

## Special Report/Countdown to Orchid History

THE next time you visit the 19th World Orchid Conference® Web site you will see that the countdown is on to the largest, most spectacular Orchid Show and World Orchid Conference in the history of the United States. In less than 60 days, we will be experiencing this long-awaited orchid extravaganza and its exciting events and festivities. Orchids—Nature's Masterpiece® will bring “all things orchids and all orchid people” to the United States, and Miami, Florida, from January 23–27, 2008 at the Sheraton Miami Mart Hotel and Exhibition Center.

For the first time in more than two decades, attendees won't have to travel to Malaysia, Japan, Brazil, France or any other exotic country that has hosted a World Orchid Conference, an event held only once every three years. You can experience one of the greatest orchid shows, lecture series and global orchid events of all time, right here in our own back yard — tropical and exotic Miami.

The highlight of the 19th World Orchid Conference will be its spectacular orchid show, which will host the most sought-after orchid vendors and exhibitors from all over the world. Chances are that you will never see this vast international group of renowned orchid growers and vendors in one place at one time again. The most dramatic and



amazing orchid exhibits ever created are planned to overwhelm the public and compete for spectacular trophies, medals and ribbons. Amazing orchid-related exhibitions and competitions will enhance the fabulous orchid show including orchid photography, orchid quilts, orchid cake decorating, Ikebana and a spectacular art competition.

For the first time at a recent South Florida Orchid Show, there will be a “People's Choice Award.” Show attendees will vote for the best plant in the show: one vote with each general admission ticket sold on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Be sure not to miss your chance to vote and also to be on hand when the winner is announced on Saturday.

Breathtaking orchids, orchid-related items including orchid supplies, every imaginable form of orchid art, magnificent orchid jewelry, original paintings, prints, ceramics, glass, wood, photographs, clothing, books and prizes will be on sale. Hundreds of sales booths selling the orchids and orchid treasures will fill the exhibition hall creating an unforgettable orchid experience.

First, and most important, plan to attend. Full and companion registration will be open until December 31, 2007, for those who want to have access to unlimited lectures by 72 speakers representing 18 countries, five days of admission to the orchid show, exhibits and sales booths and attend the exclusive red-carpet Premier Party by Bacardi to catch the first glimpse of the show and the winners of its coveted awards. You can purchase a one-day registration in advance or at the door for only \$50. The one-day registrant is entitled to attend all of the lectures for the day of registration and to access the spectacular orchid show, exhibits and sales booths for the day. General admission, which provides unlimited access to the orchid show, exhibits and sales booths for the entire day of your choice, is available at the door for only \$20. Groups of 20 or more who purchase group tickets prior to December 31, 2007, will receive a discount. Please call the 19WOC executive office at 786-621-9962 to register or order advance group tickets. You can also register on line.

Be sure to visit the United States Postal Service booth and choose one of five collectible commemorative postcards



BRUCE MUNTZ

ABOVE Tour destinations for WOC registrants include the Art Deco District on Miami Beach.

BELOW LEFT Balmy breezes and sunny skies are certain to lure visitors.

stamped with an official 19WOC stamp — a unique stamp design has been created for every day of the show. The event's major sponsor, FedEx/Kinkos, will be on site to pack and ship your purchases around the world and take care of your orchid-business needs.

Plan to stay late on Friday, January 25, to participate in a silent auction featuring travel items, orchid plants, arrangements and collectibles. The highlight of the auction will be the original artwork from all three of the official 19WOC posters created by Fred Caravetta, Barbara Gaterman and Angela Mirro. Meet the artists, who plan to be in attendance.

Enter the art, photography, cake decorating, quilting or flower arranging contests. Details for the competition and entry forms are available on the 19WOC Web site ([www.19woc.com](http://www.19woc.com)).

Members of the 19th World Orchid Conference Committee have been working diligently since 2002, meticulously planning and organizing every detail of this once-in-a-lifetime orchid experience. Check the events schedule and make plans now to attend.

Rates: Daily Admission \$20; Daily Registrant \$50; Full Registration \$300 (before December 31, 2007). Visit [www.19woc.com](http://www.19woc.com) or call 786-621-9962 for information and details. — *Janett McMillan, Deerfield Beach, Florida (e-mail publicity@19woc.com).*



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