

**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

The blazing heat of summer is upon us. The trick is to keep your plants cool. Temperatures over 90 will often cause many genuses to shut down and go into reverse hibernation. Mist or spray frequently and be careful of direct sunlight. By the end of August it will be time to begin reducing nitrogen fertilizer and hard drying your outdoor plants to harden them for the cool days of fall. August is a balancing act of keeping them fed and wet to cool them off, but not so wet that they retain surface water overnight and breed fungus and rot. What to do??? Water heavily one day, mist midday the next. Be diligent and watch them daily for and signs of rot or fungus.

As we start our new year, remember, it's time to pay the bills. Your dues support all of the MOS activities. In fact, about 1/3 of your annual dues go to producing and distributing this newsletter each month. If you haven't paid yet, please do it now. Send your check to the Post Office box or bring it to the August meeting. This month our meeting will feature our own Barry Reese presenting a program on the World Orchid Conference 17. in Dijon, France in 2005. Barry had the good fortune of attending and photographing the festivities. Don't miss it. Since we will not have an outside selling speaker, bring in your plants and supplies for sale. Remember, 10% off the gross sales support the club.

Our thanks to long time member and past treasurer, Warren Artley for putting us in contact with a friend moving to Denver who had a collection of over 100 plants that needed a new home. The MOS purchased them for a nominal price. We will offer them for sale, or perhaps host an auction to raise money for the club. Most of the plants are Cattleya hybrids. All are in clay pots, 4-8" and most have hangers. Ken Anderson is hosting the plants until we can offer them for sale. Roger Miller has proclaimed this purchase, "the deal of the century". More details later.

We are working with several area growers to host a greenhouse tour later this summer or early fall. We hope to schedule it for a Saturday in late September or early October. Michael Sinn of Canaima Orchids has already agreed to be one of the hosts. More Roy above-----

More roy---Our plan is to carpool to each of the growers.

See you all next meeting. Good growing.
Roy

Cultural Notes for August 2011

There is little difference culturally between July and August. Go back and read Julys notes, and see below. Have you ever wondered why the best growers - those who snag the cultural ribbons at shows and lumber home under a load of silver - always hide their hands behind their backs? the reason is quite clear. They all have green thumbs.

Now thumbs have been extremely prominent through out history. If you were a Christian martyr under Nero, a thumb pointed down could be cause for great concern. And where would Little Jack Homer be without his.

Of course, if your thumbs are lily white or even black and blue from repotting a bench full of meagerly blooming plants, all is not lost. the intuitive grower is made not born. From experimenting over the years such growers have developed an 'eye' for deducing the needs of their plants. Orchid culture is a matter of creating a proper balance of the five elements, light, air, water, humidity, and temperature, these elements are not Druidic secrets. They just require thought, practice, and patience. All in all, if you don't have a green thumb at this time, try a little tender loving care mixed with a lot of careful observation and experimenting . Then one day you might say with consummate carelessness, oh I just hit 'em with the hose now again.

(excerpts) Richard Peterson 1974
Roger

Dues Are Delinquent

Due to the cost of printing and mailing the Newsletter, this will be your last installment until your dues are paid.

Sorry, Roger

In David's absense Carole Douglas will receive dues.

ORCHIDS WE SHOULD ALL GROW

CATTLEYA PURPURATA

There is perhaps no other orchid in the world with enough different named varieties to have an entire show of its own. Even *Cattleya mossiae* and *trianae*, with over 100 named varieties each, do not have the varieties and diverse color selection of *Cattleya purpurata*. With 4 FCC awards and over 138 total AOS awards, this species is one of the most highly recognized and awarded orchids of all time.

After a century of being misclassified as a *Laliera* because it has 8 pollinia, *purpurata* was finally reclassified a *Cattleya* after extensive DNA examination. It is one of 6 large Cats from Brazil that were *Lalieras* for all of the 20th century. Imagine a *Cattleya* with a 6-8" flowers growing on a pseudobulb that can reach 20" from base to tip of leaf. They were classified with Mexican *Lalieras* which are often no larger than your fist. They were so classified only because they have 8 pollinia unlike other large Cats which have only 4 pollinia.

C purpurata often has 4-5 large 6-8" spectacular flowers. Many are large whites with brilliantly colored lips, royal purple to pink. In some varieties, the reds spread to the petals and sepals (particularly in the *flammea* varieties) . There are also several *coerulea* and light lavender albescence varieties that produce some of the finest *Cattleya* hybrids to be found.

There are many *purpurata* hybrids. It passes on its narrow petals and brilliant lip tendencies. Perhaps the most famous of all is LC *Canhamiana*, a cross of *purpurata* and *C. mossiae*. The original cross of *mossiae coerulea* and *purpurata werkhauerii* produced the spectacular *Canhamiana 'Azure Sky'*. In the 1940's and 50's, semi alba varieties of *purpurata* were the spring wedding flower of choice. Tens of thousands were grown for the wedding trade. More Roy----Above

More Roy-- *Cattleya purpurata* is native to the southern Brazilian state of Santa Catarina where it grows from sea level to several thousand feet. It grows warm and bright like most of the large sized Cats. Growth usually begins in mid to late summer and matures in mid winter when sheaths form.

After a rest of several weeks, buds begin to form and the species blooms in late spring. After it flowers, give the plant a rest and dry period of several weeks to a month. Do not stop watering completely or the pseudobulbs will shrivel.

Question Box

Question

I have a number of orchids that I have had hanging under trees for several years. This year the ants have found the orchids and they swarm in the potting medium by the thousands. How do I get rid of these critters.

Answer

Orchids belong to a large, diverse and exotic plant family. Due to their epiphytic nature, many species are grown in a loose organic medium. The mixture sometimes attract ants and roaches. These insects may establish nests inside containers and are capable of carrying scale, other insects and disease bearing organisms to the potting medium and consequently to the plants. To rid the medium of unwanted ants etc, remove the orchid from the pot and discard the medium. Use a hose to wash the roots to remove any eggs that might remain there. Spray the plant, roots and all with your favorite insecticide. Repot in new medium that is clean and free of insects. During these procedures keep the plant off the ground to avoid some other infection. Sticky tape on the hangers will keep them out.

Courtesy of the Lee County
Extension Service

MOS Minutes - July 12, 2011

The meeting was called to order by president Roy Krueger at 7:05 P.M. Roy introduced Roger Miller who spoke on the basics of orchid growing. Roger circulated and reviewed the various materials available for potting orchids, and discussed the best use of different types of orchid pots, including clay, plastic and net pots. He spoke of the importance of anchoring plants firmly in their pots and as an example circulated his home-made pot clips made of number 12 galvanized wire. He showed different types of materials used for mounting orchids and the hangers for hanging them including large wooden skewers he uses as a way to anchor plants in pots or baskets with openings. Finally he described the type of tools used for clipping and repotting plants.

After refreshments, Roy conducted the business portion of the meeting. The minutes of the June meeting were approved as read; there were no corrections to the treasurer's report.

Roy reminded members that dues for the new year are due and should be sent to the treasurer, David Hewitt. Upcoming speakers will include Barry Reese who will talk about a World Orchid Conference held in France, and a speaker who will review orchid pests and diseases. A tour of several area orchid growers will be scheduled in the fall.

Plants for the raffle table were provided by the Club.

Guests included past president Wolf Bruckner and Rose Stansny, and returning member Alan Haack.

New members were Caroline Raimbeau and Joan Sietsma.

Refreshments were provided by Kathy Brown, Mary Harte, Joyce Mellon and Warren Artley.

Plant table winners were Olivia Gruen, Sharon Kincaid, and Carole Douglas.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectively submitted, Mercedes Kratz,
Secretary

July 2011 Treasurers Report

Balance as of June 20, 2011 \$ 2,711.55

Income

Dues (12)	\$295.-
Fertilizer sales (4)	36.-
Raffle	43.-
Book sale	10.-
Refreshment donation	10.-
Plant commissions	3.-
Total receipts	\$ 397.-

Expenses

Plant purchase from L Koenig	\$100.
Web domain Reg.	71.40
Newsletter printing & mailing	40.24
Total Expenses	\$ 211.64

Balance July 20, 2011 \$ 2,896.91

Insects and Insecticides

Ordinary insecticide sprays often fail to reach scale and other insects hiding under the sheathing tissue covering orchid pseudobulbs and some leaf axils. Here, unseen to us, insects continue to do their damage. One can continually strip away the dry covering, a rather time consuming job, but of course it should be removed at potting time anyway. There is an easy way. A blast from your hose will dislodge the tissue making it easy to remove. [I have used some very strong blasts without any damage to the plant. Just be careful of tiny new growths.] ed. Perhaps the easiest way to get rid of the unseen enemy is to include a wetting agent in your spray material. The spray will penetrate and wet the dry covering, killing the insects. Wetting agents can be purchased at most garden shops. You can also use ordinary liquid detergent such as used for dishes in the kitchen.

There is another method of insect control that appears to be very effective. A systemic insecticide is watered into the pot. the plant takes it up, the insect chews and dies. It is proper to note. All insecticides are poisonous and make no distinction between insects and people.