



Vero Beach Orchid Society



March 2017

March Speaker

Joe Bryson will be our speaker for the March meeting. He is the President of the Brevard County Orchid Society, Joe, with his wife Boon, have been avid growers and vendors of orchids for many years. They live in the Melbourne area, so any plants you get from them will be acclimated to your growing area.

Joe and Boon are both certified Judges for the American Orchid Society (AOS) and have been involved in our show for the last few years, though in this case few doesn't just mean three. This year Joe will be serving as the head judge for our show.

His talk this month will be about Dendrobiums. Joe will also bring plant for sale and supply the raffle table plants. So no individual sales will be allowed, and please turn off or mute your phones during the presentation.

VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTE

January 2, 2017

President John Odom called the meeting to order At 7:05. Board members present were Treasurer Addison Marvin, Secretary Joan Kaser, Newsletter Editor Carolyn Greene, and Board Members Doug Mew,

The minutes of the last meeting were read. It was moved and second that the minutes be approved as corrected, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Addison Marvin presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of December it was moved by Doug, second by Carolyn that the report be accepted, motion passed Addison mentioned that we have two accounts with different fiscal years. One account is from January to December and the other, the show account, is from June to May. It was decided to leave the accounts the way they are set up, as a change would require 2/3'd vote of the membership.

We need a signature letter for John as the new president to be able to sign the checks.

Old Business: We will have post cards available for the Garden Fest in February to pass out at our booth. John suggested that we take advantage of the other vendors to pass out post cards about our upcoming show. We had a very good turnout at Busy Bee.

We need to get some advertising for the upcoming show. It seems that the newspaper gets the most attention.

New Business: We need committees for our show. We need a committee to feed the vendors. We have 7 applications and one is from Charleston Discussion was held on how to bring in new members and it was suggested that we offer them a free plant upon them signing up.

At 8:30 it was moved the meeting be adjourned by Doug and seconded by Carolyn. The next Board meeting will be February 6,2017

February 6, 2017

President John Odom called the meeting to order At 7:05. Board members present were Treasurer Addison Marvin, Secretary Joan Kaser, Vice-President Sherry Cauley, and Board Members Doug Mew, Howard Kramer, Pat Mills, and Carol Marvin Orchid Show Chairman, and Joyce Jackman refreshment chairman.

Treasurers Report: Addison Marvin presented the Treasurers Report for the month of January. There was discussion on the cost of the raffle table and it was decided that we are making our expenses. It was moved by Sherry second by Dug that the report be accepted, motion passed.

Secretary's Report: minutes of the last meeting were read. It was moved by Dug and second by Howard that the minutes be approved as read, motion passed.

Old Business:

February 16th the program will be Judy and Ken Russ. He will be bringing pottery as well as plants as we have some new members that are not growers that might be interested in them.

At Busy Bee the following events will be held: March 7th Sherry will be speaking and may need some volunteers, March 11th is Customer appreciation day and we will be there to hand out our cards. March 16th is set up day for the Port St. Lucie show. We notified them that we will not do a 100 foot display, but we are willing to do a table top display. John mentioned that a 100 foot display is too large and most shows are going to a table top display. We have not heard from the Port St. Lucie contact.

Upcoming programs: In June we will have free plants and show them how to pot their plants. In July we may have someone from the University of Florida speak. Toward the fall we will have Dennis Cathahard. We will contact Busy Bee to see if any of their vendors would be willing to speak for us. John mentioned that Orchid Digest has programs that we can use, and Howard mentioned the Bat Lady gives a very nice presentation.

New Business: Dug gave a report on the Garden Fest Booth and we signed up 29 paying members and passed out cards to 35 other members who showed interest in becoming members. All those presenting their cards and having paid their dues will be given their free plant. Pat suggested that we have a list of members, and where we could reach them, and possibly have a roll call so we get to know each other. John suggested that the new members introduce themselves at the meeting .

Doug suggested that we have a show and tell table. John suggested that we have one person assigned to do the show and tell. Have one table for good orchids and one table for orchids that people bring in for advice on what is wrong with their plant.

Advertising for the show was brought up and Carol said that she was working on getting us in several of the handout magazines that are placed in doctor's offices. Addison read a letter from Google on free advertising. John mentioned that it cost a lot to do this if you don't generate enough business.

Joyce asked about the requirements for the refreshment chairman. Sherry told her to do it her own way, but found out that just letting people bring what they wanted worked out well. Joyce was informed that her main responsibility was to get the coffee going, set up and clean up.

For the show: Joan will do the meals for the vendors and workers on Friday, Carolyn will do registration, Howard and Irene will be the all purpose people helping out where needed.

At 8:10 it was moved by Sherry and second by that the meeting be adjourned. The next Board meeting will be March 6,2017

Respectfully submitted by Joan Kaser, Secretary

March in Your Orchid Collection

By Dr. Martin Motes



Aerides houlettiana

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
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Editors Notes:

Thanks to Ken Russ for his entertaining talk. He sure did show us all how to keep growing easy and fun. Thanks Ken.

There will be an orchid show in Port St Lucie on the weekend of March 17th. Unfortunately, we will not be entering a display because we just don't have enough people who have plants in bloom to create that size display (is is 10 ft by 10 ft). However, if anybody has plants that they might like to enter in the individual class competition, you may take them down to enter them, or you can call Sherry Cauley, and she will be taking them down. Set-up for that show, including individual plants, must be done on Thursday, March 16th. So if you'd like to enter anything, please make arrangements with Sherry immediately if you're not taking them down yourself. Sherry's number is 772-321-6614.

Since it's beginning to be show season for us, we'll be making requests of our members to work and sponsor trophies, etc. The work part is really very easy. Just volunteer to do one thing, or more if you can spare the time to enjoy working with beautiful plants and fun people. At the next meeting we'll have a list of thing we need volunteers to do, but at the top of the list for those who haven't already volunteered, is to give the other volunteers a break. We have a few people who plan to work the entire weekend at the show, some at a particular job and others at any or all the different kinds of things we need to have accomplished. But, check out the list and please sign up.

Second is the sponsorship side, which might be harder. The sponsorship isn't really a lot harder. It just requires you to open your wallet, and maybe even convince a friend or two to open theirs too. We will have trophies that will be awarded through the judging at our show. Each of these trophies needs to be sponsored. The cost of sponsorship is \$30 per award. Now, you don't need to carry that load by yourself. Each trophy can be sponsored by up to 3 people, that's only \$10 each!

We will also need people to get bigger sponsors for the show, by trying to persuade businesses to donate to our show. We have quite a few people and businesses who routinely donate, and many even ask in advance to become a sponsor. This is where the "harder" part comes in. It requires us, the members, to ask companies for money or services we need during the show.. They have their choice how much if they'd like to donate, and depending on how generous they are, will determine if they are on the banner and get the extra publicity. You've already received the sponsorship form if you receive email from us, and we'll have some at the meeting.

You'll most likely hear more about these subjects at the next 2 meetings before our speakers.

In old news, at the Martin County Orchid Show, we put in a beautiful display, however we didn't win. But that's OK because we won for the prior 3 shows where we entered a display. It's time to let somebody else have all the accolades. We did, however, do pretty well with ribbons. The plants in the display did receive 17 ribbons, 9 of which were first place, 4 second place and 4 third place. Those of us who participated in the setup and tear down had a fun time and a great meal.

Any NEW members, those who have joined between January 1st and now, please be sure to pick up your name badge. They will be at the back table, where the raffle tickets are sold.

Below are a list of upcoming events in the area for the next month or so.

March 10, 11, and 12, 2017, Orchid Festival at Fairchild

March 17-19, 2017 Port St. Lucie Orchid Show, 2195 SE Airoso Blvd., Port Saint Lucie, FL

March 18-19, 2017 Jacksonville Orchid Show, Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave

March 24-26 Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance Show United Church of Christ, 5200 Crayton Road, Naples, FL.

April 1-2, 2017 Highland County Orchid Show, Bert J. Harris Jr. Agricultural Center, 4509 George Blvd., Sebring, FL

April 7-8, 2017 Englewood Orchid Society show, Englewood Methodist Church, 700 E Dearborn Street, Englewood, FL

VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY OFFICERS

President – John Odom

Vice President – Sherry Cauley

Secretary – Joan Kaser

Treasurer – Addison Marvin

Board of Directors

Doug Mew

Howard Kramer

Pat Mills

Committees

Membership –

Hospitality –

Sunshine – Louise Martin

Show Chairman – Carol Marvin

Vero Beach Orchid Society

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DUES FOR 2017: SINGLE MEMBER DUES \$15.00

FAMILY DUES: \$20.00

OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE MARCH 16TH, 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