



# Deerfield Beach Orchid Society **CATTLEYA CURRENTS**

December 2015  
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Happy Holidays to all!

Due to the Holiday Party on December 5th there will be no regular meeting in December. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 12th so if we don't see you this weekend we hope to see you then.

I would like to thank all of our show volunteers for helping to make the 2015 Orchid Obsession Show a success and believe it or not we are already preparing for next years show. Congratulations to our own growers who took first prize ribbons at the show. It says a lot about the quality of growers we have in our club when they go head to head with commercial growers and come out on top.

We are currently planning to have our Home Ramble on February 20th so mark your calendars. Further information should be available by the January meeting.

Hope you all have a safe, healthy and happy Holiday Season.

See you soon, Vince

# *Happy Birthday*

**Mary Pritchard Dec 1**  
**Sylvia Rodriguez Dec 3**  
**Cheryl Babcock Dec 5**  
**Chris Doone Dec 10**  
**Grace Holliday Dec 10**  
**Tom Kuligowski Dec 11**  
**Jacob Molz Dec 12**  
**Gail Carpenter Dec 14**  
**Rachelen Hut Dec 16**  
**Susan Kolinsky Dec 18**  
**Terry Morkert Dec 22**  
**Raquel Ernestine Dec 26**  
**Pam Dicks Dec 28**  
**Crystal Rushton Dec 30**





## Some tips from a Pompano Orchid Grower

Welcome to the short days of December.

1. If you grow Phals, as I do, you know it is time to watch for spikes to appear. I always get excited when I see a new spike forming. Unfortunately, I always manage to stake my spikes a bit later (or a lot later) than they ought to be, so get out your bamboo or steel stakes, and keep attentive to those lengthening bloom spikes.

2. November gave us all a taste of the stronger winds we are accustomed to in winter. They should be a reminder that we need to prepare for these drying winds (and colder temperatures). Mother nature has spoiled us this past couple of years, so we have been lucky. I have had to make some room on my porch so that if I need to bring my vandas in when the temperatures begin to fall, I can relatively easily. I have also been told not to use sheet plastic to cover my plants that cannot be moved. Luckily I have a supply of old sheets – unsightly for a night, but effective. Like the Boy Scout motto tells us, “Be Prepared.”

3. This really is a slower time of year, and my plants are getting ready for their long winter’s nap. Nothing should really be repotted at this time of year, and with not a whole lot to do, I have been checking for critters on my plants. Oh how I hate the fuzzy white blobs that I have found recently in the leaf axils of some my plants, so I am spraying, and I have out my swabs and alcohol. This really is a good time to give you plants the once over, to clean up any dead leaves, clip off any dead roots, and tuck them in for their snooze.

4. With the cooler temps and shorter days it is important to remember to water early in the day. Keep fungus at bay. A spray with a fungicide for safety is not, in opinion, a bad idea. Those quick little showers allowing water to stand in leaf axils might do in your favorite little plant. Just remember that Dendrobiums are not fond of copper based products.

5. With the holidays around the corner, I find myself wondering what little gift I can give to my friends. An Orchid! What a splendid idea! I know I sound like a drug dealer, but I cannot think of a nicer addiction to wish on my closest friends who think my love of these plants borders on the neurotic. Heck, we might even get a few more members to join our club. Enjoy the upcoming winter solstice with good cheer. Merry Merry my friends.

## DBOS Holiday Party

It's that time of year that The Holiday Committee started planning our Holiday Meeting/Pot Luck Dinner. This year Our Meeting will be held on Saturday December 5th at 5:30pm-9pm at St Andrews School in the Parish Hall. There is plenty of parking spots at the Hall. Carpool if you wish. Directions from the Women's Club to follow.

The address is:

3900 Jog Rd Boca Raton, Florida 33434

Please RSVP to Cheryl Babcock by November 21st. You can email her at [crbabcock1@netzero.net](mailto:crbabcock1@netzero.net) or phone 954-464-8996 Members are free. Guests are \$10 and need to be pre-paid. Please send the pre-payments to Cheryl at 5532 NW 60th Dr., Coral Springs, FL 33067 or you can give it to her at the October or November meetings.

We are asking that you bring a fully cooked and ready-to-eat appetizer, side dish or dessert. Don't forget to bring a serving utensil. Crock Pots are always useful. Please use the Volunteer Spot Website (email to come with instructions) and let us know what you're bringing so we don't have duplicates. The Club will provide a spiral ham, turkey, soda, water, and entertainment. If you want something stronger, it's BYOB (Beer and Wine Only).

Dress Attire: Holiday Party Attire

Doors open at 5:30 SHARP

Regards,

The DBOS Holiday Committee

## December in Your Orchid Collection

Dr. Martin Motes

December marks the beginning of the serious dry season in South Florida. While this additional dryness provides relief from the autumnal rains that can bring so many fungal problems, December is also the month of shortest day lengths. This contracted period of light, on the contrary, reduces severely the drying potential for our plants. Nature thus both gives and takes away from us in December. We must make sure, therefore, that we do not aid the dark side of the force by improper watering. In December, above all, one must stick strictly to the two cardinal principles of orchid watering: water early in the day so your plants have as many hours as possible to dry, and water heavily when you water, allowing longer intervals between watering to dry plants thoroughly. This practice maximizes the benefit of the dryer air of December and minimizes the adverse effect of the shorter day lengths.

When nature has delivered a light overnight or early morning rain as she so often does in December at the leading edge of a cold front, add to her efforts by watering thoroughly that same morning and skip out watering for an extra several days afterward. With this method you can use the general dryness of December to give yourself much of the advantage of a greenhouse in terms of controlling watering. As in all aspects of orchid culture, keen observation is the key to success. In cooler weather your plants need much less water. Moreover, cool air even at the same relative humidity, strips less water from your plants because cool air has less water holding capability. Always be sure that your plants really need water before you roll out the hose in December. Remember to use at least one of the standard tests for dryness: the finger dug slightly into the media test or the newly sharpened pencil coming dry like a knife from a well cooked custard, or test by hefting a pot that you know the weight of, both wet and dry and be sure that it has attained sufficient lightness. When you are sure they are dry, water them until you are sure they are very wet, then let the drying air of December do its magic to ward off leaf spotting diseases.

Himalayan dendrobiums of the *nobile* and *Callista* (*D. aggregatum*, *chrysotoxum*, etc.) Sections require no additional water (beyond rain) in December. Remember, those of you who water (or, even worse, fertilize) these dendrobiums in December, will be punished by having your flowers taken away in the spring. Some growers, who have the space, isolate these dendrobiums along with other types that want hard drying such as *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches*, *Mormodes*, and *Calanthe*. Another strategy is to hang these plants high or at the edges of the collection reminding oneself to neglect them and also to avoid watering them by mistake. Other growers achieve the same result effect by turning the pots of these genera on their side in November or December, to avoid catching water from whatever source. Plants of some of these genera that have finished flowering can even be removed from their pots and stripped to bare roots in anticipation of re-potting them in new media when they break growth in the spring.

Most sympodial orchids are resting in December and require less fertilizer. Biweekly or even monthly applications of a balanced fertilizer or 15-5-15 are still desirable. Nitrate nitrogen is the most readily absorbed in cooler weather; therefore at least one more application of the potassium nitrate/magnesium sulphate (at 1tbs. each per gal.) recommended in November is still a good idea. It's good stuff! *Vandas*, *Phalaenopsis* and other monopodial orchids should be fertilized right through the winter although both the amount of fertilizer and the frequency of application can be reduced. Remember reddening of the foliage is not natural, nor is it a response to the cold per se but rather a symptom of nutritional deficiency. The plants are asking for more potassium and magnesium. Give them the groceries.

December can be cold. Frost has occurred in the first week of the month and unforgettably, the coldest temperatures ever recorded in South Florida were registered on December 25, 1989. If you haven't taken some of the precautions outlined in the November Newsletter, get busy! Keep a close eye on the forecasts during this volatile month. Remember that hard cane dendrobiums of the sections *Spathulata* and *Phalaenanthe* are the most sensitive of commonly cultivated orchids. They resent temperature much below 60 degrees F. *Phalaenopsis* are next most sensitive, then *vandas*. Protect all these genera more carefully.

If you are getting a jump on spring potting chores by repotting sympodial orchids that have finished blooming, it is particularly important that you take extra care in securing them in their containers. These plants may not be sending out new roots for several months, enough time for them to be shaken loose from insufficient staking. Passing cold fronts can bring brisk winds in December. When new roots start to form on insufficiently secured plants, wind moves the plant and chafes the new root tips off. Improperly secured plants are never able to root properly and slowly pine away. If you love them you must tie them up, tie them down. This is also especially true of mass produced orchids sold in Home Depot, K Mart etc. The soft, peat based media used to grow these commercially produced plants in the controlled environment of a greenhouse often does not provide sufficient purchase to secure the plants in the rough and tumble of a South Florida orchid collection buffeted by harsh winter winds. You probably should have already re-potted these into more durable medium but until you do, tie 'em up!

**Welcome New Members!!**

- Ariana Adamas
- Gwen Collier
- Sandra Trinca
- Steve Mersal
- Susie Mersal
- Edward Moles
- Linwood Pittman
- Doris Simon
- Mike Simon
- Sheryl Torner
- Heidi Frederick Hancock
- Georganne H. McKelligett
- Haydee Rancel
- Jean-Ellen Riess
- Maureen ???

**We are happy to have you as part of our Society!**

## **Congratulations to the member winners at our show!!**

**The AOS judges awarded members of our society the following recognitions:**

- 1. Grand Champion Hobbyist - Joe Ortlieb**
- 2. Best in Show Cattleya - Joe Ortlieb**
- 3. Best in Show Vanda/Ascocenda - Joe Ortlieb**
- 4. Best in Show Phaphiopedilum - Joe Ortlieb**
- 5. Best in Show Dendrobium - Susan Kolinski**
- 6. Best in Show Other Vandaceous - Tom Kuligowski**

**These awards were judged against the vendor/grower display plants, which means our member plants were ranked higher than the vendor/grower plants! This is a highly regarded award for our member growers, and they deserve congratulations on this accomplishment.**

## 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. **Feb 20, 2016**                      Orchid Home Ramble. Always a Saturday in addition to our regular meeting.  
Chairpersons: Debbie Dicks & Cheryl Babcock
  
2. **Mar 8, 2016**                        DBOS Orchid Auction. Held at the Deerfield Beach Women's Club.  
Chairperson: Vince Dicks
  
3. **Sept ?, 2016**                        Growers Bus Trip  
Chairperson: Cheryl Babcock and Debbie Dicks
  
4. **Oct. ?, 2016**                        Fall Picnic/DBOS Birthday Party. Location: Quiet Waters Park  
Chairpersons: Dennis Pearl & Lisa Krukoski
  
5. **Dec 5, 2015**                        Annual meeting/Pot Luck Dinner Our regular Dec. meeting to be held here.  
Chairperson: Debbie Dicks & 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 New Facebook Page



The image shows a Facebook page for the Deerfield Beach Orchid Society. The main header features a large photograph of various orchids in shades of pink, purple, and white. Below the header, the page name "Deerfield Beach Orchid Society" is displayed, followed by "Non-Profit Organization". To the right of the name 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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## **Newsletter Ads:**

- 1/8 page: \$10 per month or \$100 per year
- 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

# 2015/2016 Orchid Events

## December 5 & 6

### **Bonnett House 9th Annual Orchid, Garden & Gourmet Food Festival**

Orchid, Garden & Gourmet Food Festival featuring the 9th Annual Orchid & Exotic Plant Sale. Orchids, Exotics, Tropicals, Herbs, Fruit Trees, Garden Art, Gourmet Food Trucks, Libations, Gardening Lectures, Orchid Displays, Live Music, Green Market and Much More!!

Bonnett House Museum & Gardens,  
Saturday & Sunday 9am to 4pm

Admission: \$12.00 Members, \$15.00 Non-Members, Children 12 and under Free

## January 15—17

### **Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show and Sale “An Orchid Masquerade”**

Beautiful huge vendor exhibits, Local orchid society display tables, Raffles – win orchids! Orchid artwork from local schools, International plant vendors, Potting and growing supplies, American Orchid Society accredited judging, Hospitality table – store plants, get help taking purchases to our car, and Free parking.

War Memorial Auditorium, 800 NE 8th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10am to 6pm

Admission: \$12

## January 23—24

### **Tamiami International Orchid Festival**

Dade County Fair Expo Center Fuchs Pavillion, 10901 Coral Way, Miami, FL 33165  
Saturday 10am to 7pm Sunday 10am to 6pm

Admission: \$10 one day, \$16 weekend pass

## February 13—14

### **Boca Raton Orchid Society Show & Sale**

Featuring orchid displays and sales, educational lectures, repotting services and AOS judging.

Safe Schools Institute, 1790 Spanish River Blvd., Boca Raton, FL  
(Corner of Military Trail & Spanish River Blvd.)

Saturday & Sunday 10am to 5pm

Admission \$5

## 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](mailto: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, December 10, 7:30 PM**

**Boca Raton Orchid Society**

Safe Schools Institute -Don Estridge Middle School

1790 NW Spanish River Blvd, Boca Raton, FL.

**Monday, December 14, 7:30 PM**

**Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society, Inc.**

Christ Lutheran Church Parish Hall

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

**Tuesday, December 8, 7:30 PM**

**Deerfield Beach Orchid Society**

Woman's Club of Deerfield Beach

911 E. Hillsboro Blvd, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

**Wednesday, December 9, 7:30 PM**

**Delray Beach Orchid Society**

The Adult Recreation Center in Veterans Park

802 NE First Street, Delray Beach, FL.

## 2015 Committee Positions

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

## 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](mailto:loisj2200@yahoo.com)

