

Dear Members and Friends

Our Auction on March 16 yielded a positive balance which is reflected in our Treasurer's Report. We would like to extend a special Thank You to all the members who donated plants: Parting with your cherished possessions is not an easy task and we hope that the goal of assisting our Pan American Orchid Society grow made it more than worth your sacrifice.

Many orchid growers also made donations to our event and we would like to acknowledge their role in helping our group remain strong and financially healthy. In no particular order, we would like to recognize the contributions of RF Orchids, Ruben in Orchids, Carmela Orchids, efg, Whimsy, Amazonia, OFE, H & R Nurseries and Orchis. These businesses have showed us their support by extending us special pricing and also straight nonations of plants. We encourage you to show your gratitude by giving them your preference when replacing plants, increasing your collections or buying supplies.

The Board

This Month at PAOS

AOS Judging is coming to PAOS!

Turn the page to read more...

In this issue:

This Month at PAOS (cont'd)	2
South Florida Orchid Events	2
The Costa Rica Experience	3
Redlands International Orchid Festival	4, 5
From the Board	5
AOS Corner	6

This Month at PAOS—continued

Next Meeting:

WHEN: Tuesday, April 20, 7:00 PM

WHERE: Christ the King Lutheran Church, 11295 SW Red Road (SW 57 Ave)

Did you ever wonder what the abbreviations – CCM, RHS, FCC, AM, AD, AQ, etc. – stand for? Or how to earn a coveted acronym for your orchid? Well, make sure not to miss our next meeting, then.

On April 20 we will be hosting five AOS

judges who will lecture on the judging process, including requirements and – drum roll

It is a great opportunity to learn and, who knows, to even win an AOS award.

here – they will also judge your plants! Make sure they are at their best and bring them over. It is a great opportunity to learn and, who knows, to even win an AOS award.

This month's Refreshment Team is our Board. And we take this opportunity to

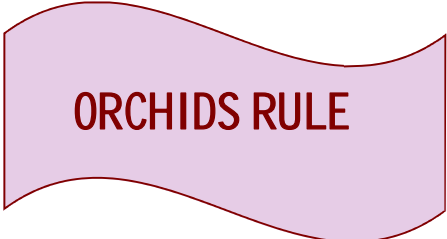
thank all our members who came to our last meeting and delighted us with your culinary contributions.

South Florida Orchid events

ORCHID



East Everglades Orchid Society
Is holding it's annual
ORCHID AUCTION
Tuesday April 28, 2010
at the University of Florida
Miami-Dade Extension Bldg.
18710 SW 288 St
Homestead, Fl
Time 7:00 PM
Free Admittance and Refreshments...



Spring Orchid Festival
presented by St. Germain Orchids

April 16-18, 2010
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
18290 S.W. 254 Street
Homestead, FL 33031

Free Admission
A spectacular festival of exotic orchids in a picturesque garden setting. Peruse the beautiful blooms while savoring a mouth-watering barbecue, luscious desserts, beverages and live entertainment. Receive free tips on orchid care. Orchid repotting services available.
www.StGermainOrchids.com

Ruben in Orchids Steimar Gardens Hennington Farms Carib Plants Broward Orchid Supply Plantio de Orquidea & many more...



On The Road Again!

We have such great fun and get such good bargains on our bus trips that we are doing it again! Don't miss out!

Saturday, June 12, 2010
All Day West Coast Orchid Grower's Trip

Fender Flora, Venice
Venice Orchids, Venice
Orchid Mania, Myakka City
Palmer Orchids, Bradenton

Four fabulous growers showing us their nurseries and extending special offers to us.

Leaving Miami at 6AM
Returning by 11 PM

Price includes: Round trip in air-conditioned bus
Snacks, lunch, drinks
Games and raffles

Price: **\$45.00** COS Member
\$50.00 Non-Member

Reserve your seat early. Guests Welcome
For more information Call Mirta 786-242-4715



The Costa Rica Experience

- by Mirta Russis Heineman



Our trip to this "Coast of Riches" was a beautiful experience for us poor city dwellers who live surrounded by cars in traffic jams, paved streets, and concrete houses. We were enriched by our week of contact with nature - just the way the good Lord created it.

We had the opportunity to see oodles of orchids dripping from trees - a tremendous variety of the little beauties, many of which we had never seen before. We were surrounded by beautiful mountainsides, waterfalls, coffee plantations, and innumerable other gifts of nature. I so enjoy pristine beauty.

The people of Costa Rica were most charming and helpful: very courteous, friendly and always ready to help. They are very proud of their country and its rich beauties.

The thing that impressed me the most in Costa Rica is how the public in general is so conscious of re-cycling and conservation. In the parks that we visited we could always see a container to collect trash and next to it a bin to collect recyclable material. In each of our hotel rooms they had a container to collect reusable materials. They re-process paper for many uses.

In the area of water conservation we could see that many farms around San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, employ water barrels to collect rainwater for drip irrigation. They also convert falling water into hydro-electric power. For that reason the cost per kilowatt is very small for their people.

Another example of conservation can be seen in their coffee plantations. Since the coffee shrubs absorb a lot of potassium from the soil, they counter this by locating plantain plants among the coffee shrubs. The plantains contain lots of potassium and replenish the soil.

They are also very careful not to contaminate the soil and water, and to use natural fertilizers. A plant is being built to produce a totally organic fertilizer with no chemicals added. It will also provide employment to many rural residents.

We visited many other places, such as a Butterfly Garden, the Orchid Botanical Garden, the Lankester Gardens, the volcano Poas, the San Jose Orchid Show and the private collection of Ileana Teran, a member of one of the most influential families in Costa Rica. She owns an extensive collection of orchids - with emphasis in *C. skinneris*

The bonding that was intensified among our own people who went on the trip was impressive. We were already united by our common love for orchids.

All in all, our entire trip was a memorable learning experience. Next time, when we plan a trip, make every effort not miss to it.

14th Redlands International Orchid Festival



14th Annual
**REDLAND
INTERNATIONAL
ORCHID FESTIVAL**

May 14-16, 2010

9:00AM - 5:00PM

Fruit & Spice Park
24801 SW 187th Ave.
Homestead, Florida

*America's Favorite
Orchid Festival!*

admission only \$7

South Florida's largest and most well-known orchid festival. Vendors and growers from all over the world, AOS judging, walking tours, lectures, supplies, and more. Click below to visit their site:

<http://www.redlandorchidfestival.org/>

CALL TO VOLUNTEERS

PAOS Schedule for the Redlands International Orchid Festival

Thursday, May 13— Receive trailers, beverages and ice deliveries. Set up trailer.

Friday, May 14—Arrive before opening to man the trailers. Stay after closing to close-up.

Saturday, May 15—Arrive before opening to man the trailers. Stay after closing to close-up.

Sunday, May 16—Arrive before opening to man the trailers. Stay after closing for break-down.

Different sets of volunteers can work together and take turns during the day. Those interested in volunteering should contact Sue Samuels (305-669-4805).

From the Board

April 3, 2010 meeting

IN ATTENDANCE:

Michelle Briois (hostess)	Giovanna Lester
Shirley Berckmans	Sue Samuels
Carlos and Carmen Segrera	Joanne Brown

The meeting was called to order at 1 PM. President Sue Samuels reminded the secretary to send thank-you note to members who brought plants to the auction in March and to also mention our gratitude in the newsletter. Special thank-yous to nurseries that donated plants: Whimsy, Rubens in Orchids, Amazonia, OFE, H & R Nurseries, Orchis, RF Orchids, Carmella and efg.

Carmen Segrera confirmed the schedule for the AOS judging during our next meeting on April 20. There will be 5 (five) judges, lecturing on the judging process, and the judging itself. Members should bring their own plants for judging. Secretary will send out a notice ahead of the newsletter, and mention the judging again in the newsletter.

Joanne Brown brought in the Treasurer's Report:

Starting balance:	\$ 2,451.57
Income:	\$ 2,727.02
Expenses:	\$ 731.50
Balance:	\$ 4,447.09 – checking account
Other income:	\$ 5,490.82 – money market and CD
Balance forward:	\$ 9,937.91

Joanne also reminded the board that some renewals are pending. Carlos Segrera made a motion for the board to accept the report; the motion was seconded by Carmen and approved unanimously.

Regarding the Redland Show, Carlos Segrera will print and distribute discount cards for the vendors entitling them to one beverage at cost; PAOS volunteers will pay \$1 donation for beverages. Carlos will provide Sue the contact information for Coke so she can handle the 2008 rebate issue. Sue will greet the Coke delivery crew on Thursday. Shirley will man the trailer Friday. Carlos will be at the Park working for the event, but not for PAOS.

Carlos shared with the board the procedures for setting up and close down for the Redlands Show, which are to be placed in a Procedures Manual. Sue will make an inspection visit and discuss possibility of getting assistance from park personnel to load the trailers. Carlos will speak with Robert about renting the golf kart to move merchandise.

This is an election year and the board has selected a group of possible Nominating Committee members to be contacted by phone to confirm their availability and willingness to participate in the process.

The board will be the refreshments team this month.

Submitted for approval by Giovanna Lester, PAOS Secretary

AOS Corner

AOS Corner - Why Do You Grow Orchids?

A few weeks ago I received a phone call from a new orchid grower who is blind. The caller was looking for audio information on growing orchids and so they contacted the American Orchid Society. I had a couple of cd's handy so I sent them to her. Guess what – there was no audio on them –oops! So then I found a VHS tape on EBay about growing orchids under lights. That worked better but there is still a lot of information that is shown and not described. So I am looking for someone who will tape (micro cassette) orchid education programs given at their society and send them to her. If you would consider helping please let me know at affiliated_societies@aos.org She, her name is LaVonne, lives in Bismarck, ND and she grows hibiscus as well as succulents. LaVonne also has a few orchids, a phalaenopsis and a dendrobium.

As I was looking for audio material people kept asking me, “why would a blind person want to grow orchids?” So I asked LaVonne – can you guess the answer? For the challenge! She enjoys the plants she currently grows but now wants something more challenging. LaVonne and I have had some great telephone conversations about orchids, she described how she feels a plant to determine if something is a keki or a new growth. I told her about fragrant orchids, miniature orchids and orchids with fuzzy stems she might want to consider. LaVonne had no idea there were so many types of orchids out there. Now she really wants a Brassavola nodosa and a Paphiopedilum Pinocchio but she has to wait for warmer weather. To me this is what orchid societies are all about – orchid people helping other orchid people become better orchid growers. I am constantly amazed at the pleasure our orchids give us in one way or another.

“...this is what orchid societies are all about – orchid people helping other orchid people become better orchid growers.”

Become a Great Orchid Grower – Support your local Orchid Society and the American Orchid Society.

Carol Holdren
AOS Trustee
AOS Affiliated Society Committee Chair

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2nd Vice President: Shirley Berckmans

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YOUR FREE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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*PanAmerican Orchid Society
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American Orchid Society*