



The **COALITION** for **ORCHID SPECIES**

at **Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens**
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, Florida
www.cosspecies.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mirta Heineman

Dear COS members and friends,

The Tamiami Show was a most warm experience for me. I do not think that I ever felt better than the way I felt at the end of the Show. Financially we did quite well.

We had a brisk raffle to benefit the Bert Pressman Memorial Scholarship. People love to contribute to a good cause. What could be better than helping a student who is preparing for a life in fields such as orchidology or horticulture? Before long we will be able to announce who will be receiving this scholarship money.

At our show, the best part was the team work that our volunteers sprung forth with: setting up our display, selling tickets for the raffle, recruiting new members, working at the Orchid Hotel, or taking the display down. All and all, that great spirit of cooperation, friendship and camaraderie played a big role in the success that we enjoyed. To all our volunteers THANK YOU, from the bottom of the heart.

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This Month's Speaker - **Carol Holdren**

Carol Holdren is a long time orchid lover with a history of willing participation in the affairs and activities of orchid societies. She was Director of Personnel at an independent supermarket chain before moving from Indiana to Florida in 1984. She finished her BS in Business at Florida Atlantic University when she wasn't fishing or boating with her husband John. She also bought a purple *Vanda* at a local botanical garden show. That plant led to several others as well as membership and participation in the local orchid society. As her collection grew she and some of her orchid friends took a class in Orchidology at the University of Florida. Carol also began attending the West Palm Beach Judging Center and became an accredited judge in 2003. She is now secretary of the WPBJC. Carol has also been very active with the American Orchid Society at a national level and she is presently an AOS Trustee. Carol will be speaking on "Ten Orchids You Should Own", a program that evolved from discussions with orchid professionals and hobbyists and her many years of participating in local orchid meetings. There will be something for new growers as well as long time hobbyists so we hope to see you there.

Continued from page 1 This month we will have Carol Holdren as our guest speaker. Carol is an American Orchid Society judge; she is also a member of the board of trustees of AOS. She has many years of experience as an orchid hobbyist. She prepared this talk after she had interviewed the best growers around the country and had asked them for the most sage advice they that could pass on to hobbyists. The results you will see and hear during her talk. Carol is a COS member.

I'll see you at the meeting. *Happy Orchid Growing*

BEGINNERS SERIES Orchid Culture - Growing Outdoors and in Windows *Used with permission from AOS*

STEPHEN R. BATCHELOR

ALL ORCHID HOBBYISTS are faced with the challenge of finding - or creating - a suitable environment in which to grow orchids. Those new to the hobby don't usually build a greenhouse overnight, and with good reason, considering both the initial expense of materials and labor, and the astronomic heating costs now involved in maintenance. It is not surprising that a large proportion of today's growers, novices and veterans alike, choose one of the other less expensive alternatives for cultivating orchids. With some ingenuity and persistence, conditions conducive to the growing and flowering of orchids can be achieved anywhere - from below ground level to the tops of tall buildings, inside under entirely artificial light, or outdoors in a more natural setting.

OUTDOORS

Most of us live in areas which afford some months of the year appealing to both humans and orchids. Common sense would suggest taking advantage of what nature can provide by placing the plants outdoors during this time. It could be on a balcony or roof, if you live in an apartment building, or in the yard, deck or patio, if you live in a house. The orchids usually respond positively, whether you grow on windowsills, under lights, or even in a greenhouse, during the more inclement times of the year. During my years of growing orchids in Florida, I was always amazed by the improved growth and flowering of my plants when they were taken out of the greenhouse and grown outdoors after the threat of cold temperatures in the spring. In the patio or hanging in trees in the backyard, the plants received far superior air circulation, lower daytime temperatures, and the beneficial rains of those notorious Floridian downpours.

If you are not so fortunate as to have warm weather year around, but you do intend to grow your orchids outdoors at least part of the year, act conservatively. In the spring, wait until warmer weather is assured (night temperatures not much lower than 50F) - you could easily save yourself a good deal of frantic effort which might be necessary to protect your orchids from a sudden cold snap. Orchids, like humans, become conditioned to their surroundings. Therefore be wary of the radically different conditions of the outdoors. Even some of the highlight-requiring vandaceous genera will surely burn if suddenly taken from the relatively shaded environment of a greenhouse or the indoors into the bright, unfiltered sunlight of a late spring day. After all, people burn too! Unfortunately with orchids unsightly burned areas do not necessarily peel or fall off, and they can drastically reduce photosynthesizing capacity. Provide some temporary additional shading until the plants have had a chance to acclimate, then gradually remove it, watching carefully for any adverse reaction. Watering schedules which are fairly routine and unvarying indoors will be jarred beyond recognition outdoors. Watering needs will very likely be more frequent and more erratic due to the greater variation of conditions outdoors. Daily attention will be necessary until an adjustment is made to outdoor growing, both by your plants, and by yourself with respect to your own habits in caring for your orchids.

Though the vandaceous genera, once acclimated, can be grown with little protection from the sun, provided they receive compensating levels of water, most other popular genera will need some shading outdoors. This can be provided by trees or other plant life, or by means of conventional shading materials such as the slats of a lath house-type construction, saran screening, fiberglass, etc. Plants can be shifted and shading altered until a proper level of light is reached, one that causes no burning and is in balance with other cultural factors that you or nature will provide. Orchids generally benefit from being off the ground, both in terms of enhanced circulation and perhaps in a lessening of pest and disease activity. Makeshift benches, hangers for trees, or some more substantial arrangement can accomplish this end.

With the approach of fall and winter and their inexorable cold, caution is again the key. Many of the widely grown genera of orchids, particularly cymbidiums, *Dendrobium nobile* and its hybrids, paphiopedilums, and even phalaenopsis, respond to the cooler nights of fall by slowed growth and, eventually, flowering. Though these orchids should be exposed to those beneficial early fall nights in the 50'sF, for safety's sake all plants should be brought indoors before the chance of even an unexpected frost exists, and before night temperatures drop much below 50F. This precaution allows the time, too, for a last good cleaning and spraying of your orchids outdoors, so that you do not inadvertently bring some of nature's less desirable creatures indoors!

There are a number of successful indoor orchid growers who very justifiably assert that "summering" orchids outdoors is not worth the additional effort and exposure to pests and diseases. Nevertheless, the favorable response of orchids to this treatment is a well-known fact, and it is worth the consideration of the beginner, especially if the collection involved is but a small one.

WINDOWS

Once nature turns a cold shoulder on you and your orchids, and the outdoors becomes once more an inhospitable place, where can your plants survive, even prosper, within the confines of your home? A logical place would be at the windows, where the sun can still shine but the cold not penetrate. Choose the windows which receive the most direct sunshine, those facing east, west, and south (particularly during wintertime in the northern hemisphere). In the event of too much light, shading can always be applied. Direct sunshine at least for a couple hours of the day is essential for adequate growth and flowering of orchids, even for the more shade-loving genera, unless the level of indirect light is very high (e.g., a tall, north window, or a skylight, with a good deal of transmitting surface facing the sky itself).

A confined area receiving sunlight from windows facing two directions or more is best because of the prolonged period of direct sunlight resulting, and because of the convenience of being able to separate the area off from the rest of the living space, allowing better control of growing conditions. The smaller the space for growing indoors, the easier it is to maintain an acceptable level of humidity.

I am surrounded, as I write, by an excellent example of this principle. My office, located on the southwest corner of the third floor of the American Orchid Society offices here in Cambridge, Massachusetts, receives no less than 6 hours of blinding sunlight each sunny day through an L-shaped window area. If I were not occupying this space and attempting to do some work, I could easily transform the small area into nearly greenhouse conditions simply by closing the door, pulling up the blinds and opening the window slightly for ventilation. As it is, I prefer not to sit at my desk in a perpetual sweat wearing sunglasses, despite the fact that it has been below 0F too many days to count this winter! In spite of my desperate tampering with the blinds in order to preserve a patch of cooler shade on my desk, and the less-than-ideal humidity which is the best that wet gravel in trays can accomplish in a room opened to a larger, heated office space, the orchids in my windows are doing quite well, even at times astonishingly well. It was a rare event, in my experience, to have two flower spikes simultaneously on an *Ascocenda*, even in the bright sunshine of a Floridian summer. However, this is the case with an *Ascocenda* I have here in my office. Likewise, a mixed collection of other vandaceous genera, *Cattleya* alliance hybrids, oncidiums, catasetums, and a *Calanthe*, are all growing successfully.

It should not come as a revelation, then, to hear that many a porch has been converted into a productive "indoor greenhouse" (see BIBLIOGRAPHY). If you have a porch or sunroom, by all means make use of it! If you don't, you can install one of the many "window greenhouses" available to hobbyists and achieve the same or better conditions, on a smaller scale ([read Mary Helleiner's detailed article on window greenhouses in the December 1980 BULLETIN](#)). Orchids in pots need a surface on which to rest, indoors as well as outdoors, and most conventional windowsills need some minor modification for this purpose. Metal braces attached to the sills at one-foot intervals very adequately support 18-inch-wide, 1 1/2-inch-deep, 4-foot-long trays filled with gravel and covered with orchids, here at the Cambridge office. These trays were purchased at a local garden center separate from the tiered light garden for which they were originally intended. As a very necessary feature they each have a plug which can be removed for drainage (in our case, into carefully placed buckets) when watering. The porous gravel, also purchased locally, not only keeps the orchids out of any residual water in the tray but also is a significant source of humidity, particularly on sunny days when the sunlight greatly raises its temperature. In a confined area, the humidity from such a source is perhaps sufficient, but if you grow or intend to grow in a larger room of your home, consider one of the many humidifiers on the market today. On the other hand, a confined area is more likely to need additional ventilation, or the circulation created by a fan. Air, particularly humid air, should be in constant circulation for the general health of your orchids, and to lessen the incidence of disease.

If you are not so fortunate as to have large, sunny windows in your homes, why not supplement the existing light with artificial light - or depend entirely on man's invention? Orchids can be grown successfully under lights, and there exists a well-developed technology and technique to support you in such an endeavor. The



Hi, I'm Nicky Maximiano.

On October 10, 2010, I was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. What this means is that my body's immune system attacks and destroys the insulin-producing cells of the pancreas. To stay healthy and alive, I will have to have insulin shots for the rest of my life. Some of you may have seen me prick my finger so I can test my blood sugar. In less than 100 days since diagnosis, I have pricked my finger over 680 times. This feels about the same as getting pricked with a pin 6 to 8 times a day. I have also had over 240 insulin shots. Sometimes when I'm sleeping, my mom and dad have to wake me up and make me eat because my

blood sugar is too low. Sometimes I have to drink a lot of water and run around because my blood sugar is too high. It is not easy. I wish there was no such thing as diabetes. I wish there was a cure.

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) is the #1 non-profit funder of diabetes research worldwide. One of JDRF's largest fundraising events is the "Walk to Cure Diabetes." This year, I am walking and raising money towards this cause. This year's walk will be held on Saturday, March 19 at the Miami Zoo!

If you are interested, there are ways you can help make a difference for me and the 3 million other Americans with Type 1 Diabetes:

You can join my Family Team, known as "Nicky's Walk," which consists of family and friends who collect pledges and walk with us. Copy this url to join:

http://www2.jdrf.org/site/TR/Walk/Chapter-SouthFlorida4132?px=1213009&pg=personal&fr_id=1255

Thanks for your help!

Nicolas "Nicky" Maximiano

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

The Tamiami Show was a great success for COS. We had the largest number of volunteers ever. Members came in and went right to work for both days of the show.

The set-up on Friday began about 10:30 am. Many members brought their orchids clean and ready to put in the display. That made our job easier. Our folks were raring to move palms, tie orchids to tree boughs, and arrange the lighting. Carmen did a beautiful job with the miniatures. She put them all on a one-of-a-kind designer-tree that she created from branches selected by . . . Carmen!



We had the help of three stalwart friends: vendors who lend specimen plants for our display. For that we thank them from the bottom of our hearts. They are: Robert Randall from Carid Plants, John and Karen from Kennington Farms, and Martin Motes from Motes Orchids. Please remember these faithful vendors when you shop for orchids and please thank them for their help.

The raffle to benefit the Bert Pressman Scholarship was very successful. The winner was Jay Phal, the photographer-friend of COS and orchid species collector from Key West.



Special mention also for the orchid arrangement that Carmen donated from CS Orchids. She also sold tickets for us, which was most profitable! (See the photo of the winner)

Dr. Motes donated 5 copies of his new book *Cultivo de orquideas en Florida*, the Spanish edition, that sold out after Mirta's 11:00 am class. We have acquired some more for sale at our next meeting: the perfect gift for an Orchid hobbyist. Only \$20.00 each.

We had to be satisfied with our award of Third Prize. But all our members were very proud of our display because it was beautiful – and truly first class!

All volunteers will get a special ticket for the raffling of a special gift. You have to be present at the meeting to participate.

Many thanks to our Volunteers: Judie Armstrong, Susana Ortiz, Millie Rodriguez, Ernest Barham
Ketty Bergouignan, Sue Saumel, Jennifer Brown, Carmen Seger, William Capps, Lori Sell, Haydee Navas
Jordon Steele, Rosa Cuadrado, Vivian Waddell, Michael O'Dea, Cynthia Brown, Susan Johnson, Katria Whitfiel,
Christina Pascual



The next time we ask you to volunteer for COS do not miss the opportunity to have a great time, make new friends, and learn more about orchids.

At COS we meet for a good Cause!



UPCOMING EVENTS

BOCA RATON ORCHID SOCIETY

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20WOC Tour Information

Bob and Mike are escorting a tour to Singapore, November 10-23, 2011, for the 20th World Orchid Conference! Check out the details of the itinerary! We'll fly to Singapore for the 20WOC, and go on to Langkawi and Penang, Malaysia. We also have an optional extension to Thailand, Nov. 23 -27 (we know you'll love Thanksgiving dinner in Bangkok!). Mark your calendars for all those dates! If you're not on our mailing list for tour information, send us your postal address right away to get the brochure!

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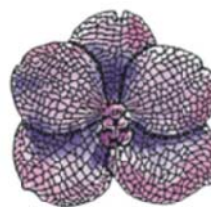
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COS ROSTER PUBLICATION

COS plans to publish its membership roster in April and is accepting applications for advertising. You don't have to be a member to advertise, and our rates are terrific! Annually (12 issues):

- ◆ Quarter Page — \$75.00
- ◆ 1/2 Page — \$100.00
- ◆ Business Card — \$50.00
- ◆ Full Back Cover — \$150.00

Ads are not limited to orchid-related businesses. See Lori Sell

COS POLO SHIRTS on sale now!



COS now has lovely, high quality polo shirts available to our membership in all sizes and many different colors!

These terrific shirts come with the COS logo embroidered over the breast, or with high-quality washable transfer (for \$18).

Support COS and show off your orchid species pride at the same time! Price for **S, M** for \$20, **L - XXL** for \$22. See **Mirta** at the upcoming meeting for shirt samples and the chart of available colors.

ORDER YOURS TODAY!



SILENT AUCTION!

Each month, in addition to the raffle, COS has a silent auction of plants that COS members have brought in to share. This is a great way to acquire new plants and benefit COS at the same time. So clear off your orchid benches and bring in your offshoots, keikis, and divisions!

Cynthia White runs the silent auction at each meeting, and will kindly provide you with everything you need to auction your plants!





ORCHID FERTILIZERS REVISITED (from 2003)

By Bert Pressman (1927-2006)

The June issue of “Orchids” has an article on orchid fertilizers as developed by Michigan State University [MSU]. I found myself in agreement with more of the points made than I have been with many other cultural advisories, and the explanation appeared in the reference at the end, which was to a past article I myself had written for our own Newsletter, as repeated in the East Everglades Newsletter. As one of my friends put it to me skeptically, “Why should I follow your advice when none of the growers do?” For credentials I have a lifetime of research experience in the movement of ions across cell membranes, which earned me the status of most referenced scientist in the entire state Florida for about a ten year span. Why should one prefer to place one’s faith in the collection of old wives’ tales that constitute the bulk of cultural advisories?

To some extent the MSU article vindicates my advice on fertilizers, for the requirements of those who reserve their trust exclusively for professional orchid growers. There is more phosphate in most fertilizers than orchids need. RO [reversed osmosis] water or rainwater needs to be supplemented by large amounts of Calcium and Magnesium; so does municipal tap water if these ions are deficient. Fertilizer pH is determined by the fertilizer itself and the pH of the water used to dissolve it. I would add that the contribution of the pH of the water itself, regardless of what it is measured as, is relatively little. There is absolutely no evidence that high phosphate fertilizers encourage blooming unless the orchids are deficient in Phosphate to begin with. This point, made in the MSU article, has also been corroborated by Baskin of Kerry’s Bromeliads, who is in charge of growing MILLIONS of orchids annually. Our water is totally devoid of Magnesium and has suboptimal amounts of Calcium. Orchids need Magnesium EVERY time you fertilize.

THE COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE PETER’S EXCEL CAL-MAG, 15-5-15, IS IDEAL FOR OUR CONDITIONS IN SOUTH FLORIDA . Don’t get hung up about the measured pH of Miami-Dade County municipal water at about 8.6. It doesn’t mean a thing once fertilizer is added.

FOR OUR MEMBERS:

*COS has complimentary passes to AOS Gardens and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens for COS members and their guests; please see **Melana Davison** for more information.*

POST YOUR ORCHID PICTURES on our Gallery at www.cospecies.com. Send us photos of your blooming orchids and we will post them in the **Gallery** section! Get your Newsletters on the web, see our upcoming **Events**, surf the **Links** and learn new things on our **Frequently Asked Questions!** Be sure to tell your friends that COS is now **ON THE WEB!**

