



# The Keiki

Volume 20 June 2012 Issue

June 9, 2012

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### Historian:

Linda Hindman



Connie Revoir

When I first moved to Florida from New Hampshire in 1997 and met Pat Dupke, she told me about her orchids and the Orchid Lovers Club. My only knowledge of Orchids was that you wore them as corsages on very special occasions. She invited me to one of the Club meetings. After attending a couple of times, I became a member and was fascinated with all the different species. I soon purchased my first phaleonopsis and managed not to kill it. You know the rest. Before long, I had acquired a dozen plants of different varieties. Some were on the lanai and others were under trees. By then I was hooked.

Eventually, because of health issues, I lost interest. As a result, I lost them all. A couple of years ago, while hospitalized, my husband was buying more Phaleonopsis plants to surprise me when I got home. Phals are my favorites and the ones I have the best luck with. That was the start of my new collection. I now have two dozen. Lately Jim has also taken an interest and we've added several cattleyas. All the plants are in the house now where it is easier for me to take care of them. I water them Once-weekly and fertilize every other week.

In the past, I served as recording secretary for a few years. I also occasionally helped set up our display at local shows and worked in the kitchen at our shows. I have always enjoyed my association with the Club and look forward to the monthly meetings.

Connie Revoir

Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill Founded May 21, 1992

**Treasure's Report**  
By Helen Battistrada, Treasure

Balance 4/21/12	\$ 3611.31
Receipts	\$ <u>152.00</u>
Total	\$ 3763.31
Disbursements	\$ <u>414.00</u>
Balance 5/19/21	\$ 3349.31

**Upcoming Speaker Program**  
by Ed Bugbee  
*Program Coordinator*

I have confirmed Dr Charles Thomas For June. He will talk on new methods he is using. He will have plants for sale. mostly species Phals plus others.

July, August speaker TBA.

**Membership**  
By Yvonne Allen,  
*Membership Coordinator*

62 Paid members.

May Meeting Attendance  
36 Members.  
4 Guest.

**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

**ORCHID LOVERS CLUB OF SPRING HILL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING MAY 19, 2012**

Geary Harris, Vice President, called the meeting to order, in Dave Dobson's absence.

- Y Jim Duerstock, our founder congratulated all of us on doing a great job with the Club and how proud he was that it is still going strong.
  - Y Geary Harris will take over as President next month and he wanted us all to know that he wants us to be a family and get to know each other since we're all here for the same reason to learn about orchids and growing them successfully. He asked if others wished to contribute their thoughts about the Club at this time.
  - Y Sara Hart wanted to thank Joyce from Joy Orchids for her help with the show that she had to do one time. Sarah got a special award for that and the Club also was awarded and this was at a time when we had the AOS judged shows.
  - Y Garnet Allport said that Jim Duerstock got her addicted in 1998 and she has always been grateful and she still has the very first orchid that she ever got from Jim and Trudy back when they had their shop. We were all sorry that Trudy could not be in attendance for the Anniversary party.
  - Y Geary said that it was his step dad who got him started with orchids by way of giving him one of his beautiful plants.
  - Y New member, Dan Grant, said that eight years ago his wife bought him a Phalaenopsis for his birthday and said 'let's see how long until you kill it' – that must have been a challenge he couldn't ignore and it sounds as if Dan is quite accomplished growing orchids today.
  - Y Connie Revoir said that she met Pat Dupke and Lois Jensen and got involved with the orchid club and met a whole family of new friends. She has helped to set up shows, been Secretary for many years, worked in the kitchen for many shows and been a great help to the Club and she has been happy to be a part of it.
  - Y Treasurer, Helen Battistrada, reminded us about the shirt logos available and to see her if we wanted to order one.
  - Y Geary appointed Joyce with Cara and Thomas to judge the Show Table. Refreshment break.
  - Y When the meeting reconvened after the break, we all gave Pat Dupke a hand for a wonderful feast and all she had prepared and for gathering together the show booklets and past Club awards on display as well as for the terrific amount of effort she put into obtaining the past membership information which all had to be typed up to go into our Anniversary bulletin. Pat also picked up the raffle orchids from Joy Orchids.
  - Y Joyce explained the judging of the Show Table. They categorized all the plants into 3 groups mainly Cattleya types, Encyclias and Miscellaneous which included Maxillaria, Catasetum and Vanda. A blue ribbon was given in each group.
  - Y The Speaker, Jack Batchelor, and his wife, Ellen, with Paradise Orchids, had brought plants to sell and Jack spoke on the General Care of Orchids.
  - Y Richard sold raffle tickets for the regular raffle and for the special occasion a separate raffle was held for orchids donated by the Club and all paid members were given a free raffle ticket.
- Meeting adjourned.

### New Member (s)

Please welcome as our newest club member (s);

Cynthia Turner  
9443 Wallien Dr.  
Brooksville, FL 34601

Dan Grant  
275 Hampshire Ave.  
Springhill, FL 34606

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 about the science of OSMOSIS...

"Shut your mouth and eat your supper!"

### Refreshment Reminder

By Eleanor Szarzynski,  
*Refreshment Coordinator*

352-688-3887  
June

Dale Story  
Linda Roderick  
Pat Baig  
Donna Frazekas  
Pat Crisuoli

### Message From The President

By Dave Dobson

Time speeds by, it is hard to believe it has been a year since I became President but it has and it is time to move on. I have enjoyed the year and hope we have had programs that kept your interest and that you have learned from them. We celebrated our 20th anniversary as a club and I look back at the changes that have taken place since I joined several years ago, we are a constant growing and changing group. Our board has maintained a stability that has kept us going and growing and I hope it continues to do so in coming years. I have enjoyed being President for this last year. Keep up growing beautiful and healthy orchids.

Dave

### GUEST SPEAKER SEGMENT

by Delia Dunn

Our speaker last month was Jack Batchelor from Paradise Orchids in Howie-in-the Hills. He spoke on the General Care of Orchids, included some great tips, some of which a lot of us already utilize but if you are new to orchid growing or having problems there are many new experiences ahead for you with this good information. Jack basically grows Cattleyas and Oncidiums with crosses of those two, and all kinds of odds and ends some of which may be *noids* if he absolutely can't find the name. NOID = No Identification.



Jack & Ellen Batchelor

Jack told us that watering is what kills orchids. It involves a delicate balance - if an orchid is growing in the open on a tree with big roots and air circulating, then the water has to come from the air in the form of rain and because the roots dry so quickly they can have their water every day. Mounted orchids would be treated the same way. They could be watered more often than those in pots because there is always air at their roots. An orchid enclosed in a pot needs to be dried out first. Maybe watered twice a

week if they're outside and there's lots of air movement and it's a clay pot. He said he was in Manaus, Brazil, in November where the river water was down 40' yet in the summer there was over 900 inches of rain. Then the river rises again 40' so the orchids are exposed to much water and humidity and they love it because they're drying out constantly from the surrounding air. He waters his plants early in the morning as we're all advised to do.

Ninety percent of water diseases can go through an orchid collection like wildfire. For example *Erwinia* bacteria is so contagious causing foul smelling soft and brown rot that expands rapidly and can cause a leaf on a Phalaenopsis to become

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*Speaker Segment from page 3*

completely soft and slimy within one to two days. A Cattleya could die within two weeks. It can be spread by water dripping from one contagious plant onto the leaf of another plant.

As a medium, redwood bark is a harder wood than regular orchid bark but does break down after two years. Imported sphagnum takes longer to break down but don't pack it as it holds water forever that way. Just fluff it in the pot and use rhizome clips to hold the plant in place. When you do water do it a lot. Saturate the plant. There are two reasons to water and one is so the plant can get water and the second reason is to clean and flush out the fertilizer salts. Just sprinkling won't do that. Also - Jack says water your plants first, then fertilize. (*I wish he'd elaborated*).

Fertilize WEAKLY WEEKLY. It's better to feed all the time rather than once a year. Orchids do not use urea so one suggestion he gave us was Better-Gro® Fertilizer which is urea free. Jack said orchids do not like ammonia because of the salt so don't use it. As far as fertilizer is concerned he says 1 teaspoon full to 1 gallon is the strongest you should use. If you have brown tips on your leaves it can mean too much fertilizer. He uses 10-30-20 or 10-30-10 and 20-20-20 is the best on the market; he advises keeping it in the house where it's cool and dry because if the least bit of dampness enters the bag it will liquify the fertilizer over time. Use Nutracote but not on the root system as it'll burn the roots. He said 'I like to look at my 'chids when I do my fertilizing' and he goes through his greenhouse attending to them all and applies fertilizer at the ratio of 16:1 with a Siphonex fertilizer injector. He made the humorous comment that the pros don't do it that way, they simply flip a switch in the greenhouse and everything gets fertilized or watered at once, nobody looks at the plants, then a tractor trailer backs up outside, loads them all up and takes them all away.

Air circulation is needed to exchange air around the leaves so dampness doesn't become a problem. He told us when he had such problems in his greenhouse caused by plastic sheeting being around his plants that he had to get 5 big fans and take the plastic down before he had no more problems.

For scale he uses 70% rubbing alcohol and applies it a second time next time he finds scale, and that clears it up. If you spray with systemic insecticide the orchids become poisoned and therefore poison to children and pets. Ants are real pests that will transport thrips, mites, aphids etc. on their backs. They devour the honeydew dripping from orchid buds. Orthene is a good ant poison as is Sevin Dust.

As a fungicide, bactericide, algicide, miticide, Jack uses RD-20 like a snake oil that does everything. He mixes either Neem Oil or Planters Peanut Oil 1/4 tsp to a pint or a quart of water with RD-20 to make a spray. And he doesn't like to have humidity when he sprays as he wants it to evaporate. Don't spray it on plants in bloom, however. One tbsp. per gal. of water. Dip your tools for 10 minutes every day in an RD-20 solution to prevent fungus and bacteria. You should sterilize if you only have one orchid and you'd better sterilize if you have more than one orchid. You don't know where that other orchid's been!! He told us he sprayed his whole greenhouse one time with RD-20 and woke up the next day to a disaster of black spots on all his flowers. It was then he decided to read the directions in bold on the bottle where it said 'do not spray on blooms'. A black spot on a leaf surrounded by yellow means fungus. Pseudomonas is a common fungus and plain Cinnamon powder is a natural fungicide and easy to apply to a leaf or pseudobulb you've cut off due to fungus or damaged leaf that you've cut can be likewise treated to help with the healing process. You don't need much as it dries out the tissue but it prevents the spread of fungus. If you think you have a plant with a virus you can't do anything - just move the plant to a shelf by itself - maybe nothing will happen to the plant and it will be OK.

LEAVE THE HOSE ALONE! He said all of us like to water and he especially does, but we must learn not to - once a week is good for Cattleyas unless they're mounted. Rainwater is good for orchids. Pond water is not.

Epsom Salts (contains magnesium) can be mixed with 1/4 the normal amount of fertilizer once in a while.

(A note from Jeff Rundell: On most of the packages of Epsom salts you'll see the formula  $MgSO_4 \cdot 6H_2O$ . That means that each molecule comes attached to 6 molecules of water. But there are other forms of Epsom salts with either more or less water attached in the crystal. So if you add those at the standard amount you may be getting either

less or more magnesium than you desire. You can buy magnesium sulfate without the watery crystal and it is called "anhydrous" magnesium sulfate and is much stronger.)

Red-purple leaves on your orchids can mean too much light or loss of magnesium - give 1/4 tsp. of Epsom Salts.

Super Thrive is a vitamin-hormone - not a fertilizer. It can be mixed with your fertilizer. Shake well before using it.

KLN is good for root development, and can also be used in your fertilizer. It has to be refrigerated after opening. When repotting and you've had to cut a rhizome, if the plant gets watered right away and the temperature is different from t  
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*Speaker Segment from page 4*

hat of the rhizome, it will soak it up and can result in Anthracnose fungus. So after repotting you should not water for 3 days to give the plant a chance to heal itself where the cut is.

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A great website to see pictures of all the different orchid diseases and pest problems:

<http://www.staugorchidsociety.org/index.html>

*Delia says thanks to that site I find some problems I've had in the past which I've blamed on over-watering or disease, which turn out to be calcium deficiency and sunburn!*

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**20th Anniversary Party**

By Pat Dupke

To commemorate our big day, members and guest feasted on a specially decorated cake with cut orchid blooms placed around the edges. A wonderful fruit punch with fresh blueberries, oranges and strawberries was prepared and served by Sarah Hart. Ice cream to go along with the cake came in chocolate, strawberry and vanilla was served by Donna Fazekas and Linda Roderick. AOS judged Show Booklets were on display along with our Certificates and Awards so that everyone could see and appreciate the past efforts of our club members. Thirty-five beautiful blooming raffle orchids for club members were



Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill Founded May 21, 1992

## **June 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's mild days are gone. The late spring-early summer growing conditions induce vigorous vegetative activity. Orchids repotted earlier should be showing abundant root development and new growth. In response you should increase watering frequency and use a dilute fertilizer (1/4 to 1/2 strength) and flush with fresh water monthly. Consider switching to Courtney's nighttime watering regimen. With the sun higher and more intense for more hours each day, higher day and night temperatures, excellent air circulation and a fresh growing medium, orchids will consume more food for high quality flowers next season.

### **Cattleyas**

The showy *Laelia purpurata* and *tenebrosa* are in bloom this month. You can repot individual plants later in the year if they need it, but the bulk of your cattleya repotting should be completed this month. The remaining months of the growing season will give the plants time to develop adequate new growth for next season's flowers. Cattleyas grown outside must be protected from excessive rainfall.

### **Cymbidiums**

Cymbidiums are heavy feeders and the plants are growing fast now so fertilizer is a must. Use a good Cal Mag fertilizer and top dress with a 50/50 mix of crushed seashell and granular dolomite lime and 15-8-11 controlled release fertilizer. Fertilize devonianum and its primary hybrids at half that rate.

### **Dendrobiums**

Dendrobiums resent being repotted, but if you have some that have grown totally out of their pot or the potting mix has degraded, finish repotting them this month. Dendrobium canes grow closely together and many years growth can be accommodated in the same pot. Use a small pot and a largely inorganic mix that won't degrade like lava rock or aliflor; add just a little nutrient holding tree fern, coco husk or bark to the mix. Look at your deciduous cane-type dendrobiums that bloomed this spring and consider mounting them. They should be drenched with water and fertilizer during the summer months.

### **Phalaenopsis**

Complete repotting of phalaenopsis this month, they benefit from being repotted each year. If your phal is still in bloom by the end of the month, consider cutting the inflorescence and placing it in a vase to enjoy for another week. Don't be greedy, a phal will deteriorate if forced to carry its inflorescence too long during the long, hot summer days. Repot and allow it to develop new roots and leaves for next year's blooming season. After new roots appear, water more frequently with a dilute fertilizer solution.

### **Vandas**

Vandas enjoy bright, but not direct, sunlight, an abundance of water and fertilizer and copious amounts of fresh air. Wet the roots once or twice a day until they turn green and after an hour or so, spray the roots with a fertilizer solution. With enough light, water, fertilizer and air, your plants will reward you with beautiful blooms.

purchased by the club from Joyce Fowler (Joy Orchids, Inc.). Each orchid plant was specially wrapped in colored paper and ribbon thanks to Donna Fazekas, Sarah Hart and Pat Dupke. Club members: Al and Barbara Brillinger, Jerry Hart, Geary Harris, Tim Smith and Dale Story helped set-up the party room. A wonderful time was had by all.

### 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.

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### Blue Ribbon(s)

|              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Jeff Rundell | Encyclia<br>Ascorella       |
| Judy Smith   | Laelia<br>Epilaeliocattleya |
| Dan Grant    | Laelia purpurata Rosada     |

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### Honorable Mention

|              |                                              |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Delia Dunn   | Catasetum                                    |
| Jeff Rundell | Encyclia<br>Maxillaria tenuifolia            |
| Dale Story   | Dendrobium<br>Brassocattleya<br>Cattleytonia |
| Dan Grant    | Potinara                                     |

### Upcoming Biography's

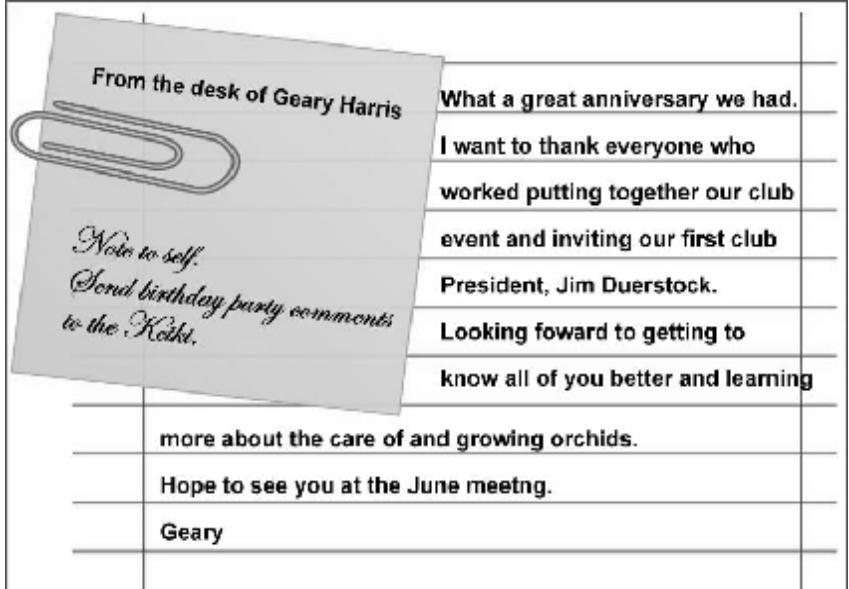
July  
Barbara Brillinger

August  
You

Taking over from the former Editor, Dave Dobson, caused us a little apprehension, wondering if we could maintain the level of informative articles related to orchid growing while keeping the Keiki interesting and personal as well. With every contributing member and the acceptance of the new format, I believe we have achieved our goal.

Thank you so much for your support and patience this last year and hope you continue to do so in the future.

Regards,  
Judy & Tim Smith, Editors



## **More Orchid Facts**

*part two*

Dendrobium orchids have traditionally been regarded as being very exotic and extravagant. They have sprays of creamy white, purple, green, red, pink or striped dainty flowers on slender stems. The shape of their flowers is a bit like tiny daffodils.

The oncidium orchid is known as the Golden Shower orchid, as it features delicate yellowish brown flowers.

In 1848, flower buyers in the UK paid huge sums of money to get their hands on the phalenopsis or moth orchid, as it was extremely rare at the time.

Transporting orchids in the 19th century was a tricky business. More than half of the orchids shipped to Europe died in transit.

New species of orchids are still being discovered each year. In fact, between 200 and 300 new types are found annually.

Experts believe that there may be as many as 5000 new species of orchids that still haven't been discovered yet.

In 2002, the Phragmipedium kovachi orchid was discovered. It was bright purple and caused a huge stir amongst orchid fans, even making headlines in the New York Times.

The Keiki  
7918 Flight Path Ct. W  
Crystal River, FL 34429

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