

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

We start the new orchid year with 55 individual and family members. Best of all, most are active members. We are always looking for new members, so if you have a friend or neighbor who grows or would like to grow orchids, bring them along for a visit.

Last month we set a record for raffle plants, I think we had 21. Thanks to everyone who brought plants in for the table. Please do it again this month. We also may have set a record for tickets sold.

Our speaker in September will be Michelle Atkinson of the University of Florida extension center. Her topic will be worms and composting. She may even personally deliver Olivia's worms. You'd know what I'm talking about if you were at the last meeting. Since she will not be showing plants, members are welcome to bring plants in for sale.

As I mentioned at the last meeting, the American Orchid Society is looking for comments for improvement from members and non-members both. I know some of you have "issues" with the AOS and the way they run the organization. Here is your chance to offer your constructive suggestions. They are also the leading and most visible spokesperson for our hobby, and do have many fine features going for them. Take a look at the web site at www.aos.com, and then check out the letter posted on our site, and fill in your comments. If you would, email a copy to me, or at least let me know that you have responded so we can track our participation. >>>>>More pg 3

Cultural Notes for September 2010\

September represents the first hint of fall. It's that time of year when the Phalaenopsis and Cymbidiums are looking for some cool nights in order to set buds.

The days are a good bit shorter in September than they were in June. It's time now to reduce the per application amount of fertilizer one provides. (Less light less fertilizer) . Remember, It's a balance thing.

This is 'Southern Spring Cleaning Month' Get rid of all off fall in your growing area. This includes any old organic matter such as dead leaves, spilled pottting material, gum wrapppers, old cogar butts, etc. You know the stuff. Once your place is squeaky clean, it's perfect for your first application of fungicide this season. Spray everything ,benches, walls, floors, ceilings, and of course your plants. This will keep the fungus at bay as fall cools the nights.

Our fertilizer program has progressed to the bloom booster stage. The fertilizer package shows three letters. N,P,K, In the bloom booster formula N is the low number P is the high number and K is the intermediate number.

It's not too early to start thinking about shelter for your plants as winter approaches Begin now to make a plan. What materials will you need? When will you have time to implement your plan? How much help will you need? What about heat for the colder nights? These and other things that come to your mind should be addressed soon. One can't be too well prepared.

Roger

ORCHIDS YOU SHOULD ALL GROW

Paphiopedilum primulinum

Several weeks ago, one of our members asked me why this series of articles had never featured a *Paphiopedilum*.

My first reaction was, "Geez, someone really reads these articles." The next reaction was, "Because I've never been able to rebloom one."

Today, I finally have four that are still alive after a full cycle. Two are on life support, and the other two are thriving, but alas, not showing any interest in reblooming. Hence, everything you read here is rumor or hearsay, because it hasn't happened in my collection.

Paph primulinum has a very small native habitat in the coastal area of northern Sumatra where it grows from sea level to 500m. Its preferred growth medium in its native habitat is humus layered on limestone. Most growers prefer a mix of fine bark or tree fern. It does not like air conditioning, so buy a fan. Low light and air movement are essential to successful growth (or so they say). Like all papas, watch your watering pattern. If they look like they need water, you're a day late.

This is an easy to grow species (rumors again) that will bloom sequentially for months on end. The blooms are yellow, yellow greenish, or yellow with apple colored overtones. Dorsal sepals are often lined with white striping. Often, the pouch is near white and the column a darker green. Occasionally, a variety with a pinkish cast on the pouch is seen. Sepals have ruffled curly presentation. Flower stems are up to 14" Blooms are 2 ½-3 ½". Grow this species in a small but deep plastic pot in intermediate temperature like most green leafed papas. Typically, the plant begins blooming in summer and will bloom for months. If you try one and are successful reblooming it, take a picture and show it to me.

Roy

More >>>> Show season is about to start. Ridge Orchid Society shows in Lakeland Saturday and Sunday September 19 and 20. October features Florida West Coast in Largo. Both are near enough to visit. We've also been invited to participate in the Sarasota show the first week in January.

Finally, for those of you who want to stray farther from home, the first annual Mexico Orchid Festival will be held in Morella, Mexico, October 1-3. Transportation will be coordinated by the Puerto Vallarta Orchid Society. For more info, contact pvorchids@gmail.com.

Roy

Would you believe

Things sure do happen fast nowadays

With so much science here.

It wasn't long ago that they said

"Give your orchids beer."

Now if it wasn't enough,

To teach our plants to drink,

They tell us now to have good thoughts,

Because our plants can think.

One has to be most cautious now,

This I can plainly see.

For they have recently found out,

That plants have ESP.

We'll have to treat them tenderly,

And see that we don't vex,

For if we do, they'll likely get

A very bad complex.

So if a plant of yours won't bloom,

Just pick it up and say,

I'm very sorry if I've offended you,

Won't you forgive me pray?

I'll just put you in the choicest spot,

And give you lots of room,

But please, oh please I beg of you,

Won't you relent and bloom?

Reprint from the orchid advertiser 1973

This Site Dedicated to Orchid Lovers Everywhere!

To most people when the term orchids is spoken they think of hot steamy jungles with oppressive humidity and constant rainfall. To a small extent they would be right but most orchids are found in areas that stay in temperatures between 50'-80'. How do you explain this when the majority of orchids are found south of the Tropic of Cancer and north of the Tropic of Capricorn?

To answer that question we must remember that all land is not flat. Mountain ranges have large areas that even in the tropics manage to keep snow and ice year round. As you come down in elevation to areas that are more temperate you encounter more and more orchids. So the answer to the dilemma here are microenvironments that exist because of elevations or the lack thereof.

When you see orchids in books that say that they are **cool growers**, they are telling you that this plant is found at high elevations, between 2500 and 3800 meters, and may get quite hot while the sun is out on a clear day but can quickly cool off as night or cloud cover approaches, sometimes as much as 25'-30'. So in a greenhouse what you would most like to mimic is that temperature change range and not particularly the exact temperatures. These plants more often than not will need more constant humidity and watering because of the effects of the paramo, which is a Colombian term that describes the phenomena of year round cloud cover that creates a fog bank at a certain elevation. This occurs because of the hot humid air from the jungles below meets the cool dry air of the snow covered mountain peaks above creating a dense ground hugging fog that never seems to dissipate. Plants that grow from these regions in cultivation must be kept extremely humid but not overly wet, and they need that day to night, or diurnal temperature change.

When you see the term '**intermediate growers**', the day to night temperature change or diurnal change is closer to 20'. These plants will be found in elevations of 1800 to 2500 meters. Here the day can be quite hot and the rainfall may also be more seasonal than in the cold climes. For this reason a rest period may be required for some species.

Warm growing plants come from elevations of 1000-1800 meters. In this clime it is possible to have either very constant conditions or seasonal ones. These seasonal changes are why we say that certain species need a rest period. The rest period is necessary in cultivation because in nature it does not rain all the time, and in many areas this is because they have a rainy or non-rainy season. Here the temperatures can get quite warm, up to 90' in the daytime, but at night the temps fall off about 15-20'.

Lastly we have **hot growing orchids** which can be found at all elevations above sea level and up to 1000 meters. Here we find plants that like to be wet year round and enjoy a high heat and humidity level. Usually these plants do not need as much of a rest period as plants from intermediate or warm conditions. Generally these plants require less of a diurnal temperature change, 10'-15' is average, and as a rule have more constant water and fertilizing requirements.

<http://www.orchidspecies.com/climate.htm>

Reminder

Our September meeting will feature Michelle Atkinson from the University of Florida Extension Center, who will speak on Worms and composting. This might be especially interesting to those who fish fresh water. Maybe even Olivia will learn something about her worms. Don't miss it.

July 2010 Treasurer's Report

Balance as of June 30, 2010	\$3,434.50
Income	
July raffle	\$11.00
Dues receipts (17)	370.0
Total receipts	\$381.00
Expenses	
News letter prep (June)	\$74.03
News letter prep (July)	31.36
Prize ribbons	10.65
Speaker honorarium	100.00
Web site registration	71.40
Domain name	17.95
Hall rental donation	100.0
Total Expenses	\$405.39
Balance July 31, 2010	\$3410.11

Question Box

My plants aren't making good strong growths and I don't see many roots. would I be keeping them too damp? I'm not home during the day , so sometimes I syringe them in the evening. I have started fertilizing them with a 10-30-20 fertilizer, hoping for stronger plants.

Answer,

The poor root systems could be one of the problems. This could be associated with too much moisture and or too much fertilizer. The weak growth that you mention is associated with low light. It appears that you have too much shade and you may be over watering and over fertilizing.

Minutes August 2010 Meeting

The Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by President Roy Krueger.

The minutes of July meeting and treasure's report were accepted as published in Newsletter.

August treasure's report deferred until September meeting.

Janet Orr introduced her mother Lenora Nelson.

Guest speaker Guillermo Rivera of South America Nature Tours took us on a wonderful and picturesque tour of Orchids from Central Ecuador with his slides of beautiful species of bromeliads and orchids which can be seen on his tours.

Roy showed us the progress of orchids he had mounted 2 months ago in a class he gave.

Discussion was held on current state of American Orchid Society. AOS is requesting positive or negative feedback from members of all orchid societies.

Roy told us of upcoming shows and Slipper symposium to be Nov 6th & 7th in Tampa.

Roy visited the Palmetto Extension Center. Michelle Atkinson holds classes on composting and making worm tea. She is to be a future speaker.

He was saddened to announce that Olivia has worms. (fishing worms)

Raffle plants were donated by Lucille, Roger, Carole, Warren, John Collins, and the Kinkajids
Thanks to all! We made \$72.

Refreshments were provided by Kristin Gause, Ken Andersen, John Collins, and Chris O'Grady.

Show table/judging: First place, Sharon & Jim Kinkaid for their Pot. Susan Fender 'Cover Girl' x Blc. Williette Wong 'The Best'.

Second Place, Bill Miller for his Mtssa Olmec 'Canno' and Third Place, Carole Douglas for her Blc Memoria Vida Lee

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm
Respectfully submitted, Carole Douglas