



APRIL 2024

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to all you orchid fans:

I hope everyone had a good Easter and that you are now enjoying a real spring bloom of orchids, especially your Dendrobiums and Phals. Mine are blooming or full of buds. Please bring examples of yours to the next meeting, next Tuesday, April 9, at 6 PM.

I want to give everyone a **THRIP** warning. These tiny insects are coming out in this warmer weather. They are sucking insects that love tender foliage, flower buds & petals. They are so tiny that seeing them is difficult without a good magnifying glass or loupe.

Thrips are partial to rose buds, magnolias, gardenias and orchids. Thrips are what cause magnolia blossoms and gardenias to turn brown. Like any other sucking insect, they suck the juice out of orchid leaves and blossoms. A large infestation can kill an orchid.

The most commonly used insecticide is Orthene, and should be used over several weeks. Neem oil or a homemade oil and water mixture is a non-insecticidal option but cannot be used once the temperatures get up into the 90's. There are other options but not space for them here. Both the National Orchid Society and programs like The Orchid Lady will have much more information.

We will be having our raffle table and snacks, plant table and an excellent speaker from Selby Gardens, Tatiana Arias. Her research now is neotropical epiphytic orchids.. I am sure you will all enjoy her program. **Happy growing, Julie**



We love to share your orchid pictures. Send them to Maryanne for the newsletters or to Maureen for Facebook and we'll post them.

Please read this! →

Important! You have been receiving emails and newsletters even if you have not paid your dues. As of this month, you will no longer receive information via email from M.O.S. if you have not paid your dues. If you want to continue receiving information, please pay your dues. You can check with Lisa to see when you last paid them. You can, of course, find information on our website.

General Info

Tatiana Arias is our April speaker. She writes us:



I am classically trained botanist who has kept up with modern methods. I have more than 15 years of experience working in plant sciences, and I see myself contributing to the understanding of the diversity and evolution of neotropical epiphytic orchids. I have a PhD in Biological Sciences from The University of Missouri and two-year postdoctoral fellowship at The University of Hong Kong. Also, I have worked as the Scientific leader of The Center of Biological Research (CIB) and la Sociedad Colombiana de Orquideología (SCO) in Medellin, Colombia. I also taught in several universities in Colombia for seven years. The main goal of my research at Selby Gardens is to integrate multiple disciplines such as systematics, genomics, collection-based research, and natural history. This integrative approach will allow me to test hypotheses about key biogeographical, morphological, and functional traits that have given rise to this spectacular diversity. All the outcomes will be key to inform strategies that allow to preserve orchids.

[If you'd like to learn more about her personal history and education, click here.](#)

Orchid Tasks for April

- ◆ Full speed ahead with repotting.
- ◆ Water heavily and well.
- ◆ Don't forget to fertilize.
- ◆ Spray for thrips and mites.



April snacks and refreshments will be provided by Lisa Flanagan, Maryanne Hazen and Marcie Duncan. Members are asked to sign up to bring in a few sweet or savory snacks. Remember, we don't meet during the summer months. We'll resume meetings in the fall.



"I gave my first Treasurer's Report at our *orchid* meeting tonight but I only pretended to know what I was talking about. Fortunately, the board was only pretending to listen."

Treasurer's Report

Our current checking account balance is: \$5,731.78 with all bills paid

Dues are to be paid this month, so please bring a check for \$25. . .

Upcoming Events

April 5-7th – **Apopka Spring Orchid Festival-AOS Member's Meeting.** 2800 Ponkan Rd, Apopka. **Contact Julian Baruch.** 321-441-0144

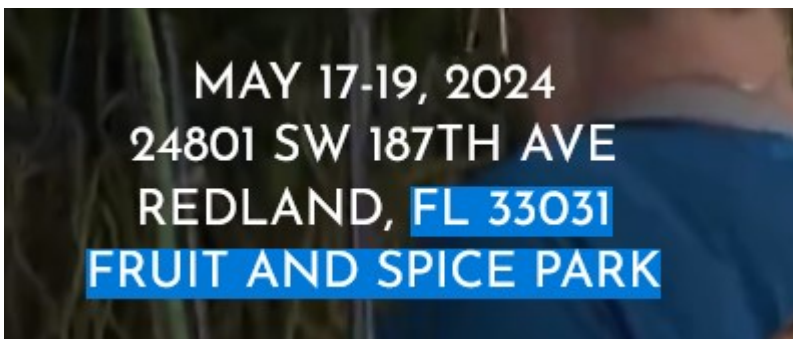
April 5-7th - **Bonnet House Orchid Festival** 900 N. Birch Road, Ft. Lauderdale. **Website.**

April 6th-Book signing by Martin Motes. 1:00 PM **Bonnet House Orchid Festival**

April 6-7th – **Port St. Lucia Show** Polish American Club, 343 NW Prima Vista Blvd. **Contact: Andrea Heitfield.**
772-528-1955 tazzette55@gmail.com

April 13-14th -**Nature Coast Show**, St. Joan of Arc Church, 13485 Springhill Dr. Springhill. **Contact: Matt Riesz.**
732-687-2407 mrfishnj@gmail.com

April 27-28th- **Vero Beach Show.** Riverside Park, 3001 Riverside Park Drive. **Contact: Carolyn Greene.**
321-506-3909 vbsnewsletter@hotmail.com



Located at the idyllic Redland Fruit and Spice Park in South Dade, the Redland International Orchid Festival is world renowned as a bucket list event for orchid lovers. Join the best orchid growers in the world along with fellow avid orchid fans for three and a half days of pure orchid mania.

Want to arrive in style to the 2024 Redland International Orchid Festival?

Order your limited edition t-shirt now! Shipping soon!

[Click the shirt above or click here.](#)

[To buy tickets for the show, click here.](#) Tickets are \$20

MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS

What's going on at the Selby Gardens...

Open daily 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.*

Clyde Butcher: Nature Through the Lens

On view November 11, 2023 – August 31, 2024

Historic Spanish Point campus

Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Selby Gardens is delighted to present the extraordinary imagery of photographer and conservationist [Clyde Butcher](#) throughout the grounds of the Historic Spanish Point campus. Large-scale prints on aluminum of Butcher's beautiful photographs of plants, animals, and habitats of Florida are on view amid the natural landscape of the 30-acre waterfront preserve, enabling the public to engage with the artist's work like never before.

In the tradition of earlier landscape photographers like Ansel Adams, Butcher captures the beauty and majesty of America's natural treasures in dramatic black and white. The unique environments of Florida have been subjects of particular interest to Butcher since the 1980s, when he was first introduced to the magic and mystery of sites such as Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park. *Nature Through the Lens* includes Butcher's photographs of regional locales such as Myakka River State Park and Casey Key. This exhibition is presented in partnership with the Clyde Butcher Gallery & Studio in Venice, Florida.

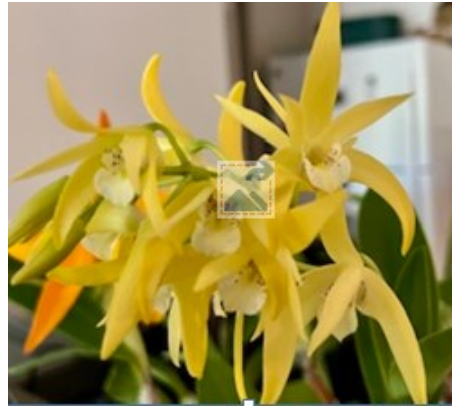
The eighth installment in the Jean & Alfred Goldstein Exhibition Series, [Yayoi Kusama: A Letter to Georgia O'Keeffe](#), presents stunning horticultural displays inspired by Kusama and O'Keeffe, accompanied by a dynamic exhibition featuring original works by both artists in the Museum of Botany & the Arts. Click on link below to see the video.

<https://selby.org/dsc/dsc-exhibitions/yayoi-kusama-a-letter-to-georgia-okeeffe/>



Our Orchid Society is a member of the A.O.S. (American Orchid Society) - if you are a new member and have not received a copy of the monthly A.O.S. magazine, let us know. We usually have some old copies on the raffle table, but we try to give each new member at least one issue. It's chock full of beautiful pictures and helpful information.

Some really beautiful orchids from Maureen Hirthler's collection. On the left is *Phal. Amabilis*. In the middle is an Aussie *Dendrobium speciosum* cross. On the right is *Coelegonye maieriana*.



These orchids are from Julie McClure's garden. The beautiful specimen on the left is a *Den. Aggregatum*. On the right is a *Den nobile*. The orchid on the bottom was a lucky find at a garage sale. Maybe you can identify it for her???





Merc Kratz sent me this picture of a gorgeous *Bulbophyllum rothschildianum* 'Red Chimney' FCC/AOS several months ago, but it's so beautiful, we'll enjoy it this month.



Yes, we should all be repotting our orchids now - but many of us prefer to mount our orchids. Here's a question that was posed in the April 2024 issue of the "Orchids" magazine.

Question: Do mounted orchids need to be watered daily? Should I cover the roots with Spanish moss or leave the roots open to the air? How often should mounted orchids be fertilized?

Answer: Mounted orchids need to be watered just as you would those in pots just as the roots dry out. What is the difference is the frequency. If there is no medium about the roots, roots will dry, depending on the climate, every day or two, if not more frequently. Humidity alone is not enough moisture, even in areas of very high humidity. If you think about it, it still rains in the tropics. This means that mounted plants should be misted every day or two, and take your cue from the state of the root mass. This is especially important for newly mounted plants, especially if they have been previously potted. In this case, much of the existing root mass may die so high humidity and frequent misting may be required. This is when many growers find the addition of things like Spanish moss loosely over the roots and around the base of the plant to be of benefit in helping to hold a bit of moisture.



One word of caution, however. Rarely does the addition of a pad of sphagnum moss under the roots of a mounted plant improve rooting or moisture retention. You want the new roots of the mounted plant to attach to the mount and a pad of moss between the mount and the plant can prevent rapid attachment. Placing a layer of sphagnum moss over the roots will be much more beneficial toward increasing root zone moisture while allowing for rapid attachment.

Concerning fertilizing, the same guidelines apply for mounted plants that apply to plants in pots. Many growers add a small amount of fertilizer to their water supply (50ppm nitrogen perhaps) and fertilize at every watering while others use higher concentrations and apply less often. Just remember that the buildup of fertilizer and hard water salts on mounts will be much faster than in pots so it is critically important to flush mounted plants with straight water regularly.

Manatee Orchid Society

MANATEEORCHIDSOCIETY.COM

Email: Use contact emails on website

Check the website for events. You can also find previous articles and newsletters there on [our Members page](#). You can look ahead for your turn to bring refreshments. If you don't know how to access our "special members only page for a member directory, be sure to ask.



OFFICERS

President

Julie McClure

Treasurer

Lisa Flanagan

Recording Secretary

Maureen Hirtzler

Media Chair

Maryanne Hazen

From Dr. Motes - April Notes:

This March has been much cooler than usual. The vast winter storms which have ravaged the continent with snow have arrived in S. Florida tempered by the benign warmth of both the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico. These vast weather systems have also brought us well above average rainfall which has been beneficial to our orchids as it largely fell in large quantities in relatively short periods of time. The benefits of this extra moisture which in addition to plumping out our orchid's roots and bulbs, washed away any excess fertilizer salts which may have accumulated across the dry winter. Also washed away were mites and *Thrips*. With the persistent cooler than average temperatures *Thrips* have not been as prevalent as usual but as temperatures rise into the upper eighties their return is inevitable. A good rule of thumb is that five days without rain with temperatures in the upper eighties or higher are the prognostications for *Thrips*. Use the methods set forth in *Florida Orchid Growing* and *Florida Vanda Growing* to control them.

With large high pressure systems dominating our weather and with rising temperatures, relative humidity is exceptionally low. Both plants and growing media are drying very rapidly. Be sure to water especially thoroughly to the point of saturation. Be careful to water vandas until their roots turn overall green. Letting them get too dry will result in the roots acting like a cork in a wine bottle and repel rather than absorb water.

The wide swings of day to night temperatures in spring greatly encourage new roots and the initiation of flower spikes. Now is one of the few times in the year that some benefit is derived from "Bloom Booster" fertilizers. The extra phosphorus adds to the propensity to throw roots. A single application will suffice.

April's delightful temperatures and low humidity should inspire us as well as our plants. Now is the time to get all of the outside chores done before the heat and humidity turn up in May.