

Orchid Society of Coral Gables



Monthly Newsletter | July, 2026

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.

Next meeting at Fairchild Botanical Gardens
Garden Room
Tuesday July 7th 2026
7:30pm Meeting



Get Ready for Orchid Bingo!

Mark your calendars and dust off your lucky charms — Orchid Bingo is coming to our next society meeting, and you won't want to miss it! Whether you're a seasoned Bingo player or a first-timer, this is one game where everyone walks away with a deeper love for orchids.

Here's how it works: Bingo cards will be available for purchase at the meeting — \$5 for one board or 3 boards for \$10. The more cards you play, the more chances you have to win, so stock up and maximize your odds! Come prepared with a little cash and a lot of enthusiasm — the more rounds you play, the more fun it gets.

And the prizes? Winners take home beautiful orchid plants! From showstopping blooms to rare and unusual varieties, the prizes are sure to make a wonderful addition to any collection. Our Bingo prizes are carefully selected with our fellow growers in mind, so expect plants that will thrive right here in Florida's climate.

Bingo is also a wonderful way to connect with fellow members, swap growing tips, and share in the joy of our favorite hobby. So grab a friend, purchase your Bingo cards when you arrive, and get ready for a lively and rewarding evening. With a little luck, you just might go home with a stunning new orchid!

We look forward to seeing you there — good luck to all!

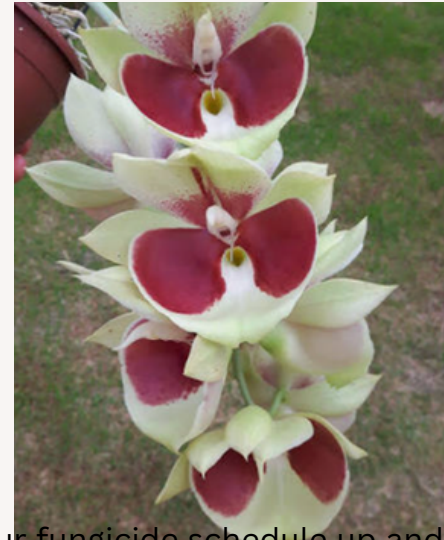


ORCHID SOCIETY OF CORAL GABLES

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Your paragraph text



Dear members and friends:

Now that Summer has kicked in, please don't forget to keep your fungicide schedule up and running. Anytime there is a break in the rain is a good time to inspect and spray if you can!

We have a Fun activity planned for our July society meeting, BINGO! We will have nice prizes for the winners of the BINGO games. Make sure you bring cash to buy your Bingo cards and you may go home with a very nice orchids ! It is just a night to spend some time with each other, have some good food, and some good comraderie!

We are celebrating with hot dogs and pulled pork sandwiches donated by Jim and Melana. We will need other main courses and sides. We will be having an ice cream sundae bar for dessert, so bring an extra dollar (\$1) for this yummy treat. No other desserts are required.

We will also be having a silent auction this month, so check your orchid collections and bring some in. Show and Tell is also happening, so bring in your beautiful orchids to share with the group. Consider all your plants whether it one or 25 blooms. It is always fun to see what is flowering this time of the year.

We will still have the raffles for wearing your OSCG Shirt, membership, AOS membership guy, and bringing food.

REDLAND INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FESTIVAL: The Redland Show will be on Oct 16-18. I know it seems far away, but it really is time for you to start looking at your calendar and see if you can help. As usual, w have been offered the chance to work at the festival and earn money for society. The society receives \$65 for each shift worked. We will also need a few people to work at our Plant Hotel just to serve the society. There will also be scanner positions for some individuals who have a smart phone and want to download an app. This position pays \$100 per shift back to society.

Check the dates and see if you may be available. If so, let Laura at laura54orchid@gmail.com know so she can get started making the volunteer list!

Your volunteering helps us raise money to provide you with exciting speakers and a wonderful holiday party in December.

See you at the Bingo game!!



Member Spotlight Removed

July Orchid Care from Motes Orchids

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 rain falls 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". Depriving 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 orchids 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 plants 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 therefor after a hard drying, orchid plants need a thorough re-hydration. If the next rain fall is insufficient to saturate 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



Prophylactic spraying for thrips is a preventive approach often used in high-value horticulture or during peak migration seasons. Because thrips develop resistance quickly and damage plant tissue permanently, successful prevention requires rotating chemical classes, relying on systemic products, or utilizing biological controls. For quick knockdown and control, the most effective chemicals for thrips are Spinosad, pyrethrins, and systemic insecticides



July Orchid Care from Motes Orchids

or 18-18-18) at two teaspoons per gal. 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" IE. 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 dripping. 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 their root tips. Unless you can protect them thoroughly from cold, Vanda top cuttings and keikies 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.

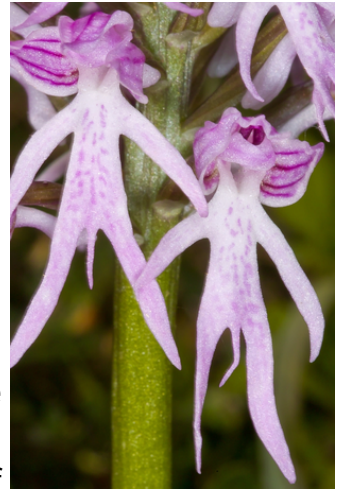
Thrips are much less of a problem in July as the rain tends to wash them away and doubtless there is an abundance of other lush fodder for them elsewhere in our yards. They can reappear in a prolonged patch of dryness, so if you need to think of watering in July it may be dry enough to worry about thrips. 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.

ORCHID SPOTLIGHT *Orchis italica*



The name comes from the lobed lip (labellum) of each flower, which resembles the general shape of a naked man wearing a hat. The "hat" is formed by the upper petals and sepals curving into a pink hood above the figure. Each tiny bloom in the dense spike is its own little person – arms spread wide, legs dangling.

It's predominantly found in the Mediterranean region, across Italy, Spain, Greece, Turkey, and parts of North Africa, growing in grasslands,



scrublands, and open woodlands, preferring well-drained soils – from sea level up to mountainous areas. Flowering runs from March to May. Bees and other insects are drawn to the blooms, mistaking them for potential mates or rivals, which inadvertently leads to pollination – a quirky deception that's a crucial dance of survival. It's also a hermaphrodite capable of self-pollination as a backup strategy.

Show and Tell

Bring your blooming Orchids



We'd love to see what's flowering in your collection! Bring your blooming orchids to our next meeting and share a little piece of Florida's orchid-growing magic with fellow members. Your blooms inspire us all and remind us just how spectacular these plants can be in our climate.

As a thank-you for sharing, you'll receive a raffle ticket - so your beautiful orchids could win you a prize too! We can't wait to see what's in bloom. See you there!

Hospitality Corner



Since we didn't get to have Melana's Homemade Pulled Pork Sandwiches last month, we will try it again this month, along with traditional 4th of July Hot Dogs! Both of these are great for celebrating the 250th Birthday of our great country!

This means we need coleslaw, salads, and sides. Remember, we will be eating all these items while playing Bingo, so easy to eat is good. And of course, the society will bring drinks. Help to make our dinner table wonderful!



This month we will also have an Ice Cream Sundae Bar. We will charge \$1 for this dessert treat. This dollar is just to cover the costs of the Sundae Bar. So, don't bring desserts so we can all partake in the Sundae Bar!



Beginner's Class

No Beginners class because of Bingo! Jim will be back next month.

see you soon!



Photos from June Meeting

