Hello, Everyone,

We had a good meeting in January, and it was good to see so many of you there. Those who were unable to come missed our speaker, Dr. Charles Overstreet, whose topic was orchid diseases. Bob has Linda Wilhelm of Woodland Orchids lined up for this month. If we have time, I hope Danna, Carolyn Clay, and Marie Dendy, (and anyone else who attended) will have time to speak about their trip to the World Orchid Conference that was held in Miami in January.

I think everyone liked the idea of having our social time with food before the meeting actually starts----I didn’t hear any complaints, anyway. I think those members who seem to consistently bring goodies to eat would appreciate it, also, if a few of you would bring some food item to share since we have no hospitality chair. If we have too much, we can put the extra food in the freezer for next month.

I hope to see all of you at the meeting February 20th.  

Marie W.

Our speaker will be Linda Wilhelm of Woodland Orchids in Charlotte, NC, who will speak about warm-growing oncidium intergenerics. She will have plants for sale and also notes that she can ship an order to one of us if the society pre-orders as a single group from the website (woodlandorchids.com). Group discounts apply, and if the society purchases at least $400 in plants, she charges no speaker's fee.

Linda started growing orchids in 1980 after a vacation in Florida. Already intrigued by orchids, she bought a small cattleya seedling, not knowing at the time that it would take seven or eight years to get a bloom. It was the beginning of an addiction.

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Pictures in This Issue
Thanks to David Dendy for taking pictures of flowers that were on the plant table at the January meeting. They are scattered around the newsletter - unfortunately with no names, as I didn’t get those. David is a member of the Photographic Society, and we’re going to give him plenty of practice at our meetings. I’ve also asked him to take pictures of our speakers with members so we can send those to the “Club News” Section of The Advocate to get the Society some more publicity. So don’t be bashful if you’re asked to pose with a speaker. You might see yourself in the paper!

New Members
At the January meeting we were happy to welcome new members Billy and Monica Comeaux and Erica Myers. We are always glad to have new people join or visit the Society. We hope you enjoy your membership and that you will be active participants in the activities of the Society.

American Orchid Society Special Dues
Members of the American Orchid Society (AOS) have been disgruntled with the $60 annual membership dues. In his message in the January issue of Orchids Magazine, President Carlos Fighetti explained that more than 60% of the dues go to publication of the magazine, and there’s not much the AOS can do about that. Furthermore, he explained, reducing the size of the magazine or publishing fewer than 12 issues per year would not realize much savings.

So, the AOS is making a special offer on dues for the months of January, February, and March. During those months members can renew or add two more years to their membership at a special rate of $99.95 and still receive a $30 gift certificate to buy plants from selected commercial growers. New memberships will be available for $49.95 during this period. Some BROS members may want to take advantage of this special offer to join or extend their AOS memberships, or some new folks may want to join.

To renew: call 561.404.2062; e-mail aosmembers@aos.org; fax 561.404.2100. Renew/join online at www.aos.org. Mail checks or money orders to American Orchid Society , 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33446-4351; Offer expires March 31, 2008.
2008 Meeting Dates & Programs

♦ March 19:
  Greg Allikas, Miami, FL
  Topic: “Orchid Photography”
♦ April 16:
  Harry Phillips, Andy's Orchids, CA
  Topic: “Miniatures”
♦ May 21: TBA
♦ June 18: Show Preparation
♦ July 16: Critique of Show
♦ August 20: TBA
♦ September 17:
  Ron McHatten, President Orchid Digest; AOS Judge, CA
  Topic: “Orchid Pollination”
♦ October 15:
  Hermann Pigors, Oak Hill Gardens, IL
  Topic: TBA
♦ November 19: TBA
♦ December Christmas Party - date TBA

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After meeting Rolf in 1985, the addiction became severe when he, too, got involved with orchids. When the hobby got out of hand and developed into a serious passion for both Linda and Rolf, they started their business Woodland Orchids. They specialize in breeding warmth tolerant Oncidiinae (several of their new hybrids have received AOS awards) and compact cattleyas. They also line breed a number of different species. Stanhopeas are the newest passion.

An Accredited Judge, Linda is very active in the judging program. She is currently the Chair of the Carolinas Judging Center in Greensboro, NC and is a Trustee for the American Orchid Society. Linda enjoys being involved in shows outside her region, including offshore shows in the islands. “It offers such an opportunity to see a different variety of orchids as well as an opportunity to extend my group of friends”

From the Newsletter Editor
Danna Spayde

I appreciate the nice comments I’ve received from several members about the “New Look” for the newsletter. I am striving to make it attractive, colorful, entertaining, and useful. Any suggestions for improvement, articles, etc. will be greatly appreciated.

Since February is the month of both Valentine’s Day and - this year - Mardi Gras, I've done the newsletter in red/pink and purple/green/gold. Hope this isn’t too garish for y’all!

Orchid Calendar
♦ Mississippi Gulf Coast Show
  Feb. 15 – 17 Gauthier, MS.
♦ Green Growers - March 12
  425 Nelson Dr.
♦ Galveston Orchid Society Show
  Galveston, TX - March 14 – 16
♦ BROS Meeting - March 19
♦ Arkansas Orchid Society Show
  Little Rock, AR - April 4 – 7
♦ Terrebonne Orchid Society Show;
  Houma, April 19 – 20
♦ Heart O’ Texas Orchid Society Show
  Austin, TX, April 19 - 20
♦ Orchid Society of the Ozarks SWROGA Show,
  Rogers, AR, May 2 - 4
**Membership Dues**
The 2008 Membership Directory will be distributed at the February meeting. If you haven’t renewed yet, you can still be listed in the Directory if you act fast. Mail dues to 
Marie Dendy
7637 Pennhill Dr.
Baton Rouge, La. 70817

**News of Members Present and Past**

Our favorite curmudgeon John Huner was back with us at the January meeting. John is recovering from a stroke that he suffered several months ago. We are delighted to have him back and doing well.

Those who attended Green Growers in January were happy to see that Thelma Berg is making a great recovery from the broken hip that she experienced in December.

Members of the BROS who attended the World Orchid Conference in Miami at the end of January were Carolyn Clay, Marie Dendy, James Jeansonne, David LaFond, Terry Rehn, and Danna Spayde. Also there was John Kidwell, who was active in the Society a few years ago when he was stationed here. John is happily growing orchids in California now.

A recent e-mail from former member Rhadd Hunt revealed that he has “traipsed all over SE Asia”. After a couple of more Asian stops, in March he is off to Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, and Antarctica. He expects those journeys to occupy another three years with occasional trips back to Baton Rouge to visit family and friends.

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**Name Tags**
We urge members to wear their name tags to meetings so visitors and new members will be able to identify you. If you don’t have a name tag yet, you can get one from Office Depot for about $10 to $12. I can send you by e-mail the clip art of the BROS logo that can be used on the tags. My e-mail address is: orchidnut_2000@yahoo.com

**Minutes of January Meeting**

President Marie Williams called the meeting to order. Three new members, Erica Myers, Monica and Billy Comeaux, stood and identified themselves.

We were all pleased to see John Huner back and able to attend our meeting.

Treasurer Bob Lank reported that after expenses we have $6,832 in general funds for a total of $10,868.62 with the CD’s.

Program Chairman Bob Danka introduced Dr. Charles Overstreet from the LSU Department of Plant Pathology, who gave a program on the Diseases of Orchids. He distributed a handout that covered the same information as his lecture.

After the program Marie announced that dues need to be paid and that Claudette Hebert needs information on any library books that the membership may have checked out.

*Continued in next column*

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**January Minutes Continued**
Marie Dendy and Carolyn Clay furnished refreshments.

Gene Berg discussed the flower tables.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Scholz, Secretary

Other WOC pictures available at this web site: http://flickr.com/photos/minicatt/sets/72157603794773297/detail/. Enjoy.