



OCTOBER 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

President's message!

Lots of things happening!



Page 2

Costume Contest!

Wear a costume for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place!!

Page 3



Elections for 2026

Officers and Board

Page 4

Dr. Motes Talks About October Culture

Pages 6 and 7

What to do this month in our collection!

October Meeting • Tuesday, October 7, 2025
No Beginner's Class, General Meeting 7:30 pm

Jim & Melana Davison, Jim-N-I Orchids,
Hands-On Repotting/Mounting Class

And our

Halloween Meeting!



This month Jim and Melana Davison will be leading a "hands-on" repotting/mounting session! Bring in any 2", 3" or 4" plant of yours that you feel needs to be repotted, and we will repot together! Or, you can choose to mount your orchid, with help!

There is a small fee of **\$10** which will cover pots, potting medium, or mounts, and supplies needed to repot. Please bring your own clippers.

If you would rather not repot, you can watch and learn. There is no obligation to repot, but you can still learn!

They will teach you tips, tricks, rules, and things to avoid in repotting or mounting. And, if you have a plant that needs to be divided, they can help you with that too. Bring it in!

What orchid should you bring in? Make sure your plant, especially any cattleya, has new root growth. Plants that are growing over the pot or bursting at the seams are good candidates. Remember, the best way to learn is by doing!

President's Message

Dear OSCG members:



We have a lot of exciting things coming up as we head into the Holiday Season. Yes, it is fast approaching!

In October we are **very lucky** to have two **extremely knowledgeable** people in our society, **Jim and Melana Davison**. They will be presenting our October program on **Repotting and Mounting Your Orchids**. Bring your own plant in, and for a \$10 fee, we supply pots, mounts, medium and supplies.

We are also coming on Halloween. So, if you like to dress up, you will get a raffle ticket for a special costume drawing for a beautiful \$50 orchid! We also will be selecting a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner for beautiful orchid prizes.

Wear **your shirt** or buy one for \$20 at the meeting. We proudly wear our shirts at the festivals. We will draw **raffle plants** for wearing a shirt, for member attendance for , being an AOS member, and bringing food to share. Look over the requirements needed to be eligi-

ble for a **FREE** orchid at our holiday party!

Speaking of festivals, we have 2 opportunities coming up for you to **volunteer** for OSCG. First, on Oct. 11-12, we will be at Fairchild Gardens **Orchids in October** Festival with a membership booth. Second, the **Redland Orchid Festival** is almost here. This year the dates are October 17-19. We will oversee the Orchid Hotel and will have a Membership Table. We are looking for volunteers for this amazing orchid display at the Fruit and Spice Park. RSVP to for both events to

laura54orchid@gmail.com.

Welcome to our newest members, Iris and Mike Cohen. It is always so great to have new members!

November will be our **Thanksgiving meeting**. Please sign up to bring something for our Thanksgiving dinner. We ask that all members bring something. The society will be supplying turkeys and drinks.

We are also having **AOS Judging Outreach** that month with a presentation by an accredited AOS judge. Get your orchids that may be in spike now ready to bring in for judging.

Don't Forget to Wear Your OSCG Shirt to the Meeting!

And don't forget to get your ticket for the special **Shirt Drawing** from the Welcome Desk!

December will be our **Holiday Party**. Remember, it is on the second Tuesday of the month, not the first. So that is **Dec. 9**.

The cost for the party is \$20 per person if you bring food, and \$30 if you don't bring food. Society supplies turkeys and hams, and non-alcoholic drinks of all kinds.

And, if you have ever been to one of our Holiday Parties, you know you also receive all kinds of goodies and surprises!

Sign up for what you will be bringing and you can also pay the party at the meeting.

Also, please check with membership to make sure you have fulfilled (or will) the requirements for your Holiday Plant!

See you at the October meeting!

DURING
THE DAY,
I DON'T BELIEVE
IN **GHOSTS**.
AT NIGHT,
I'M A LITTLE
MORE
OPEN-MINDED.

— UNKNOWN

Our Halloween Meeting! Costume Raffle!

Spooky food! Boo!

This month is Halloween month for our group!

We will have a contest with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. And for everyone of you who wear a costume, we will have a special raffle! Each member who wears a costume of any kind will get a raffle ticket. And then one lucky member will get a fantastic plant worth \$50

Also, we will hope everyone will bring their favorite Halloween food for our table! Melana and Jim are bringing Chillin' Chili, and Bat Wings but we need spooky sides, scary salads, devilish desserts, and anything else you can bring! Of course, you can bring whatever you want.

Please don't forget to get your raffle ticket for the food you bring from Ariel and Martin (who, by the way, are doing a great job!)



EEK!

A GHOST ORCHID!

Upcoming Elections for 2026

The Board presents the following slate for Officers and Board of Directors for the year 2026. Please vote at the November meeting to agree or disagree.

Slate of Officers for the 2026 Year

Orchid Society of Coral Gables

President - Melana Davison

1st Vice President - Laura Aiken

2nd Vice President - Virginia Benitez

Treasurer - Tom Rothrock

Secretary - Linda Matanis



Board of Directors:

Bill Capps

Maggie Echeverria

Alvaro Palache

Jim Wheeler

Adrienne Hochman

Howard Hochman

Javier Morejon

Alina Perez-Stable

Correction re: Facebook and Instagram

We need to make a correction regarding our Facebook and Instagram addresses. The correct ones to use are:



Facebook - Orchid Society of Coral Gables Official FacebookGroup

Instagram - OSCG.club

We apologize for any confusion.

Let's fill these pages up with photos of your beautiful orchids!!



Instagram

No Beginner's Class this Month

Bring your Plants for Show and Tell!!!



Don't forget to get your raffle ticket when you bring in your Show and Tell plants.

The members love to show what they have been growing and also seeing what other members have grown. Seeing what other members grow and learning how they do it is a great benefit of our great society!



There will be Silent Auction this month



If you have any orchids, orchid divisions, or orchid related items you'd like to part with, the society will help you out! Bring them to the meeting to sell!!!

It helps both you and the society, and of course the members benefit



Special Raffle Ticket!

There are 5 opportunities to win a plant each month.

Wear our OSCG Shirt to the Meeting!

Bring a Plant to Show and Tell!

Bring food for our Dinner Table!

Be a paid member of OSCG!

Be a paid member of AOS!

Other Area Meetings:

SFOS Meeting: Wednesday, October 15

Eastern Airlines Orchid Society: Friday, October 17

AOS Judging at Fairchild: Saturday, October 18

Coalition for Orchid Species: Monday, October 20

Pan Am Orchid Society: Tuesday, October 21

East Everglades Meeting: Tuesday, October 28



Upcoming Events:

Orchids in October, Oct. 14-15, Fairchild Garden

Redland Orchid Festival, Oct 17-19, Fruit and Spice Park

Broward Fall Plant Affair, Oct 25-26, Plantation

A Tropical Plant Fair, Nov. 8-9, Wilton Manors

Ft. Pierce Orchid Society Show, Dec. 13-14, Ft. Pierce

Excerpts from Dr. Martin Motes'

October in Your Orchid Collection

October Climate Data

Average high: 85.4

Average low: 72.2

Average mean: 78.8

Average rainfall: 6.19"

October is a month of change in South Florida. If the Romans had lived here where we do, they would have named this month for their two faced god Janus. Usually around the middle of the month, and certainly by the end of the month, the first strong cold front pushes into South Florida bringing to a close the monolithic heat and damp of summer and ushering in weather as most of the continent knows it, alternating periods of warmer and cooler. Although warm temperatures will persist for another month or so until the technical end of the hurricane season, the tropics are in retreat and the temperate zone in the ascendancy. Each successive cold front foreshadowed by ever lessening rain storms will progressively cool our temperatures and dry our air. But days are shortening too, providing less hours of sunlight to heat the air and slowing the drying process. Nights are longer and cooler which produces the same effect, slower drying. Now we must start to move into the consciousness of winter and take greater care to insure that our plants are thoroughly dry before we water them again. The shorter days of October dictate that we rise even earlier to water if necessary. Each extra hour of daylight is to be cherished by us as well as our plants.

Most of our orchids are well aware of this sea change. The shortening days of late summer have told many genera to finish their growth and prepare to rest. We need to listen too. And look! The last smallest leaves of these highly seasonal plants will have unfolded at the tips of their new growths telling us that their growth cycle is finished for this year. Himalayan dendrobiums of the nobile type and of the section Callista (*D. aggregatum* et al.) now begin their five months of carefree existence in South Florida. They should be put in a bright spot and given no more water and above all, no more fertilizer until after they have bloomed in spring. *Catasetums*, *Mormodes*, *Cynoches*, *calanthes* and other deciduous types should be treated the same way. Whatever moisture nature provides in the increasingly heavy dew and the passing rains that usher in most cold fronts will be adequate for these plants whose native environment is a seasonally monsoon one like ours. Benign neglect suits these genera just fine and what a relief to the conscience of the ever busy orchidist! The truly devoted will group these genera together, preferably at the edge of the growing area and high up where they will receive the maximum of light and air circulation. Grouped thus, the chance of an accidental watering of these, while taking care of the more thirsty genera, is minimized. Another strategy is to tip the pots of these dormant genera on their sides thus eliminating much natural rainfall and avoiding a misdirected hose spray. Some growers even remove plants that have finished both growing and flowering from their pots entirely. When new growth begins in the spring they will receive a fresh start in new medium.

Many cattleyas, laelias, oncidiums and *Phalaenopsis*-type dendrobiums will be finishing their growths and should be hardened off with reduced water and fertilizer but not the Spartan regime of the deciduous type. Lower nitrogen fertilizer applied at a lower rate and with less frequency will make these genera happy and prevent them from breaking into unwanted off-season growth that frequently hampers flowering as well. Many growers tend to use higher phosphorus, lower nitrogen fertilizers of the "Bloom Booster" type during the cooler weather. But less frequent applications of the recommended 15-5-15 is a better strategy. These applications should be spaced further apart as well, at ten to twelve day intervals. Less frequent watering will also do for these genera. When the frontal rains pass through, check to see that the pots are thoroughly wet by giving them the "heft" test and if they are not heavy enough "top them up." Let them dry 'hard' before watering again. In cool weather especially, less is more.

Monopodial orchids like *Vanda* and *Phalaenopsis* which want to grow continuously, feel the change too. The broad swing of day to night temperature stimulates flower spike initiation in these genera. You can spur them on

to greater excitement by giving them a shot of high Phosphorus 'Bloom Booster' fertilizer just before or just after the sudden drop in night temperatures precipitated by the passing of a cold front. For most of the year "Bloom Booster" fertilizer appears to be in fact "Bloom Blocker" but (perhaps from faith rather than science) high phosphorus seems to have the desired effect (perhaps from shock) when the first cold snaps are also halting vegetative growth. We like Miller's Solugro (12-48-8) because it contains none of the ugly blue flower, clothes and hand staining dye. Other brands (with or without dye) are equally effective. Look for a very high middle number and a relatively low first number or ask at your garden center for a 'starter solution' which is the moniker for these fertilizers when used in planting out vegetable or annual seedlings. Because the nitrogen level is lower, you can use a full tablespoon of these or more, per gallon.

Cooler weather calls our attention to our plants' needs for trace elements. Chief among these is magnesium, often described as the 'major' minor element. Magnesium deficiency shows up in orchids as a reddening of the foliage particularly when the plant is stressed. This color change is frequently attributed to cold as it occurs following spells of cooler weather. This observation is the fallacy of post hoc, ergo propter hoc; cold is merely the efficient cause: the material cause is lack of magnesium. Hopefully the new fertilizer regimen outlined in the July chapter will minimize or eliminate the reddening by keeping the magnesium level up in the plants. Epsom salts (MgS) is the best and most readily available source of magnesium. This can be applied with Potassium Nitrate (KNO₃) at the rate of one tablespoon each per gallon. Potassium Nitrate has the formula 13-0-46. The missing number in the middle is Phosphorus. In combination with our highly alkaline water phosphorus tends to react with magnesium and the other metals of the trace element group. Never apply magnesium and the other trace elements in combination with fertilizers containing phosphorus. A general purpose trace element mixture can be added to the mix of magnesium sulfate and potassium nitrate at the rate recommended on the label. (Concentrations vary). Goodbye red, hello green!

TASKS FOR OCTOBER:

- *Space plants to increase air circulation.*
- *Water as early as possible in the day.*
- *Move Himalayan dendrobiums, catasetums, calanthes and other seasonally dormant plants to dry bright locations.*
- *Reduce general fertilizer. Apply extra magnesium and potassium.*



Vanda tessellata "Karina Motes" v. semi-alba AM/AOS /
Photographer: G. Allikas



V. Miami Snowdrop

Upcoming Events

10th Annual TROPICAL PLANT FAIR

Saturday, November 8 | 9AM-5PM

Sunday, November 9 | 9AM-3PM

Richardson Historic Park and Nature
Preserve

1937 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, FL
33305



Delray Beach Orchid Society Annual Orchid Sale

The Vintage Gym

51 N. Swinton Avenue

October 25 – 26, 2025

Saturday 10 - 5

Sunday 10 - 4

Admission: \$5.00

(cash only for entry)

Bring this coupon
for \$1.00 off admission at the door

(Good for up to 4 people)



REDLAND
INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FESTIVAL

**THE
REDLAND
INTERNATIONAL
ORCHID FESTIVAL**

**3 DAYS
OF PEACE
& ORCHIDS**

OCTOBER 17, 18, 19 2025

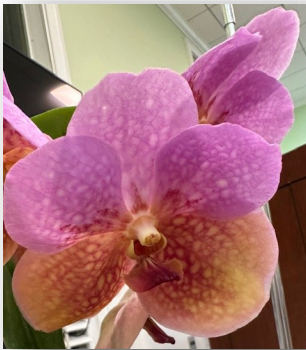
Same amazing venue
with cooler weather this fall!

www.redlandorchidfestival.com

THE FRUIT & SPICE PARK
REDLAND, FLORIDA

Photos from the October Meeting

*By Jane Millman, Joan Manley,
and Vicky Benitez*



Member Spotlight - Virginia (Vicky) Benitez

(written by roving reporter, Alina Perez-Stable)



Background

Virginia (“Vicky”) Benitez has been an OSCG member for three years, but first, a little background. Vicky was born in Havana, Cuba, and at the age of four, her family left for New York City. They then moved to Madrid, where Vicky completed high school. In 1971, she moved to Miami, where she has remained ever since, raising her children and running two successful businesses.

You may know Vicky—she’s the one who sits up front during meetings, knitting something beautiful. Vicky is a member of the OSCG team that creates our fantastic orchid displays for shows. She is also a member of the OSCG board and is always ready to volunteer for orchid shows and events, including the OSCG orchid home tours. At Vicky’s home, you’ll see lovely orchids, a koi pond, and meet her menagerie: two dogs, a cat, and a very grumpy parrot.

How did you develop a love for orchids?

It was my grandfather’s love of orchids that inspired my lifelong passion for these beautiful flowers. As a teenager, he took me to the fabulous orchid shows at the Coconut Grove Exhibition Center, which had incredible displays by worldwide growers. I’ll always have this special memory of my grandfather, and his influence remains with me to this day.

How did you learn to take care of orchids?

Many orchids in my care initially died, but I learned through trial and error, and OSCG has helped me improve my techniques. Regardless of the OSCG educational program, I always gain new information, and with this knowledge, I enjoy helping others with their orchids.

Do you have a favorite orchid?

They are all my favorites, but my very favorite are Renantheras, which have a special place in my heart.

What motivated you to join the OSCG?

Joining OSCG was a natural fit for me. So, when a friend asked me to accompany her to a meeting, we both joined that very same evening. Whether you’ve loved orchids forever, are just starting, or are somewhere in between, OSCG is perfect for you!

What’s your favorite aspect of being an OSCG member?

I love the people and the events I’ve attended, but my favorite is working with our OSCG team to create displays for orchid shows. I learned about building displays as an OSCG member. Jim and Melana Davison expertly trained me and others on how to do orchid displays. Another aspect I enjoy is meeting judges and learning how they evaluate orchids at shows. And I can’t leave out Beginner’s Class, a favorite of mine and many members.

Do you have a memorable experience with OSCG activities?

At the Tamiami International Orchid Show two years back, one of my orchids won a blue ribbon. That was too exciting for words!

What suggestions do you have for new OSCG members?

Come to our meetings! You will learn something new at every meeting and make new friends.



Get ready for Our Annual Christmas Party!

This year our Annual Christmas Party will be held on December 9. As usual, it will start with appetizers at 6pm and go until we are done getting our plants and eating, usually around 10pm.

You know that we have the best Christmas Party in all the societies. We have good food, beautiful orchids, wonderful centerpieces, lots of friendship, and great entertainment.

Due to the rising costs of orchids and other things, we have had to increase the price this year. The cost will be \$20 per person if you bring a food dish, and \$30 if you don't bring food. And the night will be worth every penny!

Sign up at the October and November meetings. You can also pay at that time if you wish. Please put down what food dish you will be bringing so we don't have too much of the same thing. Remember, the turkeys, hams, and an assortment of non-alcoholic beverages will be supplied by the society.

And, of course, any member fulfilling the plant requirements will receive their Holiday Orchid! Check with membership to see if you are eligible, or if you've got more to do!

Lastly, Melana, who coordinates the Holiday Party, always has surprises for us!

It is a great time you don't want to miss! Sign up to reserve your spot!

