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**New name! New website! New facebook page!
Same great meeting in June!**

"Exotic Orchids 101"



Mac Rivenbark,
June's Speaker

Date: Wednesday,
June 20, 2018

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Hagen Park
2020 Wilton Drive
Wilton Manors, FL 33305

Our June Speaker is someone many of us know from multiple Plant Fairs and from our shared friendships and memberships in the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society. Mac Rivenbark, of Mac's Orchids is going to teach us the basics of what we really need to know to be successful with growing orchids. He will also bring a wide assortment of interesting plants that will do well in our South Florida weather. In "Exotic Orchids 101", Mac will provide culture and growing advise as well as answering any questions we might have.

Mac and his wife, Helen Rivenbark, started their orchid business over 17 years ago after many fascinating trips to the Philippines. With extensive study, Mac is becoming an expert in Philippine and other Asian orchid species and currently grows and blooms over 300 types. He also served our country in the U.S. Marine Corps and he was the Past President of the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society. Mac enjoys giving lectures and educating others about orchids. Come see this interesting and exciting lecture.

Presidents Letter

First thing I want to mention is the incredible Bus Ramble we took, mostly in the south part of Dade County, on Saturday June 2nd. We stopped at four different growers/sellers, most of which are not open to the public. Everybody had a wonderful time. I can't even begin to tell you what a fun day it was. We got some great plants. Thank you to Dot Henley for planning and organizing the trip. Can't wait for the next one. Please give us your ideas for places to go in the future.

We had a great time socializing at the Member's Picnic in beautiful Richardson Park on May 5th. The rain that was threatening the day failed to appear. Thanks to everyone who worked to make it happen, especially Frank Zurek for doing the grilling, and Larry Scott for assisting. The food was great, and the socializing even better. We had a quick visit from a fox. There are several that live in the park. A good time was had by all, including the fox!

Our regular meeting on May 16th went very well. Everyone seemed to enjoy the speaker and we had an amazing selection of plants for the monthly raffle. We had the best selection and quantity of plants EVER on the members plant exchange table. With new members joining we now have more than 200 paid members in the club. Last, but certainly not least, we had the best spread of food we have ever had. You

seriously could have eaten dinner from all that was on the spread. Thank you to the new Refreshments Committee headed by Cheryl Frost with lots of help from Jack Donnelly and Fran Weissman. They could always use more help. What we have been doing to spread out the effort put into it, is that if your Birthday is that particular month you bring some food item to share. So anyone born in June, please bring something. The refreshments committee would like to make sure we have a balanced spread so if you could, please call Cheryl at 954-537-3596, Fran at 718-954-1780 or Jack at 954-804-5654 to let them know what you will bring. Even if it's not your Birthday, or even if it's last minute, we still welcome any and all items you would like to bring.

Thanks to everyone who brought plants to the meeting for the Raffle or for the Members Plant Exchange. We had a really good selection of plants for each. Let's keep this going. The plant exchange is fun, and the money made from the raffle helps defray the costs of the monthly meeting. Don't forget to wear your nametag to get entered into the drawing for a special plant. The tickets are at the membership table.

I want to welcome Jack Donnelly and Linda Gordon as trustees on the Board of Directors for the remainder of 2018. Linda was the Treasurer and Jack was the Secretary of the Oakland Park Garden Club. Their input on the Board is furthering the blending of the two clubs.

We have a new Facebook page because we lost access to our old page. Please go on Facebook and join our new page. Because we couldn't use the EXACT same name as the old one the new one is EGC Equality Garden Club, so please go to EGC Equality Garden Club to check out the new page. Warning: At this time the old page is still there frozen in time, so it may be a little confusing for now. Hope to see everyone sharing pictures and gardening experiences once again. Everyone has missed it.

This fall we are going to do a Tour of Residential Gardens. The planning stage is starting now. If you love to show off your garden, and believe your garden could be a candidate for being on the tour please call or email me. pbaquaserve@aol.com or 561-707-0507.

We need people to be on the 2019 Plant Fair Committee. Please ask any Club Officer or Board Member what is involved. The more people we have, the smoother the Plant Fair will go.

After two weeks of daily rain, and the seasons first named tropical storm, we are finally catching a break. I'm sure everyone is spending some time in their waterlogged, and in need of tending, gardens. If you have a lawn with turf grass this is the time pest, fungus, and bacterial issues are likely to pop up. I've been busy doing all my "hurricane pruning". Now is the time to get the bulk

done--you can't wait till a storm is threatening. Of course, from time to time you will need to remove palm seed pods, especially coconuts. Remember to only trim off obviously dead palm fronds. If there is any life left in them they are still producing nutrients for the tree. Those with koi ponds should get battery backup air systems. You can get them on Amazon for under \$20. Large ponds may need more than one. Consider a generator, if you don't already have one. Through June 7th generators and most hurricane supplies can be purchased tax free in the State of Florida. <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/features/deals-shopping/fl-bz-florida-tax-holiday-hurricane-supplies-20180522-story.html>

Looking forward to our June meeting. "Exotic Orchids 101" taught by Mac of Mac's Orchids. He will be bringing plants for sale that thrive in South Florida's weather. We love his orchids!

Also, with our new name of "Equality Garden Club" came our new website at www.EqualityGardenClub.com and our new facebook page. Be sure to click the link at the top of this email to like us on facebook. We'll see you at the next meeting.

Paul Durbin
EGC President



June's Equality Garden Club Newsletter ..aka Dot's dashes.

A quick look backwards and forwards

The picnic at Richardson Park was delightful, the food was good, and a red fox stopped by to see the people. Paul Durbin and others are thanked for the picnic efforts. The May meeting was one of the best ever. Despite the threat of two inches of rain, seventy-seven brave souls attended and many brought in amazing plants for the tables and perfect refreshments. We gained new members bringing out total households to 146 and our individual member number to 206. The speaker was impressive and his quest for new plants amazing. Imagine lying down, to keep from falling, to photographing flowers on a granite slope that was nearly vertical. He showed us 'probably the last plant on earth of *G. alba*', and many of us were awed and a bit sorry. I loved his telling us that ants 'planted' seeds of his beloved genus by eating off the oily coats and leaving them underground to sprout and grow.

The bus ramble on June 2 is looking good, and the bus seats are gone. Usually there are 1-2 who have to cancel at the last minute. If you should have to cancel, please call me so an alternate can go. Also call for any questions. (954-772-4836} Ramblers need to wear their name tags, so some new members who are going can learn your names.

FINALLY we are officially with the state the EQUALITY GARDEN CLUB. We had great years as EPGC, but the dropping of park from our name now fits our larger garden club.

These are a few of my favorite things

As the person who started saving her allowance and buying plants in the 5th grade, I feel I've gained enough experience to pass on some of the things I've learned.

- No matter what, some plants die. If you buy that same plant twice and it dies too, shame on you for getting a third. Either your culture was bad or it's not meant to live in the subtropics.
- Don't hesitate to discard a plant that you no longer need or like. Some are too invasive, some are too ugly, messy, and spindly. Some are insect magnets. Give them away if they are worthwhile, destroy them if not.
- A hose-end sprayer is great for fertilizing. Fill the tank with water to the gallons marker for the amount you think you will need. Add the right amount of solid fertilizer which might be 5 teaspoons for 5 gallons or 20 if the water mark is at 20. Attach the top to a hose, and attach the base to the top. Turn on the water and go to work. After you finish, rinse with water, remove the top and the siphon tube and put them in your dishwasher to wash for about a week. This will keep the device from stopping up with salts. Amazon sells them for about \$10.
- Insert a screw driver, not a Phillips type, down the inside edge of a pot to lever a root-bound plant up out of the pot.
- Wear an apron when you garden. You won't be prissy and can carry plant ties, clippers with point protectors, and all sorts of things you will need.

- Keep a trash bucket by your side. Put insect infested leaves in it or any other plant part that shouldn't fall on the ground to infect other plants.
- Isolate new plants to make sure they are not bringing insect pests into your pest-free plants. Also isolate any old potted plant if you think it harbors pests or a disease.
- If leaf tips on potted plants turn black, sprinkle crushed egg shells-calcium- on top of the pot.
- One more time coffee grounds are brown gold. Sprinkle them around any acid-loving plant. Chances are it is acid-loving if it produces pretty blooms. Google the plant name if you know it, to find out its preferred pH. Our soil and tap water are alkaline.
- If you have a new plant and don't know how much light it can take, look at the depth of green found on its leaves. Dark green leaves usually need shade, pale green leaves are usually found on plants growing in high light levels. Round brown holes in leaves are sun-burn. Move the plant!
- You can usually know how thirsty a plant will be by looking at it. Broad thin leaves lose water rapidly by transpiration, pencil shaped leaves, or spines tell you that the plant needs less water. Of course thick, fleshy stems are for holding water and such stems also tell a tale.
- If you can, move a compost bin near your kitchen. It will make great compost from fruit and vegetable scraps and from healthy leaves and small branches that you will get from trimming yard plants. Meat scraps will smell and draw rats.
- Make an effort to remove weeds before they go to seed. We use a hand-held propane torch on our drive way.
- Every year I change the color of plant tags. Later if I see a plant with the color I used 4 years ago, I know it needs fresh medium.
- Wear plastic or latex gloves when working in garden soil. This will keep you safer from a fungal infection.
- If you are potting/repotting outside early or late during mosquito season, burn a citronella device. A sheet sold for clothes dryers works almost as well if you tuck it in a pocket.
- Home Depot and Lowes do have great plants from time to time. If you don't know what is needed for a plant you like, your smart phone may tell you that it belongs no further down than zone 7. Plants that need cold winters won't thrive here and you can save money and trouble if you check before you buy.
- Universal and NuTurf are the better places to get big bags of potting medium or fertilizer.
- Self-pruning palm fronds will make palm maintenance easier. Do your homework before installing new palms.

- When planting any shrub or tree in your yard, try to leave it room to grow. I have a life-time GPA of D- on that rule.
- I like shopping in Broward. Visit my favorite, open to the public, shopping spots: Mickey's Orchids, Florida Nursery Mart, Jesse Durko's , NuTurf , and I always walk through the plants at Lowes and Home Depot . I've already told you to check out The Plant Guy Shop in the Coral Ridge mall.
- My other favorite things include: bacon, all dogs, most plants, most cats, my fox who won't eat liver, and of course my family and friends including the members of our garden club. Of course these things are not in order but all make life joyful.

Now YOU can enter my contest. Be the first to tell why each of the pictures shown is shown and win an orchid. Email your entry to bobdot@bellsouth.net



Dot Henley
Equality Park Garden Club 2nd Vice President

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