

# ORCHIDELIRIUM!

Newsletter of The Port St. Lucie Orchid Society  
January 2011 Volume XXIII Issue 5

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## President's message.....

Hello to all PSLOS members and friends!

Hope you all had a fabulous Christmas and Hanukkah. Those of us who spent it at home with our snuggies and socks (a new form of dress for us living in Florida) have discovered new ways of taking care of our orchids. We have been using septic tank paper to cover them. It is also known as freeze cloth or garden cloth. You can get it at Home Depot or Lowes in the plumbing dept. for 7 cents a sq ft. It takes some getting used to. We used it at the orchid room at the Botanical Gardens to protect against frost, with good success. Thanks to Master Gardener Fred Burkey for telling us about this cloth.

Special thanks to Toby, Renee, Shelley for the great job that they did at organizing our Recognition Luncheon. Seventy of us attended, and a wonderful time was had by all.

Our road trip to the Tamiami Festival on January 29<sup>th</sup> is our first activity for the New Year. We all look forward to this trip and the unusual bargains we always find.

Don't forget to get our logo on a shirt of your choice from Burns embroidery, 1970 SW Bayshore Blvd. It's your choice of color and style.

## Happy New Year

## To All!

Jessica Benford

## January Speaker!

Presenting

Fred Clarke

Of

Sun Valley Orchids in Vista, CA

Fred has been on a quest for the "Black Orchid". When he couldn't find one, he created one!

Now you can learn more about this elusive orchid, and Fred's breeding program.

For a look at one of Fred's creations, see the last page of this newsletter. This will be an exciting presentation. Plan to be there!



Our "Orchid Room" at the PSL Botanical Gardens during the recent cold snap! Thanks to our volunteers, who braved the freeze to cover our orchids!

## Coming Events

### January 2011

- 8th-9th: Sarasota Orchid Show, Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Jo Davis, (941) 586-7795 or orchidpix@comcast.net
- 14th-16th: Ft. Lauderdale OS Show, War Memorial Auditorium, 800 NE 8th St, Holiday Park. Chris Crepage, (954)563-3548, crisbil@att.net
- 22nd-23rd: Manatee River OS Show, Manatee Convention and Civic Center, 1 Haban Blvd., Palmetto. Barbara Fuhlbruck, (941)751-1599 or bavwfulbruck@tampabay.rr.com
- 29th-30th: Tamiami Orchid Festival, Dade County Fair Expo Center, 10901 Coral Way, Miami. Martin Motes, vandas@mindspring.com

### February 2011

- 5th-6th: Venice Area OS Show; Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave, Venice. Barbara Wagner, (941) 923-7706 or barbjwagner@comcast.net.
- 12th-13th: Boca Raton OS Show; Safe Schools Institute, 1790 NW Spanish River Blvd, Boca Raton. Jackie Wood, (561) 703-0278 or bocaorchidlady@aol.com.

### March 2010

- 4th-6th: Martin County OS Show, Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616 SE Dixie Hwy, Stuart. Wayne Parrish, (772) 919-1830
- 11th-13th: OS of Coral Gables Show, Fairchild Tropical Gardens, 10901 Old Cutler Rd., Coral Gables. Jill Sidran, (305) 238-8762 or cbsidran@bellsouth.net
- 11th-13th: Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show, PSL Community Center, Airoso Blvd, Port St. Lucie. Hellen Wagner, (772) 879-0401 or hellenwagner@aol.com.
- 19th-20th: Jacksonville OS Show, Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave, Jacksonville. John Van Brocklin, (904) 772-7404, scubagator@bellsouth.net
- 25th-26th: Englewood Area OS Show, United Methodist Church, 700 E. Dearborn St., Englewood. Gail Hopper, (941) 876-0412 or stevengailh@comcast.net
- 25th-27th: Naples OS Show, United Church of Christ, 5200 Crayton Rd., Naples. Frank Ginocchio (239)403-7155 or f.ginocchio@comcast.net
- 26th-27th: Orchid Lovers of Spring Hill Show, SNPJ Lodge, 13383 County Line Rd., Spring Hill. L. Roderick, lmrodeick@earthlink.net
- 26th-27th: OS of Highlands County, Harris Ag Ctr, 4509 George Blvd, Sebring. (863) 699-1575 or gatorgalanddoughboy@embargmail.com

### Ask Dr. Laurie!

*Dear Dr. Laurie: The other day I noticed that one of my plants had many areas that looked like they were covered with small pieces of cotton. I was not sure what to do and was afraid it would spread to my other plants so I threw the plant out. Did I do the right thing?*

*Dear Reader:* What you describe is pseudococcidae, which is a soft bodied insect covered with cottony white filament that will infest all plant parts. We generally refer to this insect as a mealy bug. They thrive in the warm areas of Florida and California and love ornamental plants.

The plant should be immediately isolated when the cottony, fluffy insects are noticed. One mealy bug produces 100 to 300 eggs. The eggs hatch out in six to fourteen days. In our warm climate the mealy bug has an average of eight generations per year. Male mealy bugs fly and have a very short life. All the mealy bugs we note on our plants are females.

The mealy bug has needle-like mouth parts that suck the nutrient from the plants' leaves. If untreated, the leaves will turn yellow, wilt and become deformed. They will affect all parts of the plant including the flowers. Treatment is as follows:

1. Immediately isolate
2. Spray the orchid with a strong jet of water
3. Spray with a solution of 1 tsp. of soap and ½ tsp. of Neem oil mixed in a quart of water ( note that Neem oil is systemic and will be absorbed by the plant and kill insects we may not see)
4. Paint rubbing alcohol with a cotton swab or fine pointed paint brush on the axils of the leaves
5. Repeat treatment every week for three weeks
- 6, If plant does not respond to treatment destroy the plant

If you prefer not to mix your own solution you can use Safer Soap spray and an oil spray. Note that this treatment can be used on many of our Florida ornamental plants that also attract mealybugs.

If you would like more information on mealybugs go to [www.mtec.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.mtec.ifas.ufl.edu). Keep the questions coming. They make this job interesting and fun.



*“Dr.” Laurie Hart*

*Mealy bug, enlarged photo*

*Some of the Happy Faces at Our Annual Recognition Luncheon in December!*



*All photos in this issue are courtesy of Patrick McClintock. Thanks, Patrick!*

***Membership***  
Toby Trapkin, Chairwoman

There were 70 members at our annual Recognition Luncheon in December. Please remember to wear your name tags to the meetings in order to be eligible for door prizes. If you are interested in becoming a member, email [traptoby@bellsouth.net](mailto:traptoby@bellsouth.net) or call (772)468-0057.

***Road Trip!***

If you are among those lucky members who are going to the Tamiami Orchid Festival on Saturday, January 29th, here is the information you will need.

We leave at 7:30 AM from the parking lot behind the St. Lucie Ale House on US1 in Port St. Lucie. The cross street is Kitterman Rd. We will be back at approximately 5:30 PM.

The concession stand at the Festival is somewhat limited. You can buy hot dogs, etc., but feel free to bring lunch if you choose.

My contact phone number is (772) 359-8296.  
DK

***January Early Class***

***"Orchid Shows and You"***

***Learn the ins and outs of an orchid show, and how it affects you!***



***The Library is Open!***

Our library is open, and we have new Librarians. Kerry and Larry Begley have a great selection of material for you to borrow. There are books, videos and more. Visit the library at the next meeting!



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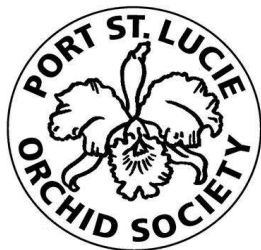


**Robinson's Collection**

Orchids & other Exotic Plants

**Vivian (Robbie) & Barbara Robinson**

Port St. Lucie (772) 871-2841



**January Meetings**

Tuesday, January 11th, 2011, 1:00 PM  
 Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens

**Fred Clarke**  
 Sun Valley Orchids, Vista, CA

Early Class:  
 "Orchid Shows and You"

Door Prizes, Raffle, Show & Tell. Sorry, no member sale table this month.

Board Meeting  
 Tuesday, January 18th, 1:00 PM  
 Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens  
 All members are welcome at Board Meetings

**Elected Officers**

**2010-2011**

- President:** Jessica Benford  
 der1jess2@aol.com 408-0811
- 1st Vice President:** Laurie Hart  
 paddylaurie@bellsouth.net 337-2126
- 2nd Vice President** Jamie Lawson  
 jimorchids@aol.com (772) 664-6453
- Recording Sec:** Renee Skalet  
 fsurenee@bellsouth.net 878-9223
- Corresponding Sec:** Ena Vilabrera  
 evilbrera@yahoo.com 343-7268
- Treasurer:** Shay Morton  
 Shaymorton@comcast.net 337-6578
- Membership:** Toby Trapkin  
 traptoby@bellsouth.net 468-0057

**Trustees**

- Class of 2011:** Barbara Robison  
 Vivian.robison@comcast.net  
 871-2841
- Class of 2012:** Hellen Wagner  
 hellenwagner@aol.com 879-0401
- Class of 2013:** Diana Kulaga  
 diandfrank@bellsouth.net 873-0663



*Fdk. After Dark*

*Created and grown by our speaker this month.*

*Fred Clarke, of Sun Valley Orchids.*

*Vista, CA*