

June 2018

Meets every third Monday of the month



### ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

Dear Members,

Well, even though summer is not officially here (June 21) it sure feels like it. Let us remind you again that with all the rain we received recently, and what is there to come, we should be extra careful and on guard against fungus, rot and snails.

Summer also brings us longer days, and our orchids will need more food. And in those rare days when it doesn't rain, water a bit more. Don't forget to have all your repotting done by now.

If you did not come to the May meeting, you missed a great lecture. Lourens Groblers spoke about the South Africa orchids and we were the only society that had the privilege of having a speaker from that part of the world. We all enjoyed it!!!

This month's speaker will be Tomas Bajza, and will be speaking on the Giant World of Miniature Dendrobium's. I think we all love dendrobiums and should not be missed.

We won't be here next month, we will be on vacation and Katria will be taking over, she was a past President and she always makes us laugh.

Hope you all have a great summer and happy growing!

Your President

Carlos

# This Month's Speaker

## Tomas Bajza



### Giant World of Miniature Dendrobiums

Hi to all orchid lovers! To introduce myself — my name is Tomas Bajza and I am the orchid addict — I call it lover though I originally came to the USA from the Czech Republic, and settled down in hot tropical Miami, Florida some 15+ years ago. I adored orchids during my teenage years, but there were not many to see in my country at the time. My neighbor grew a few of the Paphs and Phals amongst her windows, and when they bloomed, I could just go across the street from our house to hers and stare at that window for hours! I always dreamed about growing orchids somewhere warm one day! My orchid beginnings were funny and sad at the same time. I managed to obtain few orchid plants back in the Czech, two Phalaenopsis plants, and one Cymbidium plant. I had neither knowledge nor options to do some research (the Internet was really nowhere), so I grew as I felt. That approach was of course totally wrong. My poor Phals were overwatered constantly and kept by the window right above the heating, so the humidity was at zero. They must have hated me all these year as they were suffering and barely surviving, but I got at least one spike once, before they both went to the orchid heaven. My Cymbidium was even “better”. That sucker did nothing except growing leaves for years. Then I went to college and moved out of the house, completely forgetting about that plant. Once I came back home in the fall, and my mom called me outside to our courtyard. When I got there, she pulled out from behind her Oleander bush my forgotten Cymbidium with absolutely amazing long spike carrying some 40+ green waxy blooms. I was shocked, as I was not able to bloom this plant for many years. So I asked her what she did with it. She replied, “I just throw it outside behind the Oleander bushes early spring, water it with the hose when watering oleanders, and fertilize it with chicken poop when fertilizing my oleanders, that’s it!” I was laughing my ass off about my over-caring this plant for some four years with no success whilst my mother just threw it outside behind the bushes. And that’s it, she gets the blooms! Even though I am living in Florida surrounded by orchids for some 15 years, I got into growing orchid only 9 years ago, starting with the usual grocery store selling Phalaenopsis and Dendrobiums, slowly adding some Cattleyas and Vandas since these were the orchids that everyone in Florida grows! All of these were large orchids and mostly hybrids. Some 7 years ago on one of the orchid forums, someone posted about Lepanthopsis astrophora — that was the very first time I have ever seen a miniature orchid. I had no clue that such a thing even exist! I fall in love totally and completely, and immediately ordered a few. When they came, they were even smaller than I ever imagined! That was it, I’ve got bitten by a “huge” miniature orchid bug — and in the past years I was fortunate enough to collect hundreds of micro and miniature orchid species, many of them pretty rare. I am a very stubborn grower — I do not listen to anything, and I do not like the word “impossible”. I like all orchids, but I do love huge amount of cold- or inter-

mediate-growing species. Many growers in Florida told me that I cannot grow this and that here, because it is too hot or they are too hard to grow. I do not believe any of this till I try myself and either succeed or fail! Through extended research, reading and being active on different orchid boards and in orchid groups, I've learned tremendously. I do not consider myself in any way orchid expert, but someone once told me that a beginner orchid grower is someone who killed less than 10 plants, advance orchid grower is someone who killed more than 100, and orchid professional is someone who killed over 1000 and doesn't count anymore. By this yardstick, I do belong to advance growers I've been very fortunate with meeting and becoming friends with many international orchid growers and nursery owners. At the beginning, I bought only plants sold by the US nurseries. But in the past 5+ years, all of my orchids come from abroad. Buying orchids from the US growers is safe and the majority of the plants come nicely established. Unfortunately there are no offerings for the species that I am looking for at this stage of my growing. I was really pushed to search and start my own importing because I could not just find any of the plants I wanted to own. Imported plants are 99% bare root divisions and they need extra love and care. There is another "love" I do have, love for photography. With growing miniature orchid collection, there were endless opportunities for taking the pictures of these amazing, sometimes microscopical blooms. Posting my pictures online caused quite a "buzz" leading to invitations from various orchid societies to provide speeches for their members about growing miniature orchids and cold growing species in hot Florida environment.

Members can PRE ORDER plants for speech delivery, it will be from our website: <https://tarzanegroup.com/>



# Notes:

 **Members**: if you bring in plants for show and tell you will receive one raffle ticket whether you bring in one plant or five.

 **Members**: at the end of the year Holiday Party with the most blue ribbons will receive \$50, the member with the most red ribbons will receive \$25 and the member with the most white ribbons will receive \$15.

 **Members** may also get one raffle ticket if they volunteer for a COS related activity.

 Robert Husted of Lori Travel suggested that interested parties to either the Medellin, Colombia show, or the San Jose, Costa Rica show contact him directly and he would work out the best air/hotel price, plus suggest side trips.

# May's Collage



# Silent Auction

Remember we are a SPECIES society and we ask you only bring orchid species for our silent auction.

If you want to bid on an orchid, please decide how much you are willing to pay, bid that amount and then walk away from the table.

We kindly ask that you not hover around the table so others may see the what we are offering.

**You must be a member to sell orchids at the silent auction.**

# Tasks for June

- Careful watering this month often means no watering at all. Arise early to enjoy the cool and water only when truly necessary. Space plants amply. Good air circulation is essential across the coming months.
- Re-pot Phals and re-set Vandas. Make sure that plants are firmly set in their new abodes.
- Begin or continue a disease prevention program with the prophylactic application of Thiophanate Methyl (Cleary's 3336) and Alliette or Banrot.
- Clean up growing area and plants. Remove dead leaves from plants and the ground. Pull weeds.
- Prune trees and shrubs to increase light and air circulation.
- Apply snail bait lightly early in the month and again lightly mid-month.

Brought to you by Motes Orchids, thank you Dr. Motes

Join the Motes Orchids community on Facebook!

# Raffle

**Dear Members and Guests,**

**One of the ways our society raises money to fund all the activities of the club is with the raffle. We use the money to help put food on our table, help to buy the Christmas plants for every member, help pay for the room, and provide plants for our displays at the major orchid festivals. Please think of all the wonderful activities our club helps to provide and do not pass up our raffle table. Your donation helps Besides the orchid you may win, your donation helps to keep our club alive.**



## COS Judging Report for May 21, 2018

**Judges:** Lou Lodyga, Rolando Armenteros and Erna Maxwell

### **Blue Ribbons:**

Brassavola nodosa - Jorge Merlo  
Cattleya mossiae - Carmen and Carlos Segrera  
Chiloschista lunifera - Jose Gancedo  
Chiloschista viridiflava - Jose Gancedo  
Dendrobium sulcatum - Carmen and Carlos Segrera  
Encyclia ceratistes - Lisa Coello  
Encyclia tampense - Victoria Clemente  
Maxillaria tenuifolia - Lynn Corson  
Maxillaria tenuifolia - Carmen and Carlos Segrera  
Myrmecophila thompsoniana v. alba - Victoria Clemente  
Paphiopedilum philippinense - Larry Cox  
Paphiopedilum randsii - Larry Cox  
Paphiopedilum stonei - Javier Morejon  
Tetramica canaliculata - Carmen and Carlos Segrera

### **Red Ribbons:**

Bulbophyllum lobbii 'Sonoma Gold' HCC/AOS - Javier Morejon  
Dendrobium linguella - Lorraine Lee  
Oncidium sphacelatum - Jim and Linda Wheeler  
Zygostates alleniana - Carmen and Carlos Segrera

### **White Ribbons:**

Bulbophyllum capillipes - Javier Morejon  
Myrmecophila tibicinis - Ralph Hernandez

Thank you for showing your blooms. You will receive one extra raffle ticket for showing your plants. Species only please.

Erna Maxwell, Judging Chair

# Your 2018 Board Members

## Officers:

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

## Committees:

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