



September 09

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YOUR FREE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Members & Friends

A very dear member of our PAOS family suffered a great loss recently and we ask you for your emotional support to Carlos and Carmen Segre in this difficult moment. Your prayers are welcome.

Last meeting Nina Rach gave a beautiful presentation on the flora of the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest, Sue shared some information on a possible trip to Cuba to collect orchids guided by the curator of Key West Botanical Garden, besides Mirta's class, as usual.

In July we responded to the Church's calling for donations of orchids and volunteers to place them around the building. They were very appreciative and during our last meeting Sue Samuels, our president, read to all present the beautiful letter of appreciation we received from the Church.

We are looking forward to our next meeting and its presenter. Read on to learn more.

And don't forget to tend to those baby Dendrobiums you received in May: they are due back in November. The Dendrobium Challenge is still on. **PAOS**



August Ribbon Winners

If you missed our last meeting, you can enjoy the beautiful display of orchids in the judging table through the photographs taken by Jean Wilson, who returned with her camera ready. The winning plants grace our issue and are named together with their owners on page 9. **PAOS**

Refreshments for September

The Board and the whole of PAOS is grateful to our Refreshments Team volunteers who provided us with a very nice variety of dishes. We are looking forward to being surprised by our September Refreshments Team Volunteers.

Nancy Edwards, Diana González, Cathy Pariser, Elizabeth Pettit, Maria Valls and Gail Weber will provide the refreshments for our next meeting. If the past tables are any indication of how determined the volunteers are to impress our palates, you better be ready for September.

We are grateful to our last group of volunteers for their diligence in the kitchen and their over all organization. **PAOS**



September at PAOS

Next Meeting

When: Tuesday, September 15, 2009, 7:30 PM

Where: Christ The King Lutheran Church

11295 SW 57th Avenue (Red Road)

Mirta's class *Oncidiums Part II* and *Paphilopediums* starts at 7 PM

September's Speaker



Florida receives an average of 53 inches of rainfall per year. Most of this water washes over lawns and pavement carrying fertilizers and other chemicals into local waterways. An inch of rainfall over a 1000 sq.ft. area yields in excess of 600 gallons of water. A rain barrel is an inexpensive means of capturing and storing some of this water for later use. By installing a rain barrel you'll not only help reduce pollution, but you'll also have a supply of free, non-chlorinated, soft water for irrigating your landscape!

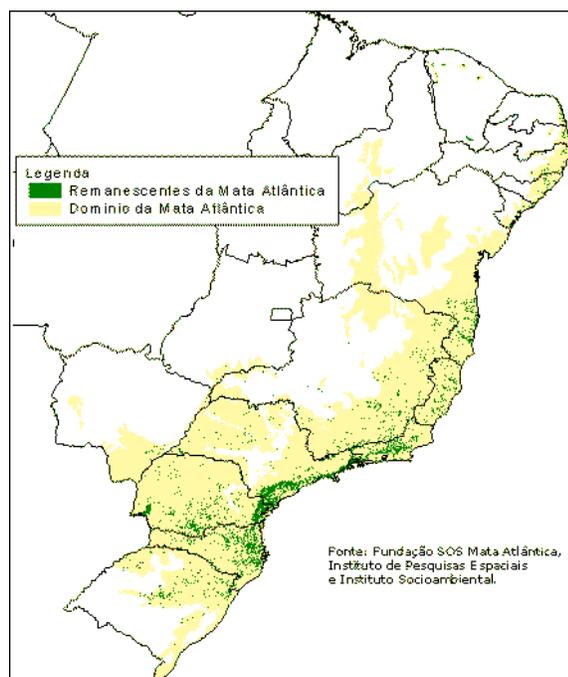
Barbara McAdam from the University of Florida and also with the Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension Service is our guest speaker this Month. Barbara will be giving us a 45-minute PowerPoint presentation on water capture, methods, uses, storage, etc. She also teaches workshops on the same subject. If anyone is interested in putting what you will learn to good practical use, speak with Barbara after the presentation. The workshops last two hours, you will receive your first barrel for water collection, and the price is \$45. **PAOS**

Last Month's Presentation

I don't believe any one enjoyed last month's presentation more than Rebecca and I. We have not been back to my home country, Brazil, for a long time and it was very nice to see its beauties paraded to the whole group. Best of all, my two favorite states were represented: Rio de Janeiro where I was born, and Bahia where I grew up. What a treat!

Botany is not Nina Rach's expertise, nor is orchid growing. Like you and I, she loves the plants and learned as her involvement with them grew. She still struggles to get one or other species growing, it hurts not to be able to possess the beautiful plants she stumbles upon in her travels, but she would not give the experiences up, though.

Nina's passion has taken her to incredible places, some of which we were able to see in the very beautiful slide show she put together for us. Her presentation took us to some of Brazil's national parks and natural reserves, orchid growers' orchid houses, and a few special stops along the way. (cont'd on pg 10)



PAOS Members Page

Featured Member

What was your first “Orchid Moment”? When did you realize you had fallen in love? We would like to share those experiences with our other members. And it can be a beautiful picture with its story, an original piece of literature or a personal anecdote. Let us know by writing to Gio at giolester@gmail.com.



Mirta's Classes

Mirta is not your typical teacher. And she is not an orchid expert. So, why would we flock to her classes at our meetings? Exactly because she is not a typical teacher nor an expert!



Mirta's classes are fun, she welcomes questions and uses anecdotal examples to make the material come to life. And more: at the end of each class, the “teacher” retires and the “doctor” opens her clinic. Students bring in their sick plants, or parts thereof, for her diagnosis and treatment recommendations.

Last class was about Oncidiums. It is a large family: Brassias, Aspacias, Miltonias, Miltasias and a few other genera belong here.

When discussing light requirements for the alliance, Mirta refers back to her personal experience. She had her plants in shade and they grew nicely but they never bloomed. Currently, she has them under the same light conditions required for Dendrobiums (good light at all

times, but not direct sun), and now they flower. Mirta's light gauge is very simple: “If the leaves are thin and soft, reduce the light; if instead they are thick and stiff, increase it.” During the winter, Mirta moves her flowers to brighter locations. The sunlight is much softer during the winter season.

Mirta's Brassia Caudata seats in almost total shade and it flowers, but her “Equitans” and Tolumnias prefer bright light and moving air.

Oncidiums are heat tolerant – they can take up to 100° F. However, they prefer temperatures of 80° F to 85° F. At night, Mirta's plants have been exposed to temperatures as low as 50° F and survived.

For potting medium Mirta recommends straight charcoal: great drainage, allows for air flow, protects plants from mold and promotes good growth. The media and the size of the pot will also influence the amount of water the plant will require. A good way for determining water requirements is to, again, observe the leaves: long and thin leaves mean your plant is doing just great, do not increase watering(s), it may be good to space them farther; if the leaves are large and stiff, the plant needs more water.

Recommended humidity is between 50 and 60%, and on the next class we will discuss fertilizing, potting and repotting. If time allows, we will also start on Paphilopediums. So, don't forget to bring a notepad, a pen and take notes. If you happen to have a plant in need of special attention, the “Doctor” always shows up at the end of the class for special dispensations. 

From the Board

Summary of September Meeting Minutes

Board of directors meeting, September 2, 2009

In attendance:

Sue Samuels	Joanne Brown
Ghislaine Green	Giovanna Lester (host)
Shirley Berkman	Catherine Pendlebury

Absent: Erna Maxwell, Georgia Ruiz, Carlos & Carmen Segrera

The meeting was convened at 9:00 PM.

The Treasurer's Report presented by Joanne Brown was approved.

Starting balance:	2,778.23	
Income:	1,330.86	
Expenses:	550.00	
Balance:	3,559.09	– checking account
Other income:	7,809.10	– other banking
Balance forward:	11,368.19	

Reduction of expenses and the development of fundraising activities were at the core of our meeting. Possibilities raised:

- Reduce speaker related expenses without sacrificing quality by sharing speakers with other groups
- Sales of arrangements to upscale stores/malls. Arrangements would be provided by CS Orchids for a fee, and sold at the stores/malls by PAOS volunteers;
- Raffles at HomeDepot stores combined with classes on orchid care;
- Increase membership fee;
- Reduction in the number or type of bonuses given to members as incentives and awards for participation in PAOS activities.

Further actions planned:

- Joanne Brown will provide the Board with a budget for last year and a projected budget for this year;
- The Board will ask Georgia Ruiz to research and provide information about who to contact at Home Depot and upscale stores/malls;
- The Board will start planning fundraising activities aiming for the Thanksgiving holiday;
- the Board shall approach the membership regarding the hardships facing PAOS.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM. Our next Board meeting will be on 10/7, no location has been determined.

Submitted for approval by

Giovanna Lester, Secretary. 

From the Board

The Board wants to share with our members the beautiful letter received from the Christ the King Lutheran Church Interim Pastor Rev. John Manrodt. Your efforts are welcome and appreciated. That is how PAOS grows, through your actions and dedication to our community. 



Christ The King Lutheran Church

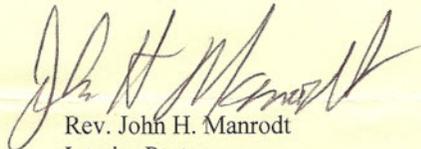
June 22, 2009

Pan American Orchid Society
c/o C. S. Orchids, Inc.
4912 SW 75 Avenue
Miami, FL 33155-4439

Dear Members of the Pan American Orchid Society:

On behalf of the congregation of Christ The King Lutheran Church I want to thank you for donating so many orchids to help beautify our campus and for the efforts of so many of your volunteers who expertly affixed them to our trees. This Sunday our members were treated to the beauty of nature as we worshiped God. Each day will remind us of your contributions. We are pleased that you have chosen our facility in which to hold your monthly meetings, and will encourage our members to take part in your activities. Thank you once again.

Sincerely,



Rev. John H. Manrodt
Interim Pastor

11295 S. W. 57th Avenue • Miami, Florida 33156
(305) 665-5063

PAOS GALLERY



PAOS GALLERY



August Ribbon Award Winners

Special Award

Milt. spectabile var. moreliana 'Paul' Jean Wilson

Page & #

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First Place

Bc. Binosa.....	Bill Harward	
Den. Magnum.....	Maria Cerna	cover
Lc. Joung Jua 'Bourdette Stewart' x		
Blc. Chinese Bronze 'Taichi'.....	Pat Chen Yin	8, 2
Onc. Varicosum 'Baldwin' x		
Brassidium Aloha 'Elizabeth' (first bloom).....	Pat Chen Yin	
Trctm (Maureen x Haematachilum).....	Pat Chen Yin	8, 4
C. luteola.....	Mirta Heineman	7, 2
Den. lichenastrum.....	Mirta Heineman	
Hexisia imbicata.....	Mirta Heineman	10
Bl. Marfitch "Howard's Dream".....	Gio Lester	
V. crownfox forest 'Decadent'.....	Elizabeth Pettit	2, 2
B. Jimmy Cricket x Lc. Burning Star.....	Ivis & Jorge Rodriguez	7, 1
Brassavola Perrinii x self.....	Ivis & Jorge Rodriguez	8, 1
Blc. Toshie Goki Pizazz.....	Ivis & Jorge Rodriguez	2, 1
Pct. Hoku Gem Freckles.....	Mildred Rodriguez	7, 4
Den. Firnisyn x V. gigantem.....	Gail Weber	
Ctna. Jamaica Red.....	Jean Wilson	8,6
Ctna. Starlynn (Why Not x Capri).....	Jean Wilson	7,3

Second Place

Brassia caudata.....	Mirta Heineman	
C. forbesii.....	Mirta Heineman	
Brassia caudata.....	Haydee Navas	4
Milt. moreliana x div. of 'Paul'.....	Gail Weber	

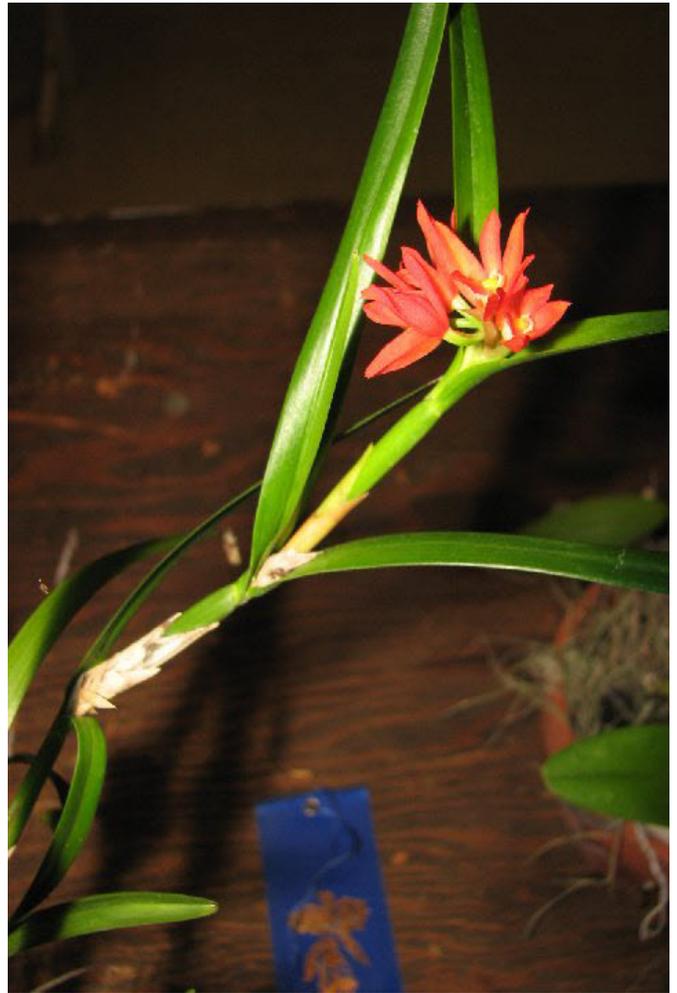
Third Place

Den. bracteosum 'Pink' x Den.		
bracteosum 'White'.....	Mildred Rodriguez	
Blc. Mailkai.....	Mildred Rodriguez	
Mtdm. Pupukea Sunset.....	Gio Lester	

Last Month's Presentation - cont'd

We learned that Brazil's Atlantic Rainforest is now less than 1/10th its original size and has all but disappeared at certain points. However, the diversity of its flora, specially orchids, is still present. The Atlantic Rainforest stretches from the State of Bahia in Brazil's Northeast all the way down to the State of Santa Catarina in Brazil's southern region. Because it runs along Brazil's coast, some of the plants do get exposure to salt water which they seem to bear quite well. Also, variations in altitude, climate, light conditions and proximity to the ocean results in the distribution of very different species of orchids throughout the rainforest.

Reading the map: Key [green] - existing Atlantic Rainforest, [yellow] Original domain of the Atlantic Rainforest. Source: SOS Atlantic Rainforest Foundation, Institute for Space Research, and Socio-environmental Institute. **PAOS**



PAOS News

The monthly newsletter of the **PanAmerican Orchid Society**, affiliated with the American Orchid Society

On the cover: Dendrobium Magnun, by **Jean Wilson**

Photos: **Jean Wilson** unless otherwise noted

Editor: **Gio Lester**

President: **Sue Samuels**

1st Vice president: **Carmen Segrera**

2nd Vice President : **Shirley Berckmans**

URL: www.angelfire.com/super2/panamorchild

Blog: <http://paos09.wordpress.com/>

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Business card size: \$15	-	¼ page: \$20
½ page: \$25	-	Full page: \$30

Your services or goods will be published in the electronic and print versions of the newsletter and distributed to our membership, our sponsors and related businesses.

The newsletter is a benefit provided to you by the Pan American Orchid Society and is included in your membership dues. **PAOS**