July Meeting • Tuesday, July 1, 2014 • 7:30pm
Beginner’s Class - 6:45 pm

Roger Hammer, naturalist, author

Wild Orchids of Florida

We are please to have with us this month our friend Roger Hammer speaking on “Wild Orchids of Florida.”

Roger retired in 2010 from Miami Dade Parks Department where he was the senior naturalist. He is a part-time instructor and fieldtrip leader for Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens and serves on the Board of Directors for Tropical Audubon Society. Roger also has an Honorary Doctor of Science from Florida International University.

Roger was the Keynote Speaker at the 19th World Orchid Conference in 2008 and the Opening Ceremony Speaker at the 11th World Orchid Conference in 1984, both held in Miami. He also was the Keynote Speaker at the 2009 Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden annual meeting.

Roger has received numerous awards including the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award, Charles Brookfield Medal, Green Palmetto Award in Education and the Lifetime (Continued on page 3)
Hello fellow OSCG members,

We have started off with a very hot, extremely muggy summer! And now, as I write this, we may have our first tropical weather soon. After living here now for seven years, it is still amazing to me how quickly the summer rains begin, like someone up above just turns on the faucet.

I hope that everyone has been doing their preventative fungicide spraying, and then continuing on a maintenance cycle. It is extremely important in these high humidity and very wet conditions to keep that up.

And I hope that everyone has finished their repotting chores before these rains hit - what’s that? Wishful thinking? I have to admit I didn’t get to repot all of the ones I wanted to either. I am now waiting until next year, rather than risk repotting in this weather.

Summer months are also, to our chagrin, good for the pests too! Scale and spider mites love the weather and the havoc it causes. Keep your eyes peeled for these little critters. Scale especially loves Cattleyas, and mites love the thin leafed plants like the Catasetinae group and Stanhopeas and Gongoras.

One last thought about our summer months: be prepared ahead of time to store your orchids during a storm. I know that everyone hates to speak of the “H” word, but think ahead about which plants you may try to get inside or into a safe place, or what else you may need to do in case a bad storm comes.

On the bright side, last month’s auction went very well. Thanks to all the support of the members, and thank you very much to all the members who helped picking up donations, buying plants, and during the auction itself.

The biggest and best thank you goes to JoAnn Forbes, the auction chairperson. She had it so organized every step of the way that it ran like a well-oiled machine! She was amazing and is a true society angel! Thank you, JoAnn!

This is the last month to pay your dues to get into the new roster. It will be distributed next month. Please check at the Welcome Table to make sure that your information is correct.

Jim’s Beginner Class will be about Summer Orchids and Summer Growing. 6:45 pm.

Enjoy some of the pictures from our auction, taken by Ron Rosenthal.

Melana

Roger is also a prolific author and will have his books at the meeting to sell (cash or checks only). We hope you will join us for this very special program.

Encyclia tampensis

Calopogon multiflorus

Prosthechea cochleata

Dendrophyllax lindenii

One of our members should win this!

2014 Dillon/Peterson Essay Contest

The theme for the 2014 competition is: Growing Orchids; Art or Science? Membership in the American Orchid Society is not necessary to enter the contest. The deadline is November 30, 2014. The winning entry, if any, will be published in the June issue of the following year.

Contest Rules:
♦ The essay must be an original, unpublished article.
♦ The contest is open to all persons except employees of the American Orchid Society and their immediate families.
♦ Submissions must be no more than 5,000 words in length.
♦ Manuscripts must be submitted in English, typewritten and double-spaced.
♦ Submissions will be judged without knowledge of the identity of the author. The decision of the judges is final. If no entries meet the expected criteria of excellence, the award will be withheld.
♦ Artwork is not necessary for entering this competition.
♦ Non-winning entries will be returned to the contestant if requested. Such entries are eligible for resubmission in subsequent contests. These non-winning entries will also be considered for publication by the editor of Orchids and may be used in Orchids or other AOS publications including the AOS website. Submissions will not be eligible for consideration in future contests. Submit all entries to the Dillon/Peterson Memorial Essay Prize at AOS headquarters:
Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, Florida 33156
Tasks for July from Dr. Motes

- **Dry plants hard once or twice.**
- **Apply liquid fertilizer instead of water during dry patches.**
- **Watch for Thrips when rain has been sparse for several days.**
- **Finish top cutting and planting of vandaceous genera.**

July in Your Orchid Collection from Dr. Motes

July Climate Data
- Average high: 90.9
- Average low: 76.5
- Average mean: 83.7
- Average rainfall: 5.79"  

Although it mostly passes unnoticed to millions locked in their air-conditioned bubbles, July in South Florida is quite different from June. While the pattern of afternoon showers built from the moisture of the morning’s sea breeze persists in July, the thunder-storms are sharper and shorter. The clouds linger less and the foliage dries more quickly. Less quantity of rain falls in July than in June and periods of several days typically pass without a drop. This is good news for orchid growers. July (and August) allows orchidists to focus on the first essential of orchid growing, drying the plant out.

Frequently, neophyte growers ask "What if I go away for several weeks in the summer and there is no one to water the plants?" The response is "That's wonderful". Experienced growers use the break in the rainfall during July and August to dry their plants "hard". Depriving orchids of water for several days until they and the media or baskets they grow in are bone dry is essential to good orchid culture. By drying the plants hard, one deals a severe blow to orchid's natural enemy, fungus. Orchids have evolved to withstand drought because fungus can not. During severe drought fungus' only defense is to cease all growth and retreat into a spore stage. Hopefully (and with good cultural management) these pathogens will not be aroused from this slumber until the first drizzle of September sets in, allowing our plants two months to mature and harden their growth making them less vulnerable to the September conditions which give some advantage again to the fungi.

Careful watering and judicious drying will do more than any other practice to ensure healthy plants. Drought is the orchid plants armor against disease. Be sure that your plants dry as completely as the weather of July permits. Nonetheless, as our plants are in full growth they need adequate water in July therefore after a hard drying, orchid plants need a thorough re-hydration. If the next rain fall is insufficient to saturate pot, roots and media, the grower should add to the natural moisture until he is sure both roots and media are saturated, using two or three applications of water spaced a few minutes apart. When the plants stop dripping is the time to apply the next dose of water. Don't stop watering until the "heft" of the pot tells you that it is holding as much water as it can.

More typically in July, orchidists should use these opportunities when more moisture is required to substitute fertilizer for water and saturate the roots and the media in
the same thorough manner. In July typically think of fertilizing rather than watering. Weekly applications of a commonly available balanced fertilizer (20-20-20 or 18-18-18) at two teaspoons per gal. will supply the nutrients that our plants require in this period of lush growth. This balanced formula should be alternated every other week with potassium nitrate and Epsom salts (one tablespoon each) to supply the extra magnesium and potassium we now know are plants need on a regular basis.

Even better (although not so readily available) lower phosphorus fertilizers containing extra magnesium and calcium with a formula like Peter’s Excel (15-5-15) have been shown to be the precise fertilizer our plants need. This formula is recommended year round. Hopefully such orchid specific fertilizers will become more widely available. Lowering the phosphorus intake of our plants is particularly important in South Florida because of our alkaline water. Always apply fertilizer in the same way as water, in two to three doses spaced a few minutes apart. Apply the fertilizer to the point of "run off", IE. when the solution starts to fall off the plants; stop and move on to the next plant. Repeat the application a few minutes later when the plants stop dripping. In July more than ever, never, never follow the frequently heard and disastrously bad advice of watering before fertilizing. Always substitute fertilizer for water: now and at every season. Roots saturated with water cannot absorb fertilizer but the prolonged wetness can rot your plants. Don't give fungus the upper hand by wetting the plant's foliage and roots more often or longer than necessary. Careful watering is especially important throughout the rainy season.

The wise orchidist will have long since finished all of his potting of sympodials and the top working of his vandas but for the rest of us this is the eleventh hour. Autumn is closer than we think and vandas will need at least three months to settle in to their new baskets or pots before the first chill of October tickles their root tips. Unless you can protect them thoroughly from cold, Vanda top cuttings and keikies should not be made after the end of July. If you do take cuttings remember the "3 root rule". Count down from the crown and make the cutting beneath the third or fourth root. Keep as many leaves as possible on the stump and you will be rewarded with a greater abundance of offshoots. Always slip the sterile knife or shears down between the stem and the leaves and then cut transversely to save as many leaves as possible. Be sure to anchor the cutting firmly in its new lodging. Tie them up and tie them down! There is no time for mistakes in July.

Thrips are much less of a problem in July as the rain tends to wash them away and doubtless there is an abundance of other lush fodder for them elsewhere in our yards. They can reappear in a prolonged patch of dryness, so if you need to think of watering in July it may be dry enough to worry about Thrips. A prophylactic spraying for Thrips in July will also put a damper on scale crawlers. If a second spraying with soap follows the first by seven to 10 days, the population of mites will be scotched as well.

(We thank Dr. Martin Motes for allowing us to reprint his monthly web newsletter.)
Important Notice of Date Change

In order to accommodate an out of state speaker, we will be changing the meeting day of our October meeting from Tuesday, October 7 to Thursday, October 9. Please mark your calendars for the change!

The speaker will be Fred Clarke from California who will be giving one of his great lectures. The last time he was here he spoke on Catasetums, so this time it will be something different, to be announced.

In addition, we will be sharing our meeting with the South Dade Amateur Orchid Club. It is their normal meeting date so we have invited them over to enjoy the meeting with us!

Don’t miss this fantastic speaker! He gets raves wherever he talks and he is in high demand, which is why we have had to adjust our calendar for him. We apologize for any inconvenience, but it will be well worth it! More info will come in the next months.
Cattleya

Cattleyas this month require careful attention to their watering and fertilizing needs owing to characteristically high temperatures. Evaporative cooling is a must in areas of the country where it is effective. Where it is not (the more humid regions), care needs to be paid to proper venting to keep temperatures within reason. Bottom vents in conjunction with top vents provide enough rising airflow to help keep plants cool. Increased air flow lessens humidity and dries plants out more quickly, necessitating more frequent damping down and watering, in areas where high humidity is not a problem. Higher light and heat indicate more fertilizer. The growths your plants are making now are the source of this autumn, winter and spring’s blooms, so applying adequate fertilizer this month is the best way to ensure future blooms. Higher temperatures and humidity may also lead to fungal or bacterial rot problems, so it is important to closely observe your plants for any early indication of problems. Pests are also at a high point this month for the same reason.

Paphiopedilum

Cooling and air circulation are especially critical in these two months to prevent stress and avoid disease problems. Watering needs to be closely monitored to ensure that plants do not dry out. Warmer-growing hybrids will be at the peak of their blooming, with attention needing to be paid to staking of spikes. Look for water lodging in growths, which can rot emerging spikes and lead to the loss of the entire growth.

Phalaenopsis

Most, if not all, potting should be complete by now. This month and next are when these plants achieve their maximum growth. This growth will be that from which they set their spikes for the coming season. The more leaves the plants grow, the better potential for spiking will be realized. Growers in cooler areas such as the Pacific coast have the advantage this month, should they choose, of cooling for early season spikes. Lots of heat and light call for liberal applications of water and fertilizer.

Oncidium intergenerics

Many of the intergeneric crosses between odontoglossums and oncidiums, such as Odontocidium, Wilsonara and Colmanara, will be blooming now. Take special care to train the spikes for best floral display. Keep plants under fairly shady conditions. Watch for snails and slugs.

Vandaceous

Plants will be growing quickly now and really enjoying the hot humid days so similar to their native habitat. Watch for pests though, as many of these also enjoy the same conditions as the plants. Check flower spikes so that they can extend unimpeded for the best flower presentation later.
Photos from the June Auction meeting!

Welcome
New Member!

Teresa Gilmore
Terri Grubb

We Are So Glad You Have Joined Us!!

Photos by Ron Rosenthal.
Thank You, Lou!
Sunday July 27, 2014
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
7:30am to 4:30pm

Speakers:
Mr. Manolo Arias, Peruflora           “Orchids of Peru”
Mr. Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids   “Unusual Species for the Cattleya Grower”
Mr. Bruce Rogers, The Orchid Whisperer “Sobralias”
Dr. Ron Kaufman, University of San Diego, Environmental Studies “Orchid Conservation”

Plant sales from Peruflora and Gold Country Orchids
Silent Auction and Raffle Table
A.O.S. Judging
Breakfast and Lunch included

Tickets are $45.00 for members of COS and $50.00 for non members. Get your tickets at our next meeting or by contacting Erna Maxwell at 305-382-3055 or e-mail her at hendrinamax@bellsouth.net

From the Membership Chair!  If you haven’t renewed your membership, now is the time!

All memberships except those begun this year will renew in May. This is the last reminder before we print the roster next month! If you want to be included in the roster, please renew your membership right away. If you are unsure if you owe, see me at a meeting.

I know that some things may seem redundant, especially to those of you who have been members for a long time, but it is important that we make sure we have the correct information for everyone, especially for the roster and the newsletter.

Print out your renewal form on the next page, fill it out, and bring it to the meeting with your renewal fees. Please make sure it is legible, especially your email address. Thank you, and I’ll see you at the meeting!

Pat Chen Yin, Membership Chairperson
Orchid Society of Coral Gable Membership/Renewal Application

DATE:___________________

NAME:________________________________________

ADDRESS:__________________________________________

______________________________Zip Code________________________

PHONE: (Home)_______________________ (other)_____________________________

Email: (Important!)____________________________________________________________

PRINT CLEARLY:

Birthday:_________________ (month/date)

Business name_________________________ Occupation_________________

American Orchid Society member?________ Expiration date:________

I would like to become involved and assist with the following: (Please check at least one.)

☐ Phone Committee  ☐ Refreshments  ☐ Newsletter
☐ Orchid Shows (2 per year)  ☐ Auction  ☐ Public Relations
☐ Library  ☐ Welcoming Committee  ☐ Membership Committee
☐ Other ________________________________

Do you consider yourself a beginning, intermediate or advanced orchid grower (circle one)
Have you taken any orchid culture classes? ___ Where____________________________

Do you have any feedback on club programs from this year or any ideas for programs you would like to have for next year? email a board member or JoAnn Forbes at wartrace@aol.com

(Dues are: $25 single membership / $35 couple - same household)
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Other Area Meetings:
South Dade Society: Thursday, July 10
Pan Am Orchid Society: Tuesday, July 15
SFOS Meeting: Wed, July 16
Eastern Airlines Orchid Society: Fri, July 18
AOS Judging at Fairchild: Saturday, July 19
Coalition for Orchid Species:
Monday, July 21
East Everglades Meeting:
Tues, July 23
COS Symposium: Sunday,
July 27
Call for Appointment-  
Tues-Sat (Closed Sun & Mon)  
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Computer techies and website wizards: We need your help!

We need a few people to step forward and really put their knowledge and creativity to good use for the Orchid Society of Coral Gables.

Jill Godfrey has been maintaining our website, but it really needs a good revamping and Jill has just moved to Central Florida. So she would like to pass this task onto another member. Is there someone out there who could take over for her?

We also need to increase our facebook usage among members and others. I bet many of you did not even know we have a facebook presence! We do, but we do not have many facebook friends! Karina Motes is our Facebook administrator and is doing a wonderful job in supervising and following the posts to be sure they are appropriate. Hopefully, more of you members will go on and post your photos!

Lastly, we need someone to help with the newsletter. Melana has been doing it for many years, but really needs help. Or, if you'd like to take it over completely, that would be good too! Either way, we need some assistance. Is there anyone out there who could help?

If you are interested in helping out the society in any of these capacities, please see Melana or any of the board members! Thank you in advance for stepping up to help!