



The Plantation Orchid Society

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Volume 2 Number 2

February 2011

TUESDAY, FEB. 1, 2011

Setup/Social 6:45 – 7:15 p.m.
Meeting 7:15 – 9:00 p.m.

Deicke Auditorium
5701 Cypress Road
Plantation, FL

Pat Payette
President
954-472-8861

Helene Albee
1st Vice President
954-797-7964

Rose Maytin (Membership)
2nd Vice President
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Karen Reynoldson
Secretary
954-792-1195

Cindy Dunning
Parliamentarian/Historian
Trustee 2010-2011

Judy Revier
Trustee 2010 - 2011

Jan Mink
Trustee 2010-2011

John Budree
Trustee 2010 – 2011

Joseph Mihalic
Trustee 2010 – 2011

Hospitality
Judy Revier
Newsletter
Mary Lee Tabeling
954-473-0456

From the President

Hello Members and Friends,

I hope everyone enjoyed the wonderful talk given by Bill Peters from Whimsey Orchids. He had a great depth of knowledge about Cattleyas and I'm sure we all took away something new from his presentation.

Don't forget one of our great local shows...the Tamiami International Orchid Festival on Sat Jan 29 and Sun Jan 30th from 10:00 a.m to 6:00 p.m. Dade County Fair Expo Center - 10901 Coral Way (SW 24th Street & 109th Ave.) The plan for the Plantation Orchid Society is to meet at the festival Sat. morning and join with the Miramar Orchid Society. We will all go in together to get free entry to the Tamiami along with a coupon for \$5 off a purchase at the festival. Call one of our officers to coordinate. Be sure and patronize our South Florida growers and tell them that you are from the Plantation Orchid Society

Pat Payette

HOSPITALITY

Thanks to Christine Williams - Mrs. Sees Candy and Cheese and Fruit tray, Judy Revier - Macaroons, Jan and Allan Mink - Cutout Cookies, Helene Albee - Cream Puffs and Tina Cor - Cookies, for bringing your delicious goodies to the January meeting.

Remember, we always love the treats you bring but **PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO SIGN THE SHEET SO WE CAN THANK YOU IN MARCH**

Coffee and soda will be provided by the Society courtesy of Judy Revier.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JANUARY RIBBON WINNERS!

GREEN RIBBON WINNER

Blc. Bouton D'or 'Lewis' AM/HOS x Blc. Marv Ragan Phyllis Durst

BLUE RIBBON WINNERS

Vanda Kultana Gold x Sanderiana Alba Rose Maytin

Vanda Lamellats var. Remediosa (Species) Rose Maytin

B. Digbyana Helene Albee

Blc. Bouton D'or 'Lewis' AM/HOS x Blc. Marv Ragan Phyllis Durst

Eplc. Volcano Trick 'Fireball'
(Lc. Trick or Treat 'Orange Pieces' x Epi. Stamfordianum 'Spring') Jeff Tucker

RED RIBBON WINNER

Vanda Charngrale x Pornplmol Rose Maytin

Vanda Dear Jay Rose Maytin

(Orphan) Helene Albee

Bl. Richard Mueller x C. Trick or Treat Rose Maytin

Blc. Chia Lin 'New City' Karen Spiotta

Lc. Chan Hsiu Jewel 'The Best' Phyllis Durst

Blc. Green Fantasy 'Three Sun' Phyllis Durst

Sc. White Spark 'Fire Cat' Phyllis Durst

Epi. Green Hornet x Cochleatum Lancifolium Rose Maytin



NEW MEMBERS



Be sure and welcome our newest POS members: Wendy Clements, Gail Johnson and Elaine Yost



Elizabeth Mair



Phil Miller with his winnings!



Art Jennings, Sarita Jennings
and Cindy Arnow

OUR FEBRUARY SPEAKER - Tom Kuligowski,

Tom Kuligowski is an avid orchid grower, specializing in Angraecums as well as an award-winning photographer for 40+ years,

Angraecums tend to be known for their beautiful, showy flowers, many that are fragrant at night. Some can even become fantastic specimen plants in just a couple of years. With both species and several sought after crosses, the Angraecums offer some very unique shapes along with the most pristine white in any of the orchids. The amazing fact people aren't aware of, is that they can thrive in South Florida's sub-tropical weather or on a windowsill in the not so warm north, if given the chance. This presentation will provide both hobbyists and serious growers with fundamental guidelines to grow these beauties successfully and in turn, grace you with years of enjoyment. All of the photographs within the presentation are of plants from his collection. Many of them showing the various growth stages (from seedlings to first time bloomers to specimen plants). (tk_images@msn.com www.artimages.us)

January Program Presented by Bill Peters of Whimsy Orchids



Bill Peters of Whimsy Orchids specializes in *Cattleya* and species related to *Cattleya* orchids. These orchids are generally from South and Central America although a few are native to North America. They are natively found on trees and some on rocks. Cats prefer trees with a rough bark where the roots can firmly attach for support and receive nutrients. Rhizomes at the surface connect the pseudo bulbs which serve to store water along with the thick leaves and roots. Leaves which arise out of the pseudo bulb need enough sunlight to give the plant its energy. Sheaths protect the young buds that emerge from the pseudo bulb. Old sheaths can be easily removed when wet, to eliminate hiding places for pests.

Light and temperature are very important for cats. Light should be at the safest maximum for the plant to thrive. If you increase the light you must reduce the temperature. Plants located under a tree in Florida are usually in a good 30 to 50% light condition. The leaves on a plant receiving adequate light are generally a light green color. Dark green leaves are floppy and weak with smaller growth. Your hand should cast a shadow at the brightest part of the day. 95 degrees is about the maximum temperature for cats. At about 1:00 if the air temperature is too high or if the plants are receiving too much sun, you can just top mist the leaves for 30 seconds to cool them. In the winter when the humidity is very low you can water the ground or concrete to raise the humidity. Although cats can take temperatures as low as 35 degrees for brief periods, wind can damage the plants. It is advisable to use something to break the wind. Keep plants dry during cold periods and water the morning after the coldest night. During the winter the weekly cold fronts and low light intensity keep the plants from growing much. An east or west facing is the best location for cats. A northern shady facing will not give them enough light.

Bill recommends watering very well and then watering again to soak well. Allow the plant to dry. When Bill fertilizes his plants he rotates the fertilizer. He uses Peters Excell 15-15-15. Nitrate with calcium and magnesium. He rotates that with YaraLiva™, Calcinit™ with calcium at 19% and Epsom salts at 1/2 T per gallon. He prefers to water one day and fertilize the next morning, changing up his fertilizer each time. He also uses Nutracote or Dynamite at a rate of 1tsp per 6 inch pot. This is a type of slow release fertilizer that releases or degrades quicker as the temperature rises. Larger bags of supplies can be obtained from nursery supply companies such as Atlantic fertilizer.

A pest to watch out for is scale which is usually found on the underside of the leaves. Scale resembles mealy bugs but doesn't have legs. A magnifying glass or loop is helpful to identify pests. Clean plants with a toothbrush when you repot and sterilize the toothbrush in a chlorine solution between plants. For pests he recommends Ultra-Pure™ Horticultural oil, used at temperatures below 85 degrees. Another great but expensive insecticide used by growers is Merit 75 WSP. It contains imidacloprid which is found in Bayer Complete. Orthene is another good systemic that works well on thrips at the rate of 1T per gallon. Black rot fungus is caused by too much water and is usually seen on the newest growth. If a plant has rot, remove all rot and roots then put in an empty pot and mist every day. Recommended fungicides are Subdue, ALIETTE® and Truban. Cleary's 3336 WP (thiophanate methyl) is good for leaf spots and flower spots such as Botrytis.

Bill recommends growing cats on cork, driftwood, in wooden baskets or in clay pots. He puts his plants in the type of pot or container that makes his watering easier. Smaller pots dry out faster. When repotting, Bill prefers clay pots to plastic. He reuses and sterilizes his clay pots with 1 part bleach to 9 parts water, rinsing and drying well before reusing. If you use plastic you should use a very well drained mix. Cats will grow on anything. Bill plants his cats in a mix of 2 parts Aliflor, 2 parts charcoal, 1 part coconut chips and 1 part sponge rock. To repot, you will need a good stainless needlenose cutter which must be sterilized with a propane torch for 15 seconds on each side, or a solution of fully dissolved TSP (which can be found in the paint department at Home Depot). Repot when the mix in the pot has gone bad or rotted. Using a brass nozzle blast the plant with some pressurized water and using your cutter, cut off most of the roots. The best time to repot cattleyas is when you see new roots growing. From the growing part, count back 4 bulbs and cut there. Bill takes a 12 gauge wire, (Found in the hanging ceiling tiles department at Home Depot) and bends a circle just smaller than the pot. He then bends the wire so it goes straight up to form a support stake for the future flowers. The circle goes in the bottom of the pot. He puts about 2 inches of Styrofoam peanuts in the bottom of the pot. He then add his mix and makes sure his cat is sitting at about 1/2 inch below the top of the pot with the rhizome at the surface, held by a rhizome clip. He uses a potting stick (a broom handle sick cut to about 10 inches long with a dull pointed end) to tamp the potting mixture down. He ties up and supports the plant with nylon cord in a loop to loop chain-like fashion. He finishes the potting process by using a #2 pencil to document the plant's name on the tag.

Whimsy Orchids is located at 18755 S.W. 248th Street - Homestead, FL. 33031

Tel. 305-242-1333 - E-mail: whimsy@bellsouth.net

The Plantation Orchid Society

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