



# The Keiki



Volume 20 February 2012 Issue

February 11, 2012

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Helen Battistrada

## HELEN'S STORY

When I moved to Florida in 1992 my brother was a member of Orchid Lovers Club and gave me my first orchid. I then bought two more and promptly drowned them all. I had them potted in bark mixture, put them on saucers and watered freely. Need I say more? It was then I decided I needed help and I joined the Orchid Lovers Club and things improved greatly!!

I probably had about twenty-five orchids at one time and some just keeled right over and died on me and right now I am happy with the eight to ten plants I have left and that's about all I can look after. I don't believe my plants had any pest problems but if they did I don't remember what I did to get rid of them. The only fertilizer I use on my orchids is Nutracote.

My favorites are Cattleyas for their beautiful blooms and scent; Vandas for succession of blooms, they are long lasting and I find their cultivation easy with slow release fertilizer bags tied on. I have tried a few miniatures but they do not seem to like me. My orchids are grown under the pool cage and under trees. In the winter I bring my Cattleyas inside and my Vandas are both in and out depending on temperature.

As far as my activities with the Club, I was in charge of the Judges' Clerks for all of our former American Orchid Society shows, and also have manned the sales booth for the Club sales of bare root plants at our shows each year. When the Club needed a Treasurer in 1996 I volunteered and it just seems to go on from there, but it's a job I enjoy doing.

## GUEST SPEAKER SEGMENT

*by Delia Dunn*

Club member, Ed Bugbee, owner of Featherstone Orchids in Crystal River, was our January speaker. He and his wife, Lyn, are waiting for the day they can make their move to Panama. They have already sold the contents of two greenhouses and one more to go. In the meantime, they have to be satisfied with looking at pictures and

*Continued on page 3*

Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill Founded May 21, 1992

### Treasure's Report

By Helen Battistrada, *Treasure*

Balance 8/20/11	\$ 2053.77
Receipts	\$1824.87
Disbursements	\$1043.43
Balance 9/17/11	\$2835.21

Reminder:  
Club dues are due.

### Upcoming Events

Prem Subrahmanyam is February's speaker. He will speak on and have a power point on Florida orchids (Mostly his pictures) He will not have plants to sell, he will have photos, posters, and cards to sell. He can also answer questions about photographing orchids.

### Membership

By Yvonne Allen,  
*Membership Coordinator*

62 Paid members.  
January Meeting Attendance  
35 Members.

### \*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\*

Since this month's speaker will not have plants to sell, members are encouraged to bring any surplus or unwanted Orchids to sell.

**Newsletter Deadline** is the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Forward newsletter submissions to:

[The.Keiki@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:The.Keiki@tampabay.rr.com)

*Or*

Judy Smith, Editor  
7918 W flight Path Ct

### The Vice Presidents Message

By Geary harris

Dear fellow club members. It is that time of the year again that the planning for our annual Orchid Show is getting into full swing.

Although the show is approximately 6 week away, we still need many volunteers to sign up and help make this show as successful as the ones in the past.

We need volunteers in the following categories:

March 22nd show floor lay out.(late afternoon)

March 23rd show setup and vender assistance.

March 24th show assistance.

March 25th show assistance and clean up.

If you can help in any way, please contact:

Geary Harris at [bibleman1948@yahoo.com](mailto:bibleman1948@yahoo.com)

or 727-856-0222

Thank you in advance,

Geary Harris, 2012 Festival of Orchids Show Chairman

### ORCHID LOVERS' CLUB OF SPRING HILL

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING JANUARY 21, 2012

- President, Dave Dobson called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm.
- A thank you note from the partner's club for the orchid Christmas wreath was read aloud.
- Bring in plants that you would like to sell at the February meeting.
- Jerry & Sarah Hart are selling Mary Hudgins' orchids from her house. E-mail with directions to her house will be sent.
- New business.
- Jeff Rundell is speaking on March 13, 2012, at the Sugar Mill Woods & would like anyone with orchids in bloom to please let him borrow them for his speech.
- Old business:
- Geary Harris passed around a sign up sheet for help with the Orchid Festival.
- Also passed around were sign up sheets for food for the festival & our monthly meetings.
- Break.
- Show table.
- Ed Bugbee from Featherstone Orchids spoke & provided a slide show about his trip to Panama & the different orchids that grow there.
- The raffle was held.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:33 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sue Caparbi-Taylor

Speaker segment from page 1

slides of their previous trips to Panama and we were all greatly enlightened after we saw Panama for ourselves, from his talk and slide presentation.

First, he explained the geography of the region in relationship to the Panama Canal - Panama actually runs in an east to west direction and the Canal north and south. There are many mangrove swamps in the area similar to the ones we have here in the Gulf of Mexico. The Bugbees want to live in the mountains near Costa Rica where the temperatures are 75-80 degrees in the daytime and 60 degrees at night. He showed us where his friends who live there wanted to build which is high enough in the mountains that they can see both the Caribbean on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other. The house they built on the beach may have cost \$300,000 to build where here in the States it may have been around \$2 million. We saw the beach area where the tide can drop 18 ft. The beach is all sand but further out under the water there are all sizes of ugly rocks where oysters abound and when the tide is out these rocks are on the beach and you can go

out and collect the oysters.

Gaspar Silvera, a friend of theirs, took them to the Altos de Campana National Park which is one of the closest national forests to Panama which is about 1.5 hrs west of the city, and showed them mountains covered in orchids and outcroppings literally dripping with them. You might have to walk 4 hours to get to them as they are so high up and then you'd have to rappel down. 'No Estoy' meaning 'nobody home' in Spanish, means

'keep out' to the locals - They may be home but they want privacy and don't want to come to the door, so you're to stay away. That sign could be found hanging on front porches. They saw Ornithocephalis that is predominant and self-propagates in trees. It grows any which way, up, down, sideways all over the trees; Pleurothalis with its all raggedy leaves grows everywhere. He told us all the different ways the various plants grow - they attempt to grow upwards to get away from all the leaves of the other plants. They saw a huge fallen tree which must have been 5-6' in diameter and by falling had crushed another tree and therefore made a large 'hole' in the jungle, which was evident by looking upward. Since he had a permit to collect the orchids which fell with the trees, Gaspar made a point of looking for these 'holes' above the jungle. We saw pictures of Bromeliads, which also grow wild among the orchids, and a young Iguana, which was about 3' long. To put things in perspective they were so high up in the mountains that coming out of the jungle they were at cloud level.



Ed Bugbee

Their friend who lives there left to go to college in Baltimore, then onto Johns Hopkins where he earned his Doctorate and then moved back to Panama. To give us an idea of cost of living Ed explained that the doctor might earn \$900-\$1,000 per month; a laborer might earn \$300 per month; a maid or a gardner \$7-10 a day and a plumber \$15 a day and it's \$2 for a propane tank fill. Ten mangoes can be gotten for \$1 at an outdoor market, also a Papaya-like fruit, but to buy one of these at the grocery store might be \$10 for half of one! To give another example, Ed and Lyn ate a very nice lunch including large drinks at a place where he also got his truck washed by local kids and all of it for \$10 (and did he say the truck was a large one?) We saw many pictures of the beautiful local flowers that grow like weeds there, and local men sitting around drinking a case of beer while shoving hot 1" metal pipes through plastic plant pots for drainage holes.

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Our meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of each month starting at 1:00 P.M. We usually have an informative speaker at each meeting, a show table of orchids grown by our members and orchids for sale. We meet at the Partners Club of Oak Hill Hospital, 11375 Cortez

### Things My Mother Taught Me.

My Mother taught me LOGIC....

"Because I said so, that's why."

### Refreshment Reminder

By Eleanor Szarzynski,  
Refreshment Coordinator  
352-688-3887

February  
Barbara Brillinger  
Al Fiore  
Garnet Allport  
Donna Frazekas

Speaker segment from page 3

Ed next took us on a visual trip to the Miraflores Locks at the canal. Miraflores is the name of one of the three locks that form part of the Panama Canal and the name of the small lake that separates these locks from the Pedro Miguel locks upstream. He described the electric tugs that take the ship through the canal and the \$1million tugs that are called 'electric mules' that protect the ship from the sides of the locks. They're currently spending \$8 billion to enlarge the canal.

Following that excursion, we visited the Arovaca, the orchid conservation center in El Valle, Panama, dedicated to the conservation of native Panamanian orchid species in danger of extinction. The local orchids are facing two main problems: deforestation and poaching. The trees in the surrounding mountains are being cut down, and since most orchids are epiphytes (meaning they grow on trees), this practice deprives orchids of their natural habitat. Arovaca contributes to the conservation of endangered Panamanian orchids. Their project consists of propagating about 100 different kinds of native orchids and reintroducing them back to the wild. Vanilla has more varieties in Panama than anywhere else. Peristeria alata is the flower of Panama. Pictures depicted some of the ways the locals grow their orchid species and various crosses.

Then Ed showed us \*slides of their visit with the Embera Indians and the large dugout canoe made from the large tree that had fallen in the forest. The Indian children were having tattoos painted on with local dye that would last about 6-8 weeks. The women fried fish and plantains in a fireplace built on the wood floor of the house using 30 layers of banana leaves lined with 3" of mud. They'd wash the grease off their hands by adding a type of basil to the water. They had taken colored balloons for the visit in tapered sizes all tied one on top of the other and the children would play sword fights with them. It was also the first time the Embera children had ever had chocolates and when given one, taught to be polite, each said 'gracias' in appreciation. They also went on a medicine walk, met a real 'medicine man' who seeing a man not feeling well and not wanting to eat, touched the man on his stomach, disappeared into the jungle, and came back quite a while later with leaves. He told the man to chew them and spit them out and later the man said his stomach felt better and he had his appetite back. It would seem medical care in parts of Panama might be cheaper than in the States

Tidbits to remember:

Y Coconuts grow in warm climates and won't grow in the mountains!

Y When putting orchid plants in a compot they can be placed far apart as the growing conditions in Panama are perfect and the plants will grow stronger than if they were planted closer together.

Panama City is building like crazy, Ed said, as we viewed slides of the City, and you can get a condo for \$150,000, which could cost \$1 million in New York City. Some of the attractive old hotels around the airport have beautiful extensive pools and surrounding scenery. No matter where one chooses to live whether it be the mountains, the beach or the City, after seeing all these beautiful images it give us an idea of the life Ed and Lyn look forward to.

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\*Google 'Embera Indians of Panama' and click on the Trip Advisor site & you can see slides of their lifestyle that Ed talked about.

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Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill Founded May 21, 1992

Please print and distribute as many fliers as you can.

## Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill

*Presents*

# **Festival of Orchids**

**Saturday, March 24 and Sunday, March 25, 2012  
10 AM to 4 PM**

## **SUNCOAST PARTY DANCE CLUB**

**(formerly S.N.P.J. Lodge)**

13383 County Line Road

Spring Hill, FL 34609



Orchid displays, orchids /supplies for sale, and potting/advice booth.

Free parking. Entry fee of \$2 includes hourly orchid plant raffle.

Directions: 3 miles east of Mariner Blvd on County Line Rd. or 2.3 miles west of US 41 on County Line Rd. From the Suncoast Parkway, exit at County Line Rd. and go west about ½ mile.

Call (352) 683-2767 or (727) 856 -3485 for more information

Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill Founded May 21, 1992

## February In Your Orchids

*Based on AOS monthly checklists by Robert Scully and Ned Nash & James Rose, adapted to St. Augustine by local growers.  
Re-printed by permission of the St. Augustine Orchid Society*

### General Orchid Growing Tips

Spring is around the corner. Order your potting supplies early to make sure they are not sold out when it's time to repot. Observe plants (including companion plants like bromeliads) carefully for signs of disease and insects. Avoid having heated or air-conditioned drafts blowing directly on orchids. Don't bring your plants out too early. It is starting to warm but you can expect more orchid threatening cold fronts through March.

### Cattleyas

Your cattleyas are starting to rouse, even though temperature and light conditions are not yet ideal for growth. Continue to use dilute water soluble fertilizer on your orchids at 1/4 to 1/8 strength. New green root tips are starting to emerge on the unifoliate, marking the beginning of the spring repotting season. Sometimes it is necessary to split open a sheath with a sterile blade to reduce pressure on the emerging buds or to allow accumulated condensation (possibly from fluctuating temperatures) to dissipate.

### Cymbidiums

Stake cymbidium inflorescences that emerge from the mass of foliage on these winter-spring bloomers. Maintain temperatures at 50 to 60F to keep the flowers opening slowly. Dramatically higher temperatures and hot drafts cause bud drop.

### Dendrobiums

Watch for flower buds on dendrobiums like *Den. lindleyi*, *Den. nobile* hybrids, *Den. superbum* (syn. *Den. anosmum*) and other deciduous species and hybrids. These have longer flowering when exposed to cooler night temperatures as the blooms open and mature. Avoid dousing open flowers when watering. Give slightly more water to these plants (that have been kept reasonably dry prior to flowering) once they begin to bloom. Continue to protect evergreen-type dendrobiums from low temperatures that may cause leaf loss.

### Oncidiums

Do not permit miltonias and odontoglossums to dry out because this is a critical time for flower-spike development. Stake the spikes. Continue to use a dilute water soluble fertilizer before the flowers begin to appear.

### Phalaenopsis

Continue to use a dilute water soluble fertilizer on phalaenopsis. Be careful not to splatter the flowers or they will stain. Phalaenopsis exude a honey-like substance on the developing inflorescence that attracts scale insects. Watch for signs of any problem that can be spot treated before it becomes a major situation. Avoid spraying insecticides on blossoms.

### Miscellaneous Genera

The Catasetinae (catasetums, clowesia, cycnoches and mormodes) have dropped most of their leaves and should be kept dry. Watch for signs of new growth that marks the beginning of the repotting season for the catasetum relatives. Remove the old medium, cut off dried roots and pot in a sphagnum moss or coco husk mix interlayered with the time released fertilizer Dynamite but DO NOT WATER. If you water before the new growth is about 4 inches tall, it will probably rot. Your *Ludisia discolor* is in bloom this month.

Show Table

The show table featured many beautiful orchids this month. All who brought there favorite plant to showcase for the rest of us are to be commended for there efforts. If you have and outstanding orchid you would like to share with the rest of the club, I encourage you to bring it in for all to see.

\* Denotes ribbon won.

| Owner/yrs grower          | Genus       | Plant Name                                       | Age of plant |
|---------------------------|-------------|--|--------------|
| Dale Story (14+)          | C.          | Skimmeri   | 1 1/2 Yr     |
|                           | Rhy.*       | Alba   | 4 Mo         |
|                           | Blc.*       | Morning Song                                     | 4 1/2 Mo     |
| Pat Dupke (20)            | Onc.        | Twinkle 'Sunlight'                               | 1 1/2 Yr     |
|                           | Species - * | Rhynchalia (RL) glaica                           | 1 yr         |
|                           | Ascda. *    | Gaujialong X Jakkitgold                          | 6 Mo         |
| Yvonne Allen (10)         | Onc.*       | Hawaiian Sunset                                  | 5 Yr         |
| kara Warnock (5)          | Angem.*     | Sesquipedale                                     | 4 tr         |
| Doug Fiengold (5)         | C. *        | Goldenzel Lemon Chiffon                          | 4 yr         |
|                           | Den. *      | Roy Fattanaga                                    | 3 Yr         |
|                           | Paph.       | Vanda M. Peaman (bellatum X delectii)            | 3 Yr         |
| Richard Ratajczak (?)     | C. *        | Unknown  | 5 Yr         |
|                           | Otr.        | June Fumiye                                      | 3 Yr         |
|                           | C.          | Lueddemaniana (Species)                          | 4 Yr         |
| Featherstone Orchids (23) | Orcp. *     | Bicornis   | 5 Yr         |
|                           | Rhy.        | Giagantea Alba 'Summer Shores'                   | 4 Yr         |
|                           | Max.        | Variabilis                                       | 5 Yr         |
| Jeff Rundell (30)         | C.          | (Yet to be named) Bc. Turandot X C. Harace       | 8 Yr         |
|                           | Timna. *    | (Hybrid)   | 5 Yrs        |
|                           | Den.        | Dendro Nobile (Hybrid)                           | 5 Yr         |
|                           | Ascda. *    | Vanda Gorden Dillen 'Lee' X Ascda. Gua Chia Long | ?            |

**Upcoming Biography's**

March  
Carol Monroe

April  
Sue Caparbi-Taylor

May  
Pat Dupke



Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill Founded May 21, 1992

### **Five Points for Success**

Orchids such as phalaenopsis, dendrobiums and Oncidiums will adapt to normal temperatures of 70 to 90 F during the day and 60 to 70 F at night.

#### **Light**

Phalaenopsis are one of the most tolerant of lower-light conditions. Other orchids will probably require more light to flower freely. Orchids can be divided into three groups based on their light needs: low (an east-facing window), medium (a well-lit west- or shaded south-facing window) and high (south-facing window). The most frequent reason orchids do not flower is lack of light.

#### **Water**

Most orchids benefit (but not all) from a thorough watering and allowing the growing medium to dry out a little between waterings. Several minutes of watering in a sink with water flushing freely through the medium is ideal. Remember, watering too frequently is the most common reason orchids die.

#### **Humidity**

Orchids grow best with at least 50 percent humidity. That's one reason Florida is such an ideal place to grow orchids—one more thing we don't have to worry about.

#### **Fertilizer**

Most orchids should be fertilized weakly, weekly. Always fertilize at half the recommended strength for houseplants. A 20-20-20 (nitrogen-phosphorous-potassium) formula works well with most orchids. Over fertilizing is the second most common

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