



FEBRUARY 2022



MANATEE ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



February Meeting

We wish you a Happy Valentine's Day!

Our next meeting is this coming Tuesday, February 8th and we'll meet at the Manatee Garden Club as we have in the past. For those who have recently joined us or are guests, the Garden Club is located at 3120 First Avenue West in Bradenton. You can find a map on our [website](#).

We'll have **"Culture Club" at 6:30 PM led by Roy Krueger**. We'll then have a short business meeting and snacks followed by a program by Rafael Romero of Plantio La Orquidea on Talevast Road. He'll bring orchids to sell, so be sure to bring funds (checkbook for credit card or cash).

We'll have snacks supplied by Mercedes Kratz, Julie McClure and Angela Cleator. Thank you!

Hopefully in March, we'll have a program on "Pest Control" presented by Bill Miller.

We had an excellent program in January presented by Micah Dault on "Permaculture for epiphytes". Micah is one of our members and is an excellent grower. He's a real proponent for mounting orchids and brought examples of his beautiful orchids. Somehow I think it takes more than just the technique of mounting the orchids to achieve this kind of result.



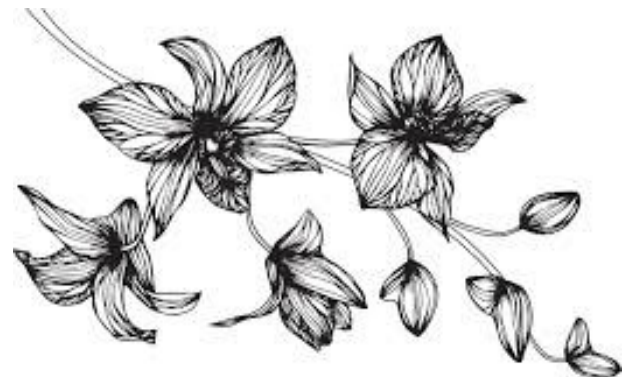
Members' Page



One of our 'rejoining' members, Nancy Bailey, recently moved and took a few of her orchids with her. These are obviously happy in the new location and rewarded her with a gorgeous display.

The photo below is from Maureen Hirthler's collection. Gorgeous...

Below are Phals in Maryanne Hazen's little garden walk.



PLANTÍO LA ORQUÍDEA

SPRING ORCHID SALE

Friday and Saturday | February 25 and 26, 2022 | 9 AM to 4 PM



- Browse through 10000+ sq ft of Orchids.
- Thousands of Orchids, species and hybrids to choose from.
- Advice on Orchid Growing from Experts. Free Parking.

Plantio La Orquidea, 3480 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota, FL 34243, Same driveway as Tropiflora

3480 Tallevast Rd.

Sarasota, FL 34243

www.plantiolaorquidea.com

Phone: 941-504-7737

E-mail: info@plantiolaorquidea.com

**10 % Off on all plant
sales - \$25 or more**

Limit one coupon per customer. Valid only on the dates of the event.

**Free Plant
Raffle**

Come and browse through our greenhouses, thousands of orchids to check and choose from, ask for advice and check how we grow our plants. Great deals and an additional 10% off on all plant sales of \$25 or more

Boca Raton Orchid Society "In Love With...Orchids"

February 12 - 13, 2022

Contact

Kathy Kersey

954-802-3575

kathykbros@gmail.com

Location

Schools Institute

1790 NW Spanish River Blvd.

Boca Raton, FL 33431

Judging is being held on February 12, 2022 at 8:30 AM.

From Dr. Motes - on the February Chill

Despite the bloom on the avocados and the burgeoning new leaves on the live oaks, February is not spring in South Florida. Danger of freeze continues past mid month and frost can occur still into March. Even if the weather is balmy it's too early to let down our guard or take down any protection we have mounted against the cold. The trend however is toward the positive as each lengthening day brings extra hours of warming sunshine to begin waking our plants from their long winter's rest.

February characteristically brings a wide swing of day to night temperatures, ideal for spiking ascocendas and vandas but also wringing from the air heavy dews and dense fog. Whilst these add a romantic atmosphere to the South Florida landscape, Wuthering Heights is singularly devoid of snails and slugs (much less Botrytis). The silvery carpet of dew provides a silky path to our orchids for snails and slugs which can range far, under these favorable conditions. They are eager to make a nice meal of your Phalaenopsis leaves or the soft crowns of your vandas before they retire during the dry months of March and April only to dream of the fresh shoots of the sympodial orchids brought forth by the first rains of May. Now is the time to give them a rude awakening. Remember that snail bait is most effectively applied lightly (scatter the pellets every few feet) and frequently (every 7 to 10 days). Two or three applications should do the job

The heavy fog which can cause condensation on leaves even under cover can also bring trouble. Botrytis is a fungus disease that can disfigure flowers with small black spots. Particularly apparent and annoying on white Phalaenopsis, Botrytis can ruin other flowers as well. Control is typically achieved in commercial greenhouses with fungicide in aerosol forms and by running fans to prevent condensation on the flowers. The latter option is also available to collectors. A small fan turned on the spiking and opened flowers at night will greatly alleviate the pressure of Botrytis. So will, to a degree, the application of soap which we suggested in January to control mites. Bicarbonate of soda, ordinary baking soda, at 1Tbs. per gal will help as well. Quaternary ammonium compounds (Physan, RD40, Consan, pool algicide) also give some control. Maintaining long lasting flowers like Phalaenopsis, dendrobiums and bi-foliolate cattleyas in more perfect condition is well worth the effort. Having waited so long for the flowers we want to enjoy them as long as possible and they do all last longer in cool weather.

The lower overall temperatures of February call for less frequent and lighter applications of fertilizer as was the practice in January. If any reddening of the foliage persists another application of Epsom salts (1Tbs per gal), preferably in combination with Potassium nitrate, is called for; Nitrate nitrogen being more available to the plants under cooler conditions. If your resolve holds steady not to water (or above all) fertilize those Himalayan dendrobiums, your reward may shortly become evident in bursting flower spikes.

Like the avocados and the live oaks, many cattleyas and other sympodial orchids have bloomed and are just commencing new growth in February. Right after flowering is usually an excellent time for repotting from the plant's perspective and the cool day time temperatures in the greenhouse are hospitable to the orchid grower as well. It's still a bit early to re-basket vandas But an early start on the cattleyas will allow plenty of time and energy for those Spring chores which are right around the corner. With that thought setting out to secure a good supply of pots in anticipation of the potting season ahead is on February's agenda.

(Or we can think about mounting many of our orchids per Micah's presentation. A super idea if that works for you!)

Manatee Orchid Society

3637 Wilderness Blvd. West
Parrish, FL 34219

MANATEEORCHIDSOCIETY.COM

Email: Use contact emails on website



Check the website for current info. You can also find previous newsletters there on [our Members page](#). If you don't know how to access our "special members only page" for a member directory, be sure to ask.

- OFFICERS'**
- President
 - Open
 - 1st Vice president
 - Caryl Ponder**
 - 2nd Vice President
 - Maryanne Hazen**
 - Treasurer
 - Sharon Kinkaid**
 - Recording Secretary
 - Mercedes Kratz**
 - Corresponding Secretary
 - Chris O'Grady**

MOS By-laws:



One of the topics you've heard discussed briefly at some of our meetings is the probability of updating our by-laws. We have not made any changes in more than five years. Within the next few months, we'll meet and go over our current by-laws and propose changes.

If you're interested in seeing what is in our current by-laws, you can view them on our website on the Member's Page. There's also a file showing some of the possible changes.

<https://manateeorchidsociety.com/members-page>

If you want to have your current bloomer on our newsletter or website, [send me a picture](#). You could also send any pictures to [Maureen Hirthler](#) and she'll post it into your album on Facebook.