

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

October signals the end of the rainy season. September was the cloudiest, dampest month of the year historically. Not so this year. You need to keep thinking about the changes in the weather. I'm still using a regular fertilizer program. Balanced fertilizer one week, then a potassium nitrate mix with quantanary ammonium chloride the next. The ammonium chloride is a fungicide. The nights are still damp and rot is a problem for those of you growing outside. If you don't have a specific product to use, try pool algicide. It isn't sold for plant use, but in small quantities, it will do the trick. One tbs. /gallon, used every week or ten days is often enough. Use it until the weather turns dry.

Your Brassias and fall Cattleyas should be spiking or even starting to bloom. Vandas are setting their final flowering for the year. This is the season we've worked so hard for all summer. Show season is starting and if we've done our homework properly, we should be rewarded with a profusion of color and variety.

I was wandering through the back 40 the other day and was surprised, or maybe shocked to find two Vanda crosses that have been in rehab for about two years suddenly burst out in spike. Yes, all the pampering was worth it. By the meeting I hope to be able to tell you what they are.

Right next to them, on the same hanging rack is one of my Vanda tessellatas. It's an annual

It's species that is supposed to bloom only once, and on a very regular schedule. Oh well, I'll happily take the second round of blooms ( and write it off to luck, not skill) .

Oct. 1-3 is a busy weekend. The Florida West Coast Orchid Society show is at the Minnreg Center, in Largo. The same weekend, Fender Flora and Venice Orchids ( Bob Hague) are having an open house in Venice.

The Tampa Orchid Club is having an outdoor show Oct. 22-24 at the USF Botanical Garden in Tampa. Outdoor shows are a little different. If you've never been to one, try to go.

We're finalizing plans for a fall potting party and picnic. Ken and Barbara Andersen have agreed to be our hosts. I'm working with a local grower to secure plants. More details later.

If you haven't responded to the AOS letter requesting changes you would like to see, please remember to do so. Send me a copy of your suggestions, or at least a note that you have responded. The AOS letter will be on the web site.

#### Cultural notes for October 2010

We've run out of space. See the website for October's notes. Roger

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

ORCHIDS WE SHOULD ALL GROW  
BC MRS. J. LEEMANN

Before I say we should all grow this beauty, I need to ask a few questions.

Are you up to a challenge?

Do you have the patience to grow difficult plants?

Do you enjoy beautiful big scented Cattis."

Are you a little bit nuts?

Four yes answers and this one is for you. It's an old cross (made in 1902) of two very special and somewhat difficult and temperamental parents. B. digbyana, the frilly lipped, citrus scented, finicky growing light green Brassovola is one parent. C. dowiana, the standard for spectacular large yellow cattis, comes complete with subtle purple veining, a stunning lip, glowing round sepals, and a reputation for being just slightly easier to raise than teenagers.

Though it's and old cross, it has never been awarded. Probable reason, it has never agreed to bloom on judging day! The pictured flowers opened two days after the most recent Tampa judging, and collapsed the weekend before our last meeting. So, other than a few pictures, it's a phantom.

The flower is almost 7" in span and over 5" tall. Two spectacular blooms opened simultaneously. Color was a lovely light yellow green with a darker yellow lip. The center of the lip fused the darker purple veining of dowiana on a darker pink base. The entire lip was ruffled like digbyana but not fringed. The best of both parents came through. Scent was intense, but not citrus like B. digbyana.

Petals and sepals were elongated and light green/yellow. Each was about 3" long and almost 1" in width. The dorsal sepal (top one) was supported upright and flat.

It only took 3 years to bloom this plant. First year brought painfully slow growth as it. >>>>>

adjusted to its new growing habitat. Second year brought one new growth and a bit of a teaser, but no sheath. Finally, this spring a solid new growth emerged in early spring. A sheath unfurled in late May. Four maddening months later, two glorious blooms appeared, only to drop after about two weeks. The plant grows bright, situated on the west wall of my house under the pool screen. As such, it gets about 70% sunlight for 4-6 hours each day. It grows in a clay pot but when I repot, I'll probably put it in a basket. It likes heavy watering when in active growth, but must dry out between watering. It gets the same fertilizer that everything else gets as a base. After flowering, it should need less fertilizer over the fall and winter. Begin heavy fertilizing when new growth emerges in early spring.

### Fall Picnic and Potting Party.

One of the premiere events of our fall season is upon us. We'll meet at Ken's house Sunday October 24 about noon for a great potluck picnic meal (bring your favorite dish) and enjoy the great camaraderie we always have. We'll follow that with a visit to Ken's potting area in the vegetable garden where we'll pot the plants that Roy has found for us.

We're going to pot LC. Colin McCully x Blc. Medm Frank Main.

The plants are 8-12" tall with 4-6 pseudobulbs. Some have even bloomed already. It's a seed cross so all will vary, but the one I saw was a large pink with a darker lip and a yellow throat. The mature plant set 2-3 blossoms each 6" or so across.

Yes, I'm excited about this one.

Ken will provide the pots and medium. His address is 9503 Eire Rd. Parrish. Call for directions or be sure to be at the society meeting Tuesday the 12th.

In the *Vanilla* plantations of Madagascar and Mexico it has been noticed that flowering occurs after a dry period. By growing on the dry side during the winter months, flowering will occur in May through July in most of North America. Drier conditions at this time will also diminish the chances for fungal rot problems.

*Vanilla planifolia* will have 14-20 flowers in the leaf axils, each flower opening in succession and lasting only a day. Pollination must be done daily on open flowers. The pollen mass of *Vanilla* differs from the solid *pollinia* of other orchids, appearing as fine granules. Pollination is tricky and close observation of the column structure is necessary. You'll notice that the *rostellum* is shaped like a flap that covers the stigmatic surface. A toothpick or similar small implement may be used to fold the *rostellum* out of the way so that the anther with the pollen mass can be pressed onto the stigma. If pollination occurs, the ovary will enlarge and develop into the seed pod or "bean". It will take 8 to 9 months for the "bean" to mature. Younger plants seldom hold "beans" for that long.

### Curing the "Bean"

"Beans" must be picked as yellowing starts to occur. The simplest method of curing is one used in Madagascar. The "beans" are scalded for 20 seconds in 190 degree F water; this is known as "killing the bean". It essentially stops ripening by destroying the enzymes responsible for that process. The next step involves "sweating" and sun drying. In Madagascar the scalded beans are wrapped in woolen blankets and put into "sweating boxes", where they are kept overnight and brought out on sun racks for two hours during the heat of the day. Sweating can be done at home using a plastic container with a tight lid. Sun drying may also be done in a 120 degree F oven for two hours. This sweating and heating is repeated for seven days. The last step in curing is called "air drying", in which the beans are laid out daily to dry in the hot sun and wrapped at night to retain the heat. This step may take 3 months or more before sufficient curing is complete. The fully cured beans will be supple, oily, and aromatic.

There are several different curing processes used; experimentation will be needed to get the feel of the procedure. Two interesting sources of information are listed. We recommend the excellent *Vanilla Cookbook*, already mentioned.

### Extracting Vanilla

This is the easy part. Several recipes can be used but all involve soaking beans in vodka, brandy, or rum. A glass jar that closes tightly is needed. Use one quart of 100 proof vodka and 6 cured beans. Close the jar tightly and store in a cool, dark location for 6 to 8 weeks. Shake the bottle weekly. When the liquid becomes a dark amber color, it should be poured through a strainer or coffee filter. The beans may be reused to make another jar of extract.

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## MOS Minutes - September 14, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by president Roy Kreuger.

The minutes of the August meeting and the August treasurer's report were accepted as published in the newsletter. There was no Treasurer's report for September.

Roy mentioned several upcoming area orchid shows: Ridge Orchid Show, Lakeland September 17, 18; Florida West Coast Orchid Show, October 1-3, Gainesville October 2-3; the Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show October 22-24; Brevard County Orchid Society Show October 30-31 Melbourne, October 30-31, and the International Slipper Symposium, Tampa, November 6-7.

It was proposed and accepted that the society participate in the Sarasota Orchid Show to be held January 8-9, 2011 at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium. Several members volunteered to be on the committee.

There are plans to have a potting party sometime in October at Ken Anderson's home in Parrish. Roy will purchase the plants for potting and set a date.

For security purposes there is a need for a member to be at the gate prior to the meetings. A schedule will be prepared assigning one member each month to be at the gate at 6:30 to welcome in members, their guests, and the evening's speaker.

Now that the nights are longer and the days cooler, Roy suggested cutting back on nitrogen which produces leaves and stems. As this new growth is sensitive to cold damage. He recommended using half the amount of nitrogen used during the summer.

Evelyn Terry welcomed guest Rick Bisid to the meeting.

Roy introduced guest speaker Michelle Atkinson of the Florida Extension's Florida

the benefits of red worm composting for reducing landfill waste. Various types of composting equipment were discussed along with methods for ensuring healthy compost. The worm tea extracted from the compost is beneficial as a fertilizer for all plants including orchids.

Refreshments were provided by Christina Dawson, Becky Moreland, Evelyn Terry, Ronnie Callahan, and Olivia Gruen. Raffle plants were provided by Carole Douglas, John Collins, Marian Thomas, and Ronnie Callahan.

Show table/judging: First place, Bill Miller for his *Oncidium Dark Monarch*; Second place, Olivia Gruen for her *Oncidium Juihbao Gold*.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM  
Respectfully submitted, Mercedes Kratz

### July 2010 Treasurer's Report

|                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Balance as of July 31, 2010 | \$3,410.11 |
|-----------------------------|------------|

#### Income

|                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| August raffle (held for Sept.) |        |
| Dues receipts (4)              | 85.-   |
| Total receipts                 | \$85.- |

#### Expenses

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| News letter prep (held for Sept.) |          |
| Speaker honorarium                | \$100.00 |
| Total Expenses reported           | \$100.-  |

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Balance July 31, 2010 | \$3,395.11 |
|-----------------------|------------|

### Bus trip

This is a wonderful bus trip to Apopka, Saturday October 16, for a visit to EFG Orchids and Ritter Orchids. They are among the largest and most diversified growers in the area. The cost is only \$26. Call Carole Douglas for all the fun details 761-9486.