



The Keiki

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Volume 23 May & June 2014

Issue July 10, 2014

Orchids Speak!

by
Jeff Rundell

I thought, in honor of Gary Gethen's inauguration, I would return the favor by trying to write something meaningful, profound and thoughtful to prove that all my previous diatribes were just the product of an isolated childhood. Does anyone buy that? So with tongue gently planted against cheek I'm ready to descend even more deeply into OD (orchid dementia).

I spend a considerable amount of time sitting on my lanai observing the birds and squirrels at my feeders, butterflies and dragonflies darting about and, of course, my orchids. Lately I've noticed an undercurrent of sounds similar to whispers, that can't be attributed to any animal. The more tuned in I became to those sounds, the more convinced I was that the conversation was actually orchids gossiping among themselves. I know what you are thinking and there is no need to call 911. I taught an elective in psychology so I am fully aware that one of the primary symptoms of schizophrenia is hearing voices. So here is a sample of some of the things my orchids, and possibly your orchids, are saying about you and each other.



First you must understand that all orchids have distinctive personalities. Some of these traits are part of their country of origin, while others can only be ascribed to the same things that turn some of your acquaintances into miserable *#>+!%**. Let's start with Cattleyas. Frankly, they are a bit stuck up and elitist from all the fawning attention they get from us. This sense of superiority makes them (continued on page 4)

**ORCHID LOVERS' CLUB OF SPRING HILL (OLCSH)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING MAY 17, 2014**



Treasurer's Report

By
Helen Battistrada

Balance 04/19/14	\$ 5,302.49
Receipts	<u>\$541.00</u>
Total	\$5,843.49
Disbursements	<u>\$189.52</u>
Balance 05/17/14	\$5,653.97
June Receipts	\$143.00
Disbursements	\$424.24
Balance 6/21/14	\$5,372.73



Upcoming Speaker Program

By Ed Bugbee,
Program Coordinator

July

Terry Richards formerly of 'World of Orchids' August
Hicks Orchid Supply
September
Joy's Orchids—Picknick



Membership

By
Linda Meyer
Membership Coordinator

As of March

89 Paid members.
40 Members in attendance.
2 Guest.
2 New member.
See message by LM on page 6.

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

Acting President, Jeff Rundell, opened the meeting at 1:08PM. He asked guests to introduce themselves and any new members, and welcomed them to the Club. There were 7 guests and 38 members including 2 new members: Julie A Smolka and Cyrus Exum.

A card was passed around for VP, Donna Fazekas, for the death of her mother.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Helen Battistrada gave the Treasurer's Report starting with a balance of \$5,302.49 and receipts of \$541.00 and Disbursements of \$189.52, leaving a balance to date of \$5,653.97.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Linda Meyer, **Membership Committee**, reported that she had another roster to distribute by e-mail in a .jpg format. Since the roster is constantly changing she will send out new ones occasionally. Those who don't have access to a computer will get a printed copy.

Delia Dunn, **Nominating Committee**, requested nominations from the floor for all five offices with a reminder that anyone nominated would have to have been asked first. There were no nominations and the slate was passed to Jeff who asked for a motion to close the nominations and it was made by Linda Meyer and seconded by Dan Grant. He called out the slate of Officers as presented: Geary Harris for President, Donna Fazekas for 1st Vice President, Gary Gethen for 2nd Vice President, Pat Dupke for Secretary and Helen Battistrada for Treasurer and asked for a vote for all five and got a unanimous AYE and declared the slate elected.

Jeff announced our speakers for the next few months, the same as reported last month with the addition of Kerry Richards coming in July.

Jeff announced that we need people to step up and volunteer for **Publicity**; also a **Contact person** for the Club. When an e-mail comes in on the website with inquiries, or a telephone inquiry from the newspaper ad, the contact person would respond to those questions. Jeff stated also that they are talking with someone about taking over the bulletin, **The Keiki**. He would also like to have someone in the Club volunteer to help us with our sick plants or potting problems after the meetings are over.

When asked by a new member, Eleanor Szarzynski, **Refreshment Committee**, explained that a sign up sheet is normally passed around. Volunteers on her committee set out the food that is brought in by members. (continued on page 5.





May Speaker

SPEAKER SEGMENT - by Delia Dunn



Jack Batchelor was our speaker this month of May, talking on growing Cattleyas, which are his specialty. He's known as the Winn Dixie of orchid growers and been growing them since he was 6 years old about 1955. His great uncle had a nursery in Miami and Jack would come in and smell the orchids. They grew them for the florists to sell and not just for the sake of growing orchids themselves. The smell of these plants stayed with him over the years and as he grew up in a landscape business it followed that he would start his own business and one day a lady asked him if he would take orchids on consignment and he noticed that the blooming ones kept selling. It wasn't long before he had to build another greenhouse 4,000 sq. ft and then when he moved up here to Central Florida in 1998, he built a 7,000 sq. ft. greenhouse and it was still crowded. It's a job but he calls it a hobby.

He told us that orchids love 5 things: Light, water, fertilizer, humidity and air circulation and he proceeded to tell us about the experiences he's had with people in trying to teach them these facts.

One humorous story was the lady who came to him and mentioned she grew her orchid in a birdcage and he'd just never heard of anything like that and he wondered how you could do everything you had to do with an orchid in a birdcage, and he tried to picture the orchid in a birdcage. She had to explain to him that she meant a screened in patio or deck without the pool. So once he understood what a 'birdcage' meant he could continue with her education on how to bloom her plant.

People would come to him with their plant telling him they couldn't get it to bloom but it's on the coffee table in the house. So take it out and put it in the birdcage, near a wall, he told them.

One lady he met said she had 400 orchids all growing in her house - she had one bathroom with a big giant window and she had them all in there, and he made a point that you could grow in the house if you had good light. Her house was like a little mini greenhouse because it did have the light and the humidity. Phals are OK in a room as they don't need bright light. Other types do need brighter light. 55-85% above shade level is the perfect light.

Fertilizer: he uses Nutracote 1 tsp per 4"- 8" pot, inside the pot, when repotting. He uses 10-30-20 or 10-20-20.

He uses Better Gro Fertilizer as there is no urea in it and it's better than 20-20-20.

Jack's Classic Fertilizer (made by Peter's) 30-10-10 is labeled just for orchids, has urea in it and it shocks the plant. An orchid will use it for 2-3 months but it breaks down fast.

Jack's Blossom Booster 10-30-20 he uses also for better blooming. Orchids are fast feeders and fertilizer is used through the root system and then it goes systemic through the plant.

Jack told us that Hausermann, another orchid grower, says spray 30-10-10 three times, a week apart, at the rate of 1 tsp per gallon and you'll get lots and lots of blooms.

(continued on page 7)



Thank you for all the cards and support you gave me. Loosing a Mother is hard, but - I know she will not be in anymore pain.

We have a lot of events coming up. Open house at Joy Orchids in September, our annual picnic at Vera's in October, and our Auction in November plus our Christmas Party in December. Our guest speaker this month will be Terry Richards. See you at the meeting!

President's
Report
By: Geary Harris



**Refreshment
Reminder**
By
Eleanor Szarzynski,
Refreshment Coordinator
352-688-3887

July
None required this month

(Continued from page 1) want to grow out of their pots, which they regularly send crashing to the concrete with a demand to be repotted. As if that were not bad enough, they also sulk and refuse to bloom unless they get the best spot on the bench. This all started when some foolish hobbyist awarded them the title of "Queen of Orchids". If you've got a number of Cattleyas get ready to be enslaved to their beautiful self importance. And all this puffed up pomposity from a bunch of mongrels! That's right, only a few of them are pure species. The rest can't even answer the old question "who's your daddy"? One last thing about Catts: they love to get you all excited when a bunch of new blossom sheaths form and then snicker when you find out the sheaths turn brown and have nothing inside.

Vandas are the wild and crazy nudists of the orchid world. They hate having their lower units concealed and flash the whole world with their gangly roots headed in all sorts of senseless directions. It's also clear they don't like each other. Get two of them too close together and soon you will wind up with a bunch of twisted tentacles grabbing at each other. You'll have to end the war by ripping them apart and amputating their rooted sustenance. The older they get, the more they start to look like some kind of prehistoric tree. They'll also keep you busy demanding to be watered every day and looking to completely fill any space they can find. They know those long lasting blooms are enough for us to let them always have their own way.

One of my favorite groups are the Encyclias. They're just the common folk of the orchid world. Nothing too flashy and I really hate it when visitors stop by and ask me bluntly: "That's an orchid?". Oh well, they ask for so little. Don't they deserve a little respect? After all, we're talking about some of the most fragrant things on earth. So I try to keep them happy by mounting them to a nice piece of driftwood or a cypress slab. But they always want more than I am will to give and send roots out to stick themselves to the wall, a trellis or tree knowing full well that, in the fall, I'll have to amputate them from their summer home before a freeze. They whisper: "Is a little respect too much to ask?"

Slipper orchids like Paphs and Phrags are actually aliens from another planet. Even the people that specialize in these wierdities are a little "different". When it comes to their demands, it's a question of too much vs. too little. They are extremely unstable and prone to just going nowhere until they get what they want in the way of light, water and fertilizer. Just a minor faux pas on my part and they'll be headed for the compost heap. Then there are those bizarre forever blossoms which some of my friends think I stuck on from Wal-Mart's plastic flower department.

The flip side of that coin are the Dendrobiums and Epidendrums. They are always trying to prove their strength by growing out of control and sticking their roots into other people's business. I've warned them that the pruning shears are ready to curb (continued on page 8)

Please welcome our newest members;

Russell and Vickie Lewandowski
741 N Country Club Dr.
Crystal River, FL 34429
352-212-8487

Bill and Bobbie Lemay
11041 Cranston St.
Spring Hill, FL 34608
352-263-2055

Ponder This

Are you a club member
or
A member of a club?

(Continued from page 2, May minutes)

NEW BUSINESS:

There should be a trip coming up to visit greenhouses south of us with a stop for lunch, possibly in October. Sonia Terrelonge and Gary Gethen, **Trip Committee**, are working on that.

Possibly great news about a location for our 2015 Show, at the Shrine Club, where we have held it in previous years. Contracts will have to be signed and there will be more to come on that. Laura Newton met with the board and advised that we may be able to have AOS judging again, only doing it in a different way than we have in the past.

Jeff appointed people to judge the show table stating they could pick a plant they like and then have the owner talk about that plant after the break.

Jeff announced it is a very special day as we are having a party for **Judy and Tim Smith, our Keiki publishers** for the past three years. Following the party we would hear from our guest speaker, Jack Batchelor.

Refreshment Committee Chairman, Pat Dupke, supplied food for the party and arranged for the food which the Club supplied. Jeff presented Tim and Judy with a very nice framed Certificate and some wrapped gifts and gave them many accolades for the wonderful job they had done over the past three years with our Keiki. Meeting was adjourned @ 3:10 pm.

ORCHID LOVERS' CLUB OF SPRING HILL (OLCSH)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING JUNE 21, 2014

President, Geary Harris, opened the meeting at 1:05 pm.

Prior to opening remarks by the President, member, Ed Poltonowicz asked to address the members to thank everyone for their sympathy cards for the accidental death of his oldest son, stating that it really helped a lot to have peoples' support and he really appreciated it.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND MEMBERS: Geary opened the meeting asking visitors to introduce themselves. We had 39 members including 2 new members, and 12 guests who signed in. There were birthdays for Ed Poltonowicz, Dale Story and Helen Battistrada who turns 90 this month. Membership Chairman, Linda Meyer, had ordered a cake for Helen, which we all enjoyed during the break.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Helen gave the Treasurer's Report starting with a balance of \$5,653.97, receipts of \$143.00 and Disbursements of \$424.24, leaving a balance of \$5,372.73.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Jeff Rundell has organized an **Outreach Committee** and anybody who would like to join with him is welcome. He speaks at various organizations about orchids and asks for donations of plants to be taken to these events, after which they are returned to their owners. One project he is working on is a gift for Dave Dobson as he is not doing well and Jeff has a large frame and he is looking for a photo of Dave with one of his prize orchids if such is available. He is asking for our help trying to find a picture.

Jeff also announced they are going to change the **Contact** e-mail address on the website to Jeff's address and when he is away it can be changed to someone else.

Jeff also announced that Gary Gethen is away this month but announced that he is the new **Keiki** publisher and requested that we send our orchid articles to Gary before the end of the month.

(Continued on pg. 10)

Membership Officer's Report—by Linda Meyer

No new members for the Orchid Club in June, but we did have lots of guests at our June meeting! Twelve people signed in as guests, and a few more slipped in under the radar and did not sign the register.

Most of the guest, when asked how they had heard about our meeting, said they read it in some newspaper. This really emphasizes just how important it is for one of our members to step up to accept the vacancy in our Publicity Committee. The past Publicity Chairman has made that role an easy one to assume; there is a list of recurring contact that would just need to be emailed with the dates, and speaker info plugged in. For the Auction, there is information to follow for previous years' listings. Please do consider helping our club continue to flourish by offering to work on this vital task!

We also owe many first time visitors to our fabulous website. Many kudos go to Bob East, Webmaster, and Delia Dunn, enthusiastic contributor.

New Members in May

Julie A. Smolka

10406 Dracut Lane

New Port Richey, FL 34654

727-967-3629

jasmolka@verison.net

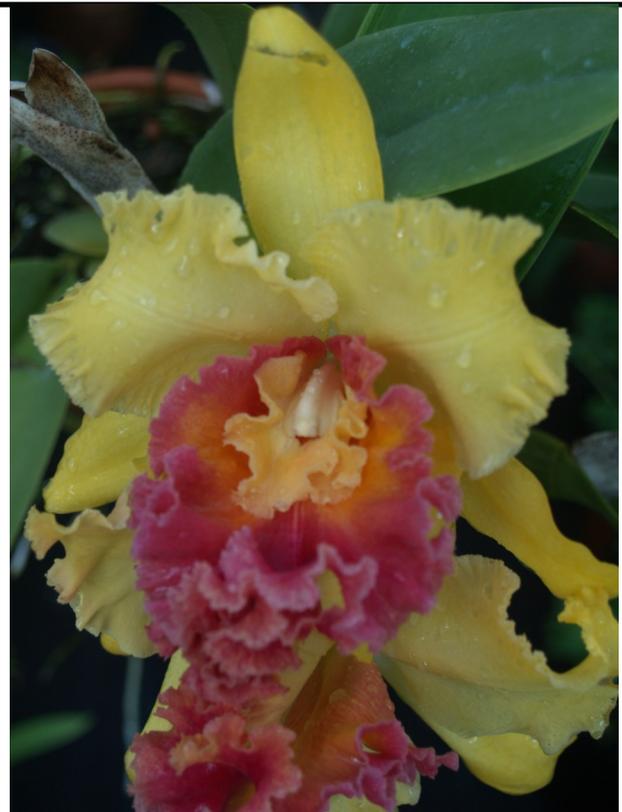
Cyrus Exum

10406 Dracut Lane

New Port Richey, FL 34654

727-514-4230

exumcybor1@aol.com



Continued from page 3, speaker)

Water: Once a week under the sprinkler system 30 minutes each time. Don't use ice cubes unless it is just one time and you're in a real hurry and don't have time to water.

We water plants to make them live and also to wash out the junk that's in there. 17% of fertilizer is urea and the salt will coat the roots. It takes 45 minutes to dissolve the salts on an orchid. Therefore watering thoroughly is the most important thing you can do for your orchid.

It took Jack 10 years to learn how to really water an orchid. Orchids like to be dried out before they are watered thoroughly. They cannot retain water in nature growing on a tree or a rock. We just have to learn.

Humidity: Spritz 3 x a day. The humor here depends on what you call a spritz. Most of us would use a perfume atomizer for a spritz. He asked one of his customers what she called a spritz and she said she uses a Windex sprayer. Humidity is just what's in the air so a Windex sprayer would be too much and the plant would be dripping wet. The same thing with the mister on the hose. Something he said that was very interesting is that the cells on top of an orchid leaf are open 24 hours a day, unlike other plants. So they need moisture in the air 24 hours a day. You keep the plant alive with humidity. We need to remember that orchids need constant care. Their kind of care.

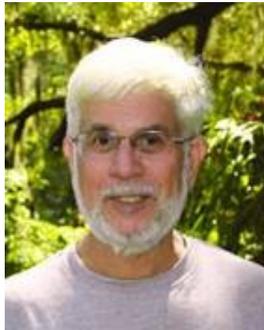
Jack uses a fir bark potting mix with 2.5 gals of perlite or sponge rock, and 2.5 gals of charcoal and slate rock.

He uses TriStar 8.5 made by Cleary for scale. It's \$50 for 4 oz. on the internet. And he's used Orthane also for scale, sprayed on the 1st and 15th of the month in April and his scale is all gone.

Jack can be reached at Paradise Orchids in Howey-in-the-Hills, central Florida. <http://paradisearchids.com>

————— *SPEAKER SEGMENT - by Delia Dunn* —————

June Speaker



Louis del Favero whose business in Tampa is under the same name, spoke to us about his early beginnings in the orchid industry. For those members who were not here I have to say that you truly missed an amazing story and if I can even get the gist of it down it will have you wishing you'd been here to hear him. He did what he wanted to do, apparently met all his goals and did it with travel and the beauty of orchids.

Louis was 12 years old (about 50 years ago, he said), when he was given a ****Vanda rothchildiana** for a gift and he wondered what to do with it, yet he said it grew for a few years. That amazing in itself! But the story didn't end there. He was born in Miami and there was a lady called Mary Jenkins, whom they called Jungle Mary who had a place fairly close to their house and she brought plants in from Guatemala - this was about 1966-67, before there

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 4) their enthusiasm but that seems to make little difference in their desire to take over most of the known world. Some shed their leaves in the fall which again brings comments from visitors like “Did you mean to throw that thing out?” Remember the plant in the musical Little Shop of Horrors? It had to be a Dendrobium.

Now about the “orchid talk” I mentioned earlier. While I can’t be sure of everything that’s said among my orchids isn’t just for my benefit, I can say that, whenever I’m around, most of what I hear are complaints. Among the biggest whiners are those aristocratic Cattleyas. Here is a sample: “I’m too hot! Just see how you like some big black burned spots on my leaves. Those AOS judges won’t be pasting any ribbons on me since I look like something that spent too long in a toaster”. Other plants in my crowd see it differently. A couple of those fetid Bulbophyllums had the nerve to say, “OMG it’s January! Quit cheating out on the power and turn on some heat or we’ll drop all our leaves by the end of the week”. That incites a whole chorus of - “Give me warmth or give me death” - from a bunch of other plants on the same bandwagon.

I keep many orchids on shelf racks and consign some of the more uncooperative individuals to the bottom shelves beneath everyone else. From them I get a constant harangue of: “Don’t you know you’re not supposed to use racks for orchids? How would you like to get bombed by all the junk, filtering down from your more favored friends above. We put up with dead leaves, stale blossoms, and rotten bark not to mention too much water and fertilizer. If you want to kill us just get it over with. Aren’t there laws about cruel and unusual punishment? Just wait and we’ll all get a nice case of Black Rot to pass along to those teacher’s pets above us”.

By far the biggest beef that comes from all corners of my orchid world is: “Get rid of these blasted bugs now!” “How would you like to be potted up with a thousand fleas, ticks, mosquitoes and tapeworms sucking the life out of you? They’re laying eggs in what amounts to my armpits and the itching is driving me crazy. I don’t care what kind of evil poison you have to use and we don’t care if it mutates your entire family. Just be quick about it before the plague spreads and annihilates all of us”. In this case I have to agree with their complaints and make a bee line to the garage to get out the sprayer and bottles of WOMD (weapons of mass destruction).

There has also been some rumblings about the quality of my water. I’ve heard things like: “You actually drink this stuff?” and “Get this crusty white grunge off of us because it is smothering our stomates and we can’t breathe”. Lately there has been banter between the hybrids and the species orchids with the species orchids saying: “Well, all you hybrids are always blooming, trying to make us species look bad. Why don’t you just stick to our schedule of blooming once a year so he won’t keep pressuring us? But no, you guys are just a bunch of mutant show-offs produced in some lab by a guy in a white coat with a twisted sense of beauty.”

The list goes on and on and I’m sure you could add more to it. I’m trying to calm the seas on the lanai and have installed a boom box to play soothing music which may pacify the whimpering and drown out the endless complaining. Maybe I’ll go out right now and issue a few threats about the bickering and tell them they have to change their ways. Think that will work?



(Continued from Page 7 June Speaker)

Swere any regulations on importing plants. She brought in various things including tree ferns and hundreds of pounds of orchids and Louis loved to go there to Jungle Mary's. His Mom drove him over and he'd rummage around on her 25c table. Back then you could mow lawns all day and make \$2.50 for the day so the table priced at \$2.00 was too expensive for him.

Then after a while he started to ride his bike over there and it wasn't too long before Mary offered him a job paying him with plants instead of money. He learned how to clean the orchids and trim them after they arrived in boxes from overseas. He took the orchids home to his Mom's place and then he thought he'd try to sell them. He had made lists at Mary's of all she had and the prices she had on them. He knew about Hausermann's Orchids up in Chicago so they were the first place he called and he'd get an order from them and ship to them. He was 16 at that time and the next thing he did was to tell his parents that he wanted to go collect orchids in the jungle. He knew Fred Fuchs, about his own age, from the 3-generation orchid family, Fred Fuchs, Sr. being the grandfather. They'd go to different countries to collect plants; at that time Belize was British Honduras and Fred and Louis would go there together. On one trip a good customer of Louis, Mrs. Kendall, went along on the trip too and they discovered a coveted *Rhyncolaelia digbyana* high up in a tree and to retrieve the plant, Louis stood on the shoulders of Mrs. Kendall. He said they had a lot of fun over the years with their amazing travels and orchid collecting. Louis went to all the tropical countries - Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina, Bahamas, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and even Thailand and Japan. Back then he could fly from Miami to Freeport via Eastern Airlines for \$30 and get a cheap place in Freeport for the weekend and fly back. It was much easier to do back then.

He'd get on the phone to Chicago and California and start selling plants and ship them and he'd also set up tables and sell plants in strip malls wherever he could. Louis went to Miami Dade Junior College and took Agricultural classes for 3 years. Even though he got no degree he was already set up in the plant business and back in the 70s he was sending cactus and bromeliads from Texas to the Dominican Republic and he'd go and visit there to get orchids and ship them back here and one time his brother and his Mom went with him. While he was there his host got a phone call and he heard the person on the other end tell his host not to tell the American where to find orchids. The next day when Louis would return without any, he told his host that he was sending him to places where there weren't any to find so he sent him to another place where he found *Tolumnia*** (equitant oncidiums), which he loves. He was so excited he flew back home to Miami and told Fred Fuchs. So then they went together and he told Fred the good places he was getting plants and Fred told him the places he knew where he was getting plants for his customers. Louis also took Fred to Jamaica and the Bahamas and they swapped areas there too.

Louis explained that over the years, the population has grown enormously, not only in this country, but all over the world, and many orchid species from around the world have become rare or nearly extinct due to man invading their natural habitat. Construction everywhere has eliminated the areas where orchids grew. He knew of a great place called Fresh Creek that was an all natural habitat - now it's all bulldozed out. There are areas in the Dominican Republic that are still in tact and have been preserved although large resorts and other buildings have been built close by and you can't go and get the orchids. Mexico is all hotels and so on, that you can't even recognize the place it used to be. It's very sad thinking about it.

Eventually Louis moved up to Tampa with his parents. His travels are about over now. There is no more collecting from the jungles anymore. Restrictions have taken over. He imports now and grows from seedlings. He recalls going to different society meetings and hearing speakers refer to trips they'd taken to rescue plants before they were destroyed, plants that once upon a time were an abundant resource. He does agree with the new laws they have to preserve plants and prevent them from being taken or stolen but he does not like that so many plants are being

(Continued on Page 10, June Speaker)

(Continued from page 5, June Minutes)

The Club is looking for someone to take over as **Publicity** Chairman. Please see Geary or Jeff.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Joy Orchids Open House will be in September, Picnic in October as well as a field trip, and our Auction will be in November. Geary announced dates for our **Orchid Festival** next year March 28th and 29th. Place to be announced.

Our Christmas Party will be held at Buffet City on State Road 50 in their party room. That will be December 13th, which is the 2nd Saturday at 12:00 noon.

NEW BUSINESS: Installation of Officers was conducted by Nominating Chairman, Delia Dunn. All Officers were thanked for the good work they had done in previous years, including out-going 2nd Vice President, Sonia Terrelonge. Unfortunately Gary Gethen, our new 2nd Vice President, was out of town but he had consented by e-mail to accept the position. Oaths of Office were administered and following that the Members' Oath was administered.

Break for refreshments and birthday cake.

SHOW TABLE winners were announced by Jeff and blue ribbons were awarded. Some of the owners got to talk about their plants.

SPEAKER was orchid grower from Tampa, Louis del Favero, who talked about his beginning years.

RAFFLE: Membership Chairman, Linda Meyer, held an incentive drawing for members who had remembered to sign in when they arrived. Member, Sherry Preston donated one of her plants for this raffle. The regular raffle was held next.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Delia Dunn in the absence of Sue Caparbi-Taylor.

(continued from page 9, June Speaker)

destroyed in the jungles due to road construction and building. Plants can be exported legally from different countries if they are not growing in the jungles but he said if they are common plants, they'd get destroyed anyway.

He said years back that orchid hunters would go into the jungle with telescoping poles to retrieve plants from trees, and other special gear and come back with tons of boxes and clear them through the USDA in Miami. They'd inspect the plants, possibly fumigate them and if it's a heavy fumigation it will kill all your plants that you spent days collecting and packing carefully. Lighter fumigation is OK. But today they check your documents instead of the plants. If your documents are not in order, they take your plants and give them to the Smithsonian. You've broken the law and you'll be in deep trouble.

A member asked if they had to worry about insects and snakes in the jungle and he said there were plenty of ants and termites but not really any snakes. They weren't anything to worry about.

The most popular orchid is the Cattleya, the corsage orchid. Hobbyists prefer them over any other. But the Phalaenopsis has become the most popular orchid on the planet because the mega farms are growing them, selling them online and exporting as commodity plants, selling them to the big stores and florists because they last such a long time. Louis said that he likes all kinds of plants, whether it be fruit trees, bromeliads, flowers, everything.

(Continued on page 11)

But his business is Orchids. Although his business has drastically changed from what it was in the beginning.

Today there is mass merchandising and big competition - he would not recommend a young person today getting into the orchid business. What could be done then cannot be done today. You'd have to have a degree, an MBA, an accounting degree and a health plan just to be able to compete today with the online sales companies and large nurseries that have been doing this for years. You used to be able to order compots and grow your own plants but now there are millions of compots out there and prices have all been lowered as a result so there is no money in it anymore. It's a whole different ballgame. But if you have a specific niche or specialize in some weird plants you can make a living that way and that's what Louis tries to do. He has a lot of minis which are his favorites. He answered a member's question that he does about 10-12 orchid shows a year. ***Louis can be reached at 6601 Gant Rd., Tampa, FL 33625 (813) 961-8277***



Tolumnia



Vanda rothchildiana

Dendrobium

??????

With upright

Canes.

10 in. long



SHOW TABLE

I apologize for not having information on who were awarded the blue ribbons over the past two months. I am sure as with the past, that there were many beautiful Orchids on display! And we greatly appreciate those who brought in plants for the show and tell table.

This letter is proof that one CAN TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS! Having NOT growing up with computers and the technology as we know it today—What would our Grand Parents think?

Respectfully Submitted;

Gary Gethen

Editor

‘The Keiki’

KEY WEST CHARACTER



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