



# Vero Beach Orchid Society



January 2015

## January Speaker Jim Andre

Jim Andre graduated from Macalester College in chemistry and pre-medical science in 1954. He went on to Northwestern University in biologic chemistry and medicine. He finished a residency in surgery at Cook county Hospital and joined a hand surgery group at Northwestern. His main interest was in hand surgery and trauma which involved fractures and orthopedics. After a few years in Chicago he returned to Minnesota with a general surgery group.

From child hood he had an extensive knowledge of the Superior National Forest and the Quetico Provincial Park and worked summers in college and medical school working for the exploration division of Kennecott Copper leading the geologists who discovered and explored the large copper deposit in northern Minnesota which now, sixty years later, may be mined.

He worked at Hospital Albert Schweitzer in the Artibonite River valley of central Haiti since 1986 and became interested in the *Tolumnia Variegata* orchids growing on the almond trees in the river valley. He wrote an article for the AOS in 2008 which is on the web site under *Tolumnia Variegata*. The article was revised and was published again in the August 2014 issue of *Orchids*. The article is being further revised. When his wife of fifty years died he married an anesthetist at the hospital in Haiti.

He grew orchids for many years in Minnesota and is a life time member of the Orchid Society of Minnesota. He retired to Vero Beach three years ago and is growing orchids and playing bridge, he is a life master bridge player.

At the January meeting I will be speaking on the subject of TDS. TDS is probably the most important single concept in growing orchids and few people have ever heard of it.

I will start out with a quick review of the popular book *Florida Orchid Growing* by Martin Motes. On the first page of that book, in the first sentence he says "Orchids are easy to grow in South Florida; easy to grow badly". That is about the only correct statement in the book, it is all downhill from there.

There are two definitions of TDS, I will explain both of them. I will start with the basics, a review of first year college chemistry. I will start with the periodic table of elements, the nature of chemical compounds, reversible reactions, disassociation, ions, electrolytes, cations, anions, moles, gram molecular weights, logarithms and negative logarithms, Avogadro's number, the theory of pH, the basis for the metric system, an explanation of osmosis and reverse osmosis. I will bring a number of different kinds of water including Vero Beach municipal water, well water, RO water, and some mystery water and test their composition and discuss that composition and how it affects the growth of orchids. I will show you some pretty amazing and interesting facts about your water that you are not aware of.

The popular adage concerning *Cattleyas* is that they like a porous medium and they like to dry out between waterings. I will bring some *Cattleya* plants and remove them from their pots and show you the root structure of *Cattleyas* that are kept wet continuously, that never dry out. I will show a *Cattleya*

that has been grown for a number of years in dirt, garden soil, that is kept wet continuously. I will show you the best way to repot a sympodial Cattleya orchid to obtain the best healthy future growth. I will briefly discuss fertilizers and finally I will show the effect of all of this on monopodial orchids. I will show you how to recognize a healthy Cattleya and how to recognize a "half-dead" Florida Cattleya I will show you that water does not cause root rot. I will show you what does cause root rot.

**Seller tables will be available for this meeting. If you are interested in selling plants or supplies, please contact Carolyn at [ybosnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:ybosnewsletter@hotmail.com) so we can have the table set up for you.**

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Executive Meeting  
December 1, 2014

The monthly board meeting of the Vero Beach Orchid Society was called to order by President Jim Andre at 7pm at the Garden Club. Board members present were President Jim Andre, Vice- President Scott St. Clair, Treasurer Addison Marvin, Board of Director Ronnie Meeks and VBOS News Editor Carolyn Greene. Also in attendance were Tammy Meeks, Sherry Cauley, and Show Chairman Doug Mew.

The minutes of the November 2014 Board Meeting were read by Doug Mew and were approved as read. 1<sup>st</sup> by Scott St Clair, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ronnie Meeks. (on file with with secretary)

Addison Marvin gave the Treasurers Report for both the General Account and the Show Account stating that the accounts were in good shape. He further requested that anyone that had receipts for reimbursement to please turn them in by December 15<sup>th</sup>, to give him a chance to close the books by the end of the year.

Treasurers report was approved by the Board, 1<sup>st</sup> by Carol Greene, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott St. Clair. (On file with the secretary.)

No New Business

Old Business: Tammy Meeks gave a report on the Annual Christmas Party to be held December 6, 2014, at the Garden Club. Tammy stated that anyone wanting to assist setting up for the party should be at the Garden Club at 9am. As of the board meeting there were approximately fifty (50) members and guest signed up to attend.

Sherry Cauley had been selected to order the Orchids for each of the society members in attendance. Sherry stated that she was going to order seventy (70) Blooming or Budding plants, and any Orchids plants left over would be auctioned off to all those in attendance.

A motion was made by the board approving Sherry Cauley ordering seventy (70) orchids from Odom's Orchids. All extra orchids would be auctioned off at the party. 1<sup>st</sup> by Ronnie Meeks, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Addison Marvin.

Show Committee report was given by Doug Mew who stated that after the first of the year things will start in full swing. Doug further stated that in the next four (4) months help will be needed in many ways and many things to be done to make this show the best yet.

No further business to come before the board, a motion was made for adjournment, meeting was adjourned by President Jim Andre at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Doug Mew  
Temp. Secretary

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Well folks, here we are in another new year. Hope everybody had a good, but safe, New Year celebration. With the new year comes several things for us and our society.

First, we have a new group of officers leading the pack. They are Jim Andre, President, Bob Greene, Vice President, Marilyn Row, Secretary, Addison Marvin, Treasurer, and Board Members Louise Martin, Ronnie Meeks, and Doug Mew.

Secondly, it's time to renew your dues. The good news is that it's still the bargain it's always been, \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families. Congratulations to our new lifetime members.

Thirdly, the new year brings a new show season as well. While it may be a little early for special treatment of the orchids it will soon be time to give them the pampering so they'll be ready for displays and hopefully plenty of awards.

Once again I'd like to extend a special thanks to Tammy Meeks for doing such a great job with the Christmas Party.

Next, we need to call for some help. Louise and Marty can no longer do the refreshment duties for our meetings, so we'll need a new refreshment committee or person. The job doesn't really entail that much work, and Louise and Marty will be able to give you instructions for making the coffee and whatever the garden club requires us to do to keep the kitchen in order. All you have to do is to sign up people to bring in food and drink for the meetings. Before the beginning of the meeting, start the coffee and set out the cups, plates, and utensils. After the meeting, clear up the leftovers and take the trash to the outside can. If we don't have volunteers to do this, as of the March meeting we will no longer have refreshments supplied at the meeting. **You can talk to Louise at the meeting, or if you'd like, you can send an email to [vbosnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:vbosnewsletter@hotmail.com), and we'll get in touch with you if you have questions or concerns.**

Helpers are needed to man attend the booth at Gardenfest for this year. We're asking folks to sign up for a 2 hour time slot. If you'd like to stay at the booth longer, it would be much appreciated. The hours of Gardenfest are from 9 in the morning, Saturday and Sunday, and closing at 5pm on Saturday and 4pm on Sunday. Again, it's not a hard job, all you'll need to do is to answer questions about the society, give information sheets (they will be provided to you) to people who ask for help with their orchids, and pass out membership applications. On a more personal note, if you have personal experience with the issues they have, you might want to offer what has worked for you in the past. **We will be sending around a sign-up sheet for volunteers.**

The board has been trying to come up with ideas of different activities for the group and have several ideas, not all included here. The things we have come up with are very simple, such as a "greenhouse

tour”, “habitat for orchids” and a ramble. However, we'd like to see some ideas from the general membership.

The “greenhouse tour” is where we would like up peoples places to visit to see how they grow their orchids. It sounds like a lot of fun and very educational. We were thinking of finding somebody who actually has a greenhouse, some type of screened area such as a swimming pool or porch, and then just growing under the trees. This might give some of us all hints on how to better grow ours under similar conditions.

Another idea is a ramble to a group of greenhouses in a particular area. We have done this in the past and it has been moderately successful. However there is a level of commitment required by those who would want to go. We need to have a certain number of people to fill the bus or it is cost prohibitive. In the past we have had problems filling a bus.

Lastly, for the ideas for now, is to do a “habitat for orchids”. For this, we would go to somebody's place who is really unable to afford to supply the proper growing environment for their orchids and help to inexpensively create an environment for them. The criteria for “needy” hasn't yet been discussed, but I'm sure there are folks in the group who are in this position. We'd like to enable anybody truly interested in orchid growing to be encouraged and know they're not in it alone.

If you have any other ideas you'd like us to try, please contact any of the board members at the meeting or send an email to the newsletter address below. We want the society to provide the education you need to be be best grower you can be. Please don't limit your ideas to things outside the regular meeting. If there are ideas that you think might help you become a better grower or different ways to display your orchids to make them even more enjoyable, just let us know. We're open to any and all ideas to encourage orchid growing.

Another plea for a web master. If there is anybody in the group who has the expertise to keep the society web page updated and make creative changes as well, please let us know. The current web master has too many things on his plate to continue, and we'd hate to see all his hard (and beautiful) work fall by the wayside.

We have lots of upcoming shows on tap, but the most critical for our society are Port St. Lucie and Martin Co society shows, both of which are in March this year. We need to install a display for both of those shows, and they are only one week apart. Both shows are in March, so if the weather is typical for us, we shouldn't have any trouble having blooming plants that can be used for our display. Of course we'll be asking members to loan us their plants for these displays.

Our speaker for February will be Thanh Nguyen. Thanh is always interesting and informative. More next month on Thanh and his topic.

#### Upcoming Events

January 3 – 4            [Sarasota Orchid Society Show](#). Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, Sarasota

January 13            **BRING YOUR ORCHIDS AND QUESTIONS to the Fleming Island Library on Jan. 13 at 10 a.m. for a presentation by John Van Camp, Jacksonville Orchid Society member and past president. Free, sponsored by The Garden Club of Fleming Island. (904) 923-2678.**

- January 16 – 18      **Tamiami International Orchid Festival**, Dade County Fair Expo Center  
**Fuchs Pavilion, 10901 S.W. 24th St., Miami, FL 33165 10 AM to 8 PM**  
**on the 17th Saturday and 10AM to 5PM on the 18<sup>th</sup>**  
<http://tamiamfestival.com>
- January 17-18      59th Paphiopedilum Guild Meeting and 1st World Slipper Conference,  
Hilo, HI. Sponsored by Orchid Digest. (For those of you dreaming of  
a warmer climate)
- January 23-25      Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society “An Orchid Adventure”  
800 NE 8th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
**10:00 AM to 6:00 PM** For more information call 954-812-2231

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VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY OFFICERS

**President** – Jim Andre  
**Vice President** – Bob Greene  
**Secretary** – Marilyn Row  
**Treasurer** – Addison Marvin

**Board of Directors**  
Louise Martin  
Ronnie Meeks  
Doug Mew

**Committees**  
Membership –  
Hospitality – Louise & Marty Martin  
Sunshine – Marilyn Row  
Show Chairman – Doug Mew  
Newsletter Editor – Carolyn Greene

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

**DUES FOR 2014:** SINGLE MEMBER DUES \$15.00

FAMILY DUES: \$20.00

**OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE JANUARY 15TH, 2015, AT  
THE INDIAN RIVER GARDEN CLUB, 2526 17TH AVENUE VERO BEACH, FL 32960  
THE MEETING WILL START AT 7:00 PM**