



Deerfield Beach Orchid Society
CATTLEYA CURRENTS

November 2014
Volume 49 Issue 11

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The Deerfield Beach Orchid Society
presents

Orchid Obsession
ORCHID SHOW & SALE



\$2 OFF

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Saturday Nov. 15th

10 am — 5 pm

Sunday Nov. 16th

10 am — 5 pm

General Admission \$5
Children Under 12 Free

Emma Lou Olson Civic Center
1801 NE 6th St • Pompano Beach, FL 33060

For More Information

(561) 487-6552

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President's Message

Hello all! November is a big month for us. We will begin with Jim Watts program on "Leafless Orchids" at our meeting on Nov 11th. I have had the pleasure of seeing this program and can say it is certainly one of a kind. We will follow that with our show on Nov 15th and 16th. This is our 3rd year and it is imperative for us to take a step forward this year so I would encourage everyone to help us spread the word and get the information out. We have added a hobbieist table to the judging this year and will be offering a \$50.00 prize to the grand champion so bring your plants for judging between 10am and 7pm to the Civic Center on Fri Nov 14th. Dennis will continue to sign up show volunteers at the monthly meeting on Tuesday and Debbie will be available to collect money for pre-sale tickets. Our annual Holiday Party will be on Dec 14th at 7pm at Grace Hollidays house located at 1565 SE 9th St, Deerfield Beach and coincides with the Pompano Beach Boat Parade.

This is a free to members pot-luck affair and anyone who attended last year can attest to what a great time and great feast we had. If you need more incentive than that we will also be giving a free plant to all attending members. Thanks to Grace and her husband Bill for inviting us back. Dennis will be available at the meeting with sign-up sheets or you can contact Debbie at 954-946-4951 for more information. Hope to see you Tuesday and as always bring a friend. Vince



Welcome New Members!!

**Marlene Sensenig
Christina Doone
Loretta Baldwin**

October Ribbon Winners

Aerides lawrenciae	Vince Dicks
Cycnoches Taiwan Gold 'Orange'	Joe Ortlieb
Vascostylis Viboon Velvet 'Perfection'	Tammy Hall
Ascocenda Alberta Rubio	Garfield Gilchrist
Vanda Gordon Dillon	John Pancoast
Brassovolla Jiminy Cricket 'Green'	Joe Ortlieb
Broughtonia Seagulls Jamaica x Cattleytonia Keith Roth	Garfield Gilchrist
Oncidium Wildcat	Lynn Molitor
Miltassia Charles M. Fitch 'Black Beauty'	Lynn Molitor
Fredclarkera Dark There After	Joe Ortlieb

Upcoming Speakers

November—Jim Watts “Leafless Orchids”

Happy Birthday

Gail Ritchie Nov 10

Tonky Bofill Nov 12

Janice Dunford Nov 18



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 October meeting!

Dennis Pearl

And special thanks to Publix for donating refreshments

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

Speaker of the Month

Jim Watts

Jim Watts has been growing orchids for 15 years and is an Accredited Judge for the AOS. His small collection of 400 orchids is mostly species. One of his first orchids was an equitant oncidium, now known as *Tolumnia*. He still has a large collection of them despite the best (worst) efforts of Hurricane Wilma.

The leafless genera is one of his favorite orchid types and Hurricane Wilma was less gentle with the this group. Jim's collection was reduced from 17 species to 6. Currently he is rebuilding his collection, but it is difficult to find many of the species.

One of his new interests is vanilla, especially *Chiloschista ramifera* since he found some leafless species of vanilla including two leafless Florida natives. He now has 12 species of vanilla, including 5 leafless types.

Come to the meeting and learn more about, the Ghost Orchid, or *Dendrophylax lindenii* these leafless wonders from an expert!

Our October Meeting

Photos courtesy of John Morris



October in your Orchid Collection

Dr. Martin Motes

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 sea change and have completed their growths for the season. Some like *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches*, *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 breathes 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 peninsular 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 healthy maintenance. Not until the air circulating clockwise around the cold high pressure system shifts to the Northeast to blow over the warm Gulfstream 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 6mil clear polyethylene (don't use 4mil; it rarely lasts the winter being exposed to Florida's bright ultraviolet light). One hundred feet by ten costs about \$20. 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. 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 growth. 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 nitrogen is potassium nitrate (KNO_3). It has the formula 13-0-44. The lower level of the 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 the 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 gal 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.

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

2. **Sept 20, 2014** Third Growers Bus Trip
Chairperson: Cheryl Babcock and Debbie Dicks

3. **Oct. 25, 2014** Fall Picnic/DBOS Birthday Party. Held in Constitution Park, Deerfield
Beach Arboretum.
Chairperson: Needed

4. **Dec 14, 2014** 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

313 S.E. 15th Terrace
Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

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1/4 page: \$13 per month or \$125 per year
1/2 page: \$15 per month or \$150 per year
Full Page: \$25 per month or \$250 per year

New Dues for 2014

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

2014 Orchid Events

November 15-16

Deerfield Beach Orchid Society Annual Show

The Deerfield Beach Orchid Society will hold its third annual Orchid Show & Sale, Orchid Obsession, at the Emma Lou Olson Civic Center, with thousands of specimens on sale from 10 Florida growers ensuring that the fascinating and exotic plants will be appropriate for your own backyard. Our vendors will all mount spectacular displays to be judged by American Orchid Society (AOS) judges on Saturday, November 15. Several non-orchid vendors will provide orchid supplies including everything you need to grow beautiful orchids, plant benches/stands, art, reclaimed old growth cypress wood, and jewelry. Daily lectures will be provided on orchid care.

1801 NE 6th St., Pompano Beach, FL
Saturday & Sunday, 10am to 5pm
Admission: \$5, children under 12 are free

December 6-7

Bonnet House Museum & Garden Annual Orchid, Garden & Gourmet Food Festival

Bonnet House Museum & Gardens will have Orchids, Exotics, Gourmet Food Trucks, Libations, Gardening Lectures, Cooking Demos, Kid's Corner, Orchid Displays and Silent Auction, Live Music, Farmer's Market and Much More. Plenty of free parking and free plant carryout.

900 N. Birch Road, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Saturday & Sunday, 9am to 4pm
Admission: Members \$10, Non-Members \$12, Children 12 and under free

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, November 13, 7:30 PM

Boca Raton Orchid Society

Safe Schools Institute -Don Estridge Middle School

1790 NW Spanish River Blvd, Boca Raton, FL.

Monday, November 10, 7:30 PM

Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society, Inc.

Christ Lutheran Church Parish Hall

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

Tuesday, November 11, 7:30 PM

**Deerfield Beach Orchid Society-
Woman's Club of Deerfield Beach**

911 E. Hillsboro Blvd, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

Wednesday, November 12, 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..... Vince Dicks**
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

Deerfield Beach Orchid Society
P.O. Box 732
Deerfield Beach, FL 33443

Deerfield Beach Orchid Society, founded in 1965, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. The purpose of our society is to stimulate interest, provide education and enable the exchange of information among those interested in the culture of orchids in all of its aspects. We are affiliated with the American Orchid Society.

Deerfield Beach Orchid Society

We meet once a month (except December when we have our Annual Meeting at another location) on the second Tuesday of the month. Our meetings are held at the Deerfield Beach Woman's Center, located at 910 E. Hillsboro Blvd. The building is located 2 miles east of I-95, on the south side of Hillsboro Blvd. Meetings start promptly at 7:30 pm.

Each meeting consists of a educational program about orchids, refreshments provided by the members, ribbon judging of member's plants, a raffle table of orchids and orchid sales either by the speaker or members.

The general public is invited to attend.

INVITE A FRIEND!