

Club News



April 3 Meeting Notes By Lola Stark

The meeting was called to order promptly at 7:30 pm by President Charles Wesley. We welcomed two new members - Denise Henry and Maria Yessian. Charlie reminded us that Fred Keefer sets up at the Farmer's Market at St. Augustine Beach every Wednesday from 8 to 12:30 pm. If you need supplies or just want to browse, Fred will welcome you. He also reminded us that EPIC will be the weekend of April 21-22 and that we will be displaying our orchids at the St. Augustine Garden Club Flower Show as an educational tool, setting up on Wednesday or Thursday of that week for the Show on Friday. Paul will be speaking on Saturday morning at 9:30 about growing orchids here.

Charlie congratulated all those who helped with the Jacksonville Orchid Show on winning a blue ribbon for the entry of our display for which we got a very nice certificate. It will be kept in the Secretary's Notebook for future perusal, along with the blue ribbon. Mike Heinz suggested that if anyone would like, clerking an orchid show is a wonderful educational tool, and he would welcome us clerking in Jacksonville next year. Charlie suggested that we consider entering the Volusia Show even though it is not an AOL judged show. Debate on this will come next month.

Fred Keefer introduced our speaker for the evening, Paul

"Duncan" Bass of Duncan's Flora in Homosassa Springs, FL. Duncan has traveled extensively all over the Americas and Islands and has become very interested in species orchids which are fast becoming hard to find in the wild because their habitats have been decimated to make way for farms, businesses and homes all over Central and South America. Species are quite particular about their habitat and when you start growing them, you must find out where they came from and what their climate was in order to grow them successfully. They take a little more work than the hybrids, but are worth learning their habits.

He brought us several species and explained their habitats. Among them were *Dendrobium transparens*, originally from Thailand and India. It is a Nobile type that grows in mid- elevation areas. It is deciduous and will tolerate cool temperatures, down to 25 F. It is seasonal and blooms in the spring. *Dendrobium mimiense* is found in New Guinea, it takes bright light and needs to be dry during the winter. It will bloom every three to four months starting in the spring. Duncan emphasized that you must find out what each species needs before trying to grow it. *Dendrobium spectabile* is also found in New Guinea in the lowlands. It, too, will bloom every three or four months. This species will grow into a large robust plant so it requires a good sized pot or basket. The media should be well drained, but not too dry. They seem to prefer to be kept damp but not soggy wet. An intermediate grower, it needs good drainage and air movement. A spectacular specimen

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Duncan Bass prepping his sales display



Club News



V Motes Burning Sands 'Mary Motes'

Thanks to Watson Realty and Jeanette Smith for the use of their meeting space at 3505 US 1 South.



Special Thanks to Joyce Hailey for opening the April meeting.

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President Meeting Chair	Charles Wesley wesjr@exis.net
First VP Program Chair	Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Second VP Publicity Chair	Gail Marshall gwpb@aol.com
Secretary Minutes Chair	Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
Treasurer Raffle Chair	Paul Jones trjones_99@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editors	Sue and Terry Bottom bottomt@bellsouth.net sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Upcoming Events

- 4/21-22 EPIC Flower and Garden Expo
Ag Center, St Augustine
- 4/21-22 Tallahassee Orchid Society Show
Doyle Conner Building, Tallahassee
- 4/27-29 Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show, Bayanihan
Arts and Events Center
- 5/5-6 Brevard County Orchid Society Spring Show,
Azan Shrine Center, Melbourne
- 5/12-13 Volusia County Orchid Society
Volusia County Fairgrounds, Deland
- 5/18-20 2007 Redland International Orchid Festival,
Redland Fruit & Spice Park
- 6/10 Open House at Orchids by Del-Rei
4270 Cedar Ford Blvd, Hastings



V Robert's Delight 'Black'

May SAOS Meeting

The May 1 meeting subject will be Man's Association with Orchids, presented by David Sowyer of New Smyrna, Florida. The presentation will focus on orchids as foods, medicines, and other uses in addition to their pretty, fragrant and/or unusual flowers. You remember David from our Christmas party and as the former operator of Sands Orchids. He will bring orchids for sale at the meeting.



Cultivation

Fragrant Orchids By David Schaffter

Reprinted from the
East Everglades
Orchid Society
Web Page



Many people tend to rely on their visual sense when flowers come to mind. We are all looking for that perfect shape, large size or beautiful color when we think of orchids. This aspect is the driving force behind our Orchid Shows, judging, hybridization, and sale of orchids. However, there's a more subtle quality the Orchid World offers those who appreciate more than just a pretty flower. Fragrance. How often have we gone to the patio or greenhouse and noticed a pleasing odor before actually seeing the bloom? A blooming orchid can sit on your kitchen windowsill yet fill your entire home with its enchanting scent.

As with just about every family of flowering plants, not all orchids are fragrant. But many species exude an odor to lure insects to their flowers. The unsuspecting insect, looking for a drink of nectar, ends up pollinating the flower. This is vital to orchid reproduction. Non-fragrant varieties attract insects by visual means.

Only a few members of the Phalaenopsis Alliance are fragrant. *Phal. violacea* and its hybrids may be delicately perfumed. Other species such as *Phal. lueddemanniana* and *Phal. mannii* are also fragrant.

Many species of *Cattleya* possess pleasing scents and may pass this trait to their hybrids. Sometimes, the non-fragrant species can be coaxed to producing hybrids that are wonderfully scented. Some of these species are *C. bicolor*, *C. forbesii*, *C. intermedia*, *C. warneri*, *C. violacea*, *C. maxima*, and *C. Bowringiana*.

The *Encyclia* group with their small flowers pack a powerful scent with a wide range of odors. From chocolate and coconut to bubble gum, numerous fragrances can be described. *Enc. cordigera*, *Enc. tampensis*, *Enc. cilliare*, *Enc. fragrans*, and *Enc. citrina* are a few that are odorous.

Some plants are very pungent and easily fill a greenhouse or even a home with their fragrance. The genus *Brassavola* and *Rhyncholaelia* are prime examples. *B. nodosa* will fill the night air with a wonderful smell. A large *Aerides odorata* can be detected over a great distance. Many of these strong-smellers can be overpowering at close range.

Miniature orchids sometimes produce an odor, but not as far-reaching as some of their larger cousins. There are some species of *Bulbophyllum* that smell downright nasty! *Bulb. putidum* emits a foul-smelling stink like decaying flesh in order to attract carrion flies for their assistance in pollination. Another type of *Bulbophyllum* smells like over-ripe cantaloupe.

Other genera that harbor fragrant species are the *Vandas*, *Laelias*, *Coelogynes*, *Dendrobiums*, *Angraecums*, and *Zygopetalums*, to name a few. Not all species are fragrant and many hybrids lose their scent even though the parents might be odorous. Some growers offer catalogs indicating whether or not certain orchids are fragrant. Your best bet is to take the time to pick up the plant, close your eyes and inhale deeply, and remember the name of the orchid with the wonderful scent.



Aeroderata



Encodigera var rosea

Thrips on Vandas

Many 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 restarts growth, a brown ring remains. Orthene (acephate) is the chemical of choice for thrips because of its low toxicity and residual action. Be sure to water the plants the day before applying Orthene 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 love to loiter.



Thrips Lifestages



And More

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at the Miami Orchid Show last month was the grand prize winner and had hundreds of blooms over a ten square foot area. This was the one with the "twisted" blooms. *Dendrobium amethystoglossum* is from the Philippines. This blooms on both leafless and leaved canes with showy clusters of waxy white flowers having an amethyst purple lip. *Dendrobium secundum*, the bottle brush type, likes a small pot or basket with a media that will stay damp but not wet. The old canes are deciduous with the flower heads produced along the cane. A rest in winter is essential, withhold water but keep just damp until new growths appear, then lots of water and fertilizer will produce tall robust new canes that flower the following year. *Dendrobium aggregatum* is called the monsoon plant. It grows in a basket or treefern slab and with extra water the species will develop into large specimens. It is very amenable to cultivation, just rest the plant in the cooler months, use lots of water, fertilizer, good drainage and sunlight short of leaf burn. Duncan said to stop watering on 1 December and then start again on 7 January (Epiphany). Soak it in water for 10 minutes to induce flower growth and then water it every 8 to 10 days.



Dendrobium amethystoglossum

emphatic about using a Cal Mag fertilizer, because calcium deficiency will cause flowers to drop and with the addition of it, the plants will readily produce more stems and flowers. Following his lecture, Duncan gave *Den amethystoglossum* seedlings to every member there. How thoughtful! He also brought lots of plants for us to purchase. It was a very informative and educational lecture, with any questions readily answered.

Paphiopedilum lowii is from Java. It is a beautiful species which can carry from 3 to 7 flowers open on the spike. There is both an alba all green form and an aureum form which is mainly yellow. A robust growing species, large plants require a rich media, well drained, with lots of water and fertilizer when the new growths appear and right through to cooler months. It comes from the wet rain forests and likes warm to intermediate conditions and maximum sunlight short of leaf burn.

The auction and raffle followed, which brought in \$203. Remember, the time for renewing your membership is NOW. Following next month's meeting, we will purge the membership list of old members who have not renewed. Our treasury now stands at \$1812.24.

Encyclia tampense is found in Central and South America. This plant is fragrant, has lots of blooms and with care, will bloom nearly all year. It likes high light and lots of fertilizer and water. Let them dry out slightly between waterings. *Epidendrum stamfordiana* is from Mexico south to Columbia and is very fragrant. It wants bright light. His plant is a triploid, which means it has three sets of chromosomes and is sterile, so he cannot hybridize with it. It may have thousands of blooms on a plant on two foot long inflorescences that may last a month. After blooming, it needs to rest before beginning new growth.



Paphiopedilum lowii

Duncan then went on to tell us that we probably need to add calcium to our plants, which really need to have a pH between 5.5 and 5.8. He suggested testing with simple pH paper on the water we use and the water that goes through pots. He uses Scott's fertilizer 15-5-15 Cal Mag which contains calcium and magnesium as the fourth and fifth numbers and also contains micronutrients. He was most



Show Table



Bulb picturatum

April Show Table

Following the program, Dick Roth went through our show table and talked about all the different plants brought in. This is also very informative and interesting as so many different species are covered. Terry got pictures (til his battery died) of some of Mike's incredible species, including *Bulb picturatum* and *palawanense*, *Den unicum*, and *Pps labukensis* and *serpentilingua* and Harry's amazing *Trichopilia Charles*. Dick explained to us that we have to be careful right now to give the orchids the right light because they've been used to the dim light of winter and that they need extra water due to the increased heat. If you notice that your plants are putting out new roots and they need to be repotted, this is the time!



Den unicum



Den atroviolacea



Pps serpentilingua

