

January 2011

Meets every third Monday of the month



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear COS members,

I want to wish you a very Happy, Healthy and Great New Year 2012. We at COS have experienced tremendous growth in the last few years and for that we are most proud. I am happy that I will be your President

Again this year. At this time I invite you to participate more in all of our Society's activities – and to volunteer for and participate in the programs that our Board and tireless workers organize for you. We have grown because of our members' enthusiasm and willingness to make COS grow. Come to all meetings, volunteer to work at shows and programs, participate in all raffles, bring refreshments for our meetings, and most importantly welcome our new members. Let's show everyone why we have been called "the friendliest society around". Let's have a good start for the year. The best start is to not miss our initial meeting. I will see you at the meeting. In the meantime:

Keep Growing Your Beautiful Orchids!

Your President,

Mirta

World's first night-blooming orchid discovered



A "nocturnal" orchid that blooms only under the cover of darkness has been discovered on a tropical island in the South Pacific — a first for the orchid world, scientists say.

The new night-flowering species, *Bulbophyllum nocturnum*, was described by researchers from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in England, and the Center for Biodiversity Naturalis in the Netherlands. Dutch researcher Ed de Vogel collected specimens of the mysterious plant from a logging site while conducting fieldwork in New Britain, a large, volcanic island that is part of Papua weren't discovered until much later.

De Vogel and his colleagues cultivated the plants back in the Netherlands, and the orchids appeared to thrive in their new greenhouse home. Soon, one plant produced buds.

The researchers had established the orchids belonged to a particularly rare and bizarre group of the genus *Bulbophyllum*, and eagerly awaited the strange showing that would surely come when the plant bloomed.

However, much to the researchers' disappointment, the buds withered and died without opening. Perplexed, de Vogel took a plant home with him one evening. Two hours before midnight, a bud began to open, revealing an exotic bloom as yet unknown to science.

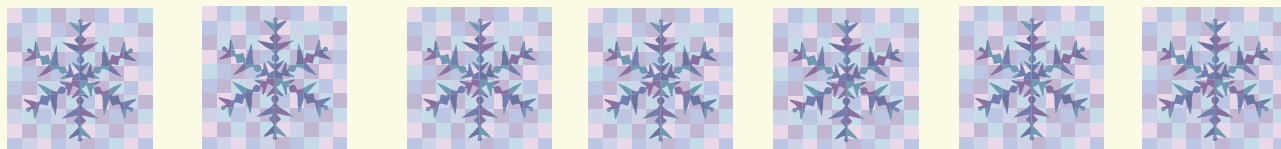
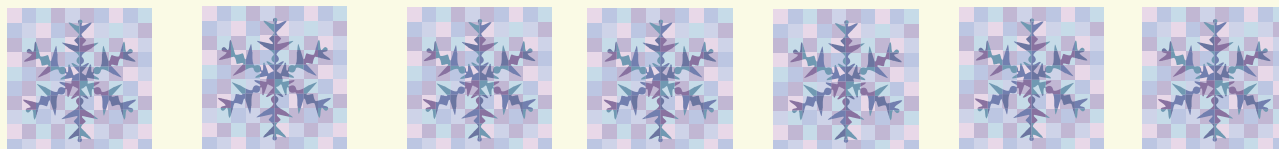
Subsequent observations revealed that the other orchids bloomed at 10 p.m. and, the next morning, about 12 hours later, the flowers withered and died.

Other plant species bloom at night — the aptly named [corpse flower](#), whose massive bloom stinks of rotting flesh, typically begins its malodorous display around midnight. Yet once opened, the plant stays that way for about a day.

In addition, other [plant species](#), such as the queen of the night cactus (*Selenicereus grandiflorus*) and the midnight horror tree (*Oroxylum indicum*) open in the dark and close shortly before or after sunrise.

However, the newly identified *Bulbophyllum nocturnum* is the only orchid known to open at night and close when daylight returns.

It's not clear why the plant flowers in the dark, and researchers say more investigation is needed. However, the scientists said it could be that midge flies that forage at night pollinate the orchids



Question and Answer

Q.

Night Length

I have been growing orchids for about two years, and have rebloomed evergreen dendrobiums and oncidiums with no problem. My cattleyas are in the same growing area - a large south-facing window where the light is also supplemented by a Wonderlite, especially in winter. None of my cattleyas have rebloomed. I realize lack of light is the usual reason for failure to flower, but I'm puzzled by my success with the dendrobiums if light is the factor. Could it be light duration? I do reduce the duration in winter but perhaps not enough. The area gets warm temperatures, rarely below 62 F on winter nights. — *Aline M. Kuntz*

A.

Since you have pre-empted my first guess, which would be lack of light (it sounds like they receive plenty), I would then suspect that your plants are receiving insufficient day-night differential. Especially if you have selected plants that bloom in winter into spring, long nights are particularly necessary for blooming. Unless the plants receive at least 10 to 12 uninterrupted hours of night, they may not bloom. Lack of uninterrupted darkness may be the key. If the room in which they are grown has even so much as a reading light close to the plants, it will interrupt their night and provide a short-night treatment. The warmer winter nights may also be a contributory factor, but a minor one. — *Ned Nash*

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

January Tasks

Cattleya Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

Cymbidium We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

Lycaste The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

Odontoglossums Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using *Oncidium* and *Brassia*, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

Paphiopedilum The standard *Paphiopedilum* insigne-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a *paphiopedilum*, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

Phalaenopsis Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of *phalaenopsis* at orchid shows and sales.

Zygopetalum For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

COS Holiday Party









AOS Corner

While surfing AOS website for a topic for this month's AOS Corner, I came across a little known project of the, the Species Identification Task Force (SITF) AOS (in full disclosure, I have to admit it is little known by me probably because I am not a judge). SITF is under the supervision of the Judging Committee of the AOS and its mission is to try to improve and simplify the processing of awards, with the goal of ensuring that awarded species are correctly named. Members of the Task Force are not necessarily taxonomic experts but individuals who use reference material to confirm the identity of submitted awards. When the SITF collective expertise and reference collections are not adequate, members of the task force turn to a network of qualified experts.

The discussion on their website goes on to describe that the "task force replaces the previous cumbersome identification and verification procedure, which often involved shipping plant material to a taxonomic expert. The SITF, using today's electronic communications capabilities and readily available high quality digital images, hopes to facilitate the process of identifying awarded plants and to get the process done in a timely manner. Most awarded species do not need a taxonomist for identification, if reference material is available. When reference material is not available we use taxonomic experts who are willing to give opinions based on digital photographs. Occasionally awards will require in depth investigation by a taxonomic specialist, and SITF coordinates this when it is required." Their webpage also provides links to a variety of other resources which any orchidist would find interesting to explore. To find out more about the SITF check out their site at <http://www.aosforum.org/sitf> - you should all enjoy exploring this site.

This SITF page on the AOS website is an example of the vast amount of information on the AOS website.

We are in the middle of an exciting show season and I hope you all will try to support the shows in your areas. Some that are on my radar screen for this year will be the 2012 Philadelphia International Flower Show. AOS will again be putting in an exhibit at this world renowned event. Last year 265,000 attendees visited this show over its 7 days. The theme this year is *Hawaii: Islands of Aloha*. A committee has been put together and we will be soliciting plant material and volunteers for 'manning' the site. Another show is the Spring Members' Meeting of the AOS. This will be hosted by the Wichita Orchid Society. More information on these two shows (including how to register for the Members' Meeting) will be forthcoming on the AOS website under Events.

Hope you all had a great holiday and New Years.

Lynn Fuller, Chair
AOS Affiliated Societies Committee



Hear Ye, Hear Ye

Dues for the 2012-2013 year are now being accepted by Vivian at our next meeting.

Everyone who pays at our next meeting will get a ticket for a special raffle. You must be present to win.

Dues:

Single Member \$25

Two People \$35

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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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www.cospecies.com

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www.orchidworks.com!

MAE TANG ORCHIDS

Holidays designed especially for orchid enthusiasts.

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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