



September 2015
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1st Vice President

Geary Harris

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Donna Fazekas

Treasurer

Helen Battistrada

Executive Secretary

Pat Dupke

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Delia Dunn

THE KEIKI



MEMBERS ONLY
SEPTEMBER MEETING AT JOY ORCHIDS.
September 19, 2015

Open House @ Joy Orchids
We will have plenty to eat and drink
starting at 10 AM with donuts and coffee.

At noon we will serve lunch and then have an
informative talk on orchid care.

Please bring a problem plant you wish us to look at.
(Bring your own chair)

We will have the regular raffle and then I will raffle off one plant. Something
very special for a \$1.00 ticket per person!!

!! A surprise visitor will be there also !!

Directions to JOY ORCHIDS

From Oak Hill Hosp go EAST 3.3 miles. Go under Suncoast Pkwy; turn right
on WISCON. Go 2 blocks and make a right on ARIZONA. Go to end and
make a right on FORZANDO. Left on Casson St.

Joy Orchids

6060 Casson St. Brooksville FL 34604
Joyce & David Fowler 352-799-8369



Also add to your calendar: October 17th for the Annual Club Picnic and November 21st for our Annual Auction.

Orchids Have a Symmetry Similar to Human Faces.

Much of the reason orchids are so widespread is thanks in part to humans' affinity for and desire to grow them. It is thought that the symmetry of the flower could have a lot to do with why people are so fond of orchids. An orchid has bilateral symmetry — like a human face — so if a line is drawn vertically down the middle of the flower, the two halves are mirror images of each other.

Refreshment Reminder

By Laurie Ciannamea



Desserts:

Laurie Ciannamea

Pat Dupke

Ruth Redeker

Joy Orchids are
Furnishing Donuts,
Lunch and Drinks



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

Treasurer's Report

By Helen Battistrada

7/18/15 Balance	\$5,972.50
Receipts	\$ 172.44
Disbursements	\$ 184.75
<hr/> BALANCE 8/15	<hr/> \$5,960.19

Speaker Segment

By Kara Warnock



This month's speaker was Paul Phelps of Phelps Farm Orchids located in Tampa, FL. His discussion was about orchid hybrids and titled 'Growing Orchids from Seed to Bloom'. Paul mentioned that he was "bitten" by the orchid bug several years ago when a close friend introduced him to orchids and also when his wife, Trish, took up orchid growing as a hobby. Obviously he has been quite successful at growing them over the last nearly 30 years.

Obviously he has been quite successful at growing them over the last nearly 30 years; he mentioned they first started their nursery in 1986.

Why do we grow orchids from seed? First to improve upon what we like about our plants. For instance we may have a plant that has unbelievable color or flower shape, and we want to pass that trait on to another generation of plants. Or we may simply want to produce more of the 'good stuff' that we want. Meaning we have an orchid of exceptional quality, such as one that has been awarded, and we want to make more of them. We accomplish this task by meristem propagation or cloning of the orchid. In order to create an orchid hybrid we must first choose the parents. With selecting the parents we must think about what type of plant we want to produce. In other words, what characteristics or traits each parent might pass along to the progeny or seedlings. Some characteristics will be recessive and others will be dominant. Just like with siblings of the same parents there will be differences as there is a lot of variety within the seed group. Some of the seedlings will take on the characteristics of the pollen plant, some will look more like the seed plant, and others will be different, adopting traits from both parents. To create the seed pod, pollinia (pollen) is removed from underneath the anther cap of one orchid (the pollen plant) and placed onto the stigmatic surface of the second orchid (the seed/parent plant).

The stigmatic surface has a gelatinous-like surface, which is designed to receive the pollen from the pollinator (in this case the humans). The ovaries are contained in the stem portion of the plant just behind the flower, and following pollination this area will begin to swell and grow the seed pod. After making your cross it is important to make a label and attach it to the parent plant. On the tag you want to list the pod parent first then the pollen parent second and also record the date of the cross.

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Depending on the cross it can take anywhere from just a few months to almost a year for the seed pod to be ready for harvest. The seed pod will be ready once the stem end has begun to twist and you start to see a slight yellowing on either end of the seed pod.

If the seed pod splits open, the seed must be assumed to be contaminated. Paul said that you can sterilize the seed by placing them in a container and washing them with a solution of 7% sodium hypochlorite, 5.2% Clorox, and a few drops of dish soap while shaking the container on and off for approximately 15 minutes. He also mentioned that you could store excess seed in a container with a desiccant packet in a fridge for up to a few years. Once the seed pod has matured you can begin to prepare the bottles/flasks and agar medium for the seed. Agar is a gelatin medium that provides nutrients and beneficial fungus (mycorrhizal fungi) in a stable environment which provide optimal conditions for the seeds to germinate.

The agar medium once made up is poured into the bottles, which are placed on their sides. The stoppers are placed loosely (this point is important to avoid explosions) onto the top of the bottles and the bottles are then stacked into the pressure cooker where they are cooked at 15 pounds of pressure for 15 minutes in order to sterilize them.

The bottles are removed from the pressure cooker using a Clorox soaked rag to handle the stoppers and they are placed on their side onto a Clorox soaked towel where they are allowed to cool. Next we make sure to sterilize the seed pod by rubbing down the outside of the pod with a 20% bleach solution. Now we can proceed to the flasking chamber, which is an environment created to be sterile and free of fungal spores and bacteria that would otherwise contaminate the orchid seed. Inside the flasking chamber the seed pod is opened by cutting

off both ends then cutting along the ribs to expose the chaff, which is a stringy material that holds the seeds. Each seed pod can contain as many as one million seeds that are the consistency of a fine powder or dust. Using the sterile tools from inside the flasking chamber, ½ teaspoon of the seed is placed into each of the bottles along with some distilled water and the bottles are given a shake to help distribute the seed evenly across the surface of the agar. The mouth of the bottles are then wiped with a Clorox soaked rag and stoppered tightly so that there is no contamination.

The bottles are then placed under lights with a 12 hour photoperiod to allow the seeds to germinate, which can take anywhere from 3 weeks to 5 months to occur. Although a sterile environment such as a flasking chamber is ideal for processing the seed pod to avoid potential contamination, Paul mentioned that he has seen people accomplish this task using as little as a plastic bag and Lysol.

The seeds once germinated will form protocorms, or young seedlings, followed by the emergence of primordial leaves and roots. After growing their first primordial leaf and root the seedlings are removed from the mother flask and placed into a replicate flask with more agar where they are allowed to continue to grow. Once the seedlings have grown to reach the top of the replicate flask and have developed a good root system, they are deflasked, either by using a hook to pull the seedlings out or by breaking the flask, and placed into community pots. A community pot consists of approximately 10-15 seedlings together in a 3" pot.

As the seedlings grow they are potted from the community pots 1" plug flats, then 3" pots, and eventually 4" and 5" pots. It takes roughly one year for the seedlings to grow within each pot size before being potted up.

Creating hybrid orchids from seed is a lengthy process, and depending upon the parents selected can take anywhere from 5-7 years for a seedling to reach blooming size from the time pollination has occurred.

The Speaker's Sale Table



Interesting tidbit

Catasetums are a genus of orchids which include around 50 species, and can be found throughout Central and South America and also the West Indies.

They have evolved a fascinating way of attaching pollinia to the visiting pollinator, by means of a trigger mechanism which can fire the "super glue" pollinia a surprising distance, either when it is touched or by a firm vibration on the flower itself.

ORCHID LOVERS' CLUB OF SPRING HILL
OLCSH) MINUTES OF THE MEETING
August 15, 2015

President, Jeff Rundell, opened the meeting at 1:04 pm. Cell phones were silenced and Jeff welcomed 2 guests. 31 members were present.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance last month was \$5,972.50 plus receipts of \$172.44 less disbursements of **\$184.75** leaving a balance this month of \$5,960.19.

Jeff said the reason we had to meet at the VFW was because there was a bad leak in the room where we meet at the Oak Hill Hospital Partners' Club. We don't need to meet there again until November so we are hopeful that it will be fixed by then.

Jeff encouraged us all to visit the Phelps' beautiful display of sale plants.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership

Linda Meyer passed around the Roster for us to check our own information and asked that any changes be written in so that she can make up a new Roster. Jeff wanted to be sure that we had correct e-mail addresses for everyone so that notices could be sent if necessary. Linda thanked Gloria Thomas for taking over last month in her absence.

Jeff and Linda both encouraged people to volunteer where needed to keep the Club running smoothly.

Upcoming Events Our meeting in September will be held at Joy Orchids open house – Joyce Fowler will supply fried chicken from Publix and salad. She will not mind if you wish to bring a dessert and she will supply drinks. An attempt was made to try to get a definite count of those members who planned to attend. 10am to 11am will be coffee and donuts and 12 noon will be lunch.

She and her husband, David, will be selling orchids from their two greenhouses. Joyce suggests that we bring problem orchids if we have any and she will talk on that subject and there will be no Show Table. She has only a limited number of chairs so it would be good if members brought their own chairs. Even if it's raining she has two houses that we can get into. Joyce is going to supply the raffle plants - also she has an unusually large, beautiful Vanda she would like to raffle off separately for \$1.00 per ticket per member. The event is members only. Directions are on the front page of this Keiki and an e-mail will be sent out.

October - Pat Dupke talked about the Club picnic on October 17th at Crews Lake Park at 12 noon. She had a sign-up sheet going around and flyers were sent around with directions. There will be a \$2.00 charge per vehicle to get in. Somebody from the park will be there collecting. We will be in Pavilion #1 which is very nice and Pat will have signs along the way to direct us. Al Fiore will be doing the grilling. The Club will provide hamburgers, bratwurst, sausages, hot dogs and buns and we should bring our own beverage along with the dish we signed up to bring. There will be raffle plants at the picnic supplied by Joy Orchids and some of Barbara Dodson's plants. If you'd like to sell some of your own plants bring them along, with a price on them. Sign-up sheet was available on the front table.

November will be our annual Auction which is our big fund raiser of the year. Ed Bugbee from Featherstone Orchids has agreed to be Auctioneer again. We will have the plants from Barbara Dodson's estate and we need members' plants also – non-bloomers you don't want, or plants you might have separated and potted up. Even blooming donations will be welcome.

The more plants we have the more money we make. This helps us pay speakers during the year and all the other expenses of the Club. Field trips are a chance for us to collect orchid donations from the growers for our Auction.

(Cont. from the prior page)

Field Trips

Donna Fazekas said she is working on a day trip to four growers, probably Susan Farnsworth, Paradise Orchids, Chapman and Krull-Smith. We will carpool and lunch. Possible dates are the 1st or 2nd Saturday in November just prior to our Auction. Information will be forthcoming.

Jeff thanked Ken and Delia Dunn for their work to revive **The Keiki**. Ken has worked diligently to get it online and working smoothly.

Ken stressed to please send articles on the submission form on the website as it makes it easier for him to keep it all in one place. He also said that he is going to put the membership meeting Minutes, as they are written, in the Keiki with a disclaimer that they have not been corrected.

There will be a tab next to the disclaimer to click on, so that if you said something that was not put in correctly, or someone spots an error or something missing, you can put it in an e-mail that will come right to Delia and she can make the corrections immediately in that Keiki. A recording secretary wants the Minutes to be correct and it's necessary to have names, dates, places and other pertinent information correct.

Jeff expressed great pride in our website and encouraged members to pick up a business card with our website address on it to pass to people.

Sonia reported on T-shirts - \$10 for an orchid logo to be applied to your washed shirt. She is not here often so let her know if you want one while she is here. She will have information with pictures printed in an upcoming Keiki.

Jeff put out a request for a Show Chairman. It is the only vacancy we have now. It is an important job and there will be plenty of help from previous chair people.

A remarkable selection of plants was available for the Raffle. Richard Ratajczak was selling tickets.

Paul Phelps was advertising the Florida West

Coast Orchid Society 'Vision Quest for Orchids' annual show and sale. October 3rd and 4th at the Garden Club of St. Petersburg. Admission \$5.00 or with the flyer, \$4.00. 10 am – 5 pm.

Guest and orchid friend of Paul Phelps, Alex Bon, and club member, Sonia Terrelonge, volunteered to judge the Show Table. Refreshments were served in the break room. Judging results were announced by Alex and blue ribbon winners spoke about their plants.

Speaker was Paul Phelps from Phelps Farm Orchids in Tampa who gave an exciting talk on the cloning of orchids from seed.

The regular raffle was held following the members-only raffle held by Linda Meyer. Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 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

Nature doesn't need an audience. These wonderful orchids come from the south-eastern Ecuadorian and Peruvian cloud forests from elevations of 1,000 to 2,000 meters and as such not many people throughout history got to see them. However,



thanks to intrepid collectors we do get to see this wonderful Monkey Orchid. Someone didn't need much imagination to name it though, let's face it.



!! BLUE RIBBON WINNERS !!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS!!!!

JULIE SMOLKA	VANDA Amy Glynn Creekmur (V. Arjuna 'Illumined' AM/AOS x V. Tricolor 'Svanis')	1 yr owned
JULIE SMOLKA	PAPHIOPEDILUM Bellatulua	1.5 yrs owned
DELIA DUNN	DENDROBIUM (NoID)	10 yrs owned
DELIA DUNN	CATTLEYTONIA Why Not 'Comet'	2 yrs owned
WALLIE HAMMER	BRASSOLAELIA Yellow Bird	5 yrs owned

AND OTHER EXCITING PLANTS ON THE SHOW TABLE:

DAN GRANT	CATTLEYA Burgundy Delight x C. Tripp Johnson (unregistered)	5 yrs owned
JULIE SMOLKA	VANDA Ascocenda Butterfly x V. Srakaew (unregistered)	2 yrs owned

Most new hybrids start getting sold long before they are registered, and it is very common to enter unregistered hybrids in shows, and even have them accepted for official AOS judging. You would enter them in a show with the cross identification, A x B, in place of a name. Many even get AOS awards. It is quite common that a hybrid gets registered only after it gets an award.

It costs money and time to register a hybrid. For many breeders there is no economic incentive to register the dozens or hundreds of hybrids they make unless there is an award or proven economic success first. And of course many NoID (No Identification) orchids sold are unregistered hybrids.

PAT DUPKE	PAPHIOPEDILUM glaucophyllum	6 yrs owned
JULIE SMOLKA	DENDROBIUM (NoID)	Recently purchased



**Show
Table
Pictures**



FLORIDA WEST COAST
ORCHID SOCIETY

A FLORIDA NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION

INVITES YOU TO COME
WITH US ON A
VISION QUEST
FOR ORCHIDS

EXPLORE OUR ANNUAL ORCHID
SHOW & SALE



Rth. Vision Quest

Oct 3rd & 4th 2015

Garden Club of St. Petersburg
500 Sunset Drive South
St. Petersburg, FL 33707

10am till 5pm
ADMISSION \$5
10am till 5pm
(\$1 off with this flyer)

www.fwcoss.org



Raffle Table Plants from the August Meeting

Add to your calendar: October 17th
for our Annual Club Picnic and Novem-
ber 21st for our Annual Auction.

MESSAGE FROM THE KEIKI EDITOR

We know you have an interesting
story about one of your special or-
chids. 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:

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

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

The Keiki
3089 S Graym Path
Inverness, Florida 34450



Out Foxed Again

By
Tim Smith

All of us at one time or another has had a run in with the wild life destroying our orchids we hang outside in the summer. Squirrels and coons are the worst. We have a handle on the squirrel situation but the coons are a whole other story. We have a family of coons that moved into our area the last couple of weeks that haven't destroyed any orchids yet, but constantly throw Judy's extra orchid pots everywhere and empty my surplus material rack for no reason, not to mention the toll they take on the bird feeder.

Now instead of filling the feeder up that lasts for about a week, I have to do it every day with just enough sunflower seed to last one day. We had a family of flying squirrels who we watched every night come to the bird feeder which was acceptable due to the small amount they ate and watching them glide in was a bonus. They will not come in while the coons are raiding the feeder. My trail cam showed the gliders coming all hours of the night to feed. My quest to out fox this family of masked marauders has hit another bump in the road. I extended the bird feeder out six inches from the tree trunk and put on a baffle that rotates on the pipe.

.What did the coon do, he reached out, got the feeder swinging and climbed on. His partner simply grabbed it on another swing, held on and helped himself. Oh well, back to the drawing board.



2 of 4 coon cubs taking turns swinging on bird feeder.



As the bird feeder swings one just reaches out and grabs the bird roost.



I thought this one was going to climb on and swing as well.



He or she is just hanging on and helping themselves to the sunflower seeds.



You lookin' at me?



He or she is just hanging on and helping themselves to the sunflower seeds.



He or she is just hanging on and helping themselves to the sunflower seeds.

President's Message
By Jeff Rundell



As I write this the threat of tropical storm Erica is making me a little nervous. I'm sure orchids have survived for millennia and adapted to thousands of hurricanes but, just in case, I think all mine will be hiding under cover tomorrow. I hope all of you are looking forward to our visit to Joy Orchids because it is certainly one of the highlights of the year. Joyce is always a great host with wonderful food, beautiful orchids for sale and an interesting program. This year Joyce has suggested that we all bring a problem plant for analysis and advice. I have more possibilities than I care to admit. I also want to remind everyone that the fun continues at our annual picnic in October at Crews Lake Park.

It will be a chance for members to sell or trade their own plants and enjoy food with friends. We are so fortunate to have people that make these things happen so I hope we can all show our support.



Member Article

By Jeff Rundell

I confess that I have made the mistake of getting hooked on some of those home improvement shows on TV. So I started to wonder what an HGTV program about orchid stuff might look like.

Of course I'd select Tim Smith as the host since he pioneered the Smith automated fertilizer converter in a previous Keiki. There are several devices I'd like to evaluate for our first show and, since I'm a retired teacher who loves to grade everything, we'll play a little game of Consumer Reports with these gadgets.

First up is a combination light / pH meter found in almost any garden store for less than \$10. I found the light sensing ability of this gadget to be fairly useful, although its scale is simple, it still can give a useful idea of comparative light levels. Flip a switch and you've got a pH meter.....or not. The pH (acidity / alkalinity) feature of this product is just not accurate enough to be useful and besides what are you going to do about the pH of your water anyway? Reverse osmosis water is one alternative but that will take a lottery win for me. So this device gets a generous grade of C, not bad for a first try.



Next is my TDS (total dissolved solids) meter, a device I have brought to several meetings to measure "hardness" and other solutes in your water. Many orchids prefer "softer" water, lower in TDS than what may come out of your tap or well. I admit that I'm a data junkie, so this device has given me an excuse to explain why I don't succeed with some genera of orchids. When your water heads up toward the 300PPM point you can be assured of crusty white coated



leaves. You can also use it to mix fertilizer or add rainwater to dilute all that crusty calcium. I give this device a B+ mostly because I paid about \$40 for it.

Since it has been so wet lately I thought it might be a good idea to keep better track of what's going on inside the deep darkness of some of my larger pots. You know the adage "let it dry so it won't die". What better than a gadget from Lowe's - a moisture meter that never needs batteries. I'm going to tell you right off that this thing gets an F. The most soaking wet pot I had registered "dry" on this funny little meter so I tried some backyard mud. The needle barely budged. The final straw came when I dunked the probe in the pool and it read "medium moisture".



I wonder what the reading will be in its new home, our county landfill.

There was one redeeming reward from that trip. I discovered that cedar grilling planks, sold for \$3.99 a set and normally mounting raw meat, are also ideal for mounting orchids. They are superior to shingles since their thickness keeps them from cracking and they can be cut in a number of fun shapes.



Last is an item called a Kool Log I discovered at an orchid show in Orlando. The inventor and salesman (Larry Mayse) showed me how orchids mounted to these unglazed ceramic cylinders got water percolating slowly thru keeping the roots moist, while evaporation kept the plant cool. The two plants in the picture are reason enough to give this item my presidential seal of approval and a grade of A. I bought a set of these for about \$10 and they are available from him and his website is www.kool-logs.com

I admit I'm a sucker for a sales pitch and I have not dropped any of these tubes to see how they bounce, but the plants look pretty good.



Then there is my indoor / outdoor digital thermometer. I'm ashamed of how many of these things I own mostly because I don't have a permanent greenhouse yet and leave my orchids outside gambling with the weather. This had led to a condition I call "thermophobia" which, during our winter months, keeps me in a frenzy moving plants in and out of my temporary greenhouse, the garage and any other space not previously claimed by my wife. It's definitely a love hate thing with digital thermometers but I admit I would not feel safe without them, especially when the temperatures dip into those dreaded 30s.



In the end I think I've learned one thing. There is probably more profit in selling plant gadgets than the plants themselves which, after all, require all sorts of effort just to keep them alive. Let's hear from the rest of you about any gadget adventures you might have had.

See you soon. — Jeff



**Article by
Membership Chairman**

Linda Meyer

The August 2015 meeting of the Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill (OLCSH) abbreviation is fine for when you're writing a check for club membership...or anything else!) was attended by 32 hardy souls who braved the threat of thunder storms to show up at the VFW hall on County Line Road, since the Partners Club had suffered roof leaks and couldn't host us. And, boy, did that threat materialize!!!! It poured rivers for a while, but we survived completely.

We welcome 2 new members - Karen DiCristafalo, who came to us as a new orchid grower, at the invitation of her darling daughter, Caitlin, (also a recent new member) - but they look like sisters! Another family that increased their membership with us is the Hammers: Cliff became an official member, accompanying his lovely wife, Wallie. Cliff confessed to not being a real orchid enthusiast...but let's see what happens in time:) He certainly gets points for being there!

Two guests also signed in - charming young friends of our wonderful guest speaker: Alex Bon and Melinda MacInnis.

*Karen DiCristafalo
9057 Beach Rd
Spring Hill, FL 34606
352-688-8444
kmdicrist@gmail.com*

Do come to the Open House and picnic at Joyce Fowler's Joy Orchids, and please do introduce yourself to our new members (and anyone else you don't know). That'll make it more fun for everybody!
See you there — Linda

Member Article

by Delia Dunn

(written a month ago)



I thought I'd contribute a little something that I have noticed just this week with one of my Cattleya types. The plant is several years old and I have it growing in a net basket hanging up high on my trellis.

Because it's higher than some of the others I naturally don't check it as often and am always surprised when buds appear.

Well this year buds had been forming for quite a while before I noticed and I saw that the stem was bent and hanging down - almost like a U-turn or a hairpin curve. Ken was with me helping me to fertilize when I saw it and I screamed and said something unnerving and he must have thought I'd seen a cockroach because I rushed off, but it was to go and get my wires to try to rescue this poor plant. I couldn't believe that I hadn't seen it earlier but it was high up and facing the wrong way.

I was prepared to wire the stem upwards and try to tape the stem with a popsicle stick like a splint, but it was a thick stem and probably completely broken, but on closer examination I was surprised to see it was not broken at all. I'm assuming that perhaps a heavy rain had hit the new stem as it was forming and just bent it in that direction and perhaps the buds were still tiny and not heavy enough to snap the stem. However, instead of the stem breaking, it thickened and today I have 4 buds all about to open and the stem has doubled in thickness. I've never had this happen before and I would think it's unusual when grown on a screened-in patio. Who knows what happens in the jungle. I've seen many bent stems in growers' greenhouses but I figure that's because they have so many plants growing so closely to each other that that sort of occurrence can't be helped. But my little plant grows all alone completely separated from other hanging plants.

I took a picture with the buds developing but the batteries were exhausted in the camera so I didn't get the picture I thought I did, however, the buds have opened now and I have 4 flowers on that bent stem. Here are pictures with blooms that are 2 - 3 days old. I made them large so you could see the bend in the stem.

