

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

I'm sitting here writing these "pearls of wisdom" stuffed with turkey and pie while I enjoy the brilliant blooms of my labiata type Cattleyas. 'Tis the season to enjoy them. All of our hard work from all spring and summer now blossom forth in a range of brilliant colors. There are pink ones, yellow ones, deep dark reds, splash petals and a white or two mixed in.

To top off that brilliant display, I also have the now extinct in the wild, *Cattleya deckerii* in bloom with two heads of bright pink blossoms. And, Ready to bust forth any day now are the exotic *Angraecum sesquipedale* and the bizarre *Dendrobium spectabile* with its twisted and distorted petals and sepals.

The big question is what will still be blooming during show season. Remember, we are doing the Sarasota show on January 7-8, 2012. We will need all of the plants we can gather, so start prepping

them now. Sharon Kinkaid has volunteered to serve as show chair. This year's theme is "Orchids by the Sea" so collect your shells and driftwood as well as those blooming plants.

Our annual Holiday Party will be hosted again this year by Maryanne and Ray Hazen on our regular meeting night, December 13th. Bring your favorite holiday goodies to share. Details are located in the newsletter and on our website. Be sure to call Maryanne with your RSVP. Our thanks to Maryanne and Ray for their hospitality.

Cooler nights are approaching, so take precautions with your more tender plants. Protect them not only from the cold, but the harsh winds that usually accompany the cold front. Water less frequently and earlier in the day. Cut back almost completely on the deciduous dendrobiums and *Catasetum* types. Reduce fertilizer accordingly. When we aren't active we don't need to eat as much. Ditto for your plants.

See you at the party.
Roy

Thought

You can make more friends in a month by being interested in them than in ten years by trying to get them interested in you.

Charles Allen
Roads to Radiant Living

Cultural Notes December 2011

Well December is really our first bonified winter month. There is very little doubt that if you haven't provided shelter for your plants by now, you're plants are living on borrowed time. December can provide some of our most severe weather. Hurry! Do it yesterday.

When the temperature is low one can cut back on the water. The plants aren't transpiring much, growth has slowed a lot, and there is much less light time for making food. (I almost stop fertilizing now, until March, when growth starts again.) When you do water your plants it's important to water early enough in the day to allow the foliage to dry by nightfall. Molds and bacteria can thrive in this cooler environment, bringing on bouts of crown rot, botrytis, and other bad guys. If you haven't done a thorough fungiciding of your entire growing area there are problems ahead for your plants and flowers. Hop to it before it's too late.

Lets talk about night temperatures. Most of the orchids we grow here in the Tampa Bay area prefer a night temperature of not less than 55 degrees, however most will tolerate 45 without damage, anything below this is highly suspect.

Water now and your nobile *Dendrobiums* will produce keikis instead of blooms. Water *Catasetums* after they shed their leaves and they will rot. (This is no joke) You're *Vandas* must stay warm and watered or they will loose their lower leaves. The *Phalaenopsis* must stay warm and watered, they never completely stop growing.

I'll look for you at the Christmas party. Roger

ORCHIDS WE SHOULD GROW LC ??????

What do you get when you cross a small yellow *Laliera cowerii* with a small yellow *Cattleya auriantica*? The answer is a small yellow LC *Stella Crocker* with narrow petals and sepals, and a small lip.

What do you get when you cross LC *Stella Crocker* with an LC *Stephen Oliver Fouraker* (mostly large whites with bright pink or purple lips)? We don't know because the cross wasn't registered.

What do you get when you cross that unregistered cross with *C. Hawaiian Wedding Song* (a large white with a yellow throat)?

One would probably expect something white or maybe yellow based on the family tree. The bloom would probably be medium to large with a fairly full petal and a somewhat less full lateral sepal based on the family tree NOT SO!!!!

The progeny is a huge full pink with a darker pinkish lip and a bit of yellow in the throat. Petals and sepals are full and rounded and the bloom measures a full 6 1/2" spread. If that wasn't good enough, the first two sheaths put out two and one flowers, and the next burst forth with three more, and there are still more to come.

You need to go way back to the grandparents of *Stephen Fouraker* to find the color traits. Lost for generations, were the soft pinks of *C. Mossiae* and *C Warscewiczii*.

The plant pictured above was purchased at auction three years ago when not in bloom at the annual Sarasota Auction. This fall was the first time it bloomed and it was truly spectacular.

The plant grows with other fall blooming unifoliate *Cattleyas*. It receives bright sunlight and copious amounts of water and fertilizer when in active growth. It is in a 7" pot and potted in *Aliflor* (an artificial non-organic form of media). You need to go way back to the grandparents of *Stephen Fouraker* to find the color traits. Lost for generations, were the soft pinks of *C. Mossiae* and *C Warscewiczii*.

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Pseudobulbs are 8-10" long and club shaped, plump in the upper sections and narrow at the base. The single leaf is 10-12" long. Because the plant tends to be top heavy, it needs to be supported by staking or with a ring.

Sheaths form in summer, then rest. They finally fill in mid-autumn and bloom in November.

Roy

Milestones in Orchid History

Exerpts from The ninth Annual FWCOS Show

The first *Cattleya* plants were discovered by accident. In 1818 a Mr. Swainsom was collecting mosses and lichens in Brazil. he gathered some thick leaved plants to tie up some specimens he was shipping back to England, Wm. *Cattleya*, an eminent horticulturist recognized that these plants were something unusual and he rescued them. The first *Cattleya* bloomed six years later in 1824 it was recognized as being entirely new to science and was named *Cattleya* after its happy possessor.

in 1852 a Dr. Harris, an English surgeon, was the first to see how to hybridize an orchid and to suggest it to John Dominy, an orchid grower for Vietch and Sons, together they performed the first "hand pollination" and the first hybrid orchid flowered. In the following 20 years Dominy had produced some 25 hybrids. Not until 1871 did anyone else register a hybrid. By 1890 there were some 200 hybrids registered Now there are thousands.

Dr. Lewis Knudson of Cornell University in 1922 is credited with the discovery of a controlled, standardized method of planting orchid seed after pollination. He planted seeds in glass flasks, in a gelled sugar, nutrient, mixture which was carefully proportioned and sterilized. He left them to grow from eight months to a year each acting as a tiny glass house protecting the tiny plants from all harm, and providing an optimum environment until they were well developed. This method has revolutionized orchid growing. It has allowed orchid nurseries to put orchids on a par with other greenhouse plants. Orchids are now available to anyone who has a desire own them

FWCOS 1957

MOS Minutes - November 8, 2011

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

Minutes of the October meeting were approved as reported in the newsletter. The treasurer reported a current check book balance of \$3,086.00.

A sign-up sheet was available for members who planned to attend the Society's pot luck holiday party on Tuesday, December 13th at Maryanne Hazen's home in Parrish. Maryanne handed out invitations with driving directions to members. Information and driving directions will be posted on the MOS Website.

The MOS Board will purchase orchid potting mix and fertilizer for sale to members. Stalite, a shale potting medium, will be \$8.00 and dynamite, a slow release fertilizer, will be \$10.00.

Sharon Kinkaid will be show chairman for the MOS exhibit at the Sarasota Orchid Show January, 7-8, 2012. Set up will be Friday, January 6th. The theme of the show will be Orchids by the Sea. Forty to fifty plants will be

Evelyn Terry introduced three guests: Dona Thorne, RoseAnn Fischer and Cecilia Keller.

Lucille Negrin reported that Charles Clifton is recovering nicely from recent heart surgery.

Sheldon Thorne of American Travel described his planned trip to San Jose, Costa Rica in March, 2012. He showed pictures of the areas the trip will visit including the rain forest, ornamental gardens, and the San Jose Orchid Show. Special rates are available to Society members who book the trip in March, which will coincide with the 17th anniversary of American Travel's visit to Costa Rica.

Refreshments were provided by Dorothy Hyde, Lucille Negrin, Caroline Raimbeau, Sharon Kinkaid, and Evelyn Terry.

Members described their orchids on the plant table. First prize was Carole Douglas's Zygosisia Cynosure 'Blue Bird'; Second Prize was Caroline Raimbeau's Dgmra. Mem. Jay Yamada 'Kauiai', and third prize to Roger Miller for his Zygopedilum Pauwela Pixie

Five mature plants from a collection acquired by the Society were auctioned off to members. The meeting concluded with a plant raffle and was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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Respectively submitted, Mercedes Kratz,
Secretary

MOS Treasurers Report November 2011

Balance as of October 20, 2011 \$ 3,086.80

Income

Plant auction	\$110
Stalite & fert. Sale	13
Raffle	60
Total receipts	\$ 183

Expenses

None reported

Check Book balance Nov. 20, 2011 \$ 3,269.80

AOS Corner - December

With the holidays approaching I thought I could offer some suggestions for gifts for the orchid enthusiast in your lives.

· A gift of membership in the American Orchid Society is a great gift for anyone who may not already be a member, or a renewal of their membership. To order a gift membership, contact AOS Headquarters 561-404-2050.

· Access to orchids plus (the web-based AOS awards program also known as AQPlus) . For non-members, please call Pam at 561-404-2050 or send AOS a check to Pam's attention and AOS can set up a subscription to AQPlus off-line.

· The 2012 AOS Calendar is now available and is available with a 10% discount AOS Members with free shipping. The new calendar is a 14-month calendar and loaded with fabulous orchid photographs.

· Many of the AOS published books are also located in the Store on the AOS website and would make a great gift.

· Support your local orchid vendors or those in the *Orchid Source Directory*. Many of these vendors support local societies' fundraising efforts, it is a great time to support their in return. In addition, any of them have holiday specials.

Lynn Fuller, Chair AOS Affiliated
Societies Committee