



## Featuring~

Happy Valentine's Day

Speaker: Alan Koch

Topic: Mini Vandas

Date: February 11, 2021 at 7:30 PM via Zoom

All in-person meetings and BROS activities are currently suspended due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

We hope everyone stays healthy and safe.

**\*\*\*This meeting will be held online via Zoom. There will be no in-person meetings until the COVID-19 pandemic abates and it becomes safe to have regular meetings. Watch your email for a link to the meeting.**

Alan Koch owns and operates Gold Country Orchids where he specializes in miniature and compact Cattleya's. Alan started growing orchids in 1969 with 3 Cymbidiums given to him by an aunt. While in college he became interested in other orchids and discovered many would grow outdoors in Southern California. He has moved five times as his orchid obsession has led to the need for more growing space. With the last move, he purchased 10 acres of land in Lincoln, California for his 250,000 orchids. He is recognized as an expert in the Brazilian Cattleya alliance and a trend setter in miniature compact and Cattleya breeding. Alan has been published in the Orchid Digest, the American Orchid Society magazine, as well as many International Publications. He has also been published in several proceedings of the World Orchid Conference. He is an internationally known speaker. He is a past member of the AOS Judging Committee, and the Research Committee, as well as an Accredited Judge and is Training Coordinator for the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center. Alan also served two terms on the Orchid Digest Executive Committee and 3 terms on the Board of Directors, as well as two terms as a Trustee for the AOS. Please join us to learn about Mini Vandas, which are both beautiful and compact.

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— Marion Israel, Vice President, Programs



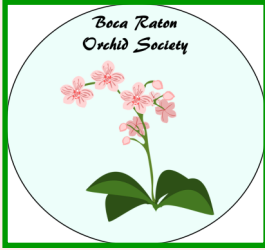
Alan Koch

### COMING ATTRACTIONS

March 11: Jim Davison: Cattleya Species

April 8: Fred Clarke: Be An 80% Grower

Contact US



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## ***A Message from Our President***

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. Now that the vaccine is becoming available, I hope those of you who want to get it have had success or made your appointments. The health and well being of our members is our top priority.

With that being said... I was thinking back to last year at this time, when Carla and I were in overdrive preparing for our Valentine's show. It was truly a tough decision to cancel our show for this year, but like I said, Safety is our top priority. In February we will start preparing for our 2022 show, which will be held on February 12-13, 2022. Please mark your calendars and know that I will be asking for you to volunteer at the show. Also, just to let you know, that since we were not able to have our show this year, we will be using the same photo which we placed on our 2021 rack card for 2022. Robert Finocchi won the honor, and we want him to receive his place on our rack card.

For those that joined our ZOOM call with Hadley Cash, I hope you enjoyed his presentation. What we learned is that Paphs, Phals and other orchids require 10-15 degree temperature swings to get our plants to go into spike. We have had a very cool December and January that have given us the swings that we needed. I hope you all have many plants in spike and looking forward to your blooms.

We also presented a new part of our newsletter called "Show em where you grow em". Cheryl will provide the details further in our newsletter, and I have started it off with photos of my orchid growing areas. And like I said, please don't judge me on my plants or my yard... Just kidding...

Our speaker for February will be Alan Koch speaking on Mini Vandas. Please join us on February 11 at 7:30 PM.

Please continue to send in photos of your beautiful blooming plants. We love seeing them and sharing them with our members. Send them to [rcdodes@aol.com](mailto:rcdodes@aol.com)

Again, please stay safe, we miss you all and looking forward to seeing you in person in August. That is our tentative plan as of now.

Kathy

**NOTICE: All BROS members who paid for their membership for 2020 will get membership for 2021 FREE! Please pay your 2020 dues if you have not already done so.**

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**Boca Raton, FL 33427**

## Tasks for January

by Dr. Martin Motes

February characteristically brings a wide swing of day to night temperatures, ideal for spiking ascocendas and vandas but also wringing from the air heavy dews and dense fog. Whilst these add a romantic atmosphere to the South Florida landscape, Wuthering Heights is singularly devoid of snails and slugs (much less Botrytis). The silvery carpet of dew provides a silky path to our orchids for snails and slugs which can range far, under these favorable conditions. They are eager to make a nice meal of your Phalaenopsis leaves or the soft crowns of your vandas before they retire during the dry months of March and April only to dream of the fresh shoots of the sympodial orchids brought forth by the first rains of May. Now is the time to give them a rude awakening. Remember that snail bait is most effectively applied lightly (scatter the pellets every few feet) and frequently (every 7 to 10 days). Two or three applications should do the job.

The heavy fog which can cause condensation on leaves even under cover can also bring trouble. Botrytis is a fungus disease that can disfigure flowers with small black spots. Particularly apparent and annoying on white Phalaenopsis, Botrytis can ruin other flowers as well. Control is typically achieved in commercial greenhouses with fungicide in aerosol forms and by running fans to prevent condensation on the flowers. The latter option is also available to collectors. A small fan turned on the spiking and opened flowers at night will greatly alleviate the pressure of Botrytis. So will, to a degree, the application of soap which we suggested in January to control mites.

The lower overall temperatures of February call for less frequent and lighter applications of fertilizer as was the practice in January. If any reddening of the foliage persists another application of Epsom salts (1Tbs per gal), preferably in combination with Potassium nitrate, is called for; Nitrate nitrogen being more available to the plants under cooler conditions. If your resolve holds steady not to water (or above all) fertilize those Himalayan dendrobiums, your reward may shortly become evident in bursting flower spikes.

**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"

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The Jacksonville Orchid Society Presents

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*New  
Address!*

## Fred Clarke's *Catasetum* Growing Tips

Now that it's the middle of winter, all but the last of the previous season's mature growths of *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches*, and *Mormodes* have finished flowering. However, some plants don't even start to develop inflorescences until after all water is stopped and the plant is leafless! It's time for the *Clowesia* species like *Cl. rosea*, and *Cl. warczewitzii* and their hybrids *Cl. Rebecca Northen* and *Cl. Grace Dunn* to bloom. Their strong citrus fragrance always reminds me of the furniture polish, Lemon-Scented Pledge.

The onset of dormancy is caused by several factors: the maturity of the pseudobulb, shortening day length, cooler day/night temperatures and a reduction of root zone moisture. This change in conditions causes the pseudobulbs to harden off in preparation for the upcoming months of dormancy. By now, most leaves are yellow/brown and have fallen off. It's time to cease watering completely. This marks the start of the dormant period.

The gradual reduction of watering frequency and an increasingly longer dry interval usually is accepted by the plants without complaint. Of course, there are exceptions. If pseudobulbs show signs of shriveling late in the growing season, watering once or twice will quickly plump them back up.

The onset of dormancy generally occurs naturally; however, when plants are cultivated in consistently warm growing areas, such as in the home or under lights, dormancy sometimes needs to be encouraged. I have found that managing irrigation is one of the best tools to trigger dormancy. If you still have plants in January with a full complement of green leaves, it's time to take a more aggressive approach. Allow the media to become dry, regardless of the number of green leaves. Let the media stay dry for 3-4 days, then water sparingly, about one or two ounces of water. The water may flow right through the media, and that's okay. Allow the media to dry and wait 4-5 days before following the same stingy irrigation procedure. Repeat this process, increasing the dry interval between waterings. This process will trigger dormancy in plants that are resisting the transition. Not all plants lose all of their green leaves when dormant, and it's not uncommon for some to hold a few leaves well past the point when irrigation has stopped.

By late January, it's important to get your *Catasetinae* into the dormant stage and provide them with an adequate rest period so that they will "wake up" early in the spring to a long growing season that will help them to develop big bulbs and lots of flowers!

Those of you in Florida and the southern states might already be seeing the first beginnings of new growth. Remember to start watering and fertilizing when new roots are approximately 3"-6" long and new growths are 6"-12" tall. Generally, these early new growths will develop slowly until day length begins to lengthen significantly.

Now that the days are getting longer, I'm looking forward to seeing the first signs of new growth from my resting *Catasetinae* in the very near future.



# Show 'Em Where You Grow 'Em

We hope you enjoy this new monthly feature. Please send in photos of your growing situation. Show us your plant stands, places where you hang your plants, innovative ways that you display your orchids, etc. In this way we will share ideas for new ways to grow and display our orchids.

Please send your photos and a brief description of how and where you grow your orchids to Cheryl Dodes at [rcdodes@aol.com](mailto:rcdodes@aol.com). When sending photos, please send the largest possible file size. This makes the photos more clear in the newsletter.

Below are some examples that we received this month. We are looking forward to seeing yours!



Lorraine Conover, our former BROS President moved to North Florida a few years ago. Where she lives it gets cold in the winter. Wire closet racks are standing vertically, in an unused bathtub with mounted orchids attached to them. The window provides sufficient light to keep the orchids happy. Plants on the closet shelving in the bathtub are *Bulbophyllums* with a couple *Miltonias* so they can be watered more frequently due to the growing containers drying quicker.

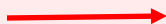


Former BROS President Jay Collins is very handy. He constructs various types of settings for his orchids.

Location: On southern end of patio facing East.

Mounted on: Black grid is a display rack, shelves I made from used cedar that I had.

Grown in: Pieces of pottery I purchased at 2nd hand stores and drilled a bunch of holes in them.





# Show 'Em Where You Grow 'Em



Another example from Jay Collins:

Location: Southern wall

Grown in: Den, anemoms in various baskets,; large center piece is made from cedar and bamboo. I call it "my little living wall".

Mounted directly to wall.

Watering system is connected directly to community sprinklers (uses lake water).



These homemade orchid stands were made by Cheryl Dodes' husband. They are constructed of pressure-treated wood, put together with non-rusting heavy duty screws, and are on wheels.

The plants are attached with plastic "Hang-a-Pot" hangers screwed into the upright wood piece. The stand closest to the camera was made a few months ago. The identical stand in back is over ten years old.

The screened-in patio faces north, but also gets light from east and west.

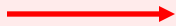




# Show 'Em Where You Grow 'Em

This is a vertical plant stand made out of three display racks zip-tied together and placed on a triangular wheeled stand. Plants are attached with wire or on mounts hooked to the grid. A few flower pots have been attached with Hang-a-Pots. Since it is on wheels, it can be turned to allow different sun exposures. Vandas especially seem to like growing on this stand.

The stand is on Cheryl Dodes' screened-in patio that has a northern exposure, but also gets east and west sun.



This is inside my enclosed patio (20' x 10') where all the Catts, Dens, Onc, Phals, Vanda and any misc. genera are being kept safe from the cold temps. Low temps have been in the 40's, 30's and a couple 27's. I have an electric heater maintaining the temps 58ish. Two overhead fans on to move the air and the fan lights are on all day. If temps are above 58, I raise the shade and can also water everything with a hose. I plan that for once a week. Intermediate watering for mounts hanging and others are done with a 2-gallon hand sprayer. Plants are on a metal storage shelf, metal tri plant stand, 4 way plant stand for hanging at least 16 plants each and plastic plant stands. Vandas are in large pots are on the floor. - Lorraine Conover



## Members' Plants



**Bc Maikai 'Louise' AM/AOS - Marion Israel**



**Bc Chinese Beauty "Orchid Queen" AM/AOS - Marion Israel**



**Clowesia Rebecca Northern x Ctsm expansum -  
Veronica Risko**



**Rlc Blanche Aisaka 'Yuki' FCC/AOS - Marion Israel**



## Members' Plants



No ID Cattleya - Cathy Hanna



No ID Dendrobium - Cathy Hanna



Vanda Dong Tarn 'Robert' - Susan Barbuty





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**BROS Board Meetings**

**\*\*\* Will be held on the Thursday prior to the Member Meeting  
each month at 7 PM via Zoom**

**Next Board Meetings:**

**February 4, 2021**

**March 4, 2021**

**Shhhh! Hadley Cash's Secret Orchid Medium Mix**

The January 2021 Meeting Speaker was Hadley Cash who gave us a great presentation on growing Paphiopedilums. Hadley was kind enough to provide us his 'secret' medium mix. Since he asked that this NOT BE SHARED outside of BROS, the document "Marriott Orchids Paph Mix Formulas" is available to members only. Send an email to: [risko@bellsouth.net](mailto:risko@bellsouth.net) to request.

I would like to share a youtube video with you that takes place in one of my favorite places. The 21 minute video is a virtual tour of the Orchid Show at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) in their fabulous Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, a stunning example of Victorian-era glasshouse artistry. Here is the link:

<https://www.nybg.org/planttalk/virtual-tour-of-the-orchid-show/>

I also suggest that you explore the NYBG website.

Veronica Risko, Treasurer