



JANUARY 2024

Orchid Society of Coral Gables

The Orchid Society of Coral Gables is a non-profit organization established for the purpose of showing the cultural and economic importance of the orchid, as well as the intrinsic beauty, and biological and ecological importance of this group of plants. We promote the scientific research and study of orchids including their classification, evolution, propagation, culture, care, and development. Additionally, we support the conservation of orchids in nature, and disseminate educational information and knowledge about the orchid family to the general public.

www.oscg.club

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January Meeting • Tuesday, January 9, 2024 • 7:30 pm

Larry Cox, orchid hobbyist extraordinaire

"A Slipper Collection for South Florida"

We are pleased to have one of our own members, one of our best growers, as the speaker this month! Larry Cox is well known to all of us and we all learn so much from his expertise. His talk, "A Slipper Collection for South Florida" will feature his choice of 25 slipper orchids from three genera which he recommends for our climate. What a treasure trove of knowledge!

Larry Cox acquired his first orchid, a Cattleya, in 1972. His second was a Paphiopedilum, Paph. Maudiae 'Magnificum.' The Cattleya is long gone, but he still has a piece of the Paph.

When he began with Paphs, he commonly heard, "You can't grow those in South Florida," but the first one lived and bloomed, and the paphiopedilum collection continued to grow. In the mid 1980's most of the other orchids were sold or given away, all for the love of paphs.

In 1989 he moved from his South Miami residence to a more spacious property in the farming district of southern Miami-Dade County where he built his dream greenhouse of 3000 square feet. He has suffered setbacks, such as hurricane Andrew in 1992, but with perseverance and with the discovery of new Paphiopedilum species, and the consequent new hybrids, Larry's love of paphiopedilums has been renewed over and over again.

In 1983 Larry won his first AOS award for Paph. Maudiae coloratum 'Elektra' AM/AOS, one of the first vinicolors. Since then, his orchids have earned sixty AOS awards, including five FCC's.

Don't miss this exciting meeting! Maybe Paph's will become your new love for 2024!



President's Message



“Let our New Year’s resolution be this: we will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.”

*~Goran Persson,
Former Prime Minister
of Sweden*

Dear members:

Happy New Year to everyone!!! This year is sure to be a good one for all of us! I can hardly believe it is 2024, I think the years go faster as I age.

Hopefully you have all been watching the weather closely. This is the time of year we have those short but dangerous cold fronts coming through. When this happens, if you can, cover or bring in your plants that are not cold-tolerant.

Our Christmas Party was a wonderful success. I am so glad we had a terrific turnout. I hope everyone had as much fun as I did. Melana made this a night to remember. The room was beautifully decorated. The centerpieces were great and made terrific raffle prizes. She also cooked our turkey and ham. Melana came up with fun and engaging games and the name tags she printed were appreciated by all.

I want to thank Alina Perez and Bill Capp for coming mid afternoon to help set everything up. Alina, who was also in charge of the food, did an amazing job. And Bill, who also oversaw the raffle table,



made every go smoothly, as he always does when we have other raffles at our meetings.

I also want to thank Jim Wheeler and his son, Daniel, who came early and brought all the items we needed from the storeroom, as they do each month, both people are such hard workers. All the appetizers, main courses and desserts that were brought were delicious.

And lastly but certainly not least, a wonderful thank you to Rachel and her beautiful children. They were all so cute dressed up in their elf costumes and handing out yummy treats. Rachel (Melana’s and Jim’s daughter) also came early in the afternoon and was vital to setting up the exceptional room for the party.

The **Tamiami International Orchid Festival** is just around the corner and will take place **January 12-14**. And, most importantly, **the Society NEEDS YOUR PLANTS!** Review your orchid collection to see which orchids you can bring in for the display. On **January 11** please bring your plants to the Fairgrounds between 9am and 1pm for our display and remember no orchid is too small or large. We will need every color for our display. When you come, stay a while, and help us to put together our beautiful display. This is an easy and fun way to earn your required volunteer hours. See more info on the next page.

And don’t forget, it’s time to renew your membership! We have lots of great new ideas for 2024 and we are going to make this a great year!

See you soon,

Laura Aiken

We Need Your Help on a Committee!!

There are many things that need to be done to make a Society like ours great. The Board has set up Committees for each major function that makes up our meetings and events.

Every member should be on at least one committee. The Society is made up of all members. Every member can do something to help. Each committee has big jobs and small jobs. Even helping with a small job helps the society overall.

Please review the list below and think seriously about how you can help and what committee you can join.

- ⇒ Hospitality Committee - help with dinner at meetings and judges breakfast and lunch at show
- ⇒ Show Display Committee - help coordinate and put in displays for society. 2 large displays and 2 tabletops per year

- ⇒ Christmas Party Committee - from start to finish, lots of stuff to do
- ⇒ Membership Committee - help at fback desk, maintain membership files, keep in touch with members
- ⇒ Welcome Committee - work at back table, introduce new members to benefits, Marketing Committee - website, Facebook, Instagram, newsletter.

Some of these committees will be 3 people, some more. Whatever the size, these are all things that need to be handled to continue to have the greatest Society ever!

Please sign up at the next meeting!!!



“No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another.”

-James Addison (1672-1719)

Help with our Tamiami Display! We want to win again!

Ok, members, this is one of the times we really need your help!

There are a couple of areas we need your help. **First, we need your plants! All sizes, all colors!** Please bring your plants to the fairgrounds Thursday, January 11, between 9am and 1pm. If you can't get there at that time, please email Laura at lauraaiken@aol.com and we can work it out!

And if you can **stay to help** out with the display, that is great! Any amount of time is fine. And anyone else who would like to help with the display can come anytime on Thursday, but display has to be done by 5. And for those you helping, snacks, lunch, and drinks

will be available for workers from the society.

Second, we still have some spots available for **helping on the Membership table**. It's a fun and easy job, and you get **free entrance** to the show! **Friday is full but we still need help on Saturday and Sunday**. *Please think about helping and remember, it counts toward your volunteer hours requirement for the year! Please email Laura at lauraaiken@aol.com and let her know you can help!*

The society needs everyone to do their part. The more hands we have, the less work there is!

From the Membership Committee! Important! Please read thoroughly!

It's that time of year again, time to pay your OSCG membership dues. The dues are the same, \$30 for single, \$50 for two people at same address. We will be accepting this amount Jan-March. After the March meeting, the dues go up to \$35 and \$55.

We would like make sure that everyone knows what is expected from a member in order to receive full benefits and a Christmas plant. Every member is expected to attend at least 2 meetings and bring food for the dinner table at least 2 times. In addition, each member must help the society with at least 2 volunteer hours. We will be speaking on the volunteer opportunities at the meetings.

So this means, please sign in at door for attendance, sign up with the kitchen if you bring food, and make sure that you get a Volunteer receipt from event chairperson when you work an event, or meeting.

If you've had any changes in your address, email, or phone number, please fill in the following application so we can update our membership files. Thank you.



Beginner's Class - 6:45 pm, Winterizing your Orchids and General

How to Prep Your Orchids for the Upcoming Cold Weather and Answers to General Questions.

We've already had a few short periods of cold weather, but what do we do if it will be more than a few days, or colder? Jim will help you get ready in case this happens. He also will be speaking on general orchid culture and maintenance.

If there is time, Jim is always ready to answer any orchid questions you may have. See you a 6:45pm!



Hospitality Corner

January has become, over the past few years, our Chicken Dinner month! If you want to bring an entrée, bring chicken! It is easy for you to pick up or for those who like to cook, chicken dishes are fairly easy.

If anyone wants to bring a vegan entrée, we have several vegan members who would appreciate it! And of course, you can bring sides, salads, and desserts, whatever you desire. (We do need more than just chicken!)





Orchid Society of Coral Gable Membership/Renewal Application

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ Zip Code _____

PHONE: (Home) _____ (other) _____

Email: (Important!) _____

PRINT CLEARLY:

Birthday: _____ (month/date)

Business name _____ Occupation _____

American Orchid Society member? _____ Expiration date: _____

I would like to become involved and assist with the following: (Please check at least one.)

- Phone Committee Refreshments Newsletter
- Orchid Shows (2 per year) Auction Public Relations
- Library Welcoming Committee Membership Committee
- Other _____

Do you consider yourself a beginning, intermediate or advanced orchid grower (circle one)

Have you taken any orchid culture classes? ____ Where _____

Do you have any feedback on club programs from this year or any ideas for programs you would like to have for next year? email a board member or Linda Matanis at lgorchid@att.net.

(Dues are: \$30 single membership / \$50 couple - same household)

Upcoming Events

Orchid Show & Sale Valentine's Weekend

February 10-11, 2024
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

C. Mark Jones x
Lc. Lory Ann



Photo:
Scott Joffe

Presented by

Boca Raton *Orchid Society*

Held inside Don Estridge Middle School campus
SHOW SITE: SAFE SCHOOLS INSTITUTE
1790 Spanish River Blvd., Boca Raton
Free Parking

ADMISSION: \$5.00 CASH ONLY
Children 12 & under FREE

Visit us at: www.brosonline.org

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15th Annual

INTERNATIONAL
**ORCHID
& GARDEN
FESTIVAL**

Saturday & Sunday
April 6th & 7th
9AM - 4PM

BONNET HOUSE
MUSEUM & GARDENS

SAWGRASS NATURE CENTER
& WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

**ORCHID & PLANT
FESTIVAL**

Saturday & Sunday
February 24 & 25, 2024
9:30 am - 4:00 pm
Admission: \$8

sawgrassnaturecenter.org
954.752.9453

*January/February Checklist
from the American Orchid Society*

...by Ned Nash and James Rose

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.

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.

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.

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.

Orchid Tasks for January - by Dr. Martin Motes

1. *Water judiciously; only in the morning.*
2. *Run plants on the dry side to preserve the possibility of using water for cold protection.*
3. *Flush excess fertilizer salts from Cattleyas and sympodials.*
4. *Spray for mites, and then again in 7-10 days.*

January in Your Orchid Collection - by Dr. Martin

January is somewhat like December but in reverse, with each succeeding day bringing longer hours of sunlight until days are long enough that afternoons return at the end of the month bringing extra sunshine to warm us after the extra sharp cold snaps. January, like December, is cold and dry, in fact even colder and drier. Dry is good, cold can be very bad. We need to accentuate the positive by especially careful watering in January. By keeping our plants as dry as possible and spacing our waterings as far apart as possible, we conserve our potential to use water to protect our plants from the cold, keeping our powder dry, as it were. In January water early, water thoroughly when you do and do so sparingly. The cooler overall temperatures of January are much less dehydrating even to plants which have received less water. Remember, many of our orchids come from seasonally dry and cool climates not so different from South Florida.

Many orchids are equipped to handle the drier cooler conditions of our January. A good strat-

egy is to “top-up” the light watering that our plants receive with the passing showers that each successive cold front brings. This slight additional irrigation may prove to be all the watering that many genera need. Such parsimony, preserves the possibility of using water on truly cold nights to warm our plants.

Water is the only feasible source of heat available to plants grown in the open, under trees, in shade houses or on patios in South Florida. Ground water here (and in most of the rest of the world is about 63 F. (16C). Water out of municipal systems is not far different. On truly cold nights turning on the water can be of great benefit to our plants, provided that they have not been over-watered in the days and weeks preceding, thus inviting the ever present fungi to do more damage than the cold. For this reason as well, in general, orchids are better off dry until temperatures approach frost or freezing.

The logic for maintaining plants dry is not only to minimize fungal problems but also because cold air is typically very dry air. If plants are wet in very dry and rapidly moving air say 10 or more MPH, evaporative cooling can take place, chilling our orchids further and faster than they would if dry. When the water goes on it needs to be in heavy volume and it needs to stay on to keep the plants thoroughly bathed in its warmth. Very still air on the other hand, presents a different danger as frost is possible at temperatures higher than is commonly realized. In calm air frost can form at higher elevations and settle in on plants while the surface temperature is only in the upper 30's. The best forecast for nights when the tem-

January Climate Data
Average high: 76.5
Average low: 59.6
Average mean: 68.1
Average rainfall: 1.88"



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perature will hover near 40 is a light wind of 2-5 miles per hour. This light wind mixes the warm air near the surface and draws warm from the earth. Clear, cloudless, still nights with bright shining stars elevate the spirit but harbingers frost. Forecasts of temperatures below 40 F should stimulate us to action.

If it is not practical to bring all the *Phalaenopsis*, vandas and hard cane dendrobiums into the house or garage, think of using water to help protect them. Shade cloth or even patio screen hold in a surprising amount of heat like an lacy Mantilla. Under screen, a fine mist head attached to a hose and left running beneath the bench or plant rack will provide several degrees of additional warmth that will often sufficiently temper the chill and ward off any light frost settling in.

Growers with swimming pools frequently turn on the recirculating pump to keep a supply of warm water near the pool's surface where it can add heat to the ambient environment. A few degrees of warmth frequently makes all the difference to our sensitive orchids.

In more open areas not protected by a permanent irrigation system, an oscillating sprinkler at the end of a garden hose is very effective. These are readily available at Home Depot and garden shops for a few dollars. On frosty nights, start the water at bedtime and let it run until the sun is up. The extra water once or twice in a month will do no harm to orchids that have been properly and judiciously watered the remainder of the month. In fact, these occasions present the opportunity to be sure that excess fertilizer salts have been leached from the pots and medium. A good work can be born of necessity!

Remember that Himalayan dendrobiums and "warm growing" *Cymbidium* hybrids will positively relish temperatures down to 32F and a light frost is just the ticket for great bloom. Keep the water off these!

In the drought of January, mites, which affect nearly all genera of orchids, continue to be a serious problem that will only get worse. They will reach a crescendo in March and April but January



is a good time to scotch them. *Paphiopedilum* and other softy leaved genera are particularly susceptible but no genus is free of them. One theory on why deciduous genera such as *Catasetum*, *Calanthe* and others lose their leaves hypothesizes that this totally rids them of mites.

Being totally rid of mites is a good thing! Sometimes this is easier said than done because mites reproduce with such voluminous speed. Their life cycle from egg to reproductive adult being is as short as twelve days. In order to control mites one must achieve as total a kill of the population as possible. Total control can only be achieved with two successive sprays. After spraying for mites initially, one *must* spray again in 7 — 10 days. No single spray is totally effective in killing both adults and eggs and a second spraying is necessary to kill any survivors before they can reproduce. Oil as recommended in the December chapter at 1.5 oz per gal followed in 7-10 days by soap at the rate of 2 oz per gallon is very effective. These treatments are also quite effective against scale and mealy bugs which thrive on drought as well. Be sure your plants are well watered the day before applying both oil and soap and be sure that you cover thoroughly all leaf surfaces especially the lower ones which are mites favorite hide outs.

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For those who wish to be more aggressive, the University of Florida IFAS recommended chemicals for mite control are:

Avid 0.15 EC

Kelthane T/O

Mavarik Aquaflo

Talstar Flowable

Always follow label instructions for use. Any of the can be alternated with the soap or the oil in the 7-10 day cycle.

Controlling mites pays huge dividends! You'll be surprised at the extra vigor your plants display.

Cold Watch

As cold is a major theme of this month, a review of some factors effecting temperatures in South Florida should be particularly valuable to new comers in the wide world of orchid growing.

While we bask in the warm glow of a tourist board's vision of winter, (made all the warmer by thoughts of our envious friends and relatives stuck in the northern snow and ice) we should be mindful that January can produce quite severe cold. The majority of hard freezes in Florida take place in January, and even short of that catastrophe, the month usually brings the coldest weather of the year. We need to keep a

Sign up to receive Dr. Motes'

newsletters at

<http://redlandpress.com/subscribe.html>

You can also text ORCHIDS to 22828.

sharp eye on the weather reports while remembering that in our almost island of Florida a number of factors influence the severity of the cold which will impact us.

First the shape of the cold front interacting with the shape of the peninsula. The weather that delights the tourist board and all of us while plunging most of the US into the throes of ice and snow usually result from particularly large, slow-moving masses of cold air that seep downward over a broad front also cover the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic as they progress southward. These tempering bodies of water bathe the cold to merely refreshingly brisk temperatures.

More dangerous to our plants are the smaller, tighter, fast-moving fronts which plunge like a dagger of cold straight down the peninsula to the tropical heart of South Florida. Such fronts typically spawn the freezes and severe plant-damaging cold that is of the greatest concern to orchidists and other plant people. These Siberian Express fronts bring winds out of the Northwest that are un-influenced by the benign, protective bodies of water flanking the peninsula as they drive down the central landmass of Florida. When the winds from an approaching front start out from the southwest and move gradually to the northwest and then quickly to the north and northeast, we can expect cold nights and warm days that reasonably well-protected orchids not only tolerate but in some case actually relish. The more savage fast moving fronts where winds start in the Northwest and stay there are the ones to send us thinking of moving plants or providing additional heat.

Wind direction is always critical in South Florida. Because of the peninsula's decided eastward cant, winds from the north in much of South Florida are in fact relatively mild. North winds here are blowing across the warm Gulf Stream. The first shift to the northeast absolutely spells relief as the warm Atlantic has absorbed the cold.

Wind speed is also important. Strong winds at low temperatures chill our plants more rapidly, exposing them to additional hours of chilling. “Wind chill factor” has no relevance to plants until the actual air temperature drops to a level unacceptable to the plant. After that, the more rapidly the plant itself’s temperature falls to that damaging level and the longer it stays there the worse the case. Wind speed enters the equation only if the final low temperature is below our plants’ tolerance. Wind breaks of vegetation or manmade are always to be sought. Native epiphytic orchids hide out in the most protected hammocks and sloughs. We can learn from them.



Dead, still air looms with another threat: radiational cooling which can allow frost generated at higher levels of the atmosphere to settle in on our plants even when the air at the surface is only in the upper 30's. These frosts typically occur when the front has passed leaving such low humidity that there is no moisture in the air to retain ground heat which radiates quickly into the cold reaches of space. Light winds of 2-5 miles an hour are our friends on these nights. They stir additional heat from the ground and keep the colder upper air from settling in.

Relative humidity also has a profound effect on temperatures. Dry, clear air allows heat to radiate out into space. Those bright starry nights are beautiful but as Good King Wenceslas knew they are not necessarily our comforters. The best measure of the dryness of the air relative to cold is the dew point. When water vapor is wrung from the air an incredible amount of energy is released and the heat of transformation raises the air temperature a degree or two. Because of this phenomenon, the dew point is usually the closest measure of the coldest temperature that will be reached in the night. Particularly on still clear nights it should be monitored closely.

Wind direction, wind speed, dew point — where does one find these on a chilly night? At the Florida Agricultural Weather Network (FAWN), a system of automated weather monitoring stations, as close as your computer. There will be a station near you. There are also several at points north of the nearest location that give data on conditions that are affecting areas through which the cold front is moving toward us. FAWN is updated every 15 minutes



THE 2024 TAMiami

INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FESTIVAL

JANUARY 12, 13 & 14 • 11 AM - 6 PM DAILY
(PURCHASE EARLY ADMISSION TICKETS TO ENTER AT 9 AM)

TICKETS AND INFO AT ORCHIDFESTIVAL.COM

90+ ORCHID GROWERS,
RARE PLANT AND ALLIED VENDORS
 BEAUTIFUL EXHIBITS • KIDS UNDER 12 FREE

Progress of the Season, December 2023

- by Dr. Martin Motes

An exceptionally wet December has brought to a close an exceptionally wet year. So much rain brings us back to the most basic principle of orchid growing, orchids need to dry out. All epiphytic orchids are locked in an evolutionary struggle with their mortal enemies, fungi. The most important knowledge an orchid grower can possess is to know the degree to which various genera need to dry out. In general, if a *Vanda* looks like it should be watered, water it, if a *Cattleya* looks like it needs water, water it tomorrow, and if a *Phalaenopsis* looks like it needs water, you probably should

December has been unusually warm as well as wet. This warmth has allowed Thrips which are usually dormant at this time of year to make some ugly appearances. If the warmth of this winter persists, be prepared to deal with them when temperatures rise into the 80's. While the alternative applications of oil followed by soap outlined in previous newsletters and in *Florida Orchid Growing* are usually aimed at mites, they are also very effective against Thrips have watered it yesterday. The drying needs of other genera are elucidated in *Florida Orchid Growing*.

Our vandas are delighting in this unexpected warmth and need to be fed on every 5th to 6th watering. Meanwhile, fertilizer for most cattleyas and other sympodial orchids should be studiously avoided. This wet, warm year, it will be challenging to bloom dendrobiums of sections *Callista* and *Dendrobium*. These Himalayan species and their hybrids flower best when subjected to cold stress which may be quite limited this year. They also respond to drought stress and bright light. Put them in as bright of light as they will tolerate and let them dry out thoroughly.

One drawback of the extra warmth is that snails and slugs which usually take the winter off are still hard at work. Remember, always apply snail bait very lightly with the smallest pellets spread a foot or so apart. Days are also warm enough to rouse *Thrips* from dormancy. Scout for them. Use the techniques elucidated in *Fla. Vanda Growing* to control them.

As we continue to receive more days with glorious warmth and bright light than we perhaps deserve (or at could reasonably expect), we are reminded why we live in South Florida.



Holiday Party 2023



More Holiday Party 2023

