

A word (or two) about our speakers:

Tom Mirenda : Since Tom is now working and residing in Hawaii, his speaking engagements to the mainland will be scarce. The reason we were able to swing this is that he had agreed to speak at our Mid- America before he accepted his new position. He will be giving a conservation talk similar to one he gave at a world orchid conference, plus delighting us at the banquet with his take on “orchid sex”. Then on Sunday he will give us a virtual tour of the Hawaiian Botanical Garden, which will be open to the public. (This is one of the reasons his new boss is allowing him the time off!) So if you want to spend some time with this knowledgeable, down to earth, human orchid encyclopedia, this is your opportunity!

Bill Thoms: A renowned grower and breeder of Bulbos. We will hear about them from one of the best. Be prepared to learn more about this fascinating group of plants than you ever dreamed! Bill Thoms and his wife, Doris Dukes, have been growing orchids around Central Florida for more than 40 years and have received almost every award granted by the AOS as well as more Awards for Culture than anyone else in the world, (95 in over 30 genera, including 45 in the bulbophyllum alliance (capped off with a 97 pt. Certificate of Cultural Excellence for Bulb. Sue Blackmore.) Enough said!

Chi-Ching Kao or “Dennis” from Ching Hua Orchids: Dennis will speak on the new hybrid paph breeding in Taiwan. Ching Hua produces many of the flasks that are sold and finished throughout the world, especially in Hawaii. Dennis is staying over from a previous show in Canada, so we were fortunate to be able to arrange this new presenter and presentation!