



Vero Beach Orchid Society



May 2018

This month instead of the meeting we had the picnic. There was a really nice turnout, and the weather stayed beautiful for us until it was time to leave. For those of who who were unable to attend, you missed a very nice time, and maybe you can make it next year.

And if you haven't heard yet through the grapevine, the show was a real success. Every vendor seemed extremely happy with their weekend, and all our volunteers did a fantastic job of helping out everywhere is was needed. Thank you to all those involved in the show, because of you it was possible for us to have one of the best, maybe even the best, since the society started having shows.

Let's not forget about the niche displays. The judge must be very particular, and extremely talented to be able to select one that was the "best of show" this year. We had 61 entries, each one beautiful in its own way. Such talent from such a small group of individuals.

Thank you!

In June, we will resume our regular meeting schedule until December.

VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 2, 2018

President John Odom called the meeting to order at 6:40. Board members present were: Vice-President Sherry Cauley, Treasurer Addison Marvin, and Secretary Joan Kaser, Newsletter Editor Carolyn Greene, board members Howard Kramer, and Pat Mills. Carol Marvin show chairman was also present.

Treasurer's Report: Addison Marvin presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of February. John moved and Sherry second that the treasurer's report be accepted.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the last meeting were read. It was moved by Carolyn and second by Sherry that the minutes be accepted as read

Old Business: Paul has some information for the bus trip. We will wait to hear from him. We could also have a caravan of 3 or 4 cars depending on how many people would be willing to go. If we get a good response we could get a bus.

New Business: We need to take a good look at the By-laws and how long a term people can serve. John brought up the fact that we need to keep some experienced people on the board that know what is necessary to keep the society going.

The possibility was discussed that we make contact with the Garden Club to advertise throughout the state.

Show We have a digital ad this year we have already have 4,000 hits with people referring to our web page. We can also put the ad on Facebook ... The vendors should be listed on Facebook as many people look for certain vendors each year. We also have an ad in the senior bulletin thanks to Irene. Doug has to get in touch with the radio guy. This cuts our advertising \$200.00

The Event Makers will no longer give us a discount and it will cost us another \$200.00. They have been informed that Carolyn will be the one to tell them where to place the tables.

Non orchid vendors need contact information in the bulletin.

Everything is done and we now need the people to come out and help. We need to inform the workers where they can help especially with the vendors. WE need more clerks and this we will bring up at the meeting.

It was moved to adjourn at 7:40. The next Board meeting will be May 7, 2018.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Kaser, Secretary

Here is an article I received from the AOS on caring for your orchids through the summer months. Hope you all find something useful in the text:

How to Care for Orchids During the Wilds of Summertime

By Ron McHatton with Photographs by Greg Allikas

From the May 2012 issue of Orchids Magazine

SUMMER PRESENTS CHALLENGES in the form of increased pest activity, fungal and bacterial problems in traditionally wet areas and desiccation in those areas with Mediterranean-like climates where summers are typically quite dry. Careful observation of your plants is the best way to identify small problems before they become big problems, and in the summer, the time between these two events is dramatically shorter due to higher temperatures.

PEST CONTROL For small collections, the best thing to do is to physically wipe insects off and clean the plant. Isopropyl alcohol and a cotton swab are effective against most pests and if you want to increase its effectiveness, a drop of Ivory dishwashing liquid added to the alcohol helps wet the typically waxy surface of orchid leaves. If you haven't been watching carefully and the infestation gets out of control, you might have to use chemicals. Few pesticides are specifically rated for use on orchids, but you can use any that are labeled for ornamentals. Use care and follow the label directions. This is not a situation where if a little is good, more will be better.

In areas with dry summers, mites can be a serious problem, especially on phalaenopsis. These creatures attack the surface of the leaves producing a sort of rough silvery appearance. Mites are not insects and insecticides offer little or no control. Mites do not like humid conditions so efforts to increase humidity are beneficial. Light infestations can be controlled by thoroughly cleaning plants but in hot, dry climates light infestations rapidly become serious and control is best accomplished by the use of a miticide.

In areas with wet summers, wet foliage and high humidity encourage the spread of fungal and bacterial diseases. Bacterial diseases do not respond to fungicides and vice versa so it's important to know which disease you are dealing with. Perhaps the easiest way to distinguish between the two is by smell. The most common bacterial disease in orchids produces a foul smell often likened to dead fish. If you've ever had cut flowers stand too long in water, you know the sort of smell we're talking about.

Diseases can spread quickly. Bacterial diseases kill plants especially rapidly and time is of the essence. Both bacterial and fungal diseases are spread by splashing water, and this includes rainfall. Use a clean cutting tool such as a single-edge razor blade, cut off the infected tissue as well as at least an inch (2.5 cm) of clean, green

area and then treat the cut surface with a fungicide. Even if the problem is bacterial, you don't want a fungal infection to start in the wound. Cinnamon — the common spice — is effective against fungal diseases and can be used to coat the cut surface. It's perhaps not as effective as a chemical fungicide but it's readily available and does work.

Where it's wet, keep your plants as dry as possible. Alternatively, provide a lot of air movement. When you water, try to do so as early in the day as possible. This will allow adequate time for the foliage to dry before nightfall.

In dry-summer areas, the bane of orchid growers is extremely low humidity, and this leads to two issues. The first of these is an increase in the rate at which plants dry out and the other is the ever-presence of mites.

Orchids in dry-summer areas dry out much more rapidly than they did in the winter. Depending on temperature, plants watered every two weeks in the winter may need to be watered every few days in the summer. Here again, nothing will take the place of careful observation. If you have an extensive collection of plants, you might want to consider installing a misting system similar to those used in open-air restaurants in dry areas. Low-pressure units that install on hose lines are inexpensive and work reasonably well to raise humidity as well as cool the growing area somewhat.



Scale, particularly Boisduval scale illustrated on this cattleya plant, is a serious pest on orchids. Dried pseudobulb sheaths should be removed at repotting to inspect for these insects.

SUMMER SUN How does sun affect orchids? Solar radiation is much more intense in the summer and plants that have been thriving in full sun all winter may need a little extra protection (shade) when the sun is at its strongest or, often during the late afternoon, when the temperatures are highest. Orchids are easily sunburned and you should take care when moving plants around, especially if you are moving plants grown inside during the winter to a spot outside for the summer. Sunburn, while not in itself a serious problem is irreversible and will make your plants look ugly. In serious cases the plant can be killed outright and any leaf damage is an invitation to a secondary infection in the damaged area.

Orchid foliage should be a light yellow-green. The first sign of too much light is often yellow foliage. If left alone, this yellow foliage will eventually turn white and then dark brown and dry as the sunburned area dries out. If the problem is caught before the chlorophyll has been completely destroyed it is often possible to reverse the damage. Once white spots or sunken areas have appeared, the damage is irreversible and the best thing one can do is stop further progression with more shade.



Sudden increases in light levels will burn orchid foliage as illustrated here on this *Bifrenaria harrisoniae* leaf. While small sunburned spots aren't really detrimental to the plant, they are unsightly and remain for the life of the leaf

CAPITALIZING ON THE HIGH-GROWTH SEASON Because of increased light and temperatures, your plants will benefit from more fertilizer (increased frequency, not concentration). This is especially true for those varieties that put out new growth during this time. Avoid fertilizers that contain significant amounts of urea (formulations with more than 20 percent nitrogen). Urea nitrogen is much less readily available to orchids in soilless mixes than ammoniacal and nitrate forms.

Plants will also dry out faster. To avoid root damage, water plants before fertilizing; the roots will be wet and less easily damaged by the salts in the fertilizer solution.

If you grow your plants inside during the cooler months, moving them outside for the summer is often beneficial and your plants will respond with renewed vigor. Remember, make the transition slowly. Place them under heavy shade for a few days, then somewhat less shade for a few days and then move them to their summer homes, paying attention to the color of the foliage. You'll be glad you did.



The damage to these hybrid cattleya leaves is heat stress and not sunburn. At high enough temperatures the leaf tissue is killed, resulting in the collapse illustrated here.

Editors Note

Now that the show is over, and the picnic is over, it's time to start talking about the Christmas Party committee. We need to have somebody to take over that position.

We also have a few other positions on the board that should be re-filled, such as treasurer, board member, and membership chairperson. We'd like to see some of the "younger" (as in newer to the Society) step up to the plate. We need to get some new thoughts and ideas up to the board to add more interest and cover the things the newer members might be interested in. Those of us who have been around for quite a few years are set in our ways, so we need some new blood.

Upcoming Show:

Redland Fruit & Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Ave., Homestead, FL
June 2-3, [Central Florida Orchid Society Show](#)
National Guard Armory, 2809 S Ferncreek Ave., Orlando, FL

VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY OFFICERS

President – John Odom	Board of Directors	Committees
Vice President – Sherry Cauley	Howard Kramer	Membership –
Secretary – Joan Kaser	Pat Mills	Hospitality – Joyce Jackman
Treasurer – Addison Marvin	Doug Mew	Sunshine – Louise Martin

Show Chairman – Carol Marvin	Newsletter Editor – Carolyn Greene
Vero Beach Orchid Society	Newsletter email: vbosnewsletter@hotmail.com
P.O. Box 543	
Vero Beach, FL 32961	VBOS Website: www.vero-beach-orchid-society.org

DUES FOR 2018: SINGLE MEMBER DUES \$15.00 FAMILY DUES: \$20.00

OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE JUNE 21ST, AT THE GARDEN CLUB OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, 2526 17TH AVENUE VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960. THE MEETING WILL START AT 7:00 PM