



Vero Beach Orchid Society



November 2015

November Speaker

Rafael Romero

Speaking on "Orchid Tales"

"Orchid Tales" are orchids that have interesting stories or history such as Neofinetia falcate, Brassavola digbyana, Brassavola nodosa, Vanilla planifolia, etc.

Rafael Romero was born in Caracas, Venezuela and graduated as a biologist from the Universidad Simon Bolivar. He began working with orchids in 1986 with his father-in-law, Henrique Graf, owner of Plantio La Orquidea, the largest orchid nursery in Venezuela.

Together with his wife, Rafael started the laboratory at Plantio la Orchidea in 1986 where they produce the species and hybrids for which they are known. They moved to Sarasota in 2003 and started their nursery, approximately 10,000 sq. ft., where they established a good sample of the species and hybrids produced in Venezuela as well as adding interesting species and hybrids from around the world.

Rafael will be sharing his knowledge and experiences as well as answering questions and will have a fine selection of his orchids available for sale. Plantio La Orquidea is one of our fine local growers and is located at 3480 Tallevast Road in Sarasota, Florida. Rafael has also been a vendor in the annual Vero Beach Orchid Show since 2006.

(Editor's note: Rafael is a great supporter of our Society, with his tent at the show just outside the display tent. He's been with our show for as long as Doug has been organizing it. Rafael (along with our other orchid vendors) has some of the best quality plants I've seen at an orchid show. Besides, who doesn't want to know how orchids came to be household fixtures for so many of us.)

Rafael will be furnishing the Raffle table and will bringing plants to sell.

Members selling table closed.

VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 5, 2015

President Jim Andre called the meeting to order at 7:10 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 September 7, 2015 Board meeting were read. Carolyn Greene made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by Bob Greene. The motion passed.

Treasure's Report: Addison presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of September, 2015. Marilyn Row made a motion, seconded by Doug Mew that the report be approved. The Motion passed.

Old Business

Dues: On January 1, 2016 dues will be due. Doug Mew made a motion seconded by Marilyn Row that dues are to be paid no later than the third Thursday of February, 2016. The motion passed.

New Business

Nominating Committee: The Board discussed the proposed nominations.

Orchid Show: The Ft. Pierce Orchid Society's Orchid Show, set for October 10-11 at the Shriner's Building was discussed.

Garden Fest: Doug Mew made a motion seconded by Carolyn Green that we pay \$300 for a half-page ad, in color, to The Garden Club to be a sponsor of their Garden Fest at Riverside Park set for February 6-7, 2016. The motion passed. Bob Greene will handle the matter.

Christmas Party: A discussion was held regarding the purchase of the orchids to be given to members at our annual Christmas party. Bob Greene made a motion seconded by Doug Mew to purchase half of the orchids from Odom and half from Thanh Nyugen. The motion passed.

Orchid Show April 2016: After some discussion, Doug decided to decrease the size of the show tent by 15 feet, do away with the vendor displays, but ask vendors to submit a few plants (3 or 4) for judging on the individual table.

Jim Andre made a motion seconded by Bob Greene to adjourn the meeting. It passed at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by
Marilyn E. Row, Secretary

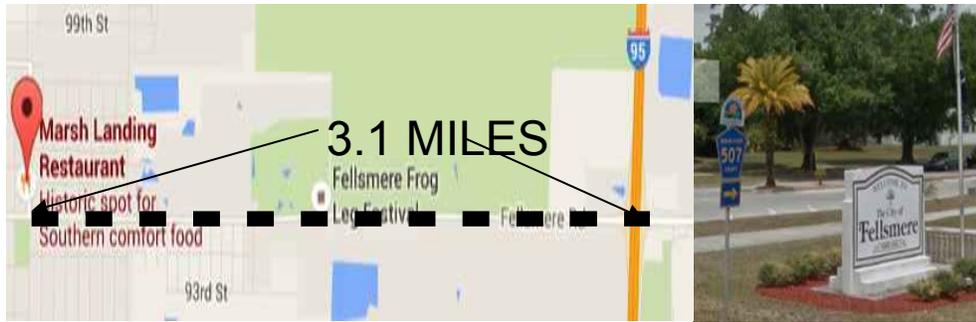
SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Christmas Party will be held on December 19th, 2015, beginning at 1:00PM at Marsh Landing in Fellsmere. Dinner will consist of appetizers, salad, and entrée with vegetables, dessert, and coffee, tea, or water to drink. There will be a cash bar for those interested in imbibing. Your dinner entrée will need to be selected in advance to ensure the kitchen is ready for us. So when you make your reservations please let us know what you'd like.

Your choices will be Roast Turkey with mushroom gravy, Honey Glazed Ham, Herb Chicken, Fried Catfish, or Crab Cakes. Each entrée will come with two vegetables, and hush puppies.

The price will be \$20 per member and \$25 per non member, and the member will receive an orchid at the end of the meal as a Christmas gift from the Society. We will also have an auction of any extra plants left over. Reservations, entrée choices, and payment, must be made by December 12th in order to attend. Our party is a great time to get acquainted with members you've not met before and visit with those you do know. Hope to see you all there.

Here is a map and the instructions to get to Marsh Landing.



**Intersection
← at flashing
yellow light**

Take either Rt 1 or I-95 to Rt 512 West (exit 156 on I-95). From Northbound I-95 you'll turn left onto Rt 512, from Southbound you'll make a right onto Rt 512. From I-95, travel distance will be 3.1 miles on Rt 512. (The sign on the right side picture will be at the corner where you'll turn Right, which is Broadway St.) There is a yellow flashing light there.

The address is 44 N Broadway St, Fellsmere, FL 32948. Marsh Landing is on the Left side of the street about half a block down. Parking is available on the street (both sides allow parking and it is a divided highway.) There is also parking available beside the building on the right side as you're facing the building. It's just to the right of the little curio shop.

Road Trip!!

Win A FREE 7" Android Tablet

Now that I have your attention, this brand new 7" tablet will be given away to one of the participants of the Tamiami bus trip.

Hi,

This is your friendly cruise director, (actually VP). The board has decided to schedule a bus trip to the Tamiami Orchid show on January 23, 2016. I have contacted the show organizers about possibly reduced entry fees for the society. At this time we are charging a \$20.00 reservation per person to cover the entry fee and defer some of the bus expenses. (In a car last year, tolls to Tamiami, round trip, were over \$30.00.) The departure time will be 8AM from the parking lot across the street from the garden club and the return time is expected to be about 7PM.

We anticipate about 4 or 5 hours at the show (big show), plenty of time to visit all the vendors you want, there are plenty of places to sit and rest in addition to a snack bar for drinks and a quick snack. The additional time may be used to visit some Orchid retailers in the area. We have had requests for other places and will see how many we can fit into our time frame. These buses have large cargo areas in the belly of the bus for bringing back all those purchases.

In addition to the Tablet

There will be more information at the November meeting along with any updates.

For more about the show go to www.tamiamiorchidfestival.com/

November in Your Orchid Garden

By Dr. Martin Motes



October Climate Data:

Average high: 81.2 Average low: 67.5 Average mean: 74.4 Average rainfall: 3.43 inches

In November we can no longer afford to be dominated by the illusion, so easy here at the northern edge of the tropics, that summer will never end. Although, Indian Summer persists for the whole winter in South Florida, November is the month to prepare our plants for those short sharp blasts of cold which are inevitably coming as each successive cold front pushes the overall temperature a little lower and a little lower. Each day is shorter too. The loss of daylight savings time should awake us to the fact that there are less hours of sunlight to save our plants from the chill of the night. Many genera are already anticipating this season change and have completed their growths for the season. Some like *Catasetum*, *Cynoches*, *Calanthe* and the nobile dendrobiums are even beginning to shed their foliage in preparation for the cool, dry season. While the Himalayan *Dendrobium* species of the nobile and *Callista* types, *calanthes*, *cymbidiums* and a few others, actually relish temperatures down to near freezing, and most *cattleyas* and *Oncidium* alliance species and hybrids are not bothered by temperatures in the mid-thirties, the majority of the genera which we grow, *Vandas*, evergreen *Dendrobiums*, *Phalaenopsis* and others, benefit from being protected from the cold. Now, while the first breaths of cool air remind us that more and stronger cold is in the offing, is the time to start thinking about protecting our plants.

In nature, nearly all the tender tropical epiphytic orchids native to South Florida are found nestled in the bosom of deep hammocks where they are well protected from the wind. This observation leads us to think of protecting our orchids from the north and northwest winds. Creating or utilizing already existing wind breaks to the north and west of our orchids will limit the ability of the wind to steal the warmth out of our plants. The critical factor is not the low temperature that the air reaches but rather the temperature to which the plant tissue is chilled and for how long. This is why limiting the movement of cold air over our plants is essential. In still air, plant tissue (mostly water but with some dissolved salts) retains heat for a long time and is aided by the plants' metabolism. The very goings on of life generate heat, therefore considerable exposure to still air is needed to chill a plant to the temperature of the surrounding environment. Not so if wind enters the picture. Wind can quickly rob the plant's surfaces of heat, chilling the plants tissue deeper and deeper. When the plant's temperature tolerance is

reached, at best growth ceases or worse yet damage ensues. Slowing the cooling process and limiting the hours of exposure to sub-optimal temperature is the best gift we can give our plants for the holidays.

Protecting our tender plants from exposure to wind must be our primary concern in preparing them for winter. Buildings, walls and even thick hedges can be very effective windbreaks slowing or stopping chill air. Choose places in your garden that offer this sort of protection to your orchid plants wherever possible. The geography of Florida plays into the equation as well. Because the Florida peninsula juts decidedly to the Southeast (Naples is due south of Jacksonville), protection from the Northwest wind is even more crucial than protection from the North wind on the east coast of Florida. Northwest winds are blowing out of the cold heart of the landmass while true North winds have in most locales usually blown over more warm water and less cold land. Regardless of the degree of north, safeguarding our collections from the wind is critical to their health maintenance. Not until the air circulating clockwise around the cold high pressure system shifts to the Northeast to blow over the warm Gulf Stream can we relax our guard.

Orchids that are grown in shade houses, in patios or pool enclosures can be protected by installing plastic film on the north and west walls of the structure. This can be attached with staples or other devices that allow the plastic to be furled in warm weather and only lowered for those few nights when it is needed. Easiest to come by (Home Depot, or any hardware store) and cheapest, is 6 mil clear polyethylene (don't use 4 mil; it rarely lasts the winter being exposed to Florida's bright ultraviolet light). One hundred feet by ten cost about \$25. Stored in a dark place, this stock will last the average grower several years and be a very small investment that will yield greatly improved orchids. Handled with care in furling and unfurling, 6 mil plastic usually will get the grower through the winter. If unobtrusive, it may be simply left in place till March. White polypropylene, similar to nursery ground cloth, is used by many nurseries for winterizing. More expensive than polyethylene, it is very durable and will last many more years. It is very durable and will last many more years. Some growers have it cut to size, taped and grommeted for easy up and down installation and storing. Universal Supply (1-800-432-3009) has it. Given the dimensions and enough lead time they can customize it for you.

Getting our growing area ready for winter is one half of the equation. We must also get the plants themselves ready. Healthy, well-nourished plants withstand cold better as do plants that are harder and not too lushly in grown. Because both light and temperature are lower in November and most orchids have slowed their growth, they need less fertilizer. In cooler weather ammoniacal nitrogen is less available to our plants because it needs the assistance of bacterial action to ease its absorption by the plants. Nitrate nitrogen is more desirable therefore in cooler weather, because it is more quickly and readily absorbed by the orchids. Check the label on your fertilizer and try to choose one with a higher ration of nitrate nitrogen to ammoniacal nitrogen for winter use. The very best source for nitrate is potassium nitrate (KNO₃). It has the formula 13-0-46. The lowest level of desirable nitrate form of nitrogen is well suited to the continuing but diminished nutritional needs of our orchids in cool weather. The level of potassium is thought to contribute to the "hardening" of plants. Try to obtain the soluble or "Spray" grade. If only Prills (small beads like tapioca) are available they will need to be dissolved with boiling water, a tedious task.

Potassium nitrate is superlative also because it contains no phosphorus which, in combination with our hard, alkaline water interferes with the plants' absorption of trace elements. Trace element nutrition is especially important to maintain healthy orchids in cool weather; above all, magnesium, the "major" minor element. The reddening of orchid foliage which is usually attributed to cold is in fact the symptom of magnesium and potassium deficiency. Cold is only the efficient cause of this reddening; the material cause is lack of magnesium. Epsom salts at 1 tbs per gallon plus potassium nitrate at the same rate will quickly bring back the green. This regimen can be alternated with a general trace element mixture (follow the package rate) plus potassium nitrate. Indeed, following the recommendations of the Michigan State University study published in the July 2003 issue of *Orchids*,

symptoms of magnesium or potassium deficiency might be a warning that we should have been following something closer to this “winter” fertilizer regimen all year. We now recommend alternating applications of 1 tbs each of Epsom salts and potassium nitrate with a balance fertilizer such as 20-20-20 or 18-18-18 year round not just in the fall. Best of all is a 15-5-15 with additional calcium and magnesium. Peters markets one as Excel.

The epsom salts are as near as your medicine cabinet. The potassium nitrate is more difficult to find but a trip to the nearest farm supply store is worth the effort. You'll save a bundle on fertilizer and have plenty of potassium nitrate left over to grow the biggest bunch of bananas in the neighborhood.

If you have the energy, November is also a great time for starting to pot those sympodial orchids (cattleyas, oncidiums, et al.) that have finished blooming. You'll have a leg up on the spring potting and will glow with virtue in expectation of the rewards of the Holidays. Be especially careful at this season that the newly transplanted orchids are well secured in their containers. It may be many weeks till they have broken growth and can anchor themselves with their own roots. If the plants are allowed any wiggle room the newly emerging roots will be chaffed off, sending the plant into a slow and difficult to reverse decline.

Tasks for November

- Prepare for cold.
- Reduce fertilizer.
- Apply extra potassium and magnesium.
- Segregate dormant genera in bright dry area.
- Repot plants after flowering.
- Groom plants and flower spikes for holiday display.

Editor's Notes:

We'd like to offer a big thank you to Louise Odom for her presentation on fragrances in orchids. It was absolutely amazing to learn the correlation of color and fragrance. THANK YOU Louise!

Our own Sherry Cauley will be giving an orchid talk at Busy Bee nursery on the 14th of November @ 10:00am. This is a great time to get some one-on-one time with somebody who really knows how to grow them, what kinds of conditions they like, and if you have a problem, how to solve many of the issues you might have. There will be several of our society members there to give Sherry some moral support and if you'd like to ask question, this is the perfect opportunity. Also, if you have any friends that are interested in orchids, please bring that along with you.

Be sure to get your reservation for the Christmas Party. We'll be taking your entree selection and cash or check at the meeting, or you can mail it to the Post Office box. If you mail it in, be sure to let us know what you'd like for your entree. And remember the cut off is December 12th for payment.

How about that, a bus trip to Tamiami. It should be a great time with the number of vendors at this show. And you can't beat the price. We're trying to work it out so the cost will be \$0.00 to our membership, but so far it isn't in the cards. We'll still keep trying until the day of the trip. If we don't get enough of our own members to come with us, we'll be opening up seats for members of other orchid societies. So try to make up your mind by December 12th. That will give you a month to decide if you can make it, and we'll be inviting others to join us after that date.

Since we'll be gone for the whole day, we'll also be stopping for dinner somewhere along the way. We haven't worked that out yet either, but there's still time for that.

There will be multiple door prizes for the people who are on the trip so you might even come back with something other than what you purchased. It should be a great day and we hope you can all join us.

Our society has been offered a tent space at the 2016 GardenFest. We usually have pamphlets or care sheets to hand out and answer questions about care of orchids for those folks who bought them there. We try to have our tent occupied by 2 or more members during the hours of the show, and would like to have some volunteers to help with that. We try to make it 2 hour shifts so nobody is there too long and each person has the opportunity to look around and shop for themselves at GardenFest. Even if you can't answer many questions, you can still hand out care sheets and offer an application for membership for our society. Recommend that anybody who buys an orchid might want to come visit our society and see if they might like to join to obtain more knowledge about orchids. We'll be passing around a sign-up sheet at the next meeting for anybody interested in helping.

VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY OFFICERS

President – Jim Andre
Vice President – Bob Greene
Secretary – Marilyn Row
Treasurer – Addison Marvin

Board of Directors
Louise Martin
Ronnie Meeks
Doug Mew

Committees
Membership –
Hospitality – Louise & Marty Martin
Sunshine – Marilyn Row
Show Chairman – Doug Mew
Newsletter Editor – Carolyn Greene

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Newsletter email: vbosnewsletter@hotmail.com
Website: www.verobeachorchidsociety.org
Society Email: vbos@bellsouth.net

DUES FOR 2014: SINGLE MEMBER DUES \$15.00

FAMILY DUES: \$20.00

**OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE NOVEMBER 19TH, 2015, AT
GARDEN CLUB OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, 2526 17TH AVENUE VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960
THE MEETING WILL START AT 7:00 PM**