

ORCHIDELIRIUM!

Newsletter of The Port St. Lucie Orchid Society
April 2010 Volume XXII Issue 8

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Visit us on the Web at: www.pslos.org

President's Message

Hello to all members and friends!

Thanks to all for your hard work in putting on one of the most interesting orchid show on the Treasure Coast. All your hard work paid off. Vendors and societies had a great turn out. Kudos to all who volunteered for this spectacular event.

We are now moving on to our spring itinerary. The Annual Awards Retreat, formerly called the picnic, is one of our favorite events. If you have ideas for any new picnic games or dishes you would like to be included, please let me know. Prior to gathering at Veteran's Memorial Park at noon for this fun time, we will be meeting at the Port St Lucie Botanical Gardens at 11.30 for a quick tour.

Diana will be organizing our bus trip to the Redland International Orchid Festival on Friday, May 14th. This is a fantastic opportunity, so make sure your name is on the list.

Remember when we purchased those Cattleya seedlings? The name was Lc. Zulio x Lc. Desert Jewel. It's time for an update, so please bring yours to our April meeting so that we can update our pictures and see how they did. If yours didn't make it, let me know, and I'll issue the appropriate Certificate (smile). With all these activities, don't forget to take time to care for your orchids!

I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting. Happy growing!

Jessica Benford
President

April Speaker

For months, Shelley Hunsberger has been working on a presentation to highlight our varied growing environments. She has photographed different setups and will be showing us how some of our members grow their orchids. This should be a great presentation! Don't miss it.

Road Trip!

We will be going to the Redland International Orchid Festival on Friday, May 14th. Staged at the Fruit & Spice Park in Homestead, this event is perhaps the largest and most diverse in the country. You will find vendors from all over the world selling those special orchids that you don't often see at local shows.

The cost is \$35 and includes entry, driver's tip and on board raffle, as well as lots of fun and a chance to socialize with your fellow orchid lovers.

Reserve now!

Diana K. diandfrank@bellsouth.net or 873-0663.

Minutes of the March 2010 General Meeting

Jessica Benford called the meeting to order at 1:20 PM.

Laurie Hart discussed our participation in the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens and announced a meeting on the topic immediately following the March board meeting.

Toby Trapkin mentioned that there were no new members at the March meeting; that is the first time since she has been Membership Chair.

Diana Kulaga talked about a trip to the Redland Festival in May. There was sufficient interest, so a bus will be ordered. Fare will be \$35, which includes bus, entry, tip and on-board raffle.

Note: The annual Awards Retreat, formerly known as the picnic, will be held on May 11th. There will be no general meeting in May.

Hellen Wagner filled the remaining volunteer spots for the show. Diana recruited class members to install a table top display.

Patrick McClintock collected photo entries for the show. In the absence of our Treasurer, Jessica gave the financial report.

After a break, our speaker, Pat Brown, discussed composting and worm castings as fertilizer. It was most interesting.

After Show and Tell, door prizes, etc., the meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Renee Skalet
Recording Secretary

Coming Events

April 2010

- 2nd-4th: Tampa Bay OS Show, Egypt Shrine Ctr, 4050 Dana Shores Dr., Tampa. Patricia Cartwright, (813) 989-9357 or pjcwright@earthlink.net.
- 17th-18th: Tallahassee OS Show, Doyle Conner Bldg., 3125 Conner Blvd, Tallahassee. Pam Stevens, (850)510-5528 or pamstevens08@comcast.net.
- 24th-25th: Vero Beach OS Show, Riverside Park, Vero Beach. Doug Mew, (772)778-6625 or instedof@bellsouth.net
- 24th-25th: OS of Highlands County Show, Bert Harris Agricultural Center, 4509 George Blvd, Sebring. Bill Hart, (863) 471-2290 or hwiliamb@msn.com.

May 2010

- 8th-9th: Volusia County OS Show, Volusia Cty. Fairgrounds Hester Bldg, 3150 E. New York Ave., Deland. Jennifer Reinoso, (386)738-7543 or jenochid@bellsouth.net.
- 14th-16th: Redland Int'l. Orchid Festival, Redland Fruit & Spice Park, Homestead, FL. Bill Peters, (305) 242-1333 or whimsy@bellsouth.net.

Proposed Slate of Officers

2010-2011

The following people have graciously agreed to serve the Port St. Lucie Orchid Society. We will vote on this slate at our April meeting.

- President:** Jessica Benford
der1jess2@aol.com 408-0811
- 1st Vice President:** Laurie Hart
paddy Laurie@bellsouth.net 337-2126
- 2nd Vice President:** Barbara Robotti
etonvet@bellsouth.net 224-0900
- 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

Ask Dr. Laurie!

Dear Readers: Recently, I was asked a couple of questions from fellow orchid lovers, and they are related, so I will address them together.

1. I applied magnesium to my collection and was wondering if I could use it and fertilizer at the same time or will they reduce the advantage of each other?
2. Someone told me to put Epsom salts on my orchids. I thought salt would be injurious to my plants.

Both questions apply to the same cultural needs of our plants. Epsom Salts is a brand name and it is actually magnesium sulfate, one of the micronutrients our plants need.

Recent studies by the University of Florida indicate that the water and the ground in Florida are very high in phosphorous and therefore our common practice of using a 20-20-20 fertilizer all the time is not the best. Remember that the three numbers prominent on our fertilizer stand for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (N-P-K). Bloom boosting fertilizer is very high in phosphorus, and with the high ph of our water it will bind the micronutrient magnesium and make it ineffective. So this isn't the best fertilizer for Floridians to use, either.

If you have reddening foliage, you have a magnesium deficiency. Martin Motes recommends the use of 20-20-20 one week and using potassium nitrate 13-0-44 the next week. The magnesium sulfate can be mixed with the potassium nitrate.

The next question is, where do you get potassium nitrate? It is available at farm supply stores in 60 pound bags. That is probably more than any of us individually want. Thank heavens, we have the PSLOS because the society is going to purchase one of those bags and divide it up so the members can purchase smaller amounts at cost.

The essence of the answer is you can mix Epsom salts with potassium nitrate but not with 20-20-20. Keep those questions coming. E-mail them to me. With every question I am asked I learn something. Happy growing!

"Dr." Laurie Hart



What the public didn't see—the work behind the scenes at our show!

Our Trophy Sponsors

The following individuals were kind enough to sponsor trophies for our recent show. Since some of the names came in late, we would like to recognize them all here. They are in no special order.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ena & Leonora Vilabrera | Frank & Toby Trapkin |
| Robbie & Barbara Robinson | Barbara Robotti |
| Vi & Patrick McClintock | Frank & Diana Kulaga |
| Odom's Orchids | Tom Ritter Orchids |
| Adamson's Orchids | Jim's Orchid Supplies |
| Renee & Phil Skatet | Dr. Glickman |
| Paddy & Laurie Hart | Jamie Lawson |
| Elizabeth Harrison | Janet Warren |
| Viive & Al Frigola | Stephanie Cassidy |
| Janie & David Lodico | Larry & Kerry Begley |
| Michael Ortseifer | Mildred Boucher |
| Dee's Salon (June Andrews) | Judy Campbell |
| Cruise One/Shirley Melachrinoudis | |

April Early Class

This month's topic is
Saving a Damaged Orchid Plant

The class meets at noon in room E, and is open to all without charge. I would appreciate knowing if you plan to attend.

Diana Kulaga
diandfrank@bellsouth.net or 873-0663

A Special Thanks

And Recognition!

At the last minute, we found ourselves with fewer table top displays than usual. It was okay, but one more would be better.

Attendees of the noon class, along with a few others, pitched in at a moment's notice, bringing enough plants to create a lovely table top. To those who contributed, applause! That display took the trophy for best table top! See what happens when we cooperate?

A special thank you to Shelley Hunsberger, who stayed throughout setting up the display and learned how to register the plants as well. It wouldn't have happened without her. I was happy to present her with the trophy!

Diana Kulaga

Welcome to Our New Members!

Lisa & Patrick Beert
1438 SW Patricia Ave.
Port St. Lucie 34953
336-0830
jbeert@bellsouth.net

Marion Hewitt
1542 SE Belcrest St.
Port St. Lucie 34952
631-7103
msmarionh@hotmail.com

Membership

Toby Trapkin, Chairwoman

There were 59 people in attendance at the March 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@bellsouth.net or call (772)468-0057.

American Orchid Society Events

Join other orchid lovers for Wine and Jazz in the Gardens!

Third Thursday of the month, January through April, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. What better setting for music than the gorgeous gardens of the AOS?



AOS Headquarters.

AOS Classes for April 2010

Editor's Note: The Schedule for April was not posted as of the deadline for this newsletter. Please use the contact information below to learn about April education opportunities.

For Information on the classes:
(561) 404-2011 or email swayman@aos.org.

Visit the fabulous AOS web site! www.aos.org



A Vendor Display

The Library is Open!

Our library is open! Librarian Lin Smith will have a great selection of material for you to borrow. There are books, videos and more. Visit Lin at the next meeting!

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



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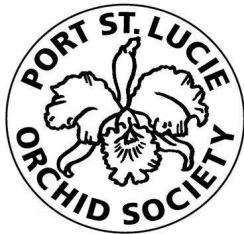


Robinson's Collection

Orchids & other Exotic Plants

Vivian (Robbie) & Barbara Robinson

Port St. Lucie (772) 871-2841



Visit us on the Web!
www.pslos.org

**April Meetings
 General Meeting**

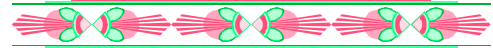
Tuesday, April 13th, 1:00
 Shelley Hunsberger
 Our Varied Growing Environments
 Member sale table; door prizes, show & tell
 and raffle
 Early Class, 12:00, Room E
 Saving a Damaged Orchid
 Board Meeting
 Tuesday, April 20th, 1:00 PM
 at the Police Station next to City Hall
 All members are welcome at Board Meetings

2009-2010 Officers

- President:** Jessica Benford
 der1jess2@aol.com 408-0811
- 1st Vice President:** Laurie Hart
 paddylaurie@bellsouth.net 337-2126
- 2nd Vice President:** Lara Amyx
 lara102@bellsouth.net 337-6377
- Recording Sec:** Renee Skalet
 fsurenee@bellsouth.net 878-9223
- Corresponding Sec:** Susan Spring
 spring@bellsouth.net 337-1713
- Treasurer:** Shay Morton
 Shaymorton@comcast.net 337-6578
- Membership:** Toby Trapkin
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 871-2841
- Class of 2012:** Hellen Wagner
 hellenwagner@aol.com 879-0401



Fabulous Displays at Our Show!

Photos courtesy of Patrick McClintock

Seen at our Recent Show!

Many thanks to Patrick McClintock for supplying the photos below!

