



Merry
Christmas

The Keiki



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December 12, 2013

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Orchid's By Gift

By Eleanor Szarzynski

I have only been into orchids for 15 years and would not have been involved with them then if it were not for past President Ron Kilgore.

I was at a social function in Deltona Woods with some mutual friends playing Bocce. Bocce is a game involving rolling or pitching balls at a target ball that was thrown first at a required distance. Each player or team in turn rolls or tosses four wooden, metal, or composition balls, called bocce, each 4–5 inches (10–13 cm) in diameter, toward a smaller ball, called the boccino, or

pallino. The object, as in the game of lawn bowls, is to bring the ball to rest nearer the pallino than an opponent's ball, to protect a well-placed ball, or to knock aside an opponent's ball. Rebounds from the side walls are permitted. At the end of a round, a side receives a point for every ball nearer the pallino than the nearest opposing ball. The game usually proceeds until one side has 12 points.

I do not recall why Ron had brought an orchid to the game but he asked me if I had any orchids. I said no and his reply was, "well, you do now". It was a Cattleya and it took me two years to kill it.

I always did some sort of gardening and grew Violets so that experience probably is what prolonged the Cattleya life. By that time I was hooked and Ron knew it.

I joined the club at his suggestion and gained enough knowledge about orchid growing that my orchid mortality rate dropped substantially with the exception of a freeze a few years ago that killed some of my Vandas.

I grow my orchids on my lanai and have around 35 at this time. (Ed,s note. This interview was at the beginning of the auction so I am sure that number has gone up considerably.)

My biggest disappointment in growing orchids these last 15 years was the orchid Ron had given me and as most of you know, we lost Ron a few years ago and that orchid

(Continued on page 4)



Treasure's Report

By
Helen Battistrada

Balance 10/19/13	\$ 2878.01
Receipts	\$ 487.00
Total	\$ 3375.01
Disbursements	\$ 173.77
Balance 09/21/13	\$ 3201.24



Upcoming Speaker Program

By Ed Bugbee,
Program Coordinator

November

Club Annual Action Nov. 16, 2013

December

Club Christmas Party Dec. 14, 2013

Merry Christmas



Plant number 32 sold to number 26.....And so it went as Auctioneer Ed Bugbee assisted in bringing the club a very successful auction.

WOW!

By Pat Dupke



What a great plant auction this year. The room was filled to capacity with plants everywhere. We had plants and supplies donated from new growers such as Accent Orchids, Orchids Amore, Gross Orchids, Holly Orchid Nursery, Paradise Orchids, and Tropical Plant Products, Inc. Of course we received donations from Goodwin Orchids, Hicks Orchid Supplies, Joy Orchids, Inc., Dr. Charles D. Thomas, Krull-Smith, Chapman's Orchids, Louis del Favero Orchids, Inc., Touch of Orchids & More, and Featherstone Orchids of Crystal River.

Membership



By Linda Meyer & Sarah Hart
Membership Coordinators

As of November

90 Paid members.

41 Members September attendance

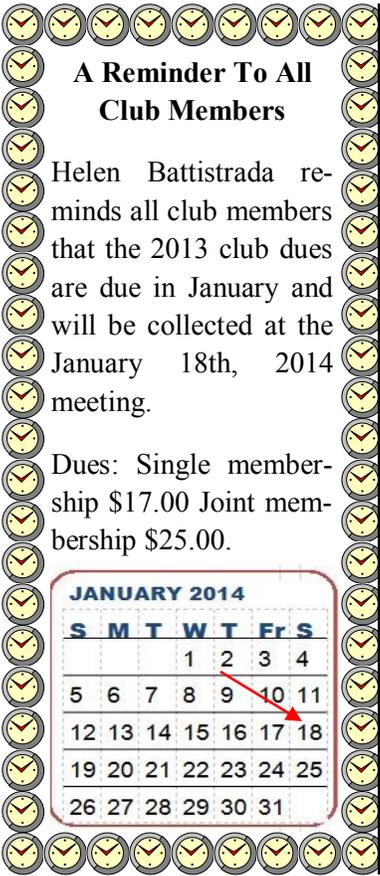
2 Guest

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 11361 Cortez Blvd Cortez Blvd. Brooksville, Florida



Plants were donated from club members; just to list a few: Tim Smith acquired 24 tea cup Phalaenopsis and Judy Smith donated a variety of orchids from Carmela Orchids in Hukalau, Hawaii.

(Continued on page 3)



A Reminder To All Club Members

Helen Battistrada reminds all club members that the 2013 club dues are due in January and will be collected at the January 18th, 2014 meeting.

Dues: Single membership \$17.00 Joint membership \$25.00.

JANUARY 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	Fr	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Auction Results
By Helen Battistrada

“Bingo Jackpot” The proceeds from our annual action came to \$1943.00!!! Best we ever done by \$300.00.

The auction will help pay for the programs we have throughout the year. Club dues, the raffle, and other activities also contribute to these programs as well.

About 6 to 7 years ago, the club generally made \$1500 to \$1600 at our auctions then started fluctuation between \$1300 and \$1100 with \$1100 being the norm for the previous three years. This is most likely due to loss of membership but our membership is on the rebound with many new members joining this year and that has to be a factor.

Many thanks to Sarah hart for all her help in keeping track of the sales.

Once again; “Way to go”

Helen Battistrada

(Continued from page 2)

Our auctioneer Ed Bugbee did a splendid job with the help of Geary Harris, Jeff Rundell, and Carol Monroe.

There was a big selection of sweets for refreshments plus a variety of sandwiches brought in by Carol Monroe and cracker and cheese furnished by Louise Kersten.

Sarah Hart assisted our treasurer Helen Battistrada with noting the bids along with Al Fiore. All and all the club did very well as far as money goes.

The board would like to thank all the orchid growers and club members for their donations and the members who helped sit up the chairs and with the clean up.



Plant sitter Linda Hindman assisted by Sonia Terrelonge. This alone made the auction run very smooth.

Pat





The Presidents Message

By Geary Harris

What a great auction we had in November! Our club raised over \$1900.00.

I want to thank all the club members who work so hard going to different orchid shows and nurseries to get such beautiful orchids.

Our Christmas Party will be our last event for 2013 but, we are looking forward to an exciting time to come in 2014. So fasten your seat belts for an exciting ride in 2014 beginning with our orchid show at the end of March.

Our board members and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Please be careful on the roads during the Christmas holiday. We want to see everyone back safely in January.



Refreshment Reminder

By

Eleanor Szarzynski,
Refreshment Coordinator
352-688-3887

January

Carolyn Monroe
Eleanor Szarzynski
Louise Kersten
Soft Drinks
Jeff Rundell
Bob East

(Eleanor Continued from page 1)

would have been a fitting remembrance of him. I did have a Desert Rose die on me but I have one in full bloom now.

I don't do too many special things with my orchids except give them a squirt of water now and again and give them a banana peel that the orchids seem to like.

Editors note; Eleanor is the clubs Refreshment Coordinator for our club meetings getting members to donate those goodies we all enjoy during the break between the business meeting and the program portion of the meeting. She and her assistants do an outstanding job of making sure we all have something to snack on.)





December 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

Winter's cool days and nights have already affected most collections; if all plants are not already indoors, they soon may be. Concerning daylight intensity and its duration, the seasonal change must be obvious by now. Don't allow daytime temperatures to rise too high before ventilating the growing area. Fresh air is important for healthy plants and their owners. Just remember that if the grower can be reasonably comfortable with the temperature and humidity conditions in the growing area, the plants are likely to be satisfied too.

Cattleyas

Plants are responding to the shorter, cooler days and less intense sun by slowing and ripening their growth. This means a reduced frequency of watering as the plants dry out more slowly and have a lesser need for fertilizer. *Cattleya skinneri* should be pushing its buds up into dried sheaths for a January flowering; do not cut the sheaths off or open them. *Cattleya trianae* and its hybrids ought to be blooming for several months beginning now. Many *Sophranitis* hybrids typically flower this season. *Laelia anceps*, the Christmas orchid, will have well defined buds just waiting for nature's signal to open.

Dendrobiums

Generalizations are hard within this very diverse group. The winter resting deciduous dendrobiums of the *Dendrobium* (*Nobiles* and *Seminobiles*) and *Callista* sections (email us if you're not sure) can be kept dry and cool this month. Shoot for minimum temperatures of 40 F. *Nobile* type dendrobiums may show some swollen nodes on their leafless pseudobulbs and flowers may appear by the month's end. Your other dendrobiums will also be resting up this month though not dormant. You'll water these half as often as you did in the summer. Shoot for minimum temperatures of 45 to 55 F and 55 to 60 F for the *biggibum* types.

Oncidiums

The mule-ear oncidium, *Oncidium splendidum*, and the popular thin-leaved type, *Oncidium maculatum*, should be producing inflorescences. Stake the oncidium inflorescence as it grows upward, but do not allow the tip to droop as you would for a *phalaenopsis*.

Paphiopedilums

Some of the mottled leaved species like *Paphiopedilum fairrieanum* and *sukhakulii* bloom now. Keep their potting medium moist and avoid getting water in the pouch.

Phalaenopsis

Groom and stake each *phalaenopsis* spike. Avoid excess plant movement while the buds are developing or the buds may blast (with). High humidity in a closed house can lead to flower spotting caused by *Botrytis*; provide supplementary air circulation with fans and/or increase temperatures above 60 F.

Vandas

Vandas are starting to rest now. You can gradually reduce your watering to every other day and cut back on fertilizer. *Asco-centrum aurantiacum* may have some beautiful orange to yellow flowers in bloom by the end of the month.

Miscellaneous Genera

The *Catasetinae* (*catasetums*, *clowesia*, *cynoches* and *mormodes*) are going dormant now and their leaves have been yellowing and dropping. Once the leaves yellow, restrict watering until the spring growth is a few inches tall. The jewel orchid *Ludisia discolor* will begin to develop inflorescences soon. Clean the foliage now before the inflorescences grow.

Memoirs Of An Aspiring Musician

By Tim Smith

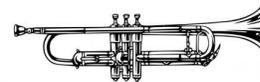
Christmas 1949. Being inspired by the Drum and Bugle Corp in the previous July 4th parade, I thought I would like to play the drums. I asked for and received a set of drums for Christmas. Boy, could I make some noise. My brothers Bill and Jack were still living at home and were notoriously late sleepers. Mom would tell me to go practice my drums every morning and that would get them up fast. Coming home from school one day, I found my bass drum crushed, the snare drum looked like a fist went through it, cymbals folded in half, and the sticks broke. Bill and Jack said they didn't know anything although I suspected Bill. Funny thing though, My Mom and Dad never got upset.

Fall of 1952. First year at Tavennerville School I thought I would join the band. I wanted to play a trumpet but that was already taken so I settled for a cornet. There were three of us in the band, Kermit a trumpet player, Larry a trombonist, and me on the cornet. When we practiced in the band room it sounded like Elephants mating. We played at all school function that year and I was getting that "Mary Had A Little Lamb" thing down pretty good. Bill and Jack had joined the Marine Corps by this time and their wife's, Jackie and Polly, were staying with my parents. I usually practiced in the kitchen...the scale and the Mary thing. Bill came home on a three day pass from Quantico to see Jackie and I am hitting those notes like a fog horn. Saturday when

I went to practice, my cornet was smashed flat on the end and looked like those cymbals did back in 49. When I played it sounded like a squirrel fart and I was kicked out of the band. Bill didn't know anything about it but I sensed a pattern here. No one else in the house said a word.

Summer of 1954, I saw a guy on Arthur Godfrey's Varsity Show playing the accordion. Still wanting to be a musician, I decided taking accordion lessons wouldn't be bad and so I did. I'm doing pretty good and moved beyond Mary Had A Little Lamb and moved up from a 12 button base to a 32 base. Sour notes not so loud and the neighbors are not complaining. There was this one piece, Carnival of Venice, that I just could not get a handle on it. I played that peice over and over every day for a month...very hard for me to play. Bill and Jack were out of the Marines and had homes of their own so I felt pretty confident nothing was going to happen to the accordion. I went to my lesson on Monday night figuring I could pass this time, got all geared up, gave the bellows a pump and it sounded like an old man that had smoked Camels all his life after climbing 4 flights of stairs.

After the accordion gave several gasps, I put it back in the case and went home. Started thinking about the harmonica after seeing the Harmonicats on Milton Berle Show but decided to take up roller skating instead, but hey, that's a whole other story.



I Thought I Saw A Putty Tat

About two years ago, Judy and I started seeing just a glimpse of a cat in woods beside our home. He or she would come out of the brush showing its self then back into hiding. After a month or so of this he started giving us longer looks. In the evening when we would sit out front



Putty Tat

in the glider, he would come out of the woods and lie under the street light and do all kinds of things to get our attention. It was obvious he wanted to be somebody's cat but being a feral, he was wild and very skittish.

Judy started putting out a little food for him at the garage door. It would disappear but we never saw him eat it and since there are coyotes in the neighborhood as well as coons, possums, and armadillos, we weren't sure who was getting it. We named him Putty Tat after the cartoon character that Tweety Bird always thought he saw. This went on for a few more months until I saw Putty eating in the daytime. When Putty sat me, he didn't run very far so I

figured he was accepting us. Was I ever wrong. He made it clear that if anything, we were going to be his people not a people's cat.

Well this cat and mouse game went on for another month or so and one evening as we were finishing up dinner, Judy took a small piece of pork chop out to put in Putty's bowl and he was there. She stooped down and offered it to him. He finally came and took it and that was the ice breaker. We've been his people ever since. On occasion, he will out of the blue get skittish and run away but not far. Our yard is fenced and he rarely leaves it... just happy and content for his little acre.

It's been two years now and Putty is doing a really good job of controlling the squirrels that would, as everyone knows that have orchids outside, destroy them. At one time we had squirrels here thick as fleas but now at the mere site of Putty, head for tall timber. The field mice, rats, rabbits, and armadillos' are no longer a problem either.

Putty allows Judy to put him in the garage at night because we still have the coyotes roaming around and she is his favorite person. Once in a great while, he will let me pat his head and scratch his ears then he is done with me.





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