

President, Roy Krueger, 1st Vice, Carole Douglas, 2nd Vice, Evelyn Terry,
Recording Sec. Mercedes Kratz, Corresponding Sec. Lucille Negin
Treasurer, David Hewitt

Website--manateeorchidsociety.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT November 2011

Our next meeting will be November 8, early this month. Our speaker will be Shelton Thorne of American Travel Group. Shelton regularly conducts tours to Costa Rica and Panama, His tours combine opportunities to see orchids in their natural habitat as well as enjoy a delightful tropical tour. Several of our members have already traveled with Shelton. Be sure to be there.

Since our speaker does not sell plants, we will again auction off several of the plants we recently acquired. Last time we auctioned off four plants. This month we will auction off four to six plants depending on what is blooming. These plants make great additions to your collection or will be wonderful holiday gifts. Make your shopping easy - buy a plant for a friend.

Our annual holiday party will be hosted by Maryanne Hazen. Date will be our December meeting night. More details next month. Thanks Maryanne for offering to be our host again.

We are out of raffle plants. If we are going to have a monthly raffle, we need someone to help us find some raffle plants.

Last month we had a beautiful show table of plants brought in by our members. Unfortunately, we didn't have anyone's attention when we tried to discuss the plant table. This month we will go back to our regular schedule of business meeting first, then break. Our speaker will present the program after break and then we will display the plant table. Please bring your plants in, and please be attentive when our members discuss their plants.

At our last meeting, your board decided to stock a few supplies for member purchase. We will keep a stock of Sta-lite potting medium, 13-13-13 time release fertilizer, and Potassium Nitrate. More above-

All will be available in small quantities and all will be priced below what you would pay at a retail outlet. We have decided to do this as a convenience to our members. If there are other items that you would like us to stock, please contact me or another board member.

We've lived through the shock of our first real cold snap. Now is the time to prepare your plants for winter. Give them an insecticide drench to kill any critters that have taken up occupancy before you move them and your new friends inside for the winter. If you keep them outside, prepare your growing area with protection. Slow or stop fertilizing. Reduce water as the days grow shorter because your plants are less active in their growth. Stop watering *Catasetums* and related genera as well as deciduous dendrobiums. *Catasetums* will rot and dendrobiums will produce kikis next spring in stead of flowers. Separate them and turn them on their side to remind yourself not to water them. Good growing Roy

An Orchid By Any Other Name An Asparaagus?

Orchids can be elegant, gaudy, lurid, and even downright bizarre. But while the unusual flowers of these species have excited plant lovers for centuries. They have also made it difficult for evolutionary biologists to place them in their plant family tree and identify their closest relatives.

But now, scientists say, studies of the DNA of orchids are revealing a host of surprises, chief among them, chief among them, that orchids actually part of the asparagus group, closer kin to these vegetables than to the other

flashier, flowering plants they had been placed with before. " They're so weird, so different from everything else" said Dr. Ken Cameron, Orchidologist at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx.

At the same time, scientists --- more on pg2

ORCHIDS WE SHOULD ALL GROW

Cattleya bowringiana

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Native to Belize, Honduras, and Guatemala, *C. bowringiana* bursts into a blaze of color just as the season turns cool. In its native habitat, *bowringiana* is found growing on rocky outcroppings and cliffs, near moving streams. It needs bright light and lots of moisture.

The bifoliate *Catt* grows to a height of about 24" with strong upright pseudobulbs. Leaves are about 8" long. Inflorescences emerge from the apex of the leaves. Sheaths emerge in mid to late summer and fill with buds in September and early October.

As many as 20 flowers up to 3" across emerge from each sheath. A mature plant can set ten or more new leads, each flower bearing. The flowers emerge in clusters, which can reach 9-12" across. Typical color form is rose/purple. Colors range from white (*alba* form- very rare) through pink to deep purple and *coerulea* forms. Often the typical color form will be dark purple and have a dark lip. *Coerulea* forms range from light pinkish blue with a dark lip to a dark purple with an even darker purple/blue lip.

This is one of the easiest *Cattleya* species to grow. It can be potted or mounted. Let it dry between watering and fertilize regularly. Grow it in bright light and warm temperatures. It can even take a few hours each day of direct sunlight. Just make sure it is morning or afternoon sun, not midday.

I grow them in my pool cage where they get almost 70% sunlight through the --more above

pool screen for about 6 hours each day, including midday sun. Others grow hanging on fence racks where they get between no direct sunlight and 2-3 hours a day. All get bright light and regular water. Most are potted in *Sta-lite* in clay pots. A few are mounted on cedar slabs or tree fern plaques. *C. Bowringiana* has received 21 AOS awards for both flower form and also culture.

Roy

Asparagus---

flashier, flowering plants they had been placed with before. " They're so weird, so different from everything else" said DR. Ken Cameron, Orchidologist at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx.

At the same time, scientists are finding that orchids, long thought to be the recent product of plant evolution, are actually quite ancient, having emerged more than 90 million years ago.

It is often easy for experts to pick out an organism's closest relatives, but sometimes, as with orchids, appearances can point in many directions and no direction at all. One problem is that orchid flowers have undergone striking evolutionary elaboration's, evolving myriad forms and devices. sometimes to entice very particular animal pollinators. in the process, elements of flower structure that may have pointed to the groups evolutionary history have been distorted or lost. one particular oddity of orchid flowers is their highly unusual reproductive structure, the normally separate array of reproductive parts having evolved to be fused together inside a typical orchid bloom.

"You look inside an orchid bloom and and ask, Where are all the parts"? Said Dr Cameron. "It doesn't look like anything else." By looking at DNA, researchers were able to free themselves from limits of vision. Comparing instead a wide variety of genes both among the orchids and --- *asparagus* on pg3

Minutes - October 11, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Roy Krueger.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved as reported in the newsletter. The treasurer reported a current check book balance of \$3,134.74.

Evelyn Terry introduced new member Bob Scott and guests Lynn Hauck and Loretta Parker. She welcomed returning member Wolf Bruckner.

The greenhouse tour on 9/24 took members to Orchid Mania, Florida Sun Coast Orchids, and Robert Palmers. Robert Palmer may have a fall sale. Roy suggested members look for his ad in the newspaper.

Roy will give a presentation on Orchids We Should All Grow at the Manatee River Orchid Society on Monday, October 17 and at the Sarasota Orchid Society on Wednesday, 11/7 at Selby Gardens. Roy suggested arriving at 6:30 p. m. for the SOS meeting.

Roy thanked Maryanne Hazen for the Club's use of her new projector.

Speaker Jim Roberts of Florida Sun Coast Orchids showed a presentation called "Summertime and the Growin' is Easy," which addressed the basics of orchid growing in Florida.

Refreshments were provided by Sylvia Harmon, Bernice Gordon, Marylou Krueger, Evelyn Terry, and Lucille Negin.

Chuck Gest won 1st and 3rd prizes, and Caroline Raimbeau 2nd prize at the plant table.

The meeting concluded with a plant raffle and was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectively submitted, Mercedes Kratz,
Secretary

asparagus

between orchids and the other flowering plants, Dr. Cameron and colleagues found that the orchids fell squarely with in the group so called "Asparagales" the group that includes Asparagus people found it hard to believe, but the asparagales is large and diverse, containing amaryllis, onions irises, daffodils, as well as agaves and yuccas.

Scientists say the evolutionary history of orchids has also been obscured by the oddities of their pollen. while the pollen of most plants is nearly indestructible, the pollen of orchids is typically extremely delicate, leaving no fossil record. "With other groups you can find a fossil and conclude that the group must be that old or older, but with orchids it's been sheer speculation.

Now, when DNA data are used to build an evolutionary tree of the plants, they show that orchids branch off fairly early, the first among the Asparagales plants, meaning that they are the oldest in that group. Orchids also branch off before the palms. There are palm fossils ---More above

October 2011 Treasurer's Report

Balance September 20, 2011 \$3134.74

Income

Dues (2) \$ 40
Raffle (Oct) 42

Total receipts 82

Expenses

Oct speaker honorarium \$100
Refreshment reimb. (J. Love) 10
Newsletter printing 19.94
19.94

Total Expenses \$129.94

Balance Oct. 20, 2011 \$ 3,086.80

DEH
10/20/11

Asparagus

90 million years old, scientists know, orchids must be at least that old. The same evolutionary trees also showed that orchids first lived on the ground and later evolved to live on other plants, as most orchids do, suggesting that life in the trees, a less exploited habitat, might have helped orchids diversify into so many species. But while DNA's provided these answers, researchers may have had clues to the history of the orchids if they had not focused so much on the showy and high profile orchid species.

One curious aspect of the Asparagales that their seeds are encased by a distinctive black, crusty coat because most orchids have very thin seed coats, the Asparagales seemed unlikely to be close relatives. Yet D. Cameron found that some of the more obscure orchids have exactly the same sort of seed. He noted that *Newiedia*, an unusual Bornean orchid, *Lady Slippers* and vanilla, also have these seeds. In fact the tiny black specks seen in some vanilla ice cream, are, in fact, those crusty black seeds that show the clear alliance of the orchids with asparagus, meaning that the answer to a long-standing scientific rule has long been right on the tip of peoples tongues all along.

By Carol Kaesukyoan

Get well Greeting

Our member Charles Clifton fell ill on Tuesday and had open heart surgery Wednesday October 19 at Manatee memorial Hospital. The doctors say he is doing really well because of his Healthy lifestyle. Keep up the good work Charles