



Vero Beach Orchid Society



January 2024

January Speaker: Jim
Davidson

Jim and Melana Davison are AOS Accredited Judges. They have an extensive and diverse orchid collection that is continuously growing. Not only involved in caring for their orchids, but they are also actively involved in several South Florida orchid societies. Melana is the current President of the Orchid Society of Coral Gables and past President of the South Dade Amateur Orchid Club. Jim is the past President of the Orchid Society of Coral Gables and the East Everglades Orchid Society.

Jim's appreciation for orchids stems from his scientific background. Before his recent retirement, he worked as a Nuclear Chemistry Manager at the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant. Melana is more interested in the aesthetic qualities of orchids, especially the ones that look strange and other worldly. She owns her own Orchid Maintenance business and is known as "The Orchidiva." They are currently preparing a new greenhouse and shade area and have opened their own retail nursery, Jim-N-I Orchids. Together, Jim and Melana have seven grown children and five grandchildren. They live in Homestead with their two dogs, four of the five grandchildren and 5,000 plus orchids in their own collection, many more in the nursery.

Jim will be speaking on Brassavola orchids.

Our meeting will be January 18th at 7 pm. Jim & Malana will be bringing raffle plants and plants for sale.

Editor's Notes

We have gotten about half the folks we need to volunteer to sit at the table at the Gardenfest. So, we will be sending the sign-up sheet around at the January meeting. The dates for Gardenfest are February 3rd and 4th. It starts both days at 9AM and will end at 5PM on Saturday and 4PM on Sunday. Since this is not a labor-intensive setup (only a pop-up tent and one table) it will only require 2 or 3 people to do the setup, and tear-down for the event. We will let you know what time the setup will be, so if you are interested in helping, we can all arrive at about the same time on Friday.

At this month's meeting, we will begin collecting dues for 2024 memberships. The fee for a single membership will remain at \$20.00 and family membership will remain at \$25.00. Each month as people sign up, new badges will be created and available at the next meeting. If you do not renew your dues by the end of February, you will be taken off the newsletter distribution. If you cannot make it to either of the meetings (January & February), you can send your dues to the post office box below.

Mites - (Oh!!! Yuk!!!)

By Deb Ford



So, everything I have researched up to now is all telling me that we need to get a jump on getting rid of these horrible bugs, now. If not, they will be a severe problem in March and April. To rid our beautiful orchids of this menace we need to make sure we kill the entire population which will take two separate sprays. The reason for this is that we need to kill all the eggs and the egg layers. (Mites have a life cycle of 14 days.) Below is the home recipe to accomplish this.

Day 1:

3 tablespoons of canola or soy oil

1 gallon of water

Mix thoroughly and spray the leaves or apply with a tissue/cotton ball.

Option: You can add 1 tablespoon of baking soda to the oil solution for fungal protection.

Note: Keep an eye on the weather. The summer heat (>85 degrees) can cause real damage to the plants with the oil application.

Day 7-10:

4 tablespoons of liquid dish soap, preferably Ivory (No Dawn).

1 gallon of water

Mix thoroughly and a drenching spray is most effective.

Note: DO NOT mix the oil and soap as a spray. This will make the whole application completely ineffective. Another popular remedy is the use of rubbing alcohol (no ethanol or methanol). The problem with using alcohol is that it kills all the mite's life cycles except the eggs. Beware of the rapid evaporation. This causes cooling of the plant cells to die and become necrotic with bacterial or fungal infection. (Society, n.d.)

References

Images, D. D. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://us-browse.startpage.com/av/anon-image?piurl=https%3A%2F%2Fimages.saymedia-content.com%2Fimage.%2Fshare%2FMtC0MzU1MTczNDEyNDQ3ODc4%2Fhow-to-rid-your-home-and-garden-of-spider-mites.jpg&sp=1703857339Ta4c9aa77a377947c45dbba50269262e1023d9c102b5a381>

Motes, M. (2011). *Florida Orchid Growing-Month by Month*. Redland Press, 25000 S.W. 162nd Avenue, Redland, FL 33031.

Society, A. O. (n.d.). *aos.org*. Retrieved from <https://www.aos.org/orchids-pests-diseases/mites-on-cultivated-orchids.aspx>

VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President – Carolyn Greene
Vice President – Jeanne Thompson
Secretary – Rose Ann Jones
Treasurer – Deborah Ford
Show Chairman – The Board

Paul Price
Doug Mew
Cathy Gustafson

Committees

Membership – Carolyn Greene
Hospitality – Rose Ann Jones
Sunshine – Louise Albright
Newsletter Editor – Carolyn Greene

Vero Beach Orchid Society
P.O. Box 543
Vero Beach, FL 32961

Newsletter email: vbosnewsletter@hotmail.com

VBOS Website: www.verobeachorchidsociety.org

DUES FOR 2024: SINGLE MEMBER DUES \$20.00

FAMILY DUES: \$25.00

OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE JANUARY 18TH AT THE GARDEN CLUB OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, 2526 17TH AVENUE VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960. THE MEETING WILL START AT 7:00 PM