



April

Orchid View

OUR NEXT MONTHLY MEETING April 4, 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: Stig Dalstrom |
| | Topic: Update on his work in Bhutan |
| 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:

Nancy Hegele

John Nollen

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.



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Sarasota Orchid Society Members

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

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March 2016 SOS Meeting Minutes

- I'd like to invite Jo Davis up to introduce any new members and guest from tonight
- 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
- March announcements ...
 - The Wild Orchid Man in the Ghost Orchid Swamp," is being screened at the Landings Racquet Club (5350 Landings Blvd,, Sarasota, FL 34231) on **March 18th** (7:00 pm). Wine and cheese will be included. Stig Dalstrom and Darryl Saffer will be there, and a Q/A will follow the screening.
 - Palmer Orchids is having their annual Open House and Sale this coming weekend
 - An email was sent to all of you
 - The Sarasota Garden Club is having their Spring "Gardens in Paradise" tour event taking place March 19th. Flyers are on the membership table. An email with more details will be sent as well next week
 - Monroe Kokin is having another private orchid collection sale at his home on Saturday, **March 19th** from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m.
- A cruise around the Hawaiian Islands, couple with tickets to the Honolulu Orchid Show is planned for Oct
 - Dawn Perrault from Travel by Dawn (I think) is here to tell us more
- We did very well at the 2016 EAOS Show
 - Members won
 - 17 - Blue Ribbons
 - 7 - Red Ribbons
 - 3 - Yellow Ribbons
 - 2 members also won 5 Show Awards:
 - Most Outstanding Cymbidium Alliance – Jo Davis
 - Best Oncidium Alliance – Jo Davis
 - Most Outstanding Diversified Genera – Denny Pavlock
 - Best Large Cattleya and Best in Show – Denny Pavlock
- 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.
- There are lovely plants on the Silent Auction Table
 - Remember each month, you can bring in a couple of plants, just email me ahead of time with the Plant's Name
- Big Earth has a table with supplies for sale
- Mention Plant Raffle
- Mention the Plant Show Table
- Make a plea for everyone to stay and help clean up!!!

Monthly Orchid Winners

Species – Jo Davis



Paphiopedilum philippinense

Speakers Choice – Madi Ruhl



Dendrobium Himezakura 'Sannoku' (*Dendrobium Oberon* x *Dendrobium Cassiope*)

Hybrid – Patti Quinnelly



Yes, that's Patti hiding behind her lovely orchids.



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Memoria Victoria Kam 'Fascination'
(*Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Sylvia Fry x *Cattleya* loddigesii)

Novice – Julien Baruch



Paphiopedilum callosum

ORCHIDS WE SHOULD ALL GROW



CATTLEYA PERCIVALIANA

For a moment, let us wander the calendar starting in mid-autumn with the blooming of the first *Cattleya labiata*. A beautiful specimen, the type flower that describes the group of large flowering Cattleyas. Typically a large pink to lavender bloom with a full pronounced lip, it has a bloom period that lasts until mid-November or so in the northern hemisphere.

For almost 40 years in the mid to late 1800's there was not another Cattleya species that bloomed until *trianaei* bloomed in mid to late January. Imagine the Holiday season with only boring poinsettias to brighten the drab days.

Suddenly, in 1881, a newly discovered large Cattleya species emerged from the mountains of Venezuela. *C. percivaliana* arrived to bloom over the holiday period and quickly became known as the Christmas Orchid.

Not as large as the other "large" Cattleyas, *percivaliana* was somewhat of a disappointment to the cut flower industry, accustomed as it was to large cut Catts for corsages.

As a specimen plant however, *percivaliana* occupies a special place at holiday time. Since it produces two growths in succession starting in early spring, it soon grows to a fine specimen sized plant. Short in stature, no taller than 12" in height, it produces two or three flowers on each growth. Soon, a 5" pot can contain a dozen or more spicy scented lavender or pink flowers for a holiday table.

In situ, *percivaliana* is found growing in bright sunlight at an elevation of about 6000'. Though it grows in full sun, when grown near sea level in a semi tropical environment, it needs about 30% shade. Shade cloth or hanging in a tree receiving direct morning or late afternoon sun is ideal. Though it is an epiphyte, growing it in a pot with a well-drained mix is the best way to present the plant. Fertilize and water heavily when in active growth (spring and summer). Let it go dry between watering to prevent root rot.

C. percivaliana is an easy plant to grow. Like most other large Catts, it likes intermediate to warm temperatures, regular watering, and good air movement.

Colors range from pink to lavender with an orange throat. The lip typically has a purple mid lobe that is lighter at the edge. Flowers are approximately 5" in spread and bloom in early winter. There are albescens and concolor varieties and some of the best shaped Albas in the entire *Cattleya* genre are *percivalianas*.

Reasons for Dreaded Bud Blast and How to Cull Your Collection by Laurie Stoner

I'm often asked what causes bud blast. Bud blast! It even sounds nasty, like a bomb went off inside your inflorescence. It's so disappointing to watch the blooms you've eagerly anticipated dry up and fall off. "What did I do wrong?" Unfortunately, it's tough to accurately diagnose what caused the buds to fall off because there are so many cultural and environmental reasons for this particular phenomenon.

My number one suspect for the death of the bud is improper watering. If the plant was under-watered it will withdraw moisture from the bud and sacrifice this year's bloom so it can survive and bloom the following year. On the other hand, if it was over-watered, the roots may be damaged because they couldn't dry out and thus they can no longer support the flowers. Water could have gotten into the sheath around the inflorescence. (Dark soggy sheaths indicate bacterial rot.) The water could have been too cold and the shock caused the bud to wither away.

Rapid temperature change can also be a significant problem. If the temperature rises too rapidly, especially for cymbidiums and dendrobiums, the buds will likely blast. If the temperature drops too rapidly and the orchid hasn't had time to "harden off" to the cold or it receives a strong blast of frigid air, it will abort the blooms.

Other possible culprits? The orchid was exposed to chemical fumes or rotting plant material that gave off methane. It could have received too little light, and even though it struggled to produce a bloom, it lacked the strength to complete the process or it received too much light and overheated.

If a little fertilizer is good, a lot is better, right? Not necessarily. When you apply fertilizers, fungicides, and pesticides above the recommended dosage or too often you will literally burn the roots, leaves, and the most susceptible of all – the flowers.

If the relative humidity is too low or fluctuates too wildly, the buds may blast.

Insects, particularly aphids and thrips, will get inside the buds and suck the life out of them. Look for extremely tiny, thin insects moving around the inflorescence or for tiny spheres attached to the underside of the leaves.

And finally, it could simply be genetics. Not every plant is able to produce viable blooms.

That's a whole lot of possible causes for bud blast. If it only happens now and again, don't worry about it, but if you have a particular orchid that consistently blasts you might want to "cull" it from your collection.

Here are my personal criteria for culling an orchid, also known as "moving it closer to the compost heap":

1. It's sick, weak, virused, has a heavy pest problem such as scale that won't go away after many treatments, or it has no roots.
2. It never flowers or continually has bud blast.
3. Its growth habit is so poor it simply doesn't fit in or look good.
4. It rarely flowers or puts out lots of pseudobulbs with nothing to show for it. This could be because it's not getting enough light, but if I've given it appropriate light and culture for years and it's a mature plant that just won't bloom for me then it's a candidate.
5. It's going downhill over time instead of growing.
6. The inflorescences are not self-supporting. I don't mind staking an inflorescence but if the flowers still droop and I can never display it, what's the point?
7. The flowers are too crowded, unattractive, short lived or have no substance. If it's a species and that's the way it grows in nature, that makes the decision tougher, but I only have so much space to devote to my hobby and I want to concentrate on growing those I really enjoy.
8. No fragrance or an annoying fragrance. I certainly won't cull an orchid if it has no smell or smells bad, but if it smells good, I certainly give it more chances to stay in my collection!

In summary, don't beat yourself up if you have an orchid with occasional bud blast. Research what conditions it prefers and try to give it the best cultural practices you can manage, but if this happens year after year and your other orchids bloom reliably, then feel free to admit that this one simply isn't for you. There are so many wonderful, easy orchids that will reward you with their beautiful blooms. Concentrate on growing those!

The Nutritional Requirements of Orchids

Fertilizing Generalities for the Geeks & Ungeeks:

constantly feed (weekly during active growth) at a low concentration because orchids are light feeders it ensures nutrients at each watering.

Plants grab what they need. Use a fertilizer where N the highest, P the lowest and K in between fertilization rates if measuring TDS:

80-100 PPM Nitrogen in hard water (high TDS); if water is relatively pure (low TDS) you can fertilize at a higher rate 100-150 PPM Nitrogen. do not exceed 500-600 TDS in your fertilizer water

Fertilization rates if not measuring TDS:

if using a fertilizer made for orchids use rate recommended on the container

if using a general purpose fertilizer use half the recommended rate

which rate also depends on variety and growing conditions

most fertilizers drop the pH of the solution ; with pure waters can be a problem

fertilize at a pH between 6 and 6.5 after adding fertilizer to water

if using well water (and attempting to grow seedlings) essential to have it analyzed,

using municipal water not necessary except for pH

fertilize weekly for 3 or 4 times then with plain water

do not use softened water (Na accumulation) K softeners are OK

give up on "Blossom Booster" for most genera

supplementing Ca, Mg, and S not necessary if using fertilizers with these added

Calculations for the Geeks Among Us:

To Convert Fertilizer Percentages to elemental percentages:

A fertilizer with a 10-10-10 ratio has:

10% Nitrogen

4.4% Phosphorus not 10%

8.3% Potassium not 10%

☐ nitrogen is expressed in the elemental form so 10% of the weight of this fertilizer is N.

☐ phosphorus is expressed as P₂O₅ so based on the atomic weight therefore AtWt P-15 x 2 = 30 + AtWt O-8 x 5 = 40

Total Weight of the molecule is 30 + 40 = 70 and percentage of P is 30 ÷ 70 = 43% therefore in fertilizer 10-10-10 the % of

P is 0.43 x 10% = 4.3%

☐ potassium is expressed as K₂O so AtWt K-19 x 2 = 38 and AtWt O-8;

Total Weight of the molecule is 38 + 8 = 46 and the percentage of K is 38 ÷ 46 = 83% therefor in fertilizer 10-10-10 the % of K is 0.83 x 10% = 8.3%

Prepared by Salventi-Purviance Enterprises LLC

Field Journal by Darryl

You have already received an email about the March showings here are the April showings of Darryl and Stigs work.

Grandmother Oak a short film by Darryl Saffer at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Fruitville in Sarasota at 9 and 11 on April 3rd. <http://www.uucsarasota.com/>

Wild Orchid Man in the Ghost Orchid Swamp at the Ft. Myers library on April 6.
Contact dian.ec@hotmail.com for more info

Darryl's short 4K film *Wild Sarasota* will screen at the Sarasota Film Festival on April 3rd and 5th.

<http://www.sarasotafilmfestival.com/>

Watch for more coming announcements about April!

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

Producer, The Education Channel

<http://www.theedchannel.net/>

The award-winning Florida Field Journal

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

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**.