



# ORCHID VIEW

## **MONTHLY MEETING ♦ MAY 5, 2014**

**Great Room By The Bay ♦ The Activities Center  
MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS  
811 S. Palm Avenue, Sarasota, FL**

**6:00 pm Doors open ♦ 6:15 pm Culture Class with Roy Krueger**

**7:00 pm Business Meeting ♦ Light Refreshments**

**ROY KRUEGER**

**“GROWER - KNOW YOURSELF”**

**8:30 pm Discussion & Ribbon Awards on Members' Plant Table**

**A Plant Raffle completes our meeting!**

Phalaenopsis plants donated by John Rich & Ryan Tittel

**GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

Please see **page 2** for the **May 5 Hospitality Committee**

**HOSPITALITY**



**COMMITTEE**

**May 5, 2014**

Refreshments for our meetings are provided by our members, not the society. Every member is asked to provide food or drink at least once per year. A notice of when it is a member's turn to do so, is in each newsletter. If you cannot attend that meeting, we ask you to contact Denny Pavlock, at least two weeks prior to the meeting so he can reassign you to a different month. Please let us know if you are a seasonal resident.

We are asking those members listed below to please take their turn to help with refreshments for this month's meeting. It involves bringing in light refreshments and/or beverages, assist with setting up the buffet table and share in the clean-up process after the meeting. Doors open at 6:00 pm and all set-up, with food and beverages, ready for our members by 6:45 pm, before the meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Anna Cobbo         | Light Refreshment  |
| Denise Crossley    | Light Refreshment  |
| Charlotte Dart     | 2 gallons Iced Tea (unsweetened)   |
| Jo Davis           | Light Refreshment  |
| Gail Deleeuw       | Light Refreshment  |
| Barbara Delgato    | Light Refreshment  |
| Lisa & James Dodds | 3 one-liter soft drinks<br>(coke, sprite, diet coke, pepsi or your choice) |
| Miriam Dryer       | Light Refreshment  |
| Susan Dudovitz     | Light Refreshment  |
| Frank Dymnicki     | 3 one-liter soft drinks<br>(coke, sprite, diet coke, pepsi or your choice) |
| Brownie Eagan      | Light Refreshment  |
| Ria Escobar        | Light Refreshment  |

Light Refreshments: Cheese & Crackers, Cookies, Desserts, Fruits, Nuts, Vegetables/Dip, etc.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, please **call or email Dennis Pavlock**, as soon as possible, or switch with another member. Thanks so much! Judy Robertson, Hospitality

Email: [dpavlock@gmail.com](mailto:dpavlock@gmail.com) Ph: 941-966-8753

**ORCHID VIEW**  
TABLE OF CONTENTS

May 5th Hospitality Committee.....2  
 Orchids We Should All Grow by Roy Krueger..... 3  
 S.O.S. April Meeting Minutes..... 4  
 April Members' Plant Table.....5  
 Florida Orchid Growing by Martin Motes, PhD.....6  
 About Us.....7  
 May 2014 Calendar.....8

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

Joining  
 The Sarasota Orchid Society in April  
**BECKY JARRETT**  
**LILLI OVERCAMP**

We welcome you and look forward to your active participation in our monthly meetings and activities. Being involved enhances the enjoyment you will receive from your membership.

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 AVB#Razed --- Martindale-Hubbell

**ORCHIDS WE SHOULD ALL GROW  
CTT. GOLD DIGGER (formerly LC Gold Digger)**



As the cool dark and short days of winter finally give way to the most delightful early days of spring we crave the visual omens of things to come.

What a splendid sight greets us when Ctt. Gold Digger finally bursts from its many sheaths. Each sheath emits a colorful array of six to ten 2 ½" well formed blooms.

Color can range from pale yellow to brilliant red-orange depending on the variety. The variety featured above is almost pure orange with a bright red throat tucked inside the lip. The orange color is primarily from *C. cinnabarina* in its background (formerly *L. cinnabarina*) as well as *Gurianthe* (*Gur.*) *aurantiaca*, also formerly known as a *laelia*. Petals and sepals are uniform in size and color. The flower is well formed and flat with some spacing between the narrow and elongated petals and sepals. The lip is full and somewhat ruffled.

The flowers are long lasting, holding their form and color for up to three weeks or more.

Ctt. Gold Digger is an old cross of Ctt. Redgold x Ctt. Warpaint. Both parents are noted for their vibrant color and profuse blooming, characteristics that were passed on to the offspring.

You can purchase this plant relatively small and it will soon grow to specimen size. The above plant was purchased mature in a 4" pot several years ago. Two years later, it had nine inflorescences and over 60 blooms. Specimens of over 100 flowers are not uncommon.

Interestingly, the plant was purchased through an EBAY auction and is one of the few plants that has met or exceeded the advertised hype. It was purchased from a south Florida grower who has since become a trusted source of mail order plants.

I grow this plant in the pool cage with approximately 70% sunlight. The only break is provided by the pool screen. It gets standard *Cattleya* water and fertilizer. It is grown in a mixture of 50% medium bark and 50% Stalite in a 6" clay pot. The foliage growth is dense and heavy, so check it regularly for pests and fungus. I treat it regularly with systemic fungicide and have had no disease problems. Make sure you give this plant plenty of light and air movement for best growth form. If given too little light, it will wander laterally in stead of reaching upward for light.

The only caution I offer is that it is a bifoliate *Cattleya*, and like other bifoliate, may be temperamental about repotting. Repot only when you see new root growth.

- Roy Krueger

#### April 2014 SOS Meeting Minutes

Laurie Stoner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Jo Davis introduced new members and guests.

#### Old Business:

Denny reviewed the status of new name tags, how to send in suggestions to him via the website, and the posthumous donation of plants by Michael Hamm that will be in the April and June raffle

Jo, said we're good on help to cleanup after our meetings through July but everyone is invited to stay and help!

#### New Business:

Retiring board members, John Albrecht and Jim Roberts were thanked for their efforts.

New members, Jane Hagerstrom and Judy Robertson, were approved by unanimous vote.

Notification that the board will meet on April 28<sup>th</sup> to select the officers for the rest of 2014.

Notification that we have suspended the printing of extra copies of the newsletter due to cost and waste.

Notification that we will be a Challenge Partner to help Selby Gardens earn a share of the \$660,000 in matching funds for nonprofits in our area that will run for 24 hours May 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. An e-mail will be sent to let membership participate and contribute via social media.

#### Announcements:

- All members and guests, please visit the display table and vote for your favorite species, hybrid, and novice plants.
- We have an extra-large selection of plants on the raffle table because of a donation so please buy your tickets.

Ken and Judy Russ gave an excellent presentation on how they grow their plants into such incredible specimens!

Roy Krueger and Jim Roberts went over the display table.

Al & Carolyn Langdon and Mecky Kreissle ran the raffle.

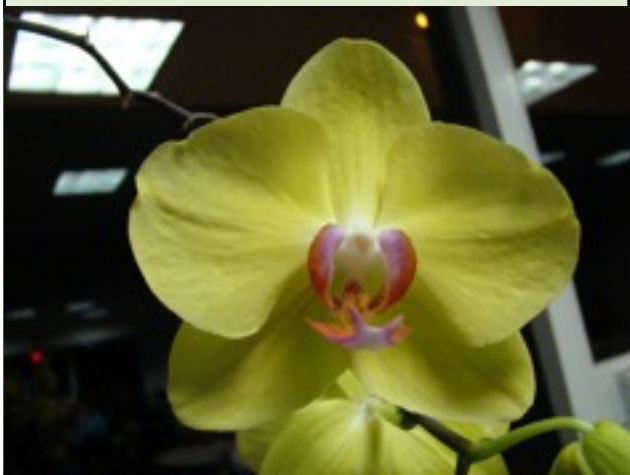




**HYBRID OF THE MONTH**  
*Mps Lennart Karl Gottling*  
Grown by: Roy Krueger



**SPEAKERS' CHOICE**  
*Den. aphyllum* AKA: *Den. cucullatum* 'Wanda Byrd'  
Grown by: Jim Roberts



**NOVICE OF THE MONTH**  
*Phal. Fuller's Sunset*  
Grown by: Judy Hydeman

**2014  
APRIL  
MEMBERS'  
PLANT  
TABLE**

**SPECIES OF THE MONTH**  
*Maxillarielia tenuifolia*  
Grown by: Jack Knuese

Photography by Monroe Kokin



## FLORIDA ORCHID GROWING by Martin Motes, PhD

Proper watering is easily the single most important aspect of orchid growing. Neophyte orchid grower's most frequent question is "How often do I water this plant?" In a very significant sense this is exactly the wrong question. A more illuminating query would be "How much does this orchid need to dry out?" Epiphytic orchids are more like cactus than any other type of plant. Like cactus, orchids are locked in an evolutionary struggle with their mortal enemies: fungus. This battle is why orchids took to the trees, rocks and other generally harsh environments that they inhabit in nature. These desert-like environments allow orchids to dry out. Fungus cannot survive drying: therefore drought is the epiphytic orchid's best friend. Each orchid species has developed organs for water storage that permit the plants to withstand drying that would be intolerable to fungi. This strategy also allows slow growing orchids to thrive in situations where few other plants could survive much less prosper: in effect, eliminating most competition.

Knowing the tolerance for drought of various types of orchids is the most essential knowledge that growers can have. Orchids are the largest and most diverse group of flowering plants. Each genus has developed its own techniques of coping with drying and each genus and species must be treated differently in order to maximize success. The focus of the grower's attention should be on the degree of drying that a particular genus requires. The standard advice is always to err on the dry side. This advice is particularly cogent in the torrential rains of a typical South Florida summer. When a break in the rains gives us an opportunity to dry our plants, we must take it. Fortunately, July and August frequently afford us these not to be missed opportunities.

The ubiquitous and affordable *Phalaenopsis*, which is frequently the beginner's first orchid, appears at first glance an exception to the rule of drying. They are, in fact, the exception that proves the rule. Although compared to African violets, as plants which require constant moisture at their roots, *Phalaenopsis* require as well the drying of their roots. This is provided by the large air spaces in the open but moisture retentive media that are typical used to grow them in. When these air spaces in the medium are filled with water for too long the roots cannot dry and they rapidly rot. This phenomenon is why *Phalaenopsis* in most media perish so quickly when novices attempt to grow them outside in our wet summers. The same fate awaits *Phalaenopsis* grown in sphagnum moss under cover, if the moss is not changed annually. As the sphagnum breaks down, the air spaces provided by the fine hairs of the moss collapse leaving the orchid's roots to rot in a wet mass.

Cattleyas, dendrobiums, oncidiums and other types with heavy bulbs require abundant moisture during the growing season but need to dry out thoroughly between waterings. In a typical South Florida summer these plants rarely require much additional water. That said, they also should not be deprived of essential water or nutrients during this period of active growth. When these plants have not received a good rain in three or four days, the grower has an excellent opportunity to fertilize them with liquid fertilizer. Always substitute the liquid fertilizer for water. Never follow the bad advice of watering before fertilizing, a recipe for fungal problems particularly here in South Florida. Many successful growers actually tolerate a few weeds in their pots of sympodial orchids as indicator plants. When the broad leaved herbs are wilting, it's time to think of watering. Remember that nowhere is it more true than in South Florida that "When a *Cattleya* looks like it needs water, water it tomorrow!"

Vandas which relish watering on most days also need to dry out. The universal rule of *Vanda* watering on most days also need to dry out. The universal rule of *Vanda* watering states that when *Vanda* roots are white, they are dry and should be watered until they turn overall dark green. When they turn white again the process should be repeated in 12 to 24 hours. While this rule holds regardless of relative humidity, temperature, air movement or light intensity, the exception comes during periods of prolonged heavy rains such as are typical of South Florida summers. Here in the rainy season vandas too, benefit from an occasional hard drying. Three or four days without water relieve them from much of the pressure from fungus which is more or less a constant threat in our summers. *Vanda* roots that have been dried hard will need to be re-hydrated with several applications of water spaced a few minutes apart. Most frequently, nature takes care of this detail for us and then some with the next major thunder storm. Remember also, that during the summer in particular, vandas are heavy feeders and will appreciate the substitution of liquid fertilizer for water on most occasional breaks in the rain when wetting the plants is required.

Keeping all these cautions to dry them, as much as possible, in mind, will gird up our orchids for the onslaught of September's rain when orchids that have been over watered are easy prey for the ever present fungi lurking in our tropical gardens. Remember to treat orchids like cactus; they will reward studied neglect.

- Martin Motes, PhD

**The Sarasota Orchid Society, Inc.** (SOS) meets on the first Monday of each month at Selby Gardens. The SOS, an affiliate of the American Orchid Society, is a non-profit association with the aims of promoting the development, improvement and preservation of orchids through the dissemination of information concerning the culture, hybridization or development of orchids, and generally to extend the knowledge of orchids.

Our membership dues at \$20. for individuals and \$25. for families are a great value. These dues help us acquire quality speakers for our monthly meetings and pay for special events such as picnics and repotting demonstrations. Our fund raisers, Orchid Auction, Orchid Show and Raffles raise additional funds to educate the general public about orchids and their conservation, provide scholarships to local students who will study horticulture, and support orchid research programs.

**“Orchid View”** our Orchid Society newsletter, is published monthly by the Sarasota Orchid Society. It is included via e-mail at no charge for members. For those who prefer to receive their monthly newsletter (in black & white) via the U.S. Postal Service, they are available for an additional \$15/year to cover the cost of the postage.

Deadline for articles, photos and information for the newsletter is the 15th of the previous month.

Contributors to “Orchid View” give reprint rights to their work to newsletters and other affiliates of the American Orchid Society.

## 2014 Sarasota Orchid Society

### Board of Directors

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### Committee Leaders

**Annual Orchid Show - January 3rd & 4th, 2015**

**Co-Chairs: Laurie Stoner, Dennis Pavlock, Jo Davis**

**AOS Representative** Laurie Stoner

**Counsel** Robert M. Johnson, Esq.

**Culture Study Leader** Roy Krueger

**Members' Display Table** Jack Knuese

[Knuese25@gmail.com](mailto:Knuese25@gmail.com)

**Hospitality** Judy Robertson

**Membership Co-Chairs** Jo Davis, Patti Quinnelly

**Newsletter Editor** Carolyn Langdon

**Orchid Research** Stig Dalstrom, [stigdalstrom@juno.com](mailto:stigdalstrom@juno.com)

**Photographer** Monroe Kokin




**Publicity** Jane Hagerstrom

**Raffle Hosts** Mecky Kreissle, Al Langdon

**Storage Manager** Norm Hillstrom

**Webmaster** Dennis Pavlock, [dfpavlock@gmail.com](mailto:dfpavlock@gmail.com)



 <h1 style="text-align: center;">MAY 2014</h1> 						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	<b>5 MAY SOS MEETING</b>  Presentation by <b>ROY KRUEGER</b> "Grower - Know yourself"	6	7	8	9	<b>10 May AOS JUDGING</b> Orlando Area Judging Maitland Civic Center, 641 S. Maitland Ave, Maitland, FL 352-735-2898 <a href="http://venueonthelake.com">http:// venueonthelake.com</a>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	<b>24 May AOS JUDGING</b> West Palm Beach Judging Center, 2 pm Flamingo Gardens Davie, FL 305-245-1711
25	26	27	<b>28 AOS Judging Tampa North-Central Judging Center 7 pm 813-989-9357 821 S. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, FL</b>	29	30	31
1 JUNE	<b>2 JUNE</b>  SOS Meeting: "Re-Potting and Mounting Orchids"	3	4	5	6	7
 <p> <b>July 7, 2014 SOS Speaker</b>  <b>Jim Roberts, Florida SunCoast Orchids,</b>  <b>8211 Verna Bethany Road, Myakka City, FL</b> </p> 