

**The EEOS
MARCH 2020
Newsletter**

The goal of our society is to educate ourselves and the general public in the classification, evolution and propagation, culture, care, and development of the cultural and economic importance of orchids; and to support the conservation of this fascinating group of plants. Membership is open to anyone who is interested in the objectives, aims, and purposes of the EEOS, Inc.

The East Everglades Orchid Society meets on the FOURTH TUESDAY of each month at 7pm, with Judging at 7:30 PM and orchid related talk held at 8:00 PM

Meeting place: University of Florida Miami-Dade Extension Bldg. at

18710 SW 288th St

Homestead, Fl

Visitors are always welcome.

Visit us at our Website at www.orchidseeos.com

**East Everglades Orchid Society
The Orchid Column**



**NO MEETING
IN
MARCH OR APRIL!!!**



OUR MEETING PLACE:

18710 SW 288th St

March President's letter

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak the next two meetings are cancelled. Our meeting place is closed by the County as part of the preventive measures to keep the spread of the virus at its minimum. We are sorry we won't be able to meet for two months but better safe than sorry and we encourage our members to closely follow the CDC recommendations and keep safe and healthy!

The good news is that spring has arrived and we already have warmer temperatures, great for our orchids to grow and bloom. No more worries about having to protect the plants from temperatures in the 40s.

Hopefully, we will be able to have our meeting in May, which will be the Annual Auction. Usually the auction is a lot of fun and a great success, members can buy great plants at good prices. I expect everyone to support the club while enjoying the auction and the refreshments. Members can also donate plants to the auction. We will keep you informed through the EEOS website and the newsletter.

Keep safe, be strong and see you in May!

We have opportunities for volunteers on the following committees:

Assistant Show Chairman

Social Media—Facebook, Twitter et al

Advertising

Meeting facility set-up and take down for monthly meetings & judging

Assistant Hospitality

Assistant Membership/Roster

Judging assistant

EXISTING COMMITTEES

Newsletter—Idia Macfarlane

Membership/Roster —Donna Taylor

Photography—Tere Camacho

Hospitality—Leila Werner

Judging—David Schafter

Show Chairman—AOS Members Meeting—Kim Belisle

Assistant Webmaster- Tere Camacho -

February Judging

Despite the cool weather, we are still getting beautiful orchids on our judging tables. Warmer weather is just around the corner, especially in the latter part of March. Be on the lookout for insects to come with the warmer days, especially thrips. You can spray a systemic insecticide, such as Orthene, to control thrips, ants, scale, and other pests. Be sure to drench the entire orchid, including roots, leaves, buds, and even the medium in the orchid pots. The effects of this insecticide will last for a couple of months.

Don't forget to stake your orchid spikes, especially phalaenopsis, as they are growing. This helps give support to the long spikes as the flowers develop. You can use a stiff wire or a bamboo stick to support your spikes. Those larger plastic foliage clamps are strong enough to keep your stems supported, and offer enough room to allow the stem to continue to grow and develop without being too tight and constricted against the stake. Keep an eye on your spiking plants and adjust or add more clamps as needed. The end result should be a beautiful, pleasing, arching display of flowers for all to enjoy.

We would like to see more people bring in their orchids to the judging tables, especially our newer members. We will be glad to help you enter your plants, if it's your first time. Just ask someone else entering their orchids or one of our judges. It's very simple. All we ask for is you to fill out our judging form, with your name and your orchid's name, then leave it with your plant. Our judges will take care of the rest.

Judging Results

Vandaceous Group: 12 entries

1st	V. coerulescens	Gilda Nolasco
1st	V. Pak Red	Chris Houk
1st	V. Jose Luis	Lynn Corson
1st	V. Chia Long	Lynn Corson
1st	Ascocentrum miniatum	Tere Camacho
1st	V. Paki x V. parviflora	David Schaffter
1st	V. Paki x V. parviflora	David Schaffter
1st	V. lamellata var. boxallii	Rene' Izquierdo
1st	Renanopsis Five Free Friendships	Chris Houk
2nd	V. tricolor var. Suavis	Rene' Izquierdo
2nd	V. Loretta Rehmann	Lynn Corson

Cattleya Group: 5 entries

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|------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1st | Lc. Morning Glory | Madelyn Tucker |
| 1st | C. aurantica | Chris Houk |
| 1st | Lc. Gold Digger | Yadel Guia |
| 2nd | Blc. Lily Marie Almas | Judy Congdon |
| 2nd | Epc. Rossy Ochoa | Tim Wright |

Dendrobium Group: 4 entries

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|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1st | Den. nemorale | Valerie Leonard |
| 1st | Den. discolor | Chris Houk |
| 1st | Den. Montebello x Golden Wasp | Rene' Izquierdo |
| 1st | Den. gouldii | Gilda Nolasco |

Oncidium Group: 3 entries

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|------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1st | Onc. splendidum | Rene' Izquierdo |
| 1st | Brassidium Betty N. Shirak | Gilda Nolasco |
| 2nd | Oncsa. Aloha Iwanaqa | Tere Camacho |

Paphiopedilum Group: 2 entries

- 1st** Paph. Hsinying Franz Lynn Corson
1st Paph. Michael Koopowitz* Lynn Corson
*Paph. philippinense x sanderiana = Paph. Michael Koopowitz

Miniatures Group: 1 entry

- 1st** Pleur. *brighamii* Gilda Nolasco

Encyclia Group: 3 entries

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1st | Epi. Pacific Sun | Gilda Nolasco |
| 1st | Epi. stamfordianum | Rene' Izquierdo |

1st Enc. polybulbon Gilda Nolasco

Other Species Group: 2 entries

1st Dendrochilum glumaceum Gilda Nolasco

1st Ludisia discolor Gilda Nolasco

Meet the 2020 Board of Directors

President

Idia Macfarlane

Vice President

Kim Belisle

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Donna Taylor

Secretary

Tere Camacho

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Robert Fuchs
Valerie Leonard
Leila Werner
David Schaffter
Eduardo Marcellini
Chris Hour
Patricia Garland

Immediate past President

Carlos Ochoa

East Everglades Orchid Society thanks **David Schaffter, Erna Maxwell, Gilda Nolasco, Chris Morales, Lynn Corson, and Valerie Leonard** for judging the members' orchids.

Photo credits- **Tere Camacho**

Making Orchids Bloom - Taken from the RF Orchids webpage

One of the questions we hear most often is “Why aren’t my orchids blooming?” Although there’s no single, simple answer, there are a few general principles that may help you understand how to improve your orchids’ flowering. After all, it’s the flowers we want no matter how interesting or exotic the plants may be!

Light

All plants need a certain amount of light for growth and flowering. Most orchids need fairly bright light to flower well, and if your plants aren’t blooming this may be an important consideration. Different types of orchids require different light conditions, ranging from virtually full sun exposure for some to moderate shade for others. The plant itself can give you a hint of its needs: if the foliage is dark green, the plant probably isn’t getting enough light. Normal healthy orchid leaves are usually light to medium green, although some Phalaenopsis have naturally dark leaves. Plants with stiff, nearly succulent foliage will generally want brighter light than plants with soft, thin foliage. If you think your orchids need more light, move them gradually into a brighter spot.

The terete and semi-terete vandas need full sun for at least half a day (more if possible) to flower well. Strap-leaf vandas, as well as their cousins the ascocendas and closely related vandaceous plants, prefer a little shade in the middle part of the day but otherwise the brightest light available.

Most cattleyas, oncidiums and dendrobiums bloom best with slightly shadier conditions. In their natural environment they grow on the branches and trunks of trees, fairly high in the canopy, where the light is quite bright but

not direct. These plants will usually adapt to early morning sunshine if they are protected from direct sunlight after about 10 or 11am.

Phalaenopsis and most paphiopedilums need bright shade, without exposure to any direct sunlight at all. Although these orchids are often recommended for indoor growing, they won't grow well (let alone bloom) in the dark.

Fertilizer

Orchids also need good nutrition. Fertilizer in the right amounts at the right times can make a big difference in the way your plants grow and bloom.

When the plants are actively growing, a weekly application of a dilute, balanced water-soluble fertilizer with minor elements will help produce healthy leaves and roots. A balanced fertilizer is one where the three major components (nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium, or NPK) are present in equal, or nearly equal, proportion. All fertilizers have a three-number formula representing the proportion of these three important nutrients. For example, a fertilizer with "20-20-20" or "10-10-10" on the label is balanced, while one labeled "10-50-10" or "30-10-10" is not.

Some products labeled as "orchid food" have a 30-10-10 formula. This formula is much too high in nitrogen (the first number) for most orchids unless they are being grown in a bark-based potting medium. Nitrogen is necessary for growth, but too much of it produces lush green leaves and suppresses flowering. If you're using a high-nitrogen fertilizer on orchids growing in a non-bark medium, this may be another reason your orchids aren't flowering. We recommend a balanced fertilizer alternated with a "bloom booster" formula during the growing season. The "bloom booster" formulas will have a high middle number, such as 10-30-20. We typically use the bloom booster every fourth feeding.

Seasonal patterns

The plain truth is that some orchids only bloom once a year, and there's nothing you can do to change that pattern. Most species orchids, and even a good number of hybrids, have an annual growth cycle that produces flowers

at a specific time of the year, just as other plants in our gardens and landscapes do. The time of flowering is related to natural cycles of light, moisture and temperature in the environment, and for some orchids a change in one or more of these factors is necessary to trigger flowering.

Most sympodial orchids – those plants with pseudobulbs, such as cattleyas, dendrobiums and oncidiums – are adapted to habitats with seasonal variations of rainfall and temperature. Often there is a very distinct wet/dry season, although the length and intensity of each season may vary a lot. Orchids adapted to these conditions generally have a very distinct growing/resting cycle which coincides with the seasonal changes, and flowering typically occurs at the beginning or the end of the growing period. While growing, these plants need regular watering and fertilizing, but when they stop growing, water should be reduced and fertilizer eliminated. Applying too much water or fertilizer to a “resting” orchid can interrupt the plant’s normal cycle.

Dendrobium aggregatum needs a cool dry rest

Temperature during the resting phase may be important as well. Some dendrobiums require a cooler period during their rest. For a more detailed discussion of the temperature requirements of different groups of dendrobiums, refer to our “dendrobium” culture sheets. There are too many different types of dendrobiums to generalize about their care.

Most monopodial orchids, on the other hand, grow more or less continuously during the year. Phalaenopsis, vandas, ascocendas and related orchids fall into this group. Their native habitats have less seasonal variation in moisture and temperature, so these plants need year-round watering and fertilizing even though most of the species and many hybrids bloom seasonally. The large-flowered white and pink phalaenopsis typically bloom in the winter, in response to a short period of cooler weather in the fall. Two weeks or so with night temperatures from about 55F to 65F will often trigger a flowering cycle.

Blue vandas in the garden

In any genus of orchids, a hybrid with a complex pedigree of many different ancestral species may not follow any particular pattern for flowering. Sometimes the combination of spring-flowering species and fall-flowering species produces hybrids that flower several times a year, as the plants respond to different environmental signals.

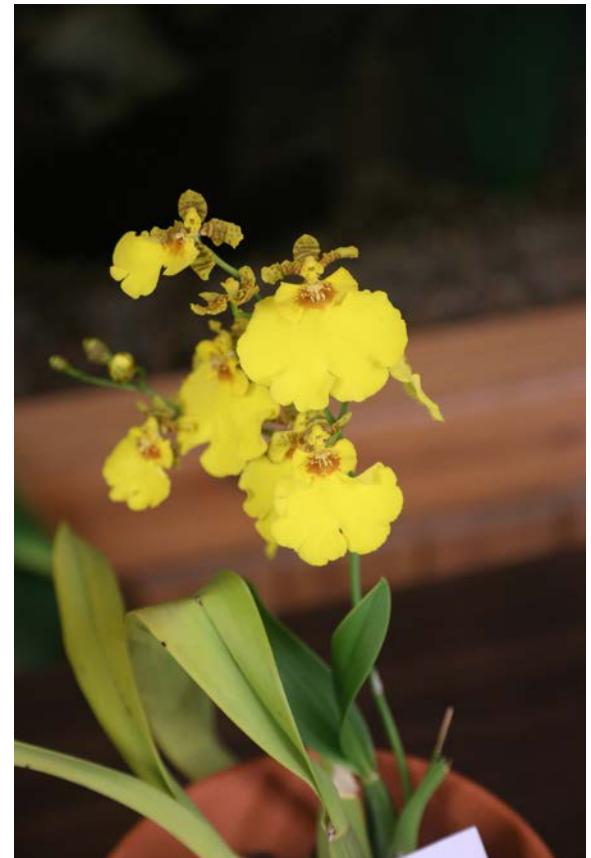
One last consideration: orchids must grow to a certain size before they bloom. This varies with the type, of course, but sometimes the only thing you need to do is have patience. If you purchase seedling orchids, remember that these are immature plants and may require several years' growth before they are mature enough to bloom.

Summary

If your orchids aren't blooming, check to see that they have the right light conditions, temperature regime and appropriate fertilizing and watering schedules. If everything seems correct and a mature plant still refuses to bloom, you may need to stress it just a little. If you're fertilizing regularly, stop doing so for a month; reduce watering somewhat, or move the plant to brighter light conditions.

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February 2020 MEETING









Brett's Turnings
Brett Belisle
Wood Turner
17355 SW 298 Street
Homestead, FL 33030

786-376-7060
Brettbiker@aol.com
Facebook: Brett's Pens



With the support of
the Miami-Dade County
Department of Cultural Affairs,
the Cultural Affairs Council,
the Mayor, and the
Board of County Commissioners.

'The East Everglades Orchid Society acknowledges participation support from the Homestead Center for the Arts and the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs in their association with the projects for which grant funds were received.'



**Annual Membership
Dues**
\$25.00 Individual
\$35.00 Couples

Mail your check to:

**Donna Taylor
9975 SW 196 St
Cutler Bay, FL 33157**

**Happy Birthday to our March
members:**

**Brett Belisle
Leila Werner
Patty Garland
Marie Ferraro**

**Thank you to the following members for bringing
delicious treats to the meeting:**

Judy Congdon:	Buffalo Chicken dip/crackers
Sabrina :	Cookies and bread
Alex Bristol:	Chicken wings
Tere Camacho:	Signature flan
Leila Werner:	Pulled pork sliders
Idia Macfarlane:	Hummus and Pita bread
Carolyn Napier:	Guava pastries
Madelyn Tucker:	Chips and salsa

Please remember to bring food for the refreshment table

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