



# Vero Beach Orchid Society



February 2024

February Speaker: Mark Peterson

Mark Peterson has been growing orchids since 1975, does his own hybridizing and flasking, and has about 1,000 orchids at his home in Lake Wales. As a semi-retired international business professor and Trustee of the Boca Raton Orchid Society, Mark helped arrange a one-credit course with the University of Florida about starting and operating an orchid business. Recently, he has been helping the University of Tartu in Estonia where he has a part-time research job to improve their Botanical Garden's collection of Ecuadorian orchid species.

Mark's subject will be "From Flask to Flower." It should be an interesting talk, especially if you have never heard about the growth of orchids from seed to flower-bearing.

Our meeting will be on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. There will be raffle plants and plants for sale. Hope to see you all there.

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## Editor's Notes

Gardenfest was very crowded, and we got a few interested folks in the process. Too bad they shut it down early, since the afternoon turned out so nice.

We will continue collecting dues for 2024 memberships. The fee for a single membership will remain at \$20.00 and family membership will remain at \$25.00. The memberships run from January through December, so regardless of the time of year you first joined, you will still need to renew by the end of February to remain on the newsletter distribution. Each month as people sign up, new badges will be created and available at the next meeting. If you cannot make it to either of the meetings (January & February), you can send your dues to the post office box below.

Sponsorships for the show trophies are available for sponsorship. They are priced at \$40 per trophy, each of which may be sponsored by up to three people, so the cost will be less for each person. There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting for you to select from the list of categories that are left.

Also, we have our sheet for outside donations (sponsorships). The sponsorships range from \$75 to \$500. You can ask any business to donate either cash for a name on the banner, or a service they provide to donate something for the raffle table. All donations from outside are tax deductible since we are a 501(c)3 organization, meaning we are an official non-profit organization.

We will also be asking for members to devote some time to the various tables we set up. The locations will be donation and raffle tent tables. We had great crews at the tables last year, and we love to continue that trend.

We also have another away show to prepare for in Martin County. The locations will be the Martin County Fairgrounds, and the Set-up date is Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup> (yep, it really is leap year) beginning at 9am. If any

of you have orchids you've been growing in your yard or greenhouses that you would allow us to use in our display, but can't make it to setup, please call Carolyn (321-506-3909) by Tuesday, Feb 27<sup>th</sup> and we'll make arrangements to pick it up and deliver it back to you after the show.

Martin county has a 3 day show from Friday to Sunday. Teardown will be Sunday afternoon at show closing, either 4 or 5pm. We would like to have some folks volunteer orchids that you have in the yard or greenhouse for use in the display. We will also be happy to pick them up and deliver them back to you if you cannot make it to the show set-up and teardown. There will be another reminder as we get closer to the date.

## Grower's Tip: Checklist for February

### Cattleya



Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Carefully remove dying sheaths. This will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, staking is critical.

### Cymbidium



This is the flowering season for Cymbidiums. If your plants are outdoors, be careful of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangements. Check closely for slugs and snails. Protect the plants from the rain as this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis potting.

### Lycaste



Lycaste orchids are coming into their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together is often helpful. Resist picking up the plant and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

## Odontoglossum



Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump, and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

## Paphiopedilum



The standard Paphiopedilum insigne-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup.

## Phalaenopsis



Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is necessary for those all-important spring shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not re-pot this month.

## Zygopetalum



The flowering season will have ended for this group. This will give you a chance to do some re-potting. They will then have a chance to become well established before summer arrives. Most growers use bark mixes, but there have been some incredibly satisfactory results using rock-wool blends.

Society, A. O. (2024, February 6). *January-February Checklist*. Retrieved from aos.org: <https://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/january-february-checklist.aspx>



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**DUES FOR 2024: SINGLE MEMBER DUES \$20.00**

**FAMILY DUES: \$25.00**

**OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 15TH AT THE GARDEN CLUB OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, 2526 17TH AVENUE VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960. THE MEETING WILL START AT 7:00 PM**