



Affiliated with American Orchid Society & Flamingo Gardens Botanical Gardens & Wildlife Sanctuary

**April 2020**

## FGOS AUCTION 2020 SUCCESS STORY

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A GIANT THANK YOU to all FGOS members who donated orchids, wood mounts, volunteered their time and attended the Auction. Because of you all we were able to raise \$3,200.00. We could not have done this without you!

The following are the FGOS members who shared a part of their orchid collections with the rest of us - Thad Bielecki, Sandi Block-Brezner, Marissa Gittelman, Omar Gonzales, Judy Goos, Bill Hodnett, Brian Hufford, E.J. Laviolette, Gigi Louis, Gloria Messler and Marcy Schwartz. The AOS West Palm Beach Judges who contributed some great orchids to the event were Carol Holdren, Lou Lodyga and Tony Millet. They have always been willing to help support our society.

We can't leave out all the generous vendors to our society. They understand how important a fundraising event like this is for a society. They are our sponsors - AM Orchids (Mike Pitiriciu), AWZ Orchids, Bamboo and Orchid Gardens, Bredren Orchids, H&R Nurseries, Inc., Krull Smith, Mac's Orchids, Nature's Relics, Odom's Orchids, Quest Orchids, RF Orchids, Soroa Orchids and StelMar Gardens. Last but not least, the Flamingo Gardens Orchidteers, the volunteer group that

mounts and maintains the orchids at Flamingo Gardens, contributed orchids to the Auction.

It takes a team to make this happen - the members who gave their time setting up and tagging plants, tracking who bought what, helping check in and out, and waltzed the orchids around the room - we could not have done this without you! Special thanks to these volunteers -Jan Amador, Rita Amberge, Sandi Block-Brezner, Penny Burkhart, Ginny Calehaff, Judy Goos, Diana Hawes, Katie Hawlik, Brian Hufford, Barbara Lester, Gloria Messler, Amanda Norton, Marcy Schwartz, Sally Tastinger, Mike Vaupel and Alice Walker. If I have missed anyone, please let me know. You were a great help!

All of this added up to a successful Auction for FGOS! We thank you all!

The Auction Committee,

Lucy Matos-Lodato, Antonio Torres, Mary Lathrop, and Cecilia Ferrer



## President's Message

Hello everyone! I hope all of you are doing well considering the situation we are in, practicing safe distancing from people, being careful about contamination and hopefully finding the food and personal items you need.

Here is some information to keep you up to date and suggestions to give you something to do.

- The FGOS Meeting for April 13<sup>th</sup> is cancelled.
- The Flamingo Gardens Orchid Show scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> is postponed.
- Flamingo Gardens is closed until further notice. Follow their website at [www.FlamingoGardens.org](http://www.FlamingoGardens.org) for information.
- The Bonnet House Orchid Show, April 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, is postponed.
- The Redlands Show is cancelled.

So.....

- This is a great time to work on your orchids – there is information in this newsletter for you to read.
- Broward Orchid Supply is open with curbside service if you need supplies and some vendors are selling orchids there. You must make an appointment by calling Sandi Jones at 954-925-2021. Sandi is giving a 10% discount on all purchases. Pay with cash, check or credit card (will include a 4% service charge).
- Lucy has written a report on the Auction, which is here in the newsletter. What a fabulous event, from the support that the members gave and the visitors, to all the volunteers who helped, the members who donated orchids, the vendors who we got orchids from and your fabulous Auction Committee. Thanks to all!
- The American Orchid Society will be presenting a very informative Webinar titled ORCHID PRO – LEARNING HOW TO USE IT. This will be a great tool to help with our orchids and it is included with your AOS membership! More information in this newsletter or go to [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org). The date is Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 pm. The information is in this newsletter. Registration is required.
- Other AOS Webinars – some webinars do not require you to be a member of AOS. You can also look at them at your leisure.
- If you are not already a member of the AOS you might want to join to get all the valuable information they offer.

We will keep you posted on any updates we have!

So, until we get together again.....enjoy your orchids, and stay in touch with your family and friends.

Jan

## Happy Birthday to our April Members

Allison Hady -- April 7

Cori Glick -- April 8

Rene Stincer Jr. -- April 9

Mary Lathrop -- April 14

Heather Cherry -- April 16

Esther Stincer -- April 19

Katheryn Bober -- April 24

Summer Buckley -- April 28

Yvonne Bernard -- April 28

Jeff Tucker -- April 28

Linda Holt -- April 30



American Orchid Society  
*Education. Conservation. Research.*

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# Don't miss these webinars in April

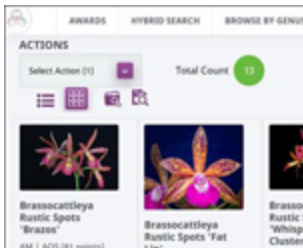
Tuesday, April 28, 2020 8:30 PM EDT

Greenhouse Chat - Join Dr. Ron McHatton, AOS Chief Science Officer, as he answers your questions about all things orchids. Have your questions answered by our resident orchid expert! Please send your queries to [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org) two days prior to the chat. Open to all.

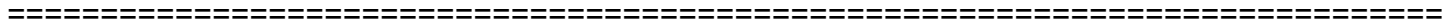


Tuesday, April 14, 2020 8:30 PM EDT

Orchid Pro - Learning How to Use It - Discover the power behind the new AOS orchid program. Learn how to compare results and average award scores, search progeny and view family tree. Member Exclusive Webinar.



Here's the [link](#) to the American Orchid Society Webinar Page. Join the American Orchid Society for access to all seminars and gain full access to their website.



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# Spring Has Sprung - Great Time to Work on Your Orchids

By Jan Amador

The warmer weather is here so this is the time to step up your plan for orchid care. Time to start watering heavily since the temperature has gone up to the 80's. The vandas are going to need more water as the days get hotter, sometimes twice a day. Best to water early in the day, this helps so the plant can dry to help avoid problems.

Since this is still the dry season you should be watching for pests. Thrips love to get into the bud that is forming and will do harm to the flower before it emerges. For thrips you might try using mild liquid dish soap, like original Dawn, at a rate of 2 ounces per gallon of water. Add the soap to your sprayer last thing or you will have nothing but bubbles! Be sure you have watered your plants well the day before. Some people prefer to use the chemical Orthene, but be sure to protect yourself. You must spray the entire plant, top and underside of leaves, pseudobulbs and potting media. You should repeat this is 7 -10 days.

Repotting should be underway for your cattleyas, oncidiums and hard cane dendrobiums. Be sure to inspect your plants for any issues. You might want to evaluate if you want to do some mounting or dividing of your plants. You should remove the old potting mix and any dead roots. Make sure the plant is not going to wiggle in the pot or the root tips will break off. Great thing about mounting is that you don't have to repot again. Try cypress mounts, cork slabs, tree fern pots or slabs or a wooden basket with no medium at all or add wine corks or lava rock. Have fun trying something new.

Spring is when you add the time release fertilizer to your potted plants or put in the sachet bags for mounted orchids or vandas. What is great is that every time you water your plant it gets fed. Dynamite is the name of the fertilizer and it is available at Home Depot (Red container) or from a commercial grower, it is called Nutri-cote. The time release fertilizer might last up to 180 days so you will not re-apply until next spring.

Fertilizing is very important now for root growth and to generate flowers forming. All the growers tell us – the important thing is that you use what you have, as it is better than not fertilizing at all. Some say to fertilize weekly weakly, meaning at half strength. Some say that in the spring you should increase the amount of fertilizer to 2 teaspoons per gallon of water every two weeks. Some people like to use a bloom booster this time of year. There are all kinds of other things you can add to your fertilizer solution, MaxiCrop (made from seaweed), Epsom Salt (adds magnesium) and all sorts of other ingredients. Do a little research and learn what works for you. We have shared Bill Hodnetts formula so you might want to try that – it works for him.

In other words – Just Do It! Enjoy your orchids!

# REPOTTING WORKSHOP

By Tony Millet - [axxmillet@gmail.com](mailto:axxmillet@gmail.com)

*Tony Millet has been growing orchids for many years and has been very successful as his plants have been awarded by the AOS. He is a hybridizer and participates in the AOS Judging program. In other words, he knows orchids and is always willing to share his knowledge. This is information that you might/should save for future reference.*

RULE ... DON'T REPOT UNLESS YOU HAVE A GOOD REASON TO REPOT. THE AVERAGE REPOT WILL COST AT LEAST 6 MONTHS TO ONE YEAR OF PLANT TIME AND PLANT GROWTH.

## WHY REPOT???

- Plant over the edge
- Plant in the wrong media for your growing conditions
- Plant is bare rooted
- Plant root system is dying
- Plant is not happy
- Plant is too large and needs to be divided

CONSIDER SIZE OF PLANT'S ROOTS . LARGE, MED AND SMALL MEANS ROOTS' CIRCUMFERENCE:

- Phalaenopsis have large, med and small roots.
- Paphiopedilum have medium and large roots.
- Cattleya, including Encyclia, have large, med and small roots.
- Vandas have medium to large roots
- Dendrobiums have small and medium roots

Vandas Repotting-(If you don't just hang them from an S-Hook... Vandas have large hanging roots; divide and tie the plant to either a wire hanger or a hanging basket or a large pot. Use large media.

All others orchids listed above can be accommodated in pots or mounted.

REPOTTING MEDIA. COST IS TO BE CONSIDERED:

What media do you use? There are so many and in so many combinations. Your repotting pantry should include various media and options.

- Clay pebbles-various names, i.e., hydroton, expanded clay, hydrokorrels, etc. Buy medium size, smash for finer, does not breakdown
- Tree fern-lasts 3-4 yrs. Comes as plaques or baskets for mounting; hard fibers or cubes for mix
- Sponge Rak (adds air pockets to mix). Comes medium to large size unless crushed, last 3 4 yrs.
- Orchiata. Comes small, medium and large. LONG LASTING
- Sphagnum Lasts 2 to 3 years depending on quality. Hi grade AAAA long fibered with the least debris will last 2-5 yrs. (Uses for sphagnum Phalaenopsis, Bulbophyllum, fine roots plants, cool growers in warm climates, has antiseptic properties, as top dressing for Paphiopedilums and Phalaenopsis and Phragmipediums, Cattleyas, improves potting mix with tree fern and sponge rok. GREEN tree moss or Shag moss.
- Other ingredients as needed- charcoal (long lasting), coconut husk (one year), bark (2 years)

Mix the media grade to match plant root size! Small root diameter - size small size media; medium size medium root diameter - medium size media; large root diameter - large media.

Phragmipediums, Cattleyas, improves potting mix with tree fern and sponge rok. GREEN tree moss or Shag moss.

- Other ingredients as needed- charcoal (long lasting), coconut husk (one year), bark (2 years)

### TONY'S BASIC MIX:

- 1/3 tree fern
- 1/3 sponge rock
- 1/3 hydroton pebbles
- Enough sphagnum moss to hold moisture

Use a large plastic zipped bag. Add water to the mix so that the mix is coated consistently throughout with water but not sloppy wet. Use hot water or microwave the mix one minute.

### SELECTING POT SIZE AND TYPE:

Pots can include plastic as well as clay terracotta, baskets - wire as well as natural containers such as coconut, tree fern squares and balls, etc. and other innovative containers that have adequate drainage.

Next size up is the normal from the size of the pot the plant is in, but 1 inch from the edge is the better rule.

### POTTING TECHNIQUE IS VERY IMPORTANT:

Keep tools 3 pairs of scissors and knives. Clean tools in a 10% solution of bleach or a solution of TSP (Trisodium phosphate - mix TSP in a jar of warm water and keep adding and stirring until no more TSP will dissolve in the bottom of the jar. Bleach or TSP solution should be changed monthly.

Positioning the plant high in the pot; back fill the media; stabilize the plant



IF bare root (meaning NO ROOTS) then artificial roots can be given by tying wire around the pseudobulb and out through the bottom of the pot and secured. Position the plant and fill in the media.

If the plant has roots, then clips can be used if needed. Hold the plant by its leaves to check that it doesn't pull out of the pot.

## NON-AGGRESSIVE REPOTTING :

- POT IN POT- No cutting or dividing IF plant is finicky and does not like to be uprooted then use the gradual

addition of media to a next size up pot so basically pot in a pot.

- Attach a chunk of Tree Fern to the edge of the pot where the plant is climbing allowing the roots to attach to the outside tree fern and then 6 months later cut and then repot
- Attach another pot to the side of the pot where the plant is growing and fill with media and allow new growth to grow into that pot. Once it does (at least 3 pseudobulbs) then cut and separate the pots.
- Push or Move the plant back in the pot and fill the forward section with media.

## SPECIALTY MOUNTING PLANTS WITH A BACKGROUND OF AND HYBRIDS OF THE FOLLOWING: (NOTE MOST OF US HAVE THESE PLANTS IN OUR COLLECTION.

Use Google to look up the background and culture of your plant:)

- *Cattleya walkeriana* - mount horizontally
- *Cattleya mossiae* and those *Cattleyas* in the labiate group - add extra ingredients to keep cooler and slight damper
- *Cattleya warscewiczii* (formerly called *Cattleya gigas*)- mount to accommodate new rising (above media) growth
- *Rhyncholaelia digbyana* (formerly called *Brassovola digbyana* and *Psychopsis papilio* mount to accommodate fine root structure
- *Broughtonias* - mount to accommodate the plant at an angled growth
- *Sophronitis*- (cool growing *Cattleyas* i.e., former *Slc*'s) mount to accommodate quick drainage and yet added a

pocket root crotch/shelf - mounting for coolness

- *Cattleya dowiana*- mount to accommodate tall structure pseudobulbs

## WATERING:

Newly divided repotted plants should be watered once a week (in a plastic pot), twice a week if the pot is quick draining or porous such as clay, for the next 4 to 8 weeks. Start fertilizing after 8 weeks with a weak weekly 20-20-20.



## OTHER NEED TO KNOW INFO:

### AGGRESSIVE DISTURBANCE AND DIVIDING:

If the plant is a vigorous grower, strip it down and clean all segments and divide it into 3-5 pseudobulbs bulbs and lay the divisions on a bed of LIVE sphagnum or shag moss until new roots are visible then repot .

Don't forget to add the date of repotting on the nametag of the plant. If a new division, make another tag. If possible take a picture of the newly repotted plant so you can judge its progress at the time of year you repotted it.

### MOUNTING TO LIVING TREES OR OTHER ITEMS:

All newly mounted plant roots should be covered with some moss or coconut fiber to give added protection to the roots and prevent animals from biting at the new emerging roots. Mount along the natural water run off line along the trunk or limb. (Examine the tree and look for the darker side of the trunk that's where the water flows when it rains and you want to mount on that side!)

### MOUNTING VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL, ON TREE FERN, OR HARD WOOD LIKE CYPRESS :

Select the mount to be used. Hardwood is the best choice. Place a thin pad of sphagnum moss and wire wrap to the mount,

### RUBBER BAND OR BUNGEE CORD TECHNIQUE:

Place the root zone of the plant on the moss pad, the growth eye to the left or right of the mount but not up against the mount, (reason if water accumulates at the growth eye, it will cause rotting of the new growth). Then secure the new plant to the mount using wire or string.

Note if mounting Phalaenopsis: Securing the plant is very important and leaning it to its side so that water does not stay in the crown of the plant contributing to crown rot.

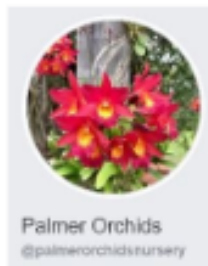
### TIPS AND GOOD INFO:

- Cheap tools at Dollar Store.
- Inscribe on the outside of the pot either the initials of plant or full name
- When you water or mist, point down not across the plant
- Use a transparent pot to see the condensation at the root level.
- Check to see if pieces of the sphagnum are turning green (or a green tint). This indicates the ph is good with adequate moisture

- If you have a piece of live moss (SHAG) then add to the top of the mix near the base of the plant. You might find live green moss growing around a gutter downspout or along the edge of a concrete patio or the house if it gets dampness
- Use bungee cords to fasten plants to a wire shelf
- Use garden paver edging to lean Phalaenopsis in a pot on so the water does not remain in the crown of the plant

# Auction Sponsors

Support our Orchid Vendor Friends that provided discounted plants for our 2020 Auction. The links are provided.



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