

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

Website--[manateeorchidsociety.com](http://manateeorchidsociety.com)

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is finally upon us. The days are getting longer and warmer. Your plants should be showing fresh signs of active growth- new root tips and new shoots. Spring bloomers are in sheath or even blooming. Spring blooming Cattleyas like *auriantica*, *skinnerii*, and *intermedia* are at the peak of their blooming cycle. Nobile type dendrobiums are starting to bloom, and many Vandas and *Ascocendas* are spiking.

In his Florida Orchid Growing- Month by Month, Martin Motes tells us that the virtuosity among us have begun our annual spitting and repotting duties. Repotting is a good time to add slow release fertilizer to each pot. Our next meeting will feature a program on these topics to help you get started if you are lagging behind. If you have plants that you would like help splitting or potting, bring them in and we'll give you some help and advice. Bring pots mix and tags with you. Our nominating committee will also present a slate of candidates who will stand for election at our May meeting. All interested candidates, please throw your name in the hat. Call or email me to let us know you are interested.

In addition to the annual meeting in May, we will also have a plant sale. Bring in the plants you split so you can share a part of them with your fellow members. Ten percent of the sale proceeds will go to our treasury.

June will be our annual banquet. We'll take suggestions for the site at our April meeting.

Show season is over for the year in our area, but we still have the Redlands festival to look forward to in mid May down in Homestead. Make your plans to attend this exciting outdoor event featuring over 60 vendors and three days of instructional classes.

Our culture classes are in full swing each Saturday at Roger Millers. These classes are an excellent way to pick up new growing tips and share ideas. Thanks to Roger for offering them again.

Thanks also to Michael Sinn of Canaima Orchids for his interesting presentation on the Tokyo Orchid Show at our March meeting.

See you at the April meeting. Good growing.

Roy

#### Cultural notes for April 2011

I believe that winter has finally bought a ticket to the north pole. This pleases me and I know it makes you happy as well. Let's get on with the warmer season. Already we must start to think of how we are going to keep our plants cool in the summer's heat. You can spritz them in the heat of the day, this will raise the humidity and keep them from transpiring excessively. Air movement is important to discourage insects and disease. You can employ a fan to help in this area as well as providing a cooling effect. If you have a greenhouse or other enclosed structure, I recommend 'Cool Pads'. Enclosed as it is with cool pads, no matter how hot it is outside I have never seen the temperature above eighty seven degrees in my greenhouse. If you have other ideas for cooling, please pass them along. We need all the help we can get.

This is April the driest month of the year. you should check your watering schedule. New growth is beginning, and more water is needed with the unusually low humidity this month your plants will dry very quickly at this time.

Check your *Catasetums*, *Cycnoches*, *Mormodes*, *Cloesias*, and any others that hibernate for the winter. They should be starting new growth now. This group has a rather short growing season so don't delay, get them repotted, and as soon as they get roots in the pot give them good light, good water, and good fertilizer. they will reward you for it.

ORCHIDS WE SHOULD ALL GROW  
BRASSAVOLA NODOSA

I looked over some old notes the other day and realized that I have been writing this column for almost two years now, but somehow have neglected the first orchid we should all have to be true collectors. Many of us start our interest in orchids when we receive one as a gift. Often we supplement our collection at the home improvement store or the grocery store with a showy in bloom plant with no name.

When we decide that it's time to become a collector, the first plant on our list should be *Brassavola nodosa*.

*Nodosa* is an easy plant to grow well. Given modest care it can become a showy specimen in a few years time. Set it in the sun, under a shady tree, water it religiously, forget to water it, fertilize it or not; it will forgive you and survive. Mount it on cork, stick it in a pot-clay or plastic, plant it in bark, coconut husks, sphagnum moss or charcoal. Once I even propped a *nodosa* up in a basket of cypress mulch. It grew and flowered.

*B. nodosa* is a compact growing sympodial unifoliate plant with slender pseudobulbs. It produces star shaped blooms with large almost triangular shaped lips. Flowers are always white, sometimes with a light greenish cast and heavily scented at night. Blooms are smallish, usually 2" or so, but larger varieties are occasionally found.

The scent is so enticing that *nodosa* is often called "Lady of the Night." It is sometimes referred to as citrus or gardenia scented.

Peak blooming season is in early fall although repeat blooming occurs throughout the year.

*B. nodosa* is found from Mexico to Venezuela at low to mid level elevations. A particularly fine strain of plants comes from Belize. *B. nodosa* is an exceptional breeding parent and has been crossed with just about everything. Its large flat lip is usually dominant. Most hybrids are easy plants to grow and bloom profusely. A few of the more popular crosses are *B. Little Stars*. A small white that looks almost like a mini *nodosa*, and *BC Maikai* which is usually pink with a striking speckled lip.

Roy

## Question Box

Question -- I've heard that cinnamon is a good fungicide. Would you explain, and can you give me a recipe. I would like a natural fungicide

Answer -- Cinnamon, the table spice has anti-fungal and antibacterial properties: The has long been known by chemical scientists. It has recently been used on orchids. I find our table quality ground cinnamon is the finest chemical I have ever used on fungal problems of *Phalaenopsis*.

Time will tell how well it works on other genera when the fungus spots show, or there is leaf damage, or a need to cut a leaf, or whatever, cover it with a couple of shakes of ground cinnamon. Its amazing how quickly the spots dry up, the cuts seal over, and especially how quickly and completely those juicy obnoxious blisters are dried up and contained before they spread. Use the cinnamon where needed and most problems disappear. Have the affected parts moist enough for the cinnamon to stick; then keep the leaves dry for about a week. Powder the ends of cut leaves while the cut is fresh and moist to prevent infection. Crown rot in *Phalaenopsis* seems to clear up completely I have used cinnamon on cattleyas with good results, it does seem to clear and dry fungus on these plants as well.

Bruce Ide AOS Information Service

Question -- I grow my plants outside under the trees. They grow quite well, but they don't bloom.

What can I do to remedy this?

Answer -- The major reason for lack of flowers in outside plants is lack of light or too much high Nitrogen fertilizer. I suspect that your plants are a lush dark green color. Bring them into more light and reduce the amount of high Nitrogen fertilizer.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by president Roy Krueger.

There were no corrections to the minutes or comments on the treasurers report as printed in the newsletter. The treasurer reported a current balance of \$2,478.06.

There was a request to change the newsletter header to reflect the meeting start time of 7:00 p.m. and to add back the society's address.

The nominating committee chaired by Lucite Engine will present a slate of officers at the April meeting. The slate will be voted on at the May meeting and new officers installed at the June banquet. The banquet committee will present its recommendations at the April meeting.

Eleven Terry introduced visitors Tony Briggs and Joan Siesta. Roy welcomed them to the meeting.

Upcoming orchid shows will be in Coral Gables, Port St. Lucia, and Jacksonville. The Redlines show in May will offer some good buys on plants. More information on group tours to the Singapore Orchid Show on November 10, 2011 will be provided as it becomes available.

Robert Palmer will hold a one day sale on Saturday March 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at his greenhouse in East Bradenton.

Repotting orchids will be the theme of the April meeting; in May there will be a plant sale by society members. Roy introduced Michael Sinn of Caniama Orchids whose SLC Circle of Life cattleya received an AOS award at the 2010 Tokyo Orchid Show. He showed his slide presentation of the Show held in the Tokyo Dome. This was the 21st year for the 10 day show in which 59 countries participated. Approximately 450,000 attended the 2011 show.

Roger Millers first class, Saturday, March 5, on growing orchids had 10 students. Classes will begin at 9:30 a.m.. A charge of \$10.00 for all of the classes will go to the society.

Refreshments were provided by Roger Miller, Nancy Bailey, Yvonne Shaw, and Shirley Schrott. Plant table winners were: Barry Reese for his Schomburgkia undalata and Pat Lantz for his Dendrobium aggregatum.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Mercedes Kratz, Secretary

#### March 2011 MOS Treasurer's Report

Balance as of Feb.20,2011	\$42478.46
Income	
March raffle	\$113.-
Miller class registration ( 5)	50.-
Mature plant sales ( 1)	8.-
Dues ( 1)	20.-
Total receipts	\$191.-

#### Expenses

February speaker honorarium	\$100.-
Newsletter printing & mailing	42.93
Total Expenses	\$142.93

balance March 20, 2011 \$2,526.53

Roy is going to give a power point presentation on orchids to the Manatee River Garden Club at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 14th. The address is 3120 First Avenue West. Please have members planning to attend RSVP to me at 776-5788. Thanks, Chris O'grady

We wish Walter Gruen a quick recovery from his most recent physical difficulties.

#### White Phalaenopsis

In your Florida garden I wait  
For the patient care captive orchids take  
But deep within me there is a dream  
Of moth white flowers by a jungle stream,

Hot still air slashed by swift bird's flight,  
A million fireflies with their stars alight,  
Chorusing calls from life in the grass  
as soft night winds so fleetingly pass.

I bend over water that mirrors dark land  
While I nod my thanks to him whose hand  
Fashioned in beauty my vestments white  
and named me Queen of theTropic Night.

When one day my blossoms unfold  
Their wings of silver and throat of gold  
'Twill be neither your skill on lavish care  
But the jungle dream that is shining there.

Varina Vaughn