

**October 2018**

Meets third Monday of the month



***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

Dear Members

The auction is fast approaching and as you know it is our major fund raiser. We rely on the money we get to bring in interesting speakers, pay for the room, provide drinks, utensils, paper goods for the meetings and supply the raffle table.

You can help make the auction a success if you would bring in a division of one of your species to bolster the already great orchid species we have acquired from vendors.

Thanks for making COS the best society around.

Good Orchid growing,

Carlos

**NEXT MEETING:** MONDAY, October 15, 6:45 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Corbin Bldg, Fairchild Garden

Annual Auction

Preview 6:30 p.m., auction starts promptly at 7:00 p.m.

**October is the  
Auction**

Dear COS Members:

*The COALITION for ORCHID SPECIES*

*Proudly presents our*

**ANNUAL ORCHID  
AUCTION**

**Monday, October 15, @ 7pm  
at the Corbin Building,  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden  
10901 Old Cutler Rd, Miami, FL**

**The Auction is in conjunction with the October general meeting;  
there will be a Raffle, refreshments, and great orchid bargains!**

**Plant preview at 6:30; Auction begins at 7 p.m.  
See the October COS newsletter for more details.**

**We accept cash, check and credit card!**



**The Coalition  
for Orchid Species —  
where good friends meet for a  
good COS!**

**Find us at  
[www.cosspecies.com](http://www.cosspecies.com)**



# Coalición de Especies Orquídeas presenta Subasta de Orquídea



El lunes 15 Octubre a las 7:00 p.m.  
En el edificio Corbin,  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden  
10901 Old Cutler Rd, Miami, Fl

Preestreno a las 6:30 p.m.  
La subasta comienza a las at 7 p.m.

Rifa, refrigerios, ofertas!!  
Aceptamos efectivo y tarjeta de credito.



Judging Results for COS meeting held July 16, 2018

Judges: Lou Lodyga and Erna Maxwell

Judging Report for September 17, 2018

Blue Ribbons:

*C. guttata coerulea* - Victoria Clemente

*C. labiata* v. *rubra* - Larry Cox

*C. labiata* v. *semi-alba* - Larry Cox

*L. pumila* 'Maria Isabel' - Melana Davison

Red Ribbons:

*Brs. giroudiana* - Javier Morejon

*C. bowringiana coerulea* - Melana Davison

White ribbons:

*Enc. cochleata* - Jim and Linda Wheeler

Thank you for showing your blooms.

**The October meeting is the annual auction.**

**There will be no judging of plants. We look forward to seeing your species at the November meeting.**

## Silent Auction

Remember, we are a **SPECIES** society and we ask you only bring orchid species for our silent auction, not hybrids. We kindly ask that you not hover around the table, so others may also look at the plants that are offered for bid. **You must be a COS member to sell orchids at the silent auction.**



**PLEASE UPDATE  
YOUR EMAIL  
ADDRESS!**



*Catasetum multifidum* – posted on the COS Facebook page  
by Juan Fernandez Gomez of Brazil.

See our Facebook page for amazing photos of species orchids  
sent in by many of our **4,226** members!

**Advertisers Wanted!** Want to advertise your business in the COS newsletter? COS offers great rates for publishing your company business card in the newsletter each month. See Bill Capps or Melanie Trexler for more information!

**Newsletter Additions!** Have an orchid-related announcement? Have a fun or interesting personal story to tell about your trials and tribulations growing orchids in South Florida? Have a great orchid travel tale to tell? Send it to one of the newsletter editors by the first of the month, and we may add it to the next COS newsletter!



## NEWS \* NEWS \* NEWS

- Name badges and COS lanyards are now available for members! If you have recently paid your dues, come to the membership table for your name badge.
- Please submit your ideas for fundraising to Carlos Segrera or any COS board member—your ideas are valuable!
- See our monthly **orchid book sale** at the silent auction table — deep deep discounts on various orchid books!

Be sure to visit our Facebook page, where you can see more amazing species photos, learn from fellow species enthusiasts, and keep up to date on current COS events.



## October IN YOUR ORCHID COLLECTION

Excerpted from *Florida Orchid Growing: Month by Month* by Martin Motes. All rights reserved.

October is a month of change in South Florida. If the Romans had lived here where we do, they would have named this month for their two faced god Janus. Usually around the middle of the month, and certainly by the end of the month, the first strong cold front pushes into South Florida bringing to a close the monolithic heat and damp of summer and ushering in weather as most of the continent knows it, alternating periods of warmer and cooler. Although warm temperatures will persist for another month or so until the technical end of the hurricane season, each successive cold front foreshadowed by ever lessening rain storms will progressively cool our temperatures and dry our air. But days are shortening too, providing less hours of sunlight to heat the air and slowing the drying process. Nights are longer and cooler which produces the same effect, slower drying. Now we must start to move into the consciousness of winter and take greater care to insure that our plants are thoroughly dry before we water them again. The shorter days of October dictate that we rise even earlier to water if necessary. Each extra hour of daylight is to be cherished.

Many of our orchids are well aware of this sea change. The shortening days of late summer have told many genera to finish their growth and prepare to rest. We need to listen too. And look! The last smallest leaves of these highly seasonal plants will have unfolded at the tips of their new growths telling us that their growth cycle is finished for this year. Himalayan Dendrobiums of the Nobile type and of the section Callista (*D. aggregatum* et al.) now begin their five months of carefree existence in South Florida. They should be put in a bright spot and given no more water and above all, no more fertilizer until after they have bloomed in Spring. *Catasetums*, *Mormodes*, *Cynoches*, *Calanthes* and other deciduous types should be treated the same way. Whatever moisture nature provides in the increasingly heavy dew and the rains that usher in most cold fronts will be adequate for these plants whose native environment is a seasonally monsoon one like ours. Benign neglect suits these genera just fine and what a relief to the conscience of the ever busy orchidist! The truly devoted will group these genera together, preferably at the edge of the growing area and high up where they will receive the maximum of light and air circulation. Grouped thus, the chance of an accidental watering of these while taking care of the more thirsty genera is minimized. Another strategy is to tip the pots of these dormant genera on their sides thus eliminating much natural water fall and avoiding a misdirected hose spray. Some growers even remove plants that have finished both growing and flowering from their pots entirely. When new growth begins in the spring they will receive a fresh start in new medium.

Many *Cattleyas*, *laelias*, *oncidiums* and *Phalaenopsis*-type *dendrobiums* will be finishing their growths and should be hardened off with reduced water and fertilizer but not the Spartan regime of the deciduous type. Lower nitrogen fertilizer applied at a lower rate and with less frequency will make these genera happy and prevent them from breaking into unwanted off-season growth that frequently hampers flowering as well. Many growers tend to use higher phosphorus, lower nitrogen fertilizers of the "Bloom Booster" type during the cooler weather. These should be spaced further apart as well, at ten to twelve day intervals. Less frequent watering will also do for these genera. When the frontal rains pass through, check to see that the pots are thoroughly wet by giving them the "heft" test and if they are not heavy enough "top them up." Let them dry 'hard' before watering again. In cool weather especially, less is more.

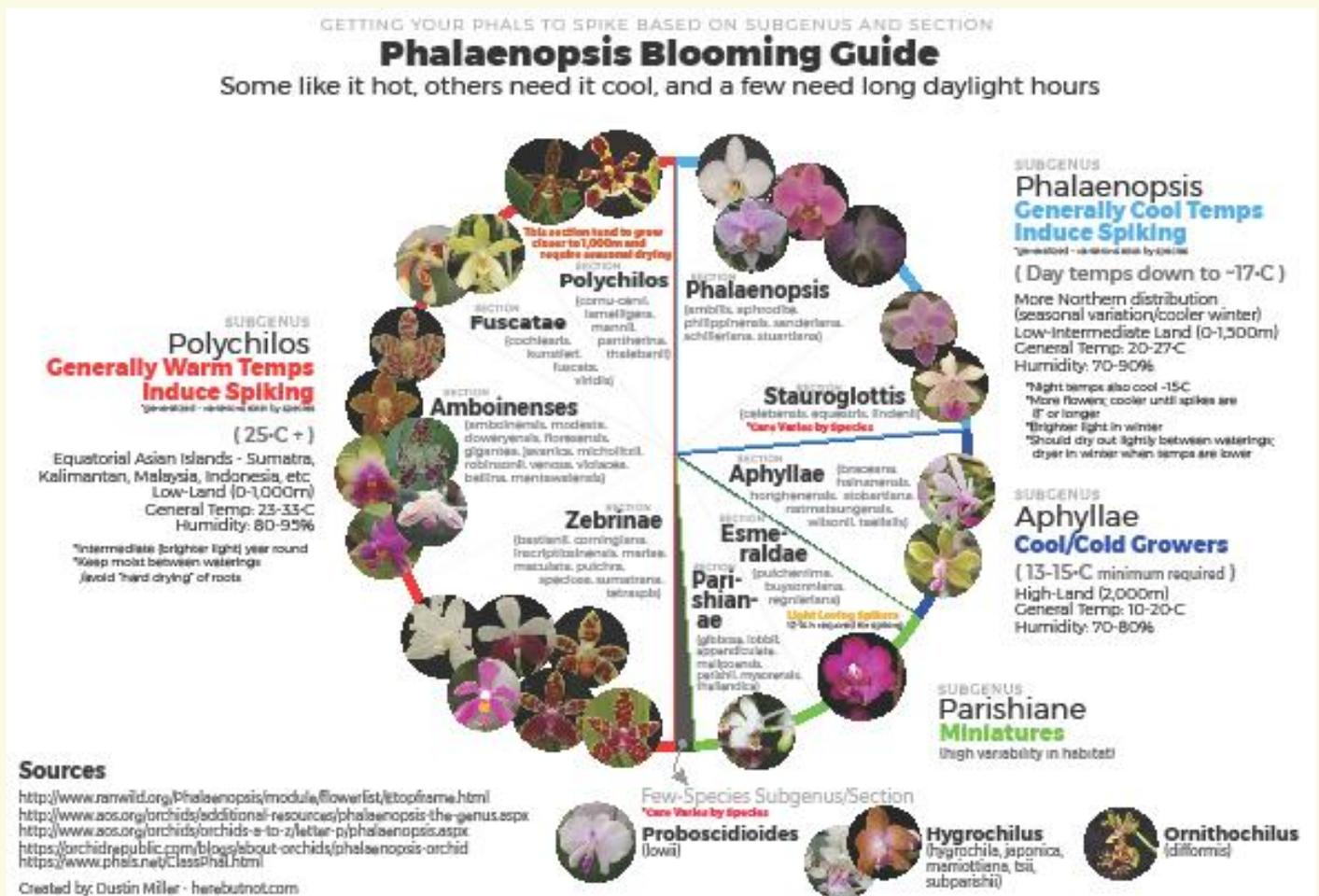
Monopodial orchids like *Vanda* and *Phalaenopsis* which want to grow continuously, feel the change too. The broad swing of day to night temperature stimulates flower spike initiation in these genera. You can spur them on to greater excitement by giving them a shot of high Phosphorus 'Bloom Booster' fertilizer just before or just after the sudden drop in night temperatures precipitated by the passing of a cold front. For most of the year "Bloom Booster" fertilizer appears to be in fact "Bloom Blocker" but (perhaps from faith rather than science) high phosphorus seems to have the desired effect when the first cold snaps are also halting vegetative growth. We like Miller's Solugro (12-48-8) because it contains none of the ugly blue, flower, clothes and hand staining dye. Other brands (with or without dye) are equally effective. Look for a very high middle number and a relatively low first number or ask at your garden center for a 'starter solution' which is the moniker for these fertilizers when used in planting out vegetable or annual seedlings. Because the nitrogen level is lower, you can use a full tablespoon of these or more, per gallon.

This month when those brief periods of dry weather permit growers to think of applying other pesticides, they are tempted to think of giving their starving charges fertilizer as well. This is generally not a good idea with any fertilizer containing phosphorous (the second in the numerical series of three numbers). Phosphorus changes the PH of water and tends to interact with many other chemicals reducing their effectiveness. In September we need as much fire power from our chemical arsenal as we can get. A much better strategy in general to add some nutrients employs potassium nitrate ( $KNO_3$ ) 13-0-43 at a rate of 1 tbs per gallon of water. One should ask for the type usually referred to as "spray grade". In general sympodial orchids are reaching the end of their growth cycle as September progresses so a reduction in nitrogen from the potassium nitrate substitution or a missed fertilizer application usually does little harm to orchids grown outside in South Florida. Soft cane *dendrobiums* of the "Nobile" types will actually benefit from the reduction in feeding. It's time to wean these deciduous types before cutting them off entirely from the grub next month. *Vandas* and *Phalaenopsis* on the other

# Phalaenopsis Care:

## Mastering Summer vs Winter Blooming Phals

how do we know which Phalaenopsis need warm vs. cool temps to flower? First, we do a lot of research, then we break out a graphic design program and make an infographic to help us remember it later...



hand can be fertilized as often as weather permits and will bloom all the stronger for this extra attention in the coming months.

Cooler weather calls our attention to our plants' needs for trace elements. Chief among these is magnesium, often described as the 'major' minor element. Magnesium deficiency shows up in orchids as a reddening of the foliage particularly when the plant is stressed. This color change is frequently attributed to cold, but cold is merely the efficient cause: the material cause is lack of magnesium. Hopefully the new fertilizer regimen outlined in the July Newsletter will minimize or eliminate the reddening by keeping the magnesium level up in the plants. But... Epsom salts (MgS) is the best and most readily available source of magnesium. This can be applied with Potassium Nitrate (KNO<sub>4</sub>) at the rate of one tablespoon each per gallon. Potassium Nitrate has the formula 14-0-44. The missing number in the middle is Phosphorus. In combination with our highly alkaline water phosphorus tends to react with magnesium and the other metals of the trace element group. Never apply magnesium and the other trace elements in combination with fertilizers containing phosphorus. A general purpose trace element mixture can be added to the mix of magnesium sulfate and potassium nitrate at the rate recommended on the label..( Concentrations vary).

## 2018 Board and Committee Members

### Officers:

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| President:     | Carlos Segrera   |
| 1st Vice Pres: | Katria Whitfield |
| 2nd Vice Pres: | Erna Maxwell     |
| Treasurer:     | Melana Davison   |
| Secretary:     | Lou Lodgya       |

### Committees:

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Newsletter Editor : | Melanie Trexler/ William Capps                                    |
| Membership:         | Vivian Waddell  |
| Raffle:             | Carmen Segrera  |
| Silent Auction:     | Cynthia White   |
| Photography:        | Carmen Segrera/ William Capps                                     |
| AOS Rep:            | Lynn Corson   |
| Webpage Liaison:    | Melanie Trexler   |
| Refreshments:       | Lorraine Lee  |
| Trustees:           | Michele De Bianchi, Juraj Kojs, Cynthia White, and Javier Morejon |

HAPPY GROWING, EVERYONE!