

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

From the President

March brings about the change of seasons. Winter is behind us and it is time to spring forward. Among other things, that means getting our plants ready for the new season and getting our society ready for the next year. We need you to participate. At our March meeting, we will form a nominating committee to select a slate of officer candidates to propose to the society at our April meeting. You can serve by volunteering to serve on the nominating committee or better yet, offering your services as an officer of the society.

March is also time to start splitting and repotting your plants. They should be starting to show new growth of roots and foliage. You want to repot before the new roots are long enough to break off. Plants that have outgrown their pots should be moved to larger pots or split into two or more new plants. Remember, when splitting plants; always try to keep divisions of four or five pseudobulbs with at least one new lead. Soak your plants well before splitting or repotting and soak the new potting mix before planting. Treat all cuts with fungicide or cinnamon. After repotting, keep the plant in a shady cool spot and keep dry for a few days to let the plant get settled in the mix. Fertilize with a slow release pellet for steady nourishment every time you water. This is in addition to regular fertilization. Remember that when you split plants you can share with a friend or bring a division in for the raffle table.

Our March speaker >>>> more on page 2

Cultural Notes for March 2011

March is an important month for Orchid growers. The weather has warmed to the extent that the chance of a freeze is rather remote. New growth is beginning to emerge, and we must get ready for a new growing season.

The first thing is to remove your winter's shelter. Then, clean away winter's debris. Remove all the dead leaves, spilled potting material, and anything else that doesn't belong on the floor or [ground]. Pull your winter's weeds [ugh]. Once this is done spray the floor area with a bleach and detergent solution. Next fungicide the entire growing area. The warmth and rising humidity will breed mold, fungus, and mildew.

Now that we're sanitary, it's time to look for insects. Spring will bring out aphids, mealy bugs, scale, mites, thrips, and anything else that can find it's way to your place. These guys will breed quickly, and do a lot of damage if you aren't vigilant. We must not forget the slugs and snails. they can eat a Phalaenopsis seedling in one night. Test your sprayer and make sure you have your favorite pesticide ready. You will need them soon.

Next is fertilizer, It's time to start your program. as you know we fertilize weekly weakly. Use A good water soluble fertilizer one quarter to half the strength recommended on the container. You may think this is a rather small amount, but orchids are quite frugal. In nature they only get whatever washes down from the rain and what blows in with the wind.

Roger

>>>>from page 1 will be Michael Sinn of Canaima Orchids. Michael is one of our local growers who specialize in Cattleya species. He has received numerous AOS awards for his plants. He is also a student judge for the American orchid Society. Michael will speak on the 2010 Tokyo Orchid Show. He is currently attending the 2011 show but will not have time to complete his new program before he speaks to us. Be sure to attend.

April will be a program on splitting plants for those of you who are slow to get to your potting and splitting chores. We will show different potting media as well as a few choice mounting options.

Orchids We Should Grow

BLC Sanyung Ruby

Anyone who grows Cattleyas looks at big red Catts and wonders, "Can I grow them?" The grand daddy of red Catts is probably BLC Chia Lin, a deep garnet red with dusty overcoat.

Flowers can be larger than 6" across. Alas, they're hard to bloom and don't last long when they do bloom.

When BLC Chia Lin was crossed with BLC Waianae Coast the result was a beautiful rich garnet red with brilliant golden yellow eyes. Flowers were 6" + natural spread. Sanyung Ruby was not an instant hit though. Registered in September, 1995 by Wei-Chung Hung, it did not receive an AOS award until 2001 when it received an AM/AOS with a score of 83.

Surprisingly, that is the only award it has ever received.

Sanyung Ruby is a willing bloomer, often blooming in late winter and again in summer. Winter flowers can last three or more weeks. Summer flowers last about a week less, but are often larger due to longer days, warmer temperatures and heavier fertilization. It is one of the easiest reds to grow. Flowers are deep garnet in color with petals, sepals >>>> continue above

and lip all uniform in color. Petals are uniformly ruffled and full, slightly longer than wide. Two rich golden yellow eyes dominate the similarly ruffled lip. Sepals are full and smooth, almost 3" long and approaching ¾" broad.

Several popular grex are in cultivation including 'Kuang Lung', the awarded variety, and New Beauty.

Looking at the six generation image tree finds only a few species used in breeding. Almost every entry is a second or third tier hybrid, many not commonly grown.

Grow this plant in medium to high light and intermediate to warm temperature. Once new roots and growth appear, fertilize weekly. Water heavily, then let get almost dry before rewatering. I use a time release fertilizer in spring. If applied in March, 270 day time release will be depleted by the end of October in Florida's heat and heavy summer rains.

I grow this plant in a combination of 75% Sta-lite and 25% medium charcoal in a clay pot or basket so it will drain and dry when grown outside even in the summer rains.

Finally, I need to mention that the mature flower emits an intense fragrance very similar to cinnamon or cloves. Walk by it in the dark and you don't know if it's a flower or a pumpkin pie baking.

If Folk only knew

How much planning
Hours of potting
Weeks of coaxing
Pounds of fertilizer
Bushels of tree fern
gallons of water and
The world of back ache
It takes to produce
An orchid bloom
they would gladly pay the price.

(It's probably better that we don't know)

MOS Minutes – February 8, 2011

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 treasurer's report.

Upcoming orchid shows are in Boca Raton, February 12 -13 and the Redlands in May. Several groups are organizing trips to the Singapore Orchid Show on November 10, 2011. Detailed information will follow as it becomes available.

Bare root cattleyas are available from Roy. Michael Sinn will give a presentation on the 2010 Tokyo Orchid Show at the March meeting.

Roger Miller's class on growing orchids will start on Saturday March fifth from 9:30 to 11:30 at his home in Bradenton. The class content will include the five essentials for growing orchids and orchid nomenclature. The class will be tailored to meet the needs of attendees.

Megan Wilkinson of Topical 1 Ritter Orchids presented "Orchids from Birth to Bloom" which chronicled the development of orchids from seed to bloom.

Raffle plants were provided by the grower and the club.

Paphs, large cymbidiums and other orchids were reviewed at the plant table.

Refreshments were provided by Bill Miller, Dorothy Hyde, Janice Yencarelli, and Carole Douglas.

Volunteers for the Nominating Committee in March are needed to propose new officers for the coming year.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mercedes Kratz

MOS February 2011 Treasurer's Report

Balance as of January 23, 2011	\$ 2,926.01
Income	
Garden Club donation thru R. Miller	\$ 25.-
February raffle	45.-
Mature plant sales (1)	20.-
Total receipt	\$ 90.
Expenses	
Hall donation Nov. thru June	\$200.-
January speaker honorarium	150.-
AOS dues thru R. Miller Aug '10 - '11	65.-
Raffle plant purchase	80.-
Newsletter printing & mailing	42.55
Total Expenses	\$537.55
Check Book balance February 20, 2011	\$ 2,478.46

What About Orchids

The orchid is the largest family of flowering plants in nature. From the thimble sized *Mysticidium carrum* to the very tall *Arundina grammifolium*. Orchids take amazingly different shapes, forms and growth habits. Some orchids produce blooms that are no bigger than a mosquito. Some orchid flowers are as large as a salad plate your familiar corsage orchid is just one of the many attractive types that can be grown in this area given a proper environment.

Orchids divided into four groups according to growth habit. Most are classified as epiphytes or air plants which grow on trees. The lithophytes cling to rocks. The saprophytes are those that grow in leaf mold on the forest floor. Finally there are the terrestrials that grow in the ground much as the lillies in the field. Most of the orchids that we grow in cultivation are epiphytes.

Rogers Orchid Class

Starts March 5 at 9:30A E-mail me at roger-miller23@verizon.net. I'll make a place for you. You'll be a better grower for it.