



Deerfield Beach Orchid Society **CATTLEYA CURRENTS**

April 2015
Volume 50 Issue 4

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Hi guys.

We would like to thank everyone who came out in March to support our auction. We not only had a great time, but were able to raise some money to help with the cost of running the club for the upcoming year.

Dr Brian Monk has an interesting program on tap for us on April 14. His presentation will be on Tolumnias, formerly known as equitant oncidiums, so this will be a great chance for us to learn all we need to know about these cute little buggers.

We have the Home Ramble scheduled for April 18 and will have the necessary information available on Tues. Anyone needing further information may contact Cheryl Babcock 954-464-8996 or Debbie Dicks 954 946-4951. This is a always a fun day with your fellow orchidists. As usual there will be refreshments served along the way beginning with light breakfast fare and ending with a little lunch so try not to miss out on this one.

Also coming up in May we will be selling Mothers Day orchid arrangements at Mizner Park again this year so we will have a little information to share on that as well as the Bus Ramble to Homestead in September.

Hope to see you on Tuesday and as always bring a friend.

Vince

Happy Birthday

Dennis Pearl May 5

Garfield Gilchrist May 9

Janet Baker May 12

Heidi Cipolla May 14

Dot McCrain May 16

Marlene Sensenig May 18

Kay Cascio May 24

Jennifer Aboud May 26

Anne Oates May 26

Henry Chmielenko May 30

Debby Singer May 31



REFRESHMENTS

We are always in need of refreshments for our meetings. Refreshment sample ideas are: cookies, fruits, cheese platters, cakes, breads, candies, pastries, nuts or anything else you can think of. You will receive a raffle ticket for every refreshment you bring in. All goodies are greatly appreciated!

Thank you to the following people for providing refreshments for our March meeting!

Dennis Pearl

Carol Ott

Grace Holliday

And special thanks to Publix for donating refreshments

Please remember to sign the refreshment list so you can be acknowledged!

AOS Corner

The Webinar for this month:

This month we have a double-header!

Greg Allikas will present- *Cattleya lueddemanniana* on April 14, 2015 at 8:30 EDT/5:30PDT. (This webinar is for members only.) and a week later...

Ron McHatton- AOS Greenhouse Chat on April 21, 2015 at 8:30pm EDT (This webinar is open to everyone.)

The April issue of *Orchids* typically concentrates on judging and the 2015 issue is a must read:

Judging *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum*- The New Standard, by James Fang, this article outlines what makes this species awardable.

Judging *Masdevallias* by Mario Ferrusi, an in depth look at this genus that has many shapes and colors.

The Best of the Best, by Lois Posey describes the AOS Special Judging awards for 2013, with wonderful insights about the award winning plants and their owners.

Paragons- The 2014 First Class Certificate, by Kathy Barrett, is a photo essay of the fabulous flowers that scored over 90 points in 2014.

For those of you that are not really into judging, there are other great articles: on **repotting**, *Bletia*, *Ornithidium* and *Camaridium*, and an article on the **Redland International Orchid Festival** which is coming up this year May 15th-17th.

It is not too late to plan to attend the **AOS Spring Members Meeting** at the end of this month that will be held in Portland, Oregon and hosted by the Portland and Cherry City Orchid Societies, **April 29th thru May 3rd** at the Lloyd Center Doubletree.

You don't want to miss out on this great opportunity!

Check out all the details at the website below:

<http://www.portlandorchidsociety.org/calendar/2015AOS.php>

The Members Meeting in conjunction with the Slipper Orchid Alliance, The Phalaenopsis Alliance, and the Pleurothallid Alliance have an awesome array of fabulous speakers, which include:

Frank Smith- Keynote Speaker, Graham Wood, George Hatfield- Cymbidiums, Alan Koch, Wally Orchard- Disas, Carlos Fighetti- Phalaenopsis, Norman Fang, Kristen Uthus- Neofinetia Culture, and Alfonso Doucette- Coolers for Cold Growers.

Something that I found just recently in the conservation area of the website that I think is great an Orchid emergency care card that can be found at the link below

http://aos.org/images/img_content/carecard.gif

Let's grow together,

Laura Newton

Upcoming Speakers

April-Brian Monk "Mini Oncidiums/Tolumnia"

May-Catherine Mannion PHD

Speaker of the Month

Dr. Brian Monk

Brian Monk was born in Milton, Florida in 1969. Shortly after his birth, Brian's family moved to Charleston, West Virginia where he spent the next 18 years. As a young man, Brian's intense passion for nature led to his profession and his many hobbies including bird-watching, orchid growing and natural history.

In 1992, Brian received his B.S., *cum laude*, from Hampden Sydney College in Virginia followed by a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Virginia Tech in 1997. In 2005, while working as a Veterinarian in Orlando, Florida, Brian met the love of his life, Mary-Margaret, in Ft. Lauderdale.

Mary-Margaret Monk grew up in Virginia Beach, Virginia and later moved to Fort Lauderdale Florida. Mary-Margaret received a B.A., *summa cum laude*, from Florida Atlantic University followed by a Juris Doctorate from Nova Southeastern University School of Law. Mary-Margaret is a civil litigation attorney and mediator. Her hobbies include her husband, Brian, photography, their cats and her many aquariums.

Because of their passion for all things orchid, Brian and Mary-Margaret formed Blu Llama Orchids, Inc. They were married on April Fool's Day in 2006 and reside in Ft. Lauderdale with their five cats and their ever expanding orchid collection.

Brian started growing and hybridizing orchids in his backyard, but this has expanded to 4000 square feet of greenhouse space. He will grow anything green, but focuses on his hybridizing projects, which include the development of multi-floral white and pink Paphiopedilums, warmth-tolerant red Oncidiinae, and a standard pink Cattleya with an all-white lip. Accompanied by his wife and inspired by his orchids, Brian continues to pursue and perfect his orchid culture and photographic skills. Brian's photography has won awards online, in the 2007 Miami International Orchid Show, and at the 2008 World Orchid Conference, and will be exhibited in Florida and California in 2009. Brian is currently a student judge with the American Orchid Society.

Highlights From Our March Auction

Photos courtesy of John Morris



April in Your Orchid Collection By Dr. Martin Motes

Far from the cruelest, April is the kindest month to South Florida orchid growers. The weather in April is definitely settled into warm, even deliciously hot, with passing cold fronts only adding the delight of a pleasant change in temperature. The clean, bright days brimming with abundant sunlight and the low relative humidity create the high drying potential that orchids love. Now we can get our orchids off to a great start on the growing season by practicing our very best watering skills under ideal conditions. Water heavily when you water and allow the plants to dry thoroughly before watering heavily again. Drying 'hard' in the spring will produce benefits all season. We want to get our plants well launched while leaving all the fungi high and dry.

The new shoots of Oncidinae, grammatophyllums and dendrobiums forming now are quite cup-like; care must be taken that water does not stand too long in these immature growths. Water these types very thoroughly with two or three applications of water spaced 10-15 minutes apart. Water should run freely through the pot on each application. Saturated thoroughly in this fashion the plants will need only weekly watering. Even more care should be taken with the soft plicate leafed genera like *Catasetum*, *Mormodes*, *Cycnoches*, *Gongora*, *Calanthe* and *Thunia*. The new growths of this type are rolled together (the fancy word is convolute) like a collapsible drinking cup. These should be grown in water retentive media that should be saturated at each watering to permit the developing roots to have abundant water but allow the vulnerable new growth extra time to dry. Feel the weight of a pot when you have finished watering. Be sure it is heavy with water. If it's not, water one more time. With plants properly spaced, good drying should not be difficult in the hot dry air of April. But do be careful to water early enough in the day to allow the tender new growth to thoroughly dry by twilight.

With vandaceous orchids grown in slatted baskets, most growers find that they dry altogether too well in April. Vandas can be watered almost every morning in April. Indeed, a second light watering or misting in mid-afternoon in April and early May is often beneficial provided the crowns and leaf axils of the plants have time to dry completely by nightfall. Another strategy under high drying conditions is to bend the rules, at least occasionally, and water heavily in mid to late morning. Late waterings on weekend mornings (you didn't want to get up early, any way) provide relief for plants that are more stressed on week days with their owners absent. Very occasionally, one needs to break the rules absolutely and water thoroughly (not just mist) in the mid to late afternoon so the plants can slowly absorb the water across the cool hours of the night. This is the season that one must be sure that Vanda roots have turned overall dark green when we have finished watering. Two applications of water to the point of runoff spaced several minutes apart should accomplish the required color change from white to totally green. Saturated roots are absolutely necessary to provide the plants the moisture the plants need to withstand the heat and dry air typical of April. Sometimes, particularly at this season, the roots will not change color even after the second or third application of water. This lack of response to water is because the roots have become so dry that they are repelling rather than absorbing water. They are behaving like a cork in a wine bottle. The grower must exert special effort to re-saturate the roots. Often this will require 4 or 5 waterings to the point of run off spaced 15 minutes apart. Once the roots have been changed to the healthy overall green, normal applications of water should bring them around in future.

With increased heat and light and the onset of growth, fertilizer becomes more crucially important to the plants. Balanced time release pellets (13-13-13) can still be applied to potted plants provided the duration is 180 days or less. Most time release fertilizer breaks down faster under South Florida conditions and should be exhausted by October when we will want our plants to slow down. The brand marketed at retail as "Dynamite" is generally considered by professionals as superior in reliability to other types. In April, 15-5-15 can be applied to most genera at the rate of 2 tsp. per gal every two weeks. Vandas, ascocendas, *Aerides*, et al will benefit from a full tablespoon of 15-5-15 weekly during this high energy period. One can also apply high phosphorous 'Bloom Booster' fertilizer once or twice at this time to stimulate them to flower for Mothers' Day or failing that to win those trophies and AOS awards at the Redland International Orchid Festival the next weekend. High phosphorous (we use Millers' Solugrow 8-48-12) also stimulates root action and is important in getting all genera off to a good start on the growing season. This is one of the few times that high phosphorous is perhaps beneficial. During the rest of the year it is to be avoided particularly with our alkaline water. Current science recommends fertilizers lower in nitrogen, much lower in phosphorus and higher in potassium, magnesium and calcium. Peter's Excel 15-5-15 is now the standard for year round use.

The warmth of April, alas, stimulates the growth of bugs as well as plants. Both Thrips and mites thrive in the dry heat of April. Liquid dishwashing soap (at 2 oz per gal) will control both but be mindful that soap should not be applied to plants that are suffering from drought stress. Be sure that your plants are well hydrated before you apply soap. Water them extra hard the day before. To be effective soap must be used profusely. The plants should be washed in the solution to the point of wetting every nook and cranny of both the plant and its container. Only such thorough treatment can reach the reclusive Thrips and be sure to touch all of the ever prolific mites. A second treatment at 7-10 days is necessary to control mites and a miticide such as Kelthane might be advised. Orthenex which is the insecticide of choice for Thrips (because of its residual action) is compatible with many miticides. Check with your county agent if in doubt.

April is the classic month to catch up with all the re-potting which you meant to do across the winter. New roots form fast in April; don't rot them off by over-potting or break them off by allowing the plant to wiggle in the pot. Tie them up: tie them down!

April is a month for great moral decisions. When turning on the air conditioner for the first time, consider how much better an orchid grower you would be if you set the thermostat 2 or 3 degrees higher. You will find that you spend more time with your plants when you are accustomed to slightly higher temperatures and it is the master's shadow that makes the plants grow. Besides spending more time enjoying your orchids, when the FPL bill arrives, you can celebrate with some splendid additions to your collection.

April is a great month for naturalizing orchids in the garden. Perhaps it's time to think of new homes for some of our burgeoning collection on trees or elsewhere. The space emptied in the growing area will soon fill with the healthy new growth of those plants which remain to enjoy their additional light and air.



Welcome New Member!!

Henry Chmielenko

Save the Date!!

April 18th

Orchid Home Ramble

8:30 a.m. Meet at the Women's Club

Carpooling Strongly Suggested

We Will be Visiting Five Member's Homes

Lots of Fun

Hope to See You There

Deerfield Beach Orchid Society Annual Social Events

These events may be held on the meeting date or on another day of the week instead of a general meeting.

1. **Mar 10, 2015** DBOS Orchid Auction. Held at the Deerfield Beach Women's Club.
Chairperson: Vince Dicks

2. **Apr 18, 2015** Orchid Home Ramble. Always a Saturday in addition to our regular meeting.
Leaving Women's Club at 8:30 a.m.
Chairperson: Debbie Dicks & Cheryl Babcock

3. **Sept 26, 2015** Growers Bus Trip
Chairperson: Cheryl Babcock and Debbie Dicks

4. **Oct. ?, 2015** Fall Picnic/DBOS Birthday Party. Held in Constitution Park, Deerfield Beach Arboretum.
Chairperson: Needed

5. **Dec ?, 2015** Annual meeting/Holiday Party. Our regular December meeting to be held here
Chairperson: Grace Holliday Assisted by Debbie Dicks and Cheryl Babcock

Please consider joining a committee to help out the Chairperson.

Please support our sponsors



Joseph A. Ortlieb, D.D.S.
Michelle L. Rivera, D.M.D

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New Dues for 2015

We thank all our members for their participation in our meetings and their continued support of DBOS!

The dues increase was required by increases to fixed costs to run the Society. We sincerely appreciate our members continued support of the Society.

<u>Renewals</u>		<u>New Members</u>	
Individual	\$20.00 yr.	Individual	\$25.00 yr.
Couples	\$30.00 yr.	Couples	\$35.00 yr.
Jr. Membership	\$ 5.00 yr.	Jr. Membership	\$10.00 yr.

You are encouraged to bring a guest to our meetings or bring a neighbor who can share your love and enthusiasm for these lovely plants and get to know our members and learn more about this "wonderful addiction".

Thank you for a wonderful year, and we hope to keep you as a member in our Society.

Mail your dues payable to
Deerfield Beach Orchid Society
P.O. Box 732
Deerfield Beach, FL 33443

2015 Orchid Events

April 4 & 5

Flamingo Gardens International Orchid & Bromeliad Show

Experience the beauty of orchids at Flamingo Gardens! Rare and exotic orchids and bromeliads are on display and for sale along with an American Orchid Society judged orchid show hosted by the Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society. With over 30+ vendors, you can see thousands of beautiful orchids and bromeliads, purchase orchids and orchid supplies, enjoy lectures and demonstrations from orchid experts while enjoying music, food and more. For Easter kids can meet the Bunny and make Easter crafts

Flamingo Gardens, 3750 South Flamingo Road, Davie, FL
 Saturday & Sunday, 9:30am to 4:30pm
 Admission: Members Free, Non-Members \$18

April 19

Mounts Botanical Garden

Orchid Care 101: Repotting Your Orchid

This hands-on workshop, with orchid curator Sandi Jones from Broward Orchid Supply, will explain what orchids need—water, light, fertilizer, and temperature. Attendees are encouraged to bring an orchid (up to 6") to be evaluated and repotted or mounted. Demonstrations of various potting and mounting techniques, such as using tree fern.

Mounts Botanical Garden, Mounts Auditorium, 531 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL
 Sunday 10am to 1pm
 Admission: Members \$30, Non-Members \$40

May 15-17

Redland International Orchid Festival

Featuring over 60 vendors from all over the world and the U.S. Also at the festival, there will be orchid supplies, crafts, lectures and demonstrations, walking tours of the park, potting & storage tent, US Department of Agriculture for your CITES needs, and food and drinks.

Fruit and Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Ave., Homestead, FL
 Friday to Sunday 9am to 5pm
 Admission: \$10

Win FREE Raffle Tickets for You and Your Guest(s)

The chances of you winning a stunning orchid or other enticing item off our monthly raffle table are much greater than your chances of winning the lottery? We all like the opportunity to win a new orchid for our collection so why not bring a guest to our next meeting? Guests are welcome at all of our meetings and events. Your guest(s) will each receive five FREE raffle tickets. After a guest visits the monthly meetings twice and wants to continue attending meetings, we respectfully ask them to become a member and pay the annual dues. If a guest joins in September, October, November or December 2014, this will include their 2015 membership dues as well.

BONUS: If your guest joins the Deerfield Beach Orchid Society, you will receive 10 FREE raffle tickets!

Top Reasons to Join the Deerfield Beach Orchid Society

- Monthly Orchid Raffles
- Guest Speakers Monthly
- Monthly Newsletters
- Monthly Drawings
- Annual Show & Sale—Orchid Obsession
- Annual Home Ramble
- Monthly Judging and Awarding of Ribbons to Member's Orchids
- Annual Bus Trip
- Annual Orchid Auction
- Annual Picnic
- Annual Holiday Dinner
- Access to our Orchid Library
- Insightful & Informative Web Page

For further information on how to join the Deerfield Beach Orchid Society (DBOS), please contact Cheryl Babcock or John Williams, DBOS Membership Chairs, at crbabcock1@netzero.net or call 954-464-8996

JUST A REMINDER: Use of the membership roster is limited to the Deerfield Beach Orchid Society, American Orchid Society and affiliated society news dissemination only. Use of the roster for commercial purposes is prohibited and is cause for cancellation of membership for misuse.

Calendar of Meetings

Thursday, April 9, 7:30 PM

Boca Raton Orchid Society

Safe Schools Institute -Don Estridge Middle School

1790 NW Spanish River Blvd, Boca Raton, FL.

Monday, April 13, 7:30 PM

Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society, Inc.

Christ Lutheran Church Parish Hall

1955 E. Oakland Park Blvd. Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Tuesday, April 14, 7:30 PM

Deerfield Beach Orchid Society

Woman's Club of Deerfield Beach

911 E. Hillsboro Blvd, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

Wednesday, April 8, 7:30 PM

Delray Beach Orchid Society

The Adult Recreation Center in Veterans Park

802 NE First Street, Delray Beach, FL.

2014 Committee Positions

1. **Membership..... Cheryl Babcock & John Williams**
2. **Programs..... John Budree**
3. **Newsletter..... Lisa Krukoski**
4. **Sunshine..... Lois Larson**
5. **Raffle Table..... Debbie Dicks & Dennis Pearl**
6. **Nominating..... DBOS Board**
7. **Publicity Cheryl Babcock**
8. **Plant Table..... Speaker or DBOS**
9. **Events..... Cheryl Babcock & Debbie Dicks**
10. **Refreshments..... Mary Pritchard & Millicent Hammill**
11. **AOS Representative... Vince Dicks**

Sunshine Committee

Did you know that we have a **Sunshine Committee**? Lois Larson is kind enough to send a card to any society member that is ill or in the hospital. If you know of someone that could use a little uplifting card, please contact Lois either by phone 954-782-2314 or email at loisj2200@yahoo.com