

Orchid Society of Coral Gables



Monthly Newsletter | August, 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 August 4, 2026
7:30pm Meeting
6:45pm Beginner's class



Growing Orchids, a survival guide by Jose Exposito



Jose Exposito was born in Cuba and emigrated to the United States during the Mariel boatlift in 1980. In 1985, he co-founded Soroa Orchids. Jose is an American Orchid Society judge who travels extensively around the world judging and lecturing on growing and hybridizing orchids. He is also a founder of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, past president of the Coalition for Orchid Species, past president of the East Everglades Orchid Society, and founder and past president of the Redland Orchid Show. Soroa Orchids has won numerous awards from the AOS and medals from the World Orchid Conferences, and his hybrids have garnered awards at national and international orchid events. In addition to owning Soroa Orchids, Jose serves as orchid curator for the Bonnet House Museum and Gardens and chairs Broward County's largest annual orchid event — the Bonnet House Orchid and Garden Festival, held every April. This year, Jose had the honor of serving as one of nine orchid judging captains at the World Orchid Conference in Dresden, Germany.



ORCHID SOCIETY OF CORAL GABLES

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



We had a wonderful Bingo night last month! Everyone had a good time and lots of plants were given away to winners!!

We are changing the name of our Beginner's Class to Grower's Class! The class is good for everyone, not just beginners! This month Jim will focus on Catasetums, but as usual, he will answer questions about anything orchids! 6:45pm. Jim will also be bringing in Catasetums to sell.

In October we will be participating at the Redland Orchid Festival in the Fruit and Spice Park on Friday, Oct. 16, Saturday, Oct. 17, and Sunday, Oct. 18.

There will be available tasks for us to get paid for. Working the gates or scanning admission tickets will get us money. They give back to our society for each shift — \$65 per shift, and \$100 for those scanning admission tickets. The money we earn helps to pay for room rental for our meetings, as well as our Fantastic Holiday Party in December.

Signup sheets will be available at the meeting. Besides working the gates, we will have an Orchid Hotel where we watch attendees' orchids while they shop for more. We receive donations for this.

For both the door tasks and volunteering at the Orchid Hotel, you will get free admission to the festival. We hope to see many of you signing up!

This festival always provides an amazing orchid display with many vendors at the Fruit and Spice Park. Additionally, there will be AOS Judging. If you have any orchids you'd like to display, you can bring them to the show for judging. Register plants on Thursday, Oct. 15, between 12pm and 2pm. Your plants will need to be on display during the show and picked up on Sunday, Oct. 18, at 5pm.

Lastly, I am still trying to get together a society cookbook. So far, participation has been rather low! I know you all eat, so most of you probably cook too! Send in your recipes to Melana at oscgcookbook@gmail.com.

We don't have enough yet to compile a book, and we'd really like every member to give us at least one recipe! The sooner the better, and pictures would be great! These will make great gifts for the holidays if we get enough recipes in!

See you Tuesday, the 4th!
Melana

Member Spotlight Removed



August Orchid Care from Motes Orchids

Excerpted from Florida Orchid Growing: Month by Month by Martin Motes.

July and August are the two most similar months in South Florida. Most of the advice on watering, disease and pest control in last month's calendar still apply but subtle changes are taking place. Although it may not seem so, as temperatures climb into the low nineties most afternoons, summer is in retreat: each day a little shorter, each night a little longer. With shorter days the importance of watering as early in the morning as possible comes to the fore. With less hours of sunlight to dry the plants, extra care should be taken in choosing when to water. Back to the basics of the classic saying : If a Vanda looks like it needs water, water it; If a Cattleya or Oncidium looks like it needs water, water it tomorrow. If a Paph or a Phal looks like it needs water, you should have watered it yesterday. If plants retain water even from an early morning watering, allowing them to dry a bit harder before the next watering is always a good idea. An extra day of drying rarely does harm.

August should provide numerous opportunities to dry each orchid to its desired level of dryness. Take the opportunity to dry your orchids "hard" at least once but preferably twice in August. This will give your orchids a leg up on their mortal enemies, the fungus, before the drizzle of September switches the advantage to our adversaries. August is definitely not the month to over indulge in water. September, the soggiest of months, is next up. The corollary to this calculated drying is the concept that when watering in August above all water thoroughly. If watering is necessary be sure that the roots and medium are totally saturated with the application. The drizzling rains of September are so detrimental precisely because they keep the foliage of the plants wet unduly long. We want our plants which are still growing to receive plenty of water but also plenty of drying time.

Good air circulation and proper watering are the keys to disease prevention. Remember that your plants will have increased considerably in size by this point in the growing season. They have added extra growths and extra leaves across the summer. August is a good time to evaluate the spacing of our plants. Remember the old Florida saw that one needs a cat to grow good orchids because when properly spaced a cat should be able to navigate the benches between plants without knocking them over. While we can not recommend specific chemicals, the county agent recommends Banrot, a convenient combination of Thiophanate-methyl and Truban which controls a number of leaf-spotting diseases and soft rots, for home owner use. A

combination of Thiophanate-methyl and mancozeb has also been recommended. This can be found pre-packaged as Duosan. If one can over come the aversion to chemicals and can learn the safe application of them, they are valuable tools to better orchid growing. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure especially before the soft, slow drizzle of September sets in.

Lengthening nights in August mean cooler nighttime temperatures.



August Orchid Care from Motes Orchids

Many sympodial orchids are reaching the end of their growing cycle and require less nitrogen. or so apart will certainly provide all the phosphorus and all the stimulus (or wake up shock) our plants require to bloom. Cattleyas and oncidiums have maturing bulbs. Genera that become deciduous in winter like nobile dendrobiums, calanthes and catasetums should be given much less nitrogen in August to prevent them producing an unwanted off season growth and perhaps forgetting to flower. Substitute an additional application of potassium nitrate and Epsom salt (1TBS each per gal) instead of the balanced 20-20-20.

Vandas will respond well to this also, as several of the parental species of our hybrids produce blooms on shortening day lengths and lower levels of nitrogen in their fertilizer seems to egg them on. As explicated in the last chapter, modern research indicates that orchids require less phosphorous than previously thought. This concept should lead us to more judicious use of phosphorus. Fertilizer high in phosphorus may still be of some value at the end of the growing season, perhaps not so much as stimulus as shock. One or two heavy applications in succession, a week or so apart will certainly provide all the phosphorus and all the stimulus (or wake up shock) our plants require to bloom.

Snails can be somewhat of a problem in August too, but left to multiply they will be in their full glory when those slow unrelenting rains of September set in. Control them with baits in pellet or liquid/paste form. Remember, these are baits, the pests are drawn to them. Therefore apply lightly, but frequently. Because they wash away in the heavy rains, baits should be reapplied every two weeks. One pellet every two to three feet will do the job, but one application will not. Given a choice, the smallest pellets baits are best. They keep us from over applying and also pose much less threat to neighborhood pets. A small bait in a Vanda crown is a nuisance, a large bait can be a disaster.



If you have been waiting to make cuttings of the terete vandas or reed stem epidendrums, you can wait no longer. The potting season is drawing absolutely to a close. Pot up those overgrown phals before they even think of spiking. Re-set those strap leaf vandas early in August whilst they still have just enough time to re-establish themselves in the September humidity and before the cool weather arrives and their root growth slows or stops. As in all seasons be sure that the plants are firmly set in their containers. There is no "wiggle room" this late in the growing season to restart tender roots that have been chafed off a loosely set plant. As the cooler weather approaches try to give plants that have been repotted late more protection from the first cold snaps.

ORCHID SPOTLIGHT *Thelymitra cyanea*



Sky blue sun orchid is a mesmerizingly beautiful flower with delicate blue petals. A yellowish pattern can be seen on them, which evokes associations with the sun's disk. The plant is terrestrial, with several oval tubers and a poorly developed root system.



Flowering in nature is observed only on the territory of Australia and with sufficient sunlight and heat. In addition to its unusual color, this rare terrestrial is



known for its short flowering period,

with each flower often remaining open for only a single sunny

The shape of its flowers is similar to lilies. This allows the plant to attract insects. It also opens its petals exclusively during the day, in clear weather.

During the night hours or when the temperature is cool and the sky is cloudy or cloudy, the flowers are closed.

- Native to New Zealand and southeastern Australia, with up to five bright blue flowers featuring darker blue veins. It typically grows in colonies of 4–20 plants in damp, boggy habitats.
- Often found in swamps, sphagnum bogs, and subalpine herbfields. The flowers are often self-pollinating and open on warm sunny days, flowering from November to March.
- Flower color can actually vary — sometimes showing up white with green or pale blue stripes, or even pink with brown stripes.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

We'd love to see OSCG come alive online — follow us on Facebook and Instagram and share your own orchid photos with the community. Whether it's a first bloom you're proud of, a rare species you've been nursing along, or just a shot of your windowsill collection, your photos help inspire fellow growers and show off what makes our society so special. Tag us or use our hashtag so we can share the love, and don't be shy — even a "still figuring this one out" photo is welcome. The more we share, the more we grow together, both online and in the greenhouse!

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/ORCHIDSOCIETYOFCORALGABLES/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/orchidsocietyofcoralgables/)

@oscg.club instacart

Hospitality Corner

This month Melana will be making a homemade Baked Spaghetti Casserole. Please bring salads, sides, and desserts to compliment our dinner table. Yum, Yum!! We would love for you to bring a dish to share! Whether it's something homemade, store-bought, or a family favorite, all contributions are welcome – appetizers, sides, and desserts alike. As always, thank you to Ariel and Martin for their help.

Looking forward to having a meal together!



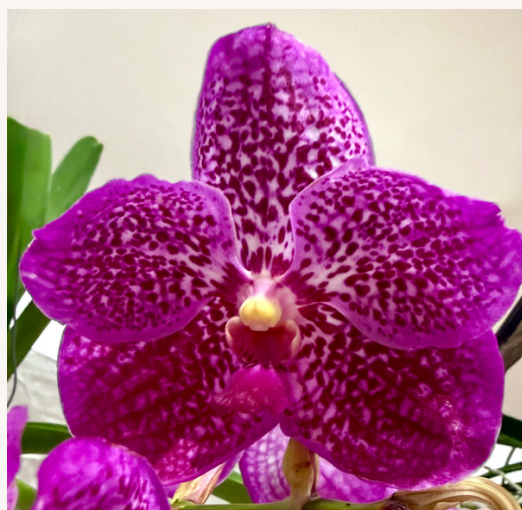
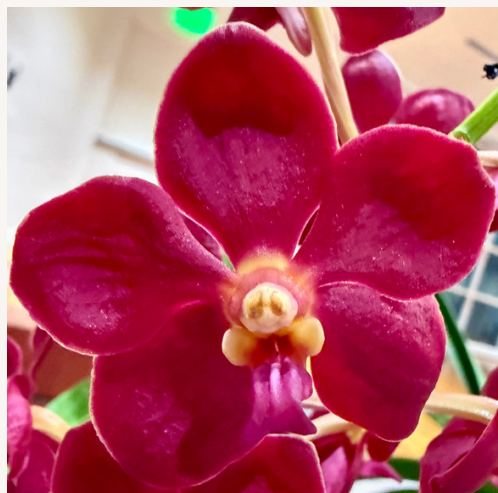
Grower's Class

New name! Everyone invited, not just beginner's!!

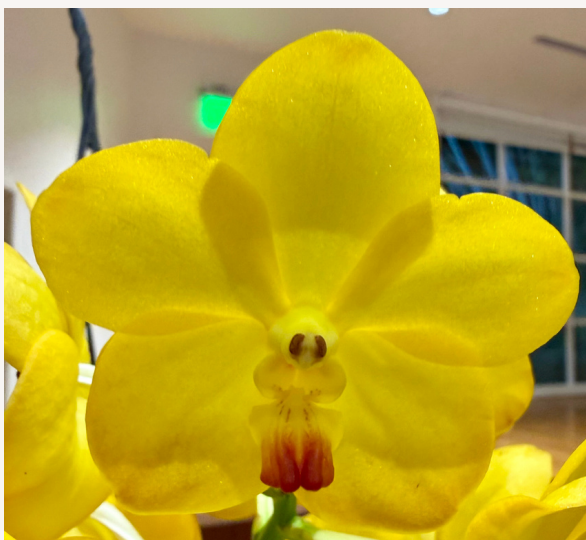
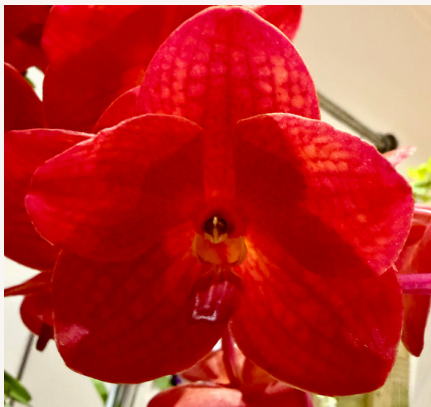
Jim is back and will be teaching about Catasetums. And of course, he will answer any questions you have about all types of orchids! Bring in your topics and pictures if you need a diagnosis!



Photos from June Meeting



Photos from June Meeting



Photos from June Meeting

Calling All OSCG Chefs: Help Us Cook Up a Cookbook!

If you were at our last meeting, you know exactly what we're talking about — that pulled pork disappeared faster than a vanda in bloom season! We had so many requests for the recipe that it got us thinking: our members are clearly hiding some serious culinary talent alongside their green thumbs.

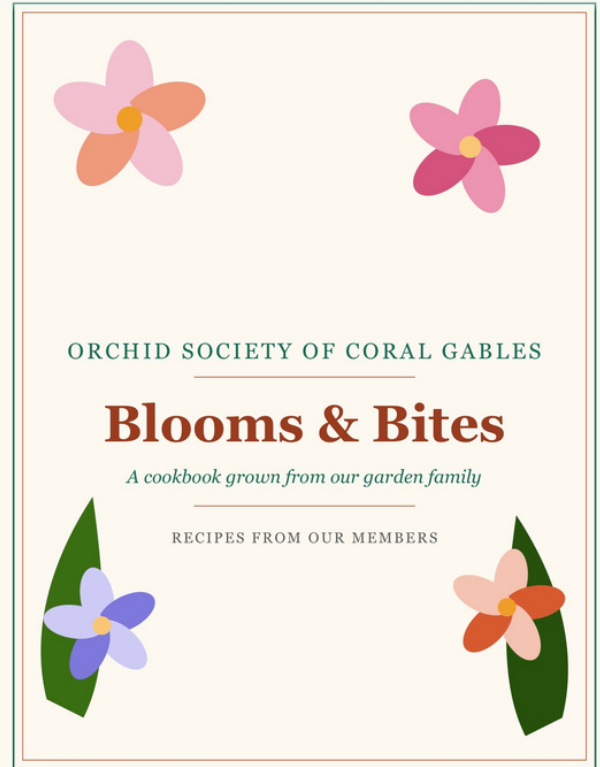
So we're putting out the call: help us create the first-ever OSCG Cookbook!

We're collecting recipes from our members — family favorites, potluck showstoppers, anything you'd be proud to share — and compiling them into a cookbook that will be sold to raise funds for the Society. Every recipe helps us continue supporting our meetings, speakers, shows, and programs. Whether it's a beloved family recipe, a quick weeknight dish, or your go-to dessert for meeting potlucks, we want it.

Every submission brings us one step closer to a cookbook we can all be proud of — and one that helps keep OSCG thriving.

Let's show off our members' talents beyond the greenhouse. We can't wait to see what you share!

Please email Melana to orchidiva@att.net



Orchid Tip of the Month: Catasetums

Unlike most orchids in our collections, Catasetums are deciduous — they drop their leaves and go dormant for part of the year, usually in fall/winter. Once you see the leaves starting to yellow and drop, cut back watering significantly; overwatering a dormant Catasetum is one of the fastest ways to rot the pseudobulbs. During active growth (spring through summer), though, they're heavy feeders and like frequent watering and fertilizing. Watch the new growth closely: as soon as new roots appear at the base, that's your cue to resume regular watering. Bring your questions to Jim at this month's class — Catasetums are his focus!