



Deerfield Beach Orchid Society **CATTLEYA CURRENTS**

May 2015
Volume 50 Issue 5

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Hi all! Looks like the summer rains have started early and the summer bugs will be on the prowl. Well, John has this under control. The speaker he has lined up for us this month is Catherine Mannion, a professor at the University of Florida and she will be telling us all about pest control. From what I have heard this is a great lecture and just in the nick of time.

I would like to thank all of our hosts and guests for making the Home Ramble such a fantastic day. Special thanks to Joe & Dennis, Tammy, Sue, Grace, and the Dicks family for a great day!

DBOS will be at Mizner Park on Sat May 9 from 11am-4pm selling orchid arrangements for Mother's Day. I believe we have all the volunteers lined up but if anyone is out and about feel free to stop by and say hello. We will be in the southern gazebo. PS: These are unique arrangements made by our members and would make not only a great gift for Mom but maybe even for yourself.

Finally I would like to remind everyone about our September 26th bus trip. Tickets are first come, first served. We have 45 seats available and have sold 15 already so if you are seriously interested see either Cheryl or Debbie to ensure your seat.

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 May 2015 AOS Corner- *From the desk of Laura Newton, Membership and Affiliated Societies Chair*

The **May** issue of *Orchids* has many great articles, which you may have already seen if you are a current AOS member, but for those of you who are not, here is what you can find inside this month's magazine, which will entice you into becoming a member.

- **Embreea- a monster orchid in 3D**, by **Thomas Mirenda**, gives a great overview of this fascinating genus of enormous, yet short-lived flowers.
- **Disas** by **Peggy Alrich and Wesley Higgins**, is a beautifully illustrated look at many variations in color of this African genus.
- There is a new series of articles called **Growers Profile**, highlighting a different grower each month. This month we get to peek into Paph Paradise and **proprietor David Sorokowsky** with a Q&A that gives up some insight into how you can start with a "box store" purchase and end up in a full-blown addiction into growing, hybridizing and selling award-winning orchids, as explained in the questions that **Kathy Barrett** asks.
- **Selecting a Pot** by **Sue and Terry Bottom**, is a great tutorial on how to select the perfect pot for your plant, for your growing conditions.
- **Sarcochilus- Modern Breeding Lines and Plant Culture**, by **Scott Barrie and Fred Clarke**, gives an in depth look at the new and excitingly colorful hybrid in this Australian genus.

In Brazil with Francisco Miranda, by **Stig Dalstrom**, is a wonderful article that showcases Brazilian orchids in their native habitat.

Another great thing that you can find on our website is the new "**Kid's Corner**" tab, by **Sandy Stubbings** of the education committee. She provides great ideas on how to encourage and foster interest in orchids for the young children in our lives, so please check it out!

The Webinars for this month:

We will again have two webinars this month, one of which will be another Greenhouse Chat that will be available to all. At the time of this sending, the topics, dates and times have not been announced. Please check the webinar tab on www.aos.org for updated information.

Let's grow together,
Laura Newton

Upcoming Speakers

May-Catherine Mannion PHD
June-Repotting, Mouting and Chemical workshop
July—TBD
August-Glen Decker-Paphiopedilums

Highlights From Our Home Ramble



Highlights From Our April Meeting

Photos courtesy of John Morris



May in Your Orchid Collection

By 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 of a diet. Fertilize with up to 2 tsp. of 15-5-15 per gal of water every week or so. Alternating this standard fertilizer 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 medium has broken down in the pot. Decayed medium will encourage root rot to become stem rot which will pursue the rhizome even into those over arching bulbs. If in doubt, give the medium the "nose test". A pinch of medium taken from below the surface of the pot should smell "sweet". A sour smell or the odor of a pond bottom indicates medium 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 of the Phalaenopsis now will be finishing their flowers, May is a good time to get these plants 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.

The soft black rot of sympodial orchids and crown rot in vandas are caused by two different organisms i.e. *Pythium* and *Phytophthora* although in effect they are indistinguishable. Control of these diseases necessitates different chemicals from those used on the leaf spotting diseases. Etridiazole (Truban) has long been used. For the amateur it is readily available in combination with Thiophanate Methyl (the recommended chemical for leaf spotting) in the formulation Banrot. Applied in the same manner suggested above for Thiophanate methyl to control leaf spotting fungi, this pre-packaged combination should be adequate for most circumstances and control crown rot as well. If problems persist two other systemics give excellent control: Aliette (Fosetyl-aluminum) and Subdue 2E (metalaxyl).



Welcome New Members!!

Blondell Dennis
Meredith Scott

Please Like our new Facebook Page



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.

Only 28 Seats Left for the September Bus Trip

Register today to join your fellow orchid lovers on our annual bus trip on Saturday, September 26. Only 28 seats are remaining for this fun-filled, orchid lovers' dream day. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. This year we are headed to Miami/Homestead/Redlands/Fort Lauderdale, Florida. We will meet at the Woman's Club of Deerfield Beach, 910 E. Hillsboro Blvd., Deerfield Beach, FL 33441 between 7:30 am and 7:45 am.

We will leave promptly at 8:00 am as we have a packed schedule so please be on time. A light breakfast will be served on the way to **Quest Orchids** where we will be off to a great start. Segundo and Yolanda Cuesta offer a large variety of orchids, and you're sure to find something to add to your collection.

Our next stop is **Henington Farms**, home to a variety of extremely large and magnificent orchids at fantastic prices. John specializes in Cattleyas.

We will spend several hours at **R.F. Orchids** where there is always something spectacular in bloom. We will have the opportunity to enjoy the lush tropical gardens during a private tour and browse through the flowering orchids from exotic species to the newest hybrids and fine Mericlones. Lunch will be served in R.F.'s pavilion.

After lunch we are off to **Carib Plants, Inc.** Robert and Diana Randall are growers of stunning, quality orchids including Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas, and Oncidinae at great prices.

We will begin our journey home with a Happy Hour where adult beverages and hors d oeuvre's are provided. However, before we head back to Deerfield Beach we have planned one more stop at **Nature's Relics** where we will have a chance to see and purchase some of Jesse and Dee Vance's magnificent collection of reclaimed old growth Cypress Wood logged in the 1800's. An assortment of orchid mounts, hanging plant baskets, and natural garden accents will be perfect for your new orchids.

We are planning to be back at the Deerfield Beach Women's Club by 6:45 pm.

Cost: \$55.00/Person. Payment must be received by August 11, 2015. Keep in mind that there are only 28 seats left so register now if you plan to attend. The cancellation policy is non-refundable if paid in full, however, substitutions are permitted at any time. Please pay Cheryl or Debbie at the meeting(s), or mail check to Cheryl Babcock, 5532 NW 60th Drive, Coral Springs, FL 33067. If you want to pay by credit card let us know by contacting:

Cheryl Babcock, call or text at 954-464-8996, crbabcock1@netzero.net
Debbie Dicks, call or text at 954-551-1410, wernparadise@gmail.com

Please support our sponsors



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

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

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

July 11, 18, 25

Mounts Botanical Garden Orchid Trilogy

Saturday, July 11, 2015 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Orchid Basics: Six Most Common Orchids in South Florida

Newcomers to orchids will learn how to choose the correct orchids for their growing area and what they need to grow and flower beautifully. Sandi will demonstrate basic repotting and choosing the correct container and materials. Start your journey into the exciting hobby of orchid growing! Growing supplies will be available for sale at the meeting.

Saturday, July 18, 2015 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Advanced Orchid Repotting & Mounting

I will demonstrate repotting of an overgrown orchid, something we will all have to tackle sometime, and mounting orchids on items such as tree fern and cork bark. Common questions like what type of potting media and what orchids are best for mounting will be addressed. Learn general cultural information and when to use fertilizers, fungicides, and pesticides.

Saturday, July 25, 2015 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Prevention & Diagnosing Orchid Pests and Diseases

We will discuss how to diagnose orchid pests and diseases from bacterial and fungal rots to insects, such as thrips, scale and spider mites. Learn to identify the culprits, what products get rid of them, and how to prevent them in the future. Orchids may be brought in for diagnosis, but must be placed in plastic bags to prevent contaminating other plants.

Mounts Botanical Garden, 559 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL
 Admission: Members \$90 all three classes or \$35 a class
 Non-Members \$105 all three classes or \$45 a class

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, May 14, 7:30 PM

Boca Raton Orchid Society

Safe Schools Institute -Don Estridge Middle School

1790 NW Spanish River Blvd, Boca Raton, FL.

Monday, May 11, 7:30 PM

Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society, Inc.

Christ Lutheran Church Parish Hall

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

Tuesday, May 12, 7:30 PM

Deerfield Beach Orchid Society

Woman's Club of Deerfield Beach

911 E. Hillsboro Blvd, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

Wednesday, May 13, 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	Debbie Dicks Dennis Pearl
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