



The Keiki

The First
Day Of
Spring



Volume 23

March 2014 Issue

March 7, 2014

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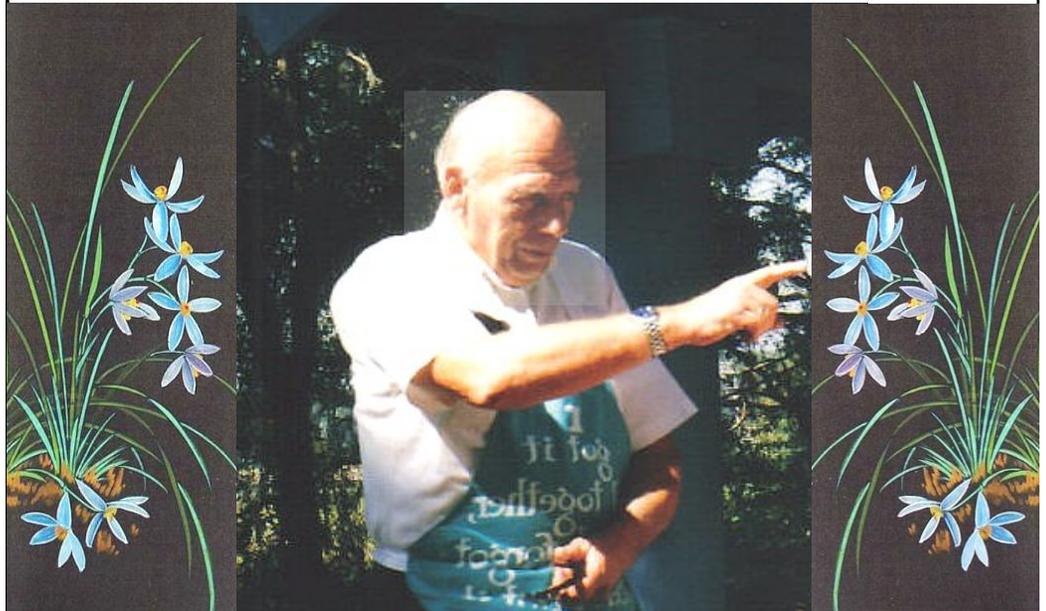
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In Remembrance



Werner Graulich
September 1, 2010.

Photo courtesy of Al Fiore

Judy and I first met Werner in early 2000 soon after joining the club. He handled the raffle ticket sales at the monthly meetings and at other club functions ever since I can remember until his passing in 2010.

Werner was the club's official grill man at our annual club picnics when they were held at the Crews Lake Park. His hot dogs, burgers, and sausage links coming off the grill were second to none and often a person had to stand in line waiting until Werner declared them perfect. Werner was always seen standing outdoors smoking his pipe.

He was a doorman at our club AOS Shows and later Festivals and as far as I know never met a stranger. He was a good P.R. man for our club.

After his death in 2010, his wife Dottie graciously gave Werner's orchid collection to the club for our auction. Werner was very meticulous about choosing what orchid to purchase for his collection so most of them were of high quality. Unfortunately by the

(Continued on page 5)



Treasure's Report

By

Helen Battistrada

Balance 01/18/13	\$ 5066.12
Receipts	\$ <u>751.00</u>
Total	\$ 5817.12
Disbursements	\$ <u>208.12</u>
Balance 02/15/13	\$ 5608.92



Upcoming Speaker Program

By Ed Bugbee,
Program Coordinator

March

Member Gary Gethen will give an in-depth presentation on how to prepare your orchids for display at a show or just for your own viewing pleasure.

Members may bring plants too sell at the March meeting.

April

TBA



Membership

By

Linda Meyer

Membership Coordinator

As of February

88 Paid members.

42 Members in attendance.

16 Guest.

2 new members.

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

ORCHID LOVERS' CLUB OF SPRING HILL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING FEBRUARY 15, 2014

- President, Geary Harris called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.
- Greeting of new members and visitors.
- Jeff Rundell spoke about the Orchid show & passed around sign up sheets.
- Carol Monroe spoke about the display of members' orchids for the show.
- Pat Dupke spoke about the need for salads to feed the vendors & workers & handed out a sign up sheet.
- Set up for the show is on Thursday March 27th between 5:00 & 5:30 pm.
- Helen Battistrada read the Treasurer's report.
- Geary spoke of the need for a Librarian for the club. No one volunteered.
- There was also talk of needing someone to handle the advertising for the club. Jeffrey Nee volunteered to handle advertising.
- There is also a need for someone to help with the publishing of the Keikei. No one volunteered.
- Membership dues are due by the March meeting.
- Judges chosen for show table.
- Break.
- Show table.
- Speaker Glen Gross from Gross Orchids gave an interesting presentation on the mounting of orchids.
- Raffle was held.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.



Minutes submitted by Sue Caparbi-Taylor



**A Reminder
To All Club
Members**
From
Helen Battistrada

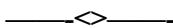
All dues must be paid by March 15th meeting to remain a member in good standing.

Or you may mail your dues to;

Helen Battistrada
10355 Woodland Waters Blvd
Brooksville, FL 34613

Dues:

Single membership \$17.00
Joint membership \$25.00.



**A Reminder
From
Pat Dupke**

Just a reminder that the sign-up sheet for our show food list will be available at our March 15th meeting. Your contributions are greatly appreciated since we provide lunch for our vendors and club members who are working. If there are any questions don't hesitate to contact me at (727)856-3485.

Thanks,
Pat

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					

SPEAKER SEGMENT

by Delia Dunn



Our speaker this month was Glenn Gross, Owner of Gross Orchids of Lakeland, whose topic was Mounting Orchids. He has over 15 years experience growing orchids in Polk Country and Central Florida. He carries a full line

of pots and supplies and his orchids are beautifully grown. The reason he grows orchids is simply because it's fun, he says! (It was fun for us watching him cut all the roots off his Cattleya :)



He believes in cultivating in the most natural of conditions for the plant. Orchids grow on trees and not in pots so he prefers to mount his orchids on wood and he doesn't want to just 'grow a plant on a piece of wood', but rather do a professional job so that the plant will survive many years on the mount. So he thinks long term and will use varieties of wood that will go 5 - 10 years before it starts breaking down. Cypress wood or cedar wood are his favorites and he suggests that if you see either on the side of the road or anywhere you might see some laying around, take it home with you. He likes to use split wood that has an irregular surface that roots love to adhere to. If you use a flat surface, plants will pop right off. He told us about a mount that was on a flat piece of cedar and it happened to hit the mount right next to it and because the roots had not gotten a good hold on the wood, they popped right off which would make it difficult then for the plant to re-attach. Something he does to roughen up a piece of flat wood is to use a router to score the surface and the roots have no problem at all growing into the roughness.

A question asked was whether green wood could be used but it's hard to split, whereas if cedar is seasoned it can pop apart very easily when you split them. Large pale cypress works really well for small plants. What he does with logs is to split them all round and he keeps the outside bark as it looks natural. A hollow section works real well too for mounting as the roots can grow and wrap around the inside. You could use magnolia, which is a swamp grower, citrus trees are hardwood. He said he wouldn't fool with oak or pine as they'll eventually just break down. Camphor wood is OK if alive but don't use it if it's dead. Salt water driftwood is not suitable because roots won't attach to the salt. To get rid of the salt you need to soak the wood.

If you have a mounted Encyclia that has grown too big, you can strip them off their mount and their roots will grow more roots. It's actually good for them. Glenn said that we need to give our plants room to grow on our mounts by placing them near the bottom of the mount and not close to the top so new leaves or bulbs can grow upwards and he reminded us not to over water in case of fungal problems. Mounts are basically low maintenance once the plant is established.

Glenn uses 14 gauge wire in 6' lengths to make hangers for his mounts and also for his Vandas. He drills a hole through the wood mount then pushes the wire through the hole and forms a loop hanger and cuts off the end with wire cutters. It's neat

(Continued on page 4)



The Presidents Message

By Geary Harris

Just a reminder that our orchid show is only days away and if you are like me, you can't wait to see all the beautiful orchids on display.

Be sure and tell all your friends about our upcoming show.

Our speaker for our March meeting will be one of our very own members Gary Gethen. He will be speaking on, how to get our orchids ready for our orchid show.

It's important that we see everyone at our next meeting to finalize our show arrangements.



Refreshment Reminder

By

Eleanor Szarzynski,
Refreshment Coordinator

352-688-3887

March

Delia Dunn
Thomas Gavin
Ruth Jensen

Soft Drinks

Al Fiore
Don Grill

(Speaker continued from page 3)

and straight and looks nice. He advises not to use rolled wire. He uses 1/2" galvanized EMT pipe to hang his plants on as it's easier to make hooks for that size pipe after cutting his hanger wire to length. He sterilizes his tools with a flame from a propane or plumbers torch rather than bleach solution but you can use 10% bleach solution if you want.

In a very interesting demonstration he showed us how to remove a Cattleya from a pot and mount it. He took the plant with the medium out and with his fingers worked to separate the bark and get it all off the roots, and removed the back bulb from the plant that was small and just hanging on. He usually does not keep them. Next he blasts with the water hose the pseudobulbs and roots to finish getting all the medium off them and to remove the papery sheaths and any scale that may be hiding in the creases of the bulbs. He reminded us that we are not just going to wire the plant to a mount with a zip tie. That is 'sticking a plant on a piece of wood'. The next thing he did was to totally cut all the roots off and (the thought occurs to me that we shouldn't try this at home.) He explained that the plant will put out brand new roots quicker and attach to the wood quicker than it would if we had old long roots trying to attach. New roots are stiff and thick and would adhere to



the rough wood better than longer, loose, wet roots. He told us that when taking a plant out of a pot and putting it into a new pot he would cut all the roots down to 2". In answer to a question about whether a Cattleya that had not bloomed in years could benefit from doing this very thing, he said no, because the plant just needs more light than it's been getting.

He drilled two holes low in the wood to hold the plant; then he placed a small bed of damp sphagnum to the back of the plant where the roots were cut off, to act like a washer to get a tighter seal and for moisture for the plant. This is to compensate for the plant not being able to take up water because of having no roots. Next he angled the plant on the mount so that the rhizome was parallel to the mount and seated as tightly to the mount as he could get it. He said we should let the plant orient itself on the mount and not try to turn the leaves or the bulbs as they grow and it will be much happier.

(Continued on page 5)

(Speaker continued from page 4)

He used a black cable tie to attach the plant and cinched it down good and tight at the back of the mount. He uses black ties as they are UV protected. He does use twist ties for small plants and the cable ties for large plants. He reminded us not to cover the nodes at the leading pseudobulb. He said when he mounts a Cattleya that way it will be ready for him to sell it in 6-8 weeks.

Water the mount daily or even twice a day; fertilize with a diluted solution once the first week, and use Super Thrive one time in the month. Keep wet to stimulate root growth or the pseudo bulbs will desiccate because you've cut the root system off.

He said you should soak your plants 15 minutes in Super Thrive but it is not a fertilizer so don't use it like that as it can do strange things to your plants. He advised not to use Super Thrive more than once a quarter.

Glenn purchases his supplies from Growers Supply Services in Apopka. They have ESTABLISH which comes in 3 gal. jugs. It's a foliar spray humectant and amino acid formula and to it he adds a mild fertilizer plus potassium nitrate plus urea-free trace minerals and white vinegar. The solution has a pH of 5.5.

Glenn told us how he had a Laelia anceps mounted from which he got three separate plants. It was growing for ten years and got so big and it was easy to take off by removing the ties and popping the roots off with a putty knife. (He did not say whether it was a hollow mount or smooth mount but likely it had been a smooth mount and the roots would have been wet since they would remove easier.)

He told us how he likes to experiment with a hybrid AND it's two parents on the same mount to see what they look like in bloom.

He said when plants grow out of their pot and seems to go in bad directions, cut off those pieces and mount them.

Mount a Phalaenopsis always upside down so that the crown does not hold water and rot the plant. Be sure to water them every day. Also Encyclias don't like to dry out and need continuous watering. Brassavola nodosa love being mounted.

He has mounted on basket bottoms but add more moss than when mounting on solid wood.

For ants he uses 95% Orthene at the rate of 1 tablespoon per gallon of water - it's a water soluble granular that is white and colorless and leaves no residue and can be sprayed on the flowers.

Note: Orthene is a systemic organophosphate so use gloves and a mask when spraying it. You don't want to get much on your skin. Take a shower right after applying it to your plants. Orthene is also known for it's strong odor. The odor only lasts on the plants for a couple days but it really stinks. Store it where children can't get to it and where the odor won't bother you.

(Remembrance continued from page 1)



time the club received the orchids, they were in distress and most looked pretty bad. Some were tossed into the dumpster as being too far gone to revive. Our daughter who was visiting at the time retrieved one that had been thrown away and here is a picture of it. The tag was not on it so Judy renamed it. A little TLC by Judy and "Werner's Remembrance Flower" as she calls it blooms on. Our daughter also got a few Vanda's out of the dumpster and they all are doing very well in North Carolina. Other members of our club retrieved some of the unfit plants as well and are doing very good to the best of my knowledge.

So here's a little tribute to Werner, his memory lives on through these orchids.

It is Judy's belief that the dumpster orchid is an Ascocenda.

(Continued on page 7)

March 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

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 important to sustain the many flowers.

General suggested repotting times. Adapt to your growing situation.

Genera	Abbreviation	Optimal Repotting Times
Brassavola	[B.]	Winter - Spring
Cattleya	[C.]	Spring / Fall
Catasetum	[Cism.]	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	[Miltops.]	Fall
Odontoglossom	[Odm.]	Winter- Spring
Oncidium	[Onc.]	Winter - Spring
Paphiopedilum	[Paph.]	Spring
Phalaenopsis	[Phal.]	Spring - Summer
Phragmipedium	[Phrag.]	Spring
Psychopsis	[Psychp.]	Spring
Sophranitis	[Soph.]	Spring
Stanhopea	[Stan.]	Spring / Fall
Vanda	[V.]	Fall

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

White coated metal stand for sale two adjustable shelves with overhead bracket to hang orchids on. 14 x 36. Overhead bracket at about 7 feet and could be adjusted. Holds lots of plants using the shelves and hanging. Comes apart for transport. \$25.00. Carol Monroe, tmonroe@tampabay.rr.com. 352-597-4743.

We Want You !

Just in from Jeff and Donna: As Co-Chairs of our Orchid Festival we are appealing for your help in staging what is our most important event of the year: The Orchid Festival on March 29th and 30th. At our last meeting the volunteer sheet was passed around but still has far too many empty spaces. We need : show hosts, set up and, particularly, take down helpers, ticket sellers, sign placement, greeters and helpers of all kinds. If, for some reason, you did not get to see the sign-up sheet e-mail me at; jrundell@tampabay.rr.com .

(Remembrance continued from page 5)



Photo courtesy of Delia Dunn

Werner cooking sausage links, hamburgers, and hot dogs at a club picnic.

It was always a good time at Crews Lake Park even though occasionally, it was very hot. For the most part, the weather usually co-operated and if it did rain, no matter as we were in a covered shelter.

The Poets Corner

*Presented by
Jeff Rundell*



Here is a famous and moving poem that relate to the beauty of orchids and flowers in general. To me they show the parallels between ourselves and the blooms we treasure. With all the talk about orchid science and breeding it is easy to forget that what keeps us growing is largely intangible and deeply aesthetic

Song of the Flower XXIII
by Khalil Gibran

I am a kind word uttered and repeated by the voice of Nature;
I am a star fallen from the blue tent upon the green carpet.
I am the daughter of the elements with whom Winter conceived;
To whom Spring gave birth; I was reared in the lap of Summer and I Slept in the bed of Autumn.

At dawn I unite with the breeze to announce the coming of light;
At eventide I join the birds in bidding the light farewell.

The plains are decorated with my beautiful colors, and the air is scented with my fragrance.

As I embrace Slumber the eyes of night watch over me, and as I awaken I stare at the sun, which is The only eye of the day.

I drink dew for wine, and hearken to the voices of the birds, and dance to the rhythmic swaying of the grass.

I am the lover's gift; I am the wedding wreath; I am the memory of a moment of happiness; I am the last gift of the living to the dead; I am a part of joy and a part of sorrow.

But I look up high to see only the light, and never look down to see my shadow.

This is wisdom which man must learn.

---<>---

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. (In no particular order.)

Blue Ribbon (s)

				Den.	Spring Bird 'Kurashiki'
Jeff Rundell (31 yr.)	Lyc.	Hermona 'Jason'		V.	Prachara's Delight
		x		Hknsa.	Koolua Sunset
		Concentration			
Dale Story (16+ yr.)	Paph.	(no name)	Vera Wells (6 yr.)	C.	(no name)
Yati Douglas (12 yr.)	Den.	(no name)	Al Fiore (10 yr.)	Paph.	Verde Oro
Gary Gethen (24yr.)	V.	Roberts Delight	Judy Smith (14 yr.)	Lyc.	Hamaha Jason
	C. amethystoglossa				
	Lc. Love Castle	Happiness	Jeffery Mee (13 yr.)	Cat.	(no name)
	Rhy.	Gigantea			
			Dale Story (16+ yr.)	Den. Speciosnm	Elqueso Grand
				Den.	To My Kids Fantastic Story
Jeff Rundell (31 yr.)	V.	Pachara "delight"			
	Cty.	Hardie Notch'Paradise	Carol Monroe (16+ Yr.)	Rhy.	Gigantea 'Alba'
	Smbc.	Margret Brown			
Gary Gethen (24yr.)	Ascda.	Princess Mikasa	Collectively these growers have 128 growing years experience.		

Honorable Mention

The Keiki
7918 W Flight Path Ct.
Crystal River, FL 34429