

The Tampa Bay Orchid Society Newsletter

Season's
Greetings

ORCHID PRESS

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Jo Anne Hartzler, Editor



This month's Meeting is December 18

Program:

Holiday Party

Doors Open at 6:30 with Dinner at 7:00 PM



Bill Thoms program – Nov. 20, 2008

By Carole Bennett

Bill began the program with a very visual way to demonstrate that for optimum growth we need to fertilize on a regular basis. Fertilizing “now and then” causes sporadic growth with back bulbs dying as fast as new shoots develop, so plants resemble **inchworms**. We must fertilize “**weakly weekly**”. Plants fertilized this way will develop multiple leads and spread like a **starfish**.

Only spray when it is cool, especially when using an oil based product. Use the mildest chemical first. Keep your growing area clean to prevent disease..

Get a copy of “**Orchid Pests and Diseases**” from AOS. It is an excellent source and only costs \$12

He recommends **Neem Oil** for fungus or insects and suggests avoiding systemics. Common things like **rubbing alcohol, hydrogen peroxide** and **cinnamon** will cure various ills. Boric acid kills roaches and crickets.

Bill brought samples of diseased plants and spent time to diagnose ills of plants that were brought to the meeting.

For more specific information contact Bill Thoms and purchase his four information sheets for \$2.00.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Season's Greetings! As we approach the end of another year, I think it is appropriate that we take the time to look back on our last year as a Society, and also to look forward to what we would like to make of the New Year. We, our entire Society, are the only ones who can decide our future. This past year has seen us through another very impressive, successful annual show, with Jo Anne Hartzler as Chair and all of you working together to ensure that we had the best

show in the area. We should look forward to another stellar show with Patty Cartwright at the helm, and throw all of our support behind her as volunteers and concerned Society members, to see that we once again are very proud of our efforts.

We had to move our meeting place this year, and thanks to some of the members who scouted out facilities, we found a good location, even if only temporary. We need to continue to look for a suitable meeting place for later next summer. Thanks to Jeanne Dyer who spent a lot of time and effort looking into the Carrollwood Cultural Center, but unfortunately that has not panned out. They really do not have the space or amenities to accommodate us and are also rather expensive. We just have to put on our thinking caps and come up with other ideas.

We held a profitable auction in May of this year and a good time was had by all, with the always entertaining Bill Thoms as auctioneer. Those of you who were at last month's meeting can attest to his ability to hold interest and educate. It was one of the most enjoyable presentations I have seen in a long time. For this coming year, you have voted to have the auction on a weekend day and make it more of a public event in the hopes of bringing in more funds. Auctions always require coordination and cooperation of the whole Society. We welcome your suggestions and offers of assistance as we take on this project in a different time space. We already have some unique ideas to make this a really special fund raiser. Of course, publicity and word of mouth will be key. Pimpa has publicity covered, so the word of mouth is up to you.

There was a great field trip in October, and I am sure Jo Anne would appreciate your suggestions and input for future adventures.

We have needed to undergo some reorganization of our officers and board this fiscal year, and appreciate the understanding of the membership and support of the transition. Change is not always easy, but often necessary. We are also in the very time consuming, sometimes difficult task of reviewing and revising the by-laws. All of us on the committee have a new appreciation for those who have taken on this task in the past.

As you are all aware, this month is our Christmas party. The doors will open at 6:30 PM or sooner and help with setting the area up and clean up will be appreciated. The dinner will begin at 7:00 PM as will all of our meetings from here on in. Gary Krotz and Susan Ogle always do an amazing job of organizing this feast. Meats will be provided by the Society, and you are all asked to bring accompanying side dishes, desserts and all that is needed to round out the festive event. If you forgot last month, please remember to bring in canned goods or non-perishable food items for Metropolitan Ministries as our Community Service for these two months.

The Executive Committee want to wish you and yours the very best of holiday seasons and a healthy and prosperous New Year! Dory Gallagher



Treasurer's Report By Jim Brunton



November Revenues: \$175.31

November Expenses: \$772.60

Net Loss: \$597.29

Checking Account Balance: \$2,730.10

HOSPITALITY



This will be our Holiday Party, so bring in your favorite side dish. Susan and I will bring in the turkey and pork, plus we are working on some funky sides since we have a captive audience.

Don't forget to bring in your flowering orchid for the centerpiece on your table. That way your fellow orchidists can go ooh and ahh while they dine on the culinary delights.

Thank you and Happy Holidays,



from
Susan Ogle and Gary Krotz



November Bloom Table



Compiled by Carole Bennett

Name of Plant & comments	Plant Owner
Species	
Ceratostylis rubra Unusual plant with small red blooms	Anne Boldrick
Cattleya Intermedia	Scott & Jean Baggett
Epidendrum porpax	Anne Boldrick

Well grown miniature on a plaque with numerous blooms. The plaque is horizontal so the tree fern holds more moisture.	
Brassovola Nodosa – Well grown plant	Crystal Sicotte
Onc. ascendens – Well grown plant with terete leaves. Three large sprays of dark yellow blooms	Barry Reece
Hybrids	
Odm. pictoniense x Oda. Pacific Siren – lovely mauve blooms	Jim Van Kolberg
Onc. Butterfly (sanderæ x papilio) – Well grown plant with  large bloom	Stan Pierce?
Phaoclanthæ Kryptonite “Ursula” Plant had six spikes with  dark maroon flowers	W. L. Cook
Dendrobium unknown hybrid. Jim said that this very healthy plant was the third time it has bloomed since April. Wow 	Jim van Kolberg
Ascodenda Tubtim Velvet x Vanda Charles Goodfellow  Large pink blooms that were flat.	Avril Wick
Vasco. Thai Sky ‘Meechai’ had very dark blue blooms	Avril Wick
Phalenopsis Soap Gold – Well grown plant with many leaves	Jim van Kolberg
Blc Golden Tang (Wakiki Gold x BI Richard Mueler) – numerous yellow blooms without the pink spots like many  flowers of this cross.	Anne Boldrick
Lc. Wim Wax (C. Chocolate Drop x Lc Cherry Swisse) 	Paul Mitchell
Blc Fred Steward x Mem. Crispin Rosales	Avril Wick

Bc. Punakea (Mai Kai x ?) Plant had numerous intense blue blooms	Anne Boldrick
Blc. Krulls Lemonade: x Willette Wong x Goldenzelle	Gary Krotz & JoAnne Hartzler
Lc. Shellie Compton ‘Touch of Class’ = Lc Stephen Oliver x Gold Fairy) had several large white blossoms with purple lips	Robin Saunders
Pot. Love Chat : Pot Chotoyant x Lc Love Knot had dark purple blossoms	Robin Saunders
Paphiopedalum Angela – small plant with white, pink spotted blossom	Carole Bennett
<p>Paph. Asteroid ‘Jamboree’ x Wellconabe ‘Big Nugget – white bloom with many small maroon spots on a small plant</p> 	Carole Bennett
<p>Paph (Paph Wossner’s Yellow ‘Dr. Jack Sparks’ x Paph Armeniacum ‘Golden Bella’ had short stem with greenish</p>  <p>white blossom with pink spots</p>	Carole Bennett
<p>Paph Sugar Suite (Paph emersonii x niveum) small plant with short stem. Flower was all white then it opened; not pouch shaped lip is yellow.</p> <p>-----</p>  <p>Member’s Choice Award to Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann grown by JoAnne Hartzler & Gary Krotz. The well grown plant was in a large planter and had at least eight bloom spikes.</p> <p>(Photos by Jim Tear)</p>	<p>Carole Bennett</p> <p>-----</p>  

Community Involvement



Hi: everyone, this will be our last food drive of 2008 for Metropolitan Ministries so please bring in your non-perishable foods. They were very grateful for our contributions in November.

Thank you. Gary



TBOS Minutes November 20, 2008

Recorded by Carole Bennett, Secretary

Dory Gallagher, President, called the meeting to order at 7:28 P.M. The minutes from the October, 2008 meeting published in the November Newsletter were corrected. The Program presenter was Michael Sinn, not Michael Simm.

Membership: Jane Corbett reported that 41 members and 6 guests signed in this evening.

Treasurer: Jim Brunton reported that we had \$1258.69 in receipts and disbursements of \$3222.65 for a new loss of \$1963.96

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AOS - Patty Cartwright canvassed the society and found that only about 1/3 of us were AOS members. AOS will give \$5 to TBOS for each member. AOS has a great website including culture tips. They give a 10% discount on books and free admission to the AOS Headquarters to AOS members. The AOS magazine is very good with excellent photos and articles.

Florida West Coast Orchid Society: Bob McKinney – Next month they are holding their holiday meeting so there is no speaker. The Tampa Orchid Club is going on a field trip.

Sunshine: Jeanelle Hires – No cards were sent. Jeanelle moved that we do not accept the resignation of Susan and Gary from the Hospitality Committee and that we keep the money still in the budget. Motion was carried.

Distribution and Exchange: Corrine Arnold This month's 45 plants are from Tropic-One Ritter orchids. They are having a sale starting this Saturday and continuing for 1 week

Plant Sales: Jose and Carolyn Lamas – There are lots of nice plants for sale.

Hospitality: Gary Krotz Thanked the membership for their support.

Correspondence: Jeanie Martin sent notes to new members last month.

Library: Robin Saunders There is a new book on Moth Orchids available.

Newsletter: Jo Anne Hartzler received a lot of positive emails about the newsletter.

Publicity: Pimpa Hoontrakul got some nice publicity in "In the Field" magazine about how our society continues to grow.

Community Service: Gary Krotz reported that it is time to bring in things for the Metropolitan Ministries.

Displays: Dory Gallagher reported that we had an invitation to do a table top display at the Sarasota Show in January. Jan 2 would be the set up day. Patty reminded us that there is "Quid pro quo". If we don't help at theirs, they might not participate in our show. Patty moved that we do participate.

Website: Jeanie Martin stated that the website is up to date.

There were **no reports from Education, Orchid Digest, Yearbook, Historian or Field Trip Committees.**

Unfinished BUSINESS

TBOS Show: Jo Anne Hartzler held the initial organizational meeting for the show and attendees divided the responsibilities. The show is March 13-15 with March 12 set-up.

New Business

The By Laws committee will meet this week and up-date them. Patty nominated Carole Bennett as an additional member.

We are going to give Jytosna Sharma \$100 to help with the Pogonia project.

We need a new home for the trailer. None were offered by the membership.

A suggestion was made to move our meeting date up to 7:00 so we could get out earlier. The motion was made by Patty Cartwright and carried by the membership.

A motion was made and passed to move the Orchid Auction to the weekend so we could get better participation. It was suggested that we have a Donation Box to help defray the cost of the food. The motion was passed. Patty Cartwright brought the Society lap top and had Orchid Wiz on it to demonstrate its use. Members had been offered a great deal if they ordered the program now.

After Business Meeting:

The plant raffle was held and refreshments were enjoyed. Many members had brought in food this evening.

Program – Bill Thoms gave a talk on preventative care of orchids. A brief set of notes is separate. Bill had four sheets of information available for \$2.00.

Bloom Table: Patty Cartwright and Nancy Losgar discussed the 22 plants that had been brought by members.

The meeting ended about 10:00

Submitted by Carole Bennett=====



(Dory Gallagher will provide TBOS display info later.)

Back To School Education Corner



December in Your Orchid Collection

By Dr. Martin Motes

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. Some 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 15-515 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 Phalaenantha 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!

Keep those vandas, phalaenopsis and hard cane dendrobiums as warm as you can. Merry Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza!

Tasks for December

1. Water judiciously and well
2. Protect cold sensitive genera
3. Provide extra potassium and magnesium
4. Repot flowered out plants- be sure they are secure
5. Buy holidays presents for all your orchid friends- suggestions: *Fla. Orchid Growing Month by Month* (The acclaimed Florida specific guide to great growing) \$22.50 post paid and signed or *Orchid Territory* (The hilarious best-selling novel on the Florida orchid scene) \$17.50 post paid and signed. Or December special both for \$30.00! Checks or money orders to Redland Press 25000 Farmlife Rd., Redland, Florida 33031. Phone 305 247-4398 or vandas@mindspring.com.

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JIM ROBERTS, OWNER



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