



MARCH 2026

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

Our Show is here!



March Tips from Dr. Motes

Spring is coming!
Repotting is starting!

Page 6-7

Volunteer List

Check the list to see if your name is there, and thank you if it is!!!

Page 9

Beginner's Class

Our show is here and we need to know how to buy plants and what to get!!

Page
9



March Meeting • Tuesday, March 3, 2026 • 7:30 pm

Speaker: Alex Bello, Bello Tropicals

“Cattleya Species from Venezuela and South America”

Alex Bello is a collector and an avid grower of tropical plants ranging from bromeliads, orchids, ferns, aroids and beyond. He has been collecting all types of tropical plants for over 25 years with his specialty being bromeliads.

Alex first became addicted to bromeliads when he was gifted a variegated neoregelia which set off what set off an out-of-control hobby that he truly loves. Alex has held high level positions in the plant industry ranging from Southern Regions Director for the Bromeliad Society International, president & Show and Sale Chairmen of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida, Florida council of Bromeliad socie-

ties and former President of the International Aroid Society.

Alex is an avid outdoorsman whose love for the Everglades and Florida's ecology is truly remarkable. He also enjoys fishing, swamp walks, "any outdoor adventure in any environment", and is a 24-year veteran of the Miami-Dade County public schools as a high school administrative assistant over school operations, budget, and personnel.





President's Message

Dear members:

It looks like we are over our cold for this season, thank goodness! I know it has been tough on us doing the "orchid shuffle!" with our plants in and out of the house! Now, besides doing shows, it's time for repotting before hurricane season!

How exciting - Our show is right around the corner, March 14 and 15! I want to thank everyone who has volunteered so far to help with judging or the membership booth. Usually by now we have every slot signed up, but I guess everyone is busy this month. We still need help in several slots for the membership booth - please think about helping!

And, most importantly, **WE WILL NEED YOUR PLANTS! Share your orchids with us so we can again have a winning display!** You can bring your plants to the garden on Thursday, March 12, as early as possible. Between 8 and 12 is best. Just please bring a list of your plants with you so we can keep track of all of them. We will be setting up the display that day and need them early so we can see what we've got!

And, of course, we need helpers to clean, stake, and get the plants ready to be put into the display on Thursday. Helping to put together our display is both fun and educational. We will start at 9 or so, but anytime you can come is great, for as long as you want. The society will supply coffee and doughnuts in the morning and piz-

za lunch later on. It is a lot of fun, and the more people who come to help, the less time we all need to spend there.

Please remember, this is our main fundraiser of the year. We need to make sure our display is beautiful and that our membership booths are hopping! Even if you haven't responded to the requests, if you have the time, come to the membership booth and help out!

If you have any questions, email Melana at orchidiva@att.net or text me at 760-212-8919.

May 1-3 is the Rare Plant Festival, being held at the Fair Expo Center in Miami (where the Tamiami Show is held.) Volunteers will be needed for that event also, so check your calendars and see if you can help.

We have lots of interesting and exciting programs coming up for the rest of the year at our monthly meetings. Bring your friends and join us for dinner, talks, plant sales and silent auctions.

Melana Davison



Bratonia Mardi Gras

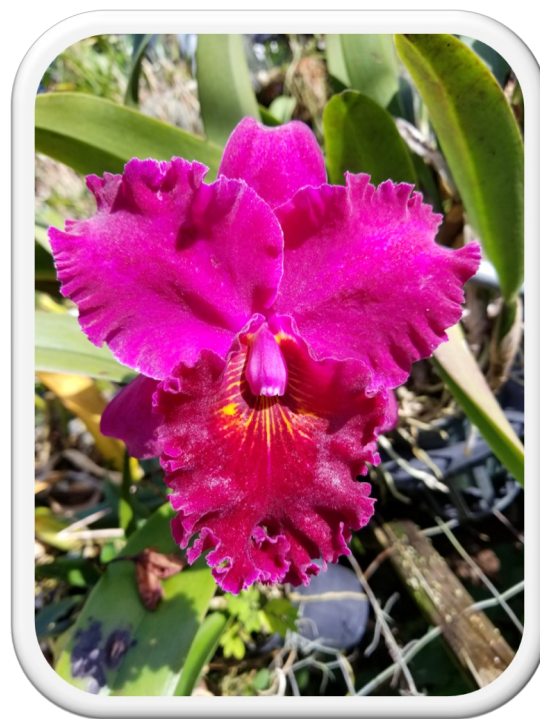

*May your troubles be less
and your blessings be more
And nothing but happiness
come through your door*

Membership Note

For those of you who have not renewed your membership: This is the last month to join before the price increase by \$5.

Please sign up at meeting this month or send in your membership via mail.

The membership application is on the next page. Thank you for your attention to this!



Other Area Meetings:

Eastern OS: No meeting this month

Coalition for Orchid Species: Monday, March 16

Pan Am Orchid Society: Tuesday, March 17

SFOS Meeting: Wed, March 18

AOS Judging at Fairchild: Saturday, March 21

East Everglades Meeting: Tues, March 24

Other Events

March 14-15! Our Show!!! Fairchild Orchid Show!

March 20-22, Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance Show, Naples, FL

March 14-15, Jacksonville Orchid Show

April 11-12, Bonnet House Orchid Show, Ft. Lauderdale

April 3-5, Flamingo Gardens Orchid Show, Davie

May 1-3, Rare Plant Festival, Miami

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

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.



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) Add \$5 after March meeting.

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

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.
- Come visit Motes Orchids in the beautiful Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden for the Fairchild International Orchid Festival March 8th-10th!

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.



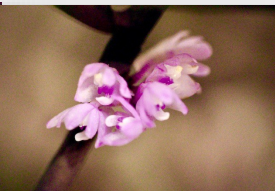
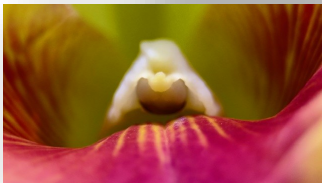
Vanda Ho-Kin Ng: a fragrant, compact primary hybrid.

Sign up to receive Dr. Motes' newsletters at

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

You can also text ORCHIDS to 22828.

Photos from February Meeting Thanks to Alvara Palache



Beginner's Class - 6:45 pm

The Show is Now and I don't Know What to Buy!!!

Ok, so the show is this week and you know you want some more orchids, but not exactly sure what to buy. What will grow here? How do I know if it's healthy? How do I keep it healthy? Lots of questions will be answered by our answer man, Jim Davison.

Additionally, Melana will be available at this time to answer any questions about volunteering for the show and what is expected.

You can bring any other questions you may have about orchids too!



Volunteers that Have Signed Up to Help at The Show

Below are the wonderful members who have signed up to help at the breakfast, luncheon, judging, and membership booth. A giant THANK YOU to all of you! As you can see, there are still a lot of slots left if you are interested. Also, we need help during setup if you can.

Judges Breakfast:

Elizabeth Harvey, Ginny Wheeler, Len Domingo

Judges Luncheon:

Elizabeth Harvey, Theresa Smith, Ginny Wheeler

Judging Clerks:

Adrienne Hochman, Virginia Benitez

Membership booth:

Saturday am: Alvaro Palache, William Capps, (need at least 5 more)

Saturday pm: Henry Miller, Len Domingo (need 5 more)

Sunday am: Len Domingo, Rita Maruri Rivero - (need 5 more people)

Sunday pm: Vicky Benitez, Gerry Yapp-Shing, - (need 5 more people)



Please, if there are any discrepancies, or changes, please, let me know asap so I can make sure both membership booths have people.

Remember, you are needed to make this society Great! Please give your time to help!