



Vero Beach Orchid Society



March 2016

March Event

For our March meeting, we'll be handing out our new little plants. We do have a change of plans for the plant. When we talked to the supplier, they were out of the little fellow we selected, so instead we have a pretty cattleya, named Blc Hawaii Stars 'Pink Lace'. If you're interested in seeing what it looks like, you can surf to Carmela's Orchids. Though they still have the other one on their list, they didn't have enough for the entire group. That's why the change in selection. With spring show season in full swing, they're running out of quantities of a lot of their advertised plants, so if you only want one or a few, you'll probably be able to get them,

We will be doing things a little differently than last time also, in that you'll need to be present to receive a free plant, and you must be a member in good standing. Depending on the number of attendees at the meeting, we may have a lot of little plants to sell (at \$5 each) after we're sure each person has their one free plant. As before, the Society will supply the potting mixture and the pots to put them in, so all you have to do is attend the meeting.

We will probably start talking about our show at this meeting. There's lots to be covered and lots of help to be requested.. So please help make our show successful by helping out in one way or another. We're not asking any person to spend the whole 3 days working, but each area needs volunteers.

VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 4, 2016

President Judy Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Garden Club. Other Board members present were: Vice-President Bob Greene, Treasurer Addison Marvin, Secretary Marilyn Row, News Letter Editor Carolyn Greene, Board Member Ronnie Meeks and Board Member and Show Chairman Doug Mew.

The minutes of the December 7, 2015 Board meeting were read. After a few corrections, Doug Mew made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Bob Greene and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Addison Marvin presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of December, 2015. Carolyn Greene made a motion seconded by Doug Mew to accept the report and the motion passed unanimously. Addison will be given a new letter to the bank advising of the changing of names and signatures for the accounts for the Vero Beach Orchid Society.

Old Business:

Orchid Show:

Doug advised that the size of the tent will remain the same, 30 ft. x 60 ft. Someone is needed to register all the plants for the show. Carolyn offered to try it out on her computer.

Christmas Party at Marsh Landing:

Bob reported receiving good reviews about the Christmas Party at the Marsh Landing restaurant. There was plenty of food and it was served with ease. The restaurant can hold up to 80 people.

Bus Trip:

Bob Greene reported that about 20 people have signed up for the January 23 bus trip to the Tamiami Orchid Show. Tickets will be \$20 each for the bus. He is going to the other Orchid Societies to see if they want to sign up. Doug is going to give Carolyn the raffle tickets that will be given out on the bus.

New Business:

Board Meetings: The day and time may change.

Judy Wagner gave everyone a copy of the "Goals for Vero Beach Orchid Society 2016" and a copy of the society's Handbook. Both items were reviewed and changes were made to update them.

Judy Wagner made a motion seconded by Bob Greene that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The motion passed.

Submitted by
Marilyn E. Row, Secretary

VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES February 1, 2016

Meeting was called to order by President Judy Wagner at 7:15 pm. Present were President Judy Wagner, Vice President Bob Greene, Treasurer Addison Marvin, Board of Directors Doug Mew, Sherry Cauley, and Carolyn Greene Newsletter Editor.

Judy had decisions on the Handbook, Contest Plants, and Garden Fest set up.

The minutes for the January meeting were not read due to Secretary not Present.

Treasurer Addison Marvin gave his report which was approved by the Board. Addison further advised the board that the Vero Beach Orchid Society was issued a State of Florida, tax exempt certificate,

New Business:

Sherry Cauley, Chairman of the Traveling Show Team, advised the board that the society was invited to participate in putting a 6 foot table top in the Martin County Orchid Society Show, and a 10 x 10 (100 sq. Ft.) display in the Port St. Lucy Orchid Show, both shows being in the month of March. Sherry further advised that Busy Bee Nursery and Garden Center invited the Vero Beach Orchid Society to participate in their Annual Appreciation Day on Saturday March 19, 2016.

Doug Mew gave a report on the progress of our upcoming Annual Show to be held on Saturday, April 23, & April 24. He stated that all invitations had been sent out to all the vendors and was waiting for the entry fee donations for a space.

No further business to come before the board. Bob Greene made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Doug Mew. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

Submitted by;

Douglas Mew, Acting Secretary

March your Orchid Collection



Aerides houletiana

March Climate Data

Average high: 80.7 Average low: 64.0 Average mean: 72.4 Average rainfall: 2.56"

Whilst March never comes in like a lion in South Florida, occasionally it slinks in like a bob cat. Frost is not unheard of in the first few days of the month. The more cold sensitive genera, hard cane dendrobiums, phalaenopsis and vandas may well need some protection even into the middle of the month. Overall, however, March brings us some of the most ideal orchid growing conditions of the entire year. Dry air, low humidity and wide swings of day to night temperatures optimize both blooming and rooting of most orchids. In March, Nature gives orchidists growing outside a free sample of what life would be like with a covered green house. With little or no additional water falling from the sky and drying breezes acting like fans, we are in total control of our plants' water needs. Now, we

can water properly: very heavily, and allow the plants to dry thoroughly in the near desert air before the next heavy application of water.

The ideal growing conditions of March present a great opportunity to get our plants off to a superlative start on the new growing season. The virtuous among us, who have already repotted their cattleyas and other sympodials as they have finished blooming across the winter, can smile serenely, assured of their place in orchid heaven. For us few reprobate it is still not too late to catch up with virtue. In addition to flowered-out plants, now is also the time to replant those genera which are breaking or ready to break their dormancy; i.e., catasetums, mormodes, calanthes and those Himalayan species that have finished flowering. Now is also an excellent time to repot those hard cane dendrobiums that need it, with the reminder that they really don't like to be disturbed and relish their roots being crowded in the pot. For those commercially mass produced plants grown in peat based mixtures, repotting is necessary in any case as the peat mix will not last out the summer and will likely rot all the roots. Hopefully these will have rooted so thoroughly that the roots have formed a solid mass that can be shifted undisturbed to a new only slightly larger pot. Otherwise the roots will need to be washed clean and lightly trimmed. Rock, tree fern, coconut husk, charcoal/wood chip mixes are best replacement media for the long haul. All of these materials have a life expectancy of several years before they break down in South Florida wet humid summers.

Attention to fertilizer in March will pay high dividends later on. As many sympodial orchids are commencing their growth cycle, now is a good time to apply slow release fertilizer to last the season. The 13-13-13, 180 day formula marketed at Home Depot as 'Dynamite' (Nutricote in commercial sizes) is the best available. Its plastic coating is superior to others and relatively unaffected by heat, an especially important consideration in S. Florida. Applied now it will be exhausted by September when we want to slow our plants down in anticipation of bloom and dormancy. The wide temperature swings of March also maximize the effectiveness of high phosphorous 'Bloom Booster' fertilizer. The extra phosphorous in these formulas probably does not really stimulate flowers (most likely the opposite) but does help rooting. Two applications a week apart will speed the rooting process. Return to regular 15-5-15 fertilizer weekly thereafter as the excess phosphorus in the "Bloom Booster" interferes with minor element absorption to an inordinate degree in our highly alkaline South Florida water.

Vandaceous orchids should be breaking vigorous new roots in March. This is the moment to top them if they have grown too tall and if they have three good roots on the top cutting. Conserving one or more leaves on the old plant's stump will insure a bountiful production of offshoots. Sliding the knife or shears down the stem before making the horizontal cut usually preserves an extra set of leaves. Now is also the ideal time to remove and reset offshoots of vandas and ascocendas. Again take care each has three or more roots and be sure you tie them firmly in their new container until they have rooted solidly.

March is also the month for acclimatizing sun-loving plants to full sun. Vandas, dendrobiums and reed-stemmed epidendrums that have not been blooming as they should because they are in too deep shade can be gradually moved to more light. This is best done in two or three stages, moving the plants a short distance every few days and always keeping them with the same side orientated towards the sun. Without this gradual acclimatization, The bright clear sunlight of March can scorch even the most sun-loving of orchids.

The chief blot on the otherwise nearly ideal growing scenario of March is thrips. March is the month when we are asked most frequently "Why do my vanda flower spikes grow ½ inch and then die?" The answer, like the answer to so many problems with orchids in South Florida, is thrips. The hot dry

weather of March favors thrips which are ubiquitous in our landscapes. The drought of March drives them from their homes in our lawns and shrubberies to seek the cool lush oasis of our orchid collections. Most orchidists recognize the symptoms of thrips on their flowers, the silvered, sand blasted appearance and the withering of the flower parts. Many do not recognize the earlier symptoms which show up on the root tips of vandas and ascocendas as a pitted ring at the point where the green growing root tip is maturing into white. Left unchecked, this damage will cause the root tip to wither. When it restarts growth, a brown ring remains. Orthene (acephate) is the chemical of choice for thrips because of its low toxicity and residual action. Knoxout and Malathion are recommended also by the Florida Department of Agriculture. A non-chemical solution is liquid dish soap applied at the rate of 2 oz (6 tbs) per gallon of water. Be sure to water the plants the day before applying soap and take care to drench the plants thoroughly, covering not only all the surfaces but penetrating into leaf axils and other nooks and crannies where the reclusive thrips loves to loiter. Root the thrips out of your collection and you will get the growing season off to a good start.

Tasks for March

- Watch out for mites and thrips
- Repot genera emerging from dormancy: catasetums, calanthes, soft cane dendrobiums
- Continue general re-potting of cattleyas, oncidiums, hard cane dendrobiums, etc.
- Make top cutting of teretes, semi-teretes and reed stem epidendrums
- Move landscape plants gradually to brighter light
- Apply time release fertilizer
- Spray for mites and thrips

EDITOR'S NOTE

We congratulate Sherry Cauley on her wonderful debut talk on Orchids in History. Great Job!!! And we thank Thanh Nguyen of Springwater Orchids for supplying the plants for the raffle. Each one was nicer than the next.

We have our biggest display show coming up next weekend. We will be setting up in Port St Lucie's Community Center, in a 10 x 10 foot display, at about 8:30 – 9:00 am and work until finished (unless we get hungry, then we'll break for lunch). The address of the Community Center is 2195 S.E. Airoso Blvd, if any folks would like to come down and help set up.

Because we have such a large area to fill, we're requesting that anybody that has orchids in bloom, let us borrow them for the display. It's tough to tastefully fill this large a spot without the help of the entire society membership.

If anybody would like to loan plants to us or volunteer to help, please either call Sherry Cauley or Carolyn Greene. Sherry's number is 772-321-6614 and Carolyn's is 321-506-3909. You can also drop an email to the newsletter address if you'd like.

Next, we need some volunteers. We need a Hospitality, Sunshine and Membership committee. None of the jobs in the society are difficult or very time consuming unless you're on the board. Even then, there's not that much extra time that you need to devote. Those of you who were at the last meeting received a copy of the Society Handbook, and the duties of these three positions are outlined there. This might help you consider volunteering for one or the other.

The **hospitality** committee duties are to arrange for others in the society to bring snacks to the meetings. As the chairperson or committee member you can solicit snack donations any way that works for you. In the past, we have passed around a sheet on a clipboard and asked people to sign up for a particular month. As chairperson or committee member, you'll make coffee for the meeting and clean up the leftovers, wipe down the counter, and take out the trash.

Membership committee consists of finding ways to recruit new members into the society. We do have some outside activities where applications for membership are handed out such as GardenFest and the Busy Bee Customer Appreciation day. At any speaking events to teach about orchids and their care, we make sure there are applications available to be distributed. Once you have an application, you'll collect their dues, and send the form and the monies to the treasurer. The newsletter editor makes the changes and additions to the society roster, so only the new members' information needs to be sent to the editor. An email will work for the editor, but the money and the application either need to be sent, or can be given to the treasurer at a meeting.

Sunshine committee person, or people, send out cards to people in the society who are ill or have lost a loved one. For this position, as with each one in the Society, it will cost you nothing except a little time. The Society will pick up the financial burdens in each all the operation of the group.

We will also be looking for a person to temporarily fill the Secretary position. Our Secretary, Marilyn Row, is in the hospital in Melbourne. She suffered a stroke and is still in a coma. It is doubtful that she'll be able to resume her duties as Secretary if/when she recovers. So in the meantime, we'd like to have one or more person volunteer. The duties are in the Handbook, but, like most of the positions in the society, it's fairly easy. You'll take notes at the board meeting and distribute them to the board members before then next board meeting. That means typing and a little computer work is needed to be comfortable with the position. The extra time needed is just for the board meeting and whatever time it takes to type and send them out. As you can tell by the February minutes, it doesn't even have to be a female.

Marilyn is resting comfortably and the family has invited, any of us that would like, to visit her. While she is in a coma, I understand that the sense of hearing is the last sense for us to loose before we pass (if that's the outcome). That is to say, while she may not be able to respond, she'll know you're there, know we're thinking about her and that we care. If you'd like to see her, she is in Kindred Hospital; that address is 765 W Nasa Blvd, Melbourne, FL 32901 and the phone number is [\(321\) 733-5725](tel:3217335725).

Customer Appreciation day at Busy Bee is being held on March 19th and we have been invited to be at one of the tents. For those of you who haven't been there, it is a big picnic (food and drink is available during lunch time), and there are tents with various vendors with products to enhance your garden, and non profit societies handing out literature about their purpose and benefits for joining them. It's really a fun day, and if you can't join us at the tent, at lease come see what they have to offer. The customer appreciation starts about 10:00 am, though there isn't an exact time on the Busy Bee web page.

Finally, there's only about 1 ½ months until our show. Please be thinking of how you'd like to help to make our show a big success. There will be people needed to work on setup activities, the raffle tent, setting up the tablecloths in the show tent, helping provide goodies for hospitality on setup day, helping our visitors, if anybody needs it, working with the judges (this is an interesting and educational job), security in the display tent during the day, and finally teardown on Sunday. This may not be all the jobs, but I'm sure that's most of them. We don't expect anybody to spend the entire time working

the show, but a few hours from all of us will make a light load on everybody.

We'd like to have more of our members sponsor awards for our show. It's just \$30 per award, and you can get a friend to go in with you to defray your cost. There are still plenty to choose from, and we'll be able to get an exact list at the meeting. Please see Doug for the selection and more details.

Also, we will be having the mini-niches on display also. These are fun little projects for displaying small flower arrangements of orchids. We will be passing around a sign up sheet within the next month or two for people who want to reserve a box for their display.

And of course, don't forget we all need to increase our collection of beauties. We have such great vendors all of whom put their hearts into providing beautiful, healthy plants for us to acquire for our collections. This year we'll have a couple new vendors, some orchids, some other wares. You'll be hearing more on all the show details in the upcoming meetings.

VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY OFFICERS

President – Judy Wagner

Vice President – Bob Greene

Secretary – Marilyn Row

Treasurer – Addison Marvin

Board of Directors

Ronnie Meeks

Doug Mew

Sherry Cauley

Committees

Membership –

Hospitality –

Sunshine – Marilyn Row

Show Chairman – Doug Mew

Vero Beach Orchid Society

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DUES FOR 2016: SINGLE MEMBER DUES \$15.00

FAMILY DUES: \$20.00

THIS MONTH REGULAR MEETING WILL BE MARCH 17TH, 2016, AT
GARDEN CLUB OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, 2526 17TH AVENUE VERO BEACH, FLORIDA
32960. THE MEETING WILL START AT 7:00 PM