

Venice Area Orchid Society News

August 2010

Thank You, Englewood Society

The Venice Area Orchid Society and the Englewood Area Orchid Society are meeting jointly this summer. Englewood AOS hosted the July 12th meeting at Christ Lutheran Church in Englewood. Guest speaker Katie Caldwell of Boca Grande, enthusiastically spoke about and showed her *Tolumnias*, piquing the interest of many in attendance (see article on page 2). Katie is a member of both societies.

The Silent Auction featured orchids, orchid-related items, a Gary Lute basket and some new Vera Bradley fabric purses and glass cases. A terrific raffle and delicious refreshments made for a wonderful evening.

Venice AOS hosts the August meeting at the Venice Community Center on Wednesday, August 4th. The speaker will be Marv Ragan.

Members of both societies are invited to bring orchids for the show table. There will be refreshments. Guests are welcome!



The Venice Area Orchid Society meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Venice Community Center, 326 South Nokomis Avenue, Venice, Florida.

Orchid Growers Clinics are informal question and answer sessions addressing questions from new orchid growers or growers with problem plants. They are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Venice Community Center.

Guests are welcome.

Visit the Venice Area Orchid Society on the web at:

www.vaos.org

A Message from Your President:

Here I am in the Canadian Rockies around Banff and Lake Louise looking for native orchids in the bogs and foothills and also wildflowers in this beautiful area of our continent. I don't miss Florida's humidity!

I heard that our joint meeting with the Englewood Orchid Society was splendid with Katie Caldwell amazing everyone with her knowledge of growing *Tolumnias*. As predicted, there were wonderful blooms for the silent auction and everyone had a great time. On August 4th, it's our turn to host Englewood in Venice so everyone kindly bring some nice refreshments or plants for the raffle to share our abundance with our nearby friends.

This month, VAOS launched our new website, which signals a new direction for our Society. For many years Ted Kellogg maintained our website – after having designed it, registering and paying for the domain, posting plant table photos since 2005 and other crucial information. Now all that work has been transferred to the new site. Our thanks go to Ted for his dedication and the many hours of work he performed.

With the new site, Ted will still be posting the plant table photos and accompanying orchid descriptions and Bob Wallace will be maintaining the new site. Bob designed the new website with input from Board members over the past month. How lucky we are that both he and Ted are so knowledgeable about such technical matters!

The main change is that this website, based on WordPress, is a "blogging" website. This is a format which can build a greater sense of community within our Society by fostering

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Cynthia Vance

Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4th at 7 p.m.

Speaker: Marv Ragan

Topic: The Breeding and Judging of the Genus *Encyclia*



Marv Ragan

Marv Ragan has been growing orchids since 1965. He opened MAJ Orchids in 1969 and went into the AOS judging program. He became an AOS student judge that year and has been a certified judge since 1972.

He retired from the U.S. Navy in 1976 as a Master Chief with 27 years of service, and went back to school under the GI Bill, receiving a degree in Biology. He worked with Dr. Saulea and Dr. Correll and eventually became recognized as an orchid taxonomist. He has created more than 200 hybrids and is also involved in the propagation and thereby preservation of orchid species.

He is a recognized authority on *Encyclias* and spoke on this topic at the World Orchid Conference in Miami. Marv and his wife have traveled extensively, especially in the Americas, in search of orchids. He is very well known throughout Florida and beyond. His specialties are Caribbean orchids and *Encyclias*.

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Plant Table Awards: July 12, 2010 at Englewood

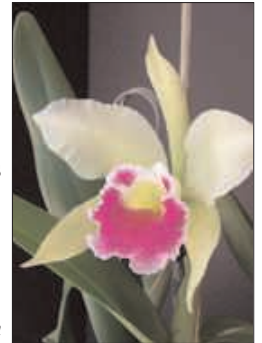
Members of both the Englewood and Venice societies brought plants for the July show table and are encouraged to bring them on August 4th to the monthly meeting in Venice. Elinor Burton of the VAOS won two awards: First Place and Speaker's Choice. Congratulations, Elinor.

First Place & Speaker's Choice:

Rlc. Lester McDonald (C. Ann Follis x RI digbyana)

Grower: Elinor Burton

Elinor has had the plant for about a year (bought it at Fender's Flora). She had no idea that it would produce such a beautiful, BIG flower!



Photograph by Elinor Burton

Equitant Oncidiums or Tolumnia

By Susan Taylor

Tolumnia miniature orchids are rewarding and easy to grow for all levels of grower. They are true miniatures—only about 3 inches high with a wide variety of flower shades available from yellow to purple and everything in between.

In most reference books these little orchids will be referred to as Equitant Oncidiums, but they have recently been reclassified to their own family, Tolumnia. They are native to the Caribbean and therefore are classified as warm growers needing high humidity. In nature they grow on small branches or twigs and therefore need excellent drainage. The main cause of poor performance is over watering of the plants—mist, don't water!!

Most growers recommend mounting, but they can be maintained in 2" pots with very fast draining media. They can also be grown on tree fern fiber or plaques or cork rafts. Equitants are adaptable as far as light requirements and will grow well with Phalaenopsis or Cattleyas. After they flower, don't cut back the inflorescence, they will put out side spikes and can bloom for several months this way.

You will need to match your watering schedule to the type of media in which you are growing your plants. The faster draining the media (such as tree fern which holds no water) the more water

they will need—2 to 3 times per week. Potted plants which will hold water more should only be watered once a week. Remember, it is very easy to over water these plants and almost impossible to underwater unless they are mounted. In conjunction with careful watering schedules, good air circulation is very important for these plants. Drying out occurs better with good circulation.

The inflorescences are 8-12 inches tall above the small fan-shaped leaves.

Flowers are 1/2" – 1" each in diameter. Mixing and matching different colors of these plants produces a display that is hard to match. These small flowers come in so many colors and different patterns that it almost seems that no two are alike. There is a great deal of interest currently in hybridizing these tiny plants so new combinations are coming out all the time.

Update: I was working with a local grower to find a couple more Tolumnias and he indicated that he had lost a lot of them to scale. They died within about a week of getting it—so beware Tolumnia growers. Keep an eye out and destroy any scale you find on them.

Source: Susan Taylor, Orchids Editor of BellaOnline.

More on Tolumnias on pp.7-8 of e-mail newsletter.



President's Message

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sharing and interchange among our members.

Many of you are so rich with information and insights on growing orchids. Hence we encourage you to post a short blurb or photos of your plants or information and articles you'd like to share with others (please use spellcheck first). Then we can make comments back and forth and have some interesting discussions. Sometimes our plants bloom between meetings — well, now you can share them on the site! Over the next few weeks you will receive your personal password so you can post; if you'd like it sooner just email Bob.

There are other features of the site you should check out and others that we'll implement later. But for now enjoy it and help us ensure that every week when we go on the site — a new and interesting "post" greets us!

Also you may post questions, or use "advanced search" on a topic of interest after we accumulated many more posts. The site also provides basic cultivation information and links to other sites, in addition to notices of upcoming events and our newsletters.

—Cynthia Vance

*Visit the newly updated
www.vaos.org*

Refreshment Table

Refreshments are served at monthly meetings following the speaker's presentation. VAOS provides coffee and sodas and members contribute a variety of tempting items. Always welcome and appreciated are baked goods, fresh fruit, crackers and cheese, and whatever sweet, salty, or "lite" snacks suit your fancy!

Please bring refreshments for the August 4th meeting when we will host the Englewood AOS.

Call Noreen Chervinski at 941/505-1304 if you have any questions or would like to help serve and clean up.

Save the date...

• VAOS MEMBERS' PLANT SALE •

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010 – 9AM TO 2 PM

CENTENNIAL PARK, VENICE AVE. & NASSAU ST.

UNDER THE TREES ON THE LAWN

NEAR THE INFORMATION KIOSK

(SW CORNER OF PARK)

GET BUSY! DIVIDE! REPOT! PREPARE TO SELL (& BUY!)

Orchids will predominate BUT ALL TYPES OF PLANTS MAY BE SOLD

Any member of the society may sell plants or related plant material or items at this sale.

In order to participate, please register with Mary Anne DiGrazia, Event coordinator, at the August or September society meeting; e-mail tommariyane@peoplepc.com; or phone 941-697-9237.

It is required that any member selling must spend at least part of the sale time assisting in selling plants or helping to collect sale proceeds.

Each participating member is responsible for properly tagging and pricing their plants or items. Each plant must have two (2) pot tags or labels.

1. One with the proper name of the plant to be sold.
2. Your initials or identifying number/mark and the price of the plant.
Please — No stickers for I.D.!

All prices must be clearly marked and must be to the nearest dollar (no cents).

Plants must be clean and free of insects.

The society reserves the right to withdraw plants which do not conform.

20% of the sale proceeds will be retained by the society for the show fund. The society treasurer will send participants a check during the week following the sale.

Participants need to bring tables, stands and/or hanging racks.

*The sale will be canceled only if a hurricane warning
or severe thunderstorm warning is issued.*

Minutes of the July 12, 2010 VAOS Meeting

The Englewood Area Orchid Society hosted our joint meeting in July and provided a great venue including a silent auction, expansive raffle table and good home baked treats.

- Katie Caldwell was the speaker, presenting "Growing Tolumnias". These small equitants grow well in our area and Katie covered the culture requirements and brought several plants to show.
- Mary Anne DeGrazia provided an update for the VAOS Plant Sale scheduled 9/11/10 in downtown Venice. Please

contact her if you are interested in selling orchids and other plants at this event.

- Our next meeting will be a joint VAOS/EAOS meeting on August 4th at the Venice Community Center. The speaker will be Marv Ragan, presenting "The Breeding and Judging of the Genus Encyclia".
- Katie Caldwell and Joe Crook presented the plant table. The meeting was adjourned following the raffle.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Wood

Growing Tips for July

By Courtney T. Hackney

This summer has been not only hot, but hot with low humidity. If you provide the proper air movement required to keep your orchids from overheating in this weather, you are also accelerating the loss of water from your orchids. If the orchid's loss of water exceeds its ability to acquire water your orchid experiences water stress, usually indicated by shriveled leaves or bud drop. Some of my orchids that typically love high light that are near the glass even have burned leaves because they do not have enough water in their leaves to keep the leaf cool. Most plants, including orchids, have stomata or microscopic openings on the bottoms of leaves. Stomata open, allowing water to evaporate and cool the leaf. If the orchid does not have enough water, it cannot keep its leaves cool.

Over the years there are many experienced growers, many commercial growers of orchids, that told me they routinely violated one of the cardinal rules found in most books on growing orchids. Most books suggest watering orchids early in the morning so that they will be dry by nightfall. Failure to do so, according to the books, will cause rots. During the middle of summer, however, I routinely violate this paradigm.

Whenever nights are warm, I heavily water my orchids near or just after sunset. The object is for them to be soaked all night. The next morning, I water heavily again and often fertilize at this time. When I go out to water in the morning, vanda roots are swollen and green, as are the visible roots of my cattleyas and phals. Rots are very rare and almost always on newly purchased orchids or plants that have already had problems.

My orchids had been looking water stressed, but a week after starting this regimen, bulbs have become plump and new leaves abound. There are even newly branching roots.

If you decide to try this approach, keep the days between watering the same as you did before. Apply only water in the evening and fertilize only in the morning. If you live in an area where night temperatures get lower than 60F be sure you never fertilize at night. In the morning, plants are well hydrated and there is no risk of fertilizer toxicity, even at high levels. Roots are also ready to take up fertilizer as their surface condition has changed from hard and stiff to soft and pliable. If you live in an area with hard water, salts that accumulate on the medium, pots and roots will become soluble overnight, allowing them to be flushed out the next morning.

If you ever visit the tropics where many cultivated orchids originated, it is surprising to read the prohibition to never water at night. In their natural habitat, orchids are soaked at night by rain or dew. Rarely will you ever find an orchid with rot in nature. In the wild, orchids grow very slowly and are very limited by nutrients. Their leaves are thick and hard; even immature plants.

Bacteria require nutrients to grow and the presence of water laden with nutrients in and on leaves is an invitation for bacterial and fungal invasions that cause rots. Orchids can grow quickly if pushed with lots of fertilizer. However, cell walls are thin and soft on these orchids making it easy for fungi and bacterial invasion. Cells also are loaded with excess nutrients providing fuel to any invader.

Growing under lower nutrient conditions does cause slightly slower growth and causes orchids to put more energy into root growth. This produces a better rooted orchid, less susceptible to disease, even if you water at night.

Courtney T. Hackney writes a monthly column and is a contributing writer for several FL orchid societies.

Email: Hackneau@comcast.net

New Designs

Gary Lute exhibited several unusual orchid baskets and racks at the Englewood meeting. We were so intrigued with them that we bought several. Made from a Brazilian walnut called Ipe (eeh pay), Gary has enhanced traditional designs with a flourish. The bottom pictured basket is diamond shaped and very attractive. Reach Gary online at cascabel333@yahoo.com.



Patronize Local Growers

- **Canaima Orchids**
(Michael Sinn)
Located at Orchids Etcetera, Inc.
5130 Honore Avenue, Sarasota
(between Clark Rd. and Proctor)
Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Fender's Flora**
(Bill Fender)941/ 323-1593;
(Susan Fender)941/ 323-1587
Located at Venice Orchids
254 Keystone Road, Venice.
Please call before visiting.
www.fendersflora.com
- **Orchids Etcetera Inc.**
(Jeff Higel, Walter Perrin)
.....941/ 921-9138
5130 Honore Avenue, Sarasota
(between Clark Rd. and Proctor)
- **Plantio La Orquidea**
(Tina & Rafael Romero)
.....941/ 504-7737
3480 Tallevast Road, Sarasota
www.plantioaorquidea.com
- **Venice Orchids**
(Bob Hague)941/ 321-4691
254 Keystone Road, Venice

Visit the newly updated www.vaos.org

AOS Monthly Checklist for July and August

By Ned Nash and James Rose

Cattleya

Cattleyas this month require careful attention to their watering and fertilizing needs owing to characteristically high temperatures. Evaporative cooling is a must in areas of the country where it is effective. Where it is not (the more humid regions), care needs to be paid to proper venting to keep temperatures within reason. Bottom vents in conjunction with top vents provide enough rising airflow to help keep plants cool. Increased air flow lessens humidity and dries plants out more quickly, necessitating more frequent damping down and watering, in areas where high humidity is not a problem. Higher light and heat indicate more fertilizer. The growths your plants are making now are the source of this autumn, winter and spring's blooms, so applying adequate fertilizer this month is the best way to ensure future blooms. Higher temperatures and humidity may also lead to fungal or bacterial rot problems, so it is important to closely observe your plants for any early indication of problems. Pests are also at a high point this month for the same reason.

Paphiopedilum

Cooling and air circulation are especially critical in these two months to prevent stress and avoid disease problems. Watering needs to be closely monitored to ensure that plants do not dry out. Warmer-growing hybrids will be at the peak of their blooming, with attention needing to be paid to staking of spikes. Look for water lodging in growths, which can rot emerging spikes and lead to the loss of the entire growth.

Phalaenopsis

Most, if not all, potting should be complete by now. This month and next are when these plants achieve their maximum growth. This growth will be that from which they set their spikes for the coming season. The more leaves the plants grow, the better potential for spiking will be realized. Growers in cooler areas such as the Pacific coast have the advantage this month, should they choose, of cooling for early season spikes. Lots of heat and light call for liberal applications of water and fertilizer.

Cymbidium

Summer can be the most rewarding season for cymbidiums. Growths should be coming strong now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a light green to nearly yellow. Early flowering varieties should be showing flower spikes, so move the plants into a cooler area with lower light. For mid-season varieties, lower the dosage of nitrogen to assist in spike initiation.

High-elevation Plants

For cooler-growing plants, such as masdevallias, other pleurothallids and the like, the next few months will be a challenge. During the hottest times, keep your plants more shaded and be sure to keep the humidity level much higher. Do not let plants dry out. Delay any potting until the weather cools.

Laelia purpurata

The flowering season of this majestic plant will be coming to an end, presenting a good time to report. As soon as the new roots start to appear, clean off old bark and repot into a clean medium-grade fir bark. Place the plant in a little less light and higher humidity to relieve stress until it is more established, which is about one month after potting.

Odontocidium

Many of the intergeneric crosses between odontoglossums and oncidiums, such as *Odontocidium*, *Wilsonara* and *Colmanara*, will be blooming now. Take special care to train the spikes for best floral display. Keep plants under fairly shady conditions. Watch for snails and slugs.

Vandaceous

Genera Plants will be growing quickly now and really enjoying the hot humid days so similar to their native habitat. Watch for pests though, as many of these also enjoy the same conditions as the plants. Check flower spikes so that they can extend unimpeded for the best flower presentation later.

This checklist can also be found on www.aos.org.

Plants & People Needed for VAOS Exhibit at The Ridge Orchid Society Show September 18 & 19

Bob Wallace, VP Show Displays, is asking for volunteers to help with the VAOS exhibit at the Ridge Orchid Society Show on Saturday, September 18 and Sunday, September 19, in Lakeland, FL. This show is one of four that our society participates in with a display. (Ridge in September; Sarasota in January; Venice in February; and Englewood in March).

All members are encouraged to submit plants for the display.

Each exhibit requires someone who will develop the exhibit concept, based on the chosen theme, and head a team to construct the exhibit. Volunteers are also needed to record and keep track of plant entries, to make labels for each plant, and to transport orchids and props to the site. Setup is scheduled for Friday, September 17 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. More help is needed on Sunday afternoon at 5 p.m. to dismantle the exhibit, load cars, and return plants.

There are jobs that can be accomplished by members with little experience, so don't be shy! It's always fun and an opportunity to learn when working on a team.

More information about drop-off times and locations for your plants will be announced at the September meeting and by email alerts.

Venice Area Orchid Society News

P.O. Box 443, Venice, FL 34284-0443

Published monthly.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the prior month.

Please direct comments to:
Ellen and Tony Nacinovich
email: enacinovich2@verizon.net
tnacinovich@verizon.net

Written submissions are appreciated.

© E&T Nacinovich July 2010

Next meeting:

- WEDNESDAY, August 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**
JOINT MEETING with
Englewood Area Orchid Society
at Venice Community Center
- Speaker: Marv Ragan, "The Breeding and Judging of the Genus Encyclia"
 - Show table entries welcome
 - Refreshments

Upcoming Events

August 4 – Joint meeting of VAOS and Englewood Area Orchid Society. 7 p.m. Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice, FL. Speaker: Marv Ragan, "The Breeding and Judging of the Genus Encyclia."

August 11 – VAOS Orchid Growers Clinic, 7:30 p.m. Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice, FL.

August 18 – VAOS board meeting. 7 p.m.

September 1 – VAOS monthly meeting. 7 p.m. VCC. Speaker: Jim Roberts of Florida Suncoast Orchids.

September 8 – VAOS Orchid Growers Clinic, 7:30 p.m. VCC.

September 11 – VAOS Members Plant Sale, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Centennial Park, Venice.

September 18-19 – Ridge Orchid Society Show, Lake Mirror Center, 121 S. Lake Ave., Lakeland, FL.

Visit the newly updated www.vaos.org

More About the Genus Tolumnia

Little Dolls Which are a Delight to Own

If you are cramped for space but want blooming orchids, you might want to try an Equitant.

Its leaves look like triangles rather than flat like most leaves and form a fan-shaped arrangement. This shape was adapted by the plant to survive in the drier environments found on their native islands. The leaves hold water which is used by the orchid as a water reserve during short dry periods. The flowers look like little ladies with the big full skirts just like the *Oncidiums*, these little jewels were, of course, included in the genus *Oncidiums* for many years.

The species has been moved to their own genus called *Tolumnia* because it has much smaller blossoms than the other *Oncidiums* and for other reasons. Of course, like everything with orchids, just moving the orchid from one genus to another may not be that simple. The RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) currently does not accept the name *Tolumnia* so they continue to list them under *Oncidiums*— despite the differences. Interestingly, all hybrids are still labeled as *Oncidiums* rather than *Tolumnia*. Will the new genus be eventually accepted? Who knows? No matter what you call them, however, these little dolls are a delight to own. To keep the confusion to a low level, in this article I will refer to our little ladies as Equitants.

These miniature orchids originally make their homes in the Caribbean Islands. They are warm growers and love high humidity. The local climate of the particular island where they live determines the amount of water they need. For example, *Tolumnia guianense* is from the very dry area of Hispaniola while other species are found in the Bahamas, where it rains almost every day.

In the early 1950's W.W. Goodale Moir began crossing the species he collected in the West Indies. His little orchids were often referred to as "Moir's Weeds."

For over 25 years he bred his little orchids making many exotic crosses. Finally in 1970 other breeders joined him and the large scale hybridization of these little ladies began.

There is much more in this story that what meets the eye of the amateur hobbyist orchid enthusiast. While there are orchid genera which can be hybridized without difficulty, there are many *Oncidium* species which are genetically isolated, even from their virtually close relatives belonging in the same genus, let alone other genera. Moir's research work was fundamental with respect to discovering the rules of genetic compatibilities and incompatibilities of these orchids—then applying them in hybridizing work involving other *Oncidium* species.

The large scale, industrialized mass production aimed at creating, then banking on a new market: orchid enthusiasts having limited space, often nothing else but a Wardian case in their living room. Indeed, in a few cubic

yards cubature a pretty rich collection of these small orchids can be cultivated!

Equitants are very robust growers and will bloom in showers of bright colorful blossoms ranging from bright sunshine yellows and golden browns, to vibrant reds and oranges.

The little "skirts" are decorated with many patterns of stripes or polka dots. In a breeze, the blossoms look like a group of swinging square dancers all in a row along the inflorescence. One of my favorites is the hybrid *Oncidium Dancer X O. Golden Lur*.

The cultural requirements for Equitants are really quite simple. They are typical twig epiphytes. In their natural environments they tend to grow on thin, not infrequently died, dry twigs exposed to all the vagaries of the local climate: wind, rain, drought, scorching sun alternating in certain habitats with near-zero temperatures at nights.

Potting or Mounting—

You can mount your little Equitants using fishing line or other material to secure them to the mount. Use Sphagnum moss or cocoa fiber as padding around the roots.

Cork slab and tree fern plaques work well or even moss plant poles are good supports— especially if you are cramped for room. A moss plant pole will let you mount many of these little orchids in very little space and makes for a very nice display especially when several plants are in bloom.

They will also do well in tiny 1-2" pots filled with loose charcoal, small orchid bark, small coconut chips, or any other fine material—but never ever try to force all of their roots inside the pots! If any epiphytic orchid at all, then twig epiphytes are orchids which thoroughly hate potting. Never overpot (use a pot larger than necessary to hold your orchid) your little orchids. Use a medium that will dry quickly and not hold moisture so that the roots won't dry between watering. The two main requirements are giving them water when they need it and providing consistent air movement.

Water—

This is the most important step in growing Equitants. They need to have water available when needed by the plant. Even though the leaves will absorb some water for the plant to sustain it for short dry periods, they have no large pseudobulb water reserve.

Equitants must be watered well; then allowed to dry out. The leaves and roots must not be wet by night. If kept wet, the roots will soon rot away killing the plant.

They enjoy rain water if you are able to supply it. A daily misting is also something that many of them are accustomed to. Let the plant dry before watering again. If they do not receive enough water, the leaves will turn

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Tolumnias

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brown and the little orchids will soon die. Mounted plants need to be watered every day or every other day. Potted orchids depend on the type of media used to determine the frequency of watering. Watch your orchid. They will tell you if they are happy. Are the leaves full and firm or are they wrinkled and shriveled.

Air Movement–

This is very important for the health of your Equitants. A breeze moves the humid air around the plant where the roots can extract the moisture between waterings. Provide plenty of air movement around your plants. A small fan is a welcome addition to your growing area, not only for the little Equitants but for most orchids.

Light–

These little orchids can be grown in a windowsill, under lights, or in a greenhouse. In areas where the weather permits they can, of course, be grown outside as well. Bright diffused light is needed. The morning sun is wonderful but protect your little jewels from the hot afternoon sun. If you are growing under fluorescent lights, you should also use an incandescent light to create the needed light spectrum to insure blooming. If the leaves start to turn red (a sign of burning), decrease the amount of light they are receiving by increasing the distance between the plant and the lights, or provide shade from the hot sun.

Fertilizer–

After watering and while they are still wet, you can water again using a good balanced liquid fertilizer at 1/2

the recommended strength. Never fertilize a dry plant. Fertilizing twice a month will benefit the growth of your orchid. When new growth matures, you can change to a bloom boosting formula 10-30-20 to enhance the flowering.

Temperature–

The temperature range is from the high 60's °F during the night and the high 80's °F during the day. Avoid prolonged exposure to temperatures below 60 °F or above 90 °F. On the other hand, definite difference between day and night temperatures is essential. During the daylight phase most of their stomata, the microscopic structures controlling the inhalation and exhalation of metabolic gases are closed. They "eat" at night and that process requires a definite temperature drop of at least 4 to 6 °F degrees in comparison to the temperatures prevailing during the light phase of the diurnal cycle.

Blooming–

Inflorescence are produced on new or older mature growth. They produce a shower of blooms 2 -3 times a year. After blooming, do not remove the inflorescent until it is brown and dead. Often the old inflorescence will branch and bloom again for you. Try some of these little orchids and I am sure after you try one you will purchase another, then another, as you know – *Orchids are Addictive!*

Source: Linda's Orchid Pages 1996-2009 at www.orchidlady.com