



**P.O. Box 211463
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421**

June 2017

Our President, Doris Happel, is on Vacation.

A note from Charline:

The director of Fairchild Botanical Garden in Coral Gables, Dr. Carl Lewis, spoke to us at one of our meetings about the *Million Orchid Project*. He reported that several thousand *Enc. tampensis* and *Cirt. punctatum* (both native Florida orchids) had been planted in the trees in town. That year there was a dry Spring, with no rain for six months. It was feared that all would fail to establish. The next year the *tampensis* looked great; not so the *punctatum*'s. This summer the *Cirt. punctatum* (also called the cowhorn) are being replanted. Let's hope for a good rainy season.

An interesting historical note: The cowhorn orchids are nearly gone in the wild because the local Indians used the sap as glue to seal the roof of palm fronds on their chickee huts.



This interesting article appeared in the Palm Beach Post a week or so ago.

MIAMI BEACH Rare orchids being planted to help restore native plants.

Twenty thousand rare orchids are being planted throughout Miami Beach as part of a program restoring native plants to suburban Florida landscapes. The Miami Herald reports that the first cowhorn orchids were tied to a tree Friday outside City Hall. The orchid plantings will continue over the next three years.

The plantings are part of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens Million Orchid Project. Seedlings are grown in labs and transplanted into trees throughout Miami's suburbs. Conservationists hope the program revitalizes native plants nearly wiped out by development and orchid collectors.

Since 2014, about 85,000 orchids have been replanted in public spaces by volunteers, students and scientists. In Miami Beach, residents will be asked to monitor the orchids in their neighborhoods with an app. developed at Florida International University.

Hello OSPB,

Did you all enjoy the program on Nobile Dendrobiums presented by John Romano, as much as I did? I've had a few of them in my collection for years but they have never been outstanding bloomers for me and I couldn't figure out why. Well, now I know. I was doing everything wrong.

When growing orchids we try to create the same conditions of the habitat they grow in. I guess some of the most important things to remember is, they have a wet and a dry season. They like very bright light, even so much as full sun. Most of them want to be totally dry in winter; rain is ok. Do not start to water again until you see individual flower buds forming in the Spring. If you water too soon you will get keiki's instead of blooms. (Keiki's will also form if they don't get enough sun or if you fertilize too late in the season). Easter is when John starts to water and fertilize again and he says, "Feed the hell out of them all summer". Labor Day is the cut-off date to stop fertilizing, and do not water after Thanksgiving. John pots his plants in New Zealand sphagnum moss (lasts for 3 years) and he says they like to be pot bound. Now we know. I hope to see a bunch of these on the Show & Tell table next Spring.



Member's Pic's from the June Meeting

Welcome back Mary!



Miniature and indoor orchid growers mark your calendar for July 13th. Our speaker will be orchid hobbyist Tomas Bajza. He came to the USA about 15 years ago from the Czech Republic where his first growing experience started with 2 Phalaenopsis and a Cymbidium. Without any orchid knowledge these plants did not do very well. After moving to North Miami he tried growing the usual grocery store Phals. and Den's., then added some Catt's and Vanda's. About 3 years ago, someone posted a picture of *Lepanthopsis astrophora* on one of the orchid forums he was following. He says that was the first time he had ever seen a miniature orchid and had no clue such a thing even existed. He fell in love completely, and he immediately ordered a few. That was it. He had been bitten by a "huge", miniature orchid bug. That was less than 10 years ago. His collection now includes hundreds of micro and miniature orchid species; many of them are very rare. Like most hobbyist, he has tried a variety of genera based on his current growing conditions, an apartment balcony in North Miami. Tomas seems to have found his niche: miniatures and cold or intermediate growing species. Join us as we all learn more about growing indoors.... and miniature orchids.

He will be bringing some of his mini's to sell along with some other supplies. Bring a friend!



Refreshments will be supplied by our July birthday babies. Happy Birthday to Kathryn Galeski, Wayne Green, Cathy Jarmakowicz, Katie McGivern, Anita O'Connor, Mary Jo Prosser, Brenda Skaggs and Elyse Underberg. Please contact Shannon if you will not be attending the July meeting. shannon.skoullkas@yahoo.com

I will be holding the room open for us

With a very heavy heart I report that June 17th our beloved member Frank Cianfrone passed away. Frank was the perfect example of a true gentleman. He was always there to help and to serve. He was our official photographer for many years until his illness made it too difficult for him to attend our meetings anymore. I am sure he is reunited with his precious wife Marty, who predeceased him just a short time ago. I am so blessed that I had the good fortune to get to know him. We will greatly miss him.



Mark your calendars, July 8th will be the last of Charline's workshops until they resume in the Fall. This month starts on a Saturday so don't miss it. It will be before the monthly meeting and it will be all about mounting orchids. If you have never attended, it is located at the Park Pointe Clubhouse, 3315 Perimeter Dr., Greenacres south of 10th Ave., off Jog Rd. on the west side.



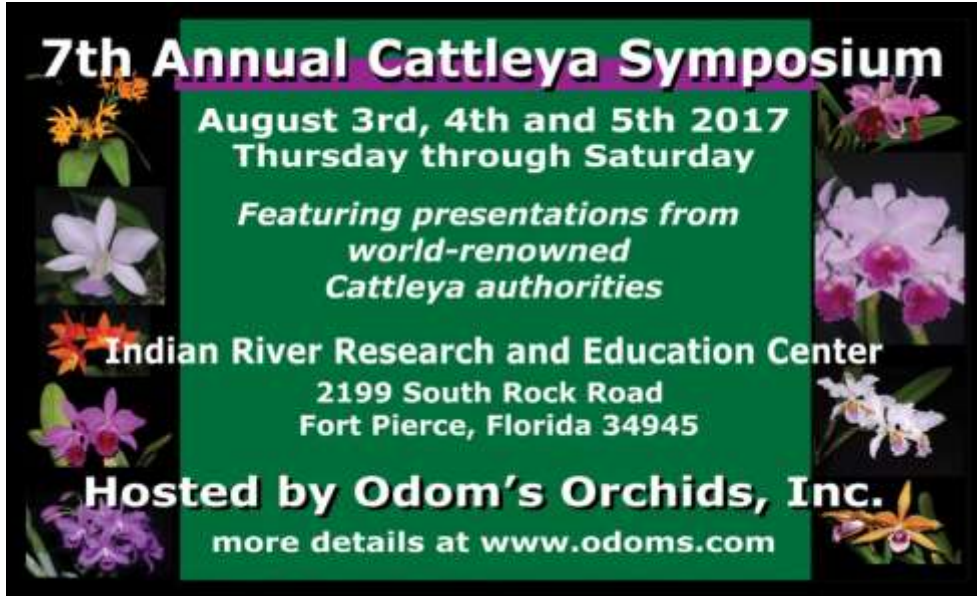
Workshop Pic's by Marie Reddy

I want to share a bit of info with you that I have learned about protecting my new cattleya growths from standing water that causes them to rot. Most of my orchids are under cover so I don't have a bad problem with rain rotting them. However I do have overhead irrigation and this time of year the catt's are putting up beautiful new growths in anticipation of their blooming season this Fall. I have a problem with water standing in those new growths. They form the perfect reservoir to hold that water and they either cook when the temps get so high or they rot when it stays there too long. I've had one commercial grower tell me to use canned air that you use on your computer to blow out the dust and cookie crumbs from your keyboard. Bad advice! That quick blast can freeze the new growth in just a second. Another grower told me he uses a straw to blow the water out of each one. That works, but when you have as many as I do, you tend to get a little light in the head after a while. The best advice was from a hobbyist at the Cattleya Symposium a couple of years ago. He said to cover those new growths with a Solo cup. That works! I have found an even better use for those empty water bottles we all have. Cut the top portion off and

they fit right down over those long new growths on your bifoliate. The little 3oz. bathroom cups work well too for the new growths just popping up out of the pot and the 6 or 8oz. fit nicely over larger growths. When you find one that is getting near bloom size, those big drink cups from Taco Bell or Mickey-dees will cover those too. I'm really into this recycling....anything if it helps to save my blooms. Sometimes the sheath will cause water to stand on the bud too long and cause it to rot. If you peel that sheath back just a little bit it will drain that water off. Don't peel those sheaths all the way until the bulb has hardened off. It is really heartbreaking to lose buds that are that close to blooming. I hope this is useful to you.



The Cattleya Symposium sponsored by Odom's Orchids is fast approaching. If you are planning to go, make your reservations ASAP as there is only space to accommodate 140 people. This is a really great program. Yes, it is a bit pricey. It does include a very nice lunch both days and a pizza party Thursday night. There is so much information and some other perks as well. People come from all over the US to attend. It's right here in our backyard. If you love Cattleya's, don't miss it.



7th Annual Cattleya Symposium
August 3rd, 4th and 5th 2017
Thursday through Saturday
Featuring presentations from
world-renowned
Cattleya authorities
Indian River Research and Education Center
2199 South Rock Road
Fort Pierce, Florida 34945
Hosted by Odom's Orchids, Inc.
more details at www.odoms.com

I want to thank Tony Romani for generously donating a wonderful bouquet of his beautiful, massive, Vanda blooms for me to take to Frank Cianfrone's memorial service. It was incredibly beautiful and everyone noticed and admired it. I know Frank was looking down and smiling at this glorious show of affection from The Vanda Man.



Well friends, I think that about covers the news for this month. I hope you will all be safe and well until I see you at the workshop July 8th and the meeting July 13th. Don't forget.....

Bring a friend!

Happy Growing,

Patt Lindsey



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