

The Orchid

BOCA RATON ORCHID SOCIETY



Scentinel

MAY 2024

VOLUME 38

ISSUE 5



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!

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Featuring~

Speaker: Bill Nunez, "The Rhizome Cowboy"

Topic: Encyclias and Their Hybrids

Date: May 9, 2024

Bill started his collection with a few back bulbs from some noted orchid growers. He was hooked on orchid growing after that and built his first flask box when in high school.

He grew up on 1800 acres of family owned ranch land. He started working on Cattle ranches in the 70's and became familiar with Florida cypress swamps, greatly enjoying his adventures into these wonderful swamps. Bill was able to find many of the Florida orchid species along with native ferns and a variety of wildlife.

Bill has been growing orchids most of his life and gets great pleasure now when making new hybrids, mostly in the Cattleya alliance. He has been fortunate enough to receive several AOS awards and register several of his hybrids. His greatest satisfaction is to have one of his hybrids awarded.

Bill says: "Now that I am older, I am still fascinated with orchids. Somewhere back in my memory I am still a young man on an afternoon adventure in a pristine Florida cypress head, oak hammock or creek bottom."

On May 9 Bill will share some of his vast knowledge, this time on Encyclias.

Janice Larit

Vice President, Programs

Coming Attractions—BROS Member Meetings

June 13— TBA

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

August—Shop n Swap

Contact US

Web: www.brosonline.org, Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/bocaorchid> Email: rcdodes@aol.com



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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.

It's May and most of our seasonal members have returned to their Summer homes. Have a great Summer and we will see you in the Fall.

April definitely did not give us the April showers we usually enjoy in the Spring, and the temperatures some days have been above average. However, we have had quite a breezy Spring, which is great for air flow for our orchids. Just keep an eye out for thrips.

It's that time of year to evaluate all of your orchids... Some may need repotting, some may need dividing, and some may just need a little TLC. Whatever the needs of your orchids, you still have time. Remember to get out early to work in your yard, as the temperatures are getting warmer. Use time release fertilizer, if you don't have the time to fertilize on a consistent basis.

We will be having a Swap & Shop in August, so your repotted or divided plants will have ample time to grow new roots and get established in their new environments.

Thank you to everyone who attended our April meeting with Mac Rivenbark from Mac's Orchids. He did an amazing job on explaining the differences in soft and hard cane dendrobiums as well as giving us tips and tricks on mounting. I hope you enjoyed his presentation.

IMPORTANT... IMPORTANT....

We are planning on doing our annual bus trip to the Redlands International Orchid Show on Saturday May 18th, leaving Safe Schools at 8:30am and returning by 5:00pm. Your cost for the bus trip is \$45.00, which includes your entrance to the festival, raffle ticket, snacks and water on the bus, and a relaxing ride. **Just some information... this year's tickets, if you were to drive yourself and pay at the gate are \$20.00.** If you haven't notified Abby Diab yet to put your name on the list, please email her at abbydbros@gmail.com. Please include your name and any guests you are bringing. Everyone is welcome. We invited the Garden Club, Deerfield OS and Delray OS. The more the merrier. Please bring your check on May 9th to our monthly meeting, or you can mail it to our P.O. Box. If you mail your check, please include a note on what and who you are paying for.

Please join us on May 9th. Our schedule speaker has changed; Bill Nunez will be our speaker. He will be speaking about Encyclias and their hybrids. I hope you can join us.

For those of you that have been asking about the plant stands that we use at the BROS meeting, they are in the Aldi ad for May 8th for \$19.99. Less than last year.

Thank you for being a part of the Boca Raton Orchid Society.

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 May

by Dr. Martin Motes

May's wide temperature swings and dry air suit our orchids to a tee. New growths on sympodial orchids are developing apace and by continuing the careful watering practices of April (i.e. drenching them thoroughly with repeated applications of water to saturate their roots and potting media, then allowing them to dry to nearly 'hard' dry) we can launch them into the summer in vigorous, disease-free growth. Remember, this saturation can only be achieved with two or more soakings to the point of runoff spaced a few minutes apart. Merely holding the water on the plant extra long will not suffice. The water needs to slowly soak into the roots and media. Test the weight of a "benchmark" plant to be satisfied that it is sufficiently heavy to be totally soaked. The arid air of early May will quickly dry the foliage but the roots can draw on the deep reservoir of water that you have provided with this careful, complete watering.

With the increased heat and light of May we do not want to put our orchids on too lean a diet. Fertilize with up to 2 tsp. of 15-5-15 per gal of water every week or so. Alternating with Epsom salts and potassium nitrate at 1 tbs. each per gal. is still a best practice during May. Always substitute fertilizer for a watering and apply like the water in two doses to the point of saturation. Never follow the widely stated but antiquated advice to "water before fertilizing". It's a receipt for over watering without any basis in logic or science, Now is also a good time to apply a soluble trace or micro element fertilizer. Follow the dilution rates on the package as mixtures and strengths differ. You can apply this in conjunction with the Epsom salts/potassium nitrate but never with the 15-5-15, 20-20-20 or any other fertilizer containing phosphorus. In South Florida's highly alkaline water the phosphorus interacts with the other metallic elements, reducing the effectiveness of the trace elements. Potassium nitrate, 13-0-46, is the perfect companion to minor elements because it not only lacks phosphorus which would hinder the absorption of the trace elements but the nitrate nitrogen seems to enhance their uptake.

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"

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ORCHID EVENTS

MAY

The May 2024 judging at the AOS West Palm Beach Judging Center will take place Saturday, May 24, 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.

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>

May 17-19, 2024, (10 AM-6 PM). Redland International Orchid Festival. At Fruit and Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Avenue, Homestead, FL 33031. Head to the only botanical garden of its kind, Fruit and Spice Park in Homestead for this three-day event you will not want to miss. Attend lectures to learn how to grow your orchids or control insects. Purchase your favorite flowers to take home and enjoy for years to come. External promo or coupons cannot be applied for this special event. No pets allowed. Advance tickets \$20 pp online at <https://redlandorchidfestival.com/> at <https://redlandorchidfestival.com/> Kids under 12 free.

*******See information about the BROS Bus Trip to the Redland International Orchid Festival, Saturday May 18, on page 5**

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 or before the May BROS meeting to reserve your spot. On your check please include "Redlands Orchid Show" and the names of the people you are paying for.

If by mail: 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 a 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

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

MEMBER	CATEGORY	RIBBON	ORCHID NAME
Denise Guzman	Species	Blue	Maxillaria variabilis
Robert Finocchi	Dendrobium	Blue	D. tangerinum x D. gouldii
Karen Meiselman	Oncidium Alliance	Blue, Yellow	Brassia Rex 'Waiomao Spotless'
Robert Finocchi	Species	Blue	C. violacea coerulea
Trent Ward	Cattleya Unifoliolate	Blue	Lc Fire Dance 'Patricia' AM/AOS
Patricia Schillereff	Vanda	Blue	V. Nappadol Delight
Teresa O'Neil	Broughtonia	Blue	Ctna Why Not
Kathy Kersey	Other Vandaceous	Blue	Ren. Monachica x V. (Neof) falcata
Robert Finocchi	Cattleya Bifoliolate	Best Blue, Yellow	Guarianthe skinnerii albecens Angelina

➔ **BEST IN SHOW: Congratulations to Robert Finocchi**

Members' Winning Plants April 2024



Ctna. Why Not—Teresa O'Neil



Ren. Monachica x V. (Neof) falcata 'Shutenno' - Kathy Kersey



C. violacea coerulea—Robert Finocchi



Brassia Rex 'Waiomao Spotless' - Karen Meiselman



D. tangerinum x D. Gouldii—Robert Finocchi

Members' Winning Plants May 2024



V. Nappadol Delight—Patricia Schillereff



Maxillaria variabilis—Denise Guzman



Guarianthe skinnerii albescens Angelina

Robert Finocchi

Best Blue Ribbon

Teresa O'Neil—Orchid Outreach at the Library

On Thursday, April 18, BROS volunteer Teresa O'Neil presented a program about orchids at the Boca Raton Main Library from 6-7:30 PM. She did this program as a service to the community, and did not accept any remuneration. Seventy-three people paid rapt attention as Teresa spoke about "Orchids and How to Care for Them". She taught them about popular orchid varieties that grow well in our area, such as appropriate Vandas, soft and hard cane Dendrobiums, Phalaenopsis, and Oncidiums. Kathy Kersey, Veronica Risko, and Victoria Carmosino attended the presentation.

Teresa emphasized that when buying an orchid, it is important to research how to care for that orchid. She stressed that if a person buys a Vanda, they must commit to watering that plant every day.

She did a whole section on proper watering techniques, including:

- Water once thoroughly, then go back five minutes later and water thoroughly again.
- Certain varieties, such as Cattleyas, like to dry out before being watered again.
- Teresa taught everyone the sayings:
 - ⇒ "If you think you need to water a Phalaenopsis, you should have watered it yesterday."
 - ⇒ "If you think you need to water a Cattleya, wait until tomorrow."

The second half of the program covered how to mount orchids on trees. Teresa brought a tree limb and demonstrated mounting techniques. She informed the group about how to make a homemade insecticide, and how pouring hydrogen peroxide on a plant makes a good fungicide.

Teresa distributed BROS orchid culture sheets that Abby Diab printed up, and told the group about online resources such as AOS.org, the St. Augustine Orchid Society website, and the Florida Orchid Growing Facebook page.



Teresa O'Neil addressing the rapt audience at the Boca Raton Main Library

Home-Made Remedies and Treatments for Orchids

A lot of folks are big believers in trying to be as “organic” as possible when controlling ailments in their plant collections, or just trying to spruce them up. Some growers strongly recommend AGAINST preventative use of insecticides and fungicides, as there is a fairly strong tendency to breed resistant strains. Instead, take the time to carefully inspect your collection, and treat problems as soon as they arise.

Some growers are strong believers in the use of pure Neem Oil as a general-purpose spray, as it is not known to lead to the development of resistant strains of insects, and acts as an insect repellent, as well as a fungicide, nematicide, and even molluscicide.

Below are a number of concoctions that come highly recommended, but please remember that you’re using them at your own risk, and that of your plants.

INSECTICIDES

Your choice of home-made insecticide should be based upon what you’re trying to eliminate.

For soft-bodied bugs, such as aphids & mealy bugs:

Straight 70% or 90% isopropyl rubbing alcohol - Touch insects with a soaked cotton swab, or for larger infestations, spray the entire affected plant, being sure to thoroughly wet all surfaces. Repeat every three days for about two weeks. (Most people have not experienced any problems with buds, flowers, or any part of the plant when using an alcohol spray).

Nicotine Spray - Crumble a cheap cigar into a quart jar of hot water and let stand overnight. Strain the solids from the liquid, and then boil the liquid for ten minutes (to kill any tobacco mosaic virus that may be present). When cool, top up the liquid to the full quart, and spray on plant leaf surfaces.

For insects that have hard shells, such as scale and thrips:

Soap and Oil Spray - Mix one teaspoon (5 ml) each cooking oil and liquid dishwashing soap or detergent in a quart (liter) of water. Concentration is not critical – some recommend a tablespoon (15 ml) of oil be used. Shake well, and spray the plant, being sure to thoroughly wet all surfaces. Repeat every three days for about two weeks. (The soap breaks down the waterproof, waxy coating on the insects’ shells, and the oil will smother them.)

General Purpose Insect Spray - One cup (250 ml) each Formula 409 or Fantastik household cleaner/degreaser and isopropyl rubbing alcohol and two cups of water, making a quart or liter of spray. Use the same as the formulas above.

Ant Eliminator - Melt about ¼ lb of candle wax, then slowly stir in about ¼ cup sugar and 4 ounces boric acid powder (available at your local drug store). When thoroughly mixed pour into a pan, creating a ¼” to ½” thick slab. Cut or break into chunks and distribute around the greenhouse. If you decide to try this indoors, be sure to keep it away from children and animals.

Insect Repellent – Place small, open containers of eucalyptus oil in the growing area. The vapors will discourage critters from approaching. (Yeah, it’s going to smell like a Hall’s Cough Drop factory, but it’s good for opening your sinuses, too – a la Vick’s Vapor Rub.) Eucalyptus oil has also been shown to be an effective fungicide, but a dispersion in water and alcohol, when sprayed directly on the plant, will damage flower buds, so it not recommended for buds.

Home-Made Remedies and Treatments for Orchids (Con'td)

FUNGICIDES

There is common use of cinnamon as a fungicide. It turns out that the chemicals in the bark have all sorts of medicinal applications. Choose the consistency that is best for your situation.

Powder – Apply normal, household cinnamon powder directly to the affected part of the plant by dusting heavily.

Poultice – Mix cinnamon powder with sufficient casein-based glue (Elmer's) to make a thick, brown paste. Apply to the wound and let dry. The Elmer's Glue is water soluble but resists washing off quite well. This is the preference for mounted plants that get watered or misted frequently.

Spray – You can prepare a cinnamon spray using either alcohol or water as your solvent. The alcohol infusion is faster to prepare and offers some insecticidal properties as well. This is a preferred method and has been effective at eliminating all sorts of fungus problems, including damping-off of deflasked seedlings. Put two tablespoons (30 ml) of cinnamon powder in a pint (500 ml) of isopropyl rubbing alcohol. Shake well and let stand overnight. Filter the solution to remove the sediment (coffee filters work well) and use the brown liquid as a spray. (While it's not a big problem for most orchid growers, this is good for powdery mildew, as well). Or, put the cinnamon powder in hot water. Shake well and let stand for several days. Filter and use as above. (Some feel that the alcohol can be too desiccating when used on seedlings.)

MOLLUSCICIDE (Slugs and Snails)

Killer – Trap: Put a plate or plant saucer full of stale beer on the floor. Snails and slugs will be attracted to it, fall in and drown.

Spray – Mix one cup household (no-sudsy) ammonia with water, and spray directly on the critters.

Barrier – If you suffer from slugs climbing up onto the benches and attacking your plants, there are several ways of blocking their path, ranging from mechanical to chemical.

Mechanical – Spread a layer of Diatomaceous Earth on the benches, around your plants. The material – the skeletons of microscopic sea creatures (diatoms) – is almost pure silicon dioxide, and has very sharp points and edges that discourage the passage of the creatures. The material may be found at pet stores, who sell it as a microfiltration medium for aquariums.

Mechanical/Electrochemical – Tightly wrap the legs of your bench with a 2" (5 cm) wide strip of copper foil, being sure to apply it tightly enough to avoid gaps. The copper is supposed to create some sort of uncomfortable electrochemical effect when in contact with the "slime" secreted by the critters (like biting on a piece of foil if you have metal fillings in your teeth!)

Chemical – Apply a thick layer of the product Tree Tanglefoot around the legs of the bench. Available at most good garden centers, it is sold as a bird repellent for ornamental trees, it contains a castor-bean extract that repels slugs and snails.

We thank those who participated by providing refreshments at our April member meeting: Cheryl Dodes, Janice Larit, Donna Swanson, Linda Coughlin, Tina Vrablic, Bethania Blanco, Teresa O'Neil, Phyllis Lyons, Carolyn Metcalf. Please consider bringing something to share at our meetings.

We all appreciate the variety!



Welcome New Members!
We're glad to have you join the fun!



Kary & Haifa Karram
Beth & Perry Patterson
Augustin Ontano

Board Meetings

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

Next meetings:

May 2

June 6



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