



March

Orchid View

OUR NEXT MONTHLY MEETING March 7, 2016

MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS

Great Room by the Bay, The Activities Center, 811 S. Palm Avenue, Sarasota, FL

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 6:00 | Door Opens |
| 6:15 | Culture class with Roy Krueger |
| 7:00 | Business Meeting |
| 7:15 | Speaker: Monroe Kokin
He will be discussing Bulbophylums |
| 8:00 pm | 'Members Only' Silent Auction |
| 8:30 pm | Members' Plant Table |
- A Plant Raffle completes our Meeting!

Guests are always welcome!

Club address; PO Box 19895, Sarasota, FL 34276-2895

Please Note: Should you arrive to our Monthly SOS Meeting **after 7:00 pm**, when the Gate to the Selby Activities Center is locked, please call the cell phone of one of our members in the meeting, as listed on the gate. Someone will come down to let you in. Selby's Rules are such that the Gate must be locked once our meeting has started, at which time no one is available to continue to sit by the gate.

Welcome New Members:

Carole Bowns & Hirschel Levine

Laura Arterburn

Pamela Hawkins

Glen & Young McNorton

Mike & Cindy Puckett

Charlie Rogg

Joan Sapiano

Big Earth Landscape Supply, on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota, **will be selling Orchid Products for potting and spraying**, including some items which Roy Krueger discusses during his monthly “Learn to Grow Orchids” sessions at 6:15 pm, prior to the Sarasota Orchid Monthly Meetings.



Big Earth
LANDSCAPE SUPPLY

SPECIAL OFFER FOR
Sarasota Orchid Society Members

VISIT OUR STORE TO RECEIVE
ONE FREE ORCHID

10% OFF
REGULAR
PRICES

We are your supply store for all your landscaping needs. In addition to helpful staff, four convenient locations, and all-inclusive inventory, we also deliver right to your door!

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Please limit one orchid per member. Present this ad to receive discount and complimentary orchid.

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Some of the plant winners at VAOS



The club won 16 Blue ribbons (first place), 8 red ribbons (second place) and 2 yellow ribbons (third place) also Dennis Pavlock (2) and Charlie Rogg won trophies. Congratulations to all the winners-sorry I didn't get a picture of all the winners.

February 2016 SOS Meeting Minutes

I'd like to invite Jo Davis up to introduce any new members and guest from tonight

We would like to welcome all the new members that joined in the last couple of months!!

Could you all stand up?

Three other things about membership I wanted to mentioned tonight ...

We want to remind people that 2016 membership dues and now payable tonight or soon. The cutoff for 2016 dues is the end of March.

We really, really need to have everyone (members and guests) sign in each month

We need to report attendance to Selby each month

We're making a change to our guests' policy ... Guests will also be welcome, at no charge, for no more than 2 meetings

Starting with the April meeting, we would ask you to either join the society or pay a \$5/meeting charge. Guests will be on the honor system after their second meeting to pay or join

I wanted to let the membership know that we kickoff the SOS mentor program at the December Holiday Party. In the first phase we have 11 mentors and 23 mentees. We'll see how this one goes and probably do the next phase in the early to mid-spring.

Did members see the list of Mentors and Mentees in the January Newsletter

Speaking of the SOS Newsletter OrchidView ... Can I see a show of hands on how many people got the Feb Newsletter?

We would like to thank all the volunteers that helped out for the Annual Show

We had a very successful Show!!

Attendance was up over 25% due in part to a new partnership we formed with the Sarasota Herald Tribune.

We made more money this year due to the format change, which allowed us to bring in a few more vendors and have less expenses.

Of course we couldn't have done it without all your help! Thank you again!

I wanted to mention, we are down (from 3) Facebook Pages to One Facebook Page ...

<https://www.facebook.com/SarasotaOrchidSociety/>

Do a quick review of the new SOS Website and Facebook page

We had two people living donate plants this month. One set of plants will be used in the April Meeting re-potting demonstration. The other set of plants are on the back table. All those plants are free for members that are interested in taking them home, dividing them and re-potting them. For new members, you might like to take a look at what happens when you take an orchid and just hang it out in your backyard in your trees. Amazing how orchids survive ... ☺

We will be doing an exhibit for the 2016 VAOS Show and we'll need blooming plants!!!

We will need to provide plant labels for the blooming plants ... AND ... It is very, very, very important to put your names on your pots!!! When it comes time for breaking down the exhibit, at the end of any Show ... It is extremely hard to keep track of which plants belong to which person. Please, pretty please with sugar on top ... Put a piece of some sort of paper tape with your name on the plant's pot!!! Please call 941-358-8537 or email Laurie Stoner laurissas@msn.com with a list of your plants by Wednesday, Feb 3rd. Please bring your blooming plants for the SOS display to the Venice Community Center by at 1:00 pm on Feb 5th. If that is not possible, please advise myself, Laurie Stoner, Jack Kneuse or Jo Davis prior to Feb 3rd and make arrangements for another drop off time and place. It is imperative that you have your name on the plant pot and the name of your orchid is with your plant. How many people have not had a blooming plant included in a Show Display? Explain process to new members ...

I wanted to let everyone know that April will be our annual member's meeting and anyone interested in joining the board should contact me. We are always looking to new board members. You usually start off on the board doing a well-defined project. Also, if we have anyone with accounting skills, we can use your services on the board too. Eventually Laurie would like to turn over the Treasurer's job to a new board member, who has worked with board for at least 6 to 9 months.

Mention Plant Raffle

Mention the Plant Show Table

Make a plea for everyone to stay and help clean up!!!

Englewood Area Orchid Society Presents
ORCHIDS
By Lemon Bay

Orchid Show & Sale
Friday & Saturday
March 4 & 5, 2016 10am - 5pm

\$4 Admission Plenty of Parking!
Over 9,000 Square Feet of Sales & Exhibits

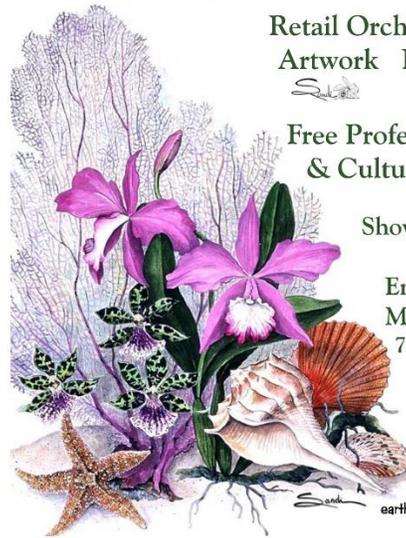
Retail Orchids & Supplies
Artwork Books Raffles

Solo

Free Professional Advice
& Culture Information

Show Located Inside
Fellowship Hall
Englewood United
Methodist Church
700 E. Dearborn St.
Englewood, FL

For Information
www.EAOS.org



earthenspirit2000@comcast.net

We will have a display at the Englewood show and need your plants for a great display, so please contact Laura Stoner at 941-358-8537 or via email laurissas@msn.com by March 1st with the name(s) of your plants.

Monthly Orchid Winners

Species - Susan Gerhardt



Dendrobium spectabile

Speakers Choice - Jack Knuese



Gombrassiltonia Hilo Ablaze 'Hilo Gold' AM/AOS (*Bratonia* Olmec x *Gomesa* Martinii)

Hybrid - Greg Wirth



Miltoniopsis Black Storm 'Volcano Queen' (*Miltoniopsis* Black Hazel x *Miltoniopsis* Storm)

Novice - Charlie Rogg



Liparis condylobulbon

ORCHIDS WE SHOULD ALL GROW



Angraecum crestwood

The genus *Angraecum* encompasses about 220 species found on the Indian Ocean islands to the mainland of Africa. One species is even found in Malaysia.

Most are recognized by their white to creamy greenish colors and elongated nectar spurs. Some of the flowers are quite large, others very small. The spur is always large in proportion to the flower.

The type species for the genus is *Angraecum sesquipedale* or "Darwin's Orchid" which is native to the coastal regions of Madagascar.

Very little hybridizing has been done with the genus. One of the notable hybrids though, is *Angraecum crestwood*. Crestwood is a cross of two species, *sesquipedale* and *eburneum*. The flower is borne singly on the inflorescence. Flowers are large, about 5" across with an elongated spur up to 6" in length. Flowers open a whitish green and turn creamy white when mature. They carry a delightful scent in the evening, typical of flowers that are night pollinated by moths.

Like most large *Angraecums*, crestwood is best grown in a coarse bark mix or chunks of tree fern in an open container or basket. When in growth, the plant should be watered thoroughly, then let to become almost dry before watering again. After blooming in winter, let the plant rest for a few weeks before watering and beginning your spring fertilizing regimen. All plants of the genus like warm to intermediate temperatures and high levels of humidity (remember their native habitat). They grow mostly as epiphytes or occasionally as lithophytes, typically in bright shaded areas. I grow mine in bright light in my pool cage or on the north side of my *Vanda* rack which sits in direct morning sun and afternoon indirect light. The north side gets the least direct sunlight but sits in bright light. Plants on the *Vanda* rack get watered almost every day, but less than the *Vandas*. Those grown with the *Vandas* are grown in baskets with tree fern chunks for better drainage and quicker drying.

I fertilize them weekly with a dilute (1/2 strength) 13-2-13 with Cal Mag. They are quite disease resistant with scale and thrips being the main pests. Both problems typically occur in winter, so I alternate solutions of oil and citrus detergent drenches for about three weeks to kill the adults and any eggs that may hatch after the first application.

A final word of caution, both parents of crestwood are equatorial sea level natives. That means warm nights! Protect all *Angraecums* or bring them inside when the temperature falls to about 56 degrees F. The plants may survive cooler, but will drop lower leaves and will probably not flower.

Field Journal by Darryl

Stig is in Bhutan, trying to avoid the chaos surrounding the celebrations of the birth of the heir to the throne. Darryl and Diane are headed there in April. Perhaps a new Wild Orchid Man adventure?

Darryl has finished up two new Florida Field Journals which air on Comcast Ch. 20 and Verizon 33 beginning the middle of the month. One is the entire Grand Opening of the Audubon Nature Center at the Celery Fields. You can see what the people involved with its development have to say about this landmark environmental achievement. Featured is the keynote speaker, Eric Draper, the Executive Director of Florida Audubon. The second show is a short Notebook sketch of Oscar Scherer State Park.

All the Florida Field Journals can be found at:

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQM-L68fNvtEDkWhQyM0ZuyL7iSIcyzTe>

Darryl has started a web series on Wildlife Filmmaking and the first episode is up at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6LBsmXBAqweRJJ_ESlzDaw

Stig has written an interesting article on the genesis of the Wild Orchid Man films. It can be found at:

<http://sarasotaorchidsociety.org/the-wild-orchid-man-awakens/>

Although Darryl's 4K Wildlife Film-making Workshop has had a fair amount of interest, it has been from the other side of the pond (Atlantic). If he doesn't get 2 more registered by Jan. 21st, the workshop will be canceled. Info at: <http://thefieldjournal.net/field-journal-workshops.html>

All of the Florida Field Journals are at:

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQM-L68fNvtEDkWhQyM0ZuyL7iSIcyzTe>

Watch for coverage of the Grand Opening and Dedication of the Audubon Nature Center at the Celery Fields coming in February.

Two of Darryl's latest videos, shot primarily in 4K, are at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6LBsmXBAqweRJJ_ESlzDaw

Upcoming events:

March 17th: Wild Orchid Man - Journey to Machu Picchu at the Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance in Naples, FL

April 12th: Stig's at Manatee Orchid Society

More to come!

Darryl Saffer

Studio Ray Productions

3101 West Place

Sarasota, FL 34234

www.thefieldjournal.net

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6LBsmXBAqweRJJ_ESlzDaw

www.studiorayproductions.com

www.wildorchidman.com earthcare@aol.com

941-228-7288

Orchids of Bhutan

An Expected Alleged Natural *Vanda* Hybrid

TEXT BY STIG DALSTRÖM, DUPCHU WANGDI AND KEZANG TOBGAY/PHOTOGRAPHS BY STIG DALSTRÖM

During a trip in May 2015 by a team from the National Biodiversity Centre (NBC) in Serbithang in Thimphu, Bhutan, to the Chhukha province in the southwestern part of the country, interesting discoveries may shed some light on a taxonomic conundrum. We were fortunate to find flowering plants of *Vanda cristata* Wall. ex Lindl. growing in the same area as flowering plants of *Vanda griffithii* Lindl. This in itself is not surprising because both species are rather common and sympatric throughout suitable habitats in Bhutan. What really made the day, however, was the discovery of a plant with flowers perfectly in between the two species. Both *V. cristata* and *V. griffithii* were found growing in the same orange orchard where the alleged natural hybrid also was found. While *V. cristata* and *V. griffithii*, in general, have quite different looking flowers, a rather generous natural variation for both in terms of flower size, coloration and shape has led some botanists to distinguish different “species.” We believe this is not a correct interpretation, but rather an example of variations quite possibly caused by hybridization.

As exciting as it was to find a plant with floral features perfectly in between *V. cristata* and *V. griffithii*, it was not such a great surprise after all. We have actually speculated on the chances of finding a natural hybrid where both species are sympatric and flower at the same time. As it happens, this general area of Bhutan coincides with what Leslie Garay and Niklaus Trudel call “southwest Bhutan” (Garay 1986, Dalström et al. 2015). Garay (1986) removed *Vanda alpina* and *V. griffithii* to establish the genus *Trudelia* together with a new species, *Trudelia chlorosantha* Garay. He had received photos of what he considered to represent three different species from the Swiss photographer Niklaus Trudel, who apparently collected all three specimens in southwestern Bhutan. Garay did not include *V. cristata* Lindl. or *Vanda pumila* Hook.f. due to a lack of information, but Senghas (1988) added those species to *Trudelia*. Christenson (1992) then moved them all back into *Vanda* again. Recent molecular analysis demonstrates that *Trudelia* is



embedded in the main bulk of *Vanda* species and cannot be accepted as a separate genus according to modern nomenclatural rules (Gardiner 2012).

In any case, based on frequent field observations by the authors of this paper, D.B. Gurung and others, clear and consistent distinctions cannot be found to separate *V. chlorosantha* from *V. griffithii*, at least not in Bhutan, and we consider them conspecific (Dalström et al. 2015). We have also concluded that *V. alpina* Lindl. represents the same taxon as *V. griffithii*, and since the latter name is older, it has nomenclatural priority. The discovery of what clearly appears to be a natural and quite possibly primary hybrid between *V. cristata* and *V. griffithii* may offer an explanation to where the morphological variation for both alleged parents originate.

[1] The NBC team, Kezang Tobgay and Dupchu Wangdi with plants of *Thunia alba*, Chhukha.

[2] *Vanda cristata* near the town of Gedu, Chhukha.

[3] *Vanda cristata* near Dala, Chhukha.

[4] *Vanda griffithii* near Dala, Chhukha.

[5] An alleged natural hybrid between *V. cristata* and *V. griffithii*, near Dala, Chhukha.

[6] Comparisons of *Vanda cristata*, the alleged hybrid and *V. griffithii*, from near Dala, Chhukha. The two latter flowers are preserved in alcohol.

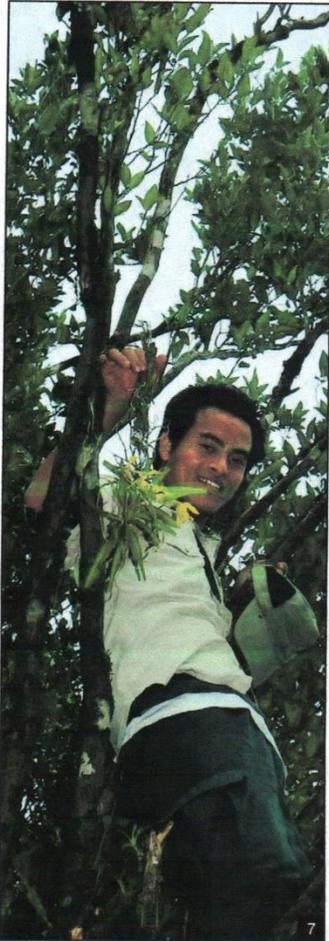
Natural hybridization is probably not as uncommon among orchids that apparently rely on deceit pollination as we may have believed in the past. Good examples of this phenomenon can be seen in the Andean genus, *Odontoglossum* Kunth (also called *Oncidium* Sw. by some). To our knowledge, no food or other kinds of rewards for the pollinators have been documented for this genus, and despite this “frugality,” odontoglossums are notorious natural hybridizers. There are many examples known in which both alleged and later on artificially proven hybrids can fill in the morphological gaps between two rather different looking parent species (Rolfe 1893, Dalström 2003).

The pollination of *V. cristata* and *V. griffithii* was recently discussed (Dalström et al. 2015), in which an unidentified beetle has been documented as the successful pollinator of at least the former species. What has been a mystery so far, however, is how the beetle can find the orchids as they are cultivated in a greenhouse far from any natural habitats. The explanation may not be as complicated as it may seem, though. All mulch that is assembled for the flower beds in the botanical garden, including the orchid greenhouse, is gathered from nature. This is not a sustainable method, of course, and alternative ways to produce mulch and garden soil from organic recyclable waste are being addressed. In any case, since some mulch may be assembled from areas where the *Vanda* species occur naturally, the beetle in various stages of its life cycle is probably gathered as well. Once inside the orchid house, the beetle eventually hatches and starts looking for a mate, or food. What the beetle sees, or senses, in the flower of both *V. cristata* and *V. griffithii* is uncertain, but the lip may act as a possible deceitful attractor, particularly in the former species. Some lips of both orchids are amazingly similar to the shape and coloration of the beetle, while in other cases, no similarity can be observed at all. Perhaps the beetle coloration varies naturally as well? Be that as it may, successful pollination is a fact. Sexual attraction among insects may be as mysterious and convoluted as among many other living organisms.

References

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- Dalström, S. 2003. Orchids Smarter than Scientists—An Approach to Oncidiinae (Orchidaceae) Taxonomy. *Lankesteriana* 7:33–36.
- Dalström, S., D.B. Gurung, C. Gyeltshen, and N. Gyeltshen. 2015. Orchids of Bhutan. The Genus *Vanda*. *AOS Orchids* 1:34–39.
- Garay, L.A. 1986. *Trudelia*, A New Name for *Vanda alpina*. *Orchid Digest* 50:73–77.
- Gardiner, L.M. 2012. New Combinations in the Genus *Vanda* (Orchidaceae). *Phytotaxa* 61:47–54.





[7] Kezang Tobgay finding *Vanda cristata* in an orange tree near Dala, Chhukha.

[8] *Vanda cristata* flowers from Joengkhar in eastern Bhutan.

[9] *Vanda griffithii* from Wangdue in central Bhutan.

[10] *Vanda cristata* with pollinator, Serbithang, Thimphu.

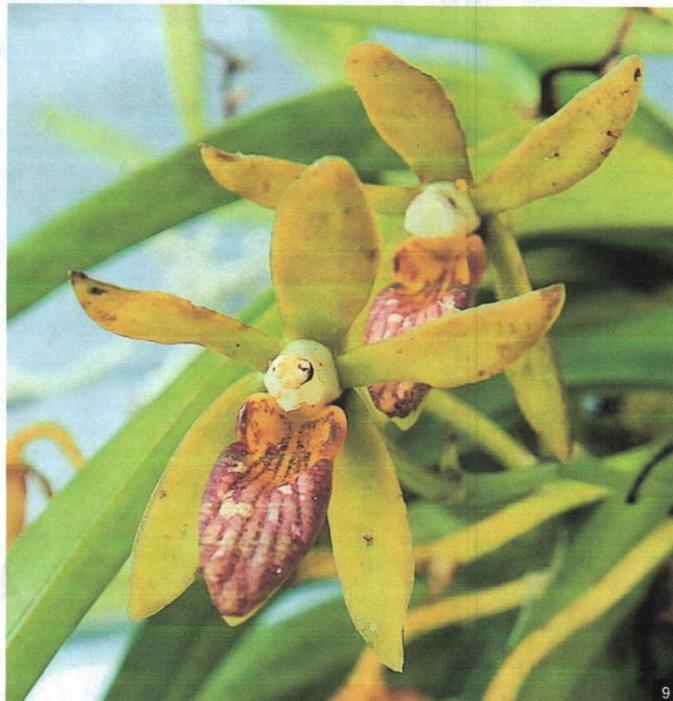
[11] *Vanda cristata* pollinator carrying pollinia, Serbithang, Thimphu.

[12] *Vanda cristata* showing successful pollination by a beetle, Serbithang, Thimphu.

[13] *Vanda cristata* pollinator suspect in natural mulch, Serbithang, Thimphu.



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Rolfe, R.A. 1893. Hybrid *Odontoglossums*. *The Orchid Review* 1(5):142.

Senghas, K. 1988. *Trudelia* Garay. In: R. Schlechter, editor. *Die Orchideen*. 1:1211. Verlag Paul Parey, Berlin, Germany.

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gardener at the Royal Botanic Garden National Biodiversity Centre, Serbithang, Thimphu, Bhutan. Kezang Tobgay is a research student at the Royal Botanic Garden National Biodiversity Centre, Serbithang, Thimphu, Bhutan.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORCHID AUCTION & SALE, MARCH 12

Beautiful blooming and starter orchids for great prices! That's what you can find at Orchid Auction & Sale at the Seminole United Methodist Church, 5400 Seminole Blvd., Seminole, FL 33772 on Saturday, March 12.

Orchid preview is at 8:30 AM and bidding begins at 9:00 AM and continues until all the orchids are sold. There will also be orchids for sale.

The Orchid Auction & Sale is sponsored by the Florida West Coast Orchid Society, Pinellas County's not for profit, educational club for orchid growers and hobbyists. Instructional materials on how to grow orchids will be available free of charge. Refreshments, including coffee and soft drinks, will also be available.

Don't miss this opportunity to build your orchid collection or to acquire your first orchid at a reasonable price! If you have any questions, contact Stuart Fraser at 727-742-0461 or email at SFraser0326@aol.com or go to www.FWCOS.org.

A good article from the AOS

Silent Auction Guidelines

- ◆ We will limit the total number of plants to 5 or 6 per month.
- ◆ By the 20th of the month, prior to the upcoming meeting, **a member will email a request** to Denny Pavlock (dpavlock@gmail.com) with the number of plants they wish to bring.
- ◆ Include the name of the plant, the approximate number of pseudo bulbs, size of the pot, basket or mount or that it is a bare root.
- ◆ If you have a jpeg picture of the flower, please include with your form.
- ◆ Plants must be clean with no scale, thrips, etc.
- ◆ If desired, specify the minimum price you will accept for each plant.
- ◆ If desired, specify an “eBay type Buy-It-Now” amount for each plant so that a member may instantly purchase the plant.
- ◆ Note: The plant will then immediately be removed from the Silent Auction Table
- ◆ The seller will receive 75% and the SOS will receive 25% of the sale’s price.

To confirm your inclusion in the Silent Auction, Denny will send you, the member, a **Silent Auction Form**.