



Vero Beach Orchid Society



January 2017

January Speaker

Our speaker this month is Mr. Jeff Adkins of Adkins Orchids. Jeff is known for his beautiful orchids as well as his skill as an AOS orchid judge. This, however, isn't Jeff's only talent. He is quite the master carpenter and is recognized for his expertise at building orchid greenhouses. A third generation grower, Jeff was influenced by both his mother and grandmother. Their exceptional orchids were always present in his life. He began his career at the legendary Jones and Scully Nursery in Miami and in 1984 Jeff put together the Jones and Scully display for the 11th World Orchid Conference.

He began his own business, Adkins Orchids, when J&S closed shop. The specialties of Adkins Orchids include big showy Cattleyas, Vandas and Dendrobiums. Jeff's topic this month is "The perfect orchid habitat". He is an expert at constructing strong and durable shade structures and custom greenhouses which are a wonderful addition to anyone's growing area. I'm sure we will learn a lot!

Jeff will be bringing plants to sell as well as the raffle table plants, therefore, individual sales will not be permitted. We also ask that all cell phones be muted, turned off, or left in the car while Jeff is speaking so as not to disturb the talk. Thank you.

VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTE

December 5, 2016

Secretary Joan Kaser called the meeting to order At 7:05. Board members present were Treasure, Addison Marvin, Secretary Joan Kaser, Newsletter Editor Carolyn Greene, and Board Members Doug Mew, Ronnie Meeks and Sherry Cauley.

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

Treasurer's Report: Addison Marvin presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of November, Sherry moved and Carolyn second to accept the report, motion passed

The Treasurer's report for the year was also presented and it was moved and second to accept the report, motion passed.

Old Business: We are signed up for the Garden Fest on the 4th and 5th of February with set up on the 3rd. There will be a sign-up sheet passed around at the January meeting for assignments of shifts at the Garden Fest.

Helen Wagner of the Port St. Lucie show has been notified that we will not have a big display as we do not have enough plants for this. We are willing to have a table top or small display if asked. We have had no response.

Because we were not able to do a display at the Fort Pierce show Sherry agreed to be a speaker or any other way that we may be able to help them.

We need to let the members know that we will be at Busy Bee on Saturday and encourage our members to stop by.

New Business: Education. Sherry has lined up speakers for the coming year. Jeff Atkins will be presenting Creating The Perfect Orchid Habitat in January.

February Judy and Ken Russ will be giving tips for the orchid growers.

March will be Joe Bryson.

April will be information for the show and possibly Ronnie Meeks will give a talk on irrigation.

May will be the picnic.

Doug mentioned that we are getting a lot of "hits" on the web.

The arrangements for the Christmas party are in place with 45 signed up. Ronnie will do the blessing. For the January meeting either Louise or Ronnie will swear in the new officers. The show committee will meet in January.

It was moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:45. The next Board meeting will be January 2.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Kaser, 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 harbinger 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
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Editors Notes:

Our very special thanks to Dave Murray, our surprise speaker for November. There was joking during the meeting that may not have been explained enough, but Dave had a speaking engagement with another group, and they told him the date was the 17th (the date of our meeting). When they hadn't contacted him, he decided to contact them, a group that had the word Beach in their title, but got us instead. Since the board hadn't yet selected as speaker for November, and time was getting tight, it must have been a matter of divine intervention. We had a speaker and he was still able to make the other engagement since the Melbourne Beach Garden Club meeting was on the 15th. It worked out very well for both of us, and we got to meet a very nice couple with an innovative way to grow. Thanks Dave!

Well, our elections are complete now too!. Our new officers and board members for the next year will be: as President, John Odom; Vice President, Sherry Cauley, Treasurer, Addison Marvin, and as Secretary, Joan Kaser. The board consists of Doug Mew, Pat Mills, and Howard Kramer. The board meets on the first Monday of every month, unless that happens to be a holiday. All are welcome to come observe. If you would like to present an idea or bring up an issue, it is must be submitted two

weeks before the board meeting, so it can be put on the agenda.

We will begin collecting dues for next year at the next regular meeting. The cost will be \$15 for an individual membership or \$20 for a family membership, which includes spouse and children under 18 living in your household. You will have 2 months to pay our dues, but after the February meeting, if dues are not received, the membership will be canceled, and you will no longer receive a newsletter. You can also send your dues to the Post Office Box in the address below.

Our next regular meeting will be January 19th at 7:00pm

Preparations for our show are already beginning and in the January meeting we will be passing around sign-up sheets for things that need more than one person's efforts. We have a wide variety of things that need to be done for the show to be a success, so if you might be interested please approach the show Chairperson, Carol Marvin, or any of the officers and board members. If you have questions about what the duties involve, we'll get you to people who can explain it all to you. Please consider giving of your time or energy for the society this year.

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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VBOS Website: www.verobeachorchidsociety.org

DUES FOR 2017: SINGLE MEMBER DUES \$15.00

FAMILY DUES: \$20.00

**OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE JANUARY 19TH, 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**