
Brevard County Orchid Society

Bulletin – April

President: Vern Bloch 727-0527
 Secretary: April Graham 751-1240
 News Letter Editor: Dave Siegrist 254-4645

Vice President: Judy Law 777-0311
 Treasurer: Lorna Mazza 255-2050

Board of Directors:

1st Year
 Barbara Brackett 426-5100
 Carol Hartgen 638-8657

2nd Year:
 Ed Dunham 255-3309
 Fred Zepf 777-9837

3rd Year:
 Kathryn Merry 724-2698
 Helga Lamb 773-5713

Past President: Julie Zepf

The BCOS is a non-profit organization established to develop, improve, and preserve cultivation and hybridization of orchids; collect information relating to growing and developing orchids; disseminate information concerning the culture, hybridization or development of orchids through meetings, exhibitions, lectures, or publications; to provide awards for excellence in the development or culture of orchids; increase public interest in the growing of orchids; and generally to extend the knowledge, production, use and appreciation of orchids.

The BCOS meets monthly each 2nd Monday at 7:30 P.M in the Satellite Beach Municipal Auditorium at the Civic Center, 565 Cassia Blvd, Satellite Beach, Florida.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is a great time of year to work with your plants. The weather is generally pleasant, and your plants need a little boost coming out of the winter. Sometimes, in an effort to close in for the winter and protect our plants against the weather, we get them bunched tightly together, with minimal airflow around them. Our mortal enemies from the insect world love this. Check your plants closely to ensure you aren't breeding things you don't want. If you find some, a good remedy for most is a mixture of 1/3 water, 1/3 isopropyl alcohol and 1/3 Formula 409. (Yes, your standard household cleaner.) Spray it on, and rub the pests away.

Another thing to think about is fertilizer. Our plants have been fairly dormant for

several months, and we haven't paid much attention to fertilizer. Now they would like to take off in all this good weather. Give them a shot of fertilizer to help them. Remember; don't apply fertilizer to dry plants. Water one day, fertilize the next.

Also, if you have a relatively dark growing area and want to make a change to improve blooming, this is the best time of year to move plants to brighter light. It will give them time to adjust before it gets extremely hot and bright.

Don't forget, Julie needs lots of help with the Spring Fair.

If you would like to chat about any of these comments, call me at 727-0527.

Vern Bloch

APRIL PROGRAM

"The 25 Best Orchids I Have Seen in the Past Three Years" by Greg Allikas

Greg is a professional photographer who does a lot work for AOS, including photos of award-winning plants. He has teamed with Ned Nash, a past head of conservation for AOS, to publish several very nice books on orchids. He has a great web site called Orchidworks.com. If you want to see some great pictures of orchids, this is the place to go. Greg has been a speaker for us on several occasions in the past, and has proven himself to be one of the best. The first program he did for us was on orchid photography. It probably holds our all-time attendance record for any program we've ever had. This is a good one, don't miss it.

Greg will probably bring books for sale, therefore we ***WILL NOT HAVE ANY MEMBER PLANT SALES.***

BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 4, 2007

The meeting was called to order by the President at 6:44 pm on Tuesday, March 4, 2008, at the Satellite Beach Public Library. Vern Bloch, Fred Zepf, Julie Zepf, Dave Siegrist, Helga Lamb, Ed Dunham, April Graham, Kathryn Merry, Judy Law, Carol Hartgen, and Lorna Mazza were present.

The minutes from the February Board meeting were distributed by April Graham and corrected and approved by the Board.

The Treasurer's Report for December, January, and February were distributed by Lorna Mazza and reviewed and approved.

Old Business

1. Final WOC trip budget – Ron Fischer will be asked to prepare final budget for April board meeting.
2. Final Christmas Party budget – April Graham distributed and reviewed final numbers for Christmas Party.
3. Report on BCOS Bucks – Dave Siegrist has stepped off of the committee and April

Graham and Terry Copija will meet to discuss possible ideas and guidelines.

4. Process for approving and publishing minutes of board meetings – ideas and concerns were discussed, topic has been tabled at this time
5. 2008 Committees – Vern Bloch reviewed and updated committees for 2008. All board members have updated copy of list.
6. Annual Plant Auction – This has been tabled.
7. Judges – Ed Dunham and Joe Bryson made nominations for BCOS Judges, all were approved.

New Business

1. Redlands Bus Trip – Ron Fisher will gather information on members interests in future bus trips.
2. Raffle Plants – Vern Bloch, April Graham and Joann Amos will discuss options for providing raffle plants.
3. Special Events Coordinator Compensation – Fred Zepf will present a proposal for rewarding coordinators of BCOS special events.
4. AOS Offers – Julie Zepf presented AOS offers and will make available at March general meeting
5. Spring 2008 Fair – Julie Zepf states that plans are underway and some vendors have already paid.
6. Benefits of Membership – This topic was brought up for board members to think about and bring ideas for discussion at April Board meeting
7. New General Meeting location – Positive and negative feedback from members was discussed. These will continue to be talked about at board meetings with expectations of growing pains accompanying the move.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

April Graham

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As the BCOS President I want to welcome our new members and hope that you enjoy your membership in our organization.

Steve Powers

P.O. Box 745, Grant, FL 32949

William Vaughan

1230 Silver Lake Drive, Melbourne, FL 32940

Here you should ask questions and learn. Just listen, learn and enjoy.

Vern Bloch, BCOS President

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

The Brevard County Orchid Society would like to express caring and concern to any member or their immediate family who is ill or in need of care. We are also happy to announce and celebrate joyful events. Please get in touch with the Sunshine Committee if you know of anyone who should be remembered or contacted, and let us know about events worth celebrating.

Elaine Chambers, 321-213-6341

Sunshine Committee

ASK THE EXPERTS

When you have a question about your orchids, just write or e-mail Dave Siegrist. Dave will then direct the question to one of our society experts. Your answer will appear in the next issue of the newsletter. There will also be a log of all the questions asked with their answers kept on the web site for future reference. We hope that everyone uses this new reference and finds it informative. So the next time you have a question, a problem to solve, or a pest you can't kill, remember to just 'Ask the Experts'.

Question from Maria Petchenkina: If I use sphagnum moss as medium I always end up with extensive green algae on top. Naturally, moisture plus light equal algae. But some plants need to be watered every day (like Bulbo) so there is no choice. However, I bought a lot of plants in sphagnum from commercial growers and there was no algae. What's their secret?

Answer from Vern Bloch: Maria The reason you don't see algae on sphagnum moss from commercial growers is probably because they periodically spray with fungicide (like RD-20) that doubles as an algacide. That tends to keep it from getting started. If you use sphagnum, keep in mind that it will start to break down after 6 to 12 months. When it does, it will smother the roots and be harmful to your plants.

Question from Maria Petchenkina: Second question is for Vern Bloch: on last meeting in your "roaches killing potion" did you mean beeswax (and if yes, where to get it?) or I can use paraffin, like in candles?

Answer from Vern Bloch: standard paraffin wax. Helen buys mine at Wal-Mart.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BCOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1st at 6:45 PM at the Satellite Beach Library.

GENERAL MEETING. The next meeting of the BCOS general membership will be held on **Monday**, April 14th beginning at 7:30PM, at the Satellite Beach Municipal Auditorium.

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND FLORIDA

April 26-27

Vero Beach Orchid Society Show

The Vero Beach Orchid Society will present its annual show on Saturday and Sunday, April 26-27 at the Riverside Park, near the gazebo. Admission is free and ample parking is available. There will be floral exhibits, and vendors from around the state will have orchids and orchid supplies for sale.

Experience members of our Society will be on hand to answer questions on orchid culture. If you like orchids, come and enjoy. For further information, please call Doug Mew at (772) 713-5165.

15TH SPRING ORCHID FAIR

The Brevard County Orchid Society's 15th Spring Orchid Fair will be the weekend of

May 3 and 4, 2008. As usual, we are looking to volunteers for help make the Orchid Fair a success. The following describes some of the help that will be needed for our fair to be successful:

The following tasks are 1 or 2 hour shifts:

Admission: This is a sit down job for 2 members per 2 hour shift, this entails handling money, giving out tickets and fair information to each customer.

Hospitality: We will need 2 members per 2 hour shift to sit at the society table to hand out culture sheets, answer questions, act as ambassadors for the society and encourage people to join our society.

Plant Raffle: We will be raffling off blooming orchids and supplies donated by our 16 vendors and orchid related items donated by members. We need volunteers to explain the process to people and sell as many raffle tickets as possible. This entails handling money and standing for 1 or 2 hours.

Workshop Room Monitor: This entails being in the room during the workshop and assisting the speaker if needed, closing doors, getting anything the speaker may need and just being an extra pair of hands to ensure the workshop goes smoothly. A sit down job for 1 member per workshop for 1 hour.

Display Room Monitor: This entails being in the room to watch that no one touches the orchids, no orchid develops feet, to answer any questions and to act as an ambassador for the society. 2 members per hour 1 sits 1 stands, can change off as needed.

The following are not difficult tasks, and won't take a lot of your time:

Set-up/Tear-down: This entails putting skirts on tables (which are already in place), hanging the vendors name signs, assisting vendors to get their plants and supplies unloaded and setup. At the tear down the process is reversed. Set-up is Friday May 2, 2008 at 3:00 pm, tear down is Sunday May 4, 2008 at 5:00 pm.

Raffle Prize Delivery: This entails coming Sunday May 4, 2008 at 5:30pm and taking two or more of the raffle prizes and delivering them to the winners. We will try to match the winner's address with the volunteers. The raffle committee will have gotten directions for the volunteers.

Please think about volunteering for at least one of these activities. It takes all of you to make a fair a success. I will be passing the signup book around at both the March 10 and April 14 general meetings. If you will not be at the general meeting please call me at 777-9837 to sign up. **Please volunteer!! We need all of you!!**

Thanks, Julie Zepf Fair Chairman

WANTED ALL BLOOMING ORCHIDS! WIN CASH!

Our Spring Orchid Fair is coming May 3 and 4, 2008 now is the time to start talking to your orchids and play them music to get them to show their glory for the fair. Judging will be of only non-commercial orchids and cash prizes will be awarded. There will be ribbons and certificates awards in each category with a \$25.00 prize for the Best in each category. The orchid judged the Best in Fair will receive an additional \$25.00. That's a total of \$325.00 to be awarded. All BCOS members are eligible to enter orchids for judging but please only enter orchids that have been bloomed under your guidance and tender loving care. Please don't enter orchids that you have just purchased from your favorite vendor, Loews, Walmart or Home Depot. Entries should be brought to the Azan Shrine Center, 1591 West Eau Gallie Blvd, in Melbourne on Friday May 2, 2008 between 4:00pm and 6:00pm. All plants will be inspected by the head of judging. A plant found to have any pest or disease will be rejected and not allowed to be entered. This is to protect all vendor and member plants in the display room, so please inspect your orchids before bringing them for judging. The judging will take place at 9:00am on Saturday May 3, 2008, by a panel of selected BCOS members. So come enter as many orchids as

you have in bloom, there is no limit. The following are the categories being judged: Cattleya - small \leq 4 inches, Cattleya – large $>$ 4 inches, Dendrobium, Epidendrum/Encyclia, Oncidium, Paphiopedilum, Phalaenopsis, Vanda, Other Genera, one for Culture, People's Choice and the Special Judging category which is a discretionary award to be used by the head of judging. So come, enter your orchids, join the fun and win some cash.

THE ORCHID DISPLAY ROOM

The Fair Committee has brought together an artful way to beautify the presentation of the orchids in the display room. All of you who bring beautiful clean orchids in decorative containers have seen the difference that has been made in this endeavor. We are happy with the success of this project and are asking that more of you bring your orchids and participate.

Please remember that the committee and the Head Judge expects not only good looking, bug-free plants, but plants that you have cultivated yourself. Not plants you have bought recently just to participate in the judging. No plant will be eligible for registration that was bought from vendors on Friday (registration day).

We are also asking our vendors if they sell plants on Friday while we are setting up, that they hold plants until 6:00 p.m. when registration is closed.

Just a reminder that the plant registration is on Friday, May 2nd, from 4:00 PM thru 6:00 PM.

Please bring your beautiful orchids and good luck to all. Hope you win a lot of "Blues".

Steve and Mary DeSorbo

FROM THE EDITOR

THEBCOS.ORG is the address for the New Brevard County Orchid Society Web page. This newsletter is available in both paper hardcopy (Snail-Mail), and electronic Distribution (E-Mailed) using Adobe Acrobat PDF format. If you send an e-mail request to dave@siegrist.net, I will add you to the electronic distribution list. I can also take you off the Postal Mailing list and save the society a little money on postage and reproduction costs.

FROM THE LIBRARIAN

We have many new books in our library available to check out. The list is on the web page. Please feel free to contact me about the library.

Helga Lamb 773-5713

MISC. ORCHID SUPPLIES FOR SALE

Slotted Clay Pots
from 2" to 8"
some used

Cork Bark:
some virgin, some used
sizes from 3" to 35"

Potting Media:
Alliflor, some used and some new
NZ spagnum moss
Tree fern
Rock wool
charcoal

2 wire, clip-on, wire pot hangers:
18" and 24"

4 Tiered bench stands
Propane heater, exhaust fan, intake shutter
Call after April 20th or e-mail for price list.

Steve Powers
Grant, FL
stevefranp@hotmail.com
321-727-3894

APRIL 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 March	31	1 April BCOS Board of Directors Meeting, 6:45pm at the Satellite Beach Library	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 BCOS Meeting. Satellite Beach Municipal Auditorium 7:30pm	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Vero Beach Orchid Society Show
27 Vero Beach Orchid Society Show	28	29	30	1	2	3

* See the “**Upcoming Events Around Florida**” information enclosed in the newsletter for further details on the Calendar of Events activities

Brevard County Orchid Society
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