

New Orleans Orchid Society's Newsletter



March 2017

Officers:

President: Russel Deroche, Jr.
Vice-President: Randy Johnson
Secretary: Ann Ebert
Treasurer: Peggy White
Past President: Carol Stauder
Newsletter Editor: Larry Hennessey
Website Editor: Debbie Dinwiddie
Board of Trustees: Pat Herbert
Molly Prokop
Ian Hiler

Meeting Notice:

Tuesday, March 21, 2017
Lakeview Presbyterian Church
[Google Maps: 5914 Canal Blvd](#)
7:30pm

Program:

Repotting Workshop
7:30pm

Orchid Basics Group Program:

6:45pm

From your Pres:

Well, we had a nice warm Winter and almost made it to Spring without another cold front. But this week Winter reemerged with a vengeance in the North, and a rather cool spurt in the South. I hope everyone coaxed their plants to bundle up and survive. Mine seem to be doing well without any added heat. I do have a 150-gallon goldfish pond in my greenhouse which helps to dissipate heat at night after warming up during the day. The cold-blooded goldfish don't seem to mind a bit and neither do the two 4-foot high peace lilies (*Spathiphyllum wallisii*).

Please remember that dues were due in January and in March we remove from the membership those who have not paid their dues for the current year. If you haven't paid your dues and want to remain on the membership list, please pay them ASAP. To get credit for the plants brought to the monthly show, birthday raffle, and door prize, you must be current with your dues.

Remember that this month's program will be a repotting workshop. If you have a plant or two that you may want help with repotting them, please bring them and the pots you want to repot them in to get that help. Potting soil and suggestions will be available, as will some plants to divide and repot. It will be a great way to start your repotting efforts for this year.

I am sure that all of you who were able to attend the trip to the Louisiana Orchid Connection on March 4th found a few gems to add to your collections. I was not able to attend but always love browsing through their greenhouses. I still haven't seen the new greenhouses yet.

Well, Spring is "supposed" to be here this coming Monday, March 20th. I do hope it arrives on time and we can start preparing plants for our June show. Be sure to start a good fertilizing schedule for the plants you are hoping to bring into bloom for the show, and give them priority placement so they get the proper light and air circulation they need to bring in a ribbon or even a trophy. Don't forget

that we need all the help we can get for the show and sign up for a time slot.

Hope to see all of you on March 21st!
Good growing and blooming,

Russel Deroche, Jr.

Upcoming Orchid Shows & Events

SWROGA Spring Show and Sale "Orchid Spring Fever"

April 1-2, 2017

Tyler Rose Garden Center,
Tyler, TX

Calcasieu Orchid Society Show "Orchids at the Opera"

April 22-23, 2017

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church,
715 Kirkman Street, Lake Charles, LA

2017 AOS Spring Members Meeting

In conjunction with

Redland International Orchid Festival Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

May 17-21, 2017

Dues are now past due

Dues were due January 1, 2017. Please plan on bringing a check to the meeting. Otherwise you will need to send a check to the society's P.O. Box, so the secretary can have you current with your dues for 2017. It makes the secretary's job a lot easier if they don't have to remind people to pay their dues month after month as the new year starts.

Welcome New Member

Jerry Hayes

Erick Malsbury

Upcoming AOS Webinars

My Favorite Curiosities

Ron McHatton, Wednesday, March 22nd

Ever wonder why the outside of the flowers of *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis* are covered with those odd rubbery little spines, the pseudobulbs of your myremecophilas are hollow or why some of your orchids grow fine spiky roots that stick straight up and defy getting them in a pot? Each of these has a definite evolutionary purpose. Join Ron McHatton as he discusses a selection of his favorite curiosities out of a family replete with curiosities.

Virus Testing and Identification

Janet Lamborn, Wednesday, April 05, 2017

Join Janet Lamborn of Agdia as she discusses the various types of viruses that can affect your orchids and how to test for them.

Orchid Aquarium/Terrarium Culture

Daniel Geiger, Ph.D., Thursday, May 11th

Join Daniel Geiger, Ph.D. Curator of Malacology at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, California as he presents a fascinating talk on raising orchids in confined spaces, terrariums and aquariums.

March Program

This month's meeting will be a repotting workshop. Bring your a plant or two needing repotting and the pot you want to put it in.

Minutes of February 21, 2017 Meeting

7:35 PM - President Russel Deroche, Jr. called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. Two corrections to the Newsletter were made: the Calcasieu Show is April 22-23, the list of plants awarded in the Gulf Coast Orchid Show in Gautier, MS, attributed to Marian Prigmore were actually Molly Prokop's plants.

Reports:

- VP - Randy Johnson stated that the March program will be a potting workshop. The April program will be a presentation by Courtney Hackney on Cattleyas. On Saturday, March 4, we will have a field trip to Louisiana Orchid Connection, 353 E Airport Avenue in Baton Rouge. We will meet in the parking lot behind the Red Lobster in Lakeside Mall at 8:30 AM and carpool to Baton Rouge. Randy asked that we park in the parking lot of the doctor's office next door to Louisiana Orchid Connection.
- Treasurer - Peggy White not present. Russel reported that the bank account was in good shape.
- Secretary - Ann Ebert reminded members that she is accepting dues payments for 2017. \$20 per year for an individual; \$25 for a household.
- Newsletter - Larry Hennessey arrived late and no report was given.
- Membership - Molly asked members to see her if they wanted to order a name tag or T-shirt.
- Ian Hiler, out-of-town show committee chairman, said that he will do a small tabletop exhibit by himself at the Calcasieu show.
- Raffle Table: Members and guests may buy chances for the plant raffle. You must be present to win. Members must sign the registration book to be eligible for the door prize. Only members may win the door prize. New members Jerry Hayes and Erick Malsbury introduced themselves.

Announcements

- Russel announced that dues are past dues and that names of non-paying members will be dropped from the roster on March 1.
- Russel requested members to give Ann E. their birth dates so they can participate in the monthly birthday raffle.
- Russel asked everyone to read the newsletter and to contribute to it if they could.
- Ann Roth thanked Kent and Sheila Daniel and Molly Prokop for the plants they donated to tonight's raffle table.

Old Business:

- Russel stated that the Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show results were published in the newsletter.
- Russel reminded everyone that we need volunteers to help with the upcoming NOOS Show, May 31 – June 4. We will be passing around sign-up lists at future meetings. Pat Herbert mentioned that we especially need help with the raffle table on the Saturday of the show.

Minutes of February 21, 2017 Meeting continued

New Business:

- Tonight we will be raffling 9 plants and 1 door prize. There will be no birthday raffle because no members with February birthdays are present.

Break and Plant Voting

- Thank you Max for the cake and coffee.
- Russel reminded members to purchase raffle tickets if they haven't done so yet.
- Russel asked members to vote for the best species flower, best hybrid flower, and best grown plant of those being exhibited tonight.

Program: "Pests and Pest Management" by entomologist, Bob Danka.

Judging results.

Plant raffle and door prize.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 21, at Lakeview Presbyterian Church Hall.

There were 34 members and no guests present. Russel thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

February 2017 Table Judging Result

| Award | Exhibitor | Plant |
|------------------|------------------------|---|
| Best Grown 1st | Ethel & Ed Suberveille | Vanda tricolor var. sauvis |
| 2 nd | Pat Herbert | Vanda Dino Dream 'Pink #2' |
| 3rd | Randy Johnson | Dendrobium Spring Doll |
| Best Hybrid 1st | Eli Sproles | Lc Orchidglade 'Grand You Chang Beauty' |
| 2nd | Ann Roth | Epc Rene Marques 'Flame Thrower' |
| Best Species 1st | Ethel & Ed Suberveille | Vanda tricolor var. sauvis |

Repotting and Dividing Orchids

By Bill Fender, Fender's Flora Inc.

There are so many "big" questions when discussing orchid growing. How often do I water? What kind of fertilizer should I use? What is the best potting mix? Hobbyists feel comfortable with these questions and easily understand the answers. There are, however, questions hobbyists fear to ask because they fear the answers. Two topics that trigger this reaction are dividing and repotting orchids. Hobbyists that brave the questions usually will walk away shaking their heads knowing they should not have asked and promise never to ask again. So let's put this in writing to be read in private and practiced without anyone even knowing!

Let's begin one step at a time. When do I divide and repot my orchid? That simple question has two parts. Part A: When does my orchid need to be divided or repotted? Part B: When is the best time to divide my orchid? These are simple questions with simple answers, really!

There are signs that indicate the need for repotting and/or dividing your orchid. One year your cattleya produced 20 magnificent 6-inch blooms. The next year it produced only 6 blooms that measured 4 inches across on only one side of the plant. Another sign is that the newest growth is smaller than the last growth. Each new growth should mature taller and stronger than the previous growth. These are the two most dependable guides.

Would it be best for the orchid if I just repotted it into new mix or would it be best if I divided it and repotted the divisions? This all depends on how large the orchid. If the orchid is outgrowing a four-inch pot, repotting is most likely the solution. If the root mass is cracking an eight-inch clay pot (you are an excellent grower!), dividing and repotting this magnificent specimen would be the best choice.

Another important consideration is the condition of the orchid. If the orchid is starting to deteriorate with lots of old shriveled back bulbs or if the center of the plant is dying off as the outer parts continue to thrive, then it would be best to divide the orchid, discarding the dying parts.

If you have decided that your orchid in a four-inch pot has outgrown its container, repot it after it has bloomed. Clean off the old medium entirely and simply step it up to a new six-inch pot with new potting medium.

Now you have grown this orchid into a

specimen that even impresses you! The plant is in great condition, but it's just too big or has moved past its prime. Now it is time to consider dividing and repotting. Bookmark this: The orchid is a lady. Timing is everything! The orchid will decide when to divide and later when to repot. You are no longer in control. She will direct you. Once you accept this, you and your orchids will bond.

Divide only when your orchid is putting out new leads. By dividing when she is in this stage of growth, more new growth will be activated. To divide, select the place or places to cut the orchid. Cut through the rhizome with a sharp, sterile instrument. Sprinkle a little cinnamon on the newly cut rhizome and mark the division with a clean label or a piece of bark. These markers will make it obvious where the surgery was done. This completes the dividing segment. Set the plant back on the bench and water and fertilize her as usual. Wait for her signal to repot. Be patient. Repotting is next, but it may be several months before it's time.

Timing is everything. You're doing what is best for the orchid. She will reward you. Watch for new roots. The time to repot is when your orchid is establishing new roots. Allow the roots to grow to two to three inches before repotting. Remove the plant from the pot, wash off all old medium, and gently separate all the divisions you have created. Now you may repot all of the new divisions.

This two step procedure will reward you with stronger divisions that will bloom sooner than if divided and repotted at your convenience. You have lessened the stress of major surgery. Most of these divisions will bloom during their next bloom cycle. That's the reward! Finally, if your orchid has gone way, way past its prime, it might be best for the orchid to just be repotted. Then let it gain strength before dividing. Growing orchids is fun and rewarding. Dividing and repotting your orchids is part of the fun. All you have to do is let your plants tell you what they want - just like any lady. And if you do what she wants, she'll reward you with lots of wonderful blooms! Happy growing.