



Deerfield Beach Orchid Society  
**CATTLEYA CURRENTS**

July 2015  
Volume 50 Issue 7

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Hello everybody! For our July 14th meeting we have Mark Margolis as our featured speaker. This should be a very interesting meeting as his topic will be on Catasetums. These are fun, somewhat unusual, and easy to grow plants as we are sure to find out.

I would like to thank everyone for their support of our upcoming bus trip to the Redland/Homestead area. The bus is sold out, so unfortunately no seats are available at this time.

And since we are in the doldrums of summer I have nothing else to report. Short and sweet message this month. So we hope to see you on Tuesday and as always bring a friend!

Vince

# Happy Birthday

**Lois Larson July 1**  
**Donna Edwards July 4**  
**Norma Melone July 7**  
**Tammy Hall July 9**  
**Ron Franz July 11**  
**Doug Dicks July 13**  
**Karen Meiselman July 14**  
**Ron Treshan July 17**  
**Kay McGinn July 30**  
**Adrienne Jaffee July 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 June meeting!

Dennis Pearl

Cheryl Babcock

Grace Holliday

And special thanks to Publix for donating refreshments

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

## Speaker of the Month

### Mark Margolis

Mark Margolis is a retired Dade County Public school teacher and non-commercial grower of orchids for over 35 years. While he grows many different types of orchids his specialty and his favorite is in the *Catasetum* group. With more than 600 *Catasetum* in his collection, he has received over 50 AOS awards for his plants.

Mark refers to *Catasetum* as the Rodney Dangerfield of orchids because, for several reasons, “they get no respect”. *Catasetum* orchids aren’t very popular because, when the *Catasetum* loses its leaves and goes into dormancy during the winter, it is a downright ugly plant. Most people feel the need to water them in dormancy and that’s what usually kills them. The flower doesn’t last very long, and sometimes fades within a few days. Even experienced growers think they are hard to grow.

Mark believes that in many ways *Catasetum* are the best orchids. Join us in July to hear about the wonder of *Catasetum*.



# Highlights From Our June Meeting

Photos courtesy of Dennis Pearl



## July in Your Orchid Collection

Dr. Martin Motes

Although it mostly passes unnoticed to millions locked in their air-conditioned bubbles, July in South Florida is quite different from June. While the pattern of afternoon showers built from the moisture of the morning's sea breeze persists in July, the thunderstorms are sharper and shorter. The clouds linger less and the foliage dries more quickly. Less quantity of rain falls in July than in June and periods of several days typically pass without a drop. This is good news for orchid growers. July (and August) allow orchidists to focus on the first essential of orchid growing, drying the plant out.

Frequently, neophyte growers ask, "What if I go away for several weeks in the summer and there is no one to water the plants?" The response is, "That's wonderful." Experienced growers use the break in the rainfall during July and August to dry their plants hard. Depriving orchids of water for several days until they and the media or baskets they grow in are bone dry is essential to good orchid culture. By drying the plants hard, one deals a severe blow to orchid's natural enemy, fungus. Orchids have evolved to withstand drought because fungus can not. During severe drought fungus' only defense is to cease all growth and retreat into a spore stage. Hopefully (and with good cultural management) these pathogens will not be aroused from this slumber until the first drizzle of September sets in, allowing our plants two months to mature and harden their growth making them less vulnerable to the September conditions which give some advantage again to the fungi.

Careful watering and judicious drying will do more than any other practice to ensure healthy plants. Drought is the orchid plant's armor against disease. Be sure that your plants dry as completely as the weather of July permits. Nonetheless, as our plants are in full growth they need adequate water in July therefor after a hard drying, orchid plants need a thorough re-hydration. If the next rain fall is insufficient to saturate pot, roots and media, the grower should add to the natural moisture until he is sure both roots and media are saturated, using two or three applications of water spaced a few minutes apart. When the plants stop dripping is the time to apply the next dose of water. Don't stop watering until the "heft" of the pot tells you that it is holding as much water as it can. More typically in July, orchidists should use these opportunities when more moisture is required to substitute fertilizer for water and saturate the roots and the media in the same thorough manner. In July, typically think of fertilizing rather than watering. Weekly application of a commonly available balanced fertilizer (20-20-20 or 18-18-18) at two teaspoons per gallon, will supply the nutrients that our plants require in this period of lush growth. This balanced formula should be alternated every other week with potassium nitrate and Epsom salts (one tablespoon each) to supply the extra magnesium and potassium we now know are plants need on a regular basis. Even better (although not so readily available), lower phosphorus fertilizers containing extra magnesium and calcium with a formula like Peter's Excel (15-5-15) have been shown to be the precise fertilizer our plants need. This formula is recommended year round. Hopefully such orchid-specific fertilizers will become more widely available. Lowering the phosphorus intake of our plants is particularly important in South Florida because of our alkaline water. Always apply fertilizer in the same way as water, in two to three doses spaced a few minutes apart. Apply the fertilizer to the point of "run off;" i.e. when the solution starts to fall off the plants, stop and move on to the next plant. Repeat the application a few minutes later when the plants stop dripping. In July more than ever, never, never follow the frequently heard and disastrously bad advice of watering before fertilizing. Always substitute fertilizer for water: now and at every season. Roots saturated with water cannot absorb fertilizer but the prolonged wetness can rot your plants. Don't give fungus the upper hand by wetting the plant's foliage and roots more often or longer than necessary. Careful watering is especially important throughout the rainy season.

The wise orchidist will have long since finished all of his potting of sympodials and the top working of his vandas, but for the rest of us this is the eleventh hour. Autumn is closer than we think and vandas will need at least three months to settle in to their new baskets or pots before the first chill of October tickles their root tips. Unless you can protect them thoroughly from cold, Vanda top cuttings and keikis should not be made after the end of July. If you do take cuttings remember the "3 root rule." Count down from the crown and make the cutting beneath the third or fourth root. Keep as many leaves as possible on the stump and you will be rewarded with a greater abundance of offshoots. Always slip the sterile knife or shears down between the stem and the leaves and then cut transversely to save as many leaves as possible. Be sure to anchor the cutting firmly in its new lodging. Tie them up and tie them down! There is no time for mistakes in July.

Thrips are much less of a problem in July as the rain tends to wash them away and doubtless there is an abundance of other lush fodder for them elsewhere in our yards. They can reappear in a prolonged patch of dryness, so if you need to think of watering in July it may be dry enough to worry about thrips. A prophylactic spraying for thrips in July will also put a damper on scale crawlers. If a second spraying with soap follows the first by seven to 10 days, the population of mites will be scotched as well.

# Upcoming Speakers

**July**—Mark Margolis—Catasetums  
**August**-Glen Decker-Paphiopedilums

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. Location TBD.  
Chairperson: Needed
  
5. **Dec ?, 2015** Annual meeting/Holiday Party. Our regular December meeting to be held here  
Chairperson: TBD

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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## 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

## 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.

### Renewals

Individual	\$20.00 yr.
Couples	\$30.00 yr.
Jr. Membership	\$ 5.00 yr.

### New Members

Individual	\$25.00 yr.
Couples	\$35.00 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

**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](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, July 9, 7:30 PM**

## **Boca Raton Orchid Society**

Safe Schools Institute -Don Estridge Middle School

1790 NW Spanish River Blvd, Boca Raton, FL.

**Monday, July 13, 7:30 PM**

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

Christ Lutheran Church Parish Hall

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

**Tuesday, July 14, 7:30 PM**

## **Deerfield Beach Orchid Society**

Woman's Club of Deerfield Beach

911 E. Hillsboro Blvd, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

**Wednesday, July 8, 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>Debbie Dicks 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)