

# Tucson Orchid Society Newsletter

January 2016

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**Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, January 20, 7:30 PM**

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## **Featured Speaker: Bob Fuchs - RF Orchids**

*“Vandaceous Intergeneric Hybrids”*

The January program will feature Bob Fuchs, owner of RF Orchids in Homestead, Florida. His talk will be on Vandaceous Intergeneric Hybrids from the hobbyist point of view. He will definitely address orchid culture issues. Bob has been working with crosses of Vandas, Cattleyas, and Ascocentrum for a long time.

Bob Fuchs is recognized as orchid royalty around the globe. He was only 10 years old when he began collecting orchids in the wild. He was 14 when he went on his first salvage collecting trip out of the country. By the time he graduated from high school, he had amassed quite a collection and began his involvement with orchid societies. In 1970, Bob graduated from Florida State University and opened R.F. Orchids in December of that year. At that time, Bob’s official profession was teaching at Homestead Junior High, and the nursery was open only on weekends and afternoons after school.



In 1984, orchid growers from around the world converged on Miami for the 11th World Orchid Conference and its prestigious orchid show. RF Orchids plant Vanda Deva “Robert” was honored as the Grand Champion of the World. This Grand Champion award catapulted Bob into international recognition and acceptance as one of the leading vandaceous orchid firms in the world.

Bob retired from teaching in 1985 and incorporated the nursery. R.F. Orchids has continued to grow ever since. Bob

is a life member and former trustee of the American Orchid Society, life member of the Royal Horticultural Society of Thailand, member of the Royal Horticultural Society of England, past president and current board member of the South Florida Orchid Society; founding member and past president of the East Everglades Orchid Society. In 1994 the South Florida Orchid Society presented him with its Distinguished Service Award. He is a member of the Homestead-Florida City Chamber of Commerce and a generous supporter of the education and conservation programs at Miami Metro Zoo. In October 1999, the city of Homestead presented Bob with the key to the city and proclaimed Robert Fuchs Day in recognition of his dedication, hard work and contributions to the improvement of the horticulture industry in our community.

Robert Fuchs RF Orchids 28100 SW 182 Av Homestead, FL 33030 (877) 482-6327 [rforchids.com](http://rforchids.com)

## President's Corner

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. I want to **thank Wes and Sue** for graciously hosting our Holiday potluck again. I don't know what we as a society would do without them. I also want to thank last year's board members for doing such a great job keeping our club alive and having fun. Thanks also to members hosting greenhouse tours, bringing plants for show and tell, providing cookies, setting up and cleaning up and contributing to the newsletter. And for Barry for donating lovely plants.



On a different note, winter is definitely here with snow in the mountains and chilly temperatures around Tucson. I hope every one's orchids are doing well. My greenhouse seems too cold and humid. I am watering every eight days and the the condensation is still heavy. Plus I have bugs and not just one variety either! I need a **plan of action** and good chunk of time to implement it. This year I hope for more flowers and fewer bugs in my greenhouse.

Dianne Turausky, our new Vice President, is starting an **outreach program** for the Society. On January 23, there is an event planned for new orchid growers. Please look for her article in this issue for details and ways to participate. We all have lots of orchid knowledge and this is a great way to share it to get more people involved in growing orchids.



Our **annual orchid show** at Mesquite Valley Growers on March 5-6 is also rapidly approaching! Please mark your calendars for that weekend. We will have displays, an education table, plants for sale, and orchid judging. Lots of your orchid growing friends will gather to share their love of orchids with visitors and hopefully enroll some new members. Putting in a display is always fun and sometimes challenging. If you are new or don't think that you have enough blooming plants consider teaming up with another member to create one. Baskets are another wonderful way to display orchids. We also

have a society display for blooming plants. For details please see Wes, our show chairman.

Looking forward to another fun year!  
Judy Forester

## Orchid Problem Corner

Judy Forester



I am creating an orchid problem corner at all our monthly meetings. Look for the sign on a table or desk somewhere at the monthly meeting. Members can bring in an orchid that is a **problem plant** for other members to comment on. It may be an identification problem, bugs, culture or some mysterious issue. There will be **paper and pencil** there for members to offer suggestions regarding your plant. If you have a buggy plant please bring it in a bag so as not to spread pests. By having a designated area I am hoping that comments regarding treatment etc can be made before the meeting, during the break or

afterwards. I realize how important our free time is at meetings for catching up with people that we only see once a month and hope that we can include solving some plant problems too.

## Orchid of the month Sheri Musil

Brassavola 'Little Stars' (*B. nodosa* x *B. cordata*) is a small orchid with white and green flowers that have a wonderful fragrance at night. The real reason to grow this plant is the fragrance. I think it smells a bit like citrus and gardenia, and the smell can permeate the house once the lights go out. As a bonus, the flowers last a long time, even in the heat of summer. There is a great picture at an AOS website ([click here](#)).

*B. nodosa* is a reasonably easy orchid to grow if you can give it enough light. It has rounded, pencil like leaves that tolerate low humidity and moderate light. Mine is a bit floppy in growth pattern, which is awkward in a pot. But I've seen lovely specimens here in Tucson of *B. nodosa* 'Little Stars' grown in hanging baskets that look fabulous with lots of little flowers hanging down.

Personally, I've had much better luck blooming *B. nodosa* 'Little Stars' than with the species *B. nodosa*. 'Little Stars' produces smaller flowers but more of them.

### Plant characteristics:

**Height:** 12"

**Growth type:** Long pencil like leaves with no apparent pseudo-bulbs. Grows into a specimen fairly easily. Leaves may lean over without staking.

**Spike:** 4" long with 4 to 6 flowers

**Flower size:** Smaller than *B. nodosa*, perhaps 1.5 inches or so.

**Flowers:** White with light green

**Bloom season:** Mine bloom in early fall, but I think they can bloom any time of the year.

**Light:** Medium to high light. If you see small red spots developing on the leaves you'll know that they are getting near the maximum amount of light.

**Temperature:** Intermediate to warm. They seem to like about the same temperatures we do, about 80 F in the summer and in the high 60's in winter. They'll tolerate high temperatures in the 90's, but keep them on the drier side if your temperatures get down into the 50's in the winter. There are reports that they won't bloom if it gets too cold, although mine seems to tolerate the mid-50's and will still bloom.

**Water:** Water heavily in the growth period, and then give reduced water in the winter. Don't stop entirely in the winter, as they get a little dew in their natural habitat, but a light touch is good.

**Humidity:** Tolerant of lower humidity

**Pot size:** 3" to 4" pot unless you grow it into a bigger specimen. Keep them a little underpotted. They want to dry out a bit between watering, and underpotting will help that drying happen. Use a plastic pot with very coarse, well-draining media. You can mount them if you have high humidity in a greenhouse, but I would definitely use a plastic pot in a drier greenhouse like mine, or in the house.

**Potting medium:** These plants appreciate good drainage, so I use medium fir bark with medium pumice (just medium fir bark is ok).

**Re-pot:** I'm a big fan of repotting just before root growth starts. My plant starts new root growth a couple of weeks after the blooms drop.



## Orchid Outreach Dianne Turausky

The Tucson Orchid Society will be running an outreach booth at the Bear Canyon Open Air Market on **Saturday, January 23, from 9am to 2pm**. We will be there to offer growing tips to people who may have gotten orchids as holiday gifts, and have no idea what to do with them. We will also repot any orchids that people bring to the event that are in need of repotting, so we are



**looking for volunteers** who especially like repotting to join us. If you have orchids in bloom that you don't mind setting out under our tent, we'd love to have them, and we welcome ALL the help we can get! Those of you who grow indoors, rather than in greenhouses, are urged to attend, because new orchid growers are likely to be growing in conditions similar to yours.

We hope this will be the first of many outreach programs we run in the hopes of drawing more interest in our club and in orchids. The Market is at the **NW corner** of Tanque Verde and Catalina Highway.

## Education Corner by Marie Hirsch and Doug Forester

What Does That Orchid Word Mean?

### **Symbiosis** (sim-bi-OH-sis)

The living together of dissimilar organisms with benefit to both; for example, the relationship between certain fungi and orchid seeds germinating in the wild. Another very fascinating example is the relationship shown in this [website video](#) between the mormodes badia orchid and the orchid bee.



The bee pollinates the orchid (as expected), but only male bees visit this orchid. What the bee gets back in return is not pollen; it is material gathered from the orchid which the bee utilizes to generate pheromones to attract female bees.

### **Asymbiotic** (ay-sim-bi-AH-tic)

Without symbiosis, it refers to a method of germinating orchid seed without the presence of fungi. A very good website (found [here](#)) describes how you can **flask your own orchid pods** at home with very high success rates asymbiotically: not using fungi. Try it if you're brave enough!



### **Pleione** (plye-OH-nee)

A small genus of pseudobulbous orchids from the Himalayas and Southeast Asia. They are related to Coelgyne. It was established in 1825 by D. Don who dedicated it to Pleione, mother of the Pleiades in Greek mythology.

## Macodes (ma-KOH-deez)

A small genus of terrestrial orchids from Java and Borneo. They are considered one of the "**Jewel Orchids**" because of the beautiful variegated foliage. It was described in 1840 by Lindley. The name refers to the elongated midlobe of the lip. Jewels like high humidity, moist medium all the time, and no direct sunshine.



Reminder: the 2016 dues are due this month! They remain the same at \$12 per year. All members with email should have gotten a reminder recently. If you have not already paid for this new year you can bring cash or **check to our next meeting**. For those folks who cannot attend the meeting, you may mail your check to the Treasurer, Jim Wilcoxon, 9662 E Hickory Tree Place, Tucson, AZ 85749.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL *Annual Dues*

In the coming weeks we will be updating the club roster making corrections and deletions. If you do not attend meetings but still wish to get our newsletters and notifications of special events, you will have to remain current with your dues. If you have any questions regarding your current standing please e-mail Doug Forester, [dougf.ccn@comcast.net](mailto:dougf.ccn@comcast.net).



## Christmas Potluck

The Christmas Potluck was held at Wes Addison's home again this year. Thank you, Wes and Sue, for hosting this traditional event! About 25 members ate their way through a sumptuous feast, not to mention yummy desserts!

## Cookie List Jan 20, 2016 Mike Barretti

Be sure to **sign up** at the meeting to bring cookies to a monthly meeting. Pick a month, sign your name, and plan to bring something nice to share.

## February Speaker Ron Parsons, a world-class orchid and flower photographer.

**Future Greenhouse Open Houses** There are no greenhouse open houses currently scheduled. Please **let the President know** if you are interested in showing off your orchids and how you grow them to members of the Society. Traditionally, tours run from April through September. Whether you grow on a windowsill, patio, yard, or greenhouse, other growers can discover new ideas and suggestions for improving their growing.

## General Meeting Information

The Tucson Orchid Society regularly meets on the **third Wednesday** in January through October. Members are encouraged to bring orchids in bloom for **show and tell**. In November, the Society holds a fundraising **auction** of plants donated for that purpose. In December, we have a wonderful, relaxing **potluck** with a greenhouse tour, combined with a short business meeting and election of officers.

The monthly meetings are held at the [Gem & Mineral Society Building](#) (Adobe Bridge Club entrance), 3727 E. Blacklidge Dr., Tucson, AZ 85716 at 7:30 PM. From the intersection of East Ft. Lowell and North Dodge, go two blocks south on Dodge, turn left on Blacklidge. The building is on the north side of the street.

**The Newsletter** The newsletter is published every month of the year. If you have something you would like to have published in the newsletter that is of general interest, don't hesitate to contact the newsletter editor, Doug Forester. The deadline is two weeks prior to the monthly meeting.

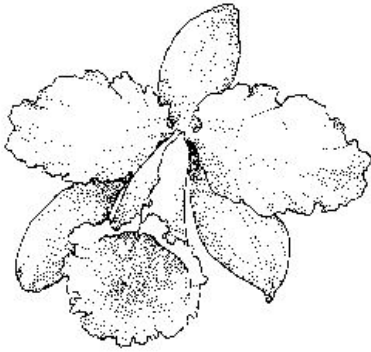
## TOS Officers

President	Judy Forester	<a href="mailto:judyf.ccn@comcast.net">judyf.ccn@comcast.net</a>
Vice-President	Dianne Turausky	<a href="mailto:dturausky@comcast.net">dturausky@comcast.net</a>
Treasurer	Jim Wilcoxon	<a href="mailto:jfw@theriver.com">jfw@theriver.com</a>
Past President	Mike Barretti	<a href="mailto:mbarretti@msn.com">mbarretti@msn.com</a>
Media/Membership	Doug Forester	<a href="mailto:dougf.ccn@comcast.net">dougf.ccn@comcast.net</a>
Program Chair	Wes Addison	<a href="mailto:wesadd@cpatucson.com">wesadd@cpatucson.com</a>
Show Chair	Wes Addison	
Auction Chair	Mike Barretti	

## Social Media

Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/TucsonOrchidSociety](http://www.Facebook.com/TucsonOrchidSociety)

Website: [www.orchidsocietytucson.org](http://www.orchidsocietytucson.org)



# Tucson Orchid Society

Meets the third Wednesday of each month  
7:30 p.m.

Gem & Mineral Society Building (Adobe Bridge Club entrance)  
3727 E. Blacklidge Rd.

**Visitors and new members are always welcome**

Visit us on Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/TucsonOrchidSociety](http://www.Facebook.com/TucsonOrchidSociety)

Visit our website: [www.orchidsocietytucson.org](http://www.orchidsocietytucson.org)

Yes, I would like to join the Tucson Orchid Society. Yearly membership dues are \$12.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

May we email you the newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date \_\_\_\_\_

Bring this to the monthly meeting or mail with your check to:

Tucson Orchid Society  
%Jim Wilcoxon  
9662 E Hickory Tree Place  
Tucson, AZ 85749