



JULY 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

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Some of the plants in our Silent Auction!



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This can be a tricky month for growing.

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OSCG Cookbook

We need your recipes!



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Silent Auction



July Meeting ♦
Tuesday, July 1, 2025
♦ 7:00 pm

4th of July
Celebration
Dinner

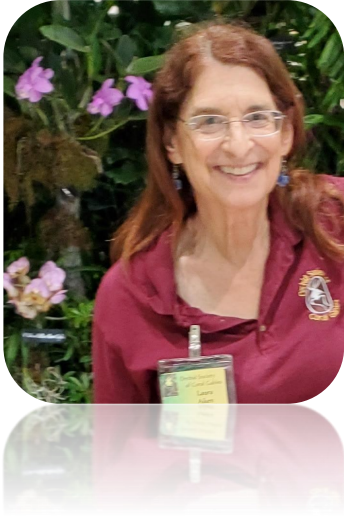


Come join us for a very special event! And night of Orchid Fun! One of our members, Mandy Sun, is moving to California. She has graciously donated her entire collection to be sold by silent auction.

We will split the proceeds with the Miami Animal Shelter. So, by purchasing Mandy's plants, you will be helping both the society and a great animal rescue shelter! It's a win-win-win! You get a new plant, the society gets some monies to help us run, and the animal shelter gets to help more poor animals that need it!

Mandy's collection is over 100 plants. All plants will be placed out on tables like a normal silent auction, except there will be many, many plants! Jim Davison will be narrating culture tips and speaking about each as we go through the night, so you will have a good idea of what is on the table and if you'd like to bid. And we will hopefully have photos for most plants.

You don't want to miss this opportunity to get some excellent plants at good prices! Bidding starts early, at 7pm



President's Message

Dear Members,

We look forward to seeing you at our "Fourth of July Picnic." We are going to have a really special silent auction with the orchids donated by Mandy Sun. She is donating her orchid collection to us, and we will be receiving 50% of the profits. Jim Davison will be sharing his knowledge about these wonderful orchids. Bring your wallets and expand your orchid collections or start with your first of many.

A partial list of some of the many plants that will be available is on page 4. There will be at least 50, and maybe 100 plants available!

We have members that have been trained to be ambassadors to our new members. This gives new members a single person to connect with and answer their questions. See page 3 for more information. If you know a new member, suggest them to speak to an OSCG Ambassador!

One of our fundraising efforts, the Redland Orchid Festival, will be held this year October 17-19, at the Fruit and

Spice Park. Hopefully this date will be cooler for everyone involved! We will be asking for volunteers to help with the festival and to man our hotels booth. So, please, keep these days open on your calendar to benefit OSCG! More information will be coming in the next couple of months.

Remember, we are collecting recipes from all of the delicious dishes you bring each month. Melana will be putting together a **wonderful** cookbook with all your favorites. Please get your recipe in to her asap so we can print it up for the Holiday Party. It will make a great gift!

We will still have Show and Tell this month, so bring in your lovely orchids to share with us! And we will have our usual raffles for membership, AOS, food, shirt, and Show and Tell.

See you soon, and please bid on the plants for the benefit of the society!!

Laura



*"The Fourth of July, when we get to play our favorite American guessing game — fireworks or gunshots?"
~Author unknown*

Hospitality Corner

Happy July 4th

We will be honoring the 4th of July this month! We will be having picnic foods, starting with Hot Dogs, supplied by Jim and Melana! Bring your favorite picnic foods, entrees, sides, what have you! Chips, watermelon, etc. As usual, water and sodas will be supplied by the society. You can eat your dinner as you bid on the wonderful plants in the silent auction!



Our “Orchid Ambassadors”

Ambassadors are friendly faces who connect with new members, helping them transition into OSCG. When new members (and guests) are unfamiliar with other OSCG members, attending a meeting for the first time can be a challenging experience. And we want to prevent that!

Ambassadors can review OSCG member benefits with new members and guests, share what they find most meaningful about OSCG, sit with them, and answer any questions they may have. For example, if a new member has a question and the Ambassador is unsure how to respond, they can connect the member with someone who has the knowledge. But it's flexible. If a new member would rather ask how it all works, that's okay, too. New members may want to connect with their Ambassadors at subsequent meetings. The bottom line: Ambassadors (and we're sure many other members) are ready to support new members into our OSCG community.

If you are interested in becoming an Ambassador and helping the society, please get in touch with Alina at alinas@bellsouth.net.



You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism. ~Erma Bombeck



Thank you, Mandy Sun!

Our member, Mandy Sun, is moving out of state and cannot take her orchids with her. Not such good news for her, and we hate losing her as a member! But she has been gracious enough to donate her plants to our silent auction, with the proceeds to be shared with the Miami Animal Shelter.

Mandy has a great collection and we are sure that you will be able to find something to take home. Your purchases not only benefit you, but also OSCG and the Miami Animal Shelter.

When putting in your bids, please be generous. Like Mandy is, donating her collection to us!!

Below is just a few of the orchids that will be available. Jim Davison will be speaking about the plants on the table to give everyone more information.

B. nodosa

B. Little Stars

C. warscewiczii

C. xbrymeriana

Rl. digbyana

Rlc. Fong Yuan Beauty 'Red Eyebrow'

Rlc Fringe Benefits 'Green Angel'

Rlc Gold Green 'Hair Pig'

Tuckerara Hila Adventure 'Pinkie'

Bratonia Shelob 'Okika'

Bratonia Golden Spider 'Copius'

Enc. tampensis

Epi. nocturnum

Gram. scriptum

Mormolyca richii

Dendrochilum cobbianum

.....and many, many more, Vandas, Oncidiums, Cattasetums, and others!



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.

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.

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.

Orchid Tasks for July - by Dr. Martin Motes

1. *Dry plants hard once or twice.*
2. *Apply liquid fertilizer instead of water during dry patches.*
3. *Watch for Thrips when rain has been sparse for several days.*
4. *Finish top cutting and planting of vandaceous genera.*

July in Your Orchid Collection - by Dr. Martin Motes

Although it mostly passes unnoticed to millions locked in their air-conditioned bubbles, July in South Florida is quite different from June. While the pattern of afternoon showers built from the moisture of the morning's sea breeze persists in July, the thunderstorms are sharper and shorter. The clouds linger less and the foliage dries more quickly. Less quantity of rainfalls in July than in June and periods of several days typically pass without a drop. This is good news for orchid growers. July (and August) allow orchidists to focus on the first essential of orchid growing, drying the plant out.

Frequently, neophyte growers ask, "What if I go away for several weeks in



the summer and there is no one to water the plants?" The response is, "That's wonderful." Experienced growers use the break in the rainfall during July and August to dry their plants hard. De-

priving orchids of water for several days until they and the media or baskets they grow in are bone dry is essential to good orchid culture. By drying the plants hard, one deals a severe blow to orchid's natural enemy, fungus.

Orchids have evolved to withstand drought because fungus can not. During severe drought fungus' only defense is to cease all growth and retreat into a spore stage. Hopefully (and with good cultural management) these pathogens will not be aroused from this slumber until the first drizzle of September sets in, allowing our plants two months to mature and harden their growth making them less vulnerable to the September conditions which give some advantage again to the fungi.

Careful watering and judicious drying will do more than any other practice to ensure healthy plants. Drought is the orchid plant's armor against disease. Be sure that your plants dry as completely as the weather of July permits. Nonetheless, as our plants are in full growth they need adequate water in July therefore after a hard drying, orchid plants need a thorough re-hydration.

If the next rain fall is insufficient to sat-

July Climate Data

Average high: 90.9

Average low: 76.5

Average mean: 83.7

Average rainfall: 5.79"

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urate pot, roots and media, the grower should add to the natural moisture until he is sure both roots and media are saturated, using two or three applications of water spaced a few minutes apart. When the plants stop dripping is the time to apply the next dose of water. Don't stop watering until the "heft" of the pot tells you that it is holding as much water as it can.

More typically in July, orchidists should use these opportunities when more moisture is required to substitute fertilizer for water and saturate the roots and the media in the same thorough manner. In July, typically think of fertilizing rather than watering. Weekly application of a commonly available balanced fertilizer (20-20-20 or 18-18-18) at two teaspoons per gallon, will supply the nutrients that our plants require in this period of lush growth. This balanced formula should be alternated every other week with potassium nitrate and Epsom salts (one tablespoon each) to supply the extra magnesium and potassium we now know are plants need on a regular basis.

Even better (although not so readily available), lower phosphorus fertilizers containing extra magnesium and calcium with a formula like Peter's Excel (15-5-15) have been shown to be the precise fertilizer our plants need. This formula is recommended year round. Hopefully

such orchid-specific fertilizers will become more widely available. Lowering the phosphorus intake of our plants is particularly important in South Florida because of our alkaline water.

Always apply fertilizer in the same way as water, in two to three doses spaced a few minutes apart. Apply the fertilizer to the point of "run off;" i.e. when the solution starts to fall off the plants, stop and move on to the next plant. Repeat the application a few minutes later when the plants stop drip-



ping. In July more than ever, never, never follow the frequently heard and disastrously bad advice of watering before fertilizing. Always substitute fertilizer for water: now and at every season. Roots saturated with water cannot absorb fertilizer but the prolonged wetness can rot your plants. Don't give fungus the upper hand by

wetting the plant's foliage and roots more often or longer than necessary. Careful watering is especially important throughout the rainy season.

The wise orchidist will have long since finished all of his potting of sympodials and the top working of his vandas, but for the rest of us this is the eleventh hour. Autumn is closer than we think and vandas will need at least three months to settle in to their new baskets or pots before the first chill of October tickles

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their root tips. Unless you can protect them thoroughly from cold, Vanda top cuttings and keikis should not be made after the end of July. If you do take cuttings remember the "3 root rule." Count down from the crown and make the cutting beneath the third or fourth root. Keep as many leaves as possible on the stump and you will be rewarded with a greater abundance of offshoots. Always slip the sterile knife or shears down between the stem and the leaves and then cut transversely to save as many leaves as possible. Be sure to anchor the cutting firmly in its new lodging. Tie them up and tie them down! There is no time for mistakes in July.

Thrips are much less of a problem in July as the rain tends to wash them away and doubtless there is an abundance of other lush fodder for them elsewhere in our yards. They can reappear in a prolonged patch of dryness, so if you need to think of watering in July it may be dry enough to worry about thrips. A prophylactic spraying for thrips in July will also put a damper on scale crawlers. If a second spraying with soap follows the first by seven to 10 days, the population of mites will be scotched as well.

Sign up to receive Dr. Motes'

newsletters at

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

You can also text ORCHIDS to 22828.



The United States is the only country with a known birthday. All the rest began, they know not when, and grew into power, they know not how.... There is no "Republican," no "Democrat," on the Fourth of July, — all are Americans. ~James Gillespie Blaine

OSCG Cookbook

A reminder: 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.



Would anyone like a Jackfruit?

I have several Jackfruit fruits I will be bringing to the meeting. First come, first served. See me before the meeting!
 --Melana



Coming Soon



RARE PLANT FESTIVAL

October 17-19, 2025
 Redland Fruit and
 Spice Park

A talent grows by
 being used, and
 withers if it is not
 used.

~
 May Sarton

Show and Tell &
 Silent Auction
 this month!