



Vero Beach Orchid Society



September 2017

September Meeting

Because of the storm, we did not schedule a speaker. So instead we will be holding a workshop for troubled orchids. With all the rain we had this summer, rot may be a problem in your garden, not to mention all the pest and disease problems from all the moisture. So, for this meeting, please bring your injured, sick, or troubled plants to have the experts diagnose and give remedies for their issues. Also, this would be a good time to get advice on any orchid care that maybe you don't have quite a handle on.

VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTE June 5, 2017

President John Odom called the meeting to order at 6:50. Board members present were: Vice President Sherry Cauley, Treasurer Addison Marvin, Secretary Joan Kaser, and Board Members Doug Mew, Howard Kramer, and Pat Mills. Carol Marvin, show chairman, and Jim Andre were also present. Secretary's Report: Minutes of the last meeting were read. It was moved by Doug and second by Sherry that the minutes be approved, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Addison Marvin presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of May. It was moved and passed that we accept the Treasurer's report
Old Business:

Carol gave an up-date on the show. She met with the committee to review what could be changed to help next year's board chairman. Their main suggestion was to start taking care of some of the details earlier so there would not be so much to do at the last minute. We can do so much ahead of time, for instance the insurance and the signage.

We also need to specify what we are doing with a schedule and what the rules are for the judges. The rules are in the handbook, but we need to specify what they are to the members.

The judges are from the North Central Judging center, they were very pleased with the lunch we provided them.

John does not want to be on the show committee but would like to give some input.

There were a few complaints from the non-orchid vendors, but they were minor in nature. We would like to see more non-orchid vendors, as long as their product goes with our show.

Carol was asked if she would consider being the show chairman for next year and she accepted.

It was suggested that we could get our tents from another source; however, the feeling was that Event Makers provide us with quality tents and set ups that we should stay with them.

New Business: There will be no summer board meetings; the next meeting will be in September. Addison presented the budget for next year and the Board went over each item line by line. Some items were eliminated and others were increased. Addison informed us that we have enough money in the checking account now to meet all expenses that were approved in the budget. Sherry moved and Howard second that the budget be approved as amended, motion carried.

Sherry went over the list of people approached to be speakers for the coming year. John volunteered to present at one of the meetings.

Taking a bus trip or a field trip was discussed. We will look into where we can take a bus trip, maybe stopping at several places. It was also suggested that we take a field trip to Rock City Nursery as they have many interesting items to show us.

It was moved to adjourn at 8:45. The next Board meeting will be in September.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Kaser, Secretary

September in Your Orchid Collection



V. Alice Motes

September Climate Data

Average high: 89.0 Average low: 75.7 Average mean: 68.1 Average rainfall: 8.38"

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
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Editors Notes:

We'd like to thank John Odom for presenting his enlightening program on Encyclias. Though he didn't get to finish his entire presentation (that just shows how much there is to learn about this subspecies) it was still very interested and informative.

After no responses or interest in an orchid "sitting" program, we won't pursue that issue for now. Maybe later we will have some folks who are in need of the service and others willing to "time-share" care.

We will be doing a display for the Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show mid-November. So, if you have any plants that survive the hurricane that are getting ready to bloom, now is the time to start getting them looking good. The Ft. Pierce Show will be on November 11-12. We'll be giving you more information next month. They had discussed possibly moving their show to a different location, but as of now we only know the Shrine building on Oleander St, is where the show was held in previous years. So, we'll see if they changed locations and let you know next month.

We finished the preparations for the Christmas party and the details are as follows. We will be holding it at Marsh Landing in Fellsmere, the same location as last year. The menu will be almost the same, in that the entrees will be the same, the dessert choices are different though. The cost will be the same as last year at \$20 per member and \$25 for non-members and the date is December 16 at 1:00 pm. We will begin to take reservations at the October meeting.

The entry choices are: Baked Turkey, Honey Baked Ham, Catfish, and Grilled Chicken

The salad dressing choices are: Ranch, Italian, Bleu Cheese, French, 1000 Island, Honey Mustard

The dessert choices are: Key Lime Pie or Peanut Butter Pie

When you pay for your meal, you'll need to be prepared to select your entree, kind of salad dressing you'll want and the dessert choice. Our dinner also includes non-alcoholic beverages (tea, water, coffee, etc.), and there will be alcoholic beverages available for you, if you choose, and you will receive your tab at the end of the meal. We will begin taking your reservations at the October meeting and you'll have until December 4th to get your reservation paid.



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 – Joyce Jackman

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 SEPTEMBER 21ST, 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