

Spring/Summer 2008

ONE-O-ONE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE COUNCIL OF 101 OF THE ORLANDO MUSEUM OF ART



Antiques Show & Sale

In Bloom

Orchid Expert Finds Niche
in Trend Toward Exotic,
Fragrant Plants

Guest Speaker

Barbara Milo Ohrbach

Tearoom Gourmet

Council of 101 Antiques
Show & Sale, Tearoom Fare
Inspires Culinary Gems





BUSINESS IS BLOOMING

Orchid seller Ginny Enstad finds niche in trend toward exotic, fragrant plants

BY JENNIFER KNIGHT-ARI

PHOTOS BY DARREN IOZIA

They're not the finicky, foreign flowers one may think: more than 25,000 species of orchids grow naturally from the Arctic circle to the southernmost tip of every inhabited continent.

Hearty and adaptable, members of the family Orchidaceae thrive all over the globe in startling hues and shapes.

In tropical jungles and arid forests, lithophytes cling to the surfaces of rocks and terrestrials root themselves in the earth. Some orchids, called epiphytes or "air" plants,

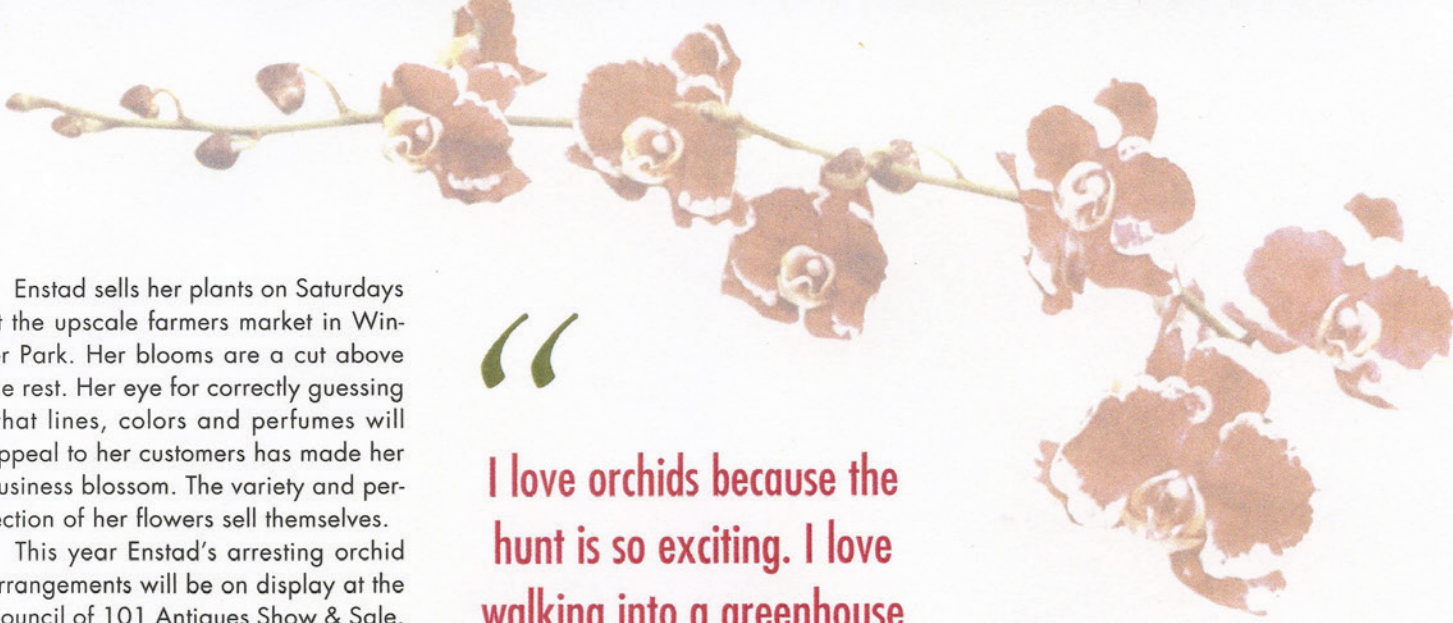
even grow on trees, their roots hanging gracefully.

Every week, Ginny Enstad and her husband, Bob, haunt greenhouses all over Florida in the search for something new for her business, Ginny's Orchids.

"I love orchids because the hunt is so exciting. I love walking into a greenhouse and finding something I've never seen before," she said. "You walk in and, as far as the eye can see, there are blooming flowers. It's such an incredible thing to do."







Enstad sells her plants on Saturdays at the upscale farmers market in Winter Park. Her blooms are a cut above the rest. Her eye for correctly guessing what lines, colors and perfumes will appeal to her customers has made her business blossom. The variety and perfection of her flowers sell themselves.

This year Enstad's arresting orchid arrangements will be on display at the Council of 101 Antiques Show & Sale.

As of late, the public demand for orchids has piqued curiosity about strangely beautiful specimens. Like Cycnodes, with intensely fragrant petals that fill a room with their aroma. Or the renewed interest in Cattleyas, the orchids once used in corsages, which come in a range of wild colors.

The Oncidium genus includes a variety of flowers, including Dancing Ladies, with bright yellow-and-maroon blooms that resemble young belles whirling in full skirts; and the Lady of the Night, whose snow-white petals emit a scent only after sunset.

"That's unusual, because most orchids have their strongest fragrance in the morning, when they attract their pollinators — bees, wasps, butterflies, moths, ants and beetles," Enstad said.

One that continues to increase in popularity is an Ascocenda hybrid, with sturdy evergreen leaves and sometimes vibrant purple flowers. Originally discovered in southeast Asia, Ascocenda species are among the so-called "air" orchids, their free, unencumbered roots soaking up moisture from the air.

Many of today's orchids are genetically modified to tolerate heat, or to combine the sturdiness of one plant with the brilliant blooms of another. Some sophisticates only collect pure species, shunning hybrids and other laboratory-aided creations.

In the wild, orchids have their blooming season — some bloom for a week, others for four months. Commercial growers have created an environment to trick the flowers by controlling the light and temperature in their green-

“
I love orchids because the hunt is so exciting. I love walking into a greenhouse and finding something I've never seen before.”

houses.

"It's all done scientifically these days. A whole dark shade will cover the roof so the orchids think it's later than it is. Temperatures are cooled down or heated up depending whether they're trying to get

them to bloom or not bloom," she said.

"It used to be that you wouldn't get a Phalaenopsis unless it was around Mother's Day, or in the fall. But now you can have beautiful plants year-round. It's a great thing."

