



The Keik



Volume 21

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October 13, 2012

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Yvonne Allen

I am a Michigan transplant to Florida. We lived in the Hasting, Michigan area (Southwest Michigan), kind of in the middle between Grand Rapids, Lansing, Battle Creek and Kalamazoo.

My first two orchids, a Laelia/Cattleya Rojo and a Purple Cattleya came from my eldest daughter who lives in California. These two orchids are still represented in my collection of about 100 orchid plants. I am a little fuzzy as to the date Karen first gave me these orchids, but it must have been between 16 to 18 years ago. At that time we first started "snow birding" to Florida in the winters. We lived in St Cloud, Florida in the winters in a Mobile Home Park. I tried bringing the orchids home in the summer to take care of them. This did not work as they never bloomed. So I finally left them in Florida, hanging in citrus trees over the summer.

Like all orchid lovers, my addiction soon grew to other varieties. I and a friend visited flea markets in the area and picked up new beauties. We also joined the Greater

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Treasure's Report

By Helen Battistrada, Treasure

Balance 8/18/12	\$ 2293.83
Receipts	<u>\$ 235.31</u>
Total	\$ 2529.14
Disbursements	<u>\$ 527.00</u>
Balance 9/15/12	\$ 2001.35

Upcoming Speaker Program

By Ed Bugbee,
Program Coordinator

October

Dick Coffman

Cattleya culture and will have some slides. Members sale of orchids is fine at Oct meeting. He is bringing some rare non orchid plants to give away.

November

Club Auction

Membership

By Yvonne Allen,

Membership Coordinator

69 Paid members.

August Meeting Attendance

38 Members.

2 Guest.

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

Crystal River, FL 34429

ORCHID LOVERS' CLUB OF SPRING HILL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING SEPTEMBER 15, 2012

- President Geary Harris called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.
- New member and visitors' greeting.
- Old Business:
- Pat Dupke passed the sign up sheet for the indoor picnic on October 20th. Salads are needed. The club provides the paper products, beverages; sloppy Joe's and grilled hot dogs.
- Ed Bugbee spoke about the upcoming annual orchid auction being held November 17th from 1 to 3 pm. Doors open at 12 noon for viewing of orchids. If anyone would like to donate healthy orchid plants for the auction, that would be appreciated. Please drop them off by 12 noon the day of the auction. Flyers were on the front table for anyone to place in businesses or doctor's offices.
- Al Fiore spoke about the Christmas party being held at the Wellington Clubhouse restaurant from 12 – 2pm on December 8th. It will be \$17.00 per person & the 3 entrée choices are Prime Rib, Chicken or Onion Crusted Salmon. Sign up sheet was passed around. Checks can be made to the club. Payment is due by the November auction.
- Jeff Rundell spoke about the status of planning the orchid festival. Dates for the orchid festival are March 1st (for set up), 2nd, & 3rd from 9am – 4pm. Letters to potential vendors should go out on Thursday.
- Yvonne Allen is moving next month and someone is needed to take her place performing the membership/greeter duties. Also, the name tags are in; please pick yours up if you ordered one.
- Sarah Hart requested orchids for display in the Shriners club sponsorship of all 5 high schools that are having a pageant. She would like borrow orchids to line the walkway with some larger orchids and have some smaller ones for display. The pageant is on October 27th.
- Jeff Rundell is speaking to a group on October 22nd & is looking for an assistant & any flowering orchids. He will be very careful transporting any borrowed orchids. He will be glad to hold them for Sarah to borrow the following week.
- Break
- Show table.
- Speaker Francesco Miranda spoke about orchids from Central Brazil.
- Raffle was held.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:36 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sue Caparbi-Taylor

New Member (s)

Please welcome as our newest club member (s);

Carol Klaus
7292 Berwick Way
Weeki Wachee, FL 34613
Phone 352-592-4660.

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 Blvd., Spring Hill.

Refreshment Reminder

By Eleanor Szarzynski,
Refreshment Coordinator
352-688-3887

Snacks
Pat Crisuoli
Mary Steiger
Jeff Rundell

Upcoming Biography's

November
Tom Govin

December
Me

Things My Mother Taught Me.

My mother taught me how to solve PHYSICS PROBLEMS...

"If I yelled because I saw a meteor coming toward you, would you listen THEN?"

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Orlando Orchid Society (GOOS). We picked up more knowledge and more orchids. My collection soon grew to include Cattleya's, Cymbidium's, Dendrobium's, Oncidium's, Phalaenopsis's and Vanda's.

In 2005. we purchased the property here in the Brooksville and had a new manufactured home placed on the 1.25 acres. I proudly brought all my orchids with me. That first winter here (1995/1996) was a disaster for me and my orchids. The hard freezes took a toll on my orchids. I lost all my Vandas, Phalenopsis's and some of my Cattleya's. My hardy Rojo and the purple Cattelya and Cymbidium's survived.



My husband and I purchased a 10' x 12' greenhouse kit and put it up before the next winter. We built benches and installed pipe for hanging plants, covering the floor of the greenhouse with black porous plastic material. We installed water and electricity. I was all ready for the next winters freezes. Now my orchids go into the greenhouse in the winter and hang outdoors in the

summer. I originally hung them in the oak trees on our property. Then my husband and I realized they were not getting quite as much light as they needed. So we took 4" x4" posts and 26' long pipe and built a permanent home in the area shaded by the oak trees. They now had the shade they needed but it was more filtered and the plants seemed to do much better.

I saw the notice in the paper about Orchid Lovers Club and attended a meeting. I was a little disappointed in my first meeting as the members did not seem very friendly. I attended one of your shows and bought potting supplies from Hicks. I continued to pick up orchids here and there. I attended another meeting and again was unhappy with the attitude of the members. Finally about 3 years ago at your show, I happened to talk with Linda Roderick. She was so friendly and nice and urged me to give the club another chance. So I attended the next meeting, bringing along my huge Rojo for the show table. Of course, it was a winner and people started talking with me. So I joined the club. My attendance was a little sparse the first couple of years that I was a member, but gradually I came to know more people and felt more comfortable at the meetings. Pat Dupke was the next person to take me under her wing. Such a delightful and hard working person, a person whom I fit right in with. Then last year at one of the meetings they said they needed a volunteer to work with membership. Well, I have always been great at volunteering and before I knew it my hand was in the air. Too late, Dave saw it and I was now the new Membership Chairperson. Thank goodness, Barb Brillinger was a good teacher and took me under her wing. I enjoy my job now,

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What About Us?

by
Jeff Rundell

Perhaps one of the most intriguing parts of the orchid world are not the orchids themselves but the characters that are part of it. I'm sure every hobby has such people and I've seen the evidence in the coin & stamp world or even the model railroading crowd. But we're talking about a completely different species when it comes to orchids. As time goes on I have the feeling that some of these great personalities are being replaced by factory like orchids producers that lack some of what I would term "color" so I've decided to highlight a couple of my experiences to honor their passing while, at the same time worry, that maybe I too fit the mold.

It's hard to find an adjective that doesn't fit at least one of them including: secretive, dedicated, brusque, disheveled, pedantic, zealous, devoted, encouraging, and discerning. Well let's start with the first word - secretive - and of course I've changed the names to protect the innocent.

I've forgotten who gave me "Lola's" address when I first started down the orchid trail in an early '80s visit to my parent's new double wide in Largo. Finding it was an exercise in pre GPS trial and error that took most of the morning and mostly wound up in pit bull back yards. Finally a trail into deeper and deeper shade gave me a glimpse of an old glass greenhouse sticking just above some huge castor beans. It appeared to be mostly vines and weeds but there was a worn sign that said "orchids". Stacks of pots surrounded the old cracker house along with a few stray cats. I knocked lightly on the screen which looked like it might fall off if I applied much more force. When Lola appeared behind the screen I was absolutely sure of two things: 1) She had absolutely nothing on under that old floral house dress and 2) she had a pistol concealed on the counter where her right hand was hidden. I asked about orchids for sale and learned that she only spoke in single syllable words and, like many southerners had mutated the letter "i" into "ah".

So off to the greenhouse we went, cats in tow, with a big key for a big padlock even though there were enough broken panes so that almost anyone could get inside. What lay within however explained everything and I admit my

jaw hit the floor. Lola grew only Phalenopsis and, since this was some 30 years ago, these orchids were still unusual. But these were not like the average mass produced clones you find at big box stores these days - oh no. Many had leaf spreads over two feet and some (gasp) closer to three feet. All of them were growing in walnut sized brown lava rock and wide shallow white pots. But that's not all. The spikes on these plants were close to the roof of the greenhouse, about as thick as your finger and topped with saucer sized blooms that were white with various speckling on their lips. Now I know what you're thinking. I'm writing all this hyperbole after 30 years and at least 3 alcoholic drinks. Not true - I swear it.

Without being asked Lola said \$12 for a plant "cept them over there" (pointing to plants so big I would have needed a U-Haul to get them north. I bought 2 plants and asked Lola what the fertilizer was in the big open barrel of foul smelling murky liquid at the end of the greenhouse? The response was complete silence and a dead pan look that sent me to the car where my wife had locked herself in. Who knows - maybe Lola had ground up her husband and his dog to make those orchids grow? Two post scripts: First I returned on a couple of more recent trips and attempted to find this place without any success. Every drive I tried wound up in fog, vines and weeds. And the plants? It took me almost 2 years to kill them up north which, at that time, I saw as a definite sign of progress.

Another orchid acquaintance we'll call "Stan" had his orchid business just a few hundred feet from a backwater of Old Tampa Bay. It was an older neighborhood but Stan's house stood apart with all kinds of tropical plants shooting up that made it look like someone had ripped out part of the Amazonia and brought it to Florida. Once I figured out how to get through the fence gate the next surprise was how easy it was to get into Stan's house. The sliding glass door to the kitchen was wide open and a squirrel was on the counter helping himself to the remains of breakfast. There were some other scurrying noises in the house that made me wonder if he still lived even lived here. Outside a couple of lawn chairs sat under a large Carembola tree (starfruit). I am sure Stan positioned the chairs carefully because, whenever I sat in one usually a ripe fruit would inevitably drop on my head. Stan usually had a protege or two by his side and was constantly educating them on the finer points of orchid growing with a generous helping of his life philosophy.

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it is rather challenging at the meetings as people come fast and furious sometimes. I have had to change some things like asking people to sign in since I still do not know everybody. But the ones I do not know for sure are getting



fewer every month. I hope that everyone will bear with me until I know everyone. After all, how long does it take for you to stop and say hello and sign your name? What a better way to start the day.

After being in the St Cloud park for so many years, I found that I was lacking in friends and things to do so I started volunteering at the Hospice House cooking for the residents. Then I took up piano again and have played at a couple of Assisted Living Facilities in the area. I love playing the old songs, none of this new stuff for me. It is a very relaxing and enjoyable hobby. I also have made

over 40 quilts that I have given to friends and family. I also have taken up knitting again since becoming a great grand parent for the first time. I have knitted 20 baby sweater so far. I am giving them to the children without grandchildren and they can keep them until they have some and then they can be from me, whether I am still around or not. Then in my spare time I love to read.

I continue working with my orchids. I change my potting material from time to time. I am a little lax on fertilizing and probably pay for that in blooming plants. I also rely greatly on the rains in the summer for watering. Of course in the winter I have to be more on top of things and water regularly. I never seem to have blooming plants in time for the monthly meetings. They are usually just coming into or going out of bloom on meeting day. Besides, it is a hassle to haul them in with all the other Membership paraphernalia, so I will just enjoy them on my own.

My husband is helpful with the watering and lugging them in and out of the greenhouse with the changing of the seasons.

I enjoy the plants and my association with the club. I hope that I continue to be an asset to the club and continue to expand my friendships within the club.

Editors note: Since this bio was submitted, Yvonne and her husband have opted to move from our area back to St. Cloud, Fl. They will be missed.

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The other thing was that he never stopped moving. If you wanted to talk to him you had best have some track shoes on because he would only alight for a few seconds, just long enough to point something out, and then accelerate away at light speed before you had a chance to question him. The place itself was like a rabbit warren and from the outside you would never recognize it as an orchid business. The "greenhouses" were an unholy system of tarps, 2x4s, plastic sheets and chicken wire. Again there were open barrels of mysterious liquids here and there but this time they had a distinctly chemical odor. I observed one of his lackeys with hazmat gloves dunking plants 3 at a time so I steered as clear as possible. But Stan was so likable his

methods didn't seem to bother anyone. He was most proud of his own crosses which he produced from a tiny lab in the corner of one of the more sturdy looking buildings. He was a great champion of native Florida orchids and had a little secret "black bag" operation going where he would transplant some of his natives to nearby needy localities he would not divulge. He was a fountain of information, much of it contrary to popular wisdom and he had a few jungle stories that rivaled the early days of orchid exploration. When I found out he had died it made me treasure the plants I have with his tag all the more.

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The Presidents Message

By Geary Harris

I'm an avid football fan, so I thought how scoring a touchdown and; getting an orchid to bloom compare. First you must have an good offense so as to move the ball past the defense. In growing orchids you must have a good fertilizer, medium, water, sunlight, air flow and, a good book on raising orchids. Sometimes you may need an insecticide and fungicide. On defense you have insects, root rot, fungus, cold weather, too much water, and sunlight.

So in all actuality it is just as hard to grow beautiful orchids as it is to score a touchdown if you don't have the right offense. See you at the picnic.

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To me these people are part of the joy of growing orchids. They are as unique in color, form and character as the

blossoms we treasure. Perhaps as a threatened species we should pay more attention to them before, like Lola, they vanish into the fog and weeds.

<>

Buy, Sell, Trade, & free stuff

If you have orchid plants, surplus supplies, or any orchid related items you want to dispense of, send you listing to The Keiki or call Judy @ 352-563-2288

I have C. bowringiana in spike similar to the picture. 6 inch pots \$ 25.00 Anyone interested? Call Joyce 799-8369



ORCHIDS IN THE WILD

By Pat Dupke



Francisco Miranda spoke to our club last September with a very interesting slide presentation entitled **Journey down the Amazon.**

Francisco began his presentation today by first telling us about the climate of South America and the areas where various orchids grow in their different natural habitats. His slide presentation showed us the following varieties of Oncidiums which grow on trees and on the moss of trees where it is dry.

Next we saw a slide of Cyslopodium sp. which grows on rocks. Catasetum rooseveltianum and Catasetum spitzil is found growing in the top of trees where its lighter and thinner and once the flower is done blooming the seeds drop and reroor on the tree. Cattleya nobillor and Cattleya loddigesil is well adapted to growing on trees where it is dry. Laelia caulescens is found growing on the gravel in small depressions in rocks. One of the very rare trees of Brazil is the White tabeluia tree which was in flower.

Half way through his slide presentation the battery on his computer died.

Francisco's website is www.mirandaorchids.com complete with photographs of Brazilian orchids, paintings of orchids and scenery.



Orchid Lovers Club Christmas Party

Noon to 2 PM Saturday December 8th 2012 at the Wellington Clubhouse on Mariner Blvd.

Choice of 8oz Prime Rib or Campfire Chicken or Onion Crusted Salmon. Includes side dish, salad and soft drinks. There is a cash bar for mixed drinks or beer.

Price \$17.00 PP includes gratuity.

We will have a \$10. gift exchange for members who want to participate.

See Al Fiore at next few meetings to sign up and pay.

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 of attaining 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



PAT DUPKE

REMINDER:

OUR INDOOR PICNIC WILL BE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20TH WITH THE DOORS OPENING AT 12:00 P.M. WE WILL BE EATING AT 12:30 P.M. PAT DUPKE WILL BE REMINDING CLUB MEMBERS AS TO WHAT YOU SIGNED UP TO BRING EITHER BY E-MAIL OR TELEPHONE. FOLLOWING THE PICNIC DICK COFFMAN WILL BE OUSPEAKER. IF ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT PAT AT 727-856-3485

Orchid Repotting Calendar

Printed with permission from rePotme.com Orchid Supplies (www.repotme.com 302.855.5859)

The most important factor in the timing of orchid repotting is to repot after the bloom and as the new growth is emerging. Repotting when an orchid is in active growth provides the plant with its best opportunity to settle quickly into its new media. The plant will then grow and flower in fresh media thereby eliminating the need to do an emergency repotting at a later time because the mix is too broken down. We want to make sure that the orchid can make it through a full bloom season without requiring repotting. Some genera, most notably *Phalaenopsis*, are very forgiving about when they are repotted and can be repotted pretty much any time they are not in bloom.

Below is a chart of the general repotting times for genera in our collection. **These are not cast in stone, but are offered here as a general guideline.** The most important thing is to observe the plant and repot it after it blooms and as it begins its new growth.

Genera	Abbreviation	Optimal Repotting Times
Brassavola	[B.]	Winter - Spring
Cattleya	[C.]	Spring / Fall
Catasetum	[Ctsm.]	Spring
Cymbidium	[Cym.]	Spring
Dendrobium	[Den.]	Spring
Doritaenopsis	[Dtps.]	Fall - Winter
Epidendrum	[Epi.]	Spring
Encyclia	[Enc.]	Spring
Laelia	[L.]	Spring
Ludisia	[Lds.]	Winter - Spring
Lycaste	[Lyc.]	Spring
Masdevallia	[Masd.]	Spring
Miltonia	[Milt.]	Fall
Miltoniopsis	[Miltpps.]	Fall
Odontoglossom	[Odm.]	Winter- Spring
Oncidium	[Onc.]	Winter - Spring
Paphiopedilum	[Paph.]	Spring
Phalaenopsis	[Phal.]	Spring - Summer
Phragmipedium	[Phrag.]	Spring
Psychopsis	[Psychp.]	Spring
Sophronitis	[Soph.]	Spring
Stanhopea	[Stan.]	Spring / Fall
Vanda	[V.]	Fall

Show Table

The show table featured many beautiful orchids this month. All who brought their favorite plant to showcase for the rest of us are to be commended for their efforts. If you have an outstanding orchid you would like to share with the rest of the club, I encourage you to bring it in for all to see. (XX yr. orchid growing. In no particular order.)

Blue Ribbon (s)

Linda Roderick (10 yr.)	Neost. Phldt. C.	Lou Sherry Bluebird Imbicata Wedding Reception	Jeff Rundell	Blc. Ascda. Tlmna.	Empress Worsley Tan Siew Inn Equitats Cuarious Un- named
Dale Story (15+ yr.)	Den.	Blue Twinkle	Doug Feingold (5 yr.) Dan Grant	Otr. C.	Island Flare C. Earl Imperialis X Walkeriana Alba lc. Amber Glow X Chocolate Drop

Honorable Mention

Dale Story (15+ yr.)	Phal.	Dips		C.	lc. Amber Glow X Chocolate Drop
Pat Dupke (20 yr.)	Ger.	Snow Ballet Dail Snowflake X Richard Mueller			

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