



November 2015  
Volume 23 Issue 11

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**OFFICERS**

**President**

Jeff Rundell

**1st Vice President**

Geary Harris

**2nd Vice President**

Donna Fazekas

**Treasurer**

Helen Battistrada

**Executive Secretary**

Pat Dupke

**Recording Secretary**

Delia Dunn

# THE KEIKI



## ORCHID PLANT AUCTION

Sponsored by  
The Orchid Lovers of Spring Hill  
**Saturday Nov. 21, 2015**  
Preview at 11:30 Auction begins 12noon  
First United Methodist Church  
Spring Hill FL - 9344 Spring Hill Drive  
Many beautiful hybrid, species orchids  
and supplies will be auctioned off.  
Cash and Checks accepted  
-no credit cards-  
Refreshments available  
[www.springhillorchidclub.com](http://www.springhillorchidclub.com)



Mark you calendar for the Club Christmas Party

December 12th

See page 7 of The Keiki for more information

### Refreshment Reminder

by Laurie Cinnamea

For November 2015 Refreshments

**FOOD:**

- Eleanor Welrup
- Connie Revoir
- Sonia Terrelonge
- Pat Dupke

**DRINKS:**

- Bobbie Lemay
- Gloria Thomas



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### Treasurer's Report

by Helen Battistrada

9/19/15 Balance	\$5,600.53
Receipts	\$ 128.00
<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 344.00</b>
Balance 10/17/15	\$5,384.53

November 21st is a very important date for our club. Our number one fund raiser, the annual orchid auction will be held at the First United Methodist Church on Spring Hill Drive. I hope every member will put up one of our flyers somewhere (can be printed from the website). Julie Smolka has done a great job with publicity and Tim and Judy are preparing the legacy plants along with ordering blooming plants from Hawaii. Spread the word, bring a friend and be sure to put picture of a bloom with any non blooming plants you might donate.

Just as critical to our auction success is the field trip Donna Fazekas has planned for November 7. We will be visiting four growers including A&K nurseries and Krull Smith in Apopka then to Suzanne Farnsworth in Weirsdale and finally Smiley orchids in Clermont. We hope to bring back donations for our auction and some treasures of our own. We will be leaving at 7:30 from the Partners Club please call Donna for details. We will carpool from there so come along and bring your lunch.

Check the website for updates and be sure to friend our new Facebook page (thanks Julie). Finally, a little help please in recalling the name of this poor little lost orchid I brought from the north and lost its tag. I seem to recall Roja being part of it?

### President's Message

By Jeff Rundell

I hope everyone had as good a time as I had at the picnic last month.

The location at Crews lake was absolutely beautiful and the weather was perfect. I intend to return and do more exploring. I want to thank all the people that brought food because I cannot ever recall so many delicious choices. Special thanks to Pat Dupke for setting all this up and to Al Fiore for his grill skill.





## Publicity Chairman Report By JULIE SMOLKA

I am Julie Smolka and I have taken over the advertising from Sara Hart. I would like to thank Sara for all the hard work she has done for the club and the information she has provided to get me started.

The job involves more than I thought it would, but it is fun and I am getting to know my fellow club members a little better. Each month I e-mail requests for free to The Citrus County Chronicle, Monthly Garden Calendar, Anders- garden section and S H Newsletter. Submissions also go out to the Scene Magazine and Bay news 9 community calendar. Most of these sites publish the ads as space is available but are not guaranteed. I would love it if you would keep an eye out for these ads and let me know if you are seeing them so we know efforts are being put to good use. Also, if you have any ideas for getting the word out, please feel free to let me know. Thank you to Helen for a new opportunity in the Northern Weeki Wachee magazine. I will add this to the list so keep an eye out in the future.

### FACEBOOK



Along with the great job being done on the web site, Facebook is a good place to reach people and have the group keep in contact with each other. There is now a Facebook page for our club. Just search on Facebook Springhill Orchidclub "friend" the club and follow us to keep up with what is going on in the club as well as the pictures, questions and comments of your fellow orchid growers.

*Check Page 6 of the Keiki for more help in using Facebook.*

## ORCHID LOVERS' CLUB OF SPRING HILL (OLCSH) MINUTES OF THE MEETING OCTOBER 17, 2015

A brief meeting was held during our picnic with Jeff Rundell thanking all those who put it all together: Pat Dupke for booking the Pavilion, making the flyers and announcements and purchasing the food items for the Club; Al Fiore for the grilling, and those members who contributed food.

Delia Dunn announced there were no corrections sent in for the Minutes and made a motion to approve them, Ken Dunn seconded and all were in favor of the Minutes being approved.

Helen Battistrada gave the Treasurer's Report showing an ending balance of \$5,384.53.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Upcoming Events

The Field Trip is on Saturday, November 7th. Donna Fazekas said we will go to AK Nurseries first because they close at 12:00 noon; Susan Farnsworth in Wiersdale; Krull Smith; and Smileys in Clermont. We will take our own lunches and find some place to eat along the way. We will try to obtain orchid donations for our Auction in November. We will meet at the Partners' Club at 7:30 am and carpool. If you want to drive you can or you can ride with someone else. We should be back around 5:00 pm. About 5 hrs. of driving, spending an hour at each place.

November 21st is our Auction and we have a new venue at the United Methodist Church on Springhill Dr., which has a much larger room than what we've been used to. Pat has posters to pass out or you can print out posters from the Website if you want. Everyone should take at least one to display in a business. Jeff is asking all members to donate non-blooming plants, which should be cleaned up first and preferably to have a picture attached so that the auctioneer

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can better describe the plant. Pictures of your plant can be obtained usually from the internet if you don't have one of your own. Jeff said pictures will be sent out to other garden clubs to entice them to come.

Julie Smolka, our new Publicity person, has done a tremendous job getting the word out. She has sent information on the Auction to websites of other orchid clubs to target people we have not seen before, to get them to come and we're going to take pictures of the larger plants. Look for Julie's announcements in community newspapers and if you have any ideas for Julie, like if you know a garden club or similar organization, let us know so we can get a flyer into their newsletters or get them to forward it out. Julie has also set up a Facebook Page for the Club that is linked to our Website. The Auction is advertised on Facebook. If you have a FB page of your own, go on the Orchid Lovers Club Facebook page and ask to be friended.

Tim Smith is going to get 15-20 plants shipped to us from Hawaii for about \$100 and if we can sell the plants for \$20 a piece we can make some money for our major fundraiser. The Board authorized Tim to spend up to \$150 on orchid purchases.

Gary Gethen did a demonstration on how we should clean up our plants for the Auction. He also recommended the use of large tweezers which are helpful in removing the small weeds from the center of a plant. You can get them from the Flea Market for \$3.50. He talked about what to do for fungi and black rot and other diseases.

Christmas Party signup sheet was sent around and if you haven't signed up, please do so. It will be at Buffet City; the food is great and plentiful choices at reasonable prices. \$7.01 per person including a discount that we received this year.

Pat reminds us that we need to bring an unwrapped toy. The Marines are going to furnish a box to put the toys in.

Sonia Terrelonge reminded people that she is there taking orders for the T-shirt logos. Description was in The Keiki.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Jeff and Pat talked to the Partners' Club about when we could return and they estimate 3 weeks before they are finished with the roof repairs and we should be able to get back in for our January meeting. If necessary we could find another temporary place but we are confident that we will be back in January to the Partners' Club.

There were some flowering orchids brought in by members for the sale table.

Keikis were available on the table for people who do not have a computer.

Richard Ratajczak was selling raffle tickets and more of Barbara Dotson's plants were raffled off.

Respectfully submitted by Delia Dunn

### A Day at The Orchid Club Picnic



More Picnic Pictures



**REQUESTED RECIPE FROM PICNIC.  
SALSA, BLACK BEAN, AND RICE  
SALAD**

**Compliments of Arlene Appelbaum**

- 2 cups cooked brown rice, chilled**
- 1-15 oz. can black beans, rinsed and drained**
- 2 cups chopped tomatoes**
- 1 cup yellow or red sweet pepper chopped**
- 1 cup frozen whole kernel corn thawed**
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced**
- 2 tbl. fresh cilantro (I used dried)**

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**1 cup bottled picante or salsa**  
**4 oz. monterey jack cheese, cubed**  
**lettuce - to line side of bowl (optional)**  
**1/2 cup fat free sour cream**

**Preparation:** Line the sides of a large bowl with lettuce or romaine if using. Stir rice, beans, tomatoes, pepper, corn, onions, and cilantro together and add to line bowl. Top with sour cream.

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By **JULIE SMOLKA**



It has come to my attention that not all of our members are familiar with Facebook and how to navigate its pages. In order for all members to participate and share their pictures, questions and years of orchid growing wisdom, here are a few useful tips to get you started.

**How to friend Springhill Orchid Club:** Sign on to your Facebook page. Along the top of the page is a search bar. Type Springhill Orchid club into the bar and search. A drop down list will appear and click on the Springhill Orchid Club. In the large picture at the top of the page there will be several options. Click on the "Add Friend" tab. You will then be accepted to the page and you are ready to begin. Another option is to make a list of all interested parties that have created Facebook accounts and I can search and friend request you. You would have to accept the request and you would be ready to begin.

**How to put up a post or a picture:** Just below the profile picture on the right side there will be a box that has a pencil icon and the word 'post' & a picture icon and the words 'picture/video'. If you wish to write a comment just click on the box where it says "write something" and begin your comment. When you have completed your statement, press "post" and it will post to the page immediately. To post a picture click on the Picture/video. A box with a + sign in the middle will appear. Click on the box and the photos you have stored on your computer should pop up. To choose

your photo click on it and then click "open" tab on the bottom right of the page. Your photo will load to the page. Click on the area that says "write something" and type in your message. When done press "post" and your photo and comment will be added directly to the page.

**Remove/Edit a post:** If you have made an error, you can change or delete your post. In the upper right hand corner of your post there will be a small arrow that looks like a v. Place your cursor on the v and click. This will create a drop down menu with options to delete or edit. Choosing delete will erase the entire post. Choosing edit will permit you to make changes to the text portion. When you are satisfied with your changes, press "done editing" and your post will be updated.

**How to private message:** Click on the "message" box in the large photo at the top of the screen. A box will pop up. Type your message and hit the "enter" key. The message will go to the Springhill Orchid Club page and will be replied to as soon as possible.

This is a lot of information and it may take a little time for some of our members to become proficient in navigating social media. Also if you are using an App on a phone or tablet these screens could look slightly different. If you have any questions, I am always glad to help if I am available. I can be reached at 727-514-4230. Since I work, I would recommend that we set up a buddy system to help people more quickly. We could have those that use Facebook team up to help those not as familiar.

Looking forward to more communication between all members throughout the month. Happy Orchid Growing

*Julie Smolka*

**Note:** *If you have a Facebook Question that is not answered here, just e-mail Julie at [jasmolka@verizon.net](mailto:jasmolka@verizon.net) and she will try to help.*

***ORCHID LOVERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY***

***SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2015***

***WHERE: BUFFET CITY***

***13235 CORTEZ BLVD.***

***BROOKSVILLE, FL***



***TIME: 12:00 P.M.***

***PRICE: \$7.01 PLUS TAX EACH (BUFFET)***

***DRINKS: \$1.59 FOR SODA OR***

***\$0.50 FOR HOT TEA***

***DESSERT WILL BE CHRISTMAS COOKIES PROVIDED BY CLUB MEMBERS (EVERYONE IS ASKED TO BRING A DOZEN COOKIES)***

***IN PLACE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE, MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BRING AN UNWRAPPED CHILD'S TOY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN TO NEEDY FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY.***

***For more information or questions please call  
Pat Dupke @ (727) 856-3485***

This article is being submitted by Susan Diemer, member, and written by Sue Bottom of St Augustine Orchid Club. Susan had written to her (from an article she wrote for the AOS) for advise regarding bacterial/fungal rot in orchids. Sue gave permission to have this article published in our Keiki. You may direct any questions to Susan Diemer, email: [1229sdiemer@gmail.com](mailto:1229sdiemer@gmail.com). Thanks

## Orchid Disease Control Part 2 - Bacterial and Fungal Infections

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com

If you've grown orchids for a while, you have noticed different blemishes on them and wondered what caused the problem. Some genera of orchids just seem prone to certain diseases, like Thai crud on vandas, and orchids seem to come under disease pressure during certain times of the year, like botrytis flower blighting during cool weather. You learn, sometimes by the School of Hard Knocks, how to recognize disease symptoms in the types of orchids you grow. Then you have to figure out how to eliminate the disease from your growing area and prevent it from recurring in the future.

**Healthy Plants are More Resistant to Disease.** With orchid diseases, your primary directive is to prevent disease from occurring. First and foremost, you strive to fine tune your culture to grow the healthiest orchids because vigorously growing plants are more capable of resisting disease via natural defense mechanisms. Cultural controls go a long way in preventing conditions that favor disease: proper watering to minimize excess leaf wetness, buoyant air movement to keep spores from settling on plant surfaces, well drained potting mixes that are refreshed if organic matter degrades and strict attention to sanitation. Cutting tools and pots should be sterilized between uses, benches and under bench spaces should be disinfected regularly, decaying flowers and vegetation should be removed promptly to sealed containers and any diseased plant tissue should be cut from the plant to eliminate the pathogen from the growing area.

**Disease vs. Cultural Problems.** The first step in diagnosing a problem is determining whether the problem is cultural in origin or the result of a disease pathogen. There are many physiological problems that new growers chalk up to disease that are in fact the result of some environmental factor, perhaps water is pooling in the crown of a phalaenopsis causing crown rot, or water pockets in the cataphyll around a new cattleya pseudobulb causing localized rot, or the changing sun angle causes rapid cell collapse from sunburn. During the course of your orchid growing career, you will damage or lose plants as a result of watering or other cultural errors. It happens to all orchid growers with all levels of experience. Take solace in the fact that the experience will help you recognize the signs of this or that environmental misadventure, so you can adjust your cultural practice and become a better grower as a result.

**Responding to Disease Symptoms.** To control diseases with fungicides, applications must be made before the fungus enters plant tissue. This is very different to the way you respond to pests in your growing area, where you treat with pesticides to kill the interloper. Most fungicides prevent diseases rather than curing them. Once you notice the symptoms of disease in your growing area, the pathogen is inside the plant and beyond the reach of most chemicals. Your first response to noticing a disease symptom is to sanitize the plant, which means physical removing the infected tissue by using a sterile double edged razor blade or cutting tool. Chemicals can be applied after sanitizing to prevent the spread of disease to other parts of your plant or nearby plants. Keep notes to yourself when disease occurs in your growing area. It may help you anticipate time periods when your plants are subject to increased disease pressure and would benefit from a prophylactic fungicidal treatment.

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ORCHID DISEASE CONTROL PAGE 2

**Orchid Diseases.** The diseases that befall orchids can be divided into a five basic groups, bacterial diseases, bulb, root and stem fungal rots, rots caused by water molds, leaf spotting fungi and the flower blights.

**Bacterial Infections.** Bacterial infections move quickly, much more quickly than fungal infections. Bacteria can enter the plant through wounds or natural plant openings like stomata. They release enzymes that dissolve plant cells producing large populations quickly, which then can be exuded from rotting tissue and easily spread to adjacent plants. Bacterial infections often have a water soaked appearance and the infected area may be sunken or surrounded by yellow halo. Sterilants like the household chemical hydrogen peroxide (and the more powerful specialty chemical ZeroTol), Physan 20 or pool algacide (and the more powerful specialty chemical Kleengrow) and the old standby for bacteria, copper fungicides like Kocide or liquid copper (and the more powerful specialty chemical Phyton 27 or 35), can be used as a precaution prior to infection or after sanitizing the leaf to prevent spread of the disease. Just remember not to use copper on dendrobiums.

**Common Bacterial Diseases in Orchids**



Bacterial Soft Rot caused by *Erwinia cartovora* or *chrysanthemi* on an oncidium

Brown Rot caused by *Erwinia cypripedii* on a paphiopedilum

Bacterial Brown Spot caused by *Acidovorax* (syn. *Pseudomonas*) *cattleya* on a nodosa hybrid

Bacterial infections are highly contagious, spread easily by plant exudations and splashing water. The pathogens favor warm and wet conditions. If found, quickly remove any diseased tissue and treat with an appropriate chemical to prevent spread of the disease. Keep a spray bottle of hydrogen peroxide handy in your growing area as a topical disinfectant. During hot, humid weather, consider preventative sprays, reducing leaf wetness and increasing air movement to prevent occurrence.

**Fungal Bulb, Root and Stem Rots.** Bulb, root and stem rots arise from several soilborne fungal pathogens that cause rots. Fungal infections move much more slowly than bacterial infections but they will ultimately kill the plant if unchecked. *Fusarium* enters the water conducting vascular system and the spores germinate and carry the fungus through the

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ORCHID DISEASE CONTROL PAG 3

xylem ultimately plugging it. Rhizoctonia enters the roots and the fungus progresses through the rhizome and lower part of the pseudobulb. Sclerotium enters the stem near the medium surface and spreads down to the roots and up to the leaves, ultimately producing overwintering bodies called sclerotia that propagate the fungus. These diseases are best controlled by a preventative drench program because they are very difficult to treat even with the pricey specialty fungicides. The infected tissue must be removed and the plant treated with one of the progressively more expensive chemical drenches like Daconil (chlorothalonil), Pageant (pyraclostrobin and boscalid) and Heritage (azoxystrobinor).

Fungal Root, Stem and Bulb Rots in Orchids



Fusarium Wilt caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* in a cattleya. Fusarium is spread largely by the use of unsterilized cutting tools and pots.



Root Rot caused by *Rhizoctonia solani* in a cattleya. Populations of this fungus can reach high levels in degraded potting mix.



Southern Blight/ Collar Rot caused by *Sclerotium rolfsii* in a phalaenopsis. If the infection reaches the crown of the plant, it will die.

Fungal rots are slow growing diseases that infect roots, stems and bulbs on orchids, ultimately killing them. After sanitizing the plant by cutting away infected tissue, help prevent spread of the disease by applying drench applications of the relatively affordable Daconil or one of the more specialized and expensive chemicals labeled for these diseases, including Pageant and Heritage.

Water Molds in Orchids



Black Rot caused by *Pythium ultimum* and *Phytophthora cactorum* on a cattleya. Avoid repotting and excessive wetness during the hot humid weather in which these pathogens proliferate.

*Water Molds.* There is a very fast moving rot caused by water molds (fungal-like parasites called oomycetes) that results in pseudobulb rots and damping off of seedlings. This group of pathogens causes sudden oak death, downy mildew and the disease that caused the 19<sup>th</sup> century great potato famine. This organism requires water to proliferate and is more prevalent in the South during the hot humid summer months. Precautionary sprays prior to hot, wet weather together with steps during the danger period like avoiding repotting so as not to have pathogen entry points via open wounds and allowing plants to dry thoroughly before rewatering help. If you find Black Rot, act quickly to cut away infected tissue and then treat with hydrogen peroxide or better yet one of the specialty expensive chemicals like Subdue (metalaxyl), Aliette (fosetyl aluminum), Truban (etrizazole) or the dual action Banrot that contains etridazole.

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ORCHID DISEASE CONTRO PAGE 4

Leaf Spotting Fungi. Fungi propagate from spores and fruiting bodies in the infected part of the leaf, so sanitizing the plant by removing the sporing bodies is a critical part of controlling the disease. The leaf and flower fungal blights are unsightly perhaps, but not life threatening to your plants like many other diseases. There are quite a few leaf spotting fungi, and it is less important to be able to identify the name of each fungus as it is to recognize that it is a fungal infection, because the chemicals used to prevent the spread of these leaf spotting fungi are the same. Precautionary sprays with one of the quaternary ammonium compounds like Physan 20 or 20% pool algacide (and the specialty and more expensive KleenGrow), copper fungicides or thiophanate methyl fungicides can be used, or the chemicals can be sprayed after an infection is noticed to prevent it from spreading further, although the leaves will remain blighted..

Anthracnose and Leaf Spotting Fungi in Orchids



Leaf spotting caused by Thai Crude caused by *Guignardia* on a cattleya. Spores are present on the raised diamond shaped lesions that feel like sandpaper. These spores spread the disease.



Leaf dieback or Anthracnose, by *Gleosporium* and *Colletotrichum* species in an oncidium. Fruiting bodies develop on blackened leaves spreading the disease.



Leaf spotting caused by *Cercospora* species on a cattleya. The leaf spot continues to enlarge and can kill the entire leaf.

Leaf spotting fungi penetrate plant openings particularly during periods of warm temperature and leaf wetness. The fungi produce toxins that kill the host cell and the lesion is sometimes surrounded by a yellow halo. The disease is spread from spores on the discolored part of the leaf. Treat affected leaves with copper, quaternary ammonium compounds or other specialty chemicals like thiophanate methyl. If the infection is serious or continues to enlarge, remove the infected leaf to an inch below any discoloration.

Flower Blight - Botrytis



Flower blighting caused by the *Botrytis cinerea* on phalaenopsis occurs during cool moist periods.

Flower Blights. The fungus *Botrytis*, also called Gray Mold, can quickly ruin the flowers you have been waiting for all year. The fungus requires cool moist conditions to proliferate, spreading spores quickly to other flowers via air movement or water, and overwinters in decaying vegetative material. Remove infected tissue including afflicted flowers, lessen humidity and increase air movement. Flowers can be sprayed once or twice a week as a precaution with Daconil (chlorothalonil) or some of the pricier fungicides. Plant surfaces and bench surfaces can be sprayed with Kocide (copper) or quaternary ammonium compounds (Physan, pool algacide).

ORCHID DISEASE CONTROL PAGE 5

Observe your plants each time you water. If you have a plant exhibiting the symptoms of disease, remove the infected tissue and treat the remainder of the plant and any close by plants with an appropriate fungicide. Spend some time considering what environmental conditions might have contributed to the growth of the disease and what precautionary actions might have prevented the disease from gaining a stronghold in your growing area. A healthy, vigorously growing plant is your best defense against orchid diseases.

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