

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

As our plants burst forth with new growth and roots each spring, our society closes its yearly cycle. We begin that conclusion this month with our annual meeting and election. This month we will bid farewell to this year's slate of officers. I thank each of you for your efforts. We have participated in shows, had a few parties, and enjoyed some interesting programs. We look back on providing new and exciting plants for our members. We leave our society solvent and headed in a proper direction.

Most of these officers volunteered to stand for election again, if in different offices. The proposed slate of officers is: Carole Douglas First Vice President- Programs, Evelyn Terry Second Vice president- Membership, David Hewitt- Treasurer, Mercedes Kratz- Recording Secretary, Lucille Negin- Corresponding Secretary, Roy Krueger- President.

We will also accept nominations from the floor. There will also be a vote on a change to the By-laws. The proposed change alters Article 2 Section 13 to allow prorated dues for new members on a semiannual basis.

Our banquet committee has made arrangements for our annual banquet in June at the Bradenton Yacht Club. Cost is \$24 per person. Make your reservations as soon as possible.

The May meeting will also feature a continuation of our classes on potting and splitting plants. This month we will deflask a flask of Cattleya crosses. For those of you who have----
----More Roy on page three

Cultural Notes for May 2011

It's May, and we are really into summer at this writing. Very soon now we'll begin to feel the real heat of the summer season.

By now I hope you have gotten all your spring repotting completed. You can still safely repot your Paphs, Phals, and another genera that have not yet started new roots, but be about it soon now. You are living on the raw edge of toooo late.

If you are using Nutri-cote or Osmocote, now is a good time to give everything in your collection a treatment.

If you haven't started your regular fertilizer program, get started now. Most plants have roots out now that are just thirsting for a little extra nutrient to help them grow strong and healthy. **Don't dally now!**

I know you must get tired of hearing me dwell on the vermin in your growing area. I know they are just trying to make a living. The problem is that they are doing it at your expense. This is the time when aphids, mealybugs, thrips, spider mites, slugs, snails, and the one that I generally consider the worst, ants are now becoming active.

In this warm weather some of these guys can breed a new generation every ten days. You must be ever vigilant, keep your favorite insecticide at the ready

Lastly, Watch the sun. It's moving more northerly every day. You may be in the shade today, but you could be in the sun tomorrow. Don't let your plants get burned. Roger

MOS Minutes – April 4, 2011

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

There were no corrections to the minutes or comments on the treasurer's report.

Roy expressed condolences to Evelyn Terry on the loss of her mother.

Evelyn Terry introduced guest Roni Fagan.

The Board recommended a change to the by-laws as follows: Persons NEWLY joining the society, after the beginning of the fiscal year, may do so on a semiannual pro-rated basis. The change to the by-laws will be voted on at the May meeting.

The nominating committee reviewed the slate of officers for the coming year: President, Roy Krueger; First V.P., Carole Douglas; Second V.P. and Membership Evelyn Terry; Corresponding Secretary, Lucille Negin; Recording Secretary, Mercedes Kratz. The slate of officers will be voted on at the May meeting and officers installed at the June banquet. The banquet committee recommended the installation dinner be held at the Bradenton Yacht Club. The cost will be \$24.00 per person and payment and choice of entrée must be received by June 1. For additional information contact Dorothy Hyde, committee chair.

Roy will be the featured speaker at the Manatee River Garden Club on Thursday, April 12. Chris O'Grady, Program Chair for the Garden Club, distributed a flyer about the Garden Club's Tour on Saturday, May 7 beginning at 10:00 Am.. Anyone interested in additional information about the tour or requesting tickets should contact Chris.

Roy demonstrated how to divide and split plants. Refreshments were provided by Paul Gross, Lucille Negin, Olivia Gruen, Janet Orr, Maryanne Hazen and Linda Jennings.

Barry Reese described the plants on the plant and announced the winning entries. First place, Chuck Gest for his Encyclia Cordigera; Second place Sharon Kincaid for her Zygo Advance, Australia 'Hof'; Third Place Mercedes Kratz for her BLC Yen Corona 'Green Gengii'.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M..
Respectfully submitted, Mercedes Kratz, Secretary

MOS April 2011 Treasurer's Report

Balance as of March 20,2011 \$ 2,526.53

Income

April raffle	\$50.-
Miller class registration (1)	10.-
Mature plant sales (1)	25.-
Orchid history form sale	2.-
Sale commissions	10.-
Total receipts	\$ 97.-

Expenses

Newsletter printing & mailing	63.17
P O Box rental May to Oct	30.-
Total Expenses	93.17

Balance April 20, 2011 \$2,530.36

-----Roy from pg 1 never seen seedling plants come out of the flask and into a community pot, this will be a real experience. Don't miss it. We will also have a member plant swap and sale, so bring in the extra plants you have split and potted up.

A final note on upcoming shows. May 6-8 is the Tampa Orchid Society show and May 13-15 is the Redlands Festival in Homestead.

Good growing,
Roy

The menu we discussed with the Bradenton Yacht Club is as follows:
Salad
Rolls
choice of Chicken Entree, Pork Loin, or Tilapia
Vegetable
Starch
Dessert
Coffee/ Tea & Decaf coffee
Price \$24.00 includes tax and gratuity
We will also have a cash bar.

It should be a great meal.

ORCHIDS WE SHOULD ALL GROW ASCOCENTRUM CURVIFOLIUM

If you want to grow something in the Vanda family, but don't have a great deal of space for cascading roots and tall monopodial stem, try a species of *Ascocentrum*.

This month we feature *Ascocentrum curvifolium*. There are about a dozen species of *Ascocentrum* scattered throughout Asia from the foothills of the Himalayas to the tropics of Borneo.

They are all monopodial epiphytes. Stems are short and leaves grow in two alternating rows of recurved narrowly strap shaped. Most *curvifolium* types branch easily at the base and form short bushy plants, no more than 10-12" high. They can often be wider than high.

Like most *Ascocentrum*, *curvifolium* has small brightly colored flowers. Individual flowers can be up to 5/8" across. Inflorescences are shorter than the leaves and are densely clustered. Colors can range from yellow through orange to scarlet.

Curvifolium is found in the forests of Thailand through Laos and Myanmar growing under the canopy of trees.

In Florida, grow *Ascocentrum curvifolium* in pots or baskets. They can also be grown on bark slabs. Grow warm to intermediate with fairly bright light. New growth appears shortly after flowers fade in late May or early June. Water heavily and fertilize regularly when in active growth.

I grow mine in baskets with the Vandas. I hide them in the center of the rack so they receive a little less light than the more robust and heavier rooted Vandas. I water daily and use a mix of potassium nitrate and magnesium sulfate fertilizer weekly. One tbs each per gallon of water.

Like all vandacious plants, water heavily to soak the root covering, and then come back 10 minutes later and rewater. Roots should be a dark green when you are finished.

Ascocentrum is most commonly crossed with Vanda. *Ascocenda* is a cross of Vanda and *Ascocentrum*. *Ascocentrum* gives the hybrids bright color and smaller plant size than Vandas. Roy

Attention

May is the end of our MOS year. We start a new year at the banquet in June. Dues become delinquent at that time.

David is now accepting dues. Get yours in early to avoid the rush at the banquet. Send your check to

David Hewitt
11550 57th St. Cir. E
Parrish, Fl. 34219

Keep MOS strong and we'll have a great year.

OH Yes

David would not be overly stressed if you sent your banquet reservation at the same time.

The food order can come a bit later.

Lightning, A Lesson In

Central and South Florida are known as the lightning capitol of the country, because of the regions' high humidity and almost daily thunder storms, which result in two or three times the number of lightning strikes per square mile, than can be found in any other state.

for all it's destructive power, lightning has it's good side too. All that spectacular display of light and sound may create ozone which protects us from the harmful rays of the sun and contributes to the creation of fixed nitrogen in the air, which falls to the earth as rain. Did you ever notice how well your outside plants grow even if you don't fertilize? Mother nature provides nitrogen that we don't get from city or pump water. If you can use rain water, do so, It will help fertilize your plants and reduce salts build up in your pots.

Nostalgia

Alas! June 2004, We have lost our meeting place. The Art League can no longer accommodate us. We'll be moving to the Courtyard.