



ORCHIDELIRIUM!

Newsletter of The Port St. Lucie Orchid Society.
September 2011 Volume XXIV Issue 1

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Join our Facebook group!

June General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Jessica Benford at 1:07pm.
We are having summer blow out sale; see Hellen Wagner.
Laurie Hart talks about the Orchid Room thanking all the hard-working, dedicated people that help every Thursday morning. She also thanked all who donated plants for the Orchid Room.

We have a new member, Jeanette Grosshans.
Elizabeth from IRSC scholarship fund came by to personally thank our society for our donation of \$1000 a semester.
Update: James Spinelli went back to school and can stay in school thanks us for helping him start his education. Erica Macon thanked us for helping her entire family because she has older sister also in school. Scholarships will be increased this year!
Jaime gave some plants away to people who did show and tell.
A Cattleya Symposium is planned in Fort Pierce \$150. They need no helpers. Breaktime 1:25pm while they set up the computer for Jaime's presentation.

A gift was given to Jessica as a token of appreciation for her hard work. She says she is speechless and adds "thank you so much". Samantha, one of the scholarship recipients, going to school for Zoology with minor in Literature thanks us for selecting her.

Induction of Officers by Anita Neal: Kerry Begley- President; Illona Christie- Vice-president; Laurie Hart- 2nd Vice-president; Shay Morton - Treasurer; Donna Zutter- Secretary; Carol Donahue- Membership; Toby Trapkin - Corresponding Secretary.

Questions and Answer for Anita...then orchid plant was given as a thank you for doing the induction. Jaime Lawson's presentation.. "Orchids in Love". He says he uses Bayer advanced complete insect killer for scales, mites, spider mites. Fertilome is found in Busy Bee in Sebastian. It is a liquid systemic fungicide. His videos of orchids in love and seed pods were very interesting. 3pm show and tell time. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20pm.

Donna Zutter
Secretary

September Speaker

We are fortunate to have as our September guest Carol Holdren.

Orchid Tips & Tricks!

Carol Holdren is a long time orchid lover with a history of willing participation in the affairs and activities of orchid societies. She was Director of Personnel at an independent supermarket chain before moving from Indiana to Florida in 1984. She finished her BS in Business at Florida Atlantic University when she wasn't fishing or boating with her husband John. She also bought a purple Vanda at a local botanical garden show. That plant led to several others as well as membership and participation in the local orchid society. As her collection grew, she and some of her orchid friends took a class in Orchidology at the University of Florida. Carol also began attending the West Palm Beach Judging Center and became an accredited judge in 2003. She is now secretary of the WPBJC.

Carol will be speaking on "Orchid Tips & Tricks", a program that evolved from her many years of participating in local orchid meetings. There will be something for new growers as well as long time hobbyists, so we hope to see you

September Early Class

Substitute Teacher!!

Attendees of the noon class are in for a treat! Robbie Robinson has agreed to lead a class on Oncidiums and Intergeneric hybrids.

Robbie excels at growing these lovely plants, and will be sharing his expertise with the group. Your usual instructor is not so adept with these, so this is a great opportunity for you.

Please plan to bring materials to take notes this time.

Coming Events

September 2011

17th-18th: Ridge Orchid Society Show
Lake Mirror Center, 121 S. Lake Ave.,
Lakeland. Jack Frensdorf, (863) 676-
7828, silvercartwheel@comcast.net

October 2011

1st-2nd: Florida West Coast OS Show
Minnreg Center, Largo. Bret Finke, (727)
460-4606, bfinke90@tampabay.rr.com

1st-2nd South Florida OS Show/Speaker's Day
Info: www.sforchid.org

8th-9th Fort Pierce OS Show St. Lucie Cty Shrine
Club, 4600 Oleander, Fort Pierce.
William Tozer, (772)465-4674,
jbtozer@bellsouth.net

15th-16th: Gainesville OS Show
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, 4700 SW
58th Dr., Gainesville. Candace
Hollinger, drahcir7@bellsouth.net

21st-23rd: Orcthoberfest, EFG Orchids, 4265 Marsh
Rd., Deland; (386) 738-8600,
powergrown@aol.com

28th-30th: Delray Beach OS Show
Old School Square Gymnasium, 51 N.
Swinton Ave, Delray Beach; Annette
Jackson, (561) 638-9014,
aojax@comcast.net

29th-30th: Brevard County OS Show
Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus
Blvd., Melbourne; Julie Zepf,
(321) 777-9837, jfzepf@aol.com

November 8th:

Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Annual Auction!
Save the date!

Member News

Eve Bartos passed away in June. Her husband of 67 years, Lou Bartos, succumbed not long afterward.

We will miss them.

Gordon Peters, AOS judge, died in August.

Your Society on the Web, and Other News

You know we have our own web site and Facebook page. Now our very ambitious webmaster, Patrick McClintock, has set up a Facebook group for Florida orchid growers. You'll find it most interesting and fun!

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/fl.orchid/>

Ask Dr. Laurie!

Last week the PSLOS & SLCMG members completed their children's summer program at the PSLBGs. At the end of the successful program a gentleman approached me concerning the vanilla educational board that was on exhibit. He pointed to the picture of Ena's enormous vanilla orchid plant. He also was checking out Barbara's plant that was on exhibit.

He had recently purchased a vanilla orchid and was told not to plant it. (???). He asked if this was the correct way to grow vanilla since he saw Barbara's plant in a pot. He also wanted to know how the plant produced a vanilla bean.

Vanilla is a tropical plant and does not like it when our night temperatures dip into the thirties. It must then be protected with septic system cloth. We have one in the PSLBG and it looked very sad after last winter but it has come back and hopefully one day it will look like Enas. I have read that it can be grown as a house plant as long as it is kept by a well-lit window and that it grows well intermingling with Hoya plants.

The vanilla orchid that I observed at RF Orchids had twined itself around an enormous tree and was reaching skyward. All the flowers at that time were at the top of the plant where the plant received the most light. Vanilla should be potted in a mix that drains well and it can be planted in your yard using a tree as support. It needs frequent watering and fertilizing. If you wish to grow it in a pot I would recommend a clay pot to give it stability and you will need to stake the plant for support.

Vanilla blooms in the spring and the yellow flowers only last for twenty-four hours, but the vine will bloom for several weeks. Now, if you want to produce your own vanilla beans it is going to take your intervention. The vanilla flowers must be pollinated by hand. Now you know why vanilla is so expensive.

If you wish to share your plant with friends, it is recommended to initially insert the stem cuttings into a pot of sphagnum moss. Once roots have developed separate each cutting into a pot filled with a loose soil mixture.

If I have a question from interested orchid growers, it makes doing this culture column easy. So please send me your questions and I will research the answers. I am looking forward to starting our new orchid year and renewing old friendships.

"Dr." Laurie Hart

*Port St. Lucie Orchid Society
at
The Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens!*

You may not all be aware of the tremendous effort by our volunteers at the Gardens. Not only have they set up a flourishing “Orchid Room”, but they are involved in other projects as well. Currently, they are working on propagation of plants for future sales. During our meeting break in September, take a walk out and see the results of their efforts!

Hat tip to Patrick McClintock for the photos on this page



Editor's note: Jamie was kind enough to share this and other information with us. Expect more gems of wisdom in the future!

A Defense Against Thrips

Thrips, also known as noseums, can be a nightmare when they invade your collection and start doing a job on those blooms that you have been waiting for all year. I found a preparation which uses a natural enemy of the thrip to combat this little devil. It's called BotaniGard. This is an emulsifiable suspension Mycoinsecticide. Its active ingredient is *Beauveria bassiana* Strain GHA. You'll note from the italicized Latin name that it is something weird. What is it, you ask? It's a fungus and I spray it all over my plants, including the blooms, whenever I spot thrips. A fungus sprayed on your orchid plants! What, am I crazy? No, because this fungus is only interested in attacking the chitinous shell on insects like thrips. It burrows through the shell and multiplies inside the thrip host, killing it.

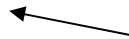
For good measure, after spraying the BotaniGard on the blooms and exposed areas of the plants, I make up another batch mixed with Orthene. This is OK per the instructions. Now I go back through concentrating the spray on the base of the plant, roots, bulbs and media. The BotaniGard is strictly a contact medicine so this gives a systemic protection. Hey, it worked for me but as with all this weird science stuff I don't know if it will work for you! So don't sue me if all your plants die.

I would have had a picture of a thrip here to illustrate this article but they are all dead. Oh wait, here's a dead one -

Jamie Lawson



A photo of a thrip, found on the web



Thought for the day:

Doesn't expecting the unexpected make the unexpected expected?

Membership

Carol Donahue, Chairwoman

There was a great turnout for our June 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 cadinpsl@aol.com or call (772) 201-7913.

Time for Dues!

Membership dues were 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:

Payment is now overdue!

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

Carol Donahue
272 SE Ray Ave.

Port St. Lucie, FL 34983

Thank you for your cooperation!

Welcome to our new members!

Kathy Dwyer

Augusto Meza



Photo courtesy of Patrick McClintock

Our Member Volunteers at the PSL Botanical Gardens

If you have not yet stopped by, try to be there on a Thursday morning. You will be amazed by how much they have accomplished!



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September Meetings

Tuesday, September 13th, 2011, 1:00 PM
 "Orchid Tips & Tricks"
 With Carol Holdren
 PSL Botanical Gardens
 Early Class: 12:00
 Oncidiums and Intergenerics
 With Robbie Robinson

Member sale table this month
 Show & Tell, Raffle, Door Prize

Board Meeting
 Tuesday, September 20th 1:00 PM
 Port St. Lucie Police Station, Airoso Blvd.
 All members are welcome at Board meetings



Epl. Golden Spice 'Red Peppers'

Martin Motes' Tasks for September

- Space plants to permit more air circulation
- Trim trees to permit more light and lessen the wind load on them
- Clean up growing area. Remove dead leaves or other organic matter
- Tidy up old pots or other objects on the ground
- Apply snail bait lightly and frequently
- Spray fungicide such as Physan, which can be sprayed on wet plants

Want more great tips? Get Martin Motes's book, "Florida Orchid Growing, Month by Month". Sign up for his monthly newsletter by writing to martinmotes@gmail.com



Dendrobium Dark Plush