

Venice Area Orchid Society News

August 2012

**Next Meeting: Wednesday,
August 1 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Speaker: Louis Del Favero,
Louis Del Favero Orchids, Tampa
Topic: "Growing Species"**

Louis Del Favero received a V. Rothchildiana from a family friend for his 12th birthday. In 1968 he began working for Jungle Orchids after school, weekends and summers.

They imported tree fern and orchids from Guatemala. A year later he established Louis Del Favero Orchids in Miami. It was also during this time that he took a collecting trip with Fred Fuchs to British Honduras (now Belize) and Honduras. After that trip, Louis was consumed by a desire to view orchids in their native habitat. This started 20 years of traveling to Mexico, Central, South America and the Caribbean.

In 1981 Louis moved to his current location in rural Tampa where he used his extensive contacts to continue importing specie orchids from their native countries. He and his wife Bonnie have more than 13,000 s.f. of greenhouses open to the public of which approximately 50% are warm tolerant species, and the other half is comprised largely of Encyclias, Dendrobiums, Oncidiums, and compact to large flowered Cattleyas with an emphasis on fragrant orchids.

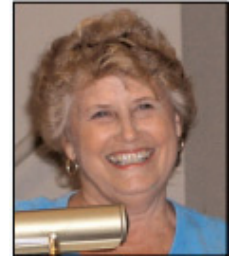
**Louis Del Favero Orchids
6601 Gant. Rd, Tampa 33625
813-961-8277**



Louis Del Favero

A Message from your President:

Last month we attended a wonderful joint meeting with the Englewood Area Orchid Society. Michael Polen (Art Stone Orchids, St. Pete) who is very talented in artistic design, presented how to create attractive mountings of orchids. Most orchid types can be mounted somehow and I'd like to share some of the techniques we learned especially for our VAOS members who missed this fine event.



Cynthia Vance

- The pros of mounting are that the mount base (cork bark, cedar and driftwood) will last for 10 years or so and very little medium is required. They are beautiful and when blooming can be set on your coffee table or hung as an attractive art form in your home.
- The cons are the higher cost of mounts, compared to pots, and the need to water them more frequently.
- If you tend to be a "heavy waterer", wrap coconut husk around roots and water almost daily; if you are a light waterer, or travel a lot, wrap roots with sphagnum moss and water 1-2x a week. Sphagnum moss holds much more water and takes longer to dry. Definitely use for mounting phalaenopsis.
- To place a Vanda inside a slatted basket, cut out 1-2 bottom slats, wrap the roots with a string to make the root bulk thinner, then drop the roots through the new "hole" and remove the string. Slip a bamboo stick through the slat horizontally to hold the plant in in

Continued on page 5

Next Growers Clinic Wednesday, August 8th 7pm Venice Community Center

We're pleased to announce that Ted Kellogg, AOS judge and past VAOS President, will join us at our August 8th Growers Clinic as guest speaker. Ted will cover Phalaenopsis: Growing Them Well and Repotting. Bring your questions and your problem Phals for expert assessment. Guests are welcome! We'll plan to cover Pests and Diseases at our September Growers Clinic.

WWW.VAOS.ORG

Venice Area Orchid Society, P.O. Box 443, Venice, FL 34284-0443

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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:
Carol Wood, carolwoodVAOS@gmail.com
- Written submissions are appreciated.

Congratulations Katie Caldwell!

Congratulations to VAOS member Katie Caldwell for getting published in AOS Magazine!

The July 2012 issue has Katie's article: Little Jewels, Growing Tolumnias in Southwestern Florida. Katie grows Tolumnias (once known as equitant oncidiums) and Vandas in her shade house in Boca Grande, FL.

Her excellent article covers culture, potting, fertilizing, ailments and where to find plants, and follows another article by Roger Cole entitled: Equitants Today - The Hybridizers Behind Contemporary Tolumnias. Well done Katie!

How Often Do I Water?

By Bill Fender

Typically during the summer, we water three times per week. In the winter, irrigation is about one time per week to 10 days, depending on the weather. If the conditions will not allow the orchids to dry off, we postpone watering. That's the general answer. To be more specific, it is essential to know what type of orchid you are watering.

1. If your orchid is epiphytic (grows on trees) with pseudobulbs, the potting mix can be almost dry. The leaves and pseudobulbs of these types store water and nutrients. Cattleyas and their relatives are in this category. When in doubt, do not water.

2. If your orchid has a monopodial type growth habit, i.e. it grows upward (phalaenopsis, vandas, etc) as opposed to a creeping rhizome, it needs to be kept damp (not wet!). These orchids do not have the storage systems of the epiphytic-type orchids. When in doubt, water.

The best way to test for dryness is to lift the pot. Heavy means wet. Light means dry. This is simple and accurate.

Considering cattleyas and their relatives, grow on the dry side to encourage a strong root system. Most plants, not just orchids, are literally killed by overwatering. Do you want that on your conscience?

Here are just a few basics:

Large pots hold more water and stay wet longer, especially in the center of the pot. The top and edges will be dry, but the center will be wet. Wait a day or so before watering.

Small pots dry more quickly and need more attention than larger pots.

Clay pots dry faster and more thoroughly than plastic pots. This is not only because of the obvious difference between plastic and clay, but also because of the slits, holes, etc. for drainage.

Orchids in old medium stay wet longer than newly potted plants because the bark is darker and softer. Rotten roots do not contribute to the vigor of the orchid and also allow diseases to creep in and weaken the plant.

Continued on page 4

“Orchid Growing Made Easy”

By Cynthia Vance

Our Growers Clinic, “Orchid Growing Made Easy” was very special in July. Richard Amos had donated many cattleyas for Jimmy Thomas to divide and bring to the clinic.

Jimmy did divide them, stored them on his garage floor and then brought them to the clinic with the challenge, “Each of you may have two orchids. Pot them and bring them back next month (July) and tell us what you did and why”. The group left that evening very excited!

At the July clinic, the 20 members, many new, came back with their newly potted plants to report. One newbie potted a Cattleya “Mount Hood”. To protect the innocent, I’ll just say that she mixed in sphagnum moss in the media and when Jimmy held it up the plant fell out of the pot! Not to worry – we all make these mistakes.

We were all reminded that sphagnum moss holds the water too long for Cattleyas (which enjoy being drenched and then dried out before the next watering). Also a rhizome clip is needed to hold the plant in the pot. Why? The roots want to attach to the pot (like they attach to a tree, spreading out their roots, in the tropics) before they will



Jim Thomas

bloom. Without the clip, the plant sways in the wind, and the roots don’t attach, or if they do, they often break.

On the table was a huge dendrobium that blooms all year. It was a much smaller plant division a

year ago, again from Richard Amos. We were reminded that dendrobiums enjoy having their roots packed tightly into a small pot, and Jimmy says,

“They hate to be repotted”. Often, when the roots spill over the pot, he shared that many of us set the smaller clay pot into a larger one, placing medium between both pots for the dendrobiums to utilize. That’s easy repotting!

Pauline Adam

Pauline Adam, a retired administrator and new member presented a mounted LC. Mem. Robert Strait “Blue Hawaii”. The roots were wrapped in



Growers Clinic Attendees

sphagnum moss and the plant was attached with flexible green gardener’s tape to cork bark. She was praised for her efforts.

Again, thank you, Richard and Mary Amos, for donating your plants to our society for educational and funding purposes when you downsized your collection. We revel in the treasures you have given our Society and it has been a great boost for our new members to learn and to expand their orchid collection quickly!

Member’s Corner:

Please contact the editor if we can feature your orchid growing area. We’ll need an article and photos. Tell us how you got started, what and how you grow.

How Much Do I Water - continued from page 2

Your orchids need ventilation from the bottom to allow for drainage (obvious) and to allow for the flow of air (oxygen) into the root system.

Containers sitting on an aisle, under a fan, near a heater, or close to a lighting system will dry more quickly than those crowded together in the center of a bench. In addition, larger plants can shield smaller plants from the water source.

Watering Techniques:

When you water, water thoroughly. Water running through the pot and onto your carpet is not wet yet. Lifting the pot will help you decide. Lift before you water and after to decide.

Dipping several (more than one) orchid into the same water or fertilizer is a “NO, NO!” Pouring the solution drained from other pots over another orchid is a felony! You’ve heard that before. Believe it now! If one orchid has a problem, using the same water will spread the problem. One cell of a virus can ruin your entire collection. If you divide and share your orchids, you can infect other collections. A virus is rarely obvious, but the virus sucks the energy from the orchid.

Here is a quick note about viruses. I heard a talk on the subject and I was ready to dump my collection of 35+ years and start golfing! Fortunately, I had tried golf and found that I’m better with orchids. There may be 20 or more different viruses but there are tests for only three. These tests do not always give correct results. Take all precautions to prevent the spread of this evil, but do not become depressed over it. Orchids are a hobby, i.e. fun, relaxing, etc.!

To leach your pots, water thoroughly, wait 15 minutes and water again. Salts accumulate on the sides of pots (more on clay than on plastic) and also on the tops of the medium and on the bottom of the container. When you leach, flood your plants. Think 40 days and 40 nights. There should be a lake in the container so that the entire pot gets wet. Pick it up. Is it heavier than before?

Water your orchids early in the morning so that they can dry before sunset. That’s the standard line you hear. You do not want your orchids sitting in water – ever. Also, the leaves of phals and vandas will hold water too long, possibly causing rot. In addition, during a hot day in

the summer or even in an enclosed structure in the winter, the water standing in the leaves can almost boil.

Some catts will genetically put up a sheathing on the pseudobulbs that will form a pocket with the leaf that hold water. This is even worse because the water will seep down the sheathing and rot the entire pseudobulb. Watch for this with the sheathing turning black. Gently remove the sheathing to allow it to dry. The black sheathing is rotten so be clean.

The purpose of watering is to wet the roots. Some orchids are grown with their roots exposed and it is pretty obvious when these have been sufficiently watered because they turn green. A severe watering mistake is to ignore the roots growing out of the pot of a cattleya. To assume that watering the pot is sufficient is absolutely incorrect. These roots must be irrigated sufficiently to turn them green just like with vandas. Ignoring these roots on the new growth will reduce the size, number, and quality of the flowers produced. We grow these plants for the flowers, right?

Another oversight is to assume that when a basket is watered, all of the roots become wet. Not true! Rotate the basket to soak the roots growing or hanging out on all sides of the container. That is a tip I learned from a local orchid judge, Bill Thoms. He is one of the orchid judges who sets standards in culture.

If you pick up the hose and start to water without being aware of the temperature of the water, it will be a big mistake! During the winter, the water in the hose or overhead watering system will be too cold and can shock the orchid. By “shock” I mean it can cause cells to collapse and cause deep indentations in the foliage of your orchids. And you thought those were insect problems or a virus. Now you know. The initial temperature of the water in the hose or overhead irrigation system during the summer can cook an egg! So let your water run on the ground for a while before using it to water your orchids.

When I first started growing orchids, I read an article like this on watering. The idea that has stuck with me for 35+ years is that a Japanese gardener proclaimed that it takes 12 years to learn how to water bonsai. The learning curve on orchids is not that steep. Good watering habits are logical and easy and will reward you with strong, healthy plants that bloom to perfection.

VAOS Featured in Venice Gondolier

The July 14th weekend edition of the Venice Gondolier ‘Our Town’ section featured an excellent article on the VAOS entitled: VAOS Celebrates 50 Years of Growth. Audrey Blackwell covered VAOS history, our 50th anniversary celebration, our meetings and annual show with text and photos. She interviewed Cynthia Vance and Carol

Wood for the article and also included photos and description of Carol’s orchid growing area.

Thanks go to Debra Mattar, VAOS Promotion and Advertising Director, for her work to promote our society in our local newspaper. If you missed seeing it, we’ll have copies at our next meeting.

President's Message, continued from page 1

place. They are available at the large local garden shops.

- Use plastic ties to hold plants in place for it's easier to use than wire. Michael uses the 14- inch lengths found in the electrical section of Home Depot or Lowes. If a longer length is needed, attach 2 ties together.

- Red cedar is Michael's favorite mount for its beauty and lasting quality. Other woods, especially oak, rot within 2 years. To access cedar contact Tropiflora, 3530 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota. For affordable cypress visit Axley Sawmill, 12300 62 St. N. Largo, north of Tampa -- axley-bros.com, and (727) 531-8724; they sell large slabs for a bargain at \$2.00 apiece. Cut out the size squares you prefer.

- Attractive tree fern mounts can be found of varying sizes and shapes; orchid roots love to grow through them and they last for years. For wire hangers on tree fern products, Michael prefers easily bendable hangers with two wire strands that can be ordered from <http://ofe-intl.com>. Michael pushes the wires through the fern basket and with pliers makes a hook in the bottom, then pulls the wires up for secure attaching. If the "hanging wires" touch or press against a leaf, cover the wire with a drink-



Mike Polen

ing straw.

- Use screen netting and/or nylon hose to form small bags to hold 1 Tablespoon of time-release Dynamite fertilizer (red container); At each watering, fertilizer is re-

leased; refill 3x a year because our harsh hot weather can dissipate its viability quickly.

- Driftwood that you scavenge from the beach (not buy) should be placed outdoors for a few months or be drenched with water 3-4 times to leach out all salt. Lick it to be sure! Sometimes Tropiflora stocks driftwood along with cedar – especially at their special sales days. Joe Hayden will be selling driftwood mounts at our September meeting and the VAOS 2013 show in February.

- The finest local sphagnum moss is from New Zealand and available at Honeybee Nursery on State Road 776 towards Englewood. You may purchase baskets and Orchid bark there also. Jeff Higel, VAOS member and orchid vendor based at Honeybee, will be glad to order the supplies that you need.

I look forward to seeing many more mounted orchids on our future VAOS meeting plant tables and we hope you receive some awarded ribbons for your efforts!

Thank you letter received from Jay Pfahl, in response to VAOS' \$100 annual contribution to his website, Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia (IOSPE) (abridged)

Hi All,

I want to thank you for your continued support of IOSPE, which continues to grow at an amazing pace. There are now 17734 species listed and with better than ever photos. Digital cameras are really improving and so the absolute positive identification of many orchids has been made possible. Many species are separated precisely by the minutest of characteristics of calli on the lip or wings or growths on the column which are often hidden in standard photos. I have an array of photographers that constantly amaze me with their ability to zoom in on these characteristics, thereby clinching an absolutely positive species determination.

I have purchased many new books and you will see them added to each species page if that reference lists the species. So please tell your members that you as a society are helping shape the orchid world and keep it simple for us hobbyists. As my good taxonomist friend and Dr. of botany Ruben Sauleda says. "Any name is valid as long as all the available synonyms are listed as well." IOSPE is famous for having all the synonyms listed on each species page.

Every student AOS judge uses my site for research and a way to find most of the other pertinent references to a species as I have them all listed at the bottom of each species page. Cuts out a lot of time if you have a single source to point you at more references.

So in closing Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

-Jay Pfahl

www.orchidspecies.com

Treasurer's Report July, 2012

Checking Account

Starting Balance 6/30/2012	\$1,085.34
+ transfer.....	\$3,582.98
- payments	\$317.58
Balance 6/18/2012	\$4,350.74

Show Checking Account

Starting Balance 5/31/2012	\$3,358.17
- payments.....	\$00.00
Balance 8/20/2012.....	\$3,358.17

Cash Account 6/18/2012

M.Market Acct 7/20/2012.....

Total Assets 7/20/2012.....

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

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, August 1, 7:00pm
at Venice Community Center

• **Speaker: Louis Del Favero**
"Growing Species"

- Show table entries welcome
- Bring treats to share

Upcoming Events

August 1 - VAOS monthly meeting (joint meeting with EAOS). 7pm. Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice, FL Speaker: Louis Del Favero, Louise Del Favero Orchids, Tampa. Topic: Growing Species

August 3-4 - 2nd Annual Cattleya Symposium, Ft. Pierce, FL Info: www.odoms.com

August 8 - VAOS Growers Clinic, 7pm, Venice Community Center. Special guest speaker Ted Kellogg: Phalaenopsis, Growing Them Well and Repotting

August 24-25 - 18th International Phalaenopsis Symposium, Orlando Info: www.phal.org

December 6 - EAOS Bus Trip to Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden, Miami. \$45 pp. Contact Ann Baldwin, EAOS President, AnnMBaldwin501@frontier.com

Planning ahead: **VAOS Annual Show, February 2-3, 2013**, at the Venice Community Center.

Ongoing:

Mentor Program: help for beginning growers, contact Peg Fahrenback, rsec@vaos.org.

Orchid Judging takes place at the Tampa Garden Center, 2629 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, FL at 7:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

Support our 2012 Show Sponsors

AAA South
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Edgewood Nursery
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Jacaranda Trace
Retirement Community
Pineapples Island Grill
Raleigh & Associates
Silverstein Institute
Stanley Dean State Farm

Newsletter Supplements

For those members who receive their monthly newsletter by email, look for extra content which began in June. Included are culture articles and handouts from our monthly Growers Clinic. This supplemental information will only be available in our full color email edition of the newsletter.

Patronize Our Local Growers

Honey Bee Nursery (941-474-6866)
Jeff Higel
2383 Englewood Road (Rt. 776)
Englewood

Plantio La Orquidea (941-504-7737)
Tina & Rafael Romero
3480 Tallevast Rd, Sarasota
www.plantiolaorquidea.com

August in Your Orchid Collection

Dr. 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 cannot 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 overcome 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. Many sympodial orchids are reaching the end of their growing cycle and require less nitrogen. 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 pellet in a *Vanda* crown is a nuisance, a large bait pellet 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 "wobble 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.

(Excerpted from Florida Orchid Growing: Month by Month)

Please Join With Us to Save Our Native Orchids

We have reached the halfway point. Please continue to send in your donations. We can reach our goal!



Platanthera blephariglottis and *Sarracenia flava* photographed at the Green Swamp.

Goal: \$10,040

Appeal Activity Report: 8/1/2011 thru 5/25/2012

Amount Raised: \$10,048

Supporters: 81 gifts from 61 donors

Because the habitats and ecosystems where wild growing orchids live are increasingly under threat, the AOS will be highlighting worthy, vetted conservation projects that the membership can support directly through their contributions utilizing a new approach known as crowd funding.

By using the internet to reach out to a large number of people we can combine many – even small – contributions to have a meaningful impact; power through numbers. Participating members can take ownership and be integral to the success of the projects. If your society is participating in the OCC 1% for conservation program, this will allow your group to contribute to valid habitat projects that have merit and a chance for a meaningful impact.

We are working with [The Nature Conservancy \(TNC\)](#) to assist them with a management project of property they own in North Carolina known as the Myrtle Head Savanna, a part of

which our collective support can help to resuscitate and sustain a critical habitat for native orchids, as well as numerous other plant and animal species. I strongly encourage you to participate in this communal project by contributing in any way you can to help reach our financial goal of **\$10,040**.

I hope that you as individuals or your local society will be able to support this effort generously and be able to take pride in protecting orchids in the wild. Please use the buttons below to donate \$5, \$10 or \$20 or use the write-in form below to donate any desired amount through *PayPal. Even small amounts add up to large numbers when it comes to conservation!

You Can Help Save the Myrtle Head Savanna Orchids

It is just miles from the Atlantic Ocean, but Myrtle Head Savanna is a completely different world. A 72 acre remnant long leaf pine savanna, Myrtle Head is a part of the greater Green Swamp in Brunswick County, NC. Acquired from the Georgia Pacific Corporation in 1990, this parcel was of specific interest to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) due to its biological significance and biodiversity rating as designated by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP). Additionally, Myrtle Head Savanna is nearly adjacent to the Juniper Creek Gamelands protected by the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission (NCWRC), and to the Columbus County Gamelands (NCWRC). Currently there are several large restoration efforts occurring on the abovementioned protected lands. TNC wrote a site management plan for the entire savanna in 2009.

From a technical point of view, the preserve encompasses an unusual pine savanna natural community (very wet clay variant) on non-alluvial flatland, intermingled with patches of small stream swamp. Abundant ecotonal habitat also exists where the two communities grade into one another. Although the area was damaged by logging in the late 1980's, the pine savanna community retains most of its character and has shown natural recruitment of Long Leaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*). There are many orchids within the savanna that bloom spring through autumn, including the Giant Spiral Orchid (*Spiranthes longilabris*). The savanna also has a large cluster of rare plant species including a large population of the endangered Cooley's Meadowrue (*Thalictrum cooleyi*) and Carolina Grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia caroliniana*). The herbaceous community is dominated by Wireleaf Dropseed (*Sporobolus teretifolius*), a very rare grass currently known on only ten sites globally.

There have been several botanical surveys done on the property. Orchids found in Myrtle Head Savanna are: *Platanthera blephariglottis*, *Platanthera ciliaris*, *Calopogon pallidus*, *Calopogon barbatus*, *Cleistesiosis bifaria*, *Cleistesiosis divaricata*, *Pogonia ophioglossoides*, *Spiranthes longilabris* and *Spiranthes praecox*.

Due to fire suppression beginning in the early 1900's, the wet savanna has begun to fill in with shrubs, shading out and imperiling the orchids and other savanna plants. With your assistance, funding would be used to implement the restoration of this significant savanna through controlled burning and mechanical removal of shrubs and trees to create the open savanna habitat that historically existed at the preserve and crucial for these plants to thrive.

Please join us in our campaign.

American Orchid Society at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden | 10901 Old Cutler Road | Coral Gables, FL 33156
Phone: (305) 740.2010
Fax: (305) 740.2011
Email: TheAOS@aos.org

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CATTLEYA SYMPOSIUM

Odoms Orchids, Inc.

Cosponsored by: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences

St. Lucie County IFAS Extension Service

American Orchid Society

Friday August 3rd and Saturday August 4th Indian River Research and Education Center

2199 South Rock Road

Ft. Pierce, FL 34945

Host Hotel Hampton Inn 772-828-4100

Participating Hotels Best Western 772-409-1740

Comfort Suites 772-409-1420

- Speakers
- Allen Black
- Arthur Chadwick
- Jeff Bradley
- Dr. Robert Griesbach
- Beth Lamb
- Francisco Miranda
- William Rogerson

Deadline for sign up is Wednesday morning, August 1 at 9:00am.

We will need the absolute final count by Wednesday morning. Thank you.

Cattleyas- One Royal Family of Orchids!!!

No one has to convince a cattleya grower that cattleyas are queens of the orchid world!! It was clear that from the very first glimpse of the cattleya orchid, that it was an unequalled, superior flower, even among all the other new species of plants being brought back from the new world in the 1800's. Unfortunately, they had no idea how to grow these beautiful treasures, and it is well documented that there were many failures. In those days most orchids were purchased and brought home just to die. They learned that many of their ideas, like the sometimes picturesque, stuffy, stagnant, over-heated stove houses were not the way to go, and that they really didn't know what their orchids needed to grow well and flourish. The study of horticultural science was really beginning to progress, and in the 100+ years since then, we have learned the needs and proper care of these very special plants. Even with the vast knowledge we have acquired, modern day orchid growers, like their counterparts 100 years ago, are still losing plants. Unfortunately, we have forgotten so many of the lessons and stories of the old cattleya growers, and the days of the corsage and cut flower industry, including many of the deceased and living legends from those days.

The Second Annual Cattleya Symposium, sponsored by the University of Florida IFAS, American Orchid Society, and Odom's Orchids, Inc., will be held August 3rd. and 4th. in Fort Pierce, FL. The conference, organized by John Odom, will explore cattleya collecting, culture, breeding, and judging. The symposium will include an auction of rare and historical plants in support of the San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers' virus research project.

Jeff Bradley, one of America's top private collectors, will discuss the history of cattleyas and the collectors who shaped our knowledge of them.

Odom's Orchids, along with our co-sponsors and guest speakers, invite you to join us at this very special "jam-packed, all you can handle" symposium, as we explore the history, present, and future of this very 'Royal' family of orchids. The symposium features a terrific line-up of knowledgeable speakers. A hearty

lunch will be provided on location for both days of the seminar. There will also be an auction of very rare and hard-to-find cattleya hybrids and species, with proceeds going towards virus research. This will be an event that EVERY Cattleya enthusiast won't want to miss.

*The cost for the symposium is \$150.00 per person. Unfortunately, seating capacity is limited to 140 people, on a first-come, first-served basis. Just click on the 'Add to Cart' button at the bottom of the page now to reserve your space. Once registered, we will contact you via e-mail with any further symposium updates and information.

*For those of you who will be coming in from out of the area, the nearest airports are West Palm Beach (PBI) and Orlando (MCO). Use the map on the Contact Us page of our website for directions to get to Ft. Pierce. The hotels are located just off State Road 70 between I-95 and the Florida Turnpike.

* Special hotel pricing has been arranged for symposium. The hotels listed below are the local hotels that are offering special rates for symposium guests. Just remember to ask for symposium pricing!

Host Hotel: Hampton Inn and Suites 772-828-4100.

Some evening chats and get togethers will be in the lobby of this hotel. Sales location for select vendors.

Best Western Inn 772-409-1740

Comfort Inn 772-409-1420

All the hotels offer king and queen size beds, some have suites and another allows for smoking. All are located within a short walk of each other.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in August!

John Odom
Odom's Orchids, Inc.

Proposed Agenda**

Thursday August 2

7:30pm Early Symposium Check in at Hampton Inn

Friday August 3

8:00-8:30 Check in (for those who didn't check in on Thurs.) at University of Florida IFAS

8:45 Welcome IFAS-Ed Skvarch, Odom's Orchids-John Odom

9:30 Allen Black - Orchid Breeder - Novelty Brassavola/Cattleya alliance breeding

10:45 Francisco Miranda - Miranda Orchids - Brazilian orchid species

12:00-1:30 Lunch

1:30 Jeff Bradley - Orchid Historian - One of America's top private collectors

3:00 Arthur Chadwick - Chadwick and Son Orchids - Large flowered cattleya species

5:00-8:00 End of Day 1--Dinner on your own. Informal gathering at the Hampton Inn

8:00 Rare and Historic Cattleya Auction at Hampton Inn

Saturday August 4

8:45 Welcome

9:00 Dr. Robert Griesbach - U.S.D.A. Geneticist

10:30 Beth Lamb - Lamb & Lamb, Inc. - Plant pathologist, virologist

12:00-1:30 Lunch

1:30 William Rogerson - One of America's top growers of bifoliate cattleyas

3:00 Q & A / Panel Discussion

****Subject to change**

Supplement to VAOS August 2012 Newsletter

18th IPA SYMPOSIUM SET FOR 2012

August 24 - 25

Orlando, Florida Beckons You

By Frank Smith and Carlos Fighetti

Following the resounding success of our Symposium in Ontario, California, two years ago, the International Phalaenopsis Alliance Annual Symposium is now a two-day event. It will encompass plant entries for ribbon & AOS judging, a Preview Party, speakers, workshops and the all-important Color Fund auction and luncheon. This change, from a 3-day to a 2-day event, gives the registrants a more focused schedule of events by ending on Saturday at 6 PM. The traditional 3rd day, which has been Sunday, has been freed-up for Registrants to either have impromptu sessions, take the opportunity to visit local nurseries in the area or spend the day with Mickey & Minnie at Disney World.

Each year the IPA holds its Symposium in different parts of the world, and we have not held one on the East Coast in several years. So when the IPA approached us for ideas for a venue, Frank Smith of Krull-Smith suggested the convenience of a hotel in the Orlando, Florida area which has very effectively hosted other orchid symposia in the past. Orlando is a world vacation destination where registrants can take advantage of the many attractions in the area. It's also a convenient central base from which to travel to nurseries both north and south. Rental car rates from the airport are also more reasonable for those who wish to spend the week traveling around the state, and many rental companies do not have a "drop-off charge" if you return the car at a different airport in the state.

The Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel will serve as our headquarters, offering a shuttle service to and from the airport and a very attractive \$69 per night room rate for a single or double, a rate which they are generously extending to two days before and two after the event. The meeting rooms are quite spacious, and the guest rooms are comfortable. In addition to dining facilities at the hotel itself, the city boasts a multitude of fine restaurants, several of which are close to the host hotel.

Registration forms and additional information will be forthcoming both in the IPA Journal and on our website www.phal.org. We're working on the budget and are hoping to keep the Registration Fee for the entire event to around \$100 or less per IPA registrant, which includes Friday's light supper and Saturday's continental breakfast, luncheon and afternoon coffee break.

The IPA is extremely proud to announce that our Keynote Speaker will be Mr. Chen-Chung Chen, owner of Mainshow Orchids in Taiwan. Mr. Chen is well known for his breeding program on Phalaenopsis species and primary hybrids which he sells through his orchid company. He has been growing and propagating Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilum species and hybrids for over 30 years. In addition, Mr. Chen, a TOGA judge, has served as the Judging Chair of the prestigious Taiwan International Orchid Show from 2008 to 2011. He is also the current president of the Taiwan Paphiopedilum Society. The subject of his talk will be "Improving on the Basics: Phalaenopsis Species and Primary Hybrids"

Our new Symposium format will begin at 9 AM Friday morning with the entry of show plants for ribbon and AOS judging. Ribbon judging will commence at 2 PM, followed by AOS Judging.

Friday evening will present a new direction for the Symposium, with the Sales/Exhibit Area opening for the first time to Registrants from 5-7 PM for the Preview Party, giving registrants first crack at the sales tables! The Preview Party will also include a light buffet of cold and hot hors-d'oeuvres, salad and fruit plus a cash bar. At 7 PM, our first speaker, Frank Smith, owner of Krull-Smith in Apopka, Florida, will give us an overview of the hybridizing program of his company. This will be followed by a roundtable

discussion that he will lead with a special focus on new breeding directions in Phalaenopsis in the US. The evening will also provide a great opportunity for everyone to get to know each other by sharing their questions and experiences on this topic.

Saturday's schedule will present a full day of events beginning at 8 AM with a continental breakfast and the re-opening of the Sales Area. At 9:30 AM our Keynote Speaker, Mr. Chen-Chung Chen will give his presentation, followed by two break-out workshops. As with previous Symposiums, the workshops can focus on topics ranging from Greenhouse or In-Home Culture to Hybridizing, Judging Award Quality Flowers, or other topics of interest from the registrants.

Our Recognition Luncheon will follow the morning session with our "never-dull auction", featuring plants and Phal-related items donated by the vendors and our always-generous members, the proceeds of which will help support the Journal's Color Fund.

Saturday's afternoon session will feature our third speaker, Dr. David McDaniel of Orchid Classics, from Virginia Beach, Virginia. Since he is currently operating one of the best orchid laboratories in the US, he will share his extensive knowledge of phal hybridizing and methods for producing new plantlets. For several years, David has generously donated flasks of some of his newest hybrids for our auctions, all of them representing intriguing and cutting-edge breeding directions – each one garnering huge bids to help support the Color Fund.

We will formally end the day, and the Symposium, at 5 PM but, as has become tradition, those wishing to join others for dinner Saturday night will be able to sign up for this during the day. This post-Symposium dinner has proven to be a wonderful way to end the event, giving everyone an opportunity to kick back and relax, share what they've learned, and get to know other members better.

We're expecting record attendance at this event so early registration and hotel reservations are highly recommended. For those in the AOS judging program, this event will also qualify for credit in their continuing education. And for those who simply want to become better growers and learn more from others, it's an ideal opportunity to expand your knowledge of Phalaenopsis and collect great new ideas for improving your culture.

We look forward to what promises to be a great Symposium – and to seeing everyone in Orlando in August!