



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
Map: <http://bit.ly/qQhKXu>

Guests are Always Welcome!

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Featuring~

Topic: Movie Night: *Wild Orchid Man in the Ghost Orchid Swamp* + Popcorn!

Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022

In the "Wild Orchid Man" series, former Selby Gardens botanist and orchid expert Stig Dalström and Florida film-maker Darryl Saffer team up in an around-the-world search for rare, and rarely seen, orchids. In *Wild Orchid Man In The Ghost Orchid Swamp*, Dalström and Saffer trek deep into the heart of the Everglades, to Florida's wildest swamp, the Fakahatchee, home to the rare ghost orchid, *Dendrophylax lindenii*. Tangled jungle, alligators and snakes and fierce tropical storms seem to guard the orchids hiding and blooming there. And though the story is about the orchid quest, the series will speak to the fragility of the world's ecosystem, and what humans can learn from these mysterious, magical plants.

Ghost Orchids (*Dendrophylax lindenii*) are leafless orchids that can only grow under very specific conditions. They are native to Florida and Cuba, and have been so over-collected that they are an endangered species. With the exception of a handful of people, nobody knows exactly where ghost orchid plants grow. The high level of secretiveness is to protect the plants from poachers who attempt to remove them from their natural environment. Like most wild orchids in the United States, ghost orchid plants are also threatened by loss of pollinators, pesticides and climate change.

Their sweet nighttime scent attracts giant sphinx moths that pollinate the plants with their proboscis – long enough to reach pollen hidden deep within the ghost orchid flower. Experts at University of Florida Extension estimate that there are only about 2,000 ghost orchid plants growing wild in Florida, although recent data suggests there may be significantly more. Growing ghost orchid flowers at home is nearly impossible, as it's extremely difficult to provide the plant's very particular growing requirements. People who manage to remove an orchid from its environment are usually disappointed because ghost orchid plants almost always die in captivity.

BROS members may sell their plants at this meeting. Please see the rules on page 4. 10% of your total sales must go to the BROS Treasurer that evening.

Future Programs

August 11: AOS Judge Carol Holdren: 10 Orchids that Belong in Your Collection

September 8: Orchid Swap n' Shop

October 13: Jay Collins: Kokedama Demonstration

Contact US

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The BROS is the proud recipient
of the DASSA Award.



From President Kathy Kersey

Happy July 4th everyone...

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. It has been such a HOT Summer so far, and it's not over yet. We have had some rain, but unfortunately not enough. Please get out early in the day to do your watering and maintenance and stay hydrated.

I would just like to take a moment to say 'Thank you'. Since we have come back to Safe Schools with in-person meetings, a lot of great things have happened.... We were able to re-connect with our members that we hadn't seen for quite a while. We had an amazing 2022 Valentine's Show, which could have never happened without all of your support, and time that you volunteered. We welcome the many new members that have joined our Society since the pandemic. It is so great to see everyone talking together before our meetings. Whether you're asking questions, giving helpful tips, or sharing your knowledge, it makes me so thankful and appreciative to see your interaction. Thank you for being a part of the Boca Raton Orchid Society.

We hope that those of you who attended our June meeting where Omar Gonzalez spoke about Encyclias enjoyed it. We did something we had never done before, selling plants on the topic that was being presented. I hope you liked the idea. The remaining Encyclias will be brought to our July meeting, so you can purchase one for yourself.

Please join us on July 14th for Movie and popcorn night. I'm looking forward to seeing the movie. Our raffle plants that night will be from Soroa Orchids. I'm sure you won't want to miss this raffle table.

August will be another chance to purchase some of the orchids that Carol Holdren will speak about in her presentation, "10 Orchids You Must Have in Your Collection". Bring your checkbook...

Swap and Shop returns in September... we would love to have more participants. We will have the sign up sheets at the July meeting as well.

In October Jay Collins will be teaching us how to make a Kokedama. We will be providing all the supplies (including the plant), hope you can join us for that fun event.

I would also like to thank Cheryl Dodes, our Newsletter editor, for the amazing job she does for us each and every month. I'm sure it is not an easy job. I hope all of you read the entire newsletter each month. We try to incorporate topics that are important to you, as well as giving you information that you may have never known. Thank you Cheryl for giving us a wonderful, informative newsletter every month.

I hope you all have a Great July 4th, be safe, and I hope to see you July 14th at 7:30.

Kathy

Just a reminder: Please see Abby Diab. She has a member list and we want to make sure all of your information is correct. We will be printing new member booklets this year.

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 July

by Dr. Martin Motes

Although it mostly passes unnoticed to millions locked in their air-conditioned bubbles, July in South Florida is quite different from June. While the pattern of afternoon showers built from the moisture of the morning's sea breeze persists in July, the thunderstorms are sharper and shorter. The clouds linger less and the foliage dries more quickly. Less quantity of rain falls in July than in June and periods of several days typically pass without a drop. This is good news for orchid growers. July (and August) allow orchidists to focus on the first essential of orchid growing, drying the plant out.

Frequently, neophyte growers ask "What if I go away for several weeks in the summer and there is no one to water the plants?" The response is "That's wonderful". Experienced growers use the break in the rainfall during July and August to dry their plants "hard". Depriving orchids of water for several days until they and the media or baskets they grow in are bone dry is essential to good orchid culture. By drying the plants hard, one deals a severe blow to orchids' natural enemy, fungus. Orchids have evolved to withstand drought because fungus cannot. During severe drought fungus' only defense is to cease all growth and retreat into a spore stage. Hopefully (and with good cultural management) these pathogens will not be aroused from this slumber until the first drizzle of September sets in, allowing our plants two months to mature and harden their growth making them less vulnerable to the September conditions which give some advantage again to the fungi.

More typically in July, orchidists should use these opportunities when more moisture is required to substitute fertilizer for water and saturate the roots and the media in the same thorough manner. In July, typically think of fertilizing rather than watering. Weekly application of a commonly available balanced fertilizer (20-20-20 or 18-18-18) at two teaspoons per gallon will supply the nutrients that our plants require in this period of lush growth. This balanced formula should be alternated every other week with potassium nitrate and Epsom salts (one tablespoon each) to supply the extra magnesium and potassium we now know our plants need on a regular basis.

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"

ORCHID EVENTS

The July 2022 judging at the AOS West Palm Beach Judging Center will take place Saturday, July 23, 2022. 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.

Masks and social distancing required. Exhibitors can go to www.wpbjudging.org for more information or email Jackie Wood at bocaorchidlady@aol.com.

OCTOBER

Delray Beach Orchid Society Show and Sale, Saturday, October 22 and Sunday, October 23, 2022 at The Fieldhouse at Old School Square, Delray Beach, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach, FL 33444. Hours TBD.

NOVEMBER

Deerfield Beach Orchid Society Show and Sale, Saturday, November 12 and Sunday, November 13, 2022, at Safe Schools Institute, 1790 Spanish River Boulevard, Boca Raton, FL. Hours TBD.

*** We will list other events and provide details for the ones listed above as the information is received. If you hear of events of interest to our members, please let Cheryl know and they will be included here. To contact Cheryl, email rcdodes@aol.com

BROS Member Plant Sales

BROS paid-up members are welcome to sell their plants at designated monthly meetings.

Four simple rules:

1. No insects or diseases
2. Must have a name tag
3. No commercial sales
4. 10% of your total sales must go to the BROS Treasurer that night

Boca Raton Orchid Society Ornament

Beginning in 1994, the Boca Raton Garden Club started issuing a series of commemorative ornaments.

This year's, the 28th one honors the Boca Raton Orchid Society. Each ornament honors an historic site in Boca Raton or a site of important significance to the city. A brochure is included in each gift box detailing the ornament's history. Ornaments are made of solid brass and finished in 24 carat gold plate. The cost per ornament is \$20, payable to BRGC.

The easiest way to order is to bring a check for \$20 for each ornament desired made out to "BRGC" to the July 14, 2022 BROS meeting, or mail to: Boca Raton Orchid Society, PO Box 276367, Boca Raton, FL 33427

Here's a link to the BRGC ornament collection:

http://bocaratongardenclub.org/brgc_all_ornaments.html

Ornament is pictured below:



Orchids, pH, Sodium, and Potting pH

(Excerpted from an article by Hilary Nixon (1997))

Sodium

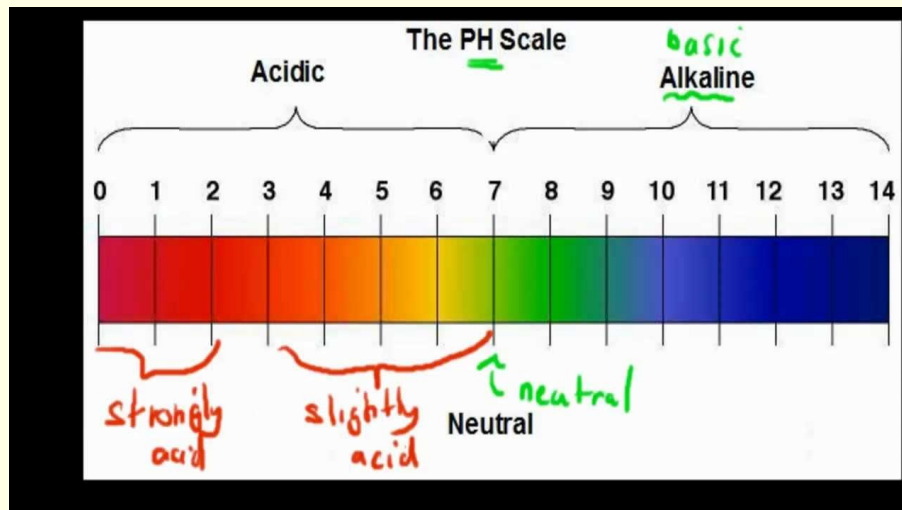
You know about the dangers of high sodium in the human diet. so you don't drink the tap water if you have a sodium water softener. Orchids hate sodium softened water too! What chemically happens here is the sodium replaces calcium and magnesium (the minerals of hard water and two nutritional salts to the orchid). Sodium softened water can be toxic to the orchid; which yells out with many growths that reach an inch or two and then cease to grow. If you must have a water softener, ion-exchange is safer. (The purest water comes through reverse osmosis filters, but you'll use many gallons of water to keep the filters clean.)

pH

The symbol, "pH" stands for hydrogen-ion concentration. pH is a scale from 1.0 (very acid) to 14.0 (alkaline or base) with neutral being 7.0 (all numbers at or below 7.0 are acid, all at or above 7.0 are alkaline). Water (HOH) is made up of one Hydrogen ion (H which has a positive charge) and one hydroxyl ion (OH with a negative charge). In pure water, HOH, is balanced of neutral (7.0 on the pH scale). Technically, 7.0 means that water is both a very, very weak acid and simultaneously a very, very weak base. When the water is more acid there are more H⁺ ions. When the water is more alkaline there are more negative OH⁻ ions. Each point on the pH scale (moving away from 7.0) is 10 times more concentrated than the previous point. With litmus paper, acid is red 1.0, slightly acid is pink 6.8, and alkaline ranges from pale blue 7.2 to deep blue 9.0. We like to keep the orchid roots on the pink side. In Florida, our water tends to be more alkaline (higher pH) because of the limestone dissolved in the water. An inexpensive way to test the pH of your growing medium and/or your tap water is to buy a "medium pH 6.0-8.0" test kit or a "hard water pH >7.0" test kit from a pet shop. People use these to test the water from their fish tanks by placing a drop of water from the tank on a test strip. You can adjust the pH of your medium by using an acidic fertilizer to lower the pH if the pH is too high. There are other chemicals you can use to lower the pH, but the novice might have trouble gauging the quantity to use.

Potting pH

Orchid roots thrive when pH ranges from 5.2 to 6.5. The problem is your water probably is more alkaline (Say with a pH of 8.0). Don't panic yet. The orchid roots attach to potting medium. The potting medium usually has a more favorable pH. Osmunda, tree fern, and other fibrous materials are terrific at maintaining their own pH despite the water. Some call this "self-buffering medium." Tree bark begins acidic, but as the medium breaks down and becomes spongy the medium becomes more alkaline because it sponges up the alkaline water. Replace bark that is breaking down and the orchid begins to thrive again. Sphagnum moss needs to be changed yearly - it holds onto the minerals, salts and raises the pH as time progresses. So if you wonder why your Phragmipedium, or Phalaenopsis bloomed wonderfully when you got it and hasn't since, try changing the sphagnum moss it is in. You'll lower the pH and the plant will hopefully bloom for you. Cattleyas (which like potting material of pH 6.2) do fine if the water is 8.0 or less. Of course you'll replace the medium that breaks down.



KEY TO ORCHID INTERGENERIC HYBRIDS AND ABBREVIATIONS (Marilyn Collins)

We've heard a lot of questions recently about the names of orchids. These days, many orchids are created by combining different orchid genera, leading to unfamiliar names and abbreviations. We hope you find the information below useful.

AERIDOVANDA = *Aerides* X *Vanda* (Aerdv)

ADAGLOSSUM = *Ada* x *Odontoglossum* (Adgm)

ARANDA = *Arachnis* X *Vanda* (Aranda)

ASCOCENDA = *Ascocentrum* X *Vanda* (Ascda)

BEALLARA = *Brassia* x *Cochlioda* x *Miltonia* x *Odontoglossum* (Bllra)

BRASSOCATTLEYA = *Brassavola* X *Cattleya* (Bc)

BRASSOLAELIOCATTLEYA = *Brassavola* X *Cattleya* X *Laelia* (Blc)

BURRAGEARA = *Cochlioda* x *Miltonia* x *Odontoglossum* x *Oncidium* (Burr)

CHRISTIEARA = *Aerides* X *Ascocentrum* X *Vanda* (Chtra)

COLMANARA = *Miltonia* X *Odontoglossum* X *Oncidium* (Colm)

DEGARMOARA = *Brassia* x *Miltonia* x *Odontoglossum* (Dgmra)

DORITAENOPSIS = *Doritis* X *Phalaenopsis* (Dtps)

EPICATTLEYA = *Cattleya* X *Epidendrum* (Epc)

GERBERARA = *Brassavola* x *Diacrium* (*Caularthron*) x *Laelia* (Gba)

IWANAGARA = *Brassavola* x *Cattleya* x *Diacrium* x *Laelia* (Iwan)

KAGAWARA = *Ascocentrum* X *Renanthera* X *Vanda* (Kgw)

LAELIOCATTLEYA = *Cattleya* X *Laelia* (Lc)

LEWISARA = *Aerides* X *Arachnis* X *Ascocentrum* X *Vanda* (Lwsra)

MILTASSIA = *Brassia* x *Miltonia* (Mtssa)

MOKARA = *Arachnis* X *Ascocentrum* X *Vanda* (Mkra)

NEOSTYLIS = *Neofinetia* X *Rhynchostylis* (Neost)

ODONTONIA = *Odontoglossum* x *Miltonia* (Odna)

OTAARA = *Brassavola* x *Broughtonia* x *Cattleya* x *Laelia* (Otr)

POTINARA = *Brassavola* X *Cattleya* X *Laelia* X *Sophranitis* (Pot)

RENANTANDA = *Renanthera* X *Vanda* (Rntda)

SOPHROLAELIOCATTLEYA = *Cattleya* X *Laelia* X *Sophranitis* (Slc)

VASCOSTYLIS = *Ascocentrum* X *Rhynchostylis* X *Vanda* (Vasco)

VUYLSTEKEARA = *Miltonia* x *Odontoglossum* x *Cochlioda* (Vuyl)

WILSONARA = *Cochlioda* x *Odontoglossum* x *Oncidium* (Wils)

ZYGONERIA = *Neogardneria* x *Zygopetalum* (Zga)

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 a exhibition slip and place it with your entry. Please follow the rules below to avoid disqualification.

1. 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 June were...

Name	Category	Ribbon	Orchid Name
Robert Finocchi	Species	Blue	C. leopoldii trilabelum
Denise Guzman	Species	Blue	Den. bracteosum
Susan Barbuty	Cattleya Bifoliolate	Blue	C. tigrina
Jay Collins	Vanda	Blue, Yellow	V. Bangkok Sunset "Honeybee" x V. Precious Jewel "Redland
Teresa O'Neil	Brassavola	Blue, Yellow	Lsa. Dick Pippen 'Pink Heaven'
Kathy Kersey	Encyclia	Blue	Encyclia Orchid Jungle
Teresa O'Neil	Vanda	Blue	V. Insignia x V. Vietnamica
Sally Glick	Misc. Genera	Best Blue, Yellow	Grammatophyllum scriptum 'Grasshopper II' x scriptum

➔ Congratulations to Sally Glick!



Gram. Scriptum 'Grasshopper II' x scriptum—Sally Glick

June Blue Ribbon Plants



C. leopoldii trilabelum—Robert Finocchi



Den. Bracteosum—Denise Guzman



C. tigrine—Susan Barbuty



**V. Bangkok Sunset "Honeybee" x V. Precious Jewel "Redland"
Jay Collins**



Lsa Dick Phippen 'Pink Heaven' - Teresa O'Neil



Encyclia Orchid Jungle—Kathy Kersey

June Blue Ribbon Plants



V. Insignia x V. Vietnamica—Teresa O'Neil



Gram. scriptum Grasshopper II x scriptum

Sally Glick

Best Blue Ribbon Winner

Please help make our meetings more enjoyable by providing a tasty treat for all to share. Suggestions include cookies, cut-up cake, chips, cut-up fruit, nuts, raisins, etc.

Thanks to the following people for providing snacks at our June meeting:

Steve Miller
Shirley Schneider
Cheryl Dodes
Jann Miller



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5185 Conklin Drive
Delray Beach, FL
www.GreenBarnOrchid.com

Board Meetings

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

Next meetings:

July 7

August 4