



SEPTEMBER 2021



MANATEE ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



General Meetings

We hope you all have it on your calendars - September 14th is the second Tuesday so please save the date and we'll meet at the Manatee Garden Club as we have in the past. For those who have joined us during our 'hiatus', the Garden Club is located at 3120 First Avenue West in Bradenton. You can find a map on our [website](#).

Most of us have had Covid-19 vaccinations, but if you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please do. We'll try to have some disposable masks available if you don't have one with you. We'll also do our best to practice social distancing. We'll have a few snacks but you can bring a bottle of water with you if you prefer.

We'll have our Culture Club at 6:30 PM, a raffle and a show table, so please bring questions or concerns for the Culture Club and any plants you'd like to place on the show table. Many of us look forward to seeing familiar faces and some gorgeous orchids. We'll also have a raffle table with some blooming plants so bring some cash too. And remember—dues are due now. \$25 for a single membership.

[So we have a good idea of how to plan, please click here to let us know if you will attend this meeting.](#) Many of you already responded so no need to respond again.

The Magnificent Golden Yellow Cattleya - From our President

If you were to ask me which orchid is my favorite, it would not be difficult to give you my answer. Out of hundreds of orchids in my greenhouse, I would have to say that the Colombian *C. dowiana* is my very favorite. No other *Cattleya* has received more praise from orchid lovers all over the world and it is the most admired species of the genus. Writers have also called *C. dowiana* as "the most beautiful". *C. dowiana* is the only *Cattleya* that has yellow sepals and petals and a dark crimson-purple lip veined with gold almost all the way to the ruffled lip. Flower size is 7 Inches. Its flowers are short lived, about 7 days. The orchid is prone to the dreaded black rot disease due to overwatering. It is a difficult orchid to grow if the right watering and growing techniques are not provided. Also, it does not like full sun and must be shaded. I keep my *C. dowiana* at 50% sunlight. I have all of my *C. dowiana* hanging low from the canopy frame in the middle of the greenhouse in front of two 32 inch outdoor fans in oscillations for 12 hours a day, every day, plus one 12 Inch fan oscillating behind the plants 24 hours a day. In early May, I raise them higher to receive more light. In the growing season, I water them three times a week, but for the rest of the year, watering is strict and critical. I know orchid experts who have given up on trying to grow *C. dowiana*.

There are two species of *Cattleya*, *C. dowiana* from Costa Rica and the *C. dowiana* 'aurea' from Colombia, 600 miles apart, but they are not recognized as two distinct separate species by the botanical authorities.

Louis A. Mendez (Note: The picture in the masthead is my *C. dowiana*.)

Many of us will remember John Collins, an avid orchid grower and kind man. I also knew John as a member of the Manatee Opera Guild. He led a remarkable life.

John Garvey Collins of Bradenton Florida, 93, passed away peacefully on June 27, 2021. John was born on February 24, 1928 to John and Amelia in Coshocton, Ohio. After graduating from Roscoe High School, he went on to study Chemistry at Kent State University and Medical Technology at Ohio State University. Go Buckeyes! After graduation, he enlisted in the Air Force to do medical research. He was first stationed in San Antonio Texas at Randolph Air Force Base and then in Fairbanks Alaska at Ladd Air Force Base. John proposed to his high school sweetheart Roberta through long distance love letters. They married in 1953 in Coshocton at Grace Methodist Church while he was on furlough. Their first son, Stuart, was born in Texas and Clark was born while John was stationed in Alaska. He was discharged from the Air Force in 1956. Not wanting to shovel any more snow, John headed south. He interviewed along the way and accepted the Director position at Manatee Memorial Hospital in Bradenton and became Chief of Medical Technology. John and Roberta's daughter, Kathy was born in Florida. After 28 years with the Hospital, he retired in 1984 for yet another adventure. John and Roberta continued their travels including many stops in Europe, Rome, Finland and Greece. Some of their tours were with Educational Opportunities, beloved Family, and dear church friends. They set off to The Holy Land, and rode Camels in Egypt. John continued his world travel by going to Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia with a stop in Estonia and other exotic locales. John continued his desire to help others as a volunteer missionary in Belize. He was very involved with the local Masonic Lodge and the Eastern Star. John was Worshipful Master of Manatee Masonic lodge No. 31 in 1965 and served as Secretary of the lodge for 25 years. John especially enjoyed the degree, and ritual work, and espoused the values that the lodge embodies. He was the Eastern Star Worthy Patron along with Roberta as Worthy Matron. His commitment to the Masonic Lodge deepened his beliefs to help others first. John pursued many hobbies and interests. So many it was exhausting to keep up with his volunteer schedules. John was dubbed a Jack-of-all-trades volunteer and had an article featuring his tireless work in the community which was printed in the Herald. After he retired you could still find him charting and directing patients and visitors at the hospital while also sharing his smile and warmth. He would carve out time to sit with hospice patients in their homes to give their caretakers a break. In his spare time John earned his Master Gardener title. He had an innate passion to grow things, and especially enjoyed his orchids. He used these talents and knowledge to volunteer at Selby Gardens and the Agricultural Center in Palmetto. John had a special gift, not only to nurture plants but to grow and care for people and their needs. He lifted up many associates in their journey with his wisdom, caring words and deeds. Another one of his passions was the Opera Guild. Most Saturdays his home was filled with different Arias and opera music. John and Roberta spent many nights watching Opera movies. Their kids preferred Rock and Roll but learned to appreciate John's taste of finer things. Anyone fortunate to be in John's presence, knew he was a kind and giving man. All who crossed his path, whether it be through work, Church, volunteering or the Masonic Lodge knew he prioritized charity for all mankind and the importance of helping others.

From Dr. Motes—How about all this rain!

This July has been much wetter than usual. The pattern of heavy rains and their frequency have been more like a typical June. The late onset of the rainy season has given us a leg up on disease control but that advantage will vanish now with this extra wet July. The preventative disease control set forth in Florida Orchid Growing is likely to be especially important this year as the late onset of the rains may foreshadow a longer rainy season perhaps persisting further into the fall than is normally expected. All efforts to control disease, while always wise are particularly pertinent this year: water early in the day and only when really needed. Also improve air circulation by spacing your plants, which by now have grown larger, further apart, more widely spaced. Cutting any vegetation which has overshadowed the growing area will increase light and air movement which will dry our plants more quickly. Hanging plants which have grown extra large on the bench offers specimen plants greatly increased air move which increases dramatically with extra height. As always, the master's shadow is the most valuable asset to plant health. Scout daily and be sure to nip any developing disease in the bud and isolate any infected plant to a dry spot.

The extra rain of this July has yielded an unexpected benefit: less Thrips and mites. Both of these pests, which usually put in at least one appearance in July, have been largely washed away by the heavy rains and dampened down by the accompanying high humidity. A dry patch in August could see them return in full force. Any period without rain for five days offers and opportunity for these pests to lodge in our well-watered orchids. Excellent control methods are elucidated in Florida Vanda Growing.

Snails are always with us but are freest and most wide ranging in the rains of summer. Snail bait very lightly applied in the smallest pellets available is always advised in August but of particular importance this year as our efforts may aid in the eradication of the newly arrived, invasive spring tailed snail.

While rain can cause worries about disease and snails, it also brings relieving coolness which we can enjoy as well as our plants. Rain cooled atmosphere is a persistent phenomenon which beckons us to enjoy being outside.

Martin Motes

Dr. Motes TASKS FOR SEPTEMBER

Finish cutting teretes* and reed stem epidendrums early in month.

Reset strap leaf vandas early or not at all.

Dry hard once or twice.

Continue anti-fungal spray program.

Apply snail bait lightly twice, ten days apart.

*Terete - [Orchids](#) that have leaves shaped like a thin round pencil. They love full sun... most famous **terete Vanda**, which is also the National Flower of Singapore, Vanda Miss Joaquim 'Agnes'. Semi-**terete** - such as Ascocenda 'Emma' and other **orchid** Hybrids between the Strap-leaf and **Terete** types.

Upcoming Event



October 1-3

The Tamiami International
Orchid Festival

at Fruit and Spice Park

24801 SW 187th Ave

Redland, FL 33031

To buy tickets & a T-Shirt:

tamiamiorchidfestival.com

September and October at Selby Gardens

SEPTEMBER at Selby Gardens (To September 26th)

These African American artists were entrepreneurial landscape artists in segregated Florida beginning in the 1950s. Mostly self-taught, these artists were shut out of museums and art galleries due to living in the segregated south. Instead of settling for traditional labor jobs in the agricultural industry, however, they forged ahead and found success selling their works to consumers along Florida's Atlantic coast. This exhibition will be presented in collaboration with the [Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition](#).



Harold Newton, 22 x 28 in., painted on canvas board.

Courtesy of The Lightle Collection.



The Orchid Show 2021:

Aerialists from the Tree Top to the Big Top!

In collaboration with The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art and presented by Better-Gro®
October 9 through November 28, 2021

Selby Gardens' annual Orchid Show brings together two of Sarasota, Florida's most renowned legacies — orchids and the circus. Presented in collaboration with the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art (The Ringling), *The Orchid Show 2021: Aerialists from the Tree Top to the Big Top!*, is presented by Better-

Gro®, celebrates the breathtaking beauty of orchids in tree-top canopies high above the forest floor with the artistry and spectacle of the circus, particularly the aerialists who perform extraordinary feats of human ability high above captivated crowds. Pairing astonishing air plants with amazing aerial acts enables a fascinating exploration of the intersection of nature and entertainment. (Wouldn't this make a great field trip!)



On the left is Chris O'Grady's Blc. Ports of Paradise 'Emerald Isle'

She said the fragrance is divine and that it's gorgeous every year with minimal care.

On the right, from Maryanne Hazen's garden.

Odedm Wildcat
"Green Valley"



On the left is a picture also sent in by Chris. She said "This is a beautiful lady slipper growing naturally at the woodsy home of a relative of mine in Maine. I remember seeing these frequently in the woods."

Indian Summer?

Labor Day usually marks the unofficial end of summer. Cooler nights and shorter days usually serve to intensify the color of phalaenopsis blooming this time of year. If the temperatures remain unseasonably balmy, we call it an Indian Summer.

**DON'T
FORGET**

IMPORTANT! According to our by-laws, dues are to be paid for the time period June 1 through May 31st. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and our not meeting in person, the board gave us a pass on paying dues for last year. They are normally due by the September meeting, so please plan on bringing a check or cash to pay your dues on September 14th. \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family. If you aren't planning on attending the meeting, you can mail your dues to Maryanne.

[Address is on application on website.](#)

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

Louis Mendes

Vice president

Maryanne Hazen

2nd Vice President

Caryl Ponder

Treasurer

Sharon Kinkaid

Recording Secretary

Mercedes Kratz

Corresponding Secretary

Chris O'Grady



Treasurer's Report

AUGUST 2021

Expenses

Check Book balance as of **\$5,367.46**
June 30, 2021

Income

Dues	195.00
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Supply Sales

Total receipts: 195.00

Total Expenses

Checkbook Balance
August 1, 2021

\$5,562.46

If you want to have your current bloomer on our newsletter or website, send me a picture. We are always happy to show off our orchids!

You could also send any pictures to [Maureen Hirthler](#) and she'll post it into your album on Facebook.