



APRIL 2025

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

Highlights in this Issue

NO Beginner's Class YES Silent Auction

Because of the format of this meeting, there will be no beginner's class. But there will be silent auction.

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April Tips from Dr. Motes

Spring is coming!
Repotting is starting!



Recipes, Cookbook, Wow!

A new venture! OSCG
Cookbook!

Get your recipes in now!

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Member Spotlight!

This person is a lead in all our displays!

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**April Meeting • Tuesday, April 1, 2025 • 7:30 pm
Members Night!**

Four of Our Own Members Share Their Knowledge!

Larry Cox, Tom Rothrock, Jim Davison and Melana Davison

It's Our Member's Night - the yearly event when some of our experienced growers share their expertise with cultural tips and demonstrations. This year we will feature Jim Davison teaching Cattleya Culture, and Mounting, Larry Cox focusing on Paphiopedilums and Pragmipediums, Tom Rothrock teaching on Phalaenopsis, and Melana Davison discussing Catasetum, Bulbophyllum, Vanda and Other Orchid Culture. Members will be free to go to the station where they feel they need the most help, and to circulate and ask questions.



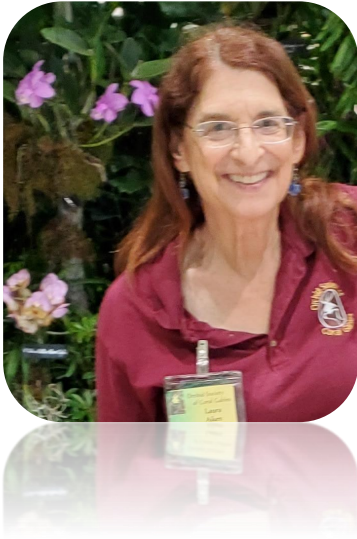
Larry Cox has a winning way with Paphiopedilums! A long-time member, Larry has been growing orchids since the 70's and, after growing all types, decided many years ago that Paphs were his favorite. This favoritism for that genus has resulted in many awards and a whole lot of Paph knowledge to share with us!

Jim Davison is always willing to share his knowledge and experience with growing orchids. His personal orchid education began when he was just 17 years old and continues today. This year, besides speaking on Cattleyas, Jim will be sharing the a,b,c's of mounting your orchids. Many orchids feel right at home on a mount and Jim will show how to help them thrive 'au naturel'.



(Continued on page 3)

President's Message



Dear Members:

This month is our **once-a-year Member's Program**, where we have separate tables with our members sharing their tried-and-true wisdom on many species of orchids. Join us for dinner, silent auction plant sales and a Show and Tell of your plants growing in April.

Fairchild Orchid Festival went very well. We won first place and received a Show Trophy award and a Silver Certificate from the AOS. Thank you to all that made this a fantastic event.

Thank you to the members that shared their homes at the **Orchid member house tour**. I was very sorry to have missed it.

April 18-20 is the Rare Plant Festival. It is being held in a new place, the Fair Expo Center in Miami, Florida (where the Tamiami Festival was held.) The festival will showcase a variety of rare and affordable plants, including orchids and ar-oids.

JOIN US and volunteer for an **OSCG position** with either a morning shift 10:30a-2:30p or afternoon shift 2p-6p. **When you volunteer you get in free for the other shift that day.**

Contact Linda Matanis at lgmor-chid@att.net.



Festival details:

- **Location:** Fair Expo Center, 10901 SW 24th St., Miami, FL 33165
- **Hours:** 11 AM–6 PM
- **Tickets:** \$20. Go to RarePlantFestival.com and **buy tickets in advance or bring cash** at door. You can also scan the **square code** and use a credit card when you get there. Children under 12 are free.

May 4 we will be at the Pinecrest Market to promote our great Orchid Society of Coral Gables. This is the Sunday before our May meeting.

The market at Pinecrest Gardens is held every Sunday from 9 am till 2 pm and is always well attended.

Please join us on that Sunday for a few hours to share your experiences about our wonderful orchid Society and recruit new members. The market is open from 9am to 2 pm.

Contact me at
Laura54orchid@gmail.com

See you at the April meeting on the 1st. No April fools here, just a **fun time** sharing what we know about...
Orchids of course!

Laura Aiken



**RARE PLANT
FESTIVAL**

Continued from page 1 – Members Night



Melana Davison has a well-rounded collection of species and hybrids of all genera and is currently trying to repot as many Cattleyas as she can before summer! She is an Accredited AOS Judge, a previous OSCG President, and owns her own orchid maintenance company.

Tom Rothrock began killing orchids in 1984 after moving to Miami from New York. First by trying to resuscitate grocery store orchids and then in the 1990's receiving some Cattleya skinneri and other orchids from friends who had brought them from Costa Rica to Miami in the 1970's. Near retirement he took Fairchild orchid classes from Sandra Schultz (former CG Orchid Society President and UM Biologist) and then Martin Motes where he bought Martin's book. After that, the health of his orchid collection greatly improved and he has a particularly good collection of Phalaenopsis.



For those new to this venture, you can travel from table to table, or stay at the table that most interests you. Questions are encouraged! And there is no “dumb” question! Everyone has been a beginner at one time, and we all love to help out our fellow members!

No Beginner's Class This Month! But Yes to Silent Auction!

Because of the format of this month's Members Meeting, there will be no Beginner's Class.

We will, however be having Silent Auction! Bring in any extra plants or divisions, or anything related to orchids to put on the Silent Auction table!



Other Area Meetings:

Eastern OS: Fri, No Meeting This Month

AOS Judging at Fairchild: Saturday, April 19

Coalition for Orchid Species: Monday, April 21

Pan Am Orchid Society: Tuesday, April 15, Auction

SFOS Meeting: Wed, April 16

East Everglades Meeting: Tues, April 22



Other Events

April 5-6, Bonnet House Orchid Show, Ft. Laud

April 18-20, Rare Plant Festival, Fair Center, Miami

April 19-20, Flamingo Gardens Orchid Show

April 26-27, Mounts Botanical Garden Spring Show

May 3-4, Miami Beach Orchid Show

Hospitality Corner

This month's meeting calls for mingling and moving around the grower tables. So we will not have a “sit-down” style dinner, but rather a

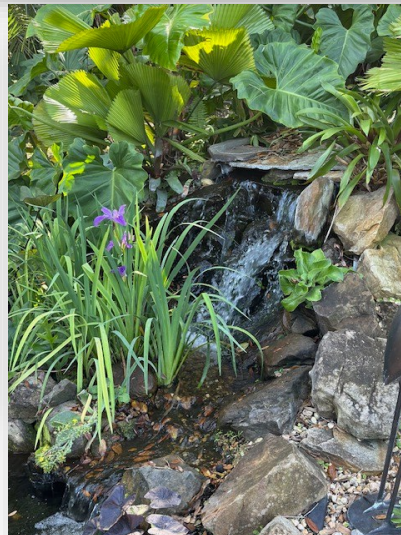
“moving” dinner. This means, sandwiches, empanadas, deli plates, veggie plates, and cookies, etc. Things that are easy to eat while ‘moving’ between tables.



Please bring items that are easy to eat, handheld, etc. That way we can mingle and learn easily!

Photos of 2nd Annual Home Garden Tour - Thank you, Joan Manley

Thanks to Adrienne and Howard Hochman, Vicky Benitez, and Tom Rothrock



Sharing knowledge is the most
fundamental act of friendship.
Because it is a way you can give
something without losing something.

Richard Stallman

March / April Checklist
from the American Orchid Society
...by Ned Nash and James Rose

Cattleya

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can be weakened owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

Lycaste

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

Orchid Tasks for March - by Dr. Martin Motes

- Watch out for mites.
- Spray for thrips.
- Repot genera emerging from dormancy: catasetums, calanthes, and soft cane dendrobiums.
- Continue general re-potting of cattleyas, oncidiums, hard-cane dendrobiums, etc.
- Make top cutting of teretes, semi-teretes, and reed stem epidendrums.
- Move landscape plants gradually to brighter light.
- Apply time-release fertilizer.

March in Your Orchid Collection - by Dr. Martin Motes

Excerpted from [Florida Orchid Growing: Month by Month](#) by Martin Motes. All rights reserved.

Whilst March never comes in like a lion in South Florida, occasionally it slinks in like a bob cat. Frost is not unheard of in the first few days of the month. The more cold sensitive genera, hard cane dendrobiums, phalaenopsis and vandas may well need some protection even into the middle of the month. Overall, however, March brings us some of the most ideal orchid growing conditions of the entire year. Dry air, low humidity and wide swings of day to night temperatures optimize both blooming and rooting of most orchids.

In March, Nature gives orchidists growing outside a free sample of what life would be like with a covered green house. With little or no additional water falling from the sky and drying breezes acting like fans, we are in total control of our plants' water needs. Now, we can water properly: very heavily, and allow the plants to dry thoroughly in the near desert air before the next heavy application of water.

The ideal growing conditions of March present a great opportunity to get our plants off to a superlative start on the new growing season. The virtuous among us, who have already re-potted their cattleyas and other sympodials as they have finished blooming across the winter, can smile serenely, assured of their place in orchid heaven. For us few reprobate it is still not too late to catch up with virtue. In addition

to flowered-out plants, now is also the time to replant those genera which are breaking or ready to break their dormancy; i.e. catasetums, mormodes, calanthes and those Himalayan species that have finished flowering. Now is also an excellent time to re-pot those hard cane dendrobiums that need it, with the reminder that they really don't like to be disturbed and relish their roots being crowded in the pot.

For those commercially mass produced plants grown in peat based mixtures, repotting is necessary in any case as the peat mix will not last out the summer and will likely rot all the roots. Hopefully these will have rooted so thoroughly that the roots have formed a solid mass that can be shifted undisturbed to a new only slightly larger pot. Otherwise the roots will need to be washed clean and lightly trimmed. Rock, tree fern, coconut husk, charcoal/wood chip mixes are best replacement media for the long haul. All of these materials have a life expectancy of several years before they break down in South Florida wet humid summers.

Attention to fertilizer in March will pay high dividends later on. As many sympodial orchids are commencing their growth cycle, now is a good time to apply slow release fertilizer to last the season. The 13-13-13, 180 day formula marketed at Home Depot as 'Dynamite' (Nutricote in commercial sizes) is the best available.

Its plastic coating is superior to others and relatively unaffected by heat, an especially important consideration in S. Florida. Applied now it will be exhausted by September when we want to slow our plants down in anticipation of bloom and dormancy.

The wide temperature swings of March also maximize the effectiveness of high phosphorous 'Bloom Booster' fertilizer. The extra phosphorous in these formulas probably does not really stimulate flowers (most likely the opposite) but does help rooting. Two applications a week apart will speed the rooting process. Return to regular 15-5-15 fertilizer weekly thereafter as the excess phosphorus in the "Bloom Booster" interferes with minor element absorption to an inordinate degree in our highly alkaline South Florida water.

Vandaceous orchids should be breaking vigorous new roots in March. This is the moment to top them if they have grown too tall and if they have three good roots on the top cutting. Conserving one or more leaves on the old plant's stump will insure a bountiful production of offshoots. Sliding the knife or shears down the stem before making the horizontal cut usually preserves an extra set of leaves. Now is also the ideal time to remove and reset offshoots of vandas and ascocendas. Again take care each has three or more roots and be sure you tie them firmly in their new container until they have rooted solidly.

March is also the month for acclimatizing sun-loving plants to full sun. Vandas, dendrobiums and reed-stemmed epidendrums that have not been blooming as they should because they are in too deep shade can be gradually moved to more light. This is best done in two or three stages, moving the plants a short distance every few days and always keeping them with the same side orientated towards the sun. Without this gradual acclimatization, The bright clear sunlight of March can scorch even the most sun-loving of orchids.

The chief blot on the otherwise nearly ideal growing scenario of March is thrips. March is the month when we are asked most frequently "Why do my vanda flower spikes grow ½ inch and then die?" The answer, like the answer to so many problems with orchids in South Florida, is thrips.

The hot dry weather of March favors thrips which are ubiquitous in our landscapes. The drought of March drives them from their homes in our lawns and shrubberies to seek the cool lush oasis of our orchid collections.

Most orchidists recognize the symptoms of thrips on their flowers: the silvered, sand blasted appearance and the withering of the flower parts. Many do not recognize the earlier symptoms which show up on the root tips of vandas and ascocendas as a pitted ring at the point where the green growing root tip is maturing into white. Left unchecked, this damage will cause the root tip to wither. When it re-starts growth, a brown ring remains. Orthene (acephate) is the chemical of choice for thrips because of its low toxicity and residual action. Knoxout and Malathion are recommended also by the Florida Department of Agriculture. A non-chemical solution is liquid dish soap applied at the rate of 2oz (6tbs) per gallon of water. Be sure to water the plants the day before applying soap and take care to drench the plants thoroughly, covering not only all the surfaces but penetrating into leaf axils and other nooks and crannies where the reclusive thrips loves to loiter. Root the thrips out of your collection and you will get the growing season off to a good start.



Vanda Ho-Kin Ng: a fragrant, compact primary hybrid.

Sign up to receive Dr. Motes' newsletters at

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

You can also text ORCHIDS to 22828.

OSCG Members Recipe Book!

Over the years of cooking for our meetings, I been told many times I should make a cookbook. But a better idea is to have an OSCG Members Recipe Book!

I am not the only one who has brought in good things to eat. Many of you members have brought in great dishes, from entrees to salads and sides, to desserts. Would you be willing to share you recipes in order to help the society earn a few dollars?

We will be preparing a wonderful, custom cookbook featuring your great recipes. Once published, it is sure to become a cherished keepsake, as well as a great source of recipes for you and your family!

This is not something that can be done quickly, and we would like to have copies available for Holiday gift giving. We can sell our cookbooks at Tamiami, Fairchild, and other shows.



If you would like to participate, just send your recipes to

OSCGcookbook@gmail.com.

You can type it in an email, you can scan a recipe card, and send it, or you can fill out the recipe forms that will be available at the meetings and return it to me then. You can even mail it in to me, if you'd prefer. Email me and I'll send you my mailing address.

It goes without saying, please be sure it is legible if handwritten. Also, if you have a picture of a done recipe, send it too! Or if you have anecdotes about the recipe, like it was my grandmother's, etc. that will be great! Makes a cookbook that much more interesting.

When you give of yourself, you receive more than you give.

Membership News

Just a reminder! If you haven't paid your dues, please do so at the meeting. Also, we have a new category of payment - Student. If you know of a student who is interested in orchids, invite him/her to join. It is only \$20 for students for a full year! We need to get the younger generation involved in orchids!



Member Spotlight - Sylvia Balsinde, Display Co-Leader

(written by roving reporter, Alina Perez-Stable)

You may know Silvia Balsinde from OSCG meetings: she has a warm, welcoming smile for everyone. Silvia is originally from Cuba but has lived in Miami since her family's U.S. arrival in 1961. We all have a unique story of how our interest in orchids started. Silvia's journey reminds us to remember how our appreciation of orchids began. Hers is a shared love of orchids with her mom, Silvia.

It started with attending the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Orchid Festival in 2013. As a result, Silvia was motivated to become an OSCG member and signed up her mom, too. She stated, "I became inspired to join to end my 'orchid collection extinction.'" We can relate!

Silvia hoped to broaden her "orchid I.Q.," which she did and continues to do so. Also, sharing her interest in orchids with her mom, who sadly passed in 2018, was very special. They were drawn to orchids for their exquisite beauty. Silvia's favorites are Lady Slippers (*Paphiopedilum*) and Ladies of the Night (*Brassavola nodosa*).

For Silvia, attending the OSCG meetings became (and still is) a gathering for learning, laughing, and meeting wonderful people. A memorable moment was the 2015 Halloween meeting. Silvia's "very good" mother dressed in

a queen costume. Surprisingly, her mom said that she was a "VERY, VERY, WICKED Queen." (The photo is of Silvia and her mom at the event.)



Another noteworthy experience was an individual tutorial from Jim and Melana Davison on creating orchid displays for shows. Since then, Silvia has helped with the displays along with other OSCG members. She discovered a new passion in which artistry and teamwork create beauty. But, as important, Silvia loves the process of collaborating with

members on the displays.

Lastly, Silvia advises new members: "Orchids are the stars, but camaraderie and sharing are the society's wealth. WELCOME!"

It's faith in something and enthusiasm for something that makes life worth living.

Pictures from the Fairchild Orchid Festival

(Thanks to Jim Wheeler)



Our Award Winning Display!



Our Three Raffle Winners!



Some of the Vendors Displays



• *"The path to greatness is along with others." – Baltasar Gracián*