



Vero Beach Orchid Society

October 2015

**October Speaker: Louise Odom
Speaking on
"The Power of Fragrance"**

I attended St. Mary College in Maryland and the University of Maryland as an art major. I grew roses while raising four children (which included a set of twin boys). I applied to be a rose judge and became the youngest woman rose judge on the east coast. Later, I was asked to be on the panel of the research team of Jackson & Perkins roses.

Moving to Florida I found out rose bushes were not easy to grow here. My first love was always orchids, so I started growing them as a hobby in my screened in porch located in Ocean Ridge. I met John Odom through my doctor who was one of his customers. The "orchid addiction" sat in, and I became a "volunteer" at John's greenhouse helping with shows, customers and repotting orchids. I became his business partner for 10 years and we married in the year 2000. I was officially in the "orchid business".

I taught beginners orchid classes for about 15 years at the greenhouse and have found over the years there is an intense desire with many people to learn about orchid culture. Orchids are loved and admired by many, but they are most intimidating to most people. My hobbies include raising Swans, Rottweiler's, Orchids, and a perfume bottle collector. I belong to the International Perfume Bottle Association, which has contributed to my love of fragrances. My most prized accomplish is when I received my Doctorate degree in Theology in May 2012.

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

Members selling table closed

VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 4, 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, Newsletter Editor Carolyn Greene, Show Chairman Doug Mew, Louise Martin and Marian Kotte.

The minutes of the April 6, 2015 Board meeting were read. Carolyn Greene made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Bob Greene. Motion passed.

Addison Marvin presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2015. He advised that our budget runs June - May. He recommended reducing some expenses, increasing others and adding "programs" as a Line Item. Bob made a motion that the report be approved, seconded by Louise. It passed.

Old Business

Doug offered to be the webmaster for the Society's website

VBOS Handbook: A Committee is needed for this project.

NEW BUSINESS

A large amount of people showed up to volunteer for the show but more were needed. For the last eight years Marion Kotte has registered all the plants for judging and enlisted volunteers as clerks for the judges. Carolyn has ferns left over from the show at her home. They may be auctioned off at the picnic. She also suggested that we get a pop-up tent for the judges.

Louise made a motion seconded by Doug to adjourn the meeting. It passed at 8:15 p.m.

No board meetings for June, July & August

VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES September 7, 2015

President Jim Andre called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Garden Club. Other Board members present were: Treasurer Addison Marvin, Secretary Marilyn Row, Show Chairman Doug Mew, Board Members Louise Martin and Ronnie Meeks.

The minutes of the May 4, 2015 Board meeting were read. Louise Martin made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Ronnie Meeks. The Motion passed.

Treasure's Report: Addison presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of August, 2015 and advised that the books are up-to-date but he has no bank statements to prove it. Louise Martin made a motion, seconded by Ronnie Meeks that the report be approved. Motion passed.

Old Business

Refreshments: Louise suggested that at the next monthly meeting a paper be passed around asking for volunteers to sign up for handling the refreshments and beverages for one meeting.

Dues: Dues are due by January 1, 2016. Memberships not paid by the February meeting and will be considered delinquent and dropped from membership distribution at that time.

New Business

Nominating Committee: This committee needs to be created at our October meeting.

Events: It was suggested that we ask the members what monthly activities they would like. Suggestions were: October auction; swap shop; and bus trip to Tamiami.

Orchid Show: Jim reported that the Ft. Pierce Orchid Society sent him a notice of their planned orchid show on October 10 - 11 at the Shriner's Club. It was suggested that he discuss it with Sherry Cauley.

Garden Fest: The Garden Club has invited us to be a sponsor of their Garden Fest at Riverside Park on February 6 - 7, 2016. The Sponsorship form is due by November 15, 2015. It cost \$150 to \$750.

Christmas Party: Thanks to Bob and Carolyn Greene, our Christmas Party will be a luncheon in Fellsmere at Marsh Landing on December 19th, starting at 1:00 p.m.

Louise made a motion seconded by Marilyn to adjourn the meeting. It passed at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by Marilyn Row, Secretary

October in Your Orchid Collection By Dr. Martin Motes



Vanda Karnda 'Mary Motes' HCC/AOS

October Climate Data

Average high: 85.4

Average low: 72.2

Average mean: 78.8

Average rainfall: 6.19"

October is a month of change in South Florida. If the Romans had lived here where we do, they would have named this month for their two faced god Janus. Usually around the middle of the month, and certainly by the end of the month, the first strong cold front pushes into South Florida bringing to a close the monolithic heat and damp of summer and ushering in weather as most of the continent knows it, alternating periods of warmer and cooler.

Although warm temperatures will persist for another month or so until the technical end of the hurricane season, the tropics are in retreat and the temperate zone in the ascendancy. Each successive cold front foreshadowed by ever lessening rain storms will progressively cool our temperatures and dry our

air. But days are shortening too, providing less hours of sunlight to heat the air and slowing the drying process. Nights are longer and cooler which produces the same effect, slower drying. Now we must start to move into the consciousness of winter and take greater care to insure that our plants are thoroughly dry before we water them again. The shorter days of October dictate that we rise even earlier to water if necessary. Each extra hour of daylight is to be cherished by us as well as our plants.

Most of our orchids are well aware of this sea change. The shortening days of late summer have told many genera to finish their growth and prepare to rest. We need to listen too. And look! The last smallest leaves of these highly seasonal plants will have unfolded at the tips of their new growths telling us that their growth cycle is finished for this year. Himalayan dendrobiums of the nobile type and of the section *Callista* (*D. aggregatum* et al.) now begin their five months of carefree existence in South Florida. They should be put in a bright spot and given no more water and above all, no more fertilizer until after they have bloomed in spring. *Catasetums*, *mormodes*, *cycnoches*, *calanthes* and other deciduous types should be treated the same way. Whatever moisture nature provides in the increasingly heavy dew and the passing rains that usher in most cold fronts will be adequate for these plants whose native environment is a seasonally monsoon one like ours. Benign neglect suits these genera just fine and what a relief to the conscience of the ever busy orchidist! The truly devoted will group these genera together, preferably at the edge of the growing area and high up where they will receive the maximum of light and air circulation. Grouped thus, the chance of an accidental watering of these, while taking care of the more thirsty genera, is minimized. Another strategy is to tip the pots of these dormant genera on their sides thus eliminating much natural rainfall and avoiding a misdirected hose spray. Some growers even remove plants that have finished both growing and flowering from their pots entirely. When new growth begins in the spring they will receive a fresh start in new medium.

Many *cattleyas*, *laelias*, *oncidiums* and *phalaenopsis*-type dendrobiums will be finishing their growths and should be hardened off with reduced water and fertilizer but not the Spartan regime of the deciduous type. Lower nitrogen fertilizer applied at a lower rate and with less frequency will make these genera happy and prevent them from breaking into unwanted off-season growth that frequently hampers flowering as well. Many growers tend to use higher phosphorus, lower nitrogen fertilizers of the "Bloom Booster" type during the cooler weather. But less frequent applications of the recommended 15-5-15 is a better strategy. These applications should be spaced further apart as well, at ten to twelve day intervals. Less frequent watering will also do for these genera. When the frontal rains pass through, check to see that the pots are thoroughly wet by giving them the "heft" test and if they are not heavy enough "top them up." Let them dry 'hard' before watering again. In cool weather especially, less is more.

Monopodial orchids like vanda and phalaenopsis which want to grow continuously, feel the change too. The broad swing of day to night temperature stimulates flower spike initiation in these genera. You can spur them on to greater excitement by giving them a shot of high phosphorus 'Bloom Booster' fertilizer just before or just after the sudden drop in night temperatures precipitated by the passing of a cold front. For most of the year "Bloom Booster" fertilizer appears to be in fact "Bloom Blocker" but (perhaps from faith rather than science) high phosphorus seems to have the desired effect (perhaps from shock) when the first cold snaps are also halting vegetative growth. We like Miller's Solugro (12-48-8) because it contains none of the ugly blue flower, clothes and hand staining dye. Other brands (with or without dye) are equally effective. Look for a very high middle number and a relatively low first number or ask at your garden center for a 'starter solution' which is the moniker for these fertilizers when used in planting out vegetable or annual seedlings. Because the nitrogen level is lower, you can use a full tablespoon of these or more, per gallon.

Cooler weather calls our attention to our plants' needs for trace elements. Chief among these is magnesium, often described as the 'major' minor element. Magnesium deficiency shows up in orchids as a reddening of the foliage particularly when the plant is stressed. This color change is frequently attributed to cold as it occurs following spells of cooler weather. This observation is the fallacy of post hoc, ergo propter hoc; cold is merely the efficient cause: the material cause is lack of magnesium. Hopefully the new fertilizer regimen outlined in the July chapter will minimize or eliminate the reddening by keeping the magnesium level up in the plants. Epsom salts ($MgSO_4$) is the best and most readily available source of magnesium. This can be applied with Potassium Nitrate (KNO_3) at the rate of one tablespoon each per gallon. Potassium Nitrate has the formula 13-0-46. The missing number in the middle is Phosphorus. In combination with our highly alkaline water phosphorus tends to react with magnesium and the other metals of the trace element group. Never apply magnesium and the other trace elements in combination with fertilizers containing phosphorus. A general purpose trace element mixture can be added to the mix of magnesium sulfate and potassium nitrate at the rate recommended on the label. (Concentrations vary). Goodbye red, Hello green!

Tasks for October

- . Space plants to increase air circulation
 - . Water as early as possible in the day
 - . Move Himalayan dendrobiums, catasetums, calanthes and other seasonally dormant plants to dry bright locations
 - . Reduce general fertilizer
 - . Apply extra magnesium and potassium
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EDITOR'S NOTE

We have been invited to create a display for the Ft. Pierce Orchid Society show, which will be held on October 10th & 11th. Our setup day will be October 9th starting at 8:00AM. Tear-down will be on Sunday, directly after the close of the show. Anybody interested in helping with either setup or tear-down, and we can use the help of you all, just show up at the Shrine Club in Fort Pierce, at 4600 Oleander Ave. If you have any plants you'd be willing to loan us for the display, please contact Sherry Cauley. Her phone number is 772-321-6614. Or, you can bring them down to the facility on the day of setup. Please help us out, and join us in having a good time!

We need volunteers for our nominating committee. There are a total of 3 people we need for the committee, one to act as chairperson (spokesperson for the committee), and two others as helpers to get volunteers for the positions that need to be filled. In addition, we need candidates to fill the President, Vice President, and one board position, at least. If you really have a desire to be either secretary or treasurer, you'll need to find out if the incumbent is ready to leave office.

Our Christmas Party plans have been made. It will be on December 19th @ 1:00PM at Marsh Landing in Fellsmere. Dinner will consist of appetizers, salad, and entree with vegetables, dessert, and coffee, tea, or water to drink. There will be a cash bar for those interested in imbibing. Your dinner entree 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 entree 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 we have. Reservations, entree choice, and payment, must be made by December 12th in order to attend. Our party has been fun in the past and a great time to get acquainted with members you've not met before. Hope to see you all there.

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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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 OCTOBER 15TH, 2015, AT
GARDEN CLUB OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, 2526 17TH AVENUE VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960
THE MEETING WILL START AT 7:00 PM**