



**P. O. Box 211463**

**Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421**

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**March 2017**

Hello everyone!

I hope you are all enjoying our wonderful weather and watching your orchids bloom and grow. I am catching up on care of mine after being out of commission for so long. My bionic knees are so good that I no longer even think about them when I am walking or standing. As many of you know, my orchids are mounted on trees throughout the one-acre garden. I had been using a hose-end sprayer on 100' of hose, which is very effective, but really too heavy for me. So I invested in a Master Gardener Rechargeable Sprayer with a 9 gallon tank that rides on its own hand cart with big wheels. I have a friend who has been using one for about a year and says it is the best investment she has made. So far, I love mine.

The Mounts Spring Plant Sale is on April 29 and 30. I encourage all of you to offer some of your offsets and kiekies for sale at the OSPB booth. The club will take a 15% commission, and you will be asked to work a shift during the sale. Our member plants sold well at the last two sales, and I have had people mention to me that they come to our booth specifically for member plants. They can be bare root or potted.

Looking forward to seeing you at the April 13 meeting with Tony Millet of River Orchids.

Your President,

*Doris Happel*



Hello OSPB,

Aaah SPRING! In my opinion, the best time of the year. The fruit trees are in bloom (not so good for allergy sufferers) the orchids are also putting on a show. The temperature is still reasonably comfortable for doing some gardening and yard clean-up. Get outdoors and enjoy it while you can before it gets too darn hot. It is also time to be repotting those overgrown orchids, as they go out of bloom and making division's to sell or trade.

The bugs are also alive and active and doing their best to destroy your plants quickly too. I discovered some really nasty scale living on my plants a couple of weeks ago. It can go undetected and all of sudden by the time you notice it, it's got a really good head-start. If you see a yellow circle on the top of your cattleya leaf; turn it over and look at the bottom. It starts with one small speck, that's Momma Scale, but under that dot are hundreds of eggs waiting to hatch...and they hatch out every 3 days...! That is why you have to act quickly when you spot it. It can progress from this stage →



←-- to this is record breaking time. Keep those brown sheaths peeled off the pseudobulbs so they have no place to hide. This is the creepy, crawly stage and once they can move around they take over your collection in record breaking time. Ants farm the scale and help to transport them to other plants nearby. When you find an affected plant, isolate it and check the others close around it, they usually have scale on them too. You can blast them with a strong stream of water from the hose to remove a lot of them and spray them with a mixture of 1 part 409, 1 part Isopropyl alcohol, 1 part water with a few drops of Dawn dish soap. Neem Oil and Safer Soap are also more eco-friendly alternatives. A more effective treatment is Orthene WP, (wettable powder) a systemic insecticide, use at 7 to 10 day intervals. It will get rid of the ants and roaches too. In severe cases you will have to repot into fresh, clean media.



←-This is spider mite damage. You will not see them unless you use a magnifying glass. They really love dining on Dendrobium's, Catasetum's, and other soft-leaved varieties. However, they will not turn away from a tasty Cattleya leaf either. Neem Oil is an eco-friendly treatment or look for a product that specifically states it is a miticide. Follow label directions.

This is what the last cool-snap did to my Dendrobium's again. ->





Happy Birthday to all our April members. Cheryl Akey, Jacob Galeski, Barbara Rollhaus, John Wallace and Dena Walls. You will be in charge of bringing refreshments to our next meeting April 13<sup>th</sup>. If you will not be attending this meeting please call Shannon 443-802-4779 or email her at [Shannon.skoullkas@yahoo.com](mailto:Shannon.skoullkas@yahoo.com) so she can plan accordingly.

Gloria Kennedy will be our 'Hold the Door' person. Thank you everyone !

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**\*\*\*Tony Millet "The Benefits of Hybridizing"** Our speaker for April is Tony Millet, the owner of River Orchids in Ft. Lauderdale. Tony is an Orchid grower, hybridizer, speaker, who does his own flasking, replating, mericlone and other in-vitro work. He has been growing orchids for 30 years and hybridizing for 20 years. He really enjoys making hybrids using hard to find, rare or different color forms of species. Tony recently moved to Florida from New York where he was growing and breeding plants that were cool to intermediate, dendrobium, masdevallia, some cool growing encyclias and sophronitis. Presently Tony has been breeding intermediate to warm cattleya alliance hybrids, while using color forms other than the typical lavenders and purples He has twice been awarded AM/AOS on 2 species and to date about 30 RHS registered hybrids. Tony is a volunteer hybridizer and seedling grower at the Bonnet House in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He is the past president and editor of the Suffolk Orchid Society of Long Island NY. Tony will be speaking on the benefits of hybridizing and growing from seed. He will be giving us some of his tips and growing advice. There will be some show and tell involving plant pollinia, plants in pod, protocorm formation in flask and early potting out of flask to near blooming size plants.

*\*\*\*This bio-info was taken from the Plantation Orchid Society newsletter on the web.*



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We had two new members joining our OSPB family in the month of March.

**Kim Moore and Cathy Jarmakowicz.**

We hope you enjoy all the benefits of your membership as you learn about growing and loving orchids.

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Don't forget about the bus trip sponsored by TOS, May 20th to the Redland's International Orchid Festival. Contact Cheryl Akey [Cheryl-akey@comcast.net](mailto:Cheryl-akey@comcast.net) - 561-329-4390 to reserve your seat; or see her at the next meeting. This is the Big One. The one we look forward to all year. You just gotta go....! The cost is \$25 which includes admission to the show and a \$5 coupon at participating vendors. There will be a raffle on the return trip and almost more fun and excitement than you can possibly endure. Don't miss it!



*Phal. Yu Pin Easter Island*

The Saturday morning workshop will be prior to our meeting this month. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday is April 8<sup>th</sup>. I will be hosting this workshop for Charline who will be recovering from knee- replacement surgery. I know we all will be missing her and hoping for her recovery to be swift and pain free.

The Mounts Spring Plant Sale April 29 & 30, is always one of our best fund raisers from the orchid sales. If you have plants or divisions for sale contact Shannon and also plan to work a few hours with us. This is a fun way to get to know your fellow members and help your society as well. Sign up, join us!

I apologize for the late arrival of your newsletter this month. I was very busy and the month ran out before I got it finished. I guess you could say this is my 'April Fool's trick' to you all.

I look forward to seeing you at the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Bring a friend!

Happy Growing,

*Patt Lindsey*



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