



Vero Beach Orchid Society



August 2015

August Speaker Francisco Miranda

Miranda Orchids started in 1999 and is a nursery specializing in growing mainly selected *Cattleya* alliance species. In a sense, it is a continuation of Boa Vista Orchids, a nursery we ran in Brazil from 1986 until we moved to the U.S.A. Many of the plants available are produced in our lab and nursery in Central Florida from our extensive collection of stud plants. The rest we bring from Brazil to increase variety and novelty. Being native Brazilians, and having had a nursery for many years, we know that there is a lot of development in *Cattleya* species being done there. This is mostly because a lot of those species are native from Brazil (including all the bifoliate cattleyas) and because these plants are favorites of growers there. Of course having lived and grown orchids for a long time there we know most of the growers and what is being produced and we go there several times a year to make sure we are kept up-to-date. Miranda Orchids also grows other Brazilian species so if you are looking for something in particular do not hesitate in contact us. Our goal is to be your number one source for selected Brazilian Orchids.

Miranda Orchids is located between Orlando and Tampa, on the I-4 Central Florida corridor. Access is done by I-27 south from I-4 or from I-4 exit 48 south. We are about 4 miles in straight line south of I-4.

Miranda Orchids is own by Maria Cristina and Francisco Miranda, both born in Brazil and living in the U.S.A. since 1999.

Francisco Miranda

A taxonomist, naturalist and orchid grower, Francisco travels extensively in the U.S. and internationally speaking at orchid-related events and meetings. He has been doing this since 1988, while still living in Brazil. The subjects of these presentations (as shown in their own page here) reflect Francisco's extensive travels to study orchids in their natural environments.

Maria Cristina Miranda

Also a biologist, Cristina takes care of the lab production and day-to-day nursery operation.

Franciscos' topic will be on "The Genus *Laelia* in Brazil". *Laelia* orchids are a species we don't hear about much on their own, but are a part of many of the varieties of hybrids we have in our collections. It should be a very interesting presentation.

Francisco will be furnishing the raffle table and will be bringing plants to sell.

Members selling table closed.

August in Your Orchid Collection

By Dr. Martin Motes

August Climate Data

Average high: 90.6

Average low: 76.5

Average mean: 83.6

Average rainfall: 8.63"



Vanda Amy Glynn Creekmur

July and August are the two most similar months in South Florida. Most of the advice on watering, disease and pest control in last month's calendar still applies but subtle changes are taking place. Although it may not seem so, as temperatures climb into the low nineties most afternoons, summer is in retreat: each day a little shorter, each night a little longer. With shorter days the importance of watering as early in the morning as possible comes to the fore. With less hours of sunlight to dry the plants, extra care should be taken in choosing when to water. Back to the basics of the classic saying: If a vanda looks like it needs water, water it; If a cattleya or oncidium looks like it needs water, water it tomorrow. If a paph or a phal looks like it needs water, you should have watered it yesterday. If plants retain water even from an early morning watering, allowing them to dry a bit harder before the next watering is always a good idea. An extra day of drying rarely does harm.

August should provide numerous opportunities to dry each orchid to its desired level of dryness. Take the opportunity to dry your orchids "hard" at least once but preferably twice in August. This will give your orchids a leg up on their mortal enemies, the fungus, before the drizzle of September switches the advantage to our adversaries. August is definitely not the month to over indulge in water. September, the soggiest of months, is next up. The corollary to this calculated drying is the concept that when watering in August above all water thoroughly. If watering is necessary be sure that the roots and medium are totally saturated with the application. The drizzling rains of September are so detrimental precisely because they keep the foliage of the plants wet unduly long. We want our plants which are still growing to receive plenty of water but also plenty of drying time

Good air circulation and proper watering are the keys to disease prevention. Remember that your plants will have increased considerably in size by this point in the growing season. They have added extra growths and extra leaves across the summer. August is a good time to evaluate the spacing of our plants. Remember the old Florida saw that one needs a cat to grow good orchids because when properly spaced a cat should be able to navigate the benches between plants without knocking them over. While we cannot recommend specific chemicals, the county agent recommends Banrot, a convenient combination of Thiophanate-methyl and Truban which controls a number of leaf-spotting diseases and soft rots, for home owner use. A combination of Thiophanate-methyl and mancozeb has also been recommended. This can be found pre-packaged as Duosan. If one can overcome the aversion to chemicals and can learn the safe application of them, they are valuable tools to better orchid growing. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure especially before the soft, slow drizzle of September sets in

Lengthening nights in August mean cooler nighttime temperatures. Many sympodial orchids are reaching the end of their growing cycle and require less nitrogen. Cattleyas and oncidiums have maturing bulbs. Genera that become deciduous in winter like nobile dendrobiums, calanthes and catasetums should be given much less nitrogen in August to prevent them producing an unwanted off season growth and perhaps forgetting to flower. Substitute an additional application of potassium nitrate and Epsom salt (1 tbspc each per gal) instead of the balanced 20-20-20. Vandas will respond well to this also, as several of the parental species of our hybrids produce blooms on shortening day lengths and lower levels of nitrogen in their fertilizer seems to egg them on. As explicated in the last chapter, modern research indicates that orchids require less phosphorus than previously thought. This concept should lead us to more judicious use of phosphorus. Fertilizer high in phosphorus may still be of some value at the end of the growing season, perhaps not so much as stimulus as shock. One or two heavy applications in succession, a week or so apart will certainly provide all the phosphorus and all the stimulus (or wake up shock) our plants require to bloom.

Snails can be somewhat of a problem in August too, but left to multiply they will be in their full glory when those slow unrelenting rains of September set in. Control them with baits in pellet or liquid/paste form. Remember, these are baits, the pests are drawn to them. Therefore apply lightly, but frequently. Because they wash away in the heavy rains, baits should be reapplied every two weeks. One pellet every two to three feet will do the job, but one application will not. Given a choice, the smallest pellets baits are best. They keep us from over applying and also pose much less threat to neighborhood pets. A small bait in a Vanda crown is a nuisance, a large bait can be a disaster.

If you have been waiting to make cuttings of the terete vandas or reed stem epidendrums, you can wait no longer. The potting season is drawing absolutely to a close. Pot up those overgrown phals before they even think of spiking. Re-set those strap leaf vandas early in August whilst they still have just enough time to re-establish themselves in the September humidity and before the cool weather arrives and their root growth slows or stops. As in all seasons be sure that the plants are firmly set in their containers. There is no "wobble room" this late in the growing season to restart tender roots that have been chafed off a loosely set plant. As the cooler weather approaches try to give plants that have been repotted late more protection from the first cold snaps.

Tasks for August

Finish cutting teretes and reed stem epidendrums early in month
Reset strap leaf vandas early or not at all

Dry hard once or twice
Continue anti-fungal spray program
Apply snail bait lightly twice ten days apart

Editor's Note

First, we'd like to thank Jim Roberts for his discussion on Summer Growing. There were some very creative ideas to try if you're having problems with keeping your orchids happy in the heat. Thank you so much Jim.

Next, we have had a request to hold an auction at one of our society meetings. We discontinued them temporarily because we didn't have enough seller and those that did sell, weren't getting very good prices for their plants. So, if you're interested in selling at an auction, please let me know by emailing to the newsletter address. We need to know there is enough interest in order for it to be worthwhile for the sellers as well as the buyers. We're even willing to bend the rules for the number of plants a seller can sell. If you have more than 10, we'll allow you to bring them. Our plan is to schedule it for the October meeting if we have the interest. So please let us know by the end of August.

Lastly, for those of you who were at the last meeting and wanted the recipe from Darlene's Candy, here it is:

White Elephant Candy

8 cups Golden Graham Cereal
2 cups lightly salted peanuts
24 oz. almond bark

Melt almond bark in microwave and pour over cereal and peanuts. Mix well and pour on cookie sheet. Put in freezer 15 to 20 minutes. Break into pieces. ENJOY!

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Vero Beach Orchid Society
P.O. Box 543
Vero Beach, FL 32961

Newsletter email: vbosnewsletter@hotmail.com
Website: www.verobeachorchidsociety.org
Society Email: vbos@bellsouth.net

DUES FOR 2014: SINGLE MEMBER DUES \$15.00

FAMILY DUES: \$20.00

**OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE AUGUST 20TH, 2015, AT
GARDEN CLUB OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, 2526 17TH AVENUE VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960
THE MEETING WILL START AT 7:00 PM**