



FEBRUARY 2026

ORCHID SOCIETY 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

Beginner's Class

General discussion about any and all orchids. Bring your questions to be answered.

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Time for 2026 Dues

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February Tips from Dr. Motes

Spring is coming!
Repotting is starting!

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Misc Info

Dinner, meetings, etc

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February Meeting • Tuesday, February 3, 2026 • 7:30 pm
Beginner's Class - 6:45 pm

Speaker: Dr. Martin Motes, Motes Orchids

Topic: Vandas

Martin Motes is a second-generation orchidist who has been growing orchids for 50 years. He is president of Motes Orchids, a major breeder of vandas. He has produced hundreds of new hybrids, for which he has received scores of American Orchid Society awards, and he is an accredited AOS judge. He has won gold, silver and



bronze medals at the 18th World Orchid Conference in Dijon. He has observed tropical orchids growing in the wild and has spoken at orchid conferences around the world.

Dr. Motes has written several books on orchids and Vandas including "Florida Orchid Growing" which offers readers a



(Continued on page 4)



President's Message

Dear members:

Congratulations members, we won again!! We won 1st place for our display at the Tamiami Orchid Festival. It was a beautiful display highlighting our members orchids. And, in addition to the accolades, it gave us winnings of \$600 for our society!

We also had many volunteers for this festival. Thank you to our display design co-chairs: Vicky Benitez and Silvia Balsinde and our display and takedown committee: Alvaro Palache, Tom Rothrock, Gerry Yapp-Shing, Elizabeth Harvey, Alina Perez-Stable, Frank Auer, Javier Morejon, Maggie Echeverria, Laura Aiken, Irina Dumitrescu, Melana Davison, Michael and Ilene Primack, and Jim and Linda Wheeler. A special thank you to Jim, Linda, Ginny, and Daniel Wheeler for always being available to bring our important supplies to and from the storage unit. A very special thank you to Jim Davison, for his expertise and knowledge on how to build the display for success. We had many members share their orchids with us which made our display amazing! Larry Cox, Irina Dumitrescu, Laura Aiken,

Adrienne and Howard Hochman, Elizabeth Harvey, Silvia Balside, Jim and Melana Davison, Tom Rothrock, Michael and Ilene Primak, and Gerry Yapp-Shin. But a special Thank You to Vicky Benitez (and her son who helped deliver them) who brought in a whopping 27 plants for the display! All beautiful!

Thank you to all the members that helped at our membership table. We had a lot of people sign up for more information about the society and also got a couple of new members! Each prospective member will receive a welcome letter from me and is added to our mailing list for upcoming events. Laura Aiken will give a report about this at our meeting.

Thank you to all the members that volunteered and worked for the festival itself. They include Ginny Wheeler and the entire Wheeler family (double donation), Renate Van Kempema, Bill Capps, Irina Dumitrescu, Adrienne Hochman, and Cristina Batista.

Together they earned \$455 for our society. And a big thanks to Karina Motes, who so graciously gives us this opportunity every year!

All you
need is love.
But a little
chocolate
now and then
doesn't hurt.

CHARLES M. SCHULZ

BH&G

2026 First Place
Tamiami Display



President's Message Continued from page 2

This month we have a wonderful opportunity to hear from one of the foremost orchid hybridizers in the United States, Dr. Martin Motes. Most of us are very familiar with Dr. Motes' orchids and nursery since he is a local resident. This will be a great night to learn about your vandas! And he will also be bringing plants from Motes Orchids for sale!

We are less than two months away from **our Fairchild Orchid Festival on Saturday and Sunday, March 14th and 15th**. I say ours because we sponsor the event and do a lot of the work!

We will have 3 membership tables throughout the event and as usual, we will sell raffle tickets for 3 large orchid collections put together from orchids and related items donated by each vendor. The proceeds from this raffle constitutes a large percentage of our annual income, so the ticket sales are very important!

This very important show will need lots of member volunteers before, during and after the

show. There will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer with display set up, judges assistants and membership and raffle selling. Read all about it on page 6. There will be multiple signup sheets at the Feb meeting at the back table and if you can't make the meeting, let Melana know at orchidiva@att.net that you are interested in volunteering. It's always fun and a great way to meet people and tell them about our great society!

I know that with this cold, you may have your orchids in the house. Hopefully you have some in bloom you can bring in to Show and Tell. And we will be having Silent Auction this month, so bring in any orchids or orchid related goods to sell to members!

And don't forget to come early, at 6:45pm for Jim's Beginner Class!

Also, please fill in a membership application if your information has changed.

See you soon,

Melana



Beginner's Class - Open Question Night!

Jim Davison will start the Beginner's Class at 6:45pm with any question you may have. And if there are no questions, you know he can talk for hours about orchids, so there will be something for you to learn!!

He also will be helping with After Cold Care. What special needs will your plants have and how do you determine cold damage.

And if you have a problem with a plant, you can bring a leaf in a baggie, or bring pictures to show and share - other members may have the same problem.



Cold damage

Vandas, Dr Martin Motes (continued from page 1)

month by month guide to successful orchid culture in the Sunshine State. .



Martin was an assistant professor of English at Wright State University for several years. He was the director of horticulture therapy at Grant Center Hospital and was a consultant on horticulture therapy at the Hospital Corporation of America. He has lived most of his life in Miami, Florida, but also spent 6 years in Ohio and 2 years in Yugoslavia as a Fulbright lecturer.

He has traveled extensively in the Mediterranean and has observed orchids in Peru, Panama, Costa Rica, Ja-

maica, Florida, the Cayman Islands, The Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Belize, Mexico, Guatemala, Thailand, and Australia.

Martin has been interviewed by both print and TV journalists on topics ranging from community issues in southern Florida to horticultural therapy and orchids. He gives more than 20 lectures a year. To get away from the orchid greenhouse, Martin writes poetry, tends his vegetable garden, and fishes.



From the Membership Committee!

Many of you paid your 2026 dues at last month's meeting. If you didn't, please try to pay your dues at the February meeting. Reminder: After March, there is an additional \$5 added to the dues!



As was mentioned in the President's message, it would be good if you could please fill in the membership application so we can make sure we have all your current info.

Thank you!



DATE: _____

Orchid Society of Coral Gable Membership/Renewal Application

PO Box 560092, Miami, FL 33256-0092

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/Social Media |
| ☐ 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 lgmorchid@att.net.

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

****MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:30 PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM AT FAIRCHILD TROPICAL GARDENS, SOUTH ENTRANCE ****

The Orchid Society of Coral Gables has been the sponsor of the Show part of the Fairchild Orchid Festival for the past twenty years.

It is a very important part of our society, and a very important part of our fundraising.

Every member should try to do what they can to help make this festival, and us, a success!

It's a fun and educational weekend! Come and help!



We Need Volunteers to Help at The Show

Below are the areas that we need help with at the show beyond the display making. Every member (with some exceptions) should be able to help in some capacity. Helping with our events is a very important aspect of being a member!

Judges Breakfast:

Friday, March 13, 7am to 9:30am. 2 or 3 persons needed

Judges Luncheon:

Friday, March 13, 10:30am to 1:30pm or so. 3 or 4 persons needed.

Judging Clerks:

Friday, 8 am to 2pm or so. Help judges with ribbons, trophies, documentation. (You learn a lot about how the judging system works.)

Donation Plant Pickup:

On Friday, while vendors are setting up, we need one or two persons to take a wagon and go to vendors and pick up the mandatory (in their contract) donation of 3 plants or items for our raffle. It does give you the opportunity to check out the vendors pre-show!

Membership booth and tents:

(We have 2 tents and our membership booth in Garden Room)

7 persons minimum needed per shift to cover both tents and Garden Room

Saturday am: 9:30-1:30 Saturday pm: 1-5

Sunday am: 9:30-1:30 Sunday pm: 1-5

If you can help, we need you! Email Melana at orchidiva@att.net or sign up at meeting

Orchid Tasks for February - by Dr. Martin Motes

1. **Spread snail bait lightly. And again in two weeks.**
2. **Spray for Botrytis using Florida recommended fungicides or bicarbonate of soda.**
3. **Begin Spring potting.**
4. **Watch for mites.**

February in Your Orchid Collection - by Dr. Martin

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

February Climate Data
Average high: 77.7
Average low: 60.7
Average mean: 69.1
Average rainfall: 2.07"

Despite the bloom on the avocados and the burgeoning new leaves on the live oaks, February is not spring in South Florida. Danger of freeze continues past mid month and frost can occur still into March. Even if the weather is balmy it's too early to let down our guard or take down any protection we have mounted against the cold. The trend however is toward the positive as each lengthening day brings extra hours of warming sunshine to begin waking our plants from their long winter's rest.

February characteristically brings a wide swing of day to night temperatures, ideal for spiking ascendas and vandas but also wringing from the air heavy dews and dense fog. Whilst these add a romantic atmosphere to the South Florida landscape, Wuthering Heights is singularly devoid of snails and slugs (much less Botrytis). The silvery carpet of dew provides a silky path to our orchids for snails and slugs which can range far, under these favorable conditions. They are eager to make a nice meal of your Phalaenopsis leaves or the soft crowns of your vandas before they retire during the dry months of March and April only to dream of the fresh shoots of the sympodial orchids brought forth by the first rains of May. Now is the time to give them a rude awakening. Remember that snail bait is most effectively applied lightly (scatter the pellets every few feet) and frequently (every 7 to 10 days). Two or three applications should do the job.

The heavy fog which can cause condensation on leaves even under cover can also bring trouble. Botrytis is a fungus disease that can disfigure flowers with small black spots. Particularly apparent and annoying on white Phalaenopsis, Botrytis can ruin other flowers as well. Control is typically achieved in commercial

greenhouses with fungicide in aerosol forms and by running fans to prevent condensation on the flowers. The latter option is also available to collectors. A small fan turned on the spiking and opened flowers at night will greatly alleviate the pressure of Botrytis. So will, to a degree, the application of soap which we suggested in January to control mites. Bicarbonate of soda, ordinary baking soda, at 1Tbs. per gal will help as well. Quaternary ammonium compounds (Phyosan, RD40, Consan, pool algicide) also give some control. Maintaining long lasting flowers like Phalaenopsis, dendrobiums and bifoliate cattleyas in more perfect condition is well worth the effort. Having waited so long for the flowers we want to enjoy them as long as possible and they do all last longer in cool weather.

The lower overall temperatures of February call for less frequent and lighter applications of fertilizer as was the practice in January. If any reddening of the foliage persists another application of Epsom salts (1Tbs per gal), preferably in combination with Potassium nitrate, is called for; Nitrate nitrogen being more available to the plants under cooler conditions. If your resolve holds steady not to water (or above all) fertilize those Himalayan dendrobiums, your reward may shortly become evident in bursting flower spikes.

Like the avocados and the live oaks, many cattleyas and other sympodial orchids have bloomed and are just commencing new growth in February. Right after flowering is usually an excellent time for repotting from the plant's perspective and the cool day time temperatures in the greenhouse are hospitable to the orchid grower as well. It's still a bit early to re-basket vandas But an early start on the cattleyas will allow plenty of time and energy for those Spring chores which are right around the corner. With that thought setting out to secure a good supply of pots in anticipation of the potting season ahead is on February's agenda.

Hospitality Corner

In honor of St. Valentine, we are having a romantic Spaghetti Dinner this month! (Compliments of Jim and Melana). So please bring sides, salads, garlic bread, and desserts fitting of love eternal!

"Love is what gives life meaning!"



Remember: Meeting Etiquette!

1. Turn off cell phones while in meeting. And don't talk during speakers.
2. Don't fill your plate like there's no tomorrow - everyone would like something to eat. You can always have seconds after everyone is served.
3. When you've placed your bid at the silent auction table, put the pencil down and walk away for awhile. No hovering! Everyone gets a chance to bid!
4. If there is Beginner's Class going on, please keep your voice down.

Special Raffles:

1. Bringing food to our dinner table
2. Bringing your orchids to Show and Tell
3. Being a member of AOS
4. Just being a member of the best society in Miami-Dade, Orchid Society of Coral Gables!

Don't forget to wear your OSCG shirt for a special raffle ticket!



Up-coming Shows

Feb 14 -15, Edison/Ford Winter Sale, Ft. Myers

Feb 14-15, Mounts Botanical Garden Winter Sale, West Palm Beach

Feb 14-15, Boca Raton Orchid Society Show

March 6-8, Key West Orchid Society Show

March 14-15, Fairchild Orchid Show

April 4-5, Bonnet House Show, Ft. Lauderdale

April 11-12, Orchid Symposium, Edison/Ford