



AUGUST 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

Pres Message

Laura Aiken speaks to us!

Page 2



Redland Show Coming Up!

New dates, same great festival!

Page 3

Dr. Motes' Monthly Culture Info

What to do this month!

Pages 6-7

Membership Spotlight!

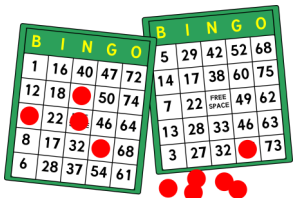
Adrienne and Howard Hochman

Page 8



August General Meeting • Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Orchid



Meeting starts at 7pm! Games start at 7:30 pm!

Come join us for a night of Orchid Fun! We will be playing Bingo with all prizes orchids! We have more of the orchids donated to us by Mandy Sun, orchids donated to us by Jim-N-I Orchids, and orchids donated by Larry Cox. And of course, we will have food to help your playing abilities!!!

The rules:

Cards are \$5 each, or 3 for \$12, with a maximum of 6 cards;

We will have buttons for placeholder;

You can get food and drinks anytime at all, all night. Just please make sure not to be too noisy so everyone can hear the bingo numbers called!

That's really it! Bring your friends and neighbors who like to play bingo! Guests are always welcome!

President's Message



Dear Members:

We had a wonderful Silent Auction night last month! Thanks again to Mandy Sun for donating her wonderful collection to us. We held back a few orchids that did not have names to use this month at our Bingo.

Speaking of Bingo, this month will be our annual Orchid Bingo Game Night. We will have orchids as prizes, some from Mandy, some from Jim-N-I Orchids, and some from Larry Cox. We will play until out of time, and any remaining prizes will be on the Silent Auction table next month.

We will have Silent Auction and Show and Tell, so bring in your plants to either show off or sell! There will be no Beginner's Class this month.

Important note: We will be starting the meeting at 7pm so we can get announcements our of the way and give everyone time to purchase their cards. The Bingo game will start at 7:30pm.

As stated on the front page, the price of bingo cards will be **\$5 each or 3 for \$12. There is a limit of 6 cards, to help make the games go faster.**

So, bring your cash, checks or credit to the meeting to purchase your cards and maybe get something from the Silent Auction!

In October we will be participating at the **Redland Orchid Festival** in the Fruit and Spice Park on Friday, Oct 17, Saturday, Oct 18, and Sunday, Oct. 19.

There will be available tasks for us to get paid for. Working the

gates or scanning admission tickets will get us money. Remember they give back to our society for each shift, \$65 per shift and \$100 for those who will be scanning admission tickets. The money we earn helps to pay for room rental for our meetings as well as **our Fantastic Holiday** party in December.

Signup sheets will be available at the meeting. Besides working at the gates, we will have an Orchid Hotel where we watch attendees' orchids while they shop for more. We receive donations for this and your volunteer hours count toward your Holiday Plant requirement.

For both the door tasks and the volunteering at the Orchid Hotel, you will get free admission to the festival. We hope to see many of you signing up!

This festival always provides an amazing orchid display with many vendors at the Fruit and Spice Park. Additionally, there will be AOS Judging. If you have any orchid you'd like to display, you can bring it to the show for judging.

Lastly, please remember to send in your recipes to Melana at

oscgcookbook@gmail.com.

We don't have enough yet to compile a book, and we'd really like every member to give us at least one recipe! The sooner the better, and pictures would be great! These will be great gifts for the holidays if we get enough recipes in!

Laura Aiken
President

No Beginner's Class, but Yes to Silent Auction and Show and Tell This Month

Jim is not available this month for the Beginner's Class, and, being the summer, we decided to give you the month off!

He is in California taking care of his Mom as she recovers from heart issues. Hopefully he will be back for the September meeting.

We will, however, be having our Show and Tell and the Silent Auction. Bring any plants or orchid related products you have and pick up a few bucks!! We know that both Melana and Larry Cox will be bringing plants in from their collections!

And bring your babies to show off at the Show and Tell. We love seeing what everyone is growing!



Redland International Orchid Festival



OCTOBER 17-19, 2025

FRIDAY FIRST ADMISSION, 9AM

FRIDAY GENERAL ADMISSION, 12-5PM

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, 9AM-5PM

Located at the idyllic Redland Fruit and Spice Park in South Dade, the Redland International Orchid Festival is world renowned as a bucket list event for orchid lovers. Join the best orchid growers in the world along with fellow avid orchid fans for three days of pure orchid mania. *Get tickets at redlandorchidfestival.com*

OSCG Volunteers: Sign up at the monthly meeting! Get free admission by volunteering!

July/August Checklist
from the American Orchid Society
...by Ned Nash and James Rose

Cattleya

Cattleyas this month require careful attention to their watering and fertilizing needs owing to characteristically high temperatures. Evaporative cooling is a must in areas of the country where it is effective. Where it is not (the more humid regions), care needs to be paid to proper venting to keep temperatures within reason. Bottom vents in conjunction with top vents provide enough rising airflow to help keep plants cool. Increased air flow lessens humidity and dries plants out more quickly, necessitating more frequent damping down and watering, in areas where high humidity is not a problem. Higher light and heat indicate more fertilizer. The growths your plants are making now are the source of this autumn, winter and spring's blooms, so applying adequate fertilizer this month is the best way to ensure future blooms. Higher temperatures and humidity may also lead to fungal or bacterial rot problems, so it is important to closely observe your plants for any early indication of problems. Pests are also at a high point this month for the same reason.

Phalaenopsis

Most, if not all, potting should be complete by now. This month and next are when these plants achieve their maximum growth. This growth will be that from which they set their spikes for the coming season. The more leaves the plants grow, the better potential for spiking will be realized. Growers in cooler areas such as the Pacific coast have the advantage this month, should they choose, of cooling for early season spikes. Lots of heat and light call for liberal applications of water and fertilizer.

Paphiopedilum

Cooling and air circulation are especially critical in these two months to prevent stress and avoid disease problems. Watering needs to be closely monitored to ensure that plants do not dry out. Warmer-growing hybrids will be at the peak of their blooming, with attention needing to be paid to staking of spikes. Look for water lodging in growths, which can rot emerging spikes and lead to the loss of the entire growth.

Vandaceous

Plants will be growing quickly now and really enjoying the hot humid days so similar to their native habitat. Watch for pests though, as many of these also enjoy the same conditions as the plants. Check flower spikes so that they can extend unimpeded for the best flower presentation later.



The Philippine species, *Euanthe sandariana*, rewards growers with massive heads of flowers at the end of summer.

Two New Items to take note of

We have two new exciting developments in our continued quest for new members and/or member support.



First, we now have “**Orchid Ambassadors.**” These are members who have volunteered to interact with our members, both new and old, to help answer questions, assist in information, and various other items that may come up. You will see one or two greeting you at the door, welcoming our members, and helping new members know what to do. These ambassadors will be wearing brightly colored name tags to help you identify them. They can answer questions, and if they don't know the answer, they will find out for you!

Second, we will have a new “**Suggestion Box**” at the back table. You can put suggestions, compliments, or complaints in the box, anonymously. We always invite you to come to our open board meetings to bring up topics, but we know that is not possible for everyone. So, put your thoughts on paper and place them in the Suggestion Box! We appreciate every member and want to know what you would like with the meetings.



Hospitality Corner

Because we are having Bingo, the society will be supplying sandwiches that can be easily eaten at the tables while we are playing! However, we need more!

Please bring sides, desserts, especially things that can be eaten easily, finger food types. We will not be taking time for dinner except to get it and sit down. We want as much time as possible for Bingo!

Suggestions: Empanadas, chicken nuggets, egg rolls, veggie platters, cookies, brownies, chips, crackers, etc.



OSCG Members Recipe Book!

UPDATE: Several of you have sent me your recipes ! Thank you so much, and I am excited to start compiling them! But, I need lots more! Our goal is to have a recipe from every member in the book!

We'd like to have this done by the Holiday Party. You can do it!

Thanks, Melana

Send your recipes to:

OSCGcookbook@gmail.com



Orchid Tasks for August - by Dr. Martin Motes

- Finish cutting teretes and reed stem epidendrums early in month
- Reset strap leaf vandas early or not at all
- Dry hard once or twice
- Continue anti-fungal spray program
- Apply snail bait lightly twice ten days apart

August in Your Orchid Collection - by Dr. Martin Motes

August Climate Data

- Average high: 90.6
- Average low: 76.5
- Average mean: 83.6
- Average rainfall: 8.63"

•

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

July and August are the two most similar months in South Florida. Most of the advice on watering, disease and pest control in last month's calendar still apply but subtle changes are taking place. Although it may not seem so, as temperatures climb into the low nineties most afternoons, summer is in retreat: each day a little shorter, each night a little longer. With shorter days the importance of watering as early in the morning as possible comes to the fore. With less hours of sunlight to dry the plants, extra care should be taken in choosing when to water. Back to the basics of the classic saying : If a *Vanda* looks like it needs water, water it; If a *Cattleya* or *Oncidium* looks like

it needs water, water it tomorrow. If a Paph or a Phal looks like it needs water, you should have watered it yesterday. If plants retain water even from an early morning watering, allowing them to dry a bit harder before the next watering is always a good idea. An extra day of drying rarely does harm.

August should provide numerous opportunities to dry each orchid to its desired level of dryness. Take the opportunity to dry your orchids "hard" at least once but preferably twice in August. This will give your orchids a leg up on their mortal enemies, the fungus, before the drizzle of September switches the advantage to our adversaries. August is definitely not the month to over indulge in water. September, the soggiest of months, is next up. The corollary to this calculated drying is the concept that when watering in August above all water thoroughly. If watering is necessary be sure that the roots and medium are totally saturated with the application. The drizzling rains of September are so detrimental precisely



because they keep the foliage of the plants wet unduly long. We want our plants which are still growing to receive plenty of water but also plenty of drying time.

Good air circulation and proper watering are the keys to disease prevention. Remember that your plants will have increased considerably in size by this point in the growing season. They have added extra growths and extra leaves across the summer. August is a good time to evaluate the spacing of our plants. Remember the old Florida saw that one needs a cat to grow good orchids because when properly spaced a cat should be able to navigate the benches between plants without knocking them over. While we can not recommend specific chemicals, the county agent recommends *Banrot*, a convenient combination of Thiophanate-methyl and *Truban* which controls a number of leaf-spotting diseases and soft rots, for home owner use.

A combination of Thiophanate-methyl and mancozeb has also been recommended. This can be found pre-packaged as Duosan. If one can overcome the aversion to chemicals and can learn the safe application of them, they are valuable tools to better orchid growing. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure especially before the soft, slow drizzle of September sets in.

Lengthening nights in August mean cooler nighttime temperatures. Many sympodial orchids are reaching the end of their growing cycle and require less nitrogen. Cattleyas and oncidiums have maturing bulbs. Genera that become deciduous in winter like nobile dendrobiums, calanthes and catasetums should be given much less nitrogen in August to prevent them producing an unwanted off season growth and perhaps forgetting to flower. Substitute an additional application of potassium nitrate and Epsom salt (1TBS each per gal) instead of the balanced 20-20-20. Vandas will respond well to this also, as several of the parental species of our hybrids produce blooms on shortening day lengths and lower levels of nitrogen in their fertilizer seems to egg them on. As explicated in the last chapter, modern research indicates that orchids require less phosphorous than previously thought. This concept should lead us to more judicious use of phosphorus. Fertilizer high in phosphorus may still be of some value at the end of the growing season, perhaps not so much as stimulus as shock. One or two heavy applications in succession, a week or so apart will certainly provide all the phosphorus and all the stimulus (or wake up shock) our plants require to bloom.

Snails can be somewhat of a problem in August too, but left to multiply they will be in their full glory when those slow unrelenting rains of September set in. Control them with baits in pellet or liquid/paste form. Remember, these are baits, the pests are drawn to them. Therefore apply lightly, but frequently. Because they wash away in the heavy rains, baits should be reapplied every two weeks. One pellet every two to three feet will do the job, but one application will not. Given a choice, the smallest pellets baits are

best. They keep us from over applying and also pose much less threat to neighborhood pets. A small bait in a *Vanda* crown is a nuisance, a large bait can be a disaster.

If you have been waiting to make cuttings of the terete vandas or reed stem epidendrums, you can wait no longer. The potting season is drawing absolutely to a close. Pot up those overgrown phals before they even think of spiking. Re-set those strap leaf vandas early in August whilst they still have just enough time to re-establish themselves in the September humidity and before the cool weather arrives and their root growth slows or stops. As in all seasons be sure that the plants are firmly set in their containers. There is no "wobble room" this late in the growing season to restart tender roots that have been chafed off a loosely set plant. As the cooler weather approaches try to give plants that have been repotted late more protection from the first cold snaps.



Sign up to receive Dr. Motes' newsletters at

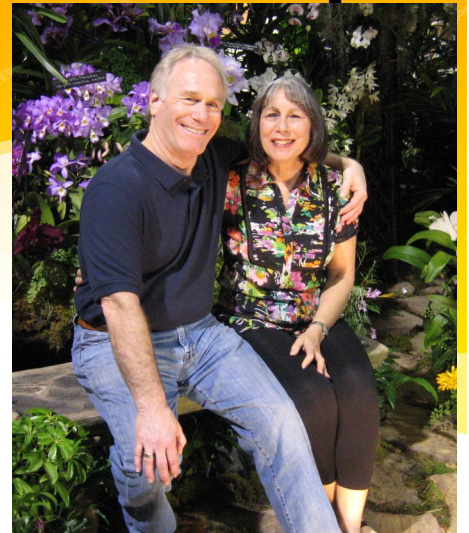
<http://redlandpress.com/subscribe.html>

You can also text ORCHIDS to 22828.



Member Spotlight - Adrienne and Howard Hochman

(written by roving reporter, Alina Perez-Stable)



You won't want to miss the Hochmans at our monthly meetings! Adrienne and Howard welcome all with a smile and are always ready to engage with others. They go above and beyond, volunteering at numerous orchid shows, graciously offering their home for OSCG orchid house tours, and sharing their orchid knowledge. Both serve on the OSCG Board, providing them an opportunity to give back to an organization that has given them so much learning and fulfillment.

Adrienne and Howard serve on the OSCG Board. Adrienne is the Program Chairperson, and Howard is a member of a Subcommittee that raises awareness in our community about OSCG and encourages membership. Here are their spotlights.

Adrienne Rich Hochman is a native Miamian, but after finishing college and graduate school in Boston, Miami's sunshine, warmth, and natural beauty beckoned her back home. Adrienne has worked as a psychotherapist for over 45 years.

Inspired by her mother, who grew roses and orchids, Adrienne has always had a love for plants and flowers from an early age. The Hochman collection began with a few orchids, including Cattleyas. Adrienne took a class at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, and then she became an OSCG member about 15 years ago, with Howard joining shortly thereafter. Their collection has grown to well over 150 orchids, primarily vandas. Anyone who knows Adrienne from OSCG may guess that vandas are her favorite. (I've asked Adrienne for advice!) For her, daily watering is especially enjoyable as it keeps her connected to nature and is calming.

Adrienne loves OSCG for its camaraderie, shared meals of delicious food with members, and learning something new at every meeting. Almost everything she knows about orchids has come from attending OSCG meetings. But winning raffles isn't bad either! Adrienne encourages any new member to jump in and get involved—there are plenty of opportunities for learning and meeting wonderful people. And don't hesitate to ask Adrienne about vandas!

Howard Hochman was born in New York City, grew up, and attended high school and college in Upstate New York. A fun fact about Howard: he lived eight miles from the site of the 1969 Woodstock Festival (to date, one of the largest music festivals that has ever taken place); Howard still has his original ticket. He is a retired trial attorney with an interest in European history.

Howard's interest in plants and flowers began with his grandfather, who introduced him to the beauty of nature and with whom he helped plant a vegetable and flower garden every spring. Howard still misses the lilacs and lilies of the valley, which will always be associated with love for his grandfather. Howard's interest in orchids began with helping Adrienne care for her vandas and evolved over the next 15 years, mainly due to OSCG. He has come to appreciate orchids as "slow-moving animals," as suggested by one of our meeting guest speakers.

Adrienne and Howard are a team. It all began with Adrienne, but over time, Howard developed a deep interest in orchids through his membership in OSCG. He encourages new members to share in the wealth of knowledge, friendship, and diverse shared experiences with others that OSCG offers, as Howard has done over the years.