



Special Points of Interest

- Mini Cats
- Off Season in Florida
- Bucket Orchids
- 2011-2012 Nominee's



Photo and Article

Credits:

- Garland Hanson
- David Sombach
- Fred Clarke

Please Note!!

Due to the Speaker selling plants May is not a Member's Sales Month

The Orchid Keiki



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May 2011

“Today’s Mini and Compact Cattleya’s ” by Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids

Tuesday, May 24th at 7:00 pm in the Robin’s Room

Fred Clarke started Sunset Valley Orchids in 1995 as a natural outgrowth of a hobby that began 25 years earlier. Sunset Valley Orchids is a “Boutique” style nursery where he is dedicated to providing excellent customer service and breeding superior orchid hybrids for the orchid enthusiast.

Backed by over 26 years of experience in the horticultural industry as a professional grower and manager, Fred applies these skills to produce well grown and healthy orchid plants. Fred is also an accredited American Orchid Society Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. Orchids from Sunset Valley Orchid have received hundreds of AOS awards, including 8 that have received the highest honor, the ‘First Class Certificate’.

The nursery has grown considerably over the last few years and is now exceeding 30,000 sq. ft. of greenhouses space and now produces all its electrical needs via 124 photo voltaic solar panels.

Fred is a breeder of award quality orchids. His efforts are focused in the development of new and interesting lines providing unique hybrids and species in several genera including; Cattleya, Catasetinae, Paphiopedilum, Australian Native Dendrobium, and a few others in limited numbers like Sarcophilus, Zygopetalum and Stanhopea.

His plant offerings are produced in our laboratory and grown from seed here at the nursery. The lab processes over 200 new hybrids annually resulting in 2000 re-plate flasks.

Plants are selected on strict criteria of robust growth and ease to flower. This is accomplished by selecting the most vigorous growing plants throughout the growing process of; flasking, community trays, and growing on in pots. This grading results in the strongest and best plants for both the customers and for future breeding.



Sunset Valley Orchids is located in Vista, California about 35 miles north of San Diego and 50 miles south of Los Angeles. The nursery is open most Saturdays, Sundays and by appointment.

Fred will be taking pre-orders with a 10% discount. For more information, go to:

<http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com>



**Triangle Orchid Society—VOS Exhibit
Special thanks to Garland and Jim!!!!**

**2009-2010
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2011-2012 Nominee's

President

Valerie Thacker has been a member of the VOS since 2004 and on the board in different capacities since 2005. She has been the committee chair for several different areas such as the newsletter, affiliated societies, judges forum and show chair. She and Betty Jo have created orchids exhibits winning the VOS several awards including the AOS and Orchid Digest Awards.

Valerie's orchid collection is grown in a greenhouse wherein she grows orchids species, vandas, phrags and cattleyas. She is currently experimenting with masdevallias and other cool growing genera in "cool" pots in her office which, so far, has been very successful.

President Elect

Betty Jo has been a member of the Virginia Orchid Society for several years. She has been active from the first meeting and has enjoyed speaking with all the interesting and experienced growers I have met. She assisted with the annual AOS show for 4 years and also with the NCOS show. She has been the Membership Chairperson for three years and have worked extensively with the Board to work for the best of the Society. Her personal orchid collection consists of mostly cattleyas, oncidiums, and dendrobiums, with a smattering of phals, paphs and others thrown in. She grows most of her orchids hydroponically (with the little clay pellets). When not thinking about orchids, her life is consumed with the scheduling, transporting, supporting, and care-giving her three very active children at home and one "trying to be grown up" child away from home. Oh yeah, and keeping the husband that puts up with all this happy!!

Vice President

David Sombach has been a member of the society for several years. He has worked extensively in many different areas for the society including helping to create a very successful AOS Show and Sale.

David is an experienced and knowledgeable orchid grower winning many awards of the

years. He has grown many different orchids successfully but, at the moment, his collection consists of paphiopediliums, mini-cats and phalaenopsis. You can also count on him putting something strange and unusual on the show table.

Treasurer

Charles Gardner has been growing orchids for 20 years and in his 10th year of membership in VOS. During that time he served as Vice-President and committee chair for the endowment and library committees. Before that he was a charter member in the Lincoln Orchid Society in his hometown of Lincoln, NE. He is currently a research scientist at the Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics in the Department of Psychiatry of VCU where he has worked since 1995. His favorite orchids to grow are Paphiopedilums, but he likes to experiment with other genera from time to time.

Recording Secretary

Sue Fulghum was a member several years ago and has just recently re-joined the society. Since her renewal of membership, she has assisted with the AOS, repotting events and chaired hospitality.

Sue's greenhouse consists of some beautiful, old specimens of cattleya's as well as other wonderful orchids.

Corresponding Secretary

Lynn Charpentier is a recent member of the VOS. She has wanted to participate for a long time and is very excited to have the opportunity to support the organization as a novice grower and lover of orchids.

Lynn currently works in medical sales and marketing for a Danish cancer diagnostic company with a background in pathology laboratory management. She has volunteered for various organizations including Boy and Girl Scouts, Master Gardeners and the Henley and Triangle Theater groups.

She has lived in Ashland, Va. For 20+ years with her husband, Bob.

Bucket Orchids ROCK!!!

Orchid Fans!

One of my newest orchids just bloomed with the most spectacular flower in the orchid world!!!

This is *Coryanthes macrantha*. *Coryanthes* are commonly known as "The Bucket Orchids" because of the weird bucket that it forms and fills with "juice".

The color, scent (like menthol), and juice all serve to attract the pollinator. I'm guessing the pollinator (a bee, in this case) is attracted by the bright color and aroma, gets light-headed from the funk, falls in the bucket and ends up crawling out the back while scraping against the pollinia



Apparently, someone documented that the aroma has an extended effect on the pollinator that may help prevent it from returning to the same flower.

Macrantha produces one of the larger of the *Coryanthes* flowers and is always heavily spotted. These flowers last for about one week. You can see into the "bucket" in one of the photos.

Wouldn't your gal or guy enjoy wearing one of these as a corsage to any formal occasion!!!!???

Garland Hanson



and hopefully pollinating the next flower. (I'm sure that's how God would describe it, too.)

Orchid Lounge



While traveling last fall in Florida, one of our members was staying in a hotel with an orchid theme. The Orchid Lounge off the lobby was a place to gather and the arrangements throughout the lobby were big beautiful baskets of orchids. Carrie Fulghum and her mom, Betty Jo, couldn't help but stop and get a snapshot of the wonderful arrangements. Oh, to live in a climate where orchids like these thrive and are bountiful!!

Membership

We have had several new members join since the February show. Welcome to Lynn Charpentier, Ron Geraci, Betsy Hostrop, Judith Martin, J. Morgan, Cynthia Robinson and Joseph & Karen White! Please take a moment and introduce yourself if you see them at the next meeting. We look forward to their attendance and participation in this hobby that we so love!

Many of you have already received a questionnaire addressing our monthly meeting day. We have requested a special committee review your responses and examine the best course of action for the Society. The surveys, along with attendance and participation will be reviewed and a recommendation will be made to the Board. At that time, issues such as venue and speaker schedules will be examined and a final determination will be made about next season. Please return your survey Betty Jo as soon as possible, or bring it to the meeting on May 24.

Hospitality

Hospitality Needs Help with Snacks for the Meeting on Tuesday Evening. Cookies, Chips, Fruit, etc.



VOS Committee Chairs

Affiliated Societies
Empty

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Valerie Thacker

Website
Jerry Rogers

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VOS Board

Programs
David Sombach

Endowment
Charles Gardner

Hospitality
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Membership
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Show Committee
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Judges Forum
Betty Jo Fulghum/Valerie Thacker

Auctions
Garland Hanson

Ad Hoc
David Sombach
Dick Burch
Valerie Thacker

Visit Our Website:
www.vaorchidsociety.org

Even in the Off-Season there's Plenty to See— Florida Travel

Just because the moonlight bike tours and guided swamp walks have ended for the season and most of the migratory birds have moved on doesn't mean there's no reason to visit the Everglades this spring and summer.

The hottest, stickiest, rainiest season is when orchids and other wildflowers thrive and bloom. It's when the year-round resident great blue herons and anhingas get the place to themselves. It's when morning bike rides can be the best part of the day. At night it's pitch-black — perfect for stargazers to hold viewing parties away from the city lights. There's no doubt that prime viewing time is ending in the Everglades. But the sawgrass prairie and cypress stands still offer opportunities for recreation. Be mindful of the heat and the mosquitos — which rangers swear don't live up to their nasty-as-they-wanna-be reputation — and be observant.

Not only does the wet season make being outdoors more uncomfortable for people, it changes conditions for wildlife, so there is less to see, and what is there is harder to spot.

During dry season, pooled water evaporates, concentrating fish in a smaller area where they make easier prey for big wading birds. Migratory birds usually start arriving in Big Cypress National Preserve in November and in Everglades National Park in late November and early December to feast on the fish. When the rain comes, the pools grow, the fish disperse and most of the birds leave.

Wildlife

But a small population of great blue herons, cormorants, anhingas, purple gallinules, limpkins and swallowtail kites live in the Everglades year-round. South Florida is the only place in the United States that some of those birds are likely to be spotted.

With more and larger pools of water, alligators will disperse too and be harder to spot. But rangers say there is no time when visitors can't find at least a few gators.

In Everglades National Park, tram tours continue year-round, and the naturalists on those tours change their talks to fit the season. Ranger-led walks and talks also continue through the summer.

The park itself is open 24 hours a day, although not all entrances remain open. Rangers recommend early-morning walks and bike rides, late-night stargazing and walking to the top of the Observation Tower in Shark Valley for its panoramic view of the Everglades.

In bloom

Late spring and early summer are when wildflowers grow in profusion: rusty brown spikes of sawgrass flowers, tiny white pond-apple blossoms, dusty purple marsh fleabane, purple pickerel weed of deeper purple, white-top sedge, goldenrod that can grow up to six feet.

In Big Cypress, at least a few species of orchids are in bloom year-round — the grass pink orchid and the endangered cowhorn are blooming now within a short walk from the visitors center — but June and July are peak time.

A visitor's best bet is the Kirby Storter Roadside Park, which has a half-mile elevated boardwalk that leads through prairie, dwarf cypress and cypress strand, where a variety of blooming flowers are visible, said Bob DeGross, spokesman for Big Cypress. The boardwalk, located off Tamiami Trail about seven miles west of the Oasis Visitors Center, is wheelchair-accessible and has rain shelters. Like the preserve, it's open 24 hours, so is also a favorite place for star-gazers.

"If you're really adventurous, one of the best things you can do is a swamp walk," DeGross said, but that option is just for the most adventurous veterans of the swamp, people who are experienced navigators using maps and compasses. "You have to be quite an outdoors person," he said. "We encourage people to walk the boardwalk."

For people who want to do some windshield sight-seeing, DeGross recommends driving on Turner River Road and Birdon Road, a 27-mile loop on the preserve's western side near Everglades City. Turner River Road runs north from Tamiami Trail at The H. P. Williams Roadside Park, next to a canal that supports a great variety of wildlife.

"It's pretty wild, DeGross said. It's a good opportunity to see the variety of habitats, to look for birds and wildlife that are around during the summer. It's a gravel road, it's in good shape, it doesn't flood."

Wherever you go, take plenty of water, sunscreen and insect repellent.

Mosquitos are at their worst after the rains have started and the water is still rising and filling holes. Once there's enough water to flow across the land, typically in July, the biting insects lighten up. In Everglades National Park's Shark Valley, rangers say the mosquitos aren't a problem as long as visitors are out in the open and stay out of the shade.