



Vero Beach Orchid Society



January 2016

January Speaker – John Odom

The Best Cattleyas of 2014

John graduated from the University of Florida as an agriculture major. John worked in citrus management for Cassens Grove Service in the Indian River area for twelve years and then went to work for Rohm and Hass in agricultural sales for twelve years. He then joined Ocean Spray Cranberries and retired after twenty years.

What started out as a small back yard business grew to more than 90,000 square feet of greenhouses. Odom's, Inc. is one of the top retail shippers in the United States. Odom's Orchids has many types of orchids, but the Cattleya orchid is John's absolute favorite!

He has a lab and does many of his own crosses, always looking for that special flower that no one else owns!

For years John was involved in teaching beginners orchid classes and various talks at orchid societies, and garden clubs. John enjoys orchids so much that he wanted to share knowledge with other growers; that started the annual Odom's Cattleya Symposium. The Symposium is recognized as one of the premier events in the orchid world. We are now in our fifth year.

John and Louise Odom are both Life Time Members of the Vero Beach Orchid Society.

The subjects of John's talk this month will be the Best Cattleyas of 2014.

He will furnish raffle plants and will have plants for sale, therefore, members sales will not be permitted.

Tamiami Bus Trip

Well, the bus trip is only about 2 weeks away. Hope you all have your seats reserved. There are still seats available but they will be given on a first come first served basis, so if you really want to go, don't wait until the meeting to sign up. There may not be any seats left by then. Check out the Editor's note for how to make your reservation before the next meeting. We have also extended an invitation to Ft. Pierce, Treasure Coast, Brevard County and Port St. Lucie Societies to join us, so there's an even bigger possibility seats will be gone before the next meeting.

VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 7, 2015

President Jim Andre called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, and Show Chairman Doug Mew.

The minutes of the November 2, 2015 Board meeting were read. Doug Mew made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Carolyn Greene and the motion passed.

Treasure's Report: Addison Marvin presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of November, 2015. Carolyn Greene made a motion seconded by Bob Greene to accept the report and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Orchid Show: Applications for vendors for our April 2016 orchid show were sent out last month. All completed Applications and fees, including trophy fees, are to be sent to Doug Mew's house for quicker processing. New vendors from the Ft. Pierce show will be in our show. Duties of officers need to be written. Getting a 60 foot tent is being considered. One tent will be used to hold orchid lessons and using DVDs. The 2016 show name will be "Orchids Safari". Security at the show was discussed. Doug will contact Beryl about all the society items. Silver plates were discussed,

Christmas Party at Marsh Landing: At present, 44 people have signed up for the party. There will be a stand for water and coffee. Fifty orchids will be purchased for members attending the party. Half will be bought from Odom's and half from Thanh. The gratuity for the dinner is 18%. Bud Ingersoll will swear in the new officers. Name cards are being made.

Bus Trip: At the present time 18-19 people have signed up but not paid for the bus trip for the Tamiami Orchid Show in January 2016. On the bus raffle tickets will be given to those making the trip. The Ft. Pierce Orchid Society will announce the availability of seats on the bus. The Brevard Orchid Society will also be notified.

New Business:

Award: Doug suggested that a special award be dedicated to the late Marion Kotte for all the work she has done over the years on the niches at our society's orchid shows. Carolyn Greene made a motion

seconded by Bob Greene that a special award be dedicated to Marian Kotte. The motion passed unanimously.

January 2016 General Meeting:

Food and drinks need to be purchased.

Doug Mew made a motion seconded by Carolyn Greene that the meeting be adjourned at 8:13 p.m. The motion passed.

Submitted by
Marilyn E. Row, Secretary

January in Your Orchid Collection



V. Indigo 'Indigo' HCC/AOS

January Climate Data
Average high: 76.5
Average low: 59.6
Average mean: 68.1
Average rainfall: 1.88"

January is somewhat like December but in reverse, with each succeeding day bringing longer hours of sunlight until days are long enough that afternoons return at the end of the month with extra sunshine to warm us after the extra sharp cold snaps. January, like December, is cold and dry, in fact even colder and drier. Dry is good, cold can be very bad. We need to accentuate the positive by especially careful watering in January. By keeping our plants as dry as possible and spacing our waterings as far apart as possible, we conserve our potential to use water to protect our plants from the cold, keeping our powder dry, as it were. In January water early, water thoroughly when you do and do so sparingly. The cooler overall temperatures of January are much less dehydrating even to plants which have received less water. Remember, many of our orchids come from seasonally dry and cool climates not so different from South Florida. Many orchids are equipped already to handle the drier cooler conditions of our Florida January. A good strategy is to "top-up" the light watering that our plants receive with the passing showers that each successive cold front brings. This slight additional artificial irrigation may prove to be all the watering that many genera need. Such parsimony with watering preserves the possibility of using water on truly cold nights to warm our plants.

Water is the only feasible source of heat available to plants grown in the open, under trees, in shade houses or on patios in South Florida. Ground water here (and in most of the rest of the world is about 63 F. (16C). Water out of municipal systems is not far different. On truly cold nights turning on the water can be of great benefit to our plants, provided that they have not been over-watered in the days and weeks preceding, thus inviting the ever present fungi to do more damage than the cold. For this reason as well, in general, orchids are better off dry until temperatures approach frost or freezing. The logic for maintaining plants dry is not only to minimize fungal problems but also because cold air is typically very dry air. If plants are wet in very dry and rapidly moving air say 10 or more mph, evaporative cooling can take place, chilling our orchids further and faster than they would if dry. When the water goes on it needs to be in heavy volume and it needs to stay on to keep the plants thoroughly bathed in its warmth. Very still air on the other hand, presents a different danger as frost is possible at temperatures higher than is commonly realized. In calm air frost can form at higher elevations and settle in on plants while the surface temperature is only in the upper 30's (4C). The best forecast for nights when the temperature will hover near 40 is a light wind of 2-5 miles per hour. This light wind mixes the warm air near the surface and draws warm from the earth. Clear, cloudless, still nights with bright shining stars elevate the spirit but harbingers frost.

Forecasts of temperatures below 40 F should stimulate us to action. If it is not practical to bring all the *Phalaenopsis*, vandas and hard cane dendrobiums into the house or garage, think of using water to help protect them. Shade cloth or even patio screen like a lacy Mantilla holds in a surprising amount of heat. Under screen, a fine mist head (1/2 gal. per minute) attached to a hose and left running beneath the bench or plant rack will provide several degrees of additional warmth that will often sufficiently temper the chill and ward off any light frost settling in. Growers with swimming pools frequently turn on the re-circulating pump to keep a supply of warm water near the pool's surface where it can add heat to the ambient environment. A few degrees of warmth frequently make all the difference to our sensitive orchids. In more open areas not protected by a permanent irrigation system, an oscillating sprinkler at the end of a garden hose is very effective. These are readily available at Home Depot and garden shops for a few dollars. On frosty nights, start the water at bedtime and let it run until the sun is up. The extra water once or twice in a month will do no harm to orchids that have been properly and judiciously watered the remainder of the month. In fact, these occasions present the opportunity to be sure that excess fertilizer salts have been leached from the pots and medium. A good work can be borne of necessity!

Remember that Himalayan dendrobiums and "warm growing" *Cymbidium* hybrids will positively relish temperatures down to 32F and a light frost is just the ticket for great bloom. Keep the water off these!

In the drought of January, mites, that affect nearly all genera of orchids, continue to be a serious problem that will only get worse. Mite populations will reach a crescendo in March and April but January is a good time to scotch them. *Paphiopedilum* and other softly leaved genera are particularly susceptible but no genus is free of them. One theory on why deciduous genera such as *Catasetum*, *Calanthe* and others lose their leaves hypothesizes that this totally rids them of mites.

Being totally rid of mites is a good thing! Sometimes this is easier said than done because mites reproduce with such voluminous speed. Their life cycle from egg to reproductive adult being is as short as twelve days. In order to control mites one must achieve as total a kill of the population as possible. Total control can only be achieved with two successive sprays. After spraying for mites initially, one *must* spray again in 7 - 10 days. No single spray is totally effective in killing both adults and eggs and a second spraying is necessary to kill any survivors before they can reproduce. Oil as recommended in the December chapter at 1.5 oz per gal followed in 7-10 days by soap at the rate of 2 oz per gallon is very effective. These treatments are also quite effective against scale and mealy bugs which thrive on drought as well. Be sure your plants are well watered the day before applying both oil and soap and be sure that you cover thoroughly all leaf surfaces especially the lower ones which are mites favorite hide outs. For those who wish to be more aggressive, the University of Florida IFAS recommended chemicals for mite control are: Kelthane T/O, Mavarik Aquaflow, and Talstar Flowable. Always follow label instructions for use. Any of these chemicals can be alternated with the soap or the oil in the 7-10 day cycle.

Controlling mites pays huge dividends! You'll be surprised at the extra vigor your plants display.

Tasks for January

Water judiciously only early in the day

Run plants on the dry side to preserve the possibility of using water for cold protection

Check irrigation system in anticipation of cold

Flush excess fertilizer salts from cattleyas and other sympodials

Spray for mites, then spray again in 7-10 days

EDITOR'S NOTE

First, the Christmas party went off without a hitch. It was a great meal and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. Special thanks to John Odom of Odom's Orchids and Thanh Nguyen of Springwater Orchids, for providing the plants that were distributed at the party. Each and every one was absolutely gorgeous. Here are your new officers and board members. Please feel free to ask any of the officers or board members questions about your plants, or suggest activities for the Society that might be interesting and different. We're always looking for new ideas of things to encourage members' participation.



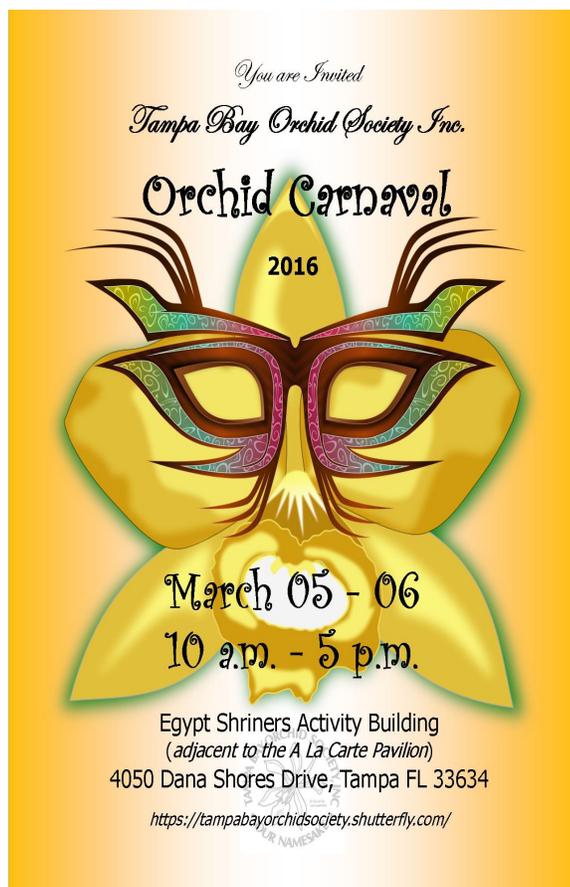
Back Row: Judy Wagner, President; Ronnie Meeks, Board Member; Sherry Cauley, Board Member; Bob Greene, VP; Addison Marvin, Treasurer.

Front Row: Doug Mew, Board Member; Marilyn Row, Secretary; Carolyn Greene, Newsletter Editor.

Second, Tamiami show is in just 2 weeks. Please don't wait until the meeting to make your reservation and pay because there may not be a seat to be had. You can Call Carolyn @ 321-506-3909 to put in your reservation, and send your check to the post office box for the society, which is listed below.

Third, our dues are now due. You must pay your dues by the February meeting in order to be a member in good standing. After that meeting if you have not renewed your dues, you will be dropped from the roster and will not receive your newsletter. So let's all get this business done early so we can enjoy the rest of the year. It promises to have a lot to offer for our members.

And here is a little something I received in my email. Hope some of you can attend.



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
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Society Email: vbos@bellsouth.net

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

THIS MONTH REGULAR MEETING WILL BE JANUARY 21TH, 2016, AT GARDEN CLUB OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, 2526 17TH AVENUE VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960. THE MEETING WILL START AT 7:00 PM