



# The Keiki

Amelia Earhart Day



Volume 23

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January 10, 2014

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## 2013 Club Christmas Party



The Christmas party last year, 2013, was a complete success. The event was 99% sold out and the attending club members had a good time visiting and enjoying a superb meal. The ladies that served us were very cordial and attended to our every need.

A great big thank you to Elf Al Fiore for setting us up at the Wellington for the club's Christmas party.

Elf's Pat Dupke, Donna Fazekas, and Linda Meyer did a fantastic job of decorating and setting up the dining room.



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**Treasure's Report**

By  
Helen Battistrada

Balance 11/16/13	\$ 3201.24
Receipts	\$ 3054.50
Total	\$ 6255.78
Disbursements	\$ 471.76
Balance 12/14/13	\$ 5783.98



**Upcoming Speaker Program**

By Ed Bugbee,  
Program Coordinator

January

Don Grill

Topic; Don's Tool Time

February (TBA)

March

Our Festival/Show is coming up and it is not too early to be thinking about it.

(See page 3)

**Membership**



By Linda Meyer & Sarah Hart  
Membership Coordinators

As of December

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

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12.14.2013

Elf Eleanor Szarzynskis gets a big Heidi Ho for her contribution of the party favorites. She handmade those baskets that we were all given filled with Christmas goodies. Ours are now hanging on our Christmas tree as ornaments.

Members were asked and all complied to bring a unwrapped Christmas present for the local children who may not have had anything otherwise. Kudu's to all who brought the gifts. This box was filled to capacity and overflowed to the floor. A much better idea than gift exchange, because after all, at this time in our lives if we don't have everything we went, it probably hasn't been made yet.



The orchids that the club's gave out as door prizes, were very nice and a lot of oohs and aahs were heard throughout the dining hall. The orchids were acquired from Joy's orchids and were of high quality plants.

Once more, we all owe our sincerest gratitude to the members who made this all happen. It takes time and effort to coordinate a luncheon party like this because so many things have to come together at a certain time.

## January Speaker Program

January's meeting program will be presented by member Don Grill. Those of you who read Don's biography in December 2012 issue of the Keiki know that Don is a Georgia State Master Gardener and has been past president of several orchid societies. He has spoke about orchids to various garden clubs, The Master Gardeners of Central Georgia, The Georgia National Fair, and the R.P.O.G. show in Miami to name a few.



Don Grill

He worked in a commercial orchid/bromeliad nursery, was a plant broker and had his own orchid maintenance company. He provided clients with routine maintenance, fertilization, repotting, irrigation, and other necessary services.

His topic for the program will be "Don's Tool time". Don will demonstrate many tools of the trade that he has acquired over the years. Some that have been purchased and many that have been homemade to facilitate the hobby of gardening, be it orchids or otherwise.

You will not want to miss this one because anything that will make our hobby easier and more productive will be a benefit to all.

*'Since our well of member's stories has temporarily run dry, we're running an amazing story that Delia Dunn discovered online.'*

### HER GROWING ROOM HAS A WHITE CARPET

Imagine caring for your orchids without spilling a drop of water or fertilizer or dirt on the white carpet below. Dee Stowell grows over 200 orchids of a wide variety in the den of her Pinckney home. She also has a growing area in her finished basement that has about 100 Miltoniopsis. Dee has had wonderful success with her plants, bringing several to shows and meetings. Everyone has noticed how perfectly cared for each plant is; no bugs, no leaf damage, no broken spikes or leaves, and all with perfectly green growths and outstanding blooms. She has been growing orchids for about three years, ever since she saw an orchid at a garden store while shopping for her outdoor garden needs. After seeing the orchid, she went home and started searching the internet for information. That search led her to Porters Orchids and Summerfield Orchids and the Ann Arbor Orchid Society. She said she talked with Dot and Donna so much about what orchids need and learned so very much from them.

Dee has two areas for growing orchids. The largest area is in a room at the front of her house where she grows mostly paphiopedilums, phalaenopsis and cattleyas. It faces south, with big windows covered with lace curtains. These filter the strong light. She has many trays with egg crates to elevate the plants. There are several fluorescent

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### 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	

### A Note From Pat Dupke

Our Festival/Show is coming up and it is not too early to be thinking about it.

Set-up;  
Friday, March 28th,

Festival/Show;  
Saturday, March 29th  
& Sunday, March 30th.

#### March 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	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					



### The Presidents Message

By Geary Harris

As we look back to 2013, we can all be proud of the successes we had. Among these, thanks to Ken Dunn; we were able to get our own website which, has brought in more prospective members. We also have had a fairly good year also, bringing in more members. We have also found great speakers from inside our own club.

We raised more money at our auction than the year before.

As we look to the New Year, let us ask ourselves how we can make our club better.

Happy New Year

See you 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

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lights, including a large 2-tiered light cart and stands she and her husband, Wendell, have built. Their custom stands have height adjustments for the lights. When her plants aren't in bloom, she lowers the lights very close to the leaves. Above the central area of plants, there is a 500 watt HID lamp with both sodium and halide lights. Both the blue and red spectrums of light are provided. An oscillating fan gives plenty of air movement. She is also able to close the door to the room so she can maintain high humidity with a large humidifier. If the room gets too warm, she can open the door as needed. The vents for heating or cooling are kept closed; sunshine and the overhead light are the heat sources for the room and with no furnace heat going in the room, temps at night are in the low 60's F.



The most amazing effort has to be watering the plants without hurting the carpet. Her cattleyas get watered about every 6 days and the miltonias, paphs and phals are watered about every 3 days depending on how much sun and heat they have gotten. Dee keeps a very accurate calendar of watering and fertilizing.

To do the watering she uses a small cart, just the right size to fit between the rows of plants. A bucket sits on top of the cart. Egg crate is across the top of the bucket. Then, she gets her RO water from a 40 gallon storage tank in her laundry room. One plant at a time is set on the egg crate and watered until water flows through the plants thoroughly. The bucket is emptied back in the laundry room. This way each plant is picked up, checked, and cared for. With such amazing attention, it is no wonder her plants are so perfect. Watering takes 3-4 hours a couple times per week.



She follows the same procedure with each plant in the basement area. This area is new. The 100 + plants were in the bathroom. There, she had a sheet of plywood over the bathtub plus drip trays. It was easier to water there with the shower and plenty of humidity. Because the Stowells are planning to move to North Carolina,

### Orchid Hybrid Trivia

From the A.O.S.

The total number of grex names in the register is currently 154,660 (as of now). This figure increases daily. Each year The International Orchid Register adds between 3000-4000 new hybrids. The most popular genera for hybrids are:

Phalaenopsis	31,382
Paphiopedilum	23,871
Cymbidium	14,688
Dendrobium	11,910

So far there are about 2349 hybrid generic names, but not all of these are in use.

There are about 5,600 species involved in hybridization.

## January In Your Orchids

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

### General Orchid Growing Tips

Plants will continue to manufacture food during the winter, albeit at a reduced rate. Everything will occur at a slower pace until spring arrives so the need for water and fertilizer is reduced. Indoor growers: pull your orchid away from the window if its leaves are touching the exterior glass. Outdoor growers: keep an eye on the minimum projected temperatures, such as the hourly forecasts by zip code from Wunderground.

### Cattleyas

Tie up Cattleya pseudobulbs. Watch for signs of red spider mites on the undersides of leaves or scale in the sheathing on pseudobulbs. Remove the sheathing (cataphylls) carefully so as not to nick the soft tissue of the newest bulbs, which could result in rot or the introduction of disease.

### Cymbidiums

Keep the humidity high around cymbidiums to prevent shriveling of the pseudobulbs and to prolong flowering. Later varieties are beginning to push up their inflorescences. Watering frequency and volume is important to support their development. Cool temperatures are beneficial.

### Dendrobiums

Continue to water sparingly, or not at all, those dendrobium species that require a dormant period before flowering this spring (Den. lindleyi (syn. Den. aggregatum), Den. chrysotoxum, Den. farmeri, Den. densiflorum and Den. nobile or its hybrids). As the buds emerge, gradually increase the watering frequency and amount. Do not expose evergreen-type hybrids to temperatures below 60 F or plants in flower may drop leaves and buds.

### Paphiopedilums

Do not allow the roots of paphiopedilums to dry out. On a windowsill, use a pebble tray, with water in the pebbles, to increase humidity. Keep water out of sensitive pouches. Accumulated moisture in the pouch shortens flower life. Watch for insects, particularly red spider mites, on the foliage.

### Phalaenopsis

The phalaenopsis flowering cycle is about to start. Constant air circulation is essential to avoid Botrytis-spotted blooms. Water carefully to keep flowers dry and to minimize risks of soft rot in the fleshy leaves. Continue to use a dilute water soluble fertilizer. Monitor for scale and mealy bugs on the inflorescences and undersides of leaves.

### Vandas

Many of the popular Thai hybrids and African angraecoids begin their winter flowering now. Watch for signs of inflorescences; help them away from the main stem of the plant to ensure proper display. Water the roots every other day and fertilize once or twice a week if light levels are sufficient.

*New Years marks a new beginning. New people to meet, new adventures to enjoy and new memories to create.*

*New year comes to give us a fresh hope, for a better future and success.*

*New Year gives us dream for that we will face challenges with confidence.*

*On this new year may your dreams and hopes succeed with the blessings of God.*

*Here's wishing you the Happiest New Year ever!*

*Judy & Tim*

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their house has to be ready to be sold. Lots of plants in the bathroom might not have been a selling point, except to orchid growers! We understand the need to use all possible growing areas!

Dee uses RO water. She dissolves MSU fertilizer in the water ( $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. per gal.) and then takes a pH reading. ProTek is added to keep the pH reading at 6.5. This requires about  $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp per gallon.

Dee repots each plant every year. In both the spring and fall each plant goes outside where she uses Orthonex plus fungicide or Bayer Rose and Garden spray. "There are no bugs in my plants." Each light is also changed every six months.

The artist in Dee is very obvious. Each blooming plant is photographed and a color print is kept in a notebook. All information about when and where it was bought is also kept. There is a different notebook for each genus. Dee has a display board with the photos of her most recent blooming plants along with the ribbons they earned. At the top is her photo of Paphiopedilum Black Curt 'Dee Stowell' AM/AOS, which earned 83 pts for an AOS award at the Greater Lansing Orchid Show in February. What an honor! Dee also paints and is a very accomplished artist.

Dee has been a member of AAOS for just a few years, but we've really enjoyed her and her plants. She has been very helpful with displays at Lansing, Ann Arbor and the MOS shows. She brings her art knowledge to each display. We are so lucky to have her participation and Wendell's company too. Remember, he built us a cart for hauling display supplies. Maybe their house just won't sell and we'll have her company and help for many more months. But if she does move, we wish her the best location where she can pick a perfect house with enough land for an attached greenhouse and perfect weather for growing orchids and playing golf.



The Keiki

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