

ORCHIDELIRIUM!

Newsletter of The Port St. Lucie Orchid Society
May 2011 Volume XXIII Issue 9

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Join our Facebook group!

President's Message

Hello members and friends,

It seems the weather has jumped right into summer. Our Treasure Coast weather has been just fantastic. While much of the rest of the country is still in the grip of winter, we are springing along. Our orchids are bursting out with new shoots and kiekis.

Our Annual awards Retreat will be at Veterans Memorial Park located on Veteran's Memorial Highway, opposite the Post office. That will be a fantastic day for all. In addition to our usual feast and awards, we will have games and silent Auction. New this year, we have scheduled a boat ride up the river leaving at 11:15. It will be first come, first served, and the boat can take 20 people. Please try to be on time. Any donation of orchids for the garden will be appreciated. Members attend free; all guests are welcome for \$3.00.

The Redland International Orchid Festival will be Friday, May 13. This is one of our favorite events of the year. Contact Diana for information and make sure your name is on the list.

We will also be having 4 classes at the PSL Botanicals over the summer, for children 6-12. Anyone interested in joining or bringing children to the event please contact Shelley at (772) 807-9500. Registration will be starting soon. All information for the "Little Kiekis" will be posted on our website.

Time to enjoy the beautiful Florida sunshine !!

Jessica Benford
President

Thought for the month:

The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.....



More Eye Candy from our March Show!

Minutes of the April 2011 General Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Jessica Benford at 1:05 pm. We discussed the the Annual Awards Retreat which will be held at Veteran's Park on Veterans Highway, across from the post office. Members will be free and guests will pay \$3.00. The date is May 10, 2011 and we are asking our members to make a side dish. We would also appreciate a donation of an orchid for our orchid room at the Botanical Gardens.

Laurie spoke about a summer project which will take place at the Botanical Gardens. It is called Little Kiekis. It is being put on by the Master Gardeners and the Port St. Lucie Orchid Society. The dates are: Saturday, June 18, July 23, August 6th and August 20th. The time is 10am to 12:00pm. The children will learn about flowers and orchids.

Diana spoke about the Vero Beach Orchid Society show at Riverside Park, with set up on April 21st at 10am and will run Friday and Saturday. At 4pm on Saturday we will break down the show. Please bring your orchids and win ribbons.

Diana also told us about the Redlands bus trip on May 13th. Shay gave the treasurer's report. Laurie gave the show report. All in all we had a very successful show, thanks to Hellen, Renee and the hard working members of our Society.

The scholarship committee proposed that we increase our number of scholarships from two to three. They are given to a student going to IRSC and a high school student. Toby welcomed new members and presented them with their welcome packages.

Our guest speaker, Vern Bloch, spoke about diseases and how to spot and cure them. After show and tell, 50/50 and our raffles the meeting was adjourned at 3:05.

Renee Skalet
Recording Secretary

Coming Events

April 2011

29th-5/1: Platinum Coast OS Show, Cocoa Sports Expo Arena, 500 Friday Rd., Cocoa. Jim Adamson, (321)632-2847 or jadamson1@cfl.rr.com.

May 2011

6th-8th: Tampa Bay OS Show, Egypt Shrine Ctr., 4050 Dana Shores Dr., Tampa. Patty Cartwright, pjcartwright@earthlink.net.

7th-8th: Volusia County OS Show, Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3150 E. New York Ave, Deland. Jennifer Reinoso, jenorchids@bellsouth.net.

13th-15th: Redland Int'l. Orchid Festival, Redland Fruit & Spice Park, Homestead, FL. Bob Randall, caribplants@att.net.

27th-28th: Greater Orlando OS Show, Orlando Garden Club, 710 Rollins St., Orlando. Joy Prince, dp691955@aol.com.

Annual Awards Retreat!

Tuesday, May 10th

Veteran's Memorial Park

FREE for members, \$3 for guests.
The Society will provide the meat, and each of us will bring a side dish or dessert.
SILENT AUCTION, FUN and AWARDS!

If you have folding chairs or tables, please bring them! We are outgrowing the pavilion where we have our retreat!

Your Society on Facebook!

Patrick McClintock has worked diligently to keep our Facebook page current and interesting. We owe him a big thanks! To go directly to our Facebook page, use this link:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=109020051583&ref=ts>

Member News

We have not heard of anyone having problems recently. We hope that continues!

Ask Dr. Laurie!

Dear Dr. Laurie: I purchased a *catasetum* at our January meeting. It is my first plant of this species. A couple of weeks ago it put out new growth. What do I do for it now?

Dear Reader: *Catasetums* are new world orchids that thrive in hot tropical regions that have dry and wet seasons. During the winter, you will find only pseudobulbs with no leaves.

In nature they grow on trunks of trees and may also be found growing on rocks. They can have both male and female flowers on the same plant. The most beautiful flowers of the *catasetum* are male. They are pollinated in nature by insects or small animals touching a male flower which will then shoot pollina into the air. This pollen attaches to pollinators that carry it to other plants of the same species.

In spring when new growth appears, wait until it is one to two inches tall before starting a regular watering schedule. *Catasetums* need water for growth and for storing in their pseudobulbs. Keep water out of the crown of leaves. I learned quickly that failure to do so is the best way to kill a *cataseum*. They love bright light and temperatures in the 80s and 90s. High humidity and good air circulation will make them thrive. Fertilize with your other orchids. In the winter months only, water every two weeks and do not fertilize.

When potting, use a porous fast draining medium. They should be repotted in the spring when new roots are forming. Clay or plastic pots may be used. I noted that Jamie had all of his beautiful *catasetums* growing in baskets. If you decide to place yours in a basket, make sure that is securely anchored so it does not move, and place some charcoal or bark in the basket. They enjoy being placed outdoors in the summer time in PSL. Good luck with your plant and I am looking forward to seeing it in flower next year. Fred will be coming back to our area next year and I have let him know we would love to have an encore.

Please give me your questions. It does make writing this column much easier.

"Dr." Laurie Hart



Catasetum saccatum

Photo source: www.larsen-twins.dk



Spring Into Gardening Festival!

Saturday May 14, 2011

8a.m. to 2p.m.

At St. Lucie County Extension

8400 Picos Road, Fort Pierce

772-462-1660 or <http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu>

Plant Vendors

Horticultural Merchants

Plant Fashion Show

Taste of the Tropics

Garden Tours



Membership

Toby Trapkin, Chairwoman

There were 74 people in attendance our April meeting. 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@comcast.net or call (772)468-0057.

Time for Dues!

Membership dues are payable in June. Dues are \$20/single membership or \$25/family. If you joined at our March show or later, you are not liable for dues this year.

For others:

Regardless of when you paid your dues last time, to keep current you **MUST** pay this year's dues in a timely manner!

Bring a check or cash to the June meeting, or send a check to:

Toby Trapkin
7323 Marsh Terrace
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986

Thank you for your cooperation!

Welcome Our New Members!

Karan Boyles

Anne Hamilton

Nannette Rothschild

Bess Sorrentino



A huge Dendrobium anceps at our March show.

It was covered with tiny yellow flowers.

Redland Orchid Festival!

Friday, May 13th

There are five seats left on the bus to Redland. If you've been procrastinating, you have no more time to waste!

\$35 includes transportation, entry to the Festival (worth \$10!), Redland raffle ticket, on-board raffle, driver's tip and FUN, FUN, FUN!

Contact Diana:

diandfrank@bellsouth.net or 873-0663

The Library is Open!

Our library is open. 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!

Our library list is now online. Go to www.pslos.org to view it.



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Elected Officers

2010-2011

President: Jessica Benford
der1jess2@aol.com 408-0811

1st Vice President: Laurie Hart
paddy Laurie@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 Robinson
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

May Meetings

Tuesday, May 10th, 2011, 1:00 PM
Annual Awards Retreat
Veteran's Memorial Park

No Early Class in May

Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 20th, 1:00 PM
Incoming Officers should attend!
Port St. Lucie Police Station, Airoso Blvd.
All members are welcome at Board meetings

*Happy Mother's Day
to*

All Our PSL OS Moms,



*And the Guys Who
Love Them!*



Our displays at the
Vero Beach Orchid Society Show & at
PSL's 50th Anniversary Party!
Photos courtesy of Patrick McClintock