



Vero Beach Orchid Society



August 2016

August Speaker Glenn Gross

Glenn Gross of Gross Orchids will be out speaker for the August meeting.

Gross Orchids grows a wide variety of orchid hybrids and species that are compatible with the Florida climate. Their goal is to help educate the beginner and advise the novice in the care and cultivation of orchids. The focus of our nursery is the beginner, looking to obtain their first orchid, and the novice who has a small number of plants with limited experience. We make every effort to answer any and all questions in language that is easily understandable.

Glenn also maintains varieties for the advanced grower and collector. He currently maintain an inventory of over 3,000 potted, mounted and plants in baskets, covering a total of twelve different greenhouses.

We also maintain a full line of orchid potting supplies and will gladly make recommendations to match the right potting medium with the right orchid variety.

Gross Orchids is a locally owned and operated orchid nursery with over 15 years' experience growing orchids in Polk County and Central Florida, with over 25 years growing experience. Mounting and growing orchids on a variety of different materials is his speciality.

With the end of spring show season, they are on regular weekend hours for the months of May thru September. Saturdays and Sundays 9:00am to 4:00pm. Weekdays are still by appointment.

Glenn's topic for our meeting will be "**A different approach to mounting orchids, their care and maintenance**"

Glenn will be furnishing the Raffle table and will be bringing plants to sell. Members selling table closed.

Due to the summer recess for the Board, no minutes will appear until September.

August in your Orchid Collection



Vanda Amy Glynn Creekmur

August Climate Data

Average high: 90.6 Average low: 76.5 Average mean: 83.6 Average rainfall: 8.63"

July and August are the two most similar months in South Florida. Most of the advice on watering, disease and pest control in last month's calendar still applies but subtle changes are taking place. Although it may not seem so, as temperatures climb into the low nineties most afternoons, summer is in retreat: each day a little shorter, each night a little longer. With shorter days the importance of watering as early in the morning as possible comes to the fore. With less hours of sunlight to dry the plants, extra care should be taken in choosing when to water. Back to the basics of the classic saying: If a vanda looks like it needs water, water it; if a cattleya or oncidium looks like it needs water, water it tomorrow. If a paph or a phal looks like it needs water, you should have watered it yesterday. If plants retain water even from an early morning watering, allowing them to dry a bit harder before the next watering is always a good idea. An extra day of drying rarely does harm.

August should provide numerous opportunities to dry each orchid to its desired level of dryness. Take the opportunity to dry your orchids "hard" at least once but preferably twice in August. This will give your orchids a leg up on their mortal enemies, the fungus, before the drizzle of September switches the advantage to our adversaries. August is definitely not the month to over indulge in water. September, the soggiest of months, is next up. The corollary to this calculated drying is the concept that when watering in August above all water thoroughly. If watering is necessary be sure that the roots and medium are totally saturated with the application. The drizzling rains of September are so detrimental precisely because they keep the foliage of the plants wet unduly long. We want our plants which are still growing to receive plenty of water but also plenty of drying time. Good air circulation and proper watering are the keys to disease prevention. Remember that your plants will have increased considerably in size by this point in the growing season. They have added extra growths and extra

leaves across the summer. August is a good time to evaluate the spacing of our plants. Remember the old Florida saw that one needs a cat to grow good orchids because when properly spaced a cat should be able to navigate the benches between plants without knocking them over. While we cannot recommend specific chemicals, the county agent recommends Banrot, a convenient combination of Thiophanate-methyl and Truban which controls a number of leaf-spotting diseases and soft rots, for home owner use. A combination of Thiophanate-methyl and mancozeb has also been recommended. This can be found pre-packaged as Duosan. If one can overcome the aversion to chemicals and can learn the safe application of them, they are valuable tools to better orchid growing. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure especially before the soft, slow drizzle of September sets in.

Lengthening nights in August mean cooler nighttime temperatures. Many sympodial orchids are reaching the end of their growing cycle and require less nitrogen. Cattleyas and oncidiums have maturing bulbs. Genera that become deciduous in winter like nobile dendrobiums, calanthes and catasetums should be given much less nitrogen in August to prevent them producing an unwanted off season growth and perhaps forgetting to flower. Substitute an additional application of potassium nitrate and Epsom salt (1 tbsp each per gal) instead of the balanced 20-20-20. Vandas will respond well to this also, as several of the parental species of our hybrids produce blooms on shortening day lengths and lower levels of nitrogen in their fertilizer seems to egg them on. As explicated in the last chapter, modern research indicates that orchids require less phosphorus than previously thought. This concept should lead us to more judicious use of phosphorus. Fertilizer high in phosphorus may still be of some value at the end of the growing season, perhaps not so much as stimulus as shock. One or two heavy applications in succession, a week or so apart will certainly provide all the phosphorus and all the stimulus (or wake up shock) our plants require to bloom.

Snails can be somewhat of a problem in August too, but left to multiply they will be in their full glory when those slow unrelenting rains of September set in. Control them with baits in pellet or liquid/paste form. Remember, these are baits, the pests are drawn to them. Therefore apply lightly, but frequently. Because they wash away in the heavy rains, baits should be reapplied every two weeks. One pellet every two to three feet will do the job, but one application will not. Given a choice, the smallest pellets baits are best. They keep us from over applying and also pose much less threat to neighborhood pets. A small bait in a Vanda crown is a nuisance, a large bait can be a disaster.

If you have been waiting to make cuttings of the terete vandas or reed stem epidendrums, you can wait no longer. The potting season is drawing absolutely to a close. Pot up those overgrown phals before they even think of spiking. Re-set those strap leaf vandas early in August whilst they still have just enough time to re-establish themselves in the September humidity and before the cool weather arrives and their root growth slows or stops. As in all seasons be sure that the plants are firmly set in their containers. There is no "wobble room" this late in the growing season to restart tender roots that have been chafed off a loosely set plant. As the cooler weather approaches try to give plants that have been repotted late more protection from the first cold snaps.

Tasks for August

- Finish cutting teretes and reed stem epidendrums early in month
- Reset strap leaf vandas early or not at all
- Dry hard once or twice
- Continue anti-fungal spray program
- Apply snail bait lightly twice ten days apart

EDITOR'S NOTES

We'd like to thank Tom, for his presentation last month on angraecums. Lots of interesting facts about a unique species of orchids. Thanks Tom.

We will have Glenn Gross for our speaker. Glen is another new speaker to our group. He joined our show 2 years ago, and grows a very diverse selection of orchids. His subject matter will be growing orchids mounted, the right way to do it.

While summer is a bit of a break for the board, that doesn't mean we don't want to hear from our members. If there are any subjects you'd like to hear someone speak on, please let us know. You can always approach one of the board members and/or officers to let them know what you'd like to hear during the meetings.

Also, if anybody has ideas of activities we might include in our schedule, such as a ramble to local growers greenhouses or potting parties, again, we'd like to hear what you have to say. We want to make this organization helpful in all your needs where your orchid growing is concerned.

Has anybody thought about the Christmas party yet? It may sound early, but we need a person to set up the party, and if we wait too late, we may not get the date we'd like. We need a volunteer to start thinking about arrangements.

As usual we still need other volunteers. In previous newsletters, we've told you of the vacancies (just look at the officer list below and you'll see most of them). 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. Those that take time, it is minimal, maybe an hour or two extra per month. Please consider filling a position that you think might work for you. You can always look in the handbook for descriptions of the duties if you're interested. You can also ask any of the officers or board members, and they'll be happy to answer your questions.

In addition to the above vacancies, we desperately need a person or group of people to pick up the reigns for our annual show. There is nothing in the rules that the "chair" for the show must be one individual, so it can be a show committee. This event is our primary source of income, and without it, our society may not be able to provide some of the special benefits or services we've all come to enjoy.

Keep in mind, the show organization will have the help and guidance of the former chairperson, and most, if not all, of the staff who volunteered for the past shows. If you have organizational and people skills, you would be an asset to this task. In the past we have had many good volunteers to take on the different areas within the show, such as the raffle, refreshments, registration, niche portion of the displays, etc. I'm sure there will be many of those same people to help again this year.

There is a description of the tasks involved in the show in the handbook for you to start your research. You can always talk to the prior show chairperson and come to the next board meeting if you have questions, or show even a remote interest in the task. Please, let's get some folks on board and all pull together so we'll have another successful show this coming year. Thanks.

The fall show will be upon us soon, so it's time to start getting those plants cleaned up and ready for October. Our first show will be the Ft Pierce Orchid Society Show, which will be on the second weekend of October. The dates are October 8th and 9th. We'll be asking for any people who are interested in helping with set up and teardown, as well as those willing to let us use their plants in our display. Please keep that in mind

VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY OFFICERS

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Hospitality –

Sunshine – Louise Martin

Show Chairman –

Vero Beach Orchid Society

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DUES FOR 2016: SINGLE MEMBER DUES \$15.00

FAMILY DUES: \$20.00

OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE AUGUST 18TH, 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