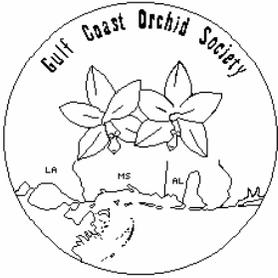


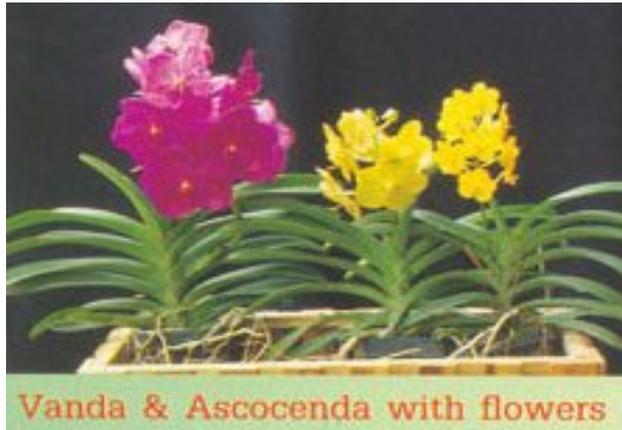
October 18, 2009



Gulf Coast Orchid Society

Our October meeting will be held on the **third Sunday, October 18**, at 2:00 at the **Jeff Davis Community College** located at the corner of Switzer Rd and Debuys; just north of Pass Rd. We meet in the room behind the cafeteria. Go north past the college and turn left.

PROGRAM: Dr. Martin Motes will be our guest speaker. He is known worldwide for breeding vandaceous orchids. Motes Orchids has produced dozens of award-winning hybrids. More about Dr. and Mrs. Motes and Vandas on the next pages.



He will bring a variety of his unique hybrids and some Indian species. If you have special requests, email him, vandas@mindspring.com. After the meeting we will take our guests out to the Back Bay for a great meal and one last chance to chat. All members are invited to come along "Dutch Treat".

Now some of you newer growers are asking "What's a vanda?" Drive past our President's home and you'll see a large group of hot pink, drop dead gorgeous flowers poking out of the Spanish moss in her crepe myrtle tree. That's a Vanda!

REFRESHMENTS/TIDINESS: We will be going out to eat after the meeting, so we would like to stress that our refreshments be light and easy to eat. One or two items are all we need. Our connection with the college reminds us to have a "Cookie Meeting". Keep in mind our tidiness issues. If you anticipate buying plants from Dr. Motes, please bring a container to hold your purchases so orchid mix does not spill on the floor.

NOVEMBER MEETING: Second Sunday, November 8: We will have a "trick and gadget meeting". Some members will show how they make wire hangars and supports for their orchids; another will explain what a hose proportioner is and how to use it. If you have a gadget or trick you could share with our members email Tony at Tonyvaz@bellsouth.net or speak to him at the meeting. November is also a good month for members to bring in plants to sell for their own benefit.

The December meeting will be December 13, it will be our covered dish and orchid bingo. Every member will bingo until they win an orchid. When planning your dish for our luncheon; please try to bring something that isn't too messy.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES: Barbara Duncan passed away Saturday, Sep. 26. Her services were Tuesday, Sep. 29. Ken Miles and Renick Taylor collected orchids from society members that were used for the services.

Kim Bischof married Larry Smith on Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Coalville United Methodist Church. Kim was stunning with an orchid in her hair and a huge bouquet of cattleyas and dendrobiums. Our show Chairman, John Lewis and Paula Shaw were married on Sept. 14. Congratulations to our new couples!

MID-AMERICA: The **Fall 2009 Mid-America Orchid Congress and Tennessee Capital Orchid Show** will be held October 30 – November 1, 2009 at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs in Franklin, Tennessee, hosted by the Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee. Details and registration materials are available at www.tnorchid.com.

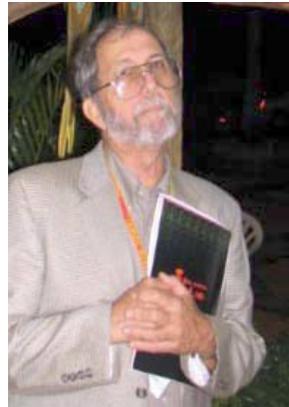
LIBRARY NOTES: Dr. Motes will be bringing two books: *Vandas: Their Botany History and Culture*,



\$40.00 and *Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month*, \$15.00. These are both must have books for any orchidist's library and the prices are much lower than listed on the internet. The first book deals with Vandas and is out of print. Dr. Motes only has a few books left. Excerpts from the second book were printed several times in past newsletters. It is based on the climate is south Florida which is not that different from our own. His wife, Mary, will be bringing her best seller, *Orchid Territory*, (\$10.00 to

Society members) which is a comic novel that explores orchid shows and societies and their devotees. It delves in the world of South Florida's orchid growers through the story of Mark, who arrives in South Florida to help his Aunt Charlotte prepare for the famous orchid show in Miami. Little does he know that his aunt is planning to pass him off as an orchid scholar from England.

Dr Martin Motes, a second generation orchidist who has been growing orchids for 50 years and has



bred hundreds of new hybrids, for which he has received scores of AOS awards including three FCC's and three Awards of Quality. Other hybrids have won medals in previous WOCs as well as at the European Orchid Conference. Numerous of his hybrids have been recognized by the Royal Horticultural Society and in other international venues. He was a featured speaker at the last two WOCs in Kuala Lumpur and Dijon.

He has a PhD in English and extensive experience in this field and is also an accredited American Orchid Society judge whose frequent articles have appeared in *The Fairchild Garden Bulletin*, *The South Florida Orchidist*, *The Orchid Digest*, *The Orchid Review* and *The American Orchid Society Bulletin*. He is the author of *Vandas: Their History Botany and Culture* and *Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month*. He is currently working on a

monograph of the genus *Vanda* with David Roberts of Kew Gardens.

Dr. Motes has traveled extensively in the Mediterranean and observed wild orchids in many other countries. He has taught vanda production at the University of Florida, an Orchid Short Course in Gainesville, and worked as a consultant in various capacities to the extensive orchid industry in South Florida. He was the leading force behind the creation of the Redland International Orchid Festival and is now the creator of a companion winter show, the January International Miami Orchid Festival. He teaches orchid related classes at Fairchild Tropical Gardens in Miami



More than 20 lectures a year fill his busy schedule which has included national orchid conferences in the US, Britain and Australia. He was a featured speaker at the World Orchid Conferences in Rio, Dijon and Kuala Lumpur, where he chaired the Hybridizer's Forum and was a panel member at the Commercial Grower's Forum. He publishes a monthly news letter; "This Month in Your Orchid Collection" geared to the special needs of orchid growers in South Florida and other tropical regions.

Mary Motes is author of the book, 'Orchid Territory, a Comic Novel'... full of humor and wicked comedy. Mary knows her territory! She was born in England and met her husband, Dr Martin Motes (before he became the world famous orchid grower), when both were teaching in Kosovo, Yugoslavia. Returning with him to South Florida, she helped create Motes

Orchids on five acres in Redland. Now she has more awarded orchids named after her than anyone else, one of the latest being *Vanda Mary Motes*, Best in Show, at the World Orchid Conference, Dijon, 2005. Something that makes her feel she should try and wear things that don't wrinkle and at least get her nails done. Check out Mary's blog at www.notjustorchids.blogspot.com. It's very interesting, with an article about *Vanda motesiana* and more about her books.

The article and photos above were stolen from the Florida West Coast orchid Society Newsletter, September 2008

VANDA CULTURE: **Vanda**

VAN-dah

The *Vanda* Alliance is made up mostly of warm- and full-sun-growing orchids with colorful flowers. Originating in tropical Asia, they are easily grown in warm climates, where plants are cultivated outside in light shade, such as in a lath house. In climates where winters are cold, they are often summered outside, and grown inside during the winter in a sunny window, or year round in a greenhouse. Smaller growing ascocendas are best outside in tropical conditions.

Light is a crucial factor in blooming most vandaceous plants. There are three types of vandas: strap-leaved, semi-terete and terete. The first type has broader, flat leaves, while terete types have round, pencil-shaped leaves. The semi-teretes are hybrids between the two, with an intermediate leaf shape. Terete types need full sun, and are best grown in high-light climates. In a greenhouse, give the plants about 25 to 35 percent shade, less in winter if overcast. Leaves should be a medium green, not dark green. In warm, bright climates, you can grow any type of *Vanda* outside (if warm) with partial shade for strap-leaved types and semi-teretes (especially in midday in summer) or inside (when cold) in a bright, south window. In climates where winters are overcast, try ascocendas. Grow them outside in summer and in full sun inside during the winter. Be careful to acclimatize plants to avoid burn.

Temperatures for most Vandas should be warm; a minimum night temperature of 55° F is recommended. Colder spells can be tolerated for a short time if it is not windy. Optimum temperatures are 60° to 70° F at night and a maximum of 95° F during the day. Warmer temperatures mean faster growth, which must be balanced with higher humidity, air movement, and increased water and fertilizer. Days should be warm and humid for optimum plant growth.

Water should be applied copiously when the plants are growing, but the roots must dry quickly. Because of this, and their extensive root system, they are mostly grown in slatted-wood baskets, or in pots with a coarse potting medium. If their situation is warm and sunny, they may need daily watering. Water sparingly in the winter or during cloudy weather.

Humidity of 80 percent is ideal. In tropical climates this may be easy to obtain. In a greenhouse, this is easier to provide by using an evaporative cooler. In the home, place the plants on trays of gravel partially filled with water. Air movement must be strong.

Fertilize with a balanced (such as 20-20-20) fertilizer applied full strength once a week during warm weather or use a one-quarter-strength solution at every watering. During cool or cloudy weather, apply fertilizer once every two to four weeks. Use a high-phosphorus fertilizer (such as 10-30-20) every third application to promote flowering.

Potting should be done in the spring. Plants in baskets do not need to be repotted often. Leave them unless the potting medium breaks down. Set the plant, with the old basket intact, into a container of water to make the aerial roots more pliable, and then set plant and basket into a larger basket. For plants in pots, repot in a slightly larger pot, positioning the plant in the center. Use a coarse medium, whether fir bark, tree fern or charcoal, and work it around the roots. Keep shaded, humid, but drier at the roots until new root tips grow. Do not overpot.

