



Deerfield Beach Orchid Society **CATTLEYA CURRENTS**

May 2016
Volume 51 Issue 4

President
Vince Dicks
vincedic@att.net

Vice President
Joseph Ortlieb
blondguyny@aol.com

Secretary
Tammy Hall
robtamash@comcast.net

Treasurer
Josee LaPointe
joseedobs@outlook.com

3 Year Trustee
Dennis Pearl
timelessobjects@aol.com

3 Year Trustee
Cheryl Babcock
crbabcock1@netzero.net

2 Year Trustee
Lisa Krukoski
fre2beme1@comcast.net

2 Year Trustee
Debbie Dicks
wernparadise@gmail.com

1 Year Trustee
John Budree
ramnjohn@yahoo.com

1 Year Trustee
Terry Morkert
Morkert.tm@gmail.com

1 Year Trustee
Jesus Hill
jesushill@comcast.net

Hi All.

It was nice to see all of you at the recent picnic. We had a nice day, wonderful time and plenty to eat! Thanks go out to Lisa Krukoski, Dennis Pearl, and Jesus Hill for organizing and entertaining us all at this event. Thanks as well to Ron Franz for his help manning the grill.

Our speaker at the May 10th meeting will be Craig Morrell. Whatever the topic, Craig is an engaging and entertaining speaker so try not to miss this one.

Our June meeting is going to be our workshop meeting which gives everyone a chance to get out of their seats and participate. We always have a great time with this one as well.

Looking ahead, our annual bus trip is going to be on September 24th. We will have a little more information available at the upcoming meeting. That's about all for now so we hope to see you at the May 10th meeting and as always, bring a friend!

Vince

April Ribbon Winners

Aerangis fastousa	Rick Bellas
LC Arglade "Grand Chan Beauty"	Grace Holliday
Dendrobium aggragatum	Stephanie Morkert
Tolumnia-	Janice Dunford
Ascocentrum "Mona Church"	Rick Bellas
Hawaiian Prominence "America" Catsm Tenebrosa "18"	Jim Peer

Upcoming Speakers

June—Hands on Workshop

Happy Birthday

Dennis Pearl May 5
Janet Baker May 12
Edward Moles May 17
Marlene Sensenig May 18
Dennis Ahern May 20
Kay Casio May 24
Steve Mersal May 24
Jennifer Fox May 25
Janet Peer May 25
Doris Simon May 29
Debby Singer May 31



Highlights From Our April Meeting

Photos courtesy of John Morris



Speaker of the Month

Craig Morell

Craig Morell is the Horticulturist at Pinecrest Gardens. He's been renovating the Gardens since 2004, a year after the Village of Pinecrest bought the property from Parrot Jungle.

A lifelong plant collector with a yen for epiphytes, he has a B.S. degree in Horticulture from UF-Gainesville. He previously worked as horticulturist at the Boca Raton Resort, and at an orchid company in West Palm Beach prior to that.

Craig is a career horticulturist, travels widely, and spends his free time orchidgardening at home in S. Miami, scuba diving, photographing nature and visiting even more gardens.

He sometimes escapes from the Gardens and is occasionally seen in public masquerading as a normal person.



DBOS Annual Picnic April 2016



Welcome New Members!!

Dennis Ahern

Rob Hall

Earl & Cathy King

Rex Martin

Skye Wooten

New for 2016 - - - - A Chance to win \$250!!

Beginning in 2016 the Deerfield Beach Orchid Society will implement a new 'point' system.

For every monthly meeting, society event, ramble you attend etc. (details below) you will be given points. At the end of the year, if you have received 11 points or greater you will be eligible to win \$250 from the Society. All qualifying members' names will be put in a hat and a winner will be picked at our annual Holiday Party.

Monthly Meeting	1 Point
Picnic	1 Point
Home Ramble	1 Point
Bus Trip	1 Point
Volunteer at Show	2 Points

Please remember to sign in at the monthly meetings or you might lose your points!

****All DBOS Board members will be excluded from this event.**

May in Your Orchid Collection

Dr. Martin Motes

May is a month of transition in South Florida. Early in the month we can expect the driest weather of the year. Because of the clarity of the air and lack of cloud cover, temperatures rise rapidly in the late morning and can reach the upper eighties or nineties by mid afternoon before cooling substantially in late afternoon. Fortunately, over night radiant cooling rapidly dissipates the previous day's heat. May mornings are a delight, the wise orchidist rises early to enjoy them and to finish his chores before the heat sets in. Chief of these should be extensive dragging of hoses.

May's wide temperature swings and dry air suit our orchids to a tee. New growths on sympodial orchids are developing apace and by continuing the careful watering practices of April (i.e. drenching them thoroughly with repeated applications of water to saturate their roots and potting media, then allowing them to dry to nearly 'hard' dry) we can launch them into the summer in vigorous, disease-free growth. Remember, this saturation can only be achieved with two or more soakings to the point of runoff spaced a few minutes apart. Merely holding the water on the plant extra long will not suffice. The water needs to slowly soak into the roots and media. Test the weight of a "benchmark" plant to be satisfied that it is sufficiently heavy to be totally soaked. The arid air of early May will quickly dry the foliage but the roots can draw on the deep reservoir of water that you have provided with this careful, complete watering.

With the increased heat and light of May we do not want to put our orchids on too lean a diet. Fertilize with up to 2 tsp. of 15-5-15 per gal of water every week or so. Alternating with Epsom salts and potassium nitrate at 1 tbs. each per gal. is still a best practice during May. Always substitute fertilizer for a watering and apply like the water in two doses to the point of saturation. Never follow the widely stated but antiquated advice to "water before fertilizing". It's a receipt for over watering without any basis in logic or science. Now is also a good time to apply a soluble trace or micro element fertilizer. Follow the dilution rates on the package as mixtures and strengths differ. You can apply this in conjunction with the Epsom salts/potassium nitrate but never with the 15-5-15, 20-20-20 or any other fertilizer containing phosphorus. In South Florida's highly alkaline water the phosphorus interacts with the other metallic elements, reducing the effectiveness of the trace elements. Potassium nitrate, 13-0-46, is the perfect companion to minor elements because it not only lacks phosphorus which would hinder the absorption of the trace elements but the nitrate nitrogen seems to enhance their uptake.

May is still prime time for re-potting. With cattleyas, dendrobiums and other sympodials, the virtuous among us have long since finished this labor of love, but the majority of us are faced with the moral dilemma of doing the potting now or waiting until next year with the pseudo bulbs of our plants overhanging their pots and proclaiming to the world our sloth. The one instance in which this dilemma must be resolved absolutely in favor of the plant, is when the media has broken down in the pot. This condition will encourage root rot to become stem rot which will pursue the rhizome even into those over arching bulbs. If in doubt, give the media the "nose test". A pinch of media taken from below the surface of the pot should smell "sweet". A sour smell or the odor of a pond bottom indicates media that is broken down and must be replaced as soon as possible.

The case in which this is almost universally true is with plants potted in sphagnum moss. Sphagnum simply will not last beyond one year (even under cover) in South Florida. As the vast majority of commercially produced *Phalaenopsis* are now grown in sphagnum, recently acquired plants MUST be re-potted annually. As most Phals. will be finishing their flowers, now is a good time to get them right for the new year's growth. When repotting, one can, of course, choose a more durable media; rock, red wood chips or various mixtures and avoid this annual ritual. Choosing a more durable media will entail modifying one's watering schedule to accommodate the faster draining, quicker drying qualities of these harder substances.

May is a great month for re-setting vandaceous orchids whose baskets have deteriorated or that have grown too tall to be easily managed. keikies (off-shoots) can be most safely removed now. In both cases choose the most durable containers for the plants so they need not be disturbed for years. Teak or other hard wood baskets and clay pots last longest. Above all make amply sure that the plants are firmly fixed in their lodging. Vandaceous orchids, above all others, are intolerant of being loosely set. The very height of these plants act as a lever to keep them rocking unless we anchor them securely until their new roots affix themselves to the new containers. Stake and tie them securely until their abundant roots take over. Unwisely staking can then be removed.

As we bask, lulled into complacency by the nearly ideal weather of early May, Summer sometimes surprises us. Toward the middle or end of May, the weather in South Florida literally undergoes a sea change. The large continental weather patterns which have dominated our weather through the winter and early Spring give way to the tropics and the prevailing south easterly trade winds return us to the interaction of Gulf Stream and peninsular with its characteristic afternoon thunder showers. Although lacking the clockwork consistency of June, the rains have come and we must be prepared for them.

The relentless and increasing crescendo of rain will, by summer's end, tip the balance in favor of the ubiquitous fungi lurking to attack our orchids. The time to scotch their plans is now; an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Leaving the taxonomic niceties to the experts, fungi which attack orchids in Florida fall into two broad classes; the leaf spotting types (*Cercospora* and *Phyllosticta*) and the soft rots (*Pythium* and *Phytophthora*). Fortunately, for modern orchidists, excellent systemic fungicides exist for both types. While these chemicals are no substitute for good cultural practices, i.e. adequate spacing, brisk air movement; the strongest possible light combined with careful watering, fungicides provide the edge to approach near total control of most fungal diseases even in their ancestral home, South Florida. May is a good time to take stock of the collection and see which plants are overgrown and need more space or perhaps even re-potting. The increase in air circulation is well worth the effort. Trimming shade trees and moving plants to brighter locations are also good strategies for May. May is also a good time to consider a preventative spray program before disease has a chance to get the upper hand in our collections. An ounce of prevention begins now.

Leaf spotting fungi are symptomatic of poor air circulation and inadequate light but even under good growing conditions are rarely entirely absent from orchids in South Florida. This near inevitability results because the same diseases also afflict so many other tropical plants in our gardens. Under the battering of the heavy and sustained rains of our wet season, the most minor of problems can occasionally blossom quickly into a major epidemic. Thiophanate methyl (Cleary's 3336, Domain, Fungo) is the proven and recommended systemic fungicide to control leaf spotting. It is even more effective when combined with Mancozeb (Manzate or Dithane M45.) Two pre-packaged combinations are available; (Duosan, and Tops MZ). Always follow label recommendations for rate of application.

To be truly effective, Thiophanate methyl should be applied initially early in the growing season (IE now!), then again in two weeks and then every 5-6 weeks thereafter across the rainy season. Faithfully followed, this regimen will control nearly all leaf spotting fungus, including the dreaded 'Thai crud': *Phyllostictina capitalense*. A spreader sticker enhances the effectiveness of the fungicide by holding it on the plant through the hardest rain.

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 ?, 2017** Orchid Home Ramble. Always a Saturday in addition to our regular meeting.
Chairpersons: Tammy Hall & Jesus Hill

2. **Mar ?, 2017** DBOS Orchid Auction. Held at the Deerfield Beach Women's Club.
Chairperson: Vince Dicks

3. **Apr ?, 2017** Spring Picnic/DBOS Birthday Party. Location: Quiet Waters Park
Chairpersons: Dennis Pearl, Lisa Krukoski & Jesus Hill

4. **Sept 24, 2016** Growers Bus Trip
Chairperson: Cheryl Babcock and Debbie Dicks

5. **Dec ?, 2016** Annual meeting/Pot Luck Dinner Our regular Dec. meeting to be held here.
Chairperson: Debbie Dicks and Cheryl Babcock

Please consider joining a committee to help out the Chairperson.

Renew Your DBOS Membership for 2016

We thank all of our members for their participation in our meetings, social activities, and continued support of DBOS. We sincerely appreciate your enthusiasm for our monthly speakers and raffle drawings, willingness to bring in your plants for judging so we can all enjoy them, and sharing your love of orchids and best practices with your fellow members.

We are starting our membership drive for 2016. Our dues structure has not increased. Anyone who joins DBOS in October-December 2015 will not have to pay dues for 2016. What a deal!

<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 another terrific year. Our membership has grown this year, and we welcome all of our new members as well as our longtime supporters. We hope you have enjoyed the year as much as we have and will renew your membership for 2016. We will be collecting 2016 membership dues at the October and November 2015 meetings and the January and February 2016 meetings. Stop at the membership table and pay John or Cheryl. If you plan to mail your dues, please do so by February 19, 2016.

Mail your dues payable to: Cheryl Babcock
Deerfield Beach Orchid Society
5532 NW 60th Drive
Coral Springs, FL 33167

Please Like Our Facebook Page



The image shows a screenshot of the Facebook page for the Deerfield Beach Orchid Society. The main cover photo features a variety of orchids, including white and pink ones. In the bottom left corner, there is a smaller profile picture of a purple orchid. The page name is "Deerfield Beach Orchid Society" and it is identified as a "Non-Profit Organization". Below the name, there are buttons for "Create Call to Action", "Liked" (with a dropdown arrow), and "Message" (with a dropdown arrow). At the bottom of the page, there are navigation tabs for "Timeline", "About", "Photos", "Likes", and "More" (with a dropdown arrow).

Please support our sponsors



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

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- 1/2 page: \$15 per month or \$150 per year
- Full Page: \$25 per month or \$250 per year

2016 Orchid Events

May 7 & 8

Broward County Plant Affair

The Broward County Plant Affair is hosted by the Plantation Historical Society which raises funds to preserve and present Plantation and South Florida's ongoing historical, educational and cultural resources, focusing on the youth of our community as well as its multi-cultural residents with a museum and diversified outreach programs. Locally grown Florida Friendly Plants, Bromeliads, Orchids, Palms, Ferns, Garden Art & Books, Fruit Trees & Butterfly Plants, Hand made organic soaps.

Plantation Heritage Park, 1100 S. Fig Tree Lane, Plantation, FL 33317

Admission: \$1.50 per person to enter park

May 13, 14 & 15

Redland International Orchid Festival

FREE parking, potting and storage tent, international food court, orchid supplies and informative lectures. Bus tours welcome!

Fruit & Spice Park, 24801 SW 187 Ave., Homestead, FL

Friday, Saturday & Sunday 9am to 5pm

Admission: \$10/Day, or \$25/3 Days

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 2015, this will include their 2016 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, May 10, 7:30 PM

Boca Raton Orchid Society

Safe Schools Institute -Don Estridge Middle School

1790 NW Spanish River Blvd, Boca Raton, FL.

Monday, May 9, 7:30 PM

Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society, Inc.

Christ Lutheran Church Parish Hall
1955 E. Oakland Park Blvd. Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Tuesday, May 10, 7:30 PM

Deerfield Beach Orchid Society

Woman's Club of Deerfield Beach
911 E. Hillsboro Blvd, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

Wednesday, May 11, 7:30 PM

Delray Beach Orchid Society

The Adult Recreation Center in Veterans Park
802 NE First Street, Delray Beach, FL.

2015 Committee Positions

AOS Representative	Vince Dicks
Events	Cheryl Babcock Debbie Dicks
Librarian	DBOS Officers/ Board of Directors
Membership	Cheryl Babcock John Williams
Newsletter	Lisa Krukoski
Nominating	DBOS Officers/ Board of Directors
Plant Judging	John Budree
Publicity	Cheryl Babcock
Raffle Table	Dennis Pearl Jesus Hill
Refreshments	Mary Pritchard Dennis Pearl Millicent Hammill
Sunshine	Lois Larson
Webmaster	Joe Ortlieb

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