



Tampa Bay Orchid Society

newsletter

July, 2008

President's Message

Thank you for electing me to the position of President of the Tampa Bay Orchid Society. Who would have thought the orchid I received, as a gift would result in this opportunity? I've always enjoyed gardening and "digging in the dirt" and never had a desire to grow orchids. Then one day I was given a small dendrobium, and it flourished. Everyone knows "the rest of the story." I'm still working on the names-even in my collection-and I'm hoping you will help me with that.



There will be some "newer" members helping me this year. Jane Corbett is our new Membership Chairman, and Pimpa Hoontrakul will publicize our meetings and activities. Jeanne Dyer, a relatively new member will be our 2nd Vice President and Program Chair, and she will bring many interesting speakers to us. I'm a new member as well with much to learn and will be leaning heavily on the new 1st Vice President, Dory Gallagher. Carole Bennett will be taking the minutes for us this year as Secretary. Jim Brunton will keep our books straight, as the new Treasurer and Jo Anne Hartzler and Jeanne Dyer will jointly publish the newsletter. I believe the chairmen of the other committees will remain the same, and I'm grateful for their continued support.

This month our speaker will be Brian Monk of [Blu Llama Orchids](#) who will speak to us on orchid photography. Please bring your cameras, as he will be offering tips on taking that perfect picture of your collection. Next month Dr. Martin Motes will be our speaker, and I know everyone will want to make sure they attend that meeting as well. We need your help to continue to bring these fine speakers to you. Club dues are due now, so please bring your checkbook to this next meeting.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting.

Kathy Cox

New Leadership

In appreciation for two years of service as President of our Society, Tom Wolfe was presented with two prized orchids at our installation dinner. As we say farewell to Tom, we welcome Kathy Cox as our new president. Tom's humor was appreciated at last month's meeting as he gave each of the newly elected officers a welcoming & useful (?) gift.

Tom was all smiles moving into the Past Presidency position while sporting his lovely new orchids. Even so, we know he'll always be around to support our newly installed officers.

Thank you Tom!



Garden Pests



Snails and Slugs? Fungus or rot? Scale and Mealybugs? If none of these plant problems ever affect any of your plants, you either need to get more plants or you need to be writing this article.

At some time or another, most of us have experienced the agony of seeing our beautiful plants attacked by some type of pest or disease. Before we put on our gas masks and start pumping out the toxins, we often can use products around the home that are not only safer for our plants but also for us.



One of these great products is an oil spray which you can either make or buy. One of my favorites is Neem oil spray that is made from the Neem tree. It is great for scale, aphids and mealybugs which are tiny sucking insects that may look like cottony masses or small hard dots usually on the underside of leaves. The scale will leave little dark circles and make an orchid look wrinkly because scale will suck out the leaves' liquid. A similar product to Neem oil is Sunspray or Ultra-fine that is mixed with water and controls whiteflies and their eggs as well as 17 other pests. One word of caution is that neither of these should be used in full sun as the leaves may burn.

Use a simple solution of 1 part each of alcohol and 409 plus 3

parts water with several drops of dishwashing liquid for a mild scrub that when used with a toothbrush can get into those cracks and crevices on an orchid where harmful insects might hide. It will also leave the plant neat and clean to help avoid other potential problems. Another option is mixing 1 tsp cooking oil and liquid dishwashing soap in a quart of water. Shake well and spray the plant being sure to wet all surfaces as an ongoing preventative and/or treatment for soft-bodied insects.

For fungus or black rot on orchids (especially in the rainy season, cut off the infected part until you see only green, cleaning your tools between cuts or using new razor blades each time as to not infect good tissue. Sprinkle the cut area with cinnamon which will dry the cut and help it heal and is a natural fungicide. Most black mushy rot on orchids is from a fungus that will spread easily among other orchids if not treated quickly.

Two of my favorite products for snails and slugs are Sluggo and diatomaceous earth or oyster shells. Sluggo is a commercial product of small pellets that snails and/or slugs will eat and cease eating and then die within a few days.

The physiological effect gives immediate protection to plants even though the slugs and snails may remain in the area for a few days. According to the manufacturer, it is safe around wildlife, pets and children. Another option is diatomaceous earth comprised of hard shells silica which causes abrasive cuts into the insect's cuticle. Another option is to sprinkle oyster shells in your pots and the fine particles will add to the pH of the soil at the same time providing a barrier to snails and slugs. Some Paphiopedilum orchids love the benefits of oyster shell.



Calendar

July 17, 2008

Brian Monk, Blu Llama Orchids

Bring your camera

DUES ARE DUE

August 21, 2008

Dr. Martin Motes, Vandas and allied genera

September 18, 2008

TBA

October 16, 2008

Francisco Miranda, Brazilian Orchids

October 17-19

AOS Fall Meeting, Longwood

Gardens, Kennett Square, PA

October 24-26

11th International Slipper Symposium

Altamonte Springs Holiday Inn

Keeping your plant areas free of fungi and viruses can be aided with the use of a broad range disinfectant and algicide such as Physan 20. The literature on Physan 20 indicates that it is an EPA approved concentrate with germicidal agents that pose no human or environmental risk when it is used at recommended levels according to instructions. Spraying your pots, tools and plant areas with this or a similar preventative disinfectant can help avoid a host of problems.

Although these are the products that I use to avoid heavy pesticides, everyone's growing conditions are unique so I am not endorsing any particular product. You might experiment with your plants and some of the non-toxic products you may already have to see what works for you and your orchids. Happy growing!

Jo Anne Hartzman



Award Presentations

LaMar Mitchell who was the previous year's winner of the **Mary A. Rice Award** presented **Gary Krotz** with the award for the 2007-2008 year. Gary was voted by the membership as *The Most Outstanding Member of the Year*.

Gary was in charge of hospitality, planning each meeting's refreshments, often making them himself. He also organized the hospitality area with refreshments during our annual show. As Community Involvement chair, he organized collecting food donations for the needy during the holidays in the name of our society. Most recently, he helped coordinate our Pogonia study with the University of Florida which will be noted as the first documented discovery of one of our native orchids in Hillsborough County since 1986.

Gary helps with displays, the website, publicity, raffle and wherever asked. Congratulations Gary for a job well done and an award well deserved!



The Mary Ann Mandell Award was established in 2005 in memory of Mary Ann Mandell, one of our devoted members who created the society's first website. Mary Ann spent countless hours studying the process of creating our website

before orchid society websites were even in vogue. She thoroughly enjoyed putting the website together and maintaining it for us while being a delight to work with. With her family's help, we have been able to preserve her memory with an annual award in her name. Passed from member to member year to year, the award is presented to the member (other than the website chair) who has made the greatest contribution to the website throughout the year.

Mary Ann's daughter, Julia Cole, had hoped to be able to present the award this year to the winner

but at the last minute could not attend. In her stead, she asked Jo Anne Hartzler to present it. Together with Anne Boldrick, also one of the original members on the website committee with Mary Ann, they presented the Mary Ann Mandell award painting to **Jeanne Martin and Jim Brunton** who agreed mid year to help with the website. They have maintained and updated and have come up with some creative ideas. They were clearly the deserving winners of the Mary Ann Mandell Award. Congratulations!

Jo Anne Hartzman



NEWSLETTER LOGO /TBOS NAMESAKE - FLORIDA BUTTERFLY ORCHID

The newsletter logo on page 1 is *Encyclia tampensis*. This is a Florida native orchid which blooms in June and July. It grows on a wide variety of trees including live oak, red maple and bald cypress. It is abundant in the central and southern counties especially along waterways. Up to 45 blooms can be seen on a 30 inch slender stem.

NEW LEADERS INDUCTED by Jo Anne Hartzman



Top: Kathy and Rod Cox

Bottom: Jim Brunton & Tom Smith

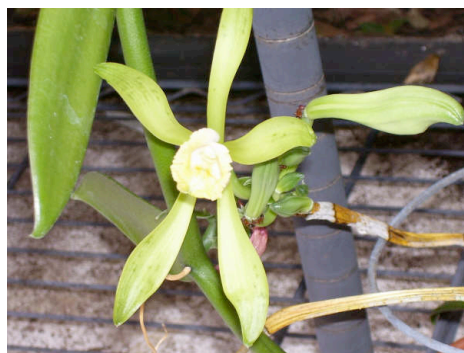
Tom Smith passed the checkbook (and crockpot) to Jim Brunton as our new leaders for the 2007-2008 year were inducted at our annual dinner in June. Kathy Cox who helped nearly every day with our recent show and helped with many of our displays throughout the year was installed as our new President. Dory Gallagher will serve as First Vice President and head up our displays at other society shows and the fair. Jeanne Dyer will serve as 2nd Vice President organizing all of our programs for the upcoming year. Jim Brunton who worked on our website last year and helped with guest

correspondence will be our new Treasurer replacing Tom Smith while Jeanne Martin takes on the website. Carole Bennett who filled in recently as our secretary was installed as full time secretary for the upcoming year.

Directors whose terms continue are Anne Boldrick and Bill Thoms. Anne McGrath who has always been an asset at our shows and anywhere needed will serve as director for the 2008-2011 term.

This is YOUR newsletter. Please submit articles and digital images by the first week of each month for inclusion into the newsletter. Send to rjdyer@mac.com.

WHAT'S BLOOMING?



If you have a vanilla orchid that has never bloomed, give it a good look right now.. Throughout the orchid community, this year's Vanilla orchids are producing an abundance of flowers as this orchid has found just the right conditions. Look for what might appear to be side shoots of leaves that are actually buds forming. Why not try to see if you can get them pollinated to set fruit into a vanilla bean?

Look quickly as each bloom lasts only a day!



STANHOPEA DISPLAYED AT JUNE TBOS MEETING

This gorgeous Stanhopea was shown at the last meeting by Barry Reese. He said it had not bloomed for 6 years. Enjoy the great flowers while you can. Barry says they last only 72 hours.

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