



The Keiki



Volume 20 March 2012 Issue

March 10, 2012

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Carolyn Monroe

Carolyn Monroe's Story

When we became snowbirds in 1994 my husband gave me an orchid for some unremembered occasion. I think he bought it at Durostocks orchid flower shop. It survived a year and then froze. My next orchid was a \$5.00 Dendrobium from the flea market and it bloomed its heart out just hanging in a tree in the backyard. This was followed by 5 other dendrobiums mismarked at Walmart for \$4.99 each. (the next time I looked it had been corrected to \$15.99). After discovering they would survive the summer while we were gone just hanging in the tree I started looking for others. I found

the Orchid Lover's Club in the newspaper and attended a meeting. Wow!! Orchids to buy. I would buy one or two each month - then my first Orchid Show. My first Auction (Pasco the year they celebrated an anniversary year by having 100 blooming orchids in their auction)!! Then an Orchid Trip with the club!!

Gradually the collection grew. Mostly Dendrobiums and Phalaenopsis. As I attended meetings and read books and researched the internet I gradually branched out trying different kinds. My rule was - it had to bloom while we were here (October thru May), and had to be able to survive just hanging in the tree for the summer. I would try almost everything 2 years - if it did not do well in my conditions I either killed it or donated it to an auction. My collection outgrew my tree so I rigged up hangers to put the orchids in my 6' x 10' dog kennel for the summer. I have hangers on both sides of the chain link and pipes crossing overhead to hang plants from. I now have a "totem pole" my husband made for me with the hang-a-pot clips that will hold 24 clay pots. My cymbidiums sit on a row of concrete blocks at the back of the kennel. My husband also raised 2 lawn sprinklers up over the kennel so when the sprinklers come on the whole collection is watered. We have an automatic system which will run twice a week. The kennel is in the corner of the southwest side of the house and has some trees which give shade also. It gets the summer sun somewhat diffused in the morning and then as the sun moves around gets sun part of the afternoon and again later in the day. We are on a canal and get a very heavy dew.

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Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill Founded May 21, 1992

Treasure's Report

By Helen Battistrada, *Treasure*

Balance 1/21/12	\$ 2835.21
Receipts	\$ <u>680.00</u>
Total	\$ 3515.21
Disbursements	\$ <u>288.74</u>
Balance 2/18.21	\$ 3226.47

Reminder:

Club dues are due.

Upcoming Speaker Program

by Ed Bugbee

Program Coordinator

Club member Jeff Rundell is the March speaker. Orchid Mysteries and Madness will be the subject. "I'll try to keep it light and there will be slides, possible real slides and maybe even what teachers do best: Give tests!"

I have confirmed Jack Batchelor from Paradise Orchids as our speaker May 19th.

Membership

By Yvonne Allen,

Membership Coordinator

62 Paid members.

February Meeting Attendance

37 Members.

10 Guest.

37 dues paying members to date.

Newsletter Deadline is the 1st of the month. Forward newsletter submissions to:

The.Keiki@tampabay.rr.com

Or

Judy Smith, Editor

7918 W flight Path Ct

The Presidents Message

By Dave Dobson

Orchid Festival time is here, the one time a year when we show the public just what Orchids are all about. Our one time educational presentation to the public. We did have some rough times with our the location when they double booked the hall but we were first with a contract with them so other arrangements were made for the other booking. It is a good location and people know where to find us after all the years there so we were happy to get things worked out. Hope to see all of you at the Festival and as many as possible working with us there.

The nice spring like weather makes us want to get our little jewels out in the open air and sun light but from experience we have learned that we can still have a cold snap forcing us to bring them all back in. The warm weather has encouraged some to bloom sooner this year than in the past which should be good for our Festival. It has been a warm winter which has one draw back, the cold that kills some of the pest did not get a chance to do it this year so be ready.

Well enjoy the beautiful weather and we hope to see all of you at the Festival.

Dave

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

Upcoming Events

Showtime March 24th, 25th.
Come out and show your support.

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...
#2

"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."

Refreshment Reminder

By Eleanor Szarzynski,
Refreshment Coordinator
352-688-3887
March
Thomas Garvin
Mary Steiger
Pat Criscvoli

Carolyn Monroe from page 1

Being on a canal we are warmer in the winter. In December I squeeze them all on the sunporch or in the house until I can put them back out.

I have tried many types of pots. while I like the clay pots they are harder to hang on the fencing. I use a lot of plastic baskets. I keep trying different mediums and now am using a lot of cocoa fiber to line the pot (I buy the sheets of fiber used to line large window boxes when on sale and cut them to fit. I fill them with alaflor and a top dressing of spagnum. I like the alaflor because it doesn't get bugs in in the summer but the plants like the spagnum. My orchids have to live on my schedule. They get a good cleaning when we return in May and while I am here I fertilize weakly, weekly with a general orchid fertilizer and the famous beer mixture. I give them a time release when we leave and tuck a bounce fabric softner sheet in the pot to help with the summer bugs.



Leonara Appleblossom Group 2010



I have learned a lot by coming to the Orchid Lovers meetings. I now also belong to the Tampa Orchid Club and learn a lot there. But I mostly learned by trial and error I love working on the shows and going on the trips to see new orchids. I was thrilled the first time I got a ribbon at a club meeting and now have a lot of ribbons. I keep meticulous records and each orchid has a sheet with information updated when we arrive and once or twice during the winter, then a photo and all of its ribbons. My collection has grown to over 100 and would like to not let it get any bigger. I try now to keep only a few of each kind (cattleyas, Phalaenopsis, etc) and keep trying new varieties. I am growing a lot more species and smaller orchids.

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### GUEST SPEAKER SEGMENT

by Delia Dunn

Our Speaker on February 18 was Conservationist, **Prem Subrahmanyam**, and what a wonderful program it was, and such an interesting life HE has. His topic was the *Orchids in Our Backyard: Florida's Wild Orchids*. Prem is a software engineer living in Altamonte Springs with his wife and 15 (fifteen!) children in the Orlando area. He is an award-winning photographer and his subjects are species orchids, which he has ventured out and found not only around where he lives but also in the Everglades. He sells his photographs in the form of cards, T-shirts and pictures of various sizes.

Prem said that something always gets each of us initially interested in orchids and he told us what the attraction was for him.

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Prem Subrahmanyam

### *Guest Speaker from page 3*

He grew up in Tallahassee where there were natural areas to explore but his interest was reading the whole stack of National Geographics his parents had and he'd read about gold, diamonds and lasers etc. but ignored the orchids featured in the magazines until he saw the 1971-72 issue. There he read about the 24-25,000 species with divine shapes and sizes and their complex mechanisms fascinated him. With his love of engineering, it was natural that he would appreciate the mechanism of the 'bucket' orchid and how it attracted the insects, almost carnivorous in its actions. (This would probably be the same orchid we learned about several months ago, *Coryanthes macrantha*.) He literally fell in love with orchids and went out in the woods to find some in local areas around his house. He found what turned out to be a violet but a stones throw away was growing a bunch of wild orchids and right across the stream he saw more. Other areas he'd go to within 15 minutes of his house he found many other species growing. He started reading a lot more and even began protecting his orchid reference books. He has spent 25 years studying orchids and 10 years

photographing them.

In Florida, there are Temperate species growing in the north, heading south and there are Tropical species growing in the south heading north. He had slides of the various areas where different orchids may be found:

Wet Pinelands where there is a little water and moss, Wet roadsides, Savannah, Woodlands, Swamps (very productive), Upper Pinelands - drier and ridges, Coastlands where there is coastal scrub, Farmlands.

Orchids are not found in the salt marshes or ocean type of environment. In the Northern Region, there are 53 species; the Central Region 60 species and the Southern Region have 84 species. He listed all the counties in each region and all the species by name, some of which had disappeared for some time and then recently been discovered again, and others that had not been found in a long time. He showed slides of various orchids he'd photographed in their natural environment and talked about *Encyclia tampensis*, which may grow well with Resurrection Ferns since they have been found together in the same area. One of the most interesting things about his talk was the fact that he knew the mechanisms of all the plants and loved the way they functioned, which of course is what attracted him to orchids in the first place. Some of the wild orchids are leafless and rely on the Mycorrhizal fungus for their nutrients, for their entire life cycle. (We learned about that fungus last year also).

A very exciting plant to discover blooming was the *Triphora craigheadii* or 'craigheads nodding-cap', which only blooms one morning and then it's gone. He stayed up all night to capture it but it's easy to miss it if you don't pick the right day (or fall asleep while you're waiting?) It is the strategy of certain species that they self-pollinate and do not open buds due to a lack of genetic diversity. Some of his photos show plants with buds, which will never open. There are plants that have no leaves but have long roots like a Vanda's, which wrap around tree trunks. Chlorophyll is contained in their roots where photosynthesis occurs. He mentioned orchids he's found that smelled like baby powder and some like raspberries.

As orchid lovers we all should know how to recognize an orchid compared to another type of plant - one way is the stamens and pistils are united into one single column. Descriptive picture can be found on Prem's website, listed at the end. A good website on species that are also available to purchase can be found at [www.grasspinkorchids.com](http://www.grasspinkorchids.com) located in Pt. Charlotte, FL.



*Ghost Orchid*

Prem had stories to tell us of the mysterious Ghost Orchid, which is another plant that has no leaves and is a rare and endangered species. He photographed it at *Corkscrew Swamp in the Everglades around Naples*. This place is the one exception to keeping the location of the Ghost Orchid secret. In 2007, the plant was discovered growing about 40' up the trunk of a Bald Cypress tree that is believed to be between 400-500 years old. It bloomed 3 times that year with 12 being the highest number of blooms at one time. It is visible from a public boardwalk through the Corkscrew area and has blossomed in both the summers of 2007 and 2008. It had several very unusual looking flowers and one normal one and was 17 years old before it had its first bloom! The Ghost Orchid can only reproduce by

*Continued on page 5*

Guest Speaker from page 4

being pollinated by the Giant Sphinx Moth. It takes a special zoom lens to be able to photograph it and he was lucky enough to be able to borrow another visitor's camera to get the picture. Prem says that Morning Glory bloom in the same area. If you go, Corkscrew will tell you where the plant is growing so that you can view it. Nobody else will do that. *You can obtain more information on this special orchid by going online and searching 'ghost orchid'.*

Prem has a great website [www.flnativeorchids.com](http://www.flnativeorchids.com) - it's educational, has wonderful close-up photos that he has taken, has his biography and other fascinating information and has some wonderful links to other orchid sites. If we want to learn more about the subject of Florida orchids, it is definitely the place to go.



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 |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------------------|--------------|
| Delia Dunn (19)           | Pot. *    | Shinfong Little Love | 3 Yr         |
| Featherstone Orchids (24) | Species * | Tainia Penangiana    | 5 Yr         |
|                           | Phal.     | Gibbosa              | 5 Yr         |
| Judy Smith (12)           | Cycl. *   | LLndlevanus          | 4 Yr         |
|                           | Lyc. *    | Ballae               | 4 Yr         |
| Barbara Brillinger        | Phal.     | No ID                | 1 Yr         |
|                           | Phal. *   | Fantasy Musick       | 1 Yr         |
| Linda Meyer (5)           | Lus.      | Discover             | 6 Mo         |
|                           | Phal.     | (Miniature)          |              |
| Sherry Preston (3)        | Ctyh. *   | Siam Jade            | 2 Yr         |
| Jeff Rundell (30)         | A.        | Tan Siew Inn         | 3 Yr         |
|                           | Species   | Epidendrum anceps    | 6 Yr         |

## March 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

Signs of spring abound with an abundance of emerging flower spikes and buds. The flush of spring growth will follow soon so plan your repotting program which should begin in earnest this month. The best time to repot is right before the new roots start growing so the plants will reestablish quickly. Watch for signs of mites, particularly on thin leaved orchids like the catasetinae and grammatophyllums, and treat any problems promptly.

### Cattleyas

Several species flowering now are *C. amethystoglossa* with its large heads of crimson and white blooms, *C. aurantiaca* that delights with clusters of small yellow to orange star-like flowers, *C. skinneri* carrying many clusters of lavender or white blooms or the natural hybrid of these last two *C. guatemalensis*. Soon sheaths will emerge on *C. mossiae* hybrids. Monitor their development so that moisture does not accumulate in the sheath causing bud blast.

### Cymbidiums

Flower spikes are starting to develop and should be trained for their best display, although they are tender and easily broken. Arching or upright spikes display better if trained upward at first growth; some growers place a name tag in front of the developing spike to guide it. Pendulous cymbidiums should be allowed to grow naturally and downward without any type of training.

### Oncidiums

*Onc. papilio*, the butterfly orchid, may be putting out the first in a series of many buds that will bloom through spring and early summer. Do not cut the inflorescence because it will continue to produce flowers year after year. Even though *Onc. papilio* has hard leaves suggesting it will tolerate a lot of light (like cattleyas), it is better grown under bright phalaenopsis conditions.

### Phalaenopsis

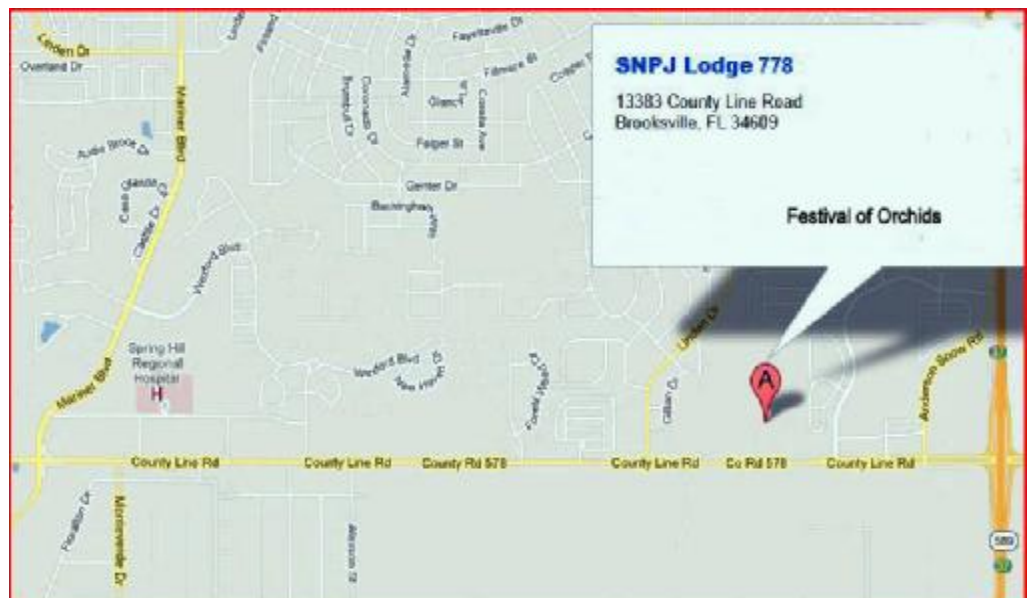
The hybrid moth orchids seem to last in perfection for months. Certain species are starting to bloom like the pink *Phal. schilleriana* and spotted *Phal. stuartiana* that are both fundamental to many modern hybrids. If grown in New Zealand sphagnum moss, make sure the moss does not deteriorate before the flowering season because a healthy root system is

### Upcoming Biography's

April  
Sue Caparbi-Taylor

May  
Pat Dupke

June  
Connie Revoir



Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill Founded May 21, 1992

\*\*\*Please note the revised time .\*\*\*

**Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill**

*Presents*

**Festival of Orchids**

**Saturday, March 24, 2012 – 10 AM to 4 PM**

**Sunday, March 25, 2012 – 10 AM to 3 PM**

**SUNCOAST DANCE & PARTY CENTER**

(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 1/4 mile.

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

Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill Founded May 21, 1992

**Do you know that:**

- Orchids represent the biggest variety of flowering plants comprising from 20,000 to 30,000 naturally growing species.
- The heaviest orchid *Grammatophyllum speciosum* is capable to attain the weight up to 2,000 pounds (900 kg). In nature the adult orchid produces up to 10,000 blooms.
- Orchids can be found in all the continents but Antarctica.
- In the year 1856, the first man- made Orchid cultivar was developed.
- For achieving pollination, some Orchids from the genus *Ophrys* that are named bee orchids carry blossoms having the look and scent of female insects.
- The flowering time or the life of an Orchid bases on the type of Orchid in flower.
- *Phalaenopsis* are considered to be one of the easy-to grow and prized orchid species.
- The Orchid genus under the name *Vanilla* is mainly grown for commercial purpose. The vanilla essence is widely used for food flavoring.
- Orchids are recognized as favorites among ornamentals.

The Keiki  
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Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill Founded May 21, 1992