

# Vero Beach Orchid Society

## FEBRUARY 2012

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### JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

The January meeting was held at the Vero Beach Garden Club. President Mary Gustave opened the meeting at 7 P.M., by passing out the meeting agenda. 79 members and guests were present. There were four new members.

Approval of November minutes: Minutes are printed in the newsletter and approved at the following monthly meeting. A motion to accept was made by Carolyn Green and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sherrie Cauley.

Doug Mew gave the Treasurers report. The Treasurers report is on file with the Secretary.

Reports: Bus Trip Report. We have 5 available seats. We will meet at the garden Club, January 28 at 7 A.M. anyone who can't make it contact Mary, so someone else can go.

New Business: Mary asked for a chairman to organize the next auction to be held in March. Without a March chairman we will have only one Auction in November.

A chairman is needed to be in charge of Orchid Floral Arrangements, (niches) for the Orchid show in April 28 and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Marty Lawson has stepped forward to be our next membership chairman and was recognized by the chair.

Sherry Cauley was recognized for her excellent job of being Chairman of the Away Shows. Many Thanks for her efforts to help in any way possible. A motion was made by Beryl Steiner and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eileen Chiarella to present Sherry with a lovely Vanda.

Show and Tell, was lead by Jamie Lawson, there were so many beautiful orchids. Anyone who has an orchid they would like to show is welcomed. Jamie offered to tell about the orchid if the owner wished. A special raffle is held for show and tell group.

Our Speaker, Joseph Grezaffi gave a very educational talk on growing orchids. He let us in on his tips and tricks, and care he provides for the winter months. He gave a demonstration of how to pollinate a cattleya. He brought a great group of hard to find orchids to sell.



Many thanks go out to Louise Martin our refreshment chairman and her monthly volunteers. A Christmas raffle and a regular raffle were held. We had several happy winners.

Meeting was adjourned  
Respectfully submitted, Carol Besancon

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## AUCTION INFORMATION

There will be a spring auction in March as usual. Now is the time to select your plants that you want to auction off and start preparing them. More information to follow in the March Newsletter.

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## DUES FOR YEAR 2012 ARE DUE NOW

The dues for the Vero Beach Orchid Society are now due. The dues for the year 2012 are **\$15 Single Membership, \$20 Family Membership**. Dues may be paid at the meeting or by mailing a check to: **VBOS P.O. Box 543, Vero Beach, FL 32961**. If dues are not renewed by March 31, 2012 your name will be removed from the membership roll.

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## FEBRUARY PROGRAM

February meeting will be a 45 minute "Presentation of Niche Floral Arrangement". Instructions will be given on how to create a miniature orchid floral arrangement and have it be an award winner. Michael Ortseifer of Port St. Lucie will be giving the presentation. Members should bring miniature floral holders that they can use in an arrangement and any Den., Vandas or other orchid flowers that they wish to sacrifice for the arrangement. Greenery will be provided. This is an opportunity to learn how to do an award winning arrangement that you can create when our Orchid Show comes up in April.

**Members Sales Tables available since speaker has no plants for sale.**

**Those wishing to have a plant or supplies sales table, it would be appreciated, but not required, to donate a plant or supplies for the raffle table.**

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## February in Your Orchid Collection

February Climate Data  
Average high: 77.7  
Average low: 60.7  
Average mean: 69.1  
Average rainfall: 2.07"

Despite the bloom on the avocados and the burgeoning new leaves on the live oaks, February is not spring in South Florida. Danger of freeze continues past mid month and frost can occur still into March. Even if the weather is balmy it's too early to let down our guard or take down any protection we have mounted against the cold. The trend however is toward the positive as each lengthening day brings extra hours of warming sunshine to begin waking our plants from their long winter's rest.

February characteristically brings a wide swing of day to night temperatures, ideal for spiking ascocendas and vandas but also wringing from the air heavy dews and dense fog. Whilst these add a romantic atmosphere to the South Florida landscape, Wuthering Heights is singularly devoid of snails and slugs (much less Botrytis). The silvery carpet of dew provides a silky path to our orchids for snails and slugs which can range far, under these favorable conditions. They are eager to make a nice meal of your Phalaenopsis leaves or the soft crowns of your vandas before they retire during the dry months of March and April only to dream of the fresh shoots of the sympodial orchids brought forth by the first rains of May. Now is the time to give them a rude awakening. Remember that snail bait is most effectively applied lightly (scatter the pellets every few feet) and frequently (every 7 to 10 days). Two or three applications should do the job.

The heavy fog which can cause condensation on leaves even under cover can also bring trouble. Botrytis is a fungus disease that can disfigure flowers with small black spots. Particularly apparent and annoying on white Phalaenopsis, Botrytis can ruin other flowers as well. Control is typically achieved in commercial greenhouses with fungicide in aerosol forms and by running fans to prevent condensation on the flowers. The latter option is also available to collectors. A small fan turned on the spiking and opened flowers at night will greatly alleviate the pressure of Botrytis. So will, to a degree, the application of soap which we suggested in January to control mites. Bicarbonate of soda, ordinary baking soda, at 1Tbs. per gal will help as well. Quaternary ammonium compounds (Physan, RD40, Consan, pool algicide) also give some control. Maintaining long lasting flowers like Phalaenopsis, dendrobiums and bi-foliolate cattleyas in more perfect condition is well

worth the effort. Having waited so long for the flowers we want to enjoy them as long as possible and they do all last longer in cool weather.

The lower overall temperatures of February call for less frequent and lighter applications of fertilizer as was the practice in January. If any reddening of the foliage persists, another application of Epsom salts (1Tbs per gal), preferably in combination with potassium nitrate, is called for. Nitrate nitrogen is more available to the plants under cooler conditions than ammoniacal nitrogen. If your resolve holds steady not to water (or above all) fertilize those Himalayan dendrobiums, your reward may shortly become evident in bursting flower spikes. Like the avocados and the live oaks, many cattleyas and other sympodial orchids have bloomed and are just commencing new growth in February. Right after flowering is usually an excellent time for repotting from the plant's perspective and the cool day time temperatures in the greenhouse are hospitable to the orchid grower as well. It's still a bit early to re-basket vandas But an early start on the cattleyas will allow plenty of time and energy for those spring chores which are right around the corner. With that thought setting out to secure a good supply of pots in anticipation of the potting season ahead is on February's agenda.

Above was copied from the monthly Newsletter sent to subscribers by Dr. Martin Motes.

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## LIBRARY

Yes we have, come to the meeting and check out your favorite orchid book, back issues of AOS ORCHIDS magazine, and more.

Do you have any orchid related books that you no longer want, help out our Library and donate them to the society.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 2012

**10-12 - Greater Orlando Orchid Society Show**, Orlando Garden Club, 210 E. Rollins St., Loch Haven Park, Orlando, FL.

**11-12 - Boca Raton Orchid Society Show**, Safe Schools Institute, 1790 NW Spanish River Blvd., Boca Raton, FL

**16 - Vero Beach Orchid Society** regular meeting at the Garden Club of Indian River County 2526 17<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vero Beach, FL 32960, beginning at 7PM. Presentation of "Niche Floral Arrangements" will be conducted by Michael Ortseifer of Port St. Lucie.

### MARCH 2012

**2-4 - Key West Orchid Society Show**, West Martello Towers, Key West, FL

**2-4 - Martin County Orchid Society Show**, Martin County Fair Grounds, Building 6, 2616 SE Dixie Hwy, Stuart, FL.

**8-10 - Port ST. Lucie Orchid Society Show**, Port St. Lucie Community Center, 2195 S. Airosa Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL.

**8-11 - Orchid Society of Coral Gables Show**, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens, 10901 OLD Cutler Road, Coral Gables, FL.

**15 - Vero Beach Orchid Society** regular meeting at the Garden Club of Indian River County 2526 17<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vero Beach, FL 32960, beginning at 7PM. This will be the first of two member's auctions for the year.

**16-17 - Englewood Area Orchid Society Show**, United Methodist Church, 701 East Dearborn, Englewood, FL

**16-18 - Naples Orchid Society Show**, Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples, FL.

**17-18 - Jacksonville Orchid Society Show**, Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville, FL.

**24-25 - Orchid Society of Highlands County Show**, Bert J. Harris ,Jr. Agri-Civic Center 4500 George Blvd., Sebring, FL.

30-April1 - Central Florida Orchid Society Show, Maitland Civic Center, 641 S. Maitland Ave., Maitland, FL

April 2012

19 - Vero Beach Orchid Society regular meeting at the Garden Club of Indian River County 2526 17<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vero Beach, FL 32960, beginning at 7PM. Program TBD

27 - Set up day for VBOS Annual Show and Sale at Riverside Park.

28 - 29 VBOS Annual Show and Sale beginning at 10AM until 5PM both Saturday and Sunday at Riverside Park. Contact: Douglas Mew 5785 36<sup>th</sup> Lane, Vero Beach, Florida, 32966 or by cell phone 772-713-5165.

May 2012

12 - Annual VBOS picnic at Riverside Park. No regular monthly meeting in May.

18-20 - Redland International Orchid Festival, Redland Fruit & Spice Park, 24801 SW 187 Ave., Homestead, FL.

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Pictures of Members on Bus Trip to Tamiami Orchid Festival



Debbie Hawkins



Louise Martin/Barbara Loos



Darlene & Jack Coverdale



Patty Stiles/Wayne Zimmerman



Stu & Shirley Alexander



Diane O'Neal



Jackie & Jamie Lawson



Carol Besancon, Virginia Goodwin & Russ English



Eileen Chiarella



Kathy & Dennis Emborsky



Mary & Ted Firlein



Deanne Sheehan & Bud Ingersoll

Sorry for not getting pictures of everybody.

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Raffle Winners



Barbara Loos



Al Gustave





Carol Besancon



Louise Martin

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**Those in Attendance**



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**VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY OFFICERS**

**President –**

**Vice President –** Paul Price

**Secretary –** Carol Besancon

**Treasurer –** Doug Mew

**Past President –** Bobby Thomas

Vero Beach Orchid Society  
P.O. Box 543  
Vero Beach, FL 32961

**Board of Directors**

Sandra Abraham

Louise Martin

Scott St. Clair

**Committees**

Membership – Martha Lawson

Hospitality – Louise & Marty Martin

Sunshine – Marilyn Row

Show Chairman – Doug Mew

Newsletter Editor – Doug Mew

Photographers – Al Gustave & Doug Mew

Website; [www.verobeachorchidsociety.org](http://www.verobeachorchidsociety.org)

Email: [vbos@bellsouth.net](mailto:vbos@bellsouth.net)

**DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES FOR 2012 ARE DUE.**

**SINGLE MEMBERS DUES \$15.00**

**FAMILY DUES \$20.**

**OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16TH, 2012  
BRING A FRIEND**