

New Orleans Orchid Society's Newsletter



November 2019

Officers:

President:
Vice-President: Randy Johnson
Secretary: Ann Ebert
Treasurer: Peggy White
Past President: Randy Johnson
Newsletter Editor: Larry Hennessey
Website Editor: Debbie Dinwiddie
Board of Trustees: Pat Herbert
Molly Prokop
Gary Crozat

Meeting Notice:

Tuesday, November 19, 2019
Lakeview Presbyterian Church
7:30pm

Program:

TBD 7:30pm

Orchid Basics Group Program:

TBD 6:45pm

NOOS 2020 Officer Nominating Committee Nominees

President: Russel Deroche, Jr.
Vice-Pres: Sara Duarte
Secretary: Ann Ebert
Treasurer: Peggy White
Trustees: Gary Crozat
Pat Herbert
Ann Mathias
Clarine Usher

Ballot to vote for three (3) Trustees will be distributed at November meeting to voting members.

Upcoming Orchid Shows & Events

59th Acadian Annual Short Course

December 7, 2019
8:30 – 4:00 pm
Hilton Garden Inn
2350 W. Congress St., Lafayette, La

NOOS Holiday Potluck Dinner

December 15, 2019
Lakeview Presbyterian Church

2020 Dues are due January 1

Dues are due January 1, 2019. Please plan on bringing a check to the meeting or the Holiday Social in December. 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 2020. 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 Members

Ilana Reisin

For The Novice Why Orchids Need a Drop in Nighttime Temperature By Sue Bottom (Reprinted from November 2019 AOSCorner—for Affiliated Societies)

Have you ever wondered why all the books say that many orchids need a 10 to 20 F (about 5.5–11 C) drop in temperature from day to night? Lower nighttime temperatures are critical for good growth and flowering because there must be a proper balance between photosynthesis and respiration for a plant to grow and bloom well.

ORCHIDS BY DAY During the day, your plants are busy:

- **Making Food.** Your plants are busy using solar energy in a process called photosynthesis. Light is absorbed by the chlorophyll in the chloroplasts and the carbon dioxide absorbed by the plant is converted

into chemical energy in the form of sugars and starches.

- **Using Food.** Your plants consume their energy reserves in a process known as respiration. The food reserves of sugars and starches are used to maintain existing tissue as well as produce new growths, flowers and seeds.

ORCHIDS BY NIGHT

At night, photosynthesis stops but growth and respiration continue drawing on the energy reserves created during the day. Respiration occurs more quickly at higher temperatures than at lower temperatures. At lower temperatures, it is possible for the energy consumption to be less than energy production, allowing the plant to store energy for future use, including flowering. If night temperatures are too high, food is used faster than it can be made so growth is poor and orchids do not flower or they flower poorly.

PROVIDING LOWER NIGHTTIME TEMPERATURES

Providing cooler nighttime temperatures can be problematic if you are growing indoors in a climate-controlled environment. Perhaps the best alternative is a programmable thermostat or manually turning the thermostat down at night. Orchids growing by a bright window will be a

few degrees warmer during the day from solar gain and orchids growing by an open window may be a few degrees cooler at night in winter. Where possible, you can provide lower nighttime temperatures if you grow your orchids outdoors or on a screened porch during the warm season.

FLOWER INDUCTION BY NIGHTTIME CHILLING

Many orchids require a significant day-night temperature difference to induce flowering. Winter-blooming phalaenopsis require a 15 F (8.3 C) drop in nighttime temperature for two or three weeks to initiate their flower spikes. Cymbidiums and dendrobiums can require an even larger temperature difference. *Dendrobium crumenatum* is an interesting species that opens all its blooms simultaneously eight or nine days after a thunderstorm; some believe this is a result of the cooling effect of the evaporation of rainwater.

ZYGOPETALUMS CRAVE COOLER NIGHTS

I have long loved zygopetalums with their bluish purple, green and bronze flowers and incredible fragrance, although they have tended to be very short-lived in my care. I have tried growing them in a wide variety of light conditions and potting mixes. Knowing that they like cooler

conditions than we have in St. Augustine, I tried the old grower's trick of growing them in sphagnum moss in a clay pot dropped in a second clay pot to keep them a little cooler from the water evaporating from the porous clay. They grew better, but still struggled. I was telling Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids my tale of woe and he told me to get them out of the greenhouse and under the shade of a tree. That provided a few extra degrees of nighttime cooling and the growth rate exploded over the summer. I was treated to more zygo blooms than ever before.

Understanding your plant's metabolism gives insight into how best to grow it. Cooler nighttime temperatures allow your orchid to store, rather than consume the food it manufactured during the day. This stored energy can then be used by the plant to produce flowers. Next to insufficient light, insufficient day to night temperature change is the most likely cause of your orchid failing to bloom. If your plants are growing well and you are sure they are getting enough of the right kind of light, try dropping your night temperatures by a few degrees. You may be pleasantly surprised by the increase in flowers your plants produce. (November 2014, ORCHIDS, page 654. Reprinted with permission).

Minutes of October 15, 2019 Meeting

Vice-President Randy Johnson called the meeting to order. He announced that our holiday party/potluck dinner will be on Sunday, December 15.

Refreshment chair Diane Seidemann asked for volunteers to bring refreshments for the November and January meetings. Diane has a sign-up list.

Secretary Ann Ebert reminded everyone that membership dues for 2020 are due at the end of 2019. She also introduced new member Ilana Reisin.

Randy reminded everyone to sign in so that they will be eligible to win the door prize.

Randy announced that Fred Clarke will be speaking at the Acadian Orchid Society Short Course in Lafayette in December.

Randy thanked Molly Prokop, Carol Stauder and Gary Crozat for opening their greenhouses during the recent tour.

Diane suggested that we have another greenhouse tour in the spring.

New Business

Nominating committee chair Russel Deroche announced that the following members have volunteered to serve as officers for 2020:

Russel Deroche – President
Sara Duarte – Vice-President
Peggy White – Treasurer
Ann Ebert – Secretary

Russel asked for officer nominations from the floor and none were made.

Russel also stated that the three Trustee positions are currently held by Molly Prokop, Pat Herbert and Gary Crozat. These members have volunteered to continue serving in 2020. Ann Mathias and Clarine Usher have also expressed an interest in serving as Trustees. Russel asked for Trustee nominations from the floor and none were made. There will be a vote during the November meeting to elect three Trustees from among the five members who are interested in serving.

On Saturday, October 19, we will make a field trip to Louisiana Orchid Connection in Baton Rouge. Details were sent to members by email.

Minutes of October 15, 2019 Meeting continued

Break and plant judging.

Program: AOS Webinar, "The Art of Growing Vanilla."

Ann Roth presented the plant judging results.

Plant raffle and door prize. Patricia Sander won the birthday raffle.

The meeting was adjourned.