



October 2015
Volume 23 Issue 10

Page 2

Refreshment Reminder
Treasurer's Report
President's Message

Page 3

September Minutes

Page 4

Membership Chairman

Page 5

A Day at Joy Orchids

Page 6

Member's Sale or Trade

Page 7, 8

To Bee or Not to Bee

Page 9

T-Shirt Decals

Page 10, 11

Orchids From Flask

Page 12

Donated Books
Library Report

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 LOVERS' CLUB OF SPRING HILL ANNUAL PICNIC

WHEN: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2015

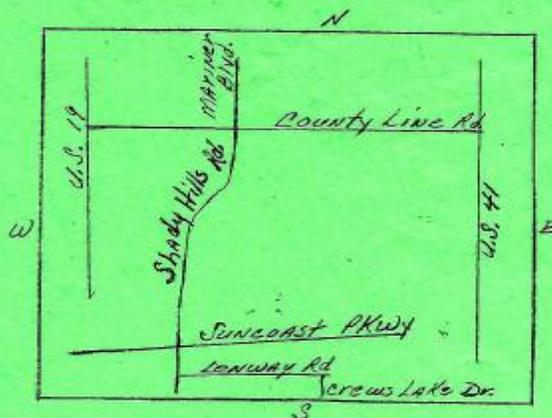
TIME: 12:00 P.M. - ?

WHERE: CREWS LAKE PARK (PASCO COUNTY)
PAVILION #1

PLANT SHOW TABLE, RAFFLES, HIKING TRAILS, BIKE
PATH, AND MUCH MORE

ALL MEMBERS & GUESTS ARE WELCOMED

DIRECTIONS:



TAKE SHADY HILLS RD.
SOUTH APPROXIMATELY
4 MILES TO LENWAY RD.,
TURN LEFT & CONTINUE
TO CREWS LAKE RD.
FOLLOW THE ORCHID
CLUB SIGNS. FOR MORE
INFORMATION, CONTACT
PAT DUPKE @ 727-856-3485

**NOTE: THERE WILL BE A
\$2.00 ENTRY FEE INTO
THE PARK per vehicle**

Members who haven't signed up to bring a food item to the picnic should give Pat Dupke a call at 727-856-3485 to see what is still needed.

**Also add to your calendar: November 21st for our Annual Auction
and December 12th for our Christmas Party.**

Refreshment Reminder

For Picnic



Members who have not signed up to bring a food item please call Pat Dupke 727-856-3485 to see what is still needed.



President's Message

By Jeff Rundell

I always look forward to our picnic each year because there seems to be a parallel between being a good cook and loving orchids. It's the perfect combination!

Let me also remind everyone that, other than your culinary contributions, you can also bring your own plants to sell or trade. Remember *"Crews lake is a scene you should make with your orchid friends"*. We will be talking about our auction in November, our annual road trip and the exciting Christmas party.

I have sent out invitation letters to growers for our Orchid Festival in March and we have the VFW reserved. Most of the people who work on the show have lots of experience and will remain in place. What more remains to be done? We would really, really like to have a chairperson. We have a good organizational plan that is easy to slide into. This is not a high pressure job but, so far, no one has stepped forward. If my pleas continue to fall on deaf ears my next strategy will be the individual approach. It really is a great joy to see it all happen. Sharing responsibility is rewarding and it helps make our group more cohesive. So think about it.

\$\$\$\$\$\$

Treasurer's Report

By Helen Battistrada



8/15/15 Balance	\$5,960.19
Receipts	\$ 130.00
Disbursements	<u>\$ 489.66</u>
BALANCE 8/15	\$5,600.53

MESSAGE FROM THE KEIKI EDITOR

We know you have an interesting story about one of your special orchids. Why not write a short story about it and see it in print! (You can be a self made author)

To get the story published in the Keiki just go to the club website: www.springhillorchidclub.com

1. Click on the 'MORE' tab and go down to "Keiki Submission Form" and click.
2. When the form opens, type in your name, date and type or paste your story in the "article block"
3. Click on "Submit to Keiki Editor"

If you do not have a computer just mail your article to:

The Keiki
3089 S. Graymor Path
Inverness, Florida 34450

ORCHID LOVERS' CLUB OF SPRING HILL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

Jeff Rundell, President, opened the meeting at 11:17 am. Cell phones and conversation were silenced and one new member was welcomed. There were no guests as this was a members only event.

Jeff thanked Joyce and David Fowler for their Open House and asked members to view the many beautiful plants in their greenhouses and those of their special guest, our member, Gary Gethen.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Helen was absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership

Linda introduced Kat Goddard, who became a new member so that she could attend the open house.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October—Pat Dupke said that members could arrive between 11:30 and 12 noon at the picnic at Crews Lake Park. We will eat around 12:30. She had a sign-up sheet going around – she needs more salads and no more desserts. There will be a \$2.00 charge collected by the park, per vehicle. We will be in Pavilion #1 and Pat will have signs along the way to direct us. Al Fiore will be doing the grilling of the hamburgers, bratwurst, sausages and hot dogs. There will be raffle plants at the picnic supplied by Joy Orchids and some of Barbara Dodson's plants. Members can bring plants to sell or trade if they want.

November—Donna Fazekas has a field trip planned for November 7th going east to Susan Farnsworth's in Wiersdale and three other growers she is waiting to hear from with confirmations. We will carpool from a location to be announced. We will take our own lunches and eat at one of the growers. Further information will be forthcoming. We will try to obtain orchid donations for our Auction in November. At the pic-

nic we will take a headcount of those planning to attend. Anyone not going to the picnic should let Jeff know if they plan on going on the field trip.

Our annual Auction will be held at 12 noon on Saturday, November 21st at the First United Methodist Church of Spring Hill at 9344 Spring Hill Dr., Spring Hill, FL. The Partners' Club will not be ready by November. We thank Pat for making the arrangement and Helen is arranging to have our insurance revised to cover this event. We will have ads running for the auction and members should pass out flyers and place them anywhere we go. Julie Smolka, Publicity Chairman, will send auction information to the other orchid clubs. Next month we will have posters ready to put out. We ask members to donate plants that they want to get rid of, have more than one of, don't know what to do with, but please make sure they are healthy and clean with clean pots, clean leaves, weeds removed, dead stems removed etc. Make them as attractive as possible.

Jeff thanked Ken and Delia Dunn again for their work on The Keiki, which he is very proud of. Delia motioned that as there had been no corrections made to the Minutes through the Keiki, we needed an affirmative vote to approve them. Jeff (said) Ken seconded and asked for a vote and all were in favor. The approved Minutes now will be placed on their own page on the website.

Delia thanked Linda Meyer, Kara Warnock, Jeff Rundell and Tim Smith for sending in articles and said that anyone could write an article about something to do with their orchids, and that if they received several in one month, they would save them for a future issue.

Jeff announced the Show would be held Saturday, March 19th and Sunday, March 20th at the VFW. We are still in need of a chairman. We will have at least one new vendor at the show yet to be determined.

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If anyone has ideas for speakers at the meetings they should let V.P., Geary Harris, know.

Tim Smith was selling raffle tickets. A nice selection of plants from the Dotson collection was available.

Joyce served lunch at noon and desserts as usual were brought by our members.

After lunch the regular raffle was held following Joyce's raffle for her Vanda plant which was won by Susan Diemer.

There was no speaker, however, Joyce was talking individually with anyone who brought in sick plants.

The casual meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Delia Dunn

NOTE—These Minutes have yet to be approved by the members. If you see the need for an addition, a deletion or a correction, please use the address below to send an e-mail to advise the recording secretary that a change is needed. THANK YOU!

kdunn004@tampabay.rr.com



**Article by
Membership Chairman**

Linda Meyer

The Orchid Lovers Club September meeting was not actually a meeting...well, not a regular meeting, anyway. Instead, we were treated to an Open House at our dear member, Joyce Fowler's greenhouses for her and her husband David's business, Joy Orchids, in Brooksville. The Fowlers graciously opened

their home to us as well, offering all coffee and doughnuts in the morning, followed by a delicious lunch of fried chicken and salads and cold drinks. Members had brought a bevy of luscious desserts to finish that wonderful meal Jeff snuck in a wee bit of club business before the raffle of lots of terrific orchids, one of which was won by our very newest member, who, after having found our beautiful website, was so eager to join that she appeared bright and early Saturday (check in hand!) at Joyce's, where she told us she's recently moved here from Massachusetts, and most of her orchids didn't make the move so happily.

Let us all welcome (and let's try to figure how to clone some of her delightful enthusiasm):

Kat Goddard
7068 Crown Oaks Dr
Spring Hill, FL 34606
352-600-9813
kattct@yahoo.com

Oh, because it wasn't a regular business meeting, and attendance was for members only, we did not have members sign in, so the attendance count was a little vague-you know, waving a fork full of cake around, trying to count folks moving around (possibly to get more cake themselves...) So the estimate is 35. Next year, come and count for yourself!

And be sure to come to the club Picnic October 17th at Crews Lake Park. If you haven't already signed up, please call Pat Dupke at 727-856-3485 so you can find out where to be and what to bring! It promises to be a terrific time. The more the merrier!!!! See you there.

Linda



A Day at Joy Orchids



MEMBERS FOR SALE OR TRADE

This space is for use by members to advertise plants or supplies for Sale or Trade. There is no charge but it will be on a first come-first served basis.



I would prefer to trade this uncommon species orchid I have been growing since 2007. It is a large **Brassavola tuberculata** that I got from Oak Hill orchids in Illinois. I do not have a bloom photo as it blooms irregularly. Perhaps someone

else can do better. If I had to sell it I'd ask **\$40.00**. In trade I'd like something mature and possibly mounted

Jeff Rundell

jrundell@tampabay.rr.com

=====
Delia Dunn has the following orchids for sale 352-341-3711

kdunn004@tampabay.rr.com

Bc Makai x Brassavola nodosa (I have 3)
More blooms every year on these mounts.
Blooms hot pink in December and slowly fades.
Flowers last for many weeks. Strong fragrance.

\$20.00 ea.



These mature Cattleyas bloom in Spring and have strong scent. One is in a wooden basket, one in a small coconut basket & one in a large one. Beautiful blooms in Spring that have more & more each year. **The color is actually more pink than these show.**

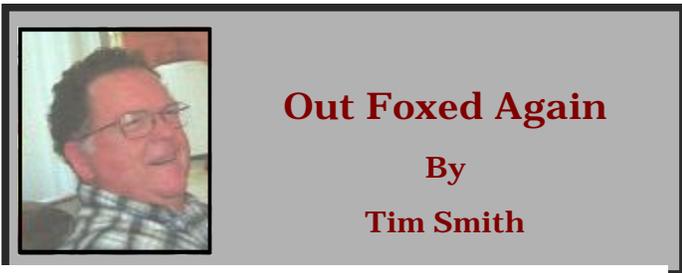
\$30.00 \$20.00 \$25.00



Encyclia alata 2 in clay, 1 mounted .
This plant is 20 years old & was split last year. Blooms in spring with several stems.. Dry out before watering thoroughly. Sweet fragrance. Brown with yellow & violet flowers.

8" clay \$15 Mount \$12.00





Out Foxed Again

By
Tim Smith



Remember...last month's Keiki article where Tim was out foxed by a Raccoon? Well now the Raccoon has had to go back to the 'drawing board'.

Raccoon vs. Tim...problem solved.

Another 6 inches of pipe and an empty plastic bourbon bottle. Bottle spins as soon as the coon touches it so he can't get over it. The extra six inches prevents him from reaching out and grabbing the bird roost. Smart huh? Yes, I am the guy who drank the bourbon but when I remembered this trick from the You Tube flick called "Daring Daylight Robbery", I went to work.



Coon prevention bourbon bottle

And To BEE or not to BEE

By Tim Smith

Have you ever experienced this? Your favorite orchid is in full bloom and it has become show table or orchid show worthy and starts to wither. It is a sure sign of unwanted pollination. Somehow someway a pollinator has crept into your greenhouse and is pollinating your prize orchid that is obvious by the swelling of the ovary below the bloom. Although we all hang our orchids outside of the greenhouse from time to time, we keep an eye on them and as soon as we see an indication that they're going to Bloom, they are moved to the greenhouse so the pollinators can't get to them. Collectors don't want their orchids pollinated because the majority of us are not going to flask the orchids but simply enjoy the beauty of the blooms. We'll leave all that techie stuff up to the growers.

Ref. <https://www.aos.org/Default.aspx?id=433>

But what about the rest of our flowers, citrus and fruit trees that we want pollinated? We defiantly want the pollinators then. A couple years ago Judy's sister had two beehives and we had a bumper crop of oranges and peaches. Our garden did very good as well and the bees were everywhere doing their thing. Unfortunately, something happened to the hives. Between the yellow jackets, ant, and some sort of moth, her hives were wiped out in about two years. We noticed a distinct drop in our orange and peach trees production and the garden wasn't doing so well either. The only pollinating was done by a few bumblebees and another little bee that I was not sure what they were until now. I only saw one Honeybee this entire year.



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Enter the solitary bee or more commonly known, the mason bee. I have always heard of the mason bee as a kid but never paid much attention. I decided I was going to try a hive of honey bees and doing research on the Internet to determine how to control the predators of the honey bee, I came across an article about the solitary bees. It turns out that they are a very popular alternative to the honey bee as pollinators and many people build them houses and also sell their cocoons on the Internet. The solitary bee is a non-aggressive bee that lays her eggs in holes left by woodpeckers or any other hole they can find. I researched a little bit and found that it's very easy to make a solitary bee house. All you need is a block of untreated wood and drill a series of 5/16 holes in it 3 ½ to 6 inches deep. One article I read said to drill various size holes and see what other bees would be attracted which I did. The other size holes, both larger and smaller, did attract other bees with similar characteristics that work all summer long. There are about 140 different species of solitary bee in Florida.

Although I have not identified them they work the flowers steadily on our patio and carrying large pods of pollen to the holes that are not sealed up. The mason bee is a spring bee and is active from March through May when most spring blooms are present and they're done until the next spring. The mason bee is very smart. She will lay her eggs deep within the hole and they will all be females. She gathers a pollen pouch and puts it in with each egg as food for the larva after hatching, then seals that chamber off, lays another and continues to do this until the cell is filled with eggs and sealed. Depending on the depth of the hole, each chamber could hold 12 to 15 eggs. The deeper the hole the more female eggs will be laid and the males will be closer to the front so that in the event of a predator, they will be sacrificed to save the females to ensure reproduction of the species. The mason bee can control the sex of each egg, so the deeper the hole that you can drill

the more females will be produced and take up the pollination where the honey bee left off. As you can see in the pictures I had two pieces of Maple lying around that I drilled the holes in, not all the way through but close to the bottom and just laid it up on the electrical boxes. Within a day, one mason bee showed up and begins working the holes. Now, nearly all holes are sealed. The northern mason bee growers collect their cocoons and keep them in a cool place until spring. After such success of attracting the bees so soon, I went to the woodpile and selected a couple of short pieces of wood, drilled them full of holes and placed them around different places close to the garden to entice more mason bees. Most of these are full already and I have high hopes for them to help us get a better crop of peaches, citrus and blueberries next year.



For more information simply Google it or follow these links to name just a few.

<http://www.gardeners.com/how-to/about-mason-bees/8198.html>

<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/media/build-your-own-bee-hotel/>

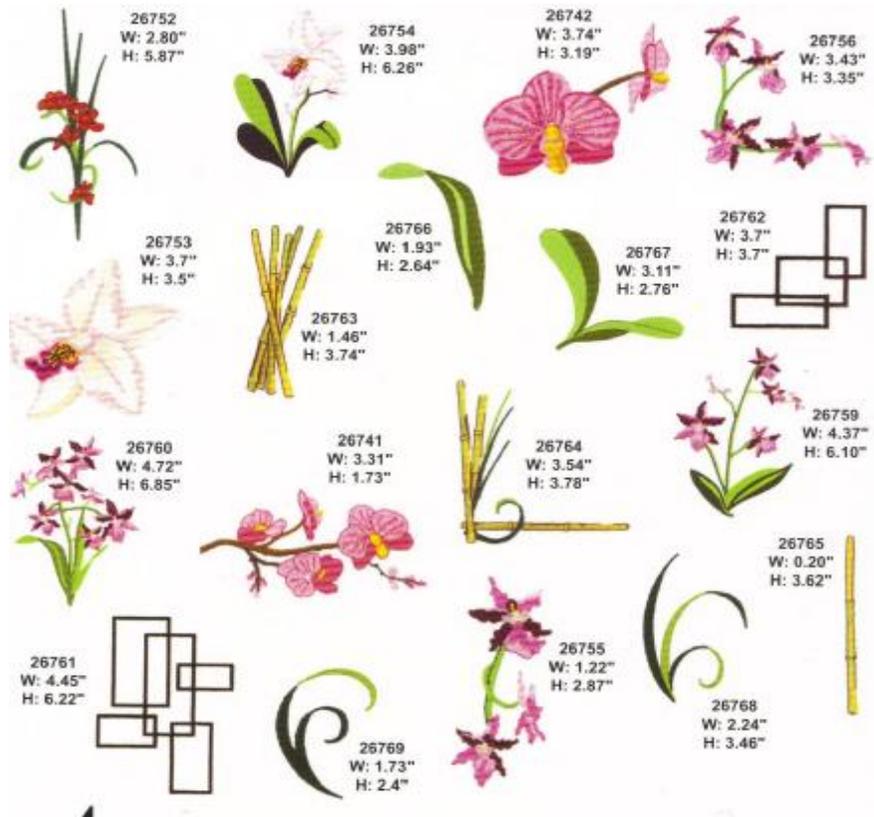
<http://www.opalexplorenature.org/hotels#/11>





Sonia Terrelonge will be taking orders for decals on T-shirts.

I will be taking orders at the picnic for decals fixed to your own T-shirt. Please note that any of the decals over (3") cannot be embroidered on a shirt because they are too large for the area. The price is \$10.00 per shirt. Shirts must be washed.



Member, Matt Riesz provided this article from DCOS newsletter, the orchid society he belonged to in NJ, and thought it might be of interest to our membership. Author, Kim Feddersen, gave permission to reprint it in the Keiki. Kim is an expert and both a hobbyist and a commercial grower.

Growing Orchids from Flask

If you have a little patience, and can give seedlings the right conditions, growing from flasks is a good way to acquire multiple plants, so you may select for the best of the bunch, and still have some leftovers to trade with (or enter into the DCOS auction).

Flask Sizes

Generally there are two flask sizes available:

- **Standard flasks/tubs:**
 - US = 25-35 seedlings
 - Asia= Horizontal gin bottle with 40-60 seedlings
- **Hobby flasks** with 6-10 seedlings

Not every breeder offers the hobby flask size, but I have found these at Carter & Holmes, HBI and also at Woodstream Orchids.



Conditions

Orchid seedlings require high humidity, higher temperatures than mature plants (unless you want to grow them 8-10 years), and somewhat lower light until they are well established.



I use a modified storage tub, with a shade cloth cover, to create a 'mini greenhouse' with water in the bottom. This tub has a drain hole drilled about 1/4" below the level of the bamboo sticks, which carry the egg crate shelf.

If you cannot place the tub in a room with higher temperature, place a light bulb immediately below the tub, and use the original plastic lid to contain the heat. If the tub is in a bright location, place a piece of sheer curtain on the lid to shade the seedlings for the first 6 months or so (longer for *Phrag kovachii*).

If you cannot place the tub in a room with higher temperature, place a light bulb immediately below the tub, and use the original plastic lid to contain the heat. If the tub is in a bright location, place a piece of sheer curtain on the lid to shade the seedlings for the first 6 months or so (longer for *Phrag kovachii*).

Deflasking

Some 'flasks' are jars, with a screw lid the same diameter as the jar. With these you can gently shake the agar 'cake' out of the jar. If the agar is stuck, add some lukewarm water and swirl till it releases from jar.

When seedlings are in a narrow neck glass flask, you have to break the flask. Some recommend wrapping the flask in a couple of pages from a newspaper, and then tapping with a hammer. Others recommend doing it in a bucket with water, holding the flask under the surface while breaking it with a hammer.

I usually hold it in my hand, tapping the bottle on the bottom edge (both hobby & 500 ml flasks), or on the shoulder of gin bottles, while holding the other end of the bottle. I have deflasked some 40+ flasks in this way, and only cut myself once (when the bottle 'sorta exploded').



Cleaning

First remove any visible glass splinters. Then, you want to remove most of the agar, but do not go crazy. You can scrape off chunks where there are no roots, and you can rinse off more by spraying with lukewarm water (do this over a colander, to catch any seedlings that separate from the 'cake'. Aim for the level of agar removal shown in these photos (about 80%):



To Separate or Not?

If the seedlings separate by themselves while you clean the agar off, you can pot them several to a small pot, or individually, if they are very large.

If they do not separate by themselves, leave them together and plant the lot in a single compot (community pot). The roots formed in the flasks are often tightly intertwined, and they are ALWAYS very tender and brittle. You will break off most of the roots if you try to force separation.

Continued . . .

Potting Mix

Obviously you cannot use a coarse bark mix. There is some difference of opinion between growers as to which mix to use. Each grower needs to decide, which mix will work best *with the watering schedule that he or she can provide.*

Some growers use pure sphagnum for starters, others use a predominantly granular mix. My preference is finely chopped sphagnum (cut with scissors, into



1/4" strands), seedling bark, charcoal and perlite, in approx. 5-2-1-1 ratio. Ron Midgett was favorably impressed with the results in this mix. I have used it for Paphs, Laelia anceps and assorted Vandaceous species & hybrids.

Compots

I place the seedlings in a 3 1/2" or 4" pot, and carefully pack mix around the group. I try to work some mix in between the plants as well, using a small stick.

Here are two fresh compots from hobby flasks:



#2 shows seedlings about as large as they can be. #1 shows seedlings about as small as they might be; I only deflasked #1, since I had to deflask #2.

After the plants have spent 10-18 months in compots, developing new and stronger roots, with freedom to grow in all directions, it is much easier to separate the now larger seedlings. On occasion two plants might still have roots firmly intertwined, in those cases, you can leave the plants together, till they eventually grow in opposite directions.



When separating compots, plant the larger seedlings singly in 2 1/4" rose pots. The smaller seedlings should go 2-3 together in the same size pots. Here a compot of *Paph Lathamianum* broken up after 11 months:.



On rare occasions the seedlings are very large coming out of the flask. Here are some *Neofinetia falcata* seedlings, which were 1 1/2"-2" coming out of the flask.



Fungicide?

Some authorities recommend treating the newly deflasked seedlings with fungicide. They come from a sterile environment, so I do not understand this recommendation, and have never done it. Of course, if the seedlings show any signs of a fungal attack later on, by all means treat them.

Drying Off?

Some writers recommend letting the deflasked seedlings 'dry off' before you start watering. *I disagree very strongly.*

These young plants come from a 100% humidity environment, and have had their roots in agar for the past 8-16 months. They should be watered immediately after being potted up. This also helps settle the mix in between the newly potted seedlings.

And, for the next couple of years, I do not let them dry out, ever.

Happy Growing!

KGF, Sep 2015

Member Article
by Delia Dunn

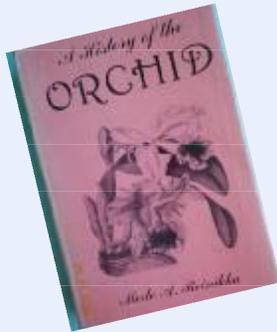
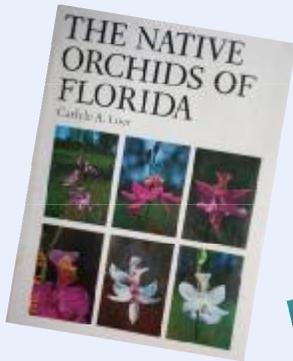


These are just some of the books that have been donated to us by Gordon and Shirley Gorsuch, who were members for several years. They live in Inverness

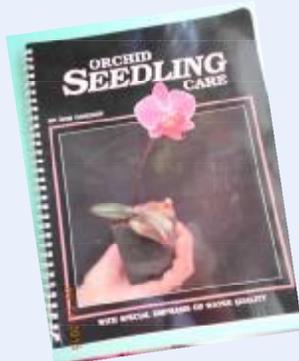
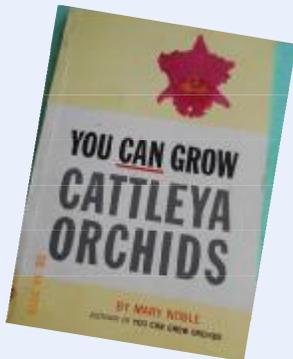
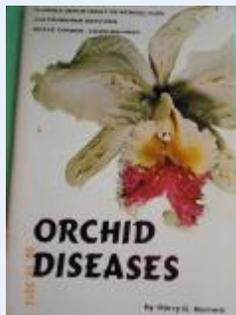
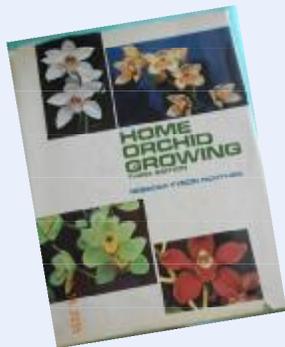


GORDON

SHIRLEY



We thank them very much for their kind donation and they hope that our members will get much benefit from reading them. One of them they told me is a collector's item, The Native Orchids of Florida, I believe they told me. They had once met a lady who they tried to give the book to and she told him it was very valuable and he should not be giving it away, but now he's reached the point where downsizing includes all his precious books and now we are the recipients of that book. There are also some very old books, some about the lives of the original orchid hunters and others written by famous orchid growers.



Tom Govin, our Librarian, will be adding these to our library at the Partners' Club when it re-opens, but in the meantime if you want to borrow one, just let Tom know and he will let you check it out. All he needs is your name and the title of the book you want and then when you return the book your name is scratched off the list.