



MAY 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

Beginner's Class

Hurricane/Summer
Readiness

Page 3



What's for dinner? Tacos!

Page 4



Culture Pages AOS and Martin Motes

Pages 6-11



Member Spotlight!



Is it you?
Page 14

OSCG Cookbook



Get your
recipe in!

Page 15

Meeting Room Change: The Arts Center, next to Visitor Center, Main Entrance

Beginner's Class, 6:45pm, General Meeting, 7:30pm

Speaker: Luis Del Pino, former owner of RIO Orchids, Homestead "Encyclias"

We are pleased to have a former owner of an orchid nursery and orchid hobbyist, Luis Del Pino, as our speaker this month. He was the previous owner of RIO Orchids, which he purchased from renowned taxonomist Ruben Saulea. Many of us long time orchid growers recognize Ruben's nursery as Ruben in Orchids, and Luis and his wife continued the growing.

Luis was born and raised in Miami. He and his wife owned RIO Orchids in Homestead for 13 years before selling it to return to living in Miami.

Luis began as a hobbyist growing orchids in the early 1980's with his grandmother teaching him the basics.

Ruben was known for his orchid propagation lab and taught Luis and his wife the lab work, which they continued during their ownership of RIO Orchids.

RIO Orchids specialized in Cattleyas, Encyclias, Dendrobiums, and Myrmecophilas (Schomburgkias) as well as other native species in South Florida and the Caribbean.



Although he no longer owns the nursery, he is still involved in growing orchids as a hobby.

Don't miss his interesting talk on Encyclias. He will not be bringing plants in to sell, so the Silent Auction will be available. Bring your own extra plants or divisions to sell to our members!

Continued on page 3

President's Message



Dear members:

Happy Cinco de Mayo and Mothers Day! I hope all our moms out there get to have a day off!

So far we have been very fortunate with the weather. I hope it keeps up for a while, and I also hope everyone has been watering a little bit more. It has been very dry and hot and most plants are needing a little extra water for this time of the year. I also hope you have all started your fungicide spraying in preparation for the rains which will inevitably start soon.

This month we will hear Luis del Pino talking about Encylica orchids. **Please take note: for this month only, the meeting place has changed! We will be meeting in the Art Center, next to the visitor center at the main entrance.**

We will be having our Silent Auction this month. Bring your extra plants or divisions to sell to other members.

And of course, don't forget our Show and Tell table. Show off your great orchid babies!

Thank you to all the members who volunteered at the Rare Plant Festival.

From Karina: The Rare Plant Festival has made a total donation of \$600 to your society.

\$390 in the names of:
Renate Van Kempema
Vicky Benitez
Alina Perez-Stable
Adrienne Hochman
Howard Hochman
AND Tracie Dickerson - a last-minute addition who stepped in at the last minute to cover a cancellation from another club!

Plus, a special donation of **\$210**, made in the names of the Wheeler family for their invaluable contributions throughout the weekend.

Jim Wheeler
Daniel Wheeler
Linda Wheeler

A special thank you to Adrienne Hoffman for arranging a wonderful tour of Viscaya and their orchids with our previous speaker Alex Cahiz. It was a beautiful day and the orchids were everywhere.

May 4 we were at the Pinecrest Market to talk about our great Orchid Society of Coral Gables. It was a great opportunity to meet members of the community and inform them of our society and our great benefits in learning about orchids.

See you at the meeting!

Laura Aiken

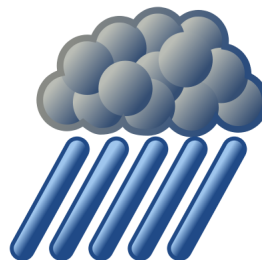


Beginner's Class - Hurricane and Summer Season

This month will be about getting ready for "H" season. Yes, it is that time of year again and it's always good to review what needs to be done during the summer months and in preparation for upcoming big storms.

Many of us have been through bad summers with our orchids, but we have many new members that may not realize some of the hints and tips we can share about summer prep.

And as always, Jim will be available to answer any orchid questions you may have, any season! 6:45pm



Continued from page 1 - Luis Del Pino, "Encyclias"

Encyclia culture (from AOS):

Grow plants of *Encyclia* in pots or baskets of medium-grade epiphyte mixture or on slabs without any moisture-retaining material at the roots.

Provide very bright light and intermediate to warm temperatures.

Water regularly while in active growth allowing the roots to dry out lightly between waterings. Reduce water after the season's pseudobulbs have matured.

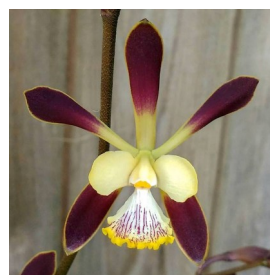
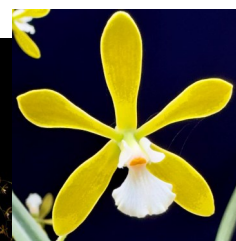
In general plants of *Encyclia* do not respond well to frequent root disturbance and it may take more than one growth for the new pseudobulbs to return their previous size. Similarly, the roots of encyclias are intolerant of old, decomposed potting mixture.

The name **Encyclia**, in fact, originated from the Greek word *enkyklein*, which refers to the flower's lip enfolding the column. The lip of *Encyclia* flowers almost always displays a different color than the rest of the flower. It can either be ruffled or flat and broad, depending on the species.

Some species have large and showy blooms, while others showcase smaller and more discreet flowers. They flaunt a wide selection of colors, usually ranging from yellow to brown, pink, purple, and green. Most of them produce fragrant flowers.



Encyclia tampensis



Encyclia alata



Encyclia bractescens



Hospitality Corner! Cinco de Mayo Taco Bar!!!

In honor of Cinco de Mayo, Melana is making a TACO BAR with all the fixings!!

But of course, we always need sides, salads, and desserts (hopefully with a Mexican flair!!)

We are unsure what kitchen facilities will be available, so please try to have anything you bring "ready-to-eat."



April Show and Tell! (Photos by our photographers on the go, Adrienne Hochman and Vicky Benitez)



April Show and Tell continued



May/June Checklist
from the American Orchid Society
...by Ned Nash and James Rose

Cattleya

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.

Phalaenopsis

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

Paphiopedilum

The Paphiopedilum Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in Paphiopedilum fairrieanum-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

Progress of the Season, April 2025

- by Dr. Martin Motes

This April has been exceptionally dry. The drought which is punishing our landscapes is a blessing to our orchids. All the world's a greenhouse when no water falls from the sky. Careful but totally thorough watering is what the dry conditions dictate. With the rising temperatures and longer days, our plants will dry much more quickly than usual. Extra monitoring is required to be sure that our plants have the water they need as the growing season begins. With more frequent watering of our rapidly drying plants, more frequent applications of liquid fertilizer will be greatly beneficial. Select a benchmark potted plant and lift it on a daily basis to ascertain how rapidly it is drying.

For our mostly bare root vandas the rate of drying is right before our eyes. Normally, when Vanda roots are white, they are dry and should be watered in 12-24 hours which, in a typical Spring, is mostly every day. In our unusually dry hot weather, vandas can benefit from a second watering or heavy misting later in the day. Ideally this should occur around 4-4:30 when temperatures will start falling soon. The second watering will allow the stomata of the cooled leaves to open sooner, and capture more carbon dioxide promoting growth. The lengthening days will permit our plants' leaves to dry before nightfall.

Drought and high temperatures mean that Thrips will be attacking our orchids with a vengeance. Most prominently their damage can be observed on the roots of vandas but most painfully in the lost flower spikes that die at a half inch or so. Thrips are the most ubiquitous of all insects, attacking even the new growths of sympodial orchids. Controlling them will yield control of all other insect pests; scale, mealy bugs and even the wily cucaracha. Methods to control Thrips are set forth in both Fla. Orchid Growing and Fla. Vanda Growing.

Snails are thankfully, still estivating in the current drought but will be awakened with the first solid rain we receive. When that rain arrives, greet those slimy buggers with a light application of the smallest snail bait available. Remember, it is bait so more than a single pellet per square foot is excessive. Keep the environment, our pets and our orchids, all safe by applying snail bait judiciously.

The extra dry air means that heat radiates out rapidly during the night which our orchids respond to by rooting vigorously. We can respond to the phenomenon by rising early to a world air conditioned by nature to get whatever outside we need to do done. May for early risers is one of the most delightful months of the year.



*OSCG at the
Pinecrest Farmer's Market!*

Thank you to all who helped!

May in Your Orchid Collection - by Dr. Martin Motes

Excerpted from Florida Orchid Growing: Month by Month by Martin Motes. All rights reserved.

May Climate Data

Average high: 87.2

Average low: 72.0

Average mean: 79.6

Average rainfall: 5.52"

May is a month of transition in South Florida. Early in the month we can expect the driest weather of the year. Because of the clarity of the air and lack of cloud cover, temperatures rise rapidly in the late morning and can reach the upper eighties or nineties by mid afternoon before cooling substantially in late afternoon. Fortunately, over night radiant cooling rapidly dissipates the previous day's heat. May mornings are a delight, the wise orchidist rises early to enjoy them and to finish his chores before the heat sets in. Chief of these should be extensive dragging of hoses.

May's wide temperature swings and dry air suit our orchids to a tee. New growths on sympodial orchids are developing apace and by continuing the careful watering practices of April (i.e drenching them thoroughly with repeated applications of water to satu-



rate their roots and potting media, then allowing them to dry to nearly 'hard' dry) we can launch them into the summer in vigorous, disease-free growth. Remember, this saturation can only be achieved with two or more soakings to the point of runoff spaced a few minutes apart. Merely holding the water on the plant extra long will not suffice.

The water needs to slowly soak into the roots and media.

Test the weight of a "benchmark" plant to be satisfied that it is sufficiently heavy to be totally soaked. The arid air of early May will quickly dry the foliage but the roots can draw on the deep reservoir of water that you have provided with this careful, complete watering.

With the increased heat and light of May we do not want to put our orchids on too lean a diet. Fertilize with up to 2 tsp. of 15-5-15 per gal of water every week or so. Alternating with Epsom salts and potassium nitrate at 1 tbs. each per gal. is still a best practice during May. Always substitute fertilizer for a watering and apply like the water in two doses to the point of saturation. Never follow the widely stated but antiquated advice to "water before fertilizing". It's a receipt for over watering without any basis in logic or science, Now is also a good time to apply a soluble trace or micro element fertilizer. Follow the dilution rates on the package as mixtures and strengths differ. You can apply this in conjunction with the Epsom salts/potassium nitrate but never with the 15-5-15, 20-20-20 or any other fertilizer containing phosphorus. In South Florida's highly alkaline water the phosphorus interacts with the other metallic elements, reducing the effectiveness of the trace elements. Potassium nitrate, 13-0-46, is the perfect companion to minor elements because it not only lacks phosphorus which would hinder the absorption of the trace elements but the nitrate nitrogen seems to enhance their uptake.

May is still prime time for re-potting.

(Continued from page 10)

With cattleyas, dendrobiums and other sympodials, the virtuous among us have long since finished this labor of love, but the majority of us are faced with the moral dilemma of doing the potting now or waiting until next year with the pseudo bulbs of our plants overhanging their pots and proclaiming to the world our sloth. The one instance in which this dilemma must be resolved absolutely in favor of the plant, is when the media has broken down in the pot. This condition will encourage root rot to become stem rot which will pursue the rhizome even into those over arching bulbs. If in doubt, give the media the "nose test". A pinch of media taken from below the surface of the pot should smell "sweet". A sour smell or the odor of a pond bottom indicates media that is broken down and must be replaced as soon as possible.

The case in which this is almost universally true is with plants potted in sphagnum moss. Sphagnum simply will not last beyond one year (even under cover) in South Florida. As the vast majority of commercially produced *Phalaenopsis* are now grown in sphagnum, recently acquired plants MUST be re-potted annually. As most Phals. will be finishing their flowers, now is a good time to get them right for the new year's growth. When repotting, one can, of course, choose a more durable media; rock, red wood chips or various mixtures and avoid this annual ritual. Choosing a more durable media will entail modifying one's watering schedule to accommodate the faster draining, quicker drying qualities of these harder substances.

May is a great month for re-setting vandeaceous orchids whose baskets have deteriorated or that have grown too tall to be easily managed. Keikies (off-shoots) can be most safely removed now. In both cases choose the most durable containers for the plants so they need not be disturbed for years. Teak or other hard wood baskets and clay pots last

longest. Above all make amply sure that the plants are firmly fixed in their lodging. Vandaceous orchids, above all others, are intol-



erant of being loosely set. The very height of these plants act as a lever to keep them rocking unless we anchor them securely until their new roots affix themselves to the new containers. Stake and tie them securely until their abundant roots take over. Unseen staking can then be removed.

As we bask, lulled into complacency by the nearly ideal weather of early May, Summer sometimes surprises us. Toward the middle or end of May, the weather in South Florida literally undergoes a sea change. The large continental weather patterns which have dominated our weather through the winter and early Spring give way to the tropics and the prevailing south easterly trade winds return us to the interaction of

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

Gulf Stream and peninsular with its characteristic afternoon thunder showers. Although lacking the clockwork consistency of June, the rains have come and we must be prepared for them.

The relentless and increasing crescendo of rain will, by summer's end, tip the balance in favor of the ubiquitous fungi lurking to attack our orchids. The time to scotch their plans is now; an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Leaving the taxonomic niceties to the experts, fungi which attack orchids in Florida fall into two broad classes; the leaf spotting types (*Cercospora* and *Phyllosticta*) and the soft rots (*Pythium* and *Phytophthora*). Fortunately, for modern orchidists, excellent systemic fungicides exist for both types. While these chemicals are no substitute for good cultural practices, i.e. adequate spacing, brisk air movement; the strongest possible light combined with careful watering, fungicides provide the edge to approach near total control of most fungal diseases even in their ancestral home, South Florida. May is a good time to take stock of the collection and see which plants are overgrown and need more space or perhaps even re-potting. The increase in air circulation is well worth the effort. Trimming shade trees and moving plants to brighter locations are also good strategies for May. May is also a good time to consider a preventative spray program before disease has a chance to get the upper hand in our collections. An ounce of prevention begins now.

**Sign up to receive Dr. Motes'
newsletters at**

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

You can also text ORCHIDS to 22828.

Leaf spotting fungi are symptomatic of poor air circulation and inadequate light but even under good growing conditions are rarely entirely absent from orchids in South Florida. This near inevitability results because the same diseases also afflict so many other tropical plants in our gardens. Under the battering of the heavy and sustained rains of our wet season, the most minor of problems can occasionally blossom quickly into a major epidemic. Thiophanate methyl (Cleary's 3336, Domain, Fungo) is the proven and recommended systemic fungicide to control leaf spotting. It is even more effective when combined with Mancozeb (Manzate or Dithane M45.) Two pre-packaged combinations are available; (Duosan, and Tops MZ). Always follow label recommendations for rate of application.

To be truly effective, Thiophanate methyl should be applied initially early in the growing season (IE now!), then again in two weeks and then every 5-6 weeks thereafter across the rainy season. Faithfully followed, this regimen will control nearly all leaf spotting fungus, including the dreaded 'Thai crud': *Phyllostictina capitalense*. A spreader sticker enhances the effectiveness of the fungicide by holding it on the plant through the hardest rain.

The soft black rot of sympodial orchids and crown rot in vandas are caused by two different organisms i.e *Pythium* and *Phytophthora* although in effect they are indistinguishable. Control of these diseases necessitates different chemicals from those used on the leaf spotting diseases. Etridiazole (Truban) has long been used. For the amateur it is readily available in combination with Thiophanate Methyl



(the recommended chemical for leaf spotting) in the formulation Banrot. Applied in the same manner suggested above for Thiophanate methyl to control leaf spotting fungi, this pre-packaged combination should be adequate for most circumstances and control crown rot as well. If problems persist two other systemics give excellent control: Aliette (Fosetyl-aluminum) and Subdue 2E (metalaxyl).

All chemicals should only be applied at the rates and according to the label instructions. If in doubt about whether to or how to apply a pesticide always call your County Agricultural Agent at 305 248 3311 for advice.



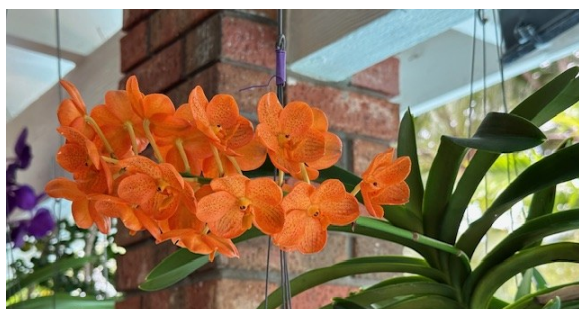
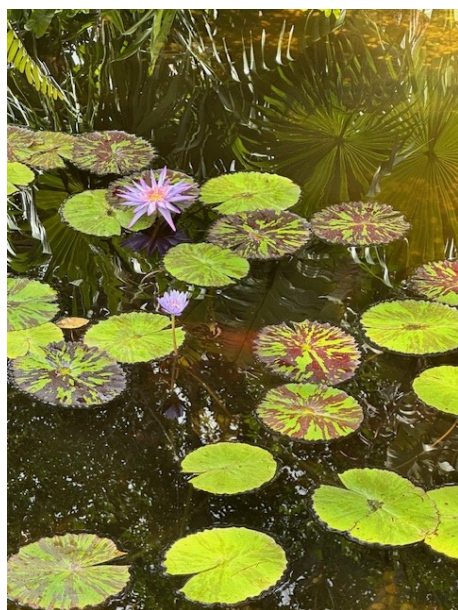
Orchid Tasks for May - by Dr. Martin Motes

- Space plants properly for good air circulation
- Trim excessive foliage on trees and shrubs
 - Repot Phalaenopsis out of sphagnum
- Initiate preventive spray maintenance program
 - Finish repotting of various genera
 - Reset vandaceous plants, remove keikis
- Water heavily early in month, more guardedly later
(Remember that watering is never "one size fits all" but instead should follow weather conditions and observation of your plants.)



A Visit to Virginia's Garden
Photos from a member's home tour
by Joan Manley





New orchid found on Australian island resembles a cupcake

by Andrea Wild , [CSIRO](#)



The tiny cupcake-like bulb of the orchid from Norfolk Island is about the size of a person's thumbnail. Credit: Heidi Zimmer

Imagine discovering a tiny orchid perched on a tree branch in a forest. It resembles an orchid you've seen before, but something is subtly different. Could it be a new species that hasn't yet been named or described by science?



Meet Trudy Faust! Trudy joined the OSCG a year ago and immediately began connecting with other members at meetings. She is originally from Cuba and arrived in Miami, Florida, in 1961. A special highlight about Trudy is that she is a harpist and enjoys playing in various venues.

Trudy enjoys being part of the local community. Now that she is retired, Trudy has time to devote to various organizations, including the Pinecrest Garden Club. The OSCG is lucky to have her because she is always willing to help. For example, Trudy agreed to become one of our OSCG Ambassadors to welcome new members, and every month, she brings a yummy vegan dish for all to enjoy.

Trudy's love of orchids began with an appreciation of a corsage. She said, "Orchids are a true gift when they bloom. You come out in the morning, and what a surprise." Her favorite orchid is the *Oncidium dancing lady* because it blooms yearly and is not fussy.

What Trudy likes most about the OSCG is the monthly educational programs and the willingness of members to share their knowledge of orchids. Trudy sees herself as being in a learning stage (like many of us!), and the OSCG is the perfect place to continue expanding knowledge about orchids. The most memorable OSCG experience has been the generosity of members who've opened their homes to see their orchids and learn more about them.

Finally, Trudy advises new members, "It's a journey for life, enjoy the ride."



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! You can do it!

Thanks, Melana

Over the years of cooking for our meetings, I been told many times I should make a cookbook. But a better idea is to have an OSCG Members Recipe Book!

I am not the only one who has brought in good things to eat. Many of you members have brought in great dishes, from entrees to salads and sides, to desserts. Would you be willing to share you recipes in order to help the society earn a few dollars?

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.

It goes without saying, please be sure it is legible if handwritten. Also, if you have a picture of a done recipe, send it too! Or if you have anecdotes about the recipe, like it was my grandmother's, etc. that will be great! Makes a cookbook that much more interesting.



*When you give of yourself, you receive more
than you give.*