



Vero Beach Orchid Society



August 2014

President's Chat

We were treated to an excellent speaker, Ernie Gemeinhart, who talked on the subject of growing orchids by semi hydroponics. He covered a lot of ground in a short time, almost too much. Many things he only briefly mentioned such as TDS. Patrick immediately asked what is TDS, did anyone else know what TDS was?? or how it related to orchids???

I am now a member of three societies, Vero, Fort Pierce, and an honorary life time member of the Minnesota society. The Minnesota society is one of, if not the largest single orchid society in the country. It wasn't always that way, we worked at building it up, which brings up the question of why people join an orchid society. They join for the social contact, to look at pretty flowers, but mostly to try to learn how to grow orchids and how to grow orchids—better. I brought up the suggestion that one of the things that seemed to work in Minnesota was an education committee. The problem with most speakers, even speakers as good as Ernie is that they do not have the time to go into subjects in depth. So!! How does the education committee work?? We would take the time to go over lots of subjects more slowly and in depth so everyone can understand them. Yes, it makes the meeting last a bit longer, we would hope to take ten to no more than fifteen minutes on a subject. Our meetings are at night, in Minnesota the meetings were on Saturday afternoon and lasted longer than the evening meetings, of course in Minnesota there are only about three Saturdays in a year when the weather is nice enough to go outside so you might as well sit in an orchid meeting. We certainly would welcome any one who could contribute to a short presentation on the subject of their choosing as part of the education. To start things off I stated that the climate conditions in Florida are so favorable to growing orchids that Florida people never really had to learn how to grow orchids, and they are heavily influenced by people like Martin Motes and all of the local experts who told them that water and wet roots are the cause of root rot. All of the experts are all wrong, water and wet roots do not cause root rot. You can grow excellent orchids that bloom well every year in Florida but if you want to grow even better orchids you need to unlearn the things the experts have been telling you. In the months ahead in a short education presentation we will show you things like why orchids grow better in deep pots where the roots may be wet all the time, simple subjects like, how do you tell when your orchid has dried out and can be watered again? We will cover water chemistry in depth, salts, electrolytes, ions, what is pH, what is TDS, how does TDS affect your orchids, how do you measure TDS and is it important to measure TDS, water testing, growing media and how it is affected by water, root rot, what causes root rot. Later we can talk about fertilizers, pests and disease and whatever.

At the August meeting instead of the above subjects we will talk about *Tolumnia* orchids in general and *Tolumnia Variegata* in particular. I have attached an article from the August issue of *Orchids* magazine. If you are an AOS member and receive *Orchids* it will be in your magazine. See you in August. (For those receiving the newsletter in the mail, copies of the article will be available at the meeting if you'd like one.)

August Meeting Speaker

Francisco Miranda

Miranda Orchids started in 1999 and is a nursery specializing in growing mainly selected *Cattleya* alliance species. In a sense, it is a continuation of Boa Vista Orchids, a nursery we ran in Brazil from 1986 until we moved to the U.S.A. Many of the plants available are produced in our lab and nursery in Central Florida from our extensive collection of stud plants. The rest we bring from Brazil to increase variety and novelty. Being native Brazilians, and having had a nursery for many years, we know that there is a lot of development in *Cattleya* species being done there. This is mostly because a lot of those

species are native from Brazil (including all the bifoliate cattleyas) and because these plants are favorites of growers there. Of course having lived and grown orchids for a long time there we know most of the growers and what is being produced and we go there several times a year to make sure we are kept up-to-date. Miranda Orchids also grows other Brazilian species so if you are looking for something in particular do not hesitate in contact us. Our goal is to be your number one source for selected Brazilian Orchids.

Miranda Orchids is located between Orlando and Tampa, on the I-4 Central Florida corridor. Access is done by I-27 south from I-4 or from I-4 exit 48 south. We are about 4 miles in straight line south of I-4.

Miranda Orchids is own by Maria Cristina and Francisco Miranda, both born in Brazil and living in the U.S.A. since 1999.

Francisco Miranda

A taxonomist, naturalist and orchid grower, Francisco travels extensively in the U.S. and internationally speaking at orchid-related events and meetings. He has been doing this since 1988, while still living in Brazil. The subjects of these presentations (as shown in their own page here) reflect Francisco's extensive travels to study orchids in their natural environments.

Maria Cristina Miranda

Also a biologist, Cristina takes care of the lab production and day-to-day nursery operation.

Franciscos' topic will be: The genus *Cattleya* in Brazil

Francisco will be furnishing the raffle table and will be bringing plants to sell.

Members selling table closed.

Executive Board Meeting Minutes July 7, 2014

New President Jim Andre brought the meeting to order at 7:20pm. Present were Carolyn Greene, Doug Mew, Addison Marvin, Louise Martin, Sandy Abraham, Ron Meeks and Diane O'Neal. Absent was Scott St. Clair

Secretary minutes from June Executive Board meeting were read and approved with no corrections, 1st Carolyn Greene 2nd by Sandy Abraham. (On file with the secretary)

Treasury report was given by Addison Marvin for June 2014. Approved with no corrections 1st Louise Martin and 2nd by Carolyn Greene. (On file with the secretary)

Old Business:

*501.c 3. Is different hands and being worked on.

*Tires the trailer for storage of VBOS items. Doug Mew got several prices/quotes and Moody Tires was best deal. Approval to purchase the tires was 1st by Diane Oneal and 2nd by Sandy Abraham. Doug will also be looking into wheel protectors (to prevent tires from dry rotting) and also a jack was needed.

*Marilyn Row is still working on collecting recipes for the cookbook from club members. A committee may need to be formed to assist her or d/c project.

*Donation of orchids to be put in trees at the Arts Museum Building garden, is on hold until more information is obtained.

*The contract for the Garden Club was paid for 10 months. The contract is from June 2014 to May 2015.

*No report from Marion Kottie (who was not present) concerning the classification standardizing for the show.

- * Treasurer, Addison Marvin transferred the funds from the Annual show to the society account.
- * Insurance renewal is due in July 26, 2014 for Buckingham & Wheeler. Policy needs to be reviewed for proper coverage for picnic, Christmas party, bus trips, show and etc.

New business:

- *Doug Mew got a guest speaker for July 17, 2014 meeting, to talk about semi hydroponics growing of Orchids. Future guest speaker may include; AOS judges, different orchid info.
- *Approval was made for the Treasurer Addison Marvin to re-new the post office box and purchase some more checks, 1st by Ron Meeks and 2nd by Carolyn Greene
- *The Christmas party will be on a date different from Fort Pierce Orchid Society, it will be held on Dec. 6, 2014. Ron Meeks has information about the cost for the party, fees for alcohol, more to come. Addison to get the contract and write a check.
- *Swap shop to be possibly in September; orchid supplies, crafts, baked goods, share recipes, anything-to be a fun social night.
- *Volunteering of snacks and drinks have continued to decline, more people need to sign up and participate. Everyone enjoys the treats, but the same VBOS members sign up to help. If no one signs up, the society will need to purchase these items. If members can't bake, they can donate money.

Show report

- *Doug Mew had nothing to report at this time.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. 1st Sandy Abraham 2nd Louise Martin

Respectfully Submitted, Diane O'Neal, Secretary,

SALE, SWAP AND SHOP SEPTEMBER 18th OUR REGULAR MEETING NIGHT

Please notify Judy Wagner at jmworchid@aol.com if you are interested in participating as a vendor in the Vero Beach Orchid Society Sale, Swap and Shop. There are 36 table spaces available to the first 36 members to sign up. If there are more members that are interested than we have spaces for this year they will go on a list to have first pick next year. Please put "Swap and Shop" on the subject line of your email to let me know that your email is not junk mail since I won't recognize all of your email addresses. I will be sending our confirmation emails that I have signed you up. If you do not hear from me please call me at 772-569-0080.

The sales tables will be provided by the Society and will be approximately the size of a card table. Since many of you may not have orchid plants to sell the following will items will also be acceptable:

Orchid plants
Orchid supplies
Orchid related items
Other plants
Crafts
Bake goods

Please make a note in your email as to what you will be selling. This is not a garage sale so please leave the old tools, toys, clothes and other garage sale items at home. Hopefully most items will be orchid or plant related. Make sure to mark your prices clearly and bring cash to make change. I would suggest you print some culture sheets for your different types of plants to hand out to buyers to help them learn the care of that particular orchid or plant. Please check all plants for bugs and diseases. If your plant is not in bloom try to bring a sample photograph.

The Society is asking all Sellers to donate one item (your choice) to the raffle table. These items will be raffled off throughout the evening. All Sellers must be members in good standing. Your dues for 2014 must be paid up no later than the August 21st meeting night.

Set up for the sale will be 5:30pm to 6:30pm. Be prepared to sell by **6:30pm** to avoid confusion, we'd like it to run as smoothly as possible: Late arrivals will not be allowed to sell unless they can be set up by 6:30. The sale will run from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. At take down you will be responsible for cleaning up your area.

This should be a fun event so bring your orchid loving friends with you to come and look for bargains.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Arrangements have begun for the Christmas Party. It will be a little different than prior years. Firstly, it will be a little earlier in the month than before, meaning it will be the first Saturday of December, December 6th. We will begin taking reservations at the next meeting.

Secondly, the entree (meats) will be catered and paper goods, dishes, glasses, ice, etc will be provided as well as non alcoholic beverages. Each attendee will be asked to provide a covered dish to accompany the meats, and please make sure the covered dish is of a reasonable size to feed several people. We're not asking you to feed the entire group with your side, but a small casserole or dessert would work well. Tammy Meeks will be coordinating the sides to ensure we have varied side dishes and a variety of desserts, so please contact her to discuss what you plan to bring.

Thirdly, We will not have a bar and bartenders, but you may bring your own alcoholic drinks. If you'd like to bring a bottle of wine, hard liquor, or beer, all is permissible and we will provide the ice. If you want a mixed drink that requires anything other than soda or water, you'll need to bring that with you as well.

The cost will be \$15 per member, or \$20 for non members who wish to attend. Reservations will be taken beginning our next regular meeting and until our deadline for signing up (which hasn't yet been decided). As further information is available, it will be provided at the meetings and through the newsletter.

On a sad note, the society lost one of its lifetime members. Barbara Weinkauf passed away.

With regard to our speakers, during the last meeting several phone rang during the presentation. Please give the speaker the attention and respect they deserve by quieting your cell phones during the meeting. You can either leave them in the car, or turn it off or to vibrate, but please let's be courteous.

VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY OFFICERS

President – Jim Andre

Vice President – Scott St. Clair

Secretary – Diane O'Neal

Treasurer – Addison Marvin

Board of Directors

Sandra Abraham

Louise Martin

Ronnie Meeks

Committees

Membership –

Hospitality – Louise & Marty Martin

Sunshine – Marilyn Row

Show Chairman – Doug Mew

Newsletter Editor – Carolyn Greene

Vero Beach Orchid Society

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Society Email: vbos@bellsouth.net

DUES FOR 2014: SINGLE MEMBER DUES \$15.00

FAMILY DUES: \$20.00

**OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE AUGUST 21ST, 2014, AT
THE INDIAN RIVER GARDEN CLUB, 2526 17TH AVENUE VERO BEACH, FL 3296
THE MEETING WILL START AT 7:00 PM**