



# The Plantation Orchid Society

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Volume 5 Number 5

May 7, 2013

## Tuesday May 7, 2013

Setup/Social 6:45 – 7:00 p.m.  
Presentation starts promptly at  
7:15 – 9:00 p.m.  
**VOLUNTEER PARK**  
12050 Sunrise Blvd. Plantation

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**Maria Saroza**  
Web Master

POS webpage  
plantationorchidsociety.org

### From the President

Dear POS Members and friends,

Thank you Bill Peters for a very educational presentation. The visuals and the demonstration were great. This month's speaker shall be welcoming Craig Morrell from Pine Crest Gardens. He will advise us on what advice to take and which not to.

Our meetings will be at Volunteer Park until further notice. Our Registration Pot Luck Anniversary will be in June. Please sign up to bring a covered dish. All members must renew at this time. You can go online, print out the registration form and register early. Check or cash please. Also don't forget the annual photo contest.

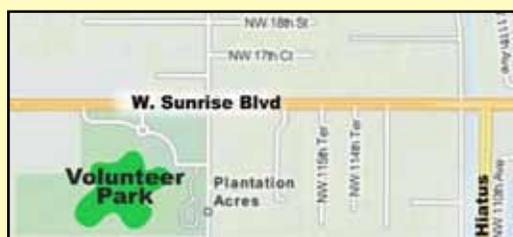
We will accepting business ads for our newsletter and website. If you or your business is interested please contact Angela Puca.

See you at the meeting  
Sincerely,

Rose Maytin,  
President



**Check out  
the Plantation  
Orchid Society  
on Facebook**



## Attention Members! May Meeting Change of Location

Diecke Auditorium is currently under renovation. The rest of our regular meetings this year will be held at the Volunteer Park Community Center, located at 12050 W Sunrise Blvd., west of Hiatus Rd. in Plantation at Sunrise Blvd. and 118th Avenue, until construction is completed.

## JUNE

## Members Only Photo Contest

### Rules:

1. For members only.
2. Submit two 8"x10" photos of a named orchid that you have grown.
3. Each entry must have Orchid Name.
4. Your name must be printed on back of photo.

**Winner will receive  
a prize!**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR APRIL RIBBON WINNERS!

April showers didn't stop these gorgeous flowers. We are always glad to see the beautiful plants our members grow. Thanks to everyone who brought in their orchids for us to admire.



**GREEN RIBBON**  
Paph. Honey philippinense  
x P. Primulinum  
Joan Viggiani



**GREEN RIBBON**  
Phal. Amabillis  
Phyllis Durst



**GREEN RIBBON**  
Brassia Cavidata  
Bill W. David



**BLUE RIBBON**  
Pot. Hawaiian Prominence  
'America'  
Jeff Tucker



**BLUE RIBBON**  
Den. Wasselii  
Joan Viggiani



**BLUE RIBBON**  
C Violaeca  
Joan Viggiani



**BLUE RIBBON**  
Maxillaria Tenuifolia  
Rose Maytin



**BLUE RIBBON**  
V. Arkorn Burgundy 'Sunthorn'  
Mary Lee Tabeling



**BLUE RIBBON**  
Phaius Dan Rosenberg  
Tony Blanc

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## **BLUE RIBBON**

Vasco. Memoria Gabriel Piedrahita  
Uribe 'Crown Fox Cherry Tart'  
Jeff Tucker



## **BLUE RIBBON**

Cat. Lc. Mini Purple 'Full Figure' x Lc. Janet Rochele  
Debbie Maggenheimer



## **BLUE RIBBON**

Phal. Super Idol  
Phyllis Durst



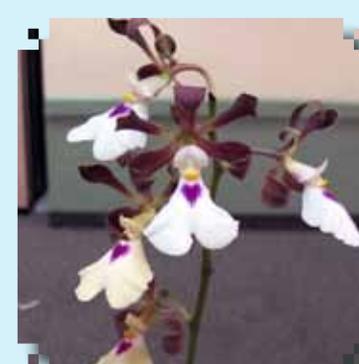
## **RED RIBBON**

Phal. Ho's Little Caroline "M"  
Little Candy  
Patty Maytin



## **BLUE RIBBON**

Paph. Liemianum x Avalon  
Mist  
Joan Viggiani



## **RED RIBBON**

Enc. Cordigera  
Rose Maytin



## **RED RIBBON**

DTPS. Leopard Prince x Phal  
Brother Lawrence  
Jeff Tucker



## **RED RIBBON**

ASCDA. Kulvadee  
Mary Lee Tabeling



## **RED RIBBON**

ASCDA. Motes Burning Sands  
'Mary Motes'  
Tony Blanc

As a reminder, all plants brought in for the show table should be free of pests and diseases. Take some time to stake and clean the leaves of your plants, this allows for better presentation. Also, please do not bring newly-purchased plants for the show table. The show table is an outlet for members to share the great job they have done in growing and flowering their orchids; therefore, please respect the unwritten rule of owning and growing an orchid for a minimum of 6 months.

# APRIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



**Don't Forget to Sign Up For Our June Potluck Dinner!**

## OUR MAY SPEAKER Craig Morell



*“Old Ways to Do Modern Things  
and Modern Ways to Do Old  
Things: Merging Modern and Classic Orchid Tactics”*

We are pleased to have as our guest speaker this month the Humorous Horticulturist-Craig Morell. A well-known personality throughout South Florida. He is the horticulturist in charge of Pinecrest Gardens in Miami.

Craig started growing orchids about the age of 12. By 16 there were more orchids than window sill space in his parents' suburban Milwaukee home and by 20 had built a solarium on the front porch. Losing what small fragment of sanity he still had, he decided to pursue horticulture as a career, and left for UF-Gainesville in 1984. He interned at Fairchild Tropical garden in 1985, an internship from which the staff may still be recovering ..



Graduating with a B.S. degree in Horticulture in 1988, he joined the

Florida Agriculture Department as a nursery inspector, and from there he fled Miami in 1991 to work at Eric's Exotic Orchid Company in West Palm Beach. After managing that firm for 3 years, Craig moved on to become horticulturist at the Boca Raton Resort for 10 years and in 2004 accepted the task of horticulturist at Pinecrest Gardens for the Village of Pinecrest.

After vowing never to return to Miami, he returned to Miami in

August of 2004, where the first of several hurricanes hit 6 days after he arrived. While still in the process of moving from Palm Beach he was further welcomed by Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma in late 2005. Moving his personal plant collection of 1800 plants to the Gardens took 17 truck / trailer trips over a 4 month period, and the plants have been donated to the Gardens. Craig undertook the task of renovating the facilities over many years, mounting almost 100 epiphytes in large oak and cypress trees, as well as planting close to 200 native palms and trees. He is close to his goal to restore the Gardens to their glory from 20 years ago, when it was Parrot Jungle. The Gardens are a wonderful experience and are a credit to his work there.

When not at Pinecrest Gardens, Craig visits other gardens, garden shows and gives talks at various Orchid and Garden Societies. He writes for plant society journals on horticulture, writes a weekly blog about horticulture under the "Ask the Plant Guy" moniker for the Village, and judges at the Philadelphia Flower Show. He currently lives and gardens in South Miami, sometimes escapes the Gardens, and is occasionally seen in public looking like a normal person.

Craig's contact info is [craigmorell@att.net](mailto:craigmorell@att.net) or by phone at 305-710-3364.

## HOSPITALITY

Thanks to everyone who brought food to the April meeting.

Alma Woodrow - Brownies, Angela Pucca - Artichoke Dip, Elise Chapman - Chocolate Wacky Cake, Judy Bontrager - Cheesecake Squares, David Jewel - Hummus, Karen Reynoldson - Hummus and Chips, Jill Greenbaum - Chicken Salad and Crackers, Rose Maytin - Eggs, Tracy Moulton, Christine Williams - Mango salsa, Crab Dip with Cheese and Chips.

Remember, we always love the treats you bring but:

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO SIGN THE SHEET SO WE CAN THANK YOU IN May!**

Coffee and soda will be provided by the Society courtesy of Judy Revier.

## April Program Presented by Bill Peters of Whimsy Orchids

*“whatever works for you!”*



Bill Peters of Whimsy Orchids opened his presentation by encouraging us to attend the fantastic **Redlands International Orchid Festival May 17-19**. Whimsy Orchids specializes in Cattleya and species related to Cattleya orchids. These orchids are generally from South and Central America although a few are native to North America. Most are commercially propagated through seed, tissue culture or divisions. They are generally epiphytic and are natively found on the rough bark of trees, where the roots firmly attach for support and receiving nutrients.

One half of a Cattleya orchid is its roots and bad roots equals a bad plant. These orchids are adapted for dryer conditions and need to dry between waterings. The purpose of the root is to absorb water and anchor the plant. There is also a gas exchange through the white velamen. Roots are attached to the flatter Rhizomes at the surface. The rhizomes connect the pseudo bulbs which serve to store water along with the thick leaves and roots. Along the rhizomes under paper sheaths are “eyes”. The eyes are where the new growth emerges. Leaves, which arise out of the pseudo bulb, need enough sunlight to give the plant its energy. Overlapping sheaths, called Cataphyll protect the young buds that emerge from the pseudo bulb. Old sheaths can be easily removed when wet, to eliminate hiding places for pests. Cattleya leaves are broad for photosynthesis. Leaves will stay on for 4 to 5 years. Flowers will emerge from a sheath at the top of the bulb and sometimes this sheath will dry out before the flower emerges. Some leaves will never produce flowers. September to April is usually the peak flowering time for Cats.

The interaction of light and temperature is very important for Cats. Light should be at the safest maximum for the plant to thrive. If you increase the light you must reduce the temperature. Plants located under a tree in Florida are usually in a good 30 to 50% light condition. The leaves on a plant receiving adequate light are generally a light green color. Dark green leaves are floppy and weak with smaller growth. When your hand casts a shadow at the brightest part of the day, the leaf should not feel hot to the touch. Then you have perfect light conditions. If the leaves are real yellow the light may be too strong. Temperatures between 80 to 90 degrees are ideal. 100 degrees is about the maximum temperature for Cats. If the leaf feels hot the plant needs misting. At about 1:00 if the air temperature is too high, or if the plants are receiving too much sun, you can just

top mist the leaves for 30 seconds to cool them. In the winter when the humidity is very low you can water the ground or concrete to raise the humidity. Although Cats can take temperatures as low as 35 degrees for brief periods, wind at this temperature can damage the plants. It is advisable to use something to break the wind especially on the north and west sides. Keep plants dry during cold periods and water the morning after the coldest night. During the winter, the weekly cold fronts and low

light intensity keep the plants from growing much. An east or west facing is the best location for cats. A northern shady facing will not give them enough light.

Bill recommends watering very well and then watering again to soak well. In his greenhouse, he uses misting heads to water and runs the water about 20 to 30 minutes, putting 3/4 to 1 inch of water on his plants. The orchids must be allowed to dry. Too much water will make the roots rot. Open roots dry faster than roots in a container, therefore orchids in baskets dry faster than those in clay pots. Roots in clay pots dry faster than in plastic. Plants growing outside should be grown on cork, driftwood, in wooden baskets or in clay pots. Smaller pots dry out faster. He puts his plants in the type of pot or container that makes his watering easier. When repotting, Bill prefers clay pots to plastic. Bill plants his Cats in a mix of 2 parts Aliflor, 2 parts charcoal, 1 part coconut chips and 1 part sponge rock. He reuses and sterilizes his clay pots for 1/2 hour with 1 part bleach to 9 parts water, rinsing and soaking in fresh water and drying well before reusing. If you use plastic pots, you should use a VERY well drained mix. As the potting media ages it will hold more water and take longer to dry out. He waters his Cats every 5 days in the spring when it's dry.

He fertilizes every other watering. When Bill fertilizes his plants he rotates the fertilizer. He uses Peters Excell 15-15-15 at 1/2 T per Gal. He rotates that with YaraLiva™ Calcinit™ at 1/2 T per Gal. and Epsom salts at 1T per gallon. He prefers to water one day and fertilize the next morning, changing up his fertilizer each time. He also uses Nutracote or Dynamite at a rate of 1tsp per 6 inch pot. This is a type of slow release fertilizer that releases or degrades quicker as the temperature rises. Larger bags of supplies can be obtained from nursery supply companies such as Atlantic fertilizer.

Clean plants with a toothbrush when you repot and sterilize the toothbrush in a chlorine solution between plants. For pests he recommends Ultra-Pure™ Horticultural oil, used at temperatures below 85 degrees. Another great but expensive insecticide used by growers is Merit 75 WSP. It contains imidacloprid which is found in Bayer Complete. Orthene is another good systemic that works well on thrips at the rate of 1T per gallon. Black rot fungus is caused by too much water and is usually seen on the newest growth. If a plant has rot,

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remove all rot and roots, then put in an empty pot and mist every day. Recommended fungicides are Subdue, ALIETTE® and Truban. Cleary's 3336 WP (thiophanate methyl) is good for leaf spots and flower spots such as Botrytis.

Cats will grow on anything and should be repotted when the mix begins to rot. To repot, you will need a good stainless needlenose cutter which must be sterilized with a propane torch for 15 seconds on each side, or a solution of fully dissolved TSP (which can be found in the paint department at Home Depot). Using a brass nozzle blast the plant with some pressurized water and using your cutter, cut off most of the roots. The best time to repot cattleyas is when you see new roots growing. From the growing part, count back 4 bulbs and cut there. No need to treat the plant with kid gloves. Bill takes a 12 gauge wire, (Found in the hanging ceiling tiles department at Home Depot) and bends a circle just smaller than the pot. He then bends the wire so it goes straight up to form a support stake for the future flowers. The circle goes in the bottom of the pot. He puts about

2 inches of Styrofoam peanuts in the bottom of the pot. He then adds his mix and makes sure his Cat is sitting at about 1/2 inch below the top of the pot with the rhizome at the surface, held by a rhizome clip. He uses a potting stick (a broom handle sick cut to about 10 inches long with a dull pointed end) to tamp the potting mixture down. He ties up and supports the plant with nylon cord in a loop to loop daisy-chain-like fashion. He finishes the potting process by using a #2 pencil to document the plant's name on the tag. When planting Cattleyas in wooden baskets, Bill uses a piece of shade cloth on the bottom of the basket and holds the rhizome to the basket by using criss crossed bamboo through the slats of the basket.

Bill recommends getting the book "Orchid Pests and Diseases" which is published by the American Orchid Society and having a magnifier on hand to determine which pests are infecting your orchids.

Whimsy Orchids is located at 18755 S.W. 248th Street - Homestead, FL. 33031

Tel. 305-242-1333 - E-mail: whimsy@bellsouth.net

## ADVERTISING!!

Place your business or personal ad in our newsletter and on our web page. Cost for your ad is \$60 and it will run from June to May 2014.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW MEMBER

### GERSON FRANK

Gerson is a WW2 veteran who recently was given an honorary award by the president. Thanks for your service to our country.

## CURRENT EVENTS

### Broward County Plant Affair

Saturday & Sunday, May 4 & 5, 2013

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Plantation Heritage Park

1100 South Fig Tree Lane, Plantation, FL

More Info: 954-797-2722 or visit their website  
calendar

(go to the event dates for information).

### Redland International Orchid Festival

Friday thru Sunday, May 17 thru 19, 2013

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fruit and Spice Park

24801 SW 187th Ave, Miami, FL

More Info: visit their website.

## POS CALENDAR 2013

May 7, 2013 - Craig Morell at Volunteer Park

June 4, 2013 - Registration/Renewal Pot Luck  
Anniversary Dinner at Volunteer Park

July 2, 2013 - To Be Announced at  
Volunteer Park

August 6, 2013 - To Be Announced  
at Volunteer Park

September 3, 2013 - To Be Announced  
at Volunteer Park

October 1, 2013 - POS annual Auction  
at Volunteer Park

November 5, 2013 - To Be Announced  
at Volunteer Park

December, 2013 - Holiday Party