

The Orchid

BOCA RATON ORCHID SOCIETY



Scentinel

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MEETINGS

THE SOCIETY MEETS ON THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:30 PM.

Location:

Safe Schools Institute
1790 NW Spanish River Blvd. Boca Raton, FL. 33433

Guests are Always Welcome!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| | 1 |
| Board of Directors | 2 |
| President's Message | 2 |
| Tasks for April | 3 |
| Membership | 3 |
| Orchid Events | 4, 5 |
| March Member Plants | 6-8 |
| Repotting Catasetinae | 9 |
| Food Donations | 10 |
| Advertisers | 11 |
| Board Meetings | 11 |

Featuring~

Speaker: Mac Rivenbark

Topic: Dendrobiums

Date: April 11, 2024

Mac Rivenbark and his wife Helen are the owners of Mac's Orchids which specializes in orchid species from the Philippines. They have had their business for many years and grow over 200 different species. After many fascinating trips to the Philippines and extensive study, Mac has become an expert on orchids from the Philippines.

He and his wife, Helen, make frequent trips to the Philippines where they see many dens growing in situ. His talks are always informative and entertaining and we are glad to welcome him back.

Mac is a past president of Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society and has served as auctioneer at many a FLOS Auction.

Mac Rivenbark



Janice Larit

Vice President, Programs

Coming Attractions—BROS Member Meetings

May 9 — Ben Oliveros, topic TBA

June 13— Bill Nunes, "The Rhizome Cowboy"; Growing Encyclias

July 11—Alex Bello, Growing Orchids with Bromeliads and Aroids

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The BROS is the proud recipient
of the DASSA Award.



From President Kathy Kersey

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

Welcome to April. We hope that April brings showers and May brings flowers... 2024 so far, we had a very mild winter and Spring is already starting out on the warmer side. It's time to start your repotting and dividing of your orchids. Dormancy of your catasetums should be over and it's time to start watering them again. Days are getting longer as we get closer to summer, but you should still get out early to water and fertilize. Some mornings are still cool and breezy, which is great. But the afternoon temps are climbing, and we already reached feels like temps of 96 degrees. Please be careful out there and do your tasks before noon.

Thank you to everyone who attended our March meeting. I went over the show results during the meeting. Our 2024 show, attendance was down compared to last year. However, the vendors said they did better than last year. We had over 25 people sign up to become new members of our Society, which is amazing. Overall the show was a great success, and again it's thanks to all of you and your hard work and dedication that make it possible.

This year Boca Raton Orchid Society is sponsoring the Bonnet House Orchid Show. The show takes place this coming weekend, April 6-7. It's a beautiful estate, hope you can make it.

We are planning a bus trip to the Redlands Orchid Show at Fruit & Spice Park in May. Please see the flyer in the newsletter. Contact Abby Diab to get your name on the list. We also invited the Garden Club and Deerfield Orchid Society to join us. We had a great time last year; I hope you will join us.

Please join us on April 11, when Mac Rivenbark from Mac's Orchids will be our guest speaker. He will be speaking on Dendrobiums. He will be bringing plants to sell, so come early to make your selections.

Just a couple of reminders:

We have member plant judging every month. Please bring in your blooming plant (name of plant required) to be judged. It is so wonderful to see your beautiful plants. Why not share all of your hard work with the group?

Please donate your favorite dessert or snack for our refreshment table at our monthly meetings.

We have a library that is available to everyone. Please feel free to sign out a book and return it when you're done. We have a lot of great books filled with the information you may be looking for.

Arrive early to our monthly meetings. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM, so our speaker can start at 7:45 PM. Arrive early so you can socialize with other members. We try our best to have speakers that will provide important information for you to be a successful orchid grower. I know I have learned so much just talking to our members. We have members that have been growing orchids for decades and love to share their knowledge.

Guests are always welcome to our meetings. Bring a friend, neighbor or relative.

Thank you for being a part of the Boca Raton Orchid Society. As I always say "Share the love of orchids and share your wealth of knowledge". What a wonderful hobby we have.

Kathy

Membership

FIRST YEAR

SINGLE \$25.00
COUPLE \$35.00
BUSINESS: \$40.00
Newsletter Emailed

RENEWAL

SINGLE \$20.00
COUPLE \$25.00
BUSINESS \$40.00
Newsletter Emailed

CONTACT:

Abby Diab
561-843-0999

MAIL CHECKS TO:

Boca Raton Orchid
Society
PO Box 276367
Boca Raton, FL 33427

Tasks for April

by Dr. Martin Motes

The warmth of April, alas, stimulates the growth of bugs as well as plants. Both thrips and mites thrive in the dry heat of April. Liquid dishwashing soap (at 2 oz per gal) will control both but be mindful that soap should not be applied to plants that are suffering from drought stress. Be sure that your plants are well hydrated before you apply soap. Water them extra hard the day before. To be effective soap must be used profusely. The plants should be washed in the solution to the point of wetting every nook and cranny of both the plant and its container. Only such thorough treatment can reach the reclusive thrips and be sure to touch all of the ever prolific mites. A second treatment at 7-10 days is necessary to control mites and a miticide such as Kelthane might be advised. Orthene which is the insecticide of choice for thrips (because of its residual action) is compatible with many miticides. Check with your county agent if in doubt.

April is the classic month to catch up with all the re-potting which you meant to do across the winter. New roots form fast in April; don't rot them off by over-potting or break them off by allowing the plant to wiggle in the pot. Tie them up: tie them down!

The weather in April is definitely settled into warm, even deliciously hot, with passing cold fronts only adding the delight of a pleasant change in temperature. The clean, bright days brimming with abundant sunlight and the low relative humidity create the high drying potential that orchids love. Now we can get our orchids off to a great start on the growing season by practicing our very best watering skills under ideal conditions. Water heavily when you water and allow the plants to dry thoroughly before watering heavily again. Drying 'hard' in the Spring will produce benefits all season. We want to get our plants well launched while leaving all the fungi high and dry.

News from Dr. Motes

**The Updated Edition of
*Florida Orchid Growing
Month by Month*
is now available!**

**To purchase, visit
www.RedlandPress.com**

Read this month's complete article at:

<http://www.motesorchids.com/fogblog/>

Sign up for Dr. Motes'

Newsletter at:

<http://www.motesorchids.com/fogblog/>

Excerpted: "Florida Orchid Growing, Month by Month"

To purchase, visit www.RedlandPress.com

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ORCHID EVENTS

APRIL

The April 2024 judging at the AOS West Palm Beach Judging Center will take place Saturday, April 27, 2024. Judging takes place at Flamingo Gardens, 3750 S Flamingo Road, Davie, FL 33330 at 2 PM on the fourth Saturday of the month (third Saturday November/December). Plant Registration will begin at 1:30. Exhibitors can go to www.wpbjudging.org for more information or email Jackie Wood at bocaorchidlady@aol.com.

Saturday and Sunday, April 6 & 7 from 9 AM—4 PM. Bonnet House International Orchid and Garden Festival. At Bonnet House Museum and Gardens, 900 North Birch Road Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33304. Admission: \$15 pp. House tour is an additional \$10 pp. Children 12 and under, free. (954) 563-5393. www.bonnethouse.org. The Boca Raton Orchid Society is a sponsor of this Show.

April 27 (10 AM-5PM) and 28, 2024 (10 AM—4 PM). Vero Beach Orchid Society Show, “There’s No Business Like Orchid Show Business”. 3001 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach, FL. More info: VBOSnewsletter@hotmail.com

April 27(9 AM- 4 PM) and 28, 2024 (9 AM-3 PM) Mounts Botanical Garden Spring “Plant-a-Palooza” Plant Sale. At Mounts Botanical Garden, 559 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL.. Admission: Free for members; \$20 for non-members. \$18 seniors 65+; \$13 children ages 6-17. More info: 561-233-1757 or visit their web site, <http://mounts.org>

MAY

May 4 (9 AM-5 PM) and 5 (9 AM-4 PM), 2024. Broward County Plant Affair. At Volunteer Park, 12050 W Sunrise Blvd, Plantation, FL 33323. Local plant vendors, Orchids, Native Plants, Herbs, Exotics, Succulents, Houseplants, Handmade Garden Art, and more. Free entry and free parking. For more info, 954-797-2722 or email BCPlantAffair@gmail.com

May 4 and 5 (9 AM-5 PM), 2024. Miami Orchids and Arts Festival. Promises a weekend dedicated to celebrating orchids. Co-hosted by the Miami Beach Orchid Society, Foundation for Emerging Technologies, and Miami Beach Botanical Garden, the festival will feature orchid and art exhibits, musical performances, dance showcases, educational sessions, and a vibrant vendors market. Emphasizing our Florida native orchid species, the festival aims to raise awareness about the importance of preserving our delicate ecosystems. The festival takes place at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden, 2000 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33140. Ticket price is \$5, and children are free. **Tickets:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/orchids-arts-festival-saturday-tickets-823170052787>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/orchids-arts-festival-sunday-tickets-823174616437>

Redlands International Orchid Festival



WHEN: Sat. May 18, 2024

Skip traffic and parking hassles, avoid lines at the gate, and travel in air-conditioned comfort on a luxury motor coach with your fellow Orchid Society enthusiasts.

\$45 Member includes transportation, refreshments on the bus, admission to the Festival, raffle tickets and possibly discount coupons for orchid purchases at the festival. Contact Abby Diab to sign up at abbydbros@gmail.com

Only 50 seats available!!

Pay at the April meeting or mail your Check by May 1st to reserve your spot. On your check please include “Redlands Orchid Show” and the names of the people you are paying for.

Mail to: BROS, PO Box 276367, Boca Raton, FL 33427-6367

Don't miss out on a fun day with fellow orchid enthusiasts. We will provide water and snacks on the bus.

Bring a box or foldable cart to hold your purchases at the Show

We are scheduled to leave at 8:30 am from Safe Schools Institute (our regular meeting place) and return at approximately 4:30 pm. If you have never been to the Fruit & Spice Park it is beautiful, and we can leave the driving to someone else.

BROS Exhibition Table

Every month members have the opportunity to show their latest achievements. They can be admired then judged and you may even win an award ribbon! Fill out an exhibition slip and place it with your entry. Please follow the rules below to avoid disqualification.

- Clearly print the orchid name and your full name.
- 2. It must be featured in the correct category.
- 3. You must have owned the orchid for at least six months.
- 4. The plant must not have insects or disease.
- 5. Display your orchid in an attractive container.
- 6. Each plant registered earns you a FREE raffle ticket!

The winners in March

| MEMBER | CATEGORY | RIBBON | ORCHID NAME |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Karen Meiselman | Oncidium Alliance | Blue | Onc. sphacelatum |
| Teresa O'Neil | Vanda | Blue, Yellow | V. JVB x Kullawadee Fragrance |
| Belinda Krause | Dendrobium Alliance | Blue | Den. aggregatum |
| Robert Finocchi | Phalaenopsis | Blue, Yellow | Phal. schilleriana |
| Trent Ward | Cattleya Unifoliate | Best Blue | Lc Fire Dance 'Patricia' AM/AOS |

➔ **BEST IN SHOW: Congratulations to Trent Ward**



Lc Fire Dance 'Patricia' AM/AOS—Trent Ward

REMINDER

Your Dues are Due for 2024

Please make payment at the March meeting or mail it in to :

**BOCA RATON ORCHID SOCIETY
P O BOX 276367
BOCA RATON, FL 33427**

Members' Winning Plants March 2024



Oncidium sphacelatum—Karen Meiselman



Phal. Schilleriana—Robert Finocchi



Den. aggregatum—Belinda Krause

Members' Winning Plants March 2024



V. JVB x Kulwadee Fragrance—Teresa O'Neil



Lc Fire Dance 'Patricia' AM/AOS—Trent Ward
Best Blue Ribbon

Repotting Catasetinae: February-May

It's time to repot your Catasetinae! Repotting is fun, laborious and, at times, nerve-wracking. It is an important step in making sure your plants are happy and healthy, and it's the best way to ensure lots of beautiful flowers.

Catasetinae have seasonal growth habits and flowering patterns. To understand how to grow and repot them, it's very useful to learn about the environmental conditions in their natural habitat, where they have adapted to survive and thrive. Catasetinae grow primarily in areas with a warm, wet summer followed by a dry, slightly cooler winter, thus these plants have evolved a very specific seasonal growth habit. In the spring, with the days lengthening and just before the onset of the rainy season, they begin growing and developing a root system. This is all done in anticipation of the summer rains when there is plentiful moisture and nutrients for the plants.

I follow this rule: "The best time to re-pot Catasetinae is with the beginning of new growth in the early spring".

Repotting with the onset of new growth ensures that the new roots, which initiate after the new growth by about 2-3 weeks, will grow directly into the new media. This eliminates the chance of damaging the new roots. This is important as Catasetinae produce just one flush of roots each season, and early damage to the new root system will severely limit the plant's ability to grow and flourish. I can't overemphasize the importance of the timing for repotting. It's like the emphasis I place on waiting to water until after the new roots are 3-6" long.

At Sunset Valley Orchids we use AAA sphagnum moss from New Zealand (offered in 3 kg bales on our website). After trying several types of media we have found that this premium-quality moss produces the best growth. First, we slightly moisten the new moss. When it's just right, it feels moist, but when you squeeze it tightly, water does not drip out. When using sphagnum moss for potting, we like to leave an air space beneath the moss and the bottom of the pot. This assures excellent drainage. It takes a little trial and error to get the air space right, but you will master it with a little practice. Styrofoam peanuts or similar inert material can also be used under the moss to provide this extra air space and drainage.

Repotting: In the early spring, with the first signs of new growth, Catasetinae plants are still dormant and dry. Repotting should occur with the old media still dry. We use sterile clippers to cut away the old, unneeded moss. With larger plants, we usually trim away the moss farthest away from the newest growth. This trimming process cuts through the old moss and roots. We like to form a 2-3" long tapered (carrot-shaped) stump from the old moss and roots. This provides a form around which the new moss can be wrapped. It helps to hold the plant steady in its pot until new roots are produced and re-established. We orient the plant, so the new growth has room for 2 years of space for the growth. As with all orchids Catasetums don't like to be over potted either. It's better to under pot than over pot.

For plants purchased from SVO last year that are still in 3" pots, I recommend the "slip-potting" method of repotting. Just wrap new moss around the existing moss and slip into a slightly larger pot.

Dividing: The best time to divide Catasetinae is also with the onset of new growth. They do well when divided into pieces no smaller than two or three pseudobulbs. Divisions are made by cutting with a sterile tool or by carefully pulling the pseudobulbs apart.

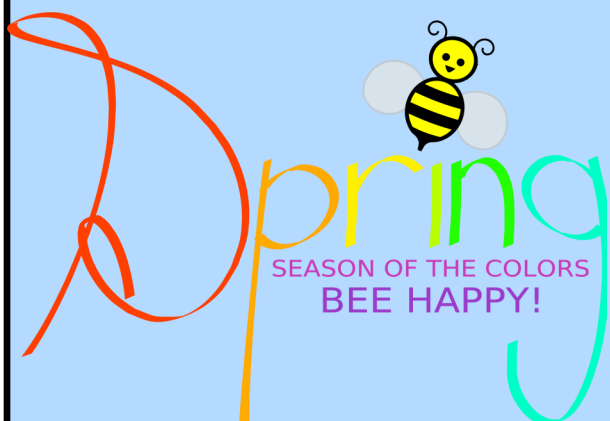
Watering: Watering should begin when the new roots are 3-6" long. It will take the plants 4-6 weeks after the onset of new vegetative growth for the new roots to grow to the desired length. Waiting for the beginning of watering is not easy, but we have learned through trial and error that it is much better to wait to water than it is to start watering too soon.

For those of you wondering when the new Catasetinae list is coming out, look for it in early July. An inside tip: it's the best list we have ever offered!

Good Growing,

Fred Clarke & Carlos Lopez

We thank those who participated by providing refreshments at our March member meeting: Cheryl Dodes, Donna Swanson, Victoria Carmosino, Susan Barbuty, Marcia Cornnrl, Bethania Blanco. Please consider bringing something to share at our meetings. We all appreciate the variety!



Welcome New Members!

Elly Meisler

Susan Kisel

**We're glad to
have you join
the fun!**



Board Meetings

The BROS Board meets the Thursday
before the monthly Member Meeting at 7:00 PM on Zoom

Next meetings:

April 4

May 2

June 6



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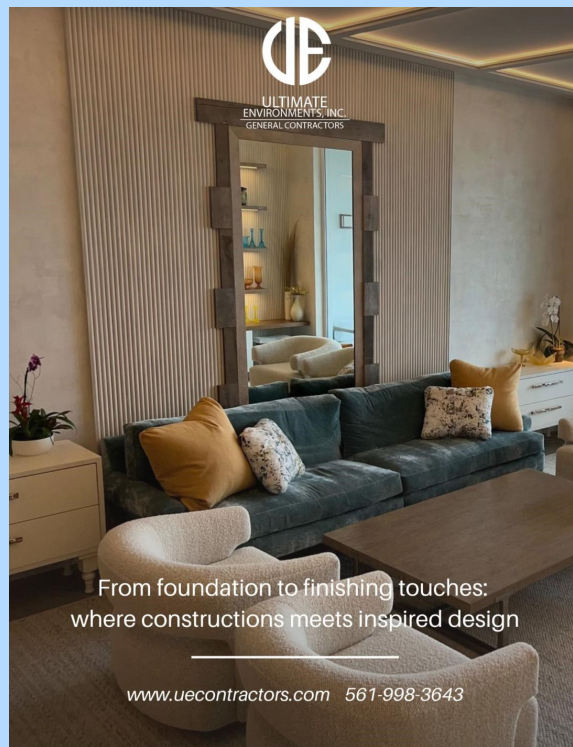
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