

December 2011

Meets every third Monday of the month



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Letter from the President

These twelve months have gone by so fast that my head spins. But we in Coalition for Orchid Species have accomplished almost all of the programs and goals we planned and worked so hard for.

In January we participated in the Tamiami show where we recruited some new members, set up a beautiful display, and had a very successful raffle. We also sponsor an Orchid Hotel.

In March we took part in the Orchid Society of Coral Gables Show at Fairchild Garden, where we won the First Place Tabletop and Best Florida Native Orchid awards. We also joined in a Conservation Program with Pan-Am Orchid Society, placing orchids on trees within the Pinecrest Gardens grounds.

In April we set up an information table at the St Germain Orchids Show & Sell and, in the process, recruited a number of new members.

May was a busy month. We participated as volunteers at the Redland Festival, where we also did a lot of advertising for the Symposium. In addition at the end of the month we held our private Annual Tour at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, drawing a large and lively group of members and guests. We also participated in the Open House at the Agricultural Station where we recruited and advertised COS.

In June we shoved off on our Annual Bus Trip to the Mysterious North that was garrulous, bibulous, and in a word, fabulous. Even the monster sand trap could not devour our intrepid crew. All in all we had a lot of fun ogling countless beautiful orchids.

On July 24th we mounted our Annual Species Symposium. We had a great lineup of speakers and the Silent Auction and the Raffle were profitable. (That really helped us with our costs for this expensive event.) The result: we had the largest number of people who have ever attended one of our Symposiums. We also had a table for recruiting at the "Summerfeast Festival" at Steel Mart Garden

In September we celebrated the Anniversary of the founding of COS with an Open House and Party. We had a heartening number of guests and several became members. We held

BITS and PIECES***by Mirta Russis-Heineman***

the best raffle of our year. We enjoyed dishes from many countries as we sat down to an International Dinner for which our members brought food typical of their native cuisines.

In October we had our Auction. It was one of the best in the history of COS. The whole program went very smoothly. We had our largest number of striking and unusual orchids to offer, which people bought at good prices and with evident pleasure. Also in October we participated in two Shows. In the South Florida Orchid Society Show we received Best in Show for our tabletop and the most Artistic Display in Show award. In the EEOS Show our COS tabletop received the Best in Show trophy as well as the Most Artistic and Best in Show trophy from AOS.

Come November we had our picnic at R.F. Orchids. We had great lunch, a nice raffle, and competed at Bingo – where winners got orchids as gifts. We were treated to a private viewing of **Bob and Michael's nurseries, grotto and grounds. What a delightful afternoon it was** – and all in perfect South Florida weather. We also participated in another orchid Conservation project in Pinecrest Gardens

Next week we will have our End of the Year spectacular. I hope that everyone will come and have a rip-roaring good time. We only burn ourselves out at this event so that we will be fresh and ready to start gathering our energies again for the promising New Year.

I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy Kwanza.

I will see you the party and in January's meeting, loving you as always,

Your joyously exhausted President,

Mirta



**Don't forget the
Holiday Party is
this Wednesday
December 14th**



BITS and PIECES

by Mirta Russis-Heineman

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Spider Mites



Mites can be a very destructive pest in orchid collections. Mites are minute arthropods with four pair of legs. They are closely related to ticks, spiders, and scorpions. They are not true spiders, but some species spin fine webs to protect themselves and their eggs. They get the 'spider' part of their common name from webbing. They belong to the genus *Tetranychus*. The most common in orchid collection is *Tetranychus urticae*, of which one form is bright red, and others are yellowish or greenish; hence, the common name of red-spider. The mite's body contents (large dark spots) which are often visible through the transparent body wall, give the better known name of two-spotted spider mites.

Mites can multiply quickly during be out of control before you even notice them. When searching for spider mites, their fine webbing will likely be noticed first. Look on the undersides of leaves and between leaves for the webbing. These eight-legged pests are so tiny (about 1/50th of an inch), they are difficult to see with the unaided eye. For visual detection of the mites, a [magnifying lens](#), or [pocket microscope](#) will be a big help. The presence of mites can be also be determined by rubbing a white cloth over the suspected infestation. If mites or eggs are present, reddish brown stain will be seen on the cloth. Another technique is to tap on a leaf over a sheet of white paper, then you may be able to see little moving specks on the paper.

The spider mites and false spider mites are plant feeders. All mites have needle-like piercing-sucking mouthparts. They damage the leaves and pseudobulbs of orchids, by penetrating the plant tissue and suck the plant juice out. They are particularly troublesome on thin leaved orchids, such as members of the Oncidium Alliance, Cymbidium, and Cycnoches. However, they attack all orchids. They leave tiny white scars on the undersurface of the leaves, where they prefer to live. The result is a fine silver stippling of the leaf surface and the psuedobulbs.

They are also injurious to the flowers. Their favorite point of attack on flowers is along the seams where the sepals come together in the bud, where they leave small transparent spots sur-

rounding the punctured areas. One such spot is a blemish, but many spots actually ruin the flower. Sometimes as the sepals split apart, the mites enter the bud and cause enough damage to distort the flower.

Life Cycle

Hot, dry conditions are often associated with population build-up of spider mites, but infestations can occur anytime during the year. Under optimum conditions (70-80°F/21-27°C), most mites hatch in as little as 3 days, and become sexually mature in as little as 5 days. The females can lay upwards of 20 eggs a day, for a producing life of 2 to 4 weeks. The warm, dry conditions of greenhouses allows mite populations to survive, so infestations can occur even in winter.

Controls

Mighty Wash®, which is a contact spray ready to use out of the bottle (do not dilute). At the first sign of mites spray plants leaves, fruits and flowers until complete saturation is achieved. If necessary spray at three day intervals. **Mighty Wash®** is statically (electrically) charged water which is safe to use on your orchids. The electrical charge when sprayed on kills the mites and their eggs. So safe, if used on vegetables can be used up to the day of harvest.

Insecticidal soaps and horticultural oils, such as **Neem Oils**, or **Safer's Insecticide Soap®**. Follow the instructions, and use in the cool of the evenings, not in the heat of the day.

- Since they are not insects, mites can not be controlled by normal insecticides. One reason that spider mites can become problems is the use of insecticides that destroy their natural enemies. Chemical controls generally involves miticides and acaricides, which are specifically developed for mites. Furthermore, their ability to rapidly reproduce multiple generations allows spider mites populations to adapt quickly to resist chemical controls. However, most miticides do not affect the eggs, so a repeat application at a 10 to 14 day period is usually needed for control, as well so alternate between different miticides and/or acaricides. Two-spotted spider mites can also develop a resistance to most acaricides after prolonged use. The best chemical controls are 1) **Pentac**, 2) **Avid**, and 3) **Keltane**. Follow manufacturer's instruction carefully, as chemicals do present dangers to humans and animals.

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- Least effective, but sometimes, infestations can be reduced somewhat by frequent spraying of the orchid plants with water. Keeping the orchids well hydrated can keep the humidity up and the mites down.

False Spider Mites



These viciously destructive mites are also very small, similarly requiring a magnifying lens, to detect them. They are different from the spider mites as they do not spin webs. They also feed on top and bottom surfaces of the orchid leaves. They produce pits of dead tissue, which if the infestation is extensive, can cause the death of the leaf. The most often countered species are *Brevipalpus californicus*, and *Tenuipalpus pacificus* (the *Phalaenopsis* mite). All damage a number of orchids. Control is same as Spider Mites above.

Upcoming Events



Boca Raton
ORCHID SOCIETY



2012
Orchid
Show & Sale

www.brosonline.org

*Valentine's
Day Weekend*

Saturday & Sunday
February 11 & 12, 2012
10 am to 5 pm

Featuring Orchid Displays & Sales

Free Educational Lectures • Repotting Service
AOS Judging • Tropical Landscape Plant Vendors

LOCATION
Safe Schools Institute
1790 NW Spanish River Blvd.
Boca Raton, Florida

ADMISSION
\$5 per person

AOS Corner – December

With the holidays approaching I thought I could offer some suggestions for gifts for the orchid enthusiast in your lives.

- A gift of membership in the American Orchid Society is a great gift for anyone who may not already a member, or a renewal of their membership. To order a gift membership, contact AOS Headquarters [561-404-2050](tel:561-404-2050).
- Access to OrchidsPlus (the web-based AOS awards program also known as AQPlus). For non-members, please call Pam at 561-404-2050 or send AOS a check to Pam's attention and AOS can set up a subscription to AQPlus offline.
- The 2012 AOS Calendar is now available and is available with a 10% discount AOS Members with free shipping. The new calendar is a 14-month calendar and loaded with fabulous orchid photographs.
- Many of the AOS published books are also located in the Store on the AOS website and would make a great gift.
- Support your local orchid vendors or those in the *Orchid Source Directory*. Many of these vendors support local societies' fundraising efforts, it is a great time to support their businesses in return. In addition, any of them have holiday specials.

Lynn Fuller, Chair
AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

Free Orchid Class at Motes Orchids Shoofly Pie At Knaus Berry Farm

Free Orchid Classes

Dr. Martin Motes, author of *Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month*, and *Florida Vanda Growing: Month by Month*, will continue teaching a series of free orchid classes [this Saturday](#). These classes based upon Dr. Motes' 50 years of orchid growing experience in [S. Florida](#), cover all aspects of orchid culture.

[Saturday Dec. 3rd](#) :Growing Phalaenopsis

[Saturday Dec 10th](#) : Growing Cattleyas

[Saturday Dec. 17th](#): Disease and Pest Control

ALL Classes at [11:00 AM](#) and lasting about one hour.

Motes Orchids will be open from 10AM to 5PM on days when classes are held.

December Tasks

- 1. Water judiciously and well**
- 2. Protect cold sensitive genera**
- 3. Provide extra potassium and magnesium**
- 4. Repot flowered out plants - be sure they are secure**
- 5. Groom plants and flower spikes for holiday display.**

December Events

December 3rd: Free Class: Growing Phalaenopsis at Motes Orchids.

December 3&4 Orchid and Gourmet Food Festival at Bonnet House 900 N. Birch Road, Ft. Lauderdale. Contact: Sandy www.browardorchidsupply.com

December 3rd: Free Class: Growing Cattleyas at Motes Orchids.

December 17th :American Orchid Society Judging

12:00 noon American Orchid Society Judging at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden 10900 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables Come and see some of the most rare and beautiful orchids or have your beauties evaluated and recognized! Contact Jose Exposito soroa@att.net

[December 17th: Free Class: Disease and Pest Control at Motes Orchids.](#)

COS BBQ and Bingo







Some Orchids That Flower In The Winter Months

The names below are derived from the Latin and Greek languages and can, at first, be daunting to pronounce. It's easier if you remember that, with few exceptions all letters are pronounced. You will often hear names pronounced somewhat differently than indicated below as a result of regional differences. There are also pronunciations that are not technically correct but have found their way into common usage. The common pronunciation, stan-HOPE-ee-ah rather than the technically correct stan-HOPE-ah for *Stanhopea* is an example. This pronunciation has no doubt evolved because of the "pronounce every letter rule" although that would sound more like stan-HOPE-AY-ah.

C = 50F minimum, I = 55F minimum, W = 60-65F minimum

Cattleya percivaliana (KAT-lee-ah purr-sih-VAL-ee-an-ah) and many of its hybrids (I)

Coelogyne cristata (see-loh-GUY-nee KRIS-tah-tah) (C)

Laelia superbiens (LAY-lee-ah sue-PURR-bee-enz) [also known as *Schomburgkia superbiens*]

Lycaste skinneri (lye-CASS-tee SKIN-er-eye) and many of its hybrids (I)

Trichocentrum cavendishianum (try-koe-SENT-rum cav-en-DISH-ee-an-um) [also long known as *Oncidium* - *Oncidium* is pronounced as on-SID-ee-um] (C)

Phaius tankervilleae (FAY-us tan-ker-VILL-eye) [the Nun's Orchid] (I)

Many *Phalaenopsis* (fail-en-NOP-sis) species and their hybrids (W)

Angraecum eburneum (W)

Angraecum sesquipedale (an-GRAY-kum sess-kwih-PED-ah-lee) (W)

Brassavola nodosa (bra-SAH-voe-lah NOE-dose-ah) (I)

Early flowering *Cymbidium* (sim-BID-ee-um) species and hybrids (C)

Dendrobium nobile (den-DRO-bee-um NOE-bee-lee) and its hybrids (C winter)

Epidendrum ciliare (I)

Laelia anceps (LAY-lee-ah an-SEPS) (I-C)

Many *Masdevallia* (maz-dee-VAHL-ee-ah) species and hybrids (C-I)

Rhynchostylis gigantea (rink-oh-STY-liss jye-gan-TEE-ah) (W)

Cattleya coccinea (KAT-lee-ah COCK-sinn-ee-ah) (C) and many of the miniature cattleyas developed from this species.



Rhynchostylis gigantea 'Annie', AM/AOS
Grower: Jessie Stanley, League City, Texas



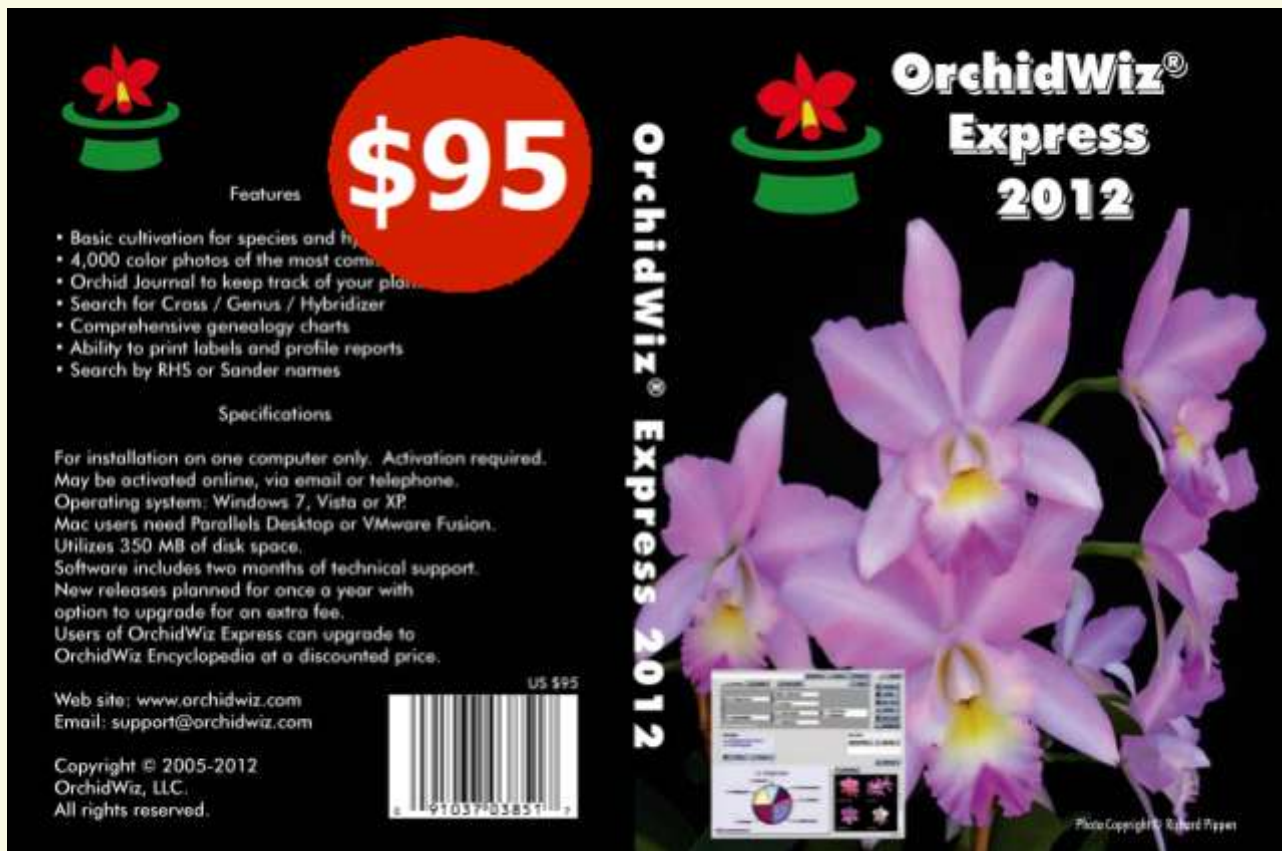
Lycaste skinneri 'Heatherglen', CCM/AOS
Grower: Heather & Glen Alm, Grimsby, Ontario, Canada



Epidendrum ciliare 'Puddle Jumper': FCC/AOS
Grower: Ken & Judy Russ

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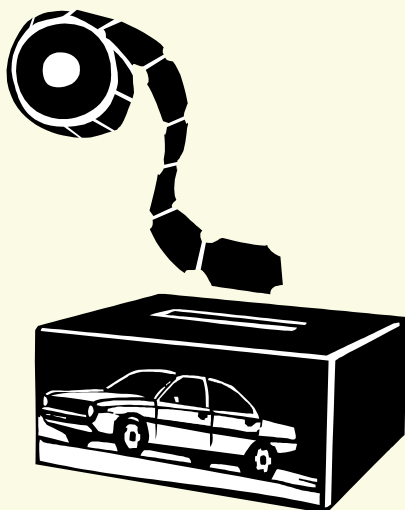
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Orchids for Sale:

As you may know, Jean Wilson, hobby grower extraordinaire, is getting ready to move to North Carolina come next Summer. Her tropical orchids will not be able to withstand the NC winters. Consequently, she is putting her prized orchids up for sale and would like to find good homes for them. Jean has made a website where she will be posting, periodically, pictures of the plants she will be selling and information about them. Some she will be selling the whole plant and others she will be dividing. As the plants are sold, she will remove them from the website.

Check them out on: www.jeansorchids.weebly.com



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Get your 2011 COS Newsletters on the web at

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www.orchidworks.com!

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Are you still planning your vacation for 2011? Why not join us for our 'Orchids of Thailand' tour. We also have a tour to compliment the W.O.C. For more information - including a slide show of our last tour:

www.theorchidman.com

The Florida-Caribbean Regional Judging Center of the American Orchid Society invites you to bring your orchids in flower to be judged by our teams of experienced American Orchid Society Judges, or just come to learn more about orchids and the process of judging orchids. We meet the *THIRD Saturday of each month* at beautiful Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Corbin Bldg., 10901 Old Cutler Rd., Coral Gables, FL Judging begins promptly at 1:00 p.m.

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