harry P Leu Gardens,
Palm Room, 1920 N Forest Ave, Orlando

Sept 18 Tampa Bay Orchid Society 7:30 pm
Seminole Heights Methodist Church basement;
SE corner Central Ave/E Hanna Ave

Sept 23 Tampa Orchid Club 10 am The
Ragan Center; 1200 E Lake Ave

Sept 24 FNC Center Tampa Monthly Judging*

October, 2008

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

Oct 19 - Girls Sale

**Oct 18-19 - Gainesville Orchid Society
Show**, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, 4700
SW 58th Dr., Gainesville, FL. Contact: Joan
MacLeod, 4411 NW 15th Pl., Gainesville,
FL 32605; (352) 375-6744; [neil-
macleod@bellsouth.net](mailto:neil-macleod@bellsouth.net).

November 2 - Tampa Orchid Club Show,
USF Botanical Gardens, 12210 USF Pine Dr.,
Tampa, FL. Contact: Laurie Nissen, 918 Ben-
ninger Dr., Brandon, FL 33510; (813) 833-
0204; nissen3@verizon.net.

September Bloom Table



**(Above) Bulbophyllum Jim Clarkson
displayed by Jim and Emily Clarkson**



**(Above) Oncidium Mendenhall
displayed by Cheryl Finke**

**(Below) Paphiopedilum. Gloria Naugle
displayed By Jim and Emily Clarkson**

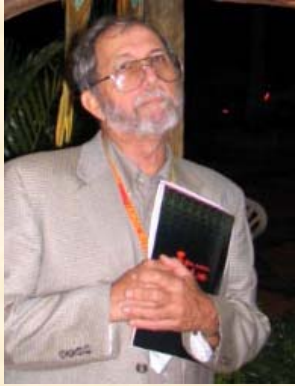


**(Below) Ascosenda Bonjong's Delight
displayed by Robert and Virginia McKinney**



Meet Dr Martin Motes

A second generation orchidist who has been growing orchids for 50 years and has bred hundreds of new hybrids, for which he has received scores of AOS awards including three FCC's and three Awards of Quality. Other hybrids have won medals in previous WOCs as well as at the European Orchid Conference. Numerous of his hybrids have been recognized by the Royal Horticultural Society and in other international venues. He was a featured speaker at the last two WOCs in Kuala Lumpur and Dijon.



Dr. Motes who has a PhD in English and extensive experience in this field is also an accredited American Orchid Society judge whose frequent articles have appeared in *The Fairchild Garden Bulletin*, *The South Florida Orchidist*, *The Orchid Digest*, *The Orchid Review* and *The American Orchid Society Bulletin*. He is the author of *Vandas: Their History Botany and Culture* and *Florida Orchid Growing Moth by Month*. He is currently working on a monograph of the genus *Vanda* with David Roberts of Kew Gardens.

Dr. Motes has traveled extensively in the Mediterranean and observed wild orchids in many other countries. He has taught vanda production at the University of Florida, an Orchid Short Course in Gainesville, and worked as a consultant in various capacities to the extensive orchid industry in South Florida. He was the leading force behind the creation of the Redland International Orchid Festival and is now the creator of a companion winter show, the January International Miami Orchid Festival. He teaches orchid related classes at Fairchild Tropical Gardens in Miami in addition to Growing Asiatic Vegetables and great tasting tomatoes for South Florida.

More than 20 lectures a year fill his busy schedule which has included national orchid conferences in the US, Britain and Australia.. He was a featured speaker at the World Orchid Conferences in Rio, Dijon and Kuala Lumpur, where he chaired the Hybridizer's Forum and was a panel member at the Commercial Grower's Forum. He publishes a monthly news letter " This Month in Your Orchid Collection" geared to the special needs of orchid growers in South Florida and other tropical regions.

Meet Mary Motes

Mary Motes is author of the book, 'Orchid Territory, a Comic Novel'... full of humor and wicked comedy. Mary knows her territory!

This author was born in England and met her husband, Dr Martin Motes (before he became the world famous orchid grower), when both were teaching in Kosovo, Yugoslavia. Returning with him to South Florida, she helped create Motes Orchids on five acres in Redland.

Now Mary Motes has more awarded orchids named after her than anyone else, one of the latest being *Vanda Mary Motes*, Best in Show, at the World Orchid Conference, Dijon, 2005. Something that makes her feel she should try and wear things that don't wrinkle and at least get her nails done.



From one of Our Members

Dendrobium Gatton Sunray—This hybrid was registered in 1919 by Sir Jeremiah Coleman from Gatton Park, Great Britain and still remains one of those old hybrids that everyone wants when they see it. Den. Gatton Sunray is a back cross of *Dendrobium pulchellum* onto *Dendrobium Illustre* (itself a hybrid of *Den. pulchellum* and *chrysotoxum*. Den. Gatton Sunray owes its' large size to the *Dendrobium pulchellum*, It is yellow tint and its' temperature tolerance comes from *Dendrobium chrysotoxum*. The very large size of this hybrid and the two "eye spots" in the throat of the lip are characteristic of *Den. pulchellum*. This species can reach 7 feet tall. So far the longest one is 5 feet in my collection.



The plant will bloom from canes with and without leaves, so don't cut off any canes unless you know they are brown and dead. This cross earned an FCC from the Royal Horticultural Society in 1936. In 1995 The US Botanical Garden exhibited for judging a clone of this plant with 1148 flowers, 104 inflorescences and received a CCM of 95 points. I have three specimen plants hanging in my pool cage. In my growing conditions, they stay out all winter with the exception of 38 degrees. The temps range from 38 – 95 degrees F and seem pretty hardy. For temps below 38 degrees, they are only in the garage to warm them up to 45-50 then back outside the next morning. It spikes like clockwork on May 1st and blooms for 1 month on June 1st. I have been growing them since 2005 and each year the canes get longer and longer. This year was a month long show. So far they are all showing lots of new growth.

One was recently listed on E-Bay for \$129.00 and it was a very small plant. I just sold a keike at the August meeting for \$10 so what a deal! To flower this plant to it's full potential one needs to understand that both species in its background come from seasonally dry montane forests. In these locales, winters are very bright, distinctly dry and rather cool. Come November, I shut off the water for a few months. Only watering once every 10—14 days.



Like most dendrobiums they like to be under potted. So much in fact that you can barely see the clay pot in the picture. They haven't been repotted since 2005 and I doubt that I will ever repot them if they stay in good growing condition. If you get a chance to purchase one you won't be sorry, but if you plan to keep it remember, to make lots of room as it will spread out. Cheryl Finke, 2nd VP



'The Girls' Are At It Again!

Orchid & Tropical Plant Sale

Budget Prices

Advice on Orchid Care and Culture

9 a m til Noon on October 18, 2008

343 39th Ave N, St Petersburg, FL

GREAT SALE—DON'T MISS IT!

FOR MORE INFO, CALL 727-536-7717

Measuring the Foot-Candles In Your Greenhouse

By Frank Banka [Reprint from FWCOS News & Views, Vol X, #1X—Sept 1969]

It is most helpful to have some way of measuring the amount of light that our orchids are getting. This would permit us to make the necessary adjustment for summer heat, for winter chill, for correlating our fertilizing with the condition of the plants, etc.

Foot-candles can be measured directly by some special light meters, but these are quite expensive and beyond the reach of most. However, by using the method outlined below, it is believed that relatively accurate foot-candle readings can be obtained with the use of the more common (and cheaper) photographic light meters. (If you don't have one of these, it should be easy to borrow one.)

Directions:

Around noon, on a clear day, take your photographic light meter into your greenhouse. Set the film speed indicator of the light meter at A S A 25. [[Ed note-Get out those lite meters or check the pawn shops, garage sales or E-Bay.]

At plant leaf level, hold the light meter in your right hand, with the palm of your left hand several inches in front of, and at about a 45 degree angle to, the front of the meter. You are measuring the maximum light that is reflected off your hand so rotate your hand a bit to get the highest reading possible. Avoid shadows.

From this setting, read the shutter speed figure (or EV No.) directly opposite the lens opening figure of f 5.6.

The correct foot-candle reading will then be found opposite that shutter speed figure in the chart below.

(Note: In (#), if the reading opposite f 5.6 falls in between the regular scale figures, make an approximation and interpolate it in the chart.)

OPTIMUM LIGHT INTENSITY (IN FOOT-CANDLES (fc) FOR VARIOUS GENERA)

Cattleya and Allied	3-4000 fc	Miltonia	2000 fc
Cymbidium	4000 fc	Evergreen Dendrobiums	2-4000 fc
Phalaenopsis	2000 fc	Deciduous Dens	3000 fc
Cypripedium	2000 fc	Vanda	4000 fc
Oncidium	3000 fc	Epidendrum	3-4000 fc

Shutter Speed		Foot – Candles	EV No.
Actual	EV No.		
1/500	9	12,000	14
1/250	8	6,400	13
1/125	7	3,200	12
1/60	6	1,600	11
1/30	5	800	10
1/15	4	400	9
1/8	3	200	8
1/4	2	100	7
1/2	1	50	6
1	0	25	5

**FWCOS ANNUAL
ORCHID SHOW & SALE**

'The Orchid Effect'

October 3-4-5, 2008

\$5 at the door

Honeywell Minnreg Building

6340 126th Ave, Largo, FL

[Between US19 & 66th St]

Contact Brent Finke 727-460-4606

FWCOS FIELD TRIP

Nov 8, 2008

Plantio La Orquidea in Sarasota

Fenders Flora in Venice

Sundance Orchids in Ft Meyers

\$25 FWCOS Members/\$30 non members * Payment Required With Sign-up**

Non-refundable after October 9, 2008

Wanna' Go? Better Sign Up Early!*First Come First Serve!**

Contact Corinne Arnold at 447-2898 or parnold3@tampabay.rr.com

AOS September /October Checklist

By Net Nash and James Rose

Cattleya Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom. Check plants for potting needs for the last time this season. Any in dire need should be potted, even some that may be on the cusp, as there is just enough of the growing season left to allow the plants to establish before the days start to get really short and cold. This is the month for purples derived from *Cattleya labiata* breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They are easy to grow, too. Plants summered outdoors should begin to be prepared to be brought back into the winter growing area. Clean the plants up and be on the lookout for any pests they may have picked up during the summer. Treat as necessary.

Cycnoches This little-known and under-appreciated genus, which can have male or female flowers, is at its best in the autumn. Two of the spectacular varieties are *Cycnoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cycnoches ventricosum*, the swan orchid. This last one has large, fragrant green flowers. The biggest problem, culturally, will be red spider mite infestations that require immediate attention. Plants are quite seasonal, requiring heavy watering in the growing season and then a drier dormant winter season.

Cymbidium Through diligent modern breeding programs, the cymbidium season gets stretched longer and longer. Now we can expect to have flowers open as early as September and October. Stake inflorescences and move the plants to a shadier location to help the flowers develop successfully. Because the plants will have warmth tolerance "built in" genetically, keeping the plants as cool as possible will help prevent bud curl. For the midseason varieties, inflorescences should be initiated by now. Feed plants on a regular schedule with a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20) and shade the plants lightly.

Dendrobium This is a good season for hybrids of the *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* types. Both are capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be appropriate for this type.

Lemboglosson bictoniense Both *Lemboglossum* (syn. *Odontoglossum*) *bictoniense* and its hybrids bloom in this season. *Lemboglossum bictoniense* is a showy species from Mexico that has three different color forms: *sulphureum* (green with white lip), *album* (brown with white lip) and *roseum* (brown with a pink lip). It is a vigorous grower with tall inflorescences of many flowers, and imparts to its progeny (as seen in *Odcdm. Bittersweet* and *Odm. bicross*) ease of culture, warmth tolerance and eye-catching patterns. They make a prime candidate for *odontoglossum* beginners and advanced alike.

Paphiopedilum The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences. Some night heating may be necessary in the cooler areas. Begin to watch watering more carefully, and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. An extra dose of phosphorus and potassium, such as a bloom-booster or high-acid-type fertilizer, is beneficial.

Phalaenopsis The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences. Some night heating may be necessary in the cooler areas. Begin to watch watering more carefully, and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. An extra dose of phosphorus and potassium, such as a bloom-booster or high-acid-type fertilizer, is beneficial.

Rossioglossium grande Once known as *Odontoglossum grande*, this is a spectacular orchid with six to eight flowers up to 8 inches across. Often known as the tiger orchid, it has bright golden yellow flowers heavily marked with chestnut brown barring. The plants are beautiful with a grey-green cast to the foliage, which is borne on succulent pseudobulbs. It prefers hot and wet summers with cooler, even down to 40 F, dry winters. Grow under filtered light. Watch for snails and slugs that eat the flowers, pseudobulbs and leaves.

If your email address has changed and you want to be advised about the latest newsletter, contact Brenda Miller at brenfm@tampabay.rr.com. If your address and/or telephone number has changed, please advise Diane Jones, Membership Chairman at djones9@tampabay.rr.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
Meeting starts at 7:30 pm



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