



Vero Beach Orchid Society

September 2016



September Speaker – Bill Thoms

Bill Thoms and his wife, Doris Dukes, have been growing orchids around Central Florida for almost 40 years and have received almost every award granted by the AOS as well as more Awards for Culture than anyone else in the world, (83 in over 26 genera, including 36 in the bulbophyllum alliance (capped off with a 96 pt. Certificate of Cultural Excellence for Bulb. Frank Smith ‘The King’).

Bill is the only person to receive an Award of Quality for a Bulbophyllum hybrid (named for Doris) as well as receiving the hybridizer’s dream; an Award of Distinction for a new avenue of breeding (a Trias hybrid). Many of his crosses are winning awards around the country. The AOS has just added a yearly award named for him for the best Bulbophyllum exhibited.

His talks are spiced with funny stories and funny associations. Whether you grow thousands of orchids, only a few, or none at all, you will have a wonderfully entertaining time and be able to grow anything better. Many of the most important requirements for growing world class plants are made easy to understand and remember.

Bill will be speaking to us about the General Orchid Culture. The conditions needed to grow orchids, and with his formula, helping them be their most healthy and beautiful. Be sure to formulate your questions before the meeting, and if he doesn't answer them during the presentation, please be sure to ask.

Bill will also be supplying raffle table plants, and will have a selection of orchids available for sale. There will be no member sales available during this meeting. In addition, we ask that everybody be sure to put your cell phones on vibrate, or turn them off so we give Bill the attention and respect he deserves during his talk.

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VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MNUTES MAY 2, 2016

President Judy Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, at the Garden Club. Other board members present were Treasurer Addison Marvin, Secretary Joan Kaser, Newsletter Editor Carolyn Greene, Board Member Ronnie Meeks, and Board Member and Show Chairman Doug Mew.

The minutes of the last meeting were not available to be read.

Treasurer's Report: Addison Marvin present the Treasurer's Report for the month of April. The results from the April show were discussed. Doug Mew made a motion, seconded by Carolyn Greene to accept the report, motion passed.

Old Business: The April show was a success with a large number of people attending on Sunday. The feeling was that the advertisement in the local paper may have accounted for this, especially the picture on the front page on Saturday.

A big thank you to Ronnie Meeks for sending Justin and Bill to help setting up and taking down the show.

The fans in the big tent were a big help, they move the air and did not damage any plants.

The educational tent did not draw the people we expected; could the placement have been the problem?

Registration using the computer went very well. Bob's hats were a big hit!

When we submit our application to the Parks and Recreation Department, we should note on it that we will be setting up tents on Thursday.

The vendor, Habitat, was not able to make the show because of health reasons. We will reimburse their entry free.

New Business: A letter of resignation from Doug Mew as Show Chairman was read and accepted. Doug will be willing to work with the incoming Show Chairman, but after 8 years he felt it was time for someone else to take the position of Show Chairman.

We will need a volunteer to take the Vice-President's position.

Thanh of Springwater Orchids will speak and bring our raffle plants for the June general meeting. We need a speaker for July.

Bill Draddy donated two books for the raffle table. Thank you Bill!

The picnic: everything is under control. Marty is in charge of the picnic and Carolyn will send out a special announcement to remind everyone.

Judy moved we adjourn, Doug seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Submitted by Joan Kaser, Secretary.

September in Your Orchid Collection

By Dr. Martin Motes



Vanda Alice Motes

September Climate Data

Average high: 89.0 Average low: 75.7 Average mean: 82.4 Average rainfall: 8.38"

September in Your Orchid Collection

September looms as the only truly dismal month in South Florida. Even without the prospect of the unspeakable 'H' word, September disheartens since it is easily the dampest, dullest month in the year. Although more inches

of rain fall in June, more hours of rain occur in the often slow, seemingly endless drizzles of September. Frequently a day or two can pass without so much as a solid hour of truly bright sunshine to lift our spirits and dry out our plants. Days are growing much shorter also, with long nights when our plants are wet from the frequent rains. Coming at the end of the rainy season when disease pressure has been building, September presents the maximum opportunity for fungal and bacterial diseases to take hold of our orchids. Hopefully careful watering practices and the judicious use of fungicides (as recommended last month) will have diminished the potential for disease in our collections. But even in the best managed collection, September calls for extra vigilance. Keep a close eye out for problems and remove immediately any plant that shows the first sign of fungus to a dry location to prevent the disease being spread by splashing rain drops. Good hygiene is particularly important this month. Clean up growing areas and remove any dead leaves, twigs or other organic debris from the plants and the ground. In September numerous diseases that linger in decaying plant material find the ideal conditions that allow them to jump to the living tissue of our prize orchids. Such problems can develop more quickly in September than in any other month. September is a month to stay home and be there for your orchids. Look at every plant, every day.

September, above all, is the month that the old Florida growers' adage that "One needs a cat to grow good orchids," holds true. By leaving enough space between plants on a shade house bench for a cat to walk around without knocking them down, one provides the good air circulation which is absolutely essential in periods of protracted wet weather. Well spaced plants are much less likely to encounter disease problems this month. Remember that your plants will have grown considerably over the summer and that the space they occupied comfortably in the Spring has now been filled by their own growth as well as their neighbors. Space them out. Now is perhaps the time to decide to hang some of the larger ones where they will dry much more quickly. The small cute ones left behind on the bench will be very appreciative of the extra air and light.

Another excellent way to increase air circulation and enhance rapid drying is by trimming excess (particularly vertical) branches from all trees which support orchids or are near to orchid growing areas. By increasing the light and air flow one will also garner the benefit of reducing the possibility that such trees will be knocked down in a severe storm. Trees trimmed to permit proper air circulation and light for orchids were frequently the only ones which survived upright after Andrew. As there is rarely time to do such pruning when storm warnings are actually posted and creating extra debris is not then wise, now is the time to protect both your orchids and your trees. Days are shortening quickly now and more hours of rain and overcast skies mean that your orchids will benefit from all the additional light that they can get. Beginning the process of "hardening off" our plants by allowing more light to reach them will give them a leg up on the coming cool weather as well.

As orchids grown outside are so frequently wet in September, it is often difficult to apply fertilizer or fungicides to the plants because they are already damp. Catch 22! - the plants need extra protection because they are wet and because they are wet one can't apply chemicals to protect them. In these circumstances, many growers find Quaternary ammonium compounds useful. Sold as Physan, Consan, Greenshield or Triathalon these disinfectants dissolve totally in water and can be applied to wet plants. Strengths vary so follow the label. Although federal regulations say they should not, many growers substitute the cheap and readily available pool algacide which contain the same active ingredient. Home Depot sells a brand called "Pool Time" which could be purchased legally to disinfect walks and pathways at the rate of 1 to 2 tsp. per gallon and would certainly do no harm at that rate, if it came into contact with the orchids no more frequently than every 7-10 days.

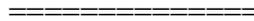
This month when those brief periods of dry weather permit growers to think of applying other pesticides, they are tempted to think of giving their starving charges fertilizer as well. This is generally not a good idea with any fertilizer containing phosphorus (the second in the numerical series of three numbers). Phosphorus changes the pH of water and tends to interact with many other chemicals reducing their effectiveness. In September we need as much fire power from our chemical arsenal as we can get. A much better strategy in general to add some nutrients employs potassium nitrate (KNO₃) 13-0-43 at a rate of 1 tbsp per gallon of water. One should ask for the type usually referred to as "spray grade". In general sympodial orchids are reaching the end of their growth cycle as September progresses so a reduction in nitrogen from the potassium nitrate substitution or a missed fertilizer application usually does little harm to orchids grown outside in South Florida. Soft cane dendrobiums

of the "Nobile" types will actually benefit from the reduction in feeding. It's time to wean these deciduous types before cutting them off entirely from the grub next month. Vandas and phalaenopsis on the other hand can be fertilized as often as weather permits and will bloom all the stronger for this extra attention in the coming months.

Snails can also be a problem again in September. Even if you earlier used the "lightly, frequently" baiting suggested in July, snails can travel long distances on wet ground in the dull, dark weather of September. Chances are your neighbors have not been as good as you on snail control. So, once more with feeling: snail bait "lightly, frequently" to give a warm welcome to any recently arrived mollusks. With an eye to the heavens (or at least to the TV screen), removing any old boards, empty pots or other debris that might fly about in a storm will also render the humble snails homeless. An opportunity to redouble your virtue and save some precious moments in the face of the storm that we hope never comes!

Tasks for September

- Space plants to permit more air circulation
- Trim trees to permit more light and lessen the wind load on them
- Clean up growing area removing any dead leaves or other organic matter
- Tidy up old pots or other objects on the ground
- Spray quaternary ammonium chloride



EDITOR'S NOTES

We had a very entertaining meeting last month with Glenn Gross as our speaker. He gave us a lot of good tips on mounting your orchids without it costing a mint. Great Job, Glenn!

The board has reconvened for the winter this month. We addressed several items that have been brought up to us, but we still need to hear from you if there is anything you think we can improve. If anybody has ideas of activities we might include in our schedule, we'd like to hear what you have to say.

As a result of our decisions, we have decided to send out an abbreviated membership list to everybody, which will include each members name and phone number only. With that, if you need somebody's address, you can call them. We were not comfortable distributing all the information we have in our roster to everybody and we want to protect the personal information as much as possible.

This is the month that we should have our nominating committee in place to get nominees for the officers and board positions. If there is anybody interested in becoming part of the nominating committee, please contact Judy Wagner @ 772-569-0080. Also, please consider volunteering for any of the board positions you think you might be fit you well. No position on the board is difficult, and you'll have help getting started, if you need it, until you're comfortable with the position. Most take little extra time beside the meeting and maybe carrying stuff to the meetings. If you're interested but unsure, you can look in the handbook for descriptions of the duties. You can also ask any of the officers or board members, and they'll be happy to answer your questions.

Also, a decision has been made about the Christmas party. It will be held on December 17th @ 1:00pm at Marsh Landing Restaurant in Fellsmere. Everybody who attended last year enjoyed the arrangements and the food, and since there was not a volunteer to make other arrangements, we'll be going back. The menu will be a little different, so we have some variety, but should be equally satisfactory. More details will be provided at the upcoming meeting.

The fall show at Ft Pierce Orchid will be here before the October meeting. So if there are any individuals who have plants to offer for us to use in our display or would like to come help with the display, contact Sherry Cauley @ 772-321-6614. She will make arrangements to pick up, or have your plants picked up by somebody who will treat them like their own and transport them both ways. The show will be on the second weekend of October, October 8th and 9th.



VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY OFFICERS

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| President – Judy Wagner | Board of Directors | Committees |
| Vice President – | Ronnie Meeks | Membership – |
| Secretary – Joan Kaser | Doug Mew | Hospitality – |
| Treasurer – Addison Marvin | Sherry Cauley | Sunshine – Louise Martin |
| Show Chairman – | Newsletter Editor – Carolyn Greene | |
| Vero Beach Orchid Society | Newsletter email: vbosnewsletter@hotmail.com | |
| P.O. Box 543 | | |
| Vero Beach, FL 32961 | VBOS Website: www.verobeachorchidsociety.org | |

DUES FOR 2016: SINGLE MEMBER DUES \$15.00 FAMILY DUES: \$20.00

OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE SEPTEMBER 15TH, AT 7:00 PM AT THE GARDEN CLUB OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, 2526 17TH AVENUE VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960. THE MEETING WILL START AT 7:00 PM