

Jim's Bench*Jim Adamson*

Hello Everyone,

Here's hoping you had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. If you weren't at the Society party, I, for one, think you really missed a nice get together. The Committee, Glenda Beard, Betty Adamson & Ginny Landreth, are to be commended for all their work to make it one of the best parties our Society has ever had.

At the November meeting the following members were elected for positions in the upcoming year. President: Alan Gettleman, V-President: Dave Riches, Secretary: Joan Lehnert, Treasurer: Joe Permuy, Directors: Charlie Bishop & Rosa Blair. Director being retained is: Karen Snee and Diana Swaney will fill the remaining term of Ann Cowdy. The Past President Director will be filled by Jim Adamson. Installation will be at the January meeting. Let's have a good turnout to show your support for these who have been selected to conduct the business of your Society for 2009.

Jim

**Summer Show Dates**

Our Summer Show will no longer be in *the summer!* This change was not an easy decision to make. The Show had been held in August for 45 years, quite a tradition. The change was made to the first weekend in May because we believe it will increase our attendance. It will certainly minimize our possibility of being blown out by a hurricane or a tropical storm & it will be somewhat cooler than in August. When the Brevard Orchid Society announced that they would no longer be having a May show, we decided this would be a good date for us. It is the week preceding Mother's Day, May **1-3**, 2009.

Board Members 2008

President, Alan Gettelman, (321) 454-3239 | Vice-President, Dave Riches, (321) 752-0551 | Secretary, Joan Lehnert, (321) 632-7105 | Treasurer, Joe Permuy, (321) 633-0604 | Board Member, Karen Snee (321) 453-1862 | Board Member, Diana Swaney (321) 267-0693 | Board Member, Charles Bishop (321) 253-0240 | Board Member, Rosa Blair (321) 773-3476 | Past-President Advisor, Jim Adamson (321) 632-2847

Rhizome: n, a creeping stem lying, usually horizontally, at or under the surface of the soil...

The Rhizome

Special Thanks from Jim

Thank you very much for the distinct honor of having a plant named for me, Blc Jim Adamson. The parentage is: Lc Waianae Blaze X Blc Owen Holmes. It was a big surprise and indeed overwhelming! It was a truly best kept secret and I was surprised to learn so many knew about it but didn't let the word get out. I shall treasure the plant and perhaps someday even get it awarded. A special thanks to Charlie Bishop. I am sure it took a lot of effort to get the project through from the beginning to the end.

Membership Dues

It's time to pay the Society dues. Please don't delay, pay up now and I hope everyone with us will renew. We need each and every one of you.



Vanilla

by David Schaffter

http://www.orchidseos.com/orchidculture_ecos_vanilla.htm East Everglades Orchid Society, January 2009.

The genus *Vanilla* consists of those orchids which have the growth habit of a climbing vine. Five species have been recorded to occur in Florida. *Vanilla phaenantha* is our most common vanilla and can be found from the Fahkahatchee Swamp to our southernmost hammocks. However, the flowers are short-lived, opening in the early morning only to close by noon. *V. planifolia* is the commercial vanilla cultivated throughout the tropics. It may have been introduced here by the Indians in pre-Columbian times. The flowers are small for the genus and fertilization is infrequent, so production of seed pods requires pollination by hand. *V. inodora* has long-lasting flowers (2-3 days!) but it is quite rare. It seems to take poorly to being transplanted and many collected specimens died. *V. dilloniana* is a leafless vine and only one specimen has ever been recorded. It was collected in Brickell Hammock in 1928 and was distinguished from the common *V. barbellata* by having longer and very slender green sepals and petals, giving the flower a spindly appearance. *V. barbellata* is also leafless and has a very attractive flower with lime-green petals and sepals, sporting white and magenta labellum. As with most vanillas, the flowers are short-lived, opening at night only to close by late morning.

If you have the pleasure of obtaining a *Vanilla*, plant it in mulch next to a tree or wooden post or fence to give it something to climb on. I had success with a mahogany tree and even a pressure-treated post in my greenhouse! They flower when they reach the top of a tree to receive maximum sunlight. The mahogany tree is deciduous, losing its leaves around April. This is ideal for the vanilla, since the blooming times are from April to July. Though the flowers are short-lived, they can be the size of your hand. If you have a large vine, you can share it with a friend by cutting off a branching section without harm to your plant. *Vanilla* is easy to grow, just treat it as you do your other orchids.

Orchid Terminology

aerial root

Any root produced above the growing medium.

axillary bud

Preexisting meristem within the axil of a leaf that is normally inactive in growth.

backbulb

An old pseudobulb behind the part of a sympodial orchid that is actively growing. Although there may be no leaves the presence of undamaged "eyes" is a sign that growth is possible.

cane

An elongated pseudobulb, usually used when describing Dendrobiums.

foliar spray

Many minor nutrients and trace elements beneficial to growth are best absorbed through the stomata of an orchids leaves when mixed with water and sprayed on the plant.

genus (pl. genera)

A natural grouping of closely related species.

hybrid

The offspring of a cross between species or hybrids.

inflorescence

The flowering portion of a plant.

keiki

A Hawaiian word referring to a baby plant produced asexually by an orchid plant, usually used when referring to Dendrobiums or Vandaceous orchids.

lead

An immature vegetative growth on a sympodial orchid that will develop into flower-producing structure.

lithophyte

An orchid that grows on rocks.

sheath

A modified leaf that encloses an emerging inflorescence or leaf.

spike

An unbranched inflorescence of unstalked flowers.

velamen

The thick sponge-like covering of the roots of epiphytic orchids which helps prevent water loss and aids in absorption.

January 2009

Wed. Jan.14, 2009: Inauguration of Board for 2009, and regular meeting at 7:00. Board Members meet at 6:15pm. Cocoa Expo Center, 500 Friday Road, Cocoa, Florida.

Wed. Jan. 28, 2009: Cocoa Beach Back to Basics Meeting, 6:30pm, Cocoa Beach Library, 550 North Brevard Avenue, Cocoa Beach, Florida.



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