

Vero Beach Orchid Society



JANUARY 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The New Year always brings a promise of a chance to start new things; diets, cease smoking, cleaner house, nicer to your life partner, concerns for those less fortunate than us, etc, etc, etc, I hope you have on your list "More involvement with the Orchid Society".

Thank you to all of the members who have agreed to be an officer or Board of Director member. We will, with your help, have a great year. One of the things I need help on is for some members to volunteer to come up with a plan for the society to contribute to a worthy cause. In other words, I need a committee. Scholarships have been mentioned. I would like some other suggestions. The committee would need to do research to validate their suggestions and then present them to the Board.

As I was sitting in Church this past Sunday I was going over in my mind what my first Presidents letter would say. Fortunate for you, I forgot what it was before I got home. I am a beginner when it comes to growing "Great Orchids", so please address your questions to the professionals like John Odom, Joe Bryson and Jamie Lawson, to name a few.... We have many knowledgeable members and a great library selection full of educational books.

As humans we need Love, Care and Nutrients. Our orchids need the same, but maybe not in that order. Keep your babies warm and talk with them daily. Brain storm on some new ideas for our society and pass them on to me.

Thanks for your support..... Mary



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.

JANUARY PROGRAM

This months speaker will be a long time orchid grower from the Melbourne Area. Joseph Grezaffi will be speaking on orchids in general. He will also be furnishing the plants for the raffle table and will be bring some of his orchids to sell at the meeting. There will be no member sales tables.

BUS TRIP TO TAMAMIAMI ORCHID FESTIVAL



ROAD TRIP UPDATE

Tamiami Orchid Show – January 28, 2012.

For those members who have signed up for the trip, the bus will leave from the Garden Center (same location as our meetings) at 7:00 am. Anticipated return time is before sunset. Snacks and drinks will be available on the bus. Food will be available at the show, but some of you may wish to bring your own lunch.

Remember 2012 membership dues must be paid in order for loading on the bus. The bus is just about full with only 5 seats remaining. If for some reason you can't go, please call me to release your seat as more members may make the decision to go. I do have some physically challenged members going and they will be given priority seating. I'm sure you understand.

Your show entrance ticket will be handed out on the bus. Yes, you can bring as many orchids back as you wish. Paul likes blue orchids.....

Looking forward to a great trip.
Mary 772-778-3942

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

There was no meeting in December due to the Annual Christmas Party held at the Elk's Lodge in Vero Beach. A total of 82 members and guest attended and a great time was had by all.

One of the last appointments to be made by President Bobby Thomas, before turning things over to the President for the upcoming year, Mary Gustave, was to bestow a Life Time Membership to John Odom. John was one of the original five persons who began the Vero Beach Orchid Society back in 1974, and continues in the dedication of promoting interest in the propagation, growth, scientific studies, and to generating community interest in growing orchids.



Below are pictures of the orchid plants given to Society Members attending the Christmas Party.





Outgoing President Bobby Thomas introduced Mary Gustave as the new President for the Society's upcoming year of 2012. Upon taking the helm as President, Mary had Life Time Member Ruth Saracco introduce the Officers and Board Members for the upcoming year of 2012, that were in attendance, and then she swore in the new Officers.



Louise Martin, Board, Carol Besancon, Secretary, Sandy Abraham, Board, Doug Mew, Treasurer, Mary Gustave, President, Paul Price, Vice President. Not pictured Scott St. Clair, Board. Life Member Ruth Saracco.

After the new officers were sworn in Sherri Cauley gave out some Christmas cheer to members that had done different things during the year.



After Sherri played Santa Claus members were treated to music for their listening or dancing pleasure furnished by members Joe & Boon Bryson finishing out the remainder of the night.



Thanks goes out to Louise and Miles Martin and their team for a great Christmas Party. I heard nothing but great, great from every one I talked to.



This article is Part 2 of a 2 part article. This article appeared in a newsletter from "The Orchid Ezine" an online orchid magazine.

TIPS

After the blooms fade, you may:

- 1) Cut the bloom stem back to the base, with a hot knife or shears, then apply a broadbase fungicide such as Physan20, Dithane M-45, or 50% Captan. The old stem is still living tissue and can become infected with fungus, thus threatening the Phal.
- 2) Try to initiate a re blooming, see below under PROPAGATION, or
- 3) Allow the bloom spike to dry naturally, then break it off at the base. Waiting until the spike is dry, precludes possible fungal infection in the old stem.

Repotting Phalaenopsis often initiate a growth cycle. Many hobbyists recommend at least a yearly repotting, if the medium is still good. An immediate repotting is necessary, anytime the medium breaks down and starts holding too much water. The best time to repot Phalaenopsis is as new growth starts. After removing the plant, shake off all the old potting medium, and remove the dead roots. If the roots are white and firm, they are healthy.

Plastic pots and clay pots are the most popular container. Hardwood baskets, and driftwood, with moss pads, can be used, but more frequent watering will be needed. The potting medium must be well-drained, but retain enough water to keep the roots moist. At the same time, the medium must allow ample air to the roots. New Zealand sphagnum moss, long fibered moss, and peat based mixtures are popular. Coconut chips and Fir bark can be used, as well as aggregate combinations. The watering frequency must be adjusted to offset the faster drying time.

The flower buds, and flowers, of Phalaenopsis will turn toward the source of strongest light. To avoid twisted stems, do not change the orientation of the pot to the source of the strongest light.

When you purchase a new plant, always place it where you can watch it for a couple of weeks until it is acclimated to your area. Initially, water the plant thoroughly and place it in a bright location with good humidity but out of drafts.

Phal plants are highly susceptible to crown rots. The fungus causes cellular collapse and rotting of roots, pseudobulbs and leaves in quick succession. First symptom is likely to be yellowing of leaves. Plants infected should be immediately removed from others. This disease has been known to wipe out a whole section of plants in a day or two. Dip plants into a fungicide solution according to directions. You should always avoid water in the apex of the plant, particularly during cool weather or extended rainy periods. Water early, so the crown area will be dry before the cool of the night. Tilting the pot slightly, will help water run out of the crown. During cool, rainy periods, an application of Physan20, Dithane M-45, 50% Captan, or Kocide 101 fungicide to the crown will prevent rot. If growing outside, during rainy periods an occasional application is a good

preventative measure also. Several applications may be necessary if the cool, rainy period is extensive. The fungicide dries in the crown and forms a protective layer.

A preventative spraying of Orthene 75%, wettable powder or in aerosol, on maturing flower buds will prevent insect damage, particularly aphids and thrips. If thrips are found on the open flowers, the same chemical can be used to eradicate the infestation, without damaging the flowers. Other insecticides WILL damage the flowers and should not be used. Use Orthene spray as recommended on the label. If using the aerosol, spray from at least a foot away from the flowers. In addition, Orthene 75% does not leave any unsightly residue.

Botrytis fungus will quickly ruin flowers of Phalaenopsis. with its ugly spots. The best defense against Botrytis is good air circulation, and keeping the flowers dry during cool, damp periods. The fungus is not threatening to the plant, it just causes unsightly damage to the flowers.

PROPAGATION

Phalaenopsis can be vegetatively propagated by two methods. The first method is by cutting the flowering stem above a stem internode, the dormant growth "eye" is covered with a triangular sheath. Cut, with a hot knife or shears, through the flower stem after the last flower has fallen. Then move the plant to a dimmer area. In most cases, new plants will start from the dormant "eyes ". After the new plants initiate, the mother and "kiekies " (babies) can be move gradually back to higher light. When the kiekies have 2-3 " roots, the "kiekies " can be removed, by slicing between the stem and the kiekie, or cutting the stem above and below kiekies attachment point. The new plant can now be potted up and grown on. If more flowers are desired, cut the stem as above, but do not move the plant. In the second method, the mother plant is topped. As a monopodial plant, Phals continue to grow vertically. In time, they discard their lower leaves. The leaves have served as a storage vessel of water and nutrients. The leaves have outlived their usefulness and are discarded. New roots are produced above the leafless stem, as the Phal continues growing vertically. The stem can be cut below the new roots. The top part, with leaves and roots, can be repotted after proper care of the cut. The remaining stub can be left as is, for a few days/weeks. Soon, new little plants will be found growing out of the old stub. These kiekies can be repotted in the same manner as the first method. They will grow on and eventually bloom. If left on the stub, they will often bloom sooner, than if individually potted.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January, 2012

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

20 – 22 – Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show, War Memorial Auditorium, 800 NE 8th St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Contact: Christine Crepage, 1401 NE 27th Dr., Wilton Manners, FL 33334; (954) 563-3548; crisnbil@att.net

21 – 22 – Manatee River Orchid Society Show, Manatee Civic Center, 1 Haben Blvd., Palmetto, FL. Contact: Barbara Fulbruck, 3522 51st Ave., W. Bradenton, FL 34210; (941) 751-1599; bavwfulbruck@tampabay.rr.com

28th - The Vero Beach Orchid Society **is putting a trip together for Saturday, January 28, 2012, to the Tamiami International Orchid Show.** The bus will be picking members up at the Garden Club of Vero Beach beginning at 7AM and will be leaving sharply at 7:30AM for members of our club who wish to go. **Cost is free** and includes bus trip, admission and a \$5.00 chit to be used toward purchase of orchids with vendors. For further information call Mary Gustave at 772-778-3942. Call and check if seats are available now! **As of Sunday January 1st there were only 5 seats left.**

MARCH 2012

Fairchild's 10th Annual International Orchid Festival



When: Friday, March 9, 2012 - Sunday, March 11, 2012 from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Fairchild's 10th Annual International Orchid Festival!

Admission: Free for Fairchild Members and children 5 and under.

Non-members: \$25 for adults, \$18 for seniors 65 and up and \$12 for children 6-17.

Eco-discount: If you walk, ride your bike or take public transportation to Fairchild, receive \$5 off admission for adults and \$2 off admission for children. Members, remember to bring your Rewards Card to earn your gift passes!

Military Discount: We are pleased to offer active military personnel free admission. In addition, admission for spouses is \$20 and children \$10. Please present Military IDs.

15 - Vero Beach Orchid Society regular meeting at the Garden Club of Indian River County 2526 17th Ave., Vero Beach, FL 32960, beginning at 7PM. This will be the first of two members auctions for the year.

April 2012

19 - Vero Beach Orchid Society regular meeting at the Garden Club of Indian River County 2526 17th 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 36th 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.**

VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY OFFICERS

President – Mary Gustave
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.veroachorchidsociety.org
Email: vbos@bellsouth.net

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2011



IF YOU WERE THEIR YOU WILL BE HERE

DON'T FORGET BEGINNING IN JANUARY YOUR DUES FOR 2012 ARE DUE.
SINGLE MEMBERS DUES \$15.00
FAMILY DUES \$20.

OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY JANUARY 19TH, 2012
BRING A FRIEND