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December, 2003

OrchidView

Sarasota Orchid Society
Meeting
Activites Center
Monday
December 1, 2003
6:30 Cultural
Marie Selby Gardens
7:30 p.m.
Bob Scully, Speaker

Message From Our President

By the time the reader receives this, our application for exemption under the Internal Revenue Code should be in the Atlanta IRS office for review and approval. Before we could submit this application, we had to change our status and become incorporated. The new incorporation, creation of new by-laws consistent with a new corporation's requirements, and the application to the IRS were prepared by Bob Johnson, the

Sarasota attorney. Mr. Johnson, whose services are being generously donated to us, has worked with the Board for the last nine months, and will help us until we obtain final approval.

What does it mean to be tax exempt? It might not mean too much right now, but it could be of tremendous value in the future. It opens up whole new possibilities as the organization places more emphasis upon public orchid education, and orchid

environment awareness. Donors will be able to deduct the amount of their donations from their income tax liability. This would, of course, tend to increase the organization's income, which will, in turn would permit increased services to the public.

These positive changes will not reduce the quality of the organizations objectives, that we members hold so dearly.

Respectively, Sam Boyd.

Cold Weather Care

Many genera are already anticipating this change of seasons and have completed their growth for the year. Some, like *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches*, *Calanthe* and the nobile *dendrobiums* are even preparing to shed their foliage for the cool, dry season. While the *Himalayan Dendrobium* species of the nobile and callista types, *clanathes*, *cymbidiums* and a few others, actually relish temperatures down to near freezing, and most *cattleyas* and *oncidium* alliance species and hybrids are not bothered by temperatures in the mid-thirties, the majority of the genera which we grow here in Florida..... *vandas*, evergreen *dendrobiums*, *phalaenopsis* and others, must be protected from the cold. Wind can quickly rob the plant's surface of heat, chilling the plant tissue deeper and deeper. When the plant's temperature tolerance is reached, growth ceases and worse yet, damage occurs. Protecting our tender plants from exposure from the wind must be our primary concern in preparing them for winter. Choose places in your garden that offer protection wherever possible. Buildings, walls and even thick hedges can be very effective windbreaks slowing or stopping chill air. Orchids that are grown in greenhouses, or pool enclosures are protected by installing plastic film on the north and west walls of the structure.

Healthy, well nourished plants withstand cold better as do plants that are harder and not too lushly grown. Because both light and temperature are lower these months, most orchids have slowed their growth and they need less fertilizer. In cooler weather, ammoniacal nitrogen is less available to our plants because it needs the assistance of bacterial action to ease



its absorption by the plants. Nitrate nitrogen is more desirable therefore in cooler weather because it is more quickly and readily absorbed by orchids, check the label on your fertilizer and choose one with a higher ration of nitrate nitrogen to ammoniacal nitrogen for winter use. The

very best source for nitrate nitrogen is potassium nitrate (KNO₃), it has the formula 13-0-44. The level of potassium is thought to contribute to the "hardening" of the plants. Trace element nutrition is especially important to maintain healthy orchids in cool weather; above all, magnesium, the 'major' minor element. The reddening of orchid foliage which is usually attributed to cold is in fact the symptom of magnesium deficiency. Cold is only the efficient cause of this reddening..... the material cause is lack of magnesium. Epsom salts at one tablespoon per gallon plus potassium nitrate at the same time will quickly bring back the green. We now recommend alternating applications of one tablespoon each of epsom salts and potassium nitrate with a balance fertilizer such as 20-20-20- or 18-18-18.

If you have the energy, this is a great time to repot those sympodial orchids (*cattleyas*, *oncidiums*, etc.) that have finished blooming. You will have a jump on the spring potting chore. Be especially careful at this season that the newly transplanted orchids are well secured in their containers..... it may be many weeks till they have broken growth and can anchor themselves with their own roots.

Courtesy of Dr. M. Motes

The Sarasota Orchid Society (SOS) meets on the first Monday of each month at Selby Gardens, 800 South Palm Ave. Sarasota, FL. The SOS, an affiliate of the American Orchid Society, is a nonprofit association with the aims of promoting the development, improvement and preservation of orchids through the dissemination of information concerning the culture, hybridization or development of orchids; and generally to extend the knowledge of orchids. Annual dues are \$15 Individual, \$20 Family. Deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of the previous month. *Contributors to this newsletter give reprint rights of their work to newsletters of other affiliates of the American Orchid Society.*

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Minutes of the November Meeting

November 3 meeting commenced at 7:30 PM. President Sam Boyd asked membership Chairman Dan Beswick to introduce our new members and guests. He then announced that the Society is now incorporated and has attained not for profit status through the State of Florida.

Monroe Kokin, our Show Chairman, gave a short report on our October Show. He also announced the upcoming Board meeting on November 17, 1:00 PM at Jo Davis's house. Any members invited to come and listen in.

President Boyd introduced our speaker, Bob Hague, who discussed how to pot up difficult plants and gave demonstration. He also had orchids for sale

After refreshments and wonderful treats were served by Geri Reed, our refreshments chairman, Pres. Boyd announced the winners of our Silent Auction. Then Jim Cope and Bob Hague discussed all the beautiful plants our members brought in, and announced this months winners. Mike Strelec announced the winners of the Raffle table, and the meeting closed about 9:30 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jo Davis, Recording Secretary.*

Our Speakers' Topic

A slide presentation featuring overseas shows and highlighting entries that will be interesting to the members of our organization. The slides will incorporate some pest and disease diagnostics in full color, to help us avoid unpleasant surprises during the winter season. Robert "Bob" Scully, a second generation horticulturist who began his experience in plants at age six! Bob formerly operated the family

business, Jones & Scully, which was located in Homestead, Florida. the local that was completely devastated by Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Now retired in Sarasota after many years in commercial horticulture, specializing in orchids, Bob (along with his wife, Susan) enjoys gardening and continues as an active volunteer for Selby Gardens. Bob travels the orchid world frequently, mostly in Asia and still assists a number of mass producers in orchids.

This is a Letter From a Non-Member

The change in the legal status of the Sarasota Orchid Society to a non-profit organization is more than just on paper. The primary goal needs to be to educate.... our members, the community, and any person interested in learning about orchids. One way of learning more about orchids and sharing the wisdom and knowledge of your members, is the plant table. As a

novice and non-orchid person, listening to the descriptions and the "hows and whys" of each and every plant that is brought in, I have gained insight into the enjoyment of orchids. It would behoove each member to bring in plants to take part in the plant table. More plants mean more information and more education for all members and guests.

Linda Kokin.

Treasurer's Report

Balance 10/13/03	\$8,921
Receipts	4474
Expenditures	2612
Balance 11/14/03	\$10,783

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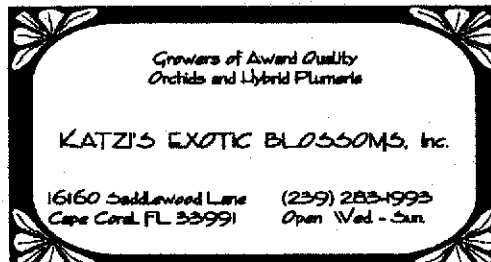
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Bits & Pieces..... Odd & Ends

- ❖ **PLANTS FREE AT DECEMBER MEETING.... THE ORCHID SANTA IS COMING!** Every member (family memberships count as one), will receive a beautiful orchid plant at our December meeting, so please attend for the fun night!
- ❖ We will need new stationery and a new logo for our newly formed status as non-profit corporation. Please vote for one of the designs submitted at our December meeting.
- ❖ **New election:** Members will be electing a new board, 3-15 members. The election will be conducted at the January Meeting, 1/3rd for one year, 1/3rd for 2 year, 1/3rd for three year terms, determined by draw. The Chairman of the Nominating committee is **Paul Rostowsky**.

- ❖ Nominations for up to fifteen board members will be taken at the December 1st Orchid Society meeting and the elections of the nominees will held during the January 5th, meeting. All members who feel that they can make a contribution to the Society are sincerely encouraged to submit their names to the nominating committee.
- ❖ **BEGINNERS CLASS** ~ In order to help neophytes learn the complexities of orchid growing, the Board has accepted **Jim Cope's** generous offer to prepare and present a year-long series of classes for beginning orchid growing. The classes, from 7.00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. before our regular meetings, will be held in the classroom of the main meeting room at the Activities Center, Selby Gardens. Anyone interested in attending this class, please contact **Sam Boyd** at 923-7610 or **Jim Cope**.

- ❖ **SILENT AUCTION TABLE** ~ In order to encourage more interest in the silent auction, the Board has reduced the Society's share of sale proceeds from the present 25% to 10%. We anticipate that this reduction will encourage more members to bring in their plants in for sale.
- ❖ Our January speaker will be **Gladys Fehling**, and her topic is "Orchids from the Bahamas". This should be very interesting to see if there are changes in the species, from an area of the same latitude but with an island isolation. Darwin established a variation of species when he visited the Galapagos, so is the Bahamas the same scenario?
- ❖ **Jim Cope** will be needing help with his new beginner's class. It is only for a half hour, and will be held every month. Any takers?
- ❖ A good day is when you discover the spots are a fungus instead of a virus!

Orchid Seedlings

At some time, all orchid enthusiasts will purchase a flask of orchid seedlings..What does one do with them? Firstly, ONCE THE CAP OR LID IS REMOVED FROM THE FLASK THERE IS NO GOING BACK. Resealing the container may seem a good idea but would be most unwise as the very act of opening the flask will have led to the contamination of what were steril conditions that existed inside. Flasks, until needed, are best kept in the greenhouse, ideally till early spring. Once you are ready to open your flask, gently remove the seedlings out of the agar and try to retain them as a small clump. **DO NOT SEPERATE YOUR TENDER BUNDLE.** Gently wrap the roots with moist moss. Having wrapped the roots introduce the plants into a 3 inch pot and fill with moss. Do not press down too hard. Leave loose so as to encourage drainage and air between the young roots. Using fine bark is not a good idea as it dries out too quickly. Seedlings grown on in this fashion are described as being in a "community pot" and they seem to do better when grown together. Cut a plastic bottle in half so that you can place one half over your newly potted plants to make a "mini" humidifier. After 10 to 12 weeks, you should have a good

root system appearing. Up to now a light spraying is all you will have been doing should there have been any sign of drying out. Now the young plants may be moved on into the next size pot, or separated if they are large enough to go into a 3" pot on their own. Placing a young plant into a pot is as simple as wrapping the roots gently in moist moss and then filling the pot. With the plant held over the pot with two fingers, gently twist the pot up with the other hand as as to get a loose and yet solid build of moss around the plant. This still allows for good drainage and air to go in and out of the pot.

The feeding of small plants needs care and you can use a liquid feed of your choice, but only sparingly to start with. Look for a balanced feed. As the plants grow and are moved on so can the feeding and watering develop. Growing medium can have a little bark added or perlite. Feeding can be adjusted to suit size and type of plant and water can be increased accordingly. Sphagnum moss left in tepid water for 15 minute will allow it to separate into nice long bits suitable for root wrapping. Resist the temptation to overwater, this a normal and natural thing to want to do but can cause the plants to die. Drier is better than wetter. Once potted, all plants should be given good light to encourage good growth without burning, so keep out of direct sunlight.

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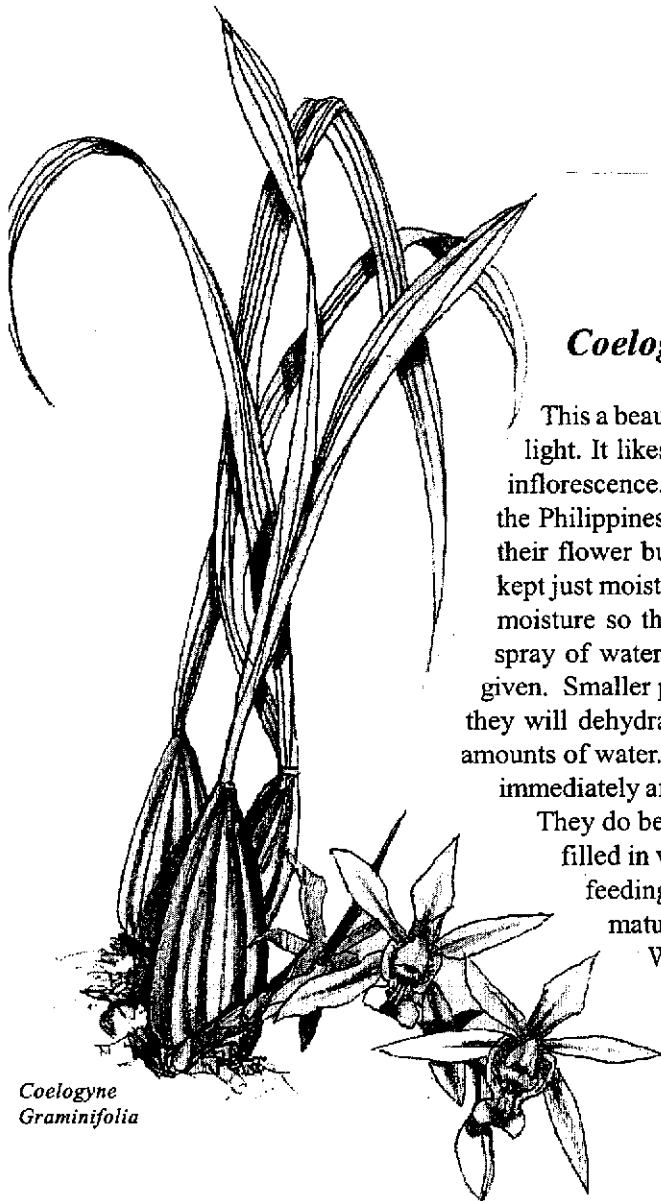
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Coelogyne Graminifolia

This a beautiful Burmese species that grows on the intermediate side with moderate light. It likes lots of water in its growing period. Produces five to six flowers per inflorescence. The majority of coelogynes are native to the Himalayas, China and the Philippines. In winter, the plants need a rest while new growths mature and form their flower buds so from the end of October to the end of January, they should be kept just moist but never allowed to dry out completely. What they need is just enough moisture so that the pseudobulbs remain plump. If signs of shrivelling are seen, a spray of water over the whole plant and the top of the growing medium should be given. Smaller plants need to be kept moister in the winter as, having smaller reserves, they will dehydrate more readily than the larger plants. In summer they need copious amounts of water. They are also greedy feeders...*coelogynes* that need it can be repotted immediately after flowering. After repotting they may refuse to flower the next season.

They do best if simply dropped into a larger pot and the space around the rootball filled in with new compost. Black tips on orchid leaves are often a sign of over feeding but in coelogynes it seems to be a normal habit of the foliage of a mature specimen. Black or dark brown spots and streaks are also common.

While they may indicate virusees, these are rare in *Coelogynes*. They need as strong high light, and because of this need for light, they are often happy when hung near the roof of the greenhouse so long as they are within reach of the watering can.

Coelogyne Graminifolia